

22nd Annual Whitey Wegner Memorial Take A Kid Fishing Day

July 28, 2012

The weather was good, the fish were biting and the youngsters were anxious! In total, 39 youngsters signed up for the 22nd Annual Whitey Wegner Memorial Take a Kid Fishing Day, sponsored by the Oceana County 4-H and the Pentwater Sportfishing Association, Inc.

Boat owners, members of the PSA, volunteered the use of their boats and left Pentwater port about 5:45 a.m. Weigh-in started at about 11:00 a.m. at the Pentwater Municipal Marina cleaning station. What follows are the pictures and stories of some very, very happy participants.

The first fish to be weighed in was a tale of more to come! Here are the first of many fish to be weighed by all the boats. These were taken aboard the boat 'Lily'. Pictured are Jerry Boekeloo, Jared Talsma, Carl Tanner, and Trevor Castonia.



Each box of fish was weighed, photographed with the crew and anglers, filleted and later distributed to all the participants. Total fish count for the morning was 81 fish, from 15 boats, weighing a total of 800.69 pounds! There were 141 bags of filleted fish to send home with the kids and anyone else who wanted some fresh salmon or trout!! What a great year for everyone!

At the weigh-in, it was an opportunity for some youngsters too young to fish, to see big fish close up! Below is a future fisherman, Max Freeman, enjoying touching a Chinook King Salmon held by Shaunna Freeman. He just couldn't get enough!



Another brave soul was Jakob Freeman, getting some much needed help from Shaunna. Way to start them out! They can sign up at the age of 10 to 16 years of age with the Oceana 4-H. Pictured are crew Chad Geers, Brianna Bayle, Shaunna Freeman and PSA President, Lyn Snider, skipper of the 'Producer' Fishing Team.



Below is the 'Bad Habits' boat, Captain Dave and Sharri German, unloading fish and anglers at the dock. The event started at 5.45 a.m. with a gathering at the Municipal Marina Pavilion and ended at weigh-in at the Pentwater Fish Cleaning station after 11:00 a.m.



Pictured are Sharri German, Kathy Hoffman, Joseph Hoffman and Captain Dave German. Dave is a previous PSA President and both Dave and Sharri are current members and regular contributors.



Below, Seth Davilla holds up one of the fish he caught with some help from George Cornell, skipper of the ‘Reel Dancer’ boat. Seth is getting right into it! George is the PSA secretary and with his wife, Pam, donates time and money to see youngsters enjoy the day! Pictured are George, Silas Harborkorn, Seth Davilla, and Pam Cornell holding Buddy, the rescue dog.



Below is one of the Great Lakes’ ugliest invasive species, a lamprey eel, held tightly by Kaleb Adams. The eel came aboard clinging to a fish caught on the ‘Kathy Ann’ boat, with skippers Fred and Agnes Kuebler.



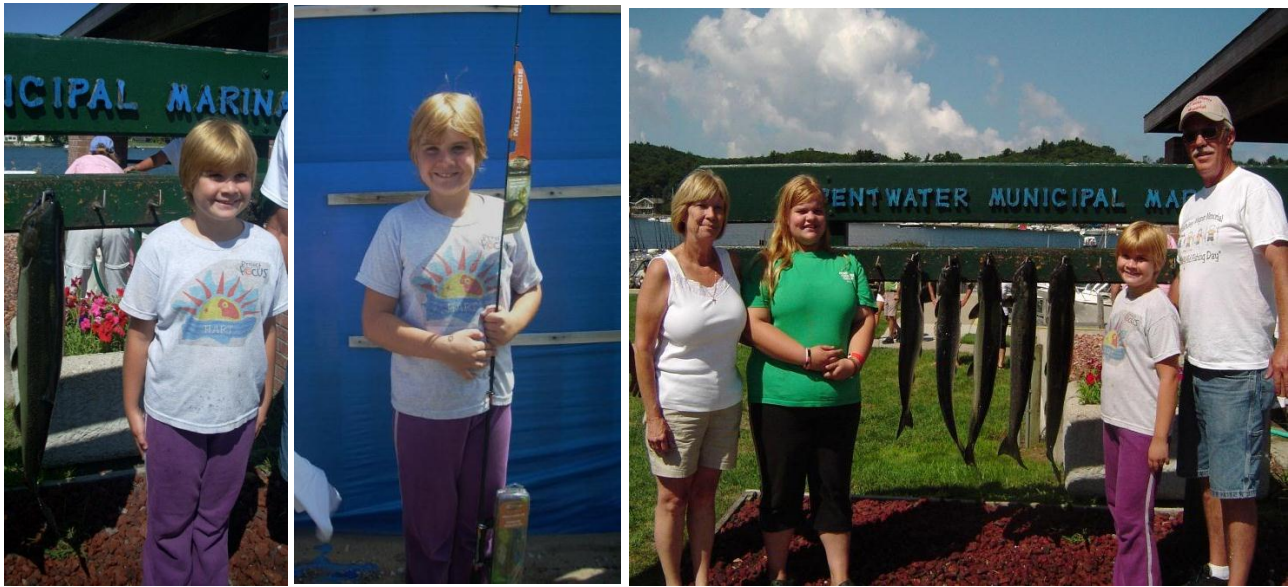
After weighing fish and photo-taking, the youngsters went to the Oceana Eagles Club for hotdogs, soda, cake, ice cream, fruit salad, chips and an awards ceremony. Below is the 2012 team of fishers, pictured at the Oceana Eagles Club on Oceana Drive. Prizes, food and trophies were made available by generous sponsors of the annual event.



Sponsors of the event generously donated food, prizes and money for shirts, tackle and trophies. The sponsors were eMotion Control--Cory Deed, Tony Collins, Oceana Graphics, John Lellos, Ludington Shop & Save, Hansen Foods, Gales IGA, Ludington Meijer Thrifty Acres, Ludington Wal-Mart, Oceana Eagles, M&M Associates, Grateful Threads--Steve & Linda Root, Little Point Lures, Co--Jeff Stewart, Ludington House of Flavors, Pam and George Cornell and of course the other PSA boat owners. Thanks to our sponsors and hard work by the following volunteers that helped at the picnic with table set-up, serving, and clean-up: Frank Wegner, Cindy Yeater, Chuck and Wendy Holbrook, Andy Holbrook, Andrea Schantz, Jack Kokx, Mick Smith, Scott Sanders, Becky and Amanda Freeman.

Anglers that caught the biggest of each species for the day took home a rod and reel as a prize. What follows are the Big Fish winners for King Salmon, Coho Salmon, Steelhead Trout, Lake Trout and Brown Trout.

When it comes to big fish and youngsters, it doesn't get any better battle of the wills than the tug of war between Sylvia Chandler and the winning 17.6 pound biggest King Salmon of the day. Here is the fish and Sylvia at the weigh-in. The fish is more than half the length of Sylvia's height, caught aboard the 'After Five' boat, with skippers Tom and Sandy Meyers. Congratulations, Sylvia, on winning the battle! Sylvia won a rod and reel for all her aching muscles! Pictured are Sandy Myers, - Sabrina Chandler, Sylvia Chandler and Tom Meyers.



Below is Trevor Potter, collecting his Biggest Steelhead prize of a fishing rod and reel. He caught the 7.2 lb. Steelhead aboard the boat 'Farmer'. Pictured below are Arik Garcia, Trevor Potter and Skipper John Cunningham.



Below, Carl Tanner collects the top prize for the largest Lake Trout, 6.95 lbs. aboard 'Lily'. Becky Freeman, 4-H Coodinator, and Ken Wegner get ready for the next announcement in the background.



Edward Cornell shows off his prize of a rod and reel for the largest Coho Salmon for the day with a 3.75 lb. Coho caught aboard 'Kathy Ann'. Pictured below are Agnes Kuebler, Kaleb Adams, Edward Cornell and Fred Kuebler.



Joseph Hoffman won the prize for the biggest Brown Trout caught aboard ‘Bad Habits’, a nice brown trout at 6.20 lbs.



As a bonus winner, a Mystery Weight was selected for the angler who caught a fish closest to a randomly selected weight. Below is Storm Smith who won a rod and reel for catching the fish closest to the Mystery Weight selected with a 3.8 lb. King Salmon caught aboard the ‘No Name’ boat. Pictured are Chuck Holbrook, Nathan Ring, Storm Smith, and Captain Ken Wegner.



Pictured below are Cindy Yeater, Becky Freeman and Ken Wegner, PSA past president, preparing trophies and other prizes for all participating youngsters. Becky and Ken have been principal organizers of the event for many years.



Below, Becky presents Ken a plaque in appreciation to Ken and the PSA for the sustained support for the Whitey Wegner Take a Kid Fishing annual event. The event was started by Ken's father 22 years ago and continues in his honor.



Other successful fishing teams are pictured below. ‘Dean’s Dream’ boat team John Carey and August Sanders with Skipper Dean Jessup, PSA Director. Each angler won a trophy, tackle, recipes and a t-shirt. They also took home at least one bag of fish fillets.



Below, Jack Freeman and Dylan Dean weigh in their fish with the ‘No Name II’ skipper looking on.



Sammie Potter squints into the sun with Chris Sharp, skipper of the ‘Just Lookin’ boat. Amy Sharp, PSA Treasurer, not pictured here, helped Sammie catch her first Lake Michigan salmon.



Below is the crew of the boat, Karma J, volunteer Dugan Hartsuiker with Alex Tull.



The crew of 'Sue Sea II', Thomas Carey and Jayden VanderZwaag, are joined by Larry and Sue Pung, PSA members and regular supporters on the annual event. The smiles say a good time was had by all!!



Eli VanderVelde and Dylan VanderZwaag are pictured below with Don Davidson and helper from 'Fish Lion' boat with their catch of the day!! What a good time!!



Pictured below are the crew of the boat ‘Still Soakin’ It’ with skipper Greg Janeschek and his crew Terry. Joe Kersjes and Lucas White are pictured with the catch for the day that was added to the total fish count of 81 fish and 800.69 pounds of fish from 15 boats. Each participant took some fish home and prizes complete with smiles.



That’s a rap for another year. Please support our sponsors and check out our website to find interesting stories and information. Join the Pentwater Sportfishing Association, Inc. and get in on the fun.

Thanks for your support!!

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