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Billy Miller proudly displays this Dandy Red Fish he caught while fishing with One More Cast Guide Service.



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**Paul Kiey with
a nice 26 inch
walleye.
Photo from
Gillett's Bait
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**VOLUME 31 NUMBER 10
MARCH 2011**

Cover Story



SEE PAGE 4

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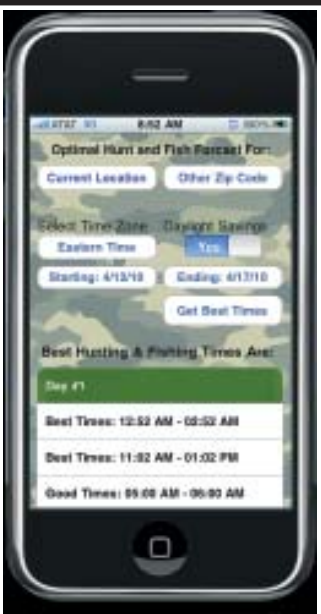
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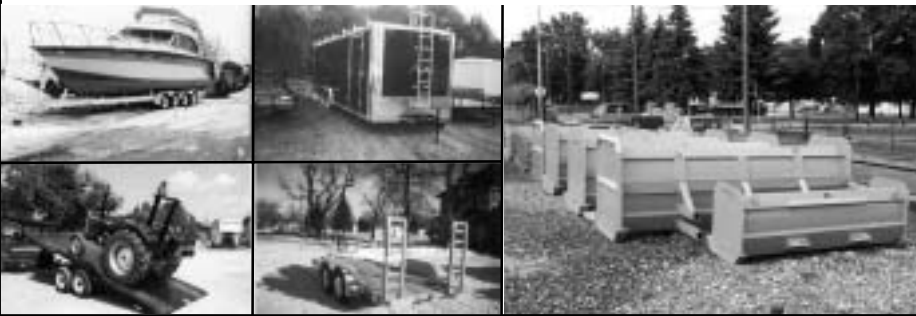
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Here's a few of the ticket holders enjoying the entertainment at The DEERASSIC CLASSIC in 2010.



This picture shows a few of the ticket holders walking around at the 2010 DEERASSIC CLASSIC checking out some of the booths and the new hunting products.

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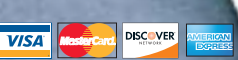
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This TROPHY Buck was shot by Nick Bugner in Seneca County in 2010. The skull mount was done by Superior Skull Creations. (They are known for their Quality European Skull mounts).



This TROPHY Buck mount was created by Superior Skull Creations.

Superior Skull Cleaning

Superior Skull Creations is an Ohio skull cleaning company that cleans any animal skull or bones legally taken with proper tags or paper work according to the states regulations where it came from. We use dermestid beetles to clean skulls and bones of all tissue inside and out. Universities and natural history museums have been using beetles for years to clean skeletons. The beetles do not hurt bone and there is no shrinkage unlike boiling. When skulls are boiled the fats and pigments are put deep into the bone causing a yellow color that is nearly impossible to get out and will show over time. A good sized colony can often clean a deer sized skull in a day or two. The skulls remain tight and even the delicate nasal bones stay in perfect condition. Boiling causes skull shrinkage that is not good for bear hunters because their trophies are based on skull size. We also sell high quality hand made plaques that hold your trophy out from the wall at a 45 degree angle or can be turned to place on a table or stand.



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Pat Dulin and his swan in front of the Crazy Mountains. Photo from Zink's Calls.

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Michigan's Lower Peninsula

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**Trevor Wood's 8 point Buck
had a 21.5 inch inside
spread. Photo from Six
Lakes Hardware.**



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KISS Your River Walleye

By Ted Takasaki and Scott Richardson

Rivers pulsate with life in spring. In all rivers and reservoirs, walleye and sauger will charge upstream and collect in huge numbers just below dams or rapids. After they spawn, the fish travel back into the reservoir or just spread out in smaller schools downstream in search of food.

The time between the charge upstream and the retreat downstream offers some of the best fishing of the year. Every strike may be an egg-laden female at her heaviest. Big fish packed in tight schools are the stuff of dreams.

Rivers also offer some of the biggest challenges of the year. It can be tough to control your boat in current and to present a lure precisely where it needs to be. This is all

while keeping an eye out for big commercial ships cruising by.

Yes, there's a lot to consider. What is the best course? K.I.S.S., Keep It Simple for Success. Start by breaking challenges down to manageable tasks.

Start with location. Rivers change daily, in fact hourly, as water levels rise or fall. But no matter what the river, the same principles always hold true. Seen one river, seen them all is true.

The K.I.S.S. approach is to realize that walleye and sauger concentrate in bunches during the spring. There are often tons of boats which highlight the community spots. Start by fishing out and around the boats, but don't crowd anyone. Most of the boats won't stay long on spots without fish. Most commercial produced maps give away the hot spots. Buy one.

Find your own spots by taking a longer

look at that map. Focus on the bends where the natural flow of the river is broken as the water changes direction. Walleyes and sauger will conserve their energy or lay their eggs in the slacker water of the flats on the inside turns.

Current also concentrates fish behind natural and artificial structure which slows moving water even more. Resting fish can slide behind the current break. Feeding fish can slide in front or to the side of the structure closer to the current.

Current breaks range from points that form slack water behind them called eddies to wing dams where an area of slower current forms along the bottom on the upstream side of the face. Water slows on the front and back of bridge abutments or even trees lying in the water. Holes in the bottom create current breaks.

Are you faced with high water and fast current? Target the current break closer to

continued on page 16

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George Schneider caught this nice steelhead in December - 2010 while fishing in the Manistee River. The photo is courtesy of Zubok's Tackle.

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Lake Erie/Downriver

By: Donna Marie

Matthews Bait & Tackle (734) 241-4757 in Monroe has been under new ownership. Frank & Alyce have been making many improvements over the winter and they invite you to stop in for all your fishing needs. You can also take advantage of their fish-cleaning service at very reasonable rates.

Smith's Boat Livery (734) 671-9252 on Grosse Ile will re-open in spring for another busy season. You can rent a row boat or a motor boat and enjoy some fantastic walleye fishing on beautiful Grosse Ile. Ask for Jose!

Luna Pier Harbour Club (734) 848-8777 still has some available slips and offers a gas dock, bait & tackle, ice, fish cleaning, licenses and even charters. Call Mel, Mike, or Mary for rates and information.

Joe, at **Erie Party Shoppe (734) 457-0006** in Monroe has a complete line of fishing supplies, as well as live bait, licenses and charters. Once you stop in, you'll be tempted by the wonderful aroma of their Oliver's Pizza, made fresh to order. You'll be coming back for more!

The **DNR** reports that anglers are still fishing for bluegills in the Metro Park Marina and also around the Banana Dike area. Some have been heading out to the deep water in Brest Bay to fish for walleye.

In the Detroit River, folks have been ice fishing for perch in Airport Bay and in the open waters in the marina at Gibraltar.

Once again, it's time for the **4th Annual Mich-Ohio Sportfishing Expo** at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. The dates are **Saturday, Feb. 12th** (9 am to 8 pm) and

Sunday, Feb. 13th (9 am to 5 pm).

This year, there will be over 100 exhibitors featuring boats for sale, charter fishing trips, tackle deals, food & soft drinks and LOADS of FREE stuff:

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- * FREE fishing simulator
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- * FREE walleye lure to the first 100 paid admissions on Sat. and Sun.

In addition, featured speaker, Capt. Lance Valentine will be giving five seminars over both days, covering his popular "Walleye 101" program. There will be several other well-known captains, guides & pros on hand.

There will be a special raffle on Sunday for a charter trip with Capt. Lance Valentine, so get there early or see their website for all the details. Don't miss this one - - - we'll see you there!

Fishermans Cave Bait & Tackle, 7120 Summit St in Erie, MI are open 7 - days a week, year round providing live and artificial bait for anglers.

Spring walleye tackle is available! Come check out the new colors for 2011 in Hair Jigs and Blade Baits. Hair Jigs of various weights and assorted colors including brands by Fishermans Cave, Walleye Killer Jigs and Western Basin.

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Ice Fishing has been decent so far and live bait includes; shiners (large and small); wigglers; wax worms, spikes (red and/or white) and nightcrawlers. Great selection of tackle and ice fishing accessories including shanties, augers, etc.

Stop in and visit Fishermans Cave booth at the 4th MI-OH Sportfishing Expo held at the MBT Expo Center, Monroe MI on Sat. Feb. 12 from 9 am - 8 pm and Sun. Feb. 13 from 9 am - 5 pm.

I'm sure most of you fishermen that have been booking your Lake Erie charter trips running out of the Monroe area have been wondering where you could stay. Well we have the PERFECT solution to your problem. You can call either **The Baymont Inn & Suites** or **The Comfort Inn** in Monroe to book your room. Both of these offer CLEAN and comfortable rooms at a GREAT price. They even offer SPECIAL RATES to FISHERMEN. Best of all, they are conveniently located to most on Monroe's Marinas. They are known for also offering The Best Rates for Boat Charters. If that's not enough, they have a FREE BREAKFAST with the best waffles you have ever tasted plus lots of your other favorites including Biscuits and Gravy. All their rooms come with a refrigerator,

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Mike Lintemuth from Howard City with his 44 inch 20 pound trophy. Photo from The Rustic Sport Shop.

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Mike Saunders pulled this pair of 33 inch 10 lb. Pike from Bruin Lake the 18th of January. Photo from Unadilla Store.

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Jacob Cole, a young Michigan hunter with a truck bed full of venison. Photo from Six Lakes Hardware.



Mid-Michigan Inc. Jackson & Lansing By: Dave Schroeder

Unadilla Store 734.498.2400 This one of a kind convenience store has all you need for a day in the field or on the water, Well stocked with all types of beverages, a great variety of snacks and a cook to order deli the mini-museum is a great place to stop and get a feeling for the friendliness of the area. Local campgrounds are open. A full service deli and ice cream shop have recently been added to the list of goodies available from the store. A new feature recently added to the store is a Touch and Buy Machine that takes cash and allows the user to pay bills and buy phone cards, etc. Check it out. Reports of great ice fishing in the neighborhood are not exaggerated.

Grand River Bait and Tackle 517.267.1573 The Fly Shop located next to the main store has now been closed and all inventory moved to the larger location. Many new additions including new staff have been added.



Muskegon River, Montcalm & N. Kent Counties By: Dave Schroeder

Franks Sporting Goods in Morley www.frankssportinggoods.com, 231.856.7778, Vic and Teresa Havens have done a tremendous job in keeping the reputation of Franks Sporting goods intact. Their hard work coupled with the help of their children make shopping at Franks a pleasure. You will find a complete inventory of guns, ammo, trapping supplies as well as live bait, archery and just about anything else you may need in the outdoor sporting goods dept. Vic reports hunting for all species has been great and local fishing has been good. Vic also noted their website has been upgraded and has a very classy look. Functions such as the ability to purchase over the net have been added. Ice has been good and should continue for awhile.

Hilltop Sports near Greenville 616.754.0022 Fishing and hunting have been good in area and should continue through the winter for anything legal. The gun dept has been expanded as well as the complete line of archery equipment. Get what you forgot at Hilltop.

The Rustic Sport Shop in Howard City 231.937.4372 has long been a stopping point for hunters and fishermen traveling north. The latest news from The Rustic is that the store is under new/old management. Ron Bowers has returned to head up the day to day operation of the store. Sonny is back also and is looking forward to visiting with his old friends. The convenience store has all you need for refreshments and the added deli is well stocked with goodies. An added feature this season is a

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Robert Caron with the help of Breonna show off his December bow kill. Photo from The Unadilla Store.

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Meagan Lumbert, age 13, got her first deer this nice 6 point on opening day 2010. Photo from Six Lakes Hardware.

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Chance Inman with his 5 point. Photo from Franks in Morley.

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Ron Bowers - Owner
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Amanda Cornell with her very nice nine pointer. Photo from Franks in Morley.

New line of jersey and brats. Beef sticks have been added as a new taste teaser. Guns, ammo, archery equipment, clothing, batteries, plenty of fishing tackle and good advise are all available at the Rustic. Stop by and get whatever you may have forgotten. Propeller repair is just another of the fine services offered to the public at the Rustic. Many lakes and streams are in the area and fishing has been very productive, stop and ask for directions. Ice fishing reports have been good.

Six Lakes Hardware downtown Six Lakes 989.365.3000 This Ace Hardware store has whatever you may need to make that needed repair to your cabin, camper or boat. A huge inventory of items for rent are available to make most any job easier. Good hunting and fishing areas are easy to find locally and the friendly staff at Six Lakes will direct you to the hotspot. Great camping locations surround the area, but will be closed for the winter.



Dan Gettings shows off his high racked nine pointer. Photo from Franks in Morley.



Kevin Frew with a very interesting 7 point buck. Photo from Six Lakes Hardware.



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Doug Bergsma collected this 180 inch whitetail with his bow this past season. Photo from Hilltop Sporting Goods.



Rob Johnson with is 14 lb. 38 inch Pike caught in South Lake. Photo from The Unadilla Store.





Bruce Knapp with his dandy 12 pointer. Photo from The Rustic Sport Shop.



Alan Mosher with his bow killed buck taken in Ionia County. Photo from Hilltop Sports.



Chad Lake with another Michigan trophy. This one went 44 inches and 23 lbs. Photo from Hilltop Sports in Greenville.



Zach McCall got his first deer 9-25-10 at 7:00 in the morning. Photo from The Rustic Sport Shop.



Christine Shaw, DOES IT AGAIN,. She dumped this 5 point Buck with her 20 gauge shotgun at 40 yards. This tasty Buck weighed in at 207 lbs. Photo by Hall's Bait & Tackle.

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WACO SALES INC. WACO SALES INC.

**Southwest &
South Central
Michigan**
By: Dave Schroeder

Double L Bait and Marine (269-649-WORM) (-9676) has been in business 8 years and is family owned and operated. Just south of Kalamazoo, they are surrounded by lakes and have the latest in live bait and tackle. They have G3 Boats and outboards made by Yamaha with a great service department to support their sales. Check your equipment and stop by for and service or replacement,. They also have Great Lakes Lifts and Permdock for any of your storage needs. Popular baits have been red wiggler and everyone is looking forward to the great WINTER ice fishing on the area lakes. The ice fishing was going strong at the end of January with lots of DELICIOUS panfish being caught. **Don't forget Double L Bait and Marine carries all your favorite ice fishing baits and tackle.**

A Perfect Pet and Bait Store (269-278-9813) is so proud of their bait that they are willing to give you a guarantee! Their sports friendly hours are 7am-6pm, 7-days a week for availability when you need bait or food for those pets. They have bait, pet food and food for exotic animals for great quality at lower prices, so compare and save! Their new fishing equipment is in and the bluegill and crappie are running great. It's always a treat for everyone in your group to stop in and pick up some bait, pet food or just check out the pets. Be sure you check out A Perfect Pet for all your fishing supplies. Don't forget they carry LIVE BAIT YEAR ROUND. By the time you read this, the ice fishing will be going strong. **Be sure you check out A Perfect pet and Bait Store for all your ice fishing t6ackle and live bait.**

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John Gabriel with a very nice 10 pointer taken 11-21-10. Photo from Yoder's in Brooklyn.



Craig Bashore with a pair of local walleyes. Photo from Gillett's Bait and Hardware.

Hall's Bait and Tackle (269-641-2304) have many fishermen reporting that the FALL fishing is off to a fast start, They are busy stocking all the new tackle for 2010 and they want to remind everyone to check their supplies early. All of the area lakes have been giving some great catches of bluegill in the early FALL season . They report great fishing as anglers experiment with all types of baits in the local lakes. Stop by and check with them before your next outing. **Don't forget Hall's Bait and Tackle not only carries LIVE BAIT year round but they also have the AREAS LARGEST SELECTION OF ICE FISHING SUPPLIES AND ELECTRONICS.**

Yoders Enterprises 517.467.2468 This convenience store has all the necessary items you may need for a day on the water, in the field, or at the track. The fishing department is well stocked with a complete assortment of bait and tackle, information on the best places to find wild game or fish is available for the asking. Free air and coffee are available as well as a dump station for your motor home or camper. Ice has been good and should continue to be safe for a month.

Gillett's Bait and Hardware 269.672.5371 Located on Gun Lake this well established store all everything in the line of hardware and small items necessary for that fix it up project as well as live bait and plenty of tackle. Gun Lake has been giving up some real nice fish this season especially perch and crappies go get yours. Ice is solid in most places, but check first to find the best place to drill that hole. Rosemary reports that lately the walleye and crappie have been hitting well while the gils are getting hard to find.

WACO Sales in Wayland 269.792.2291 Gary and Linda continue to offer the best service and prices on new and used guns and archery equipment. You will also find some great deals on consignment weapons and their ammo selection is the best in the area. Gary keeps in contact with local hunters and fishermen and will share his knowledge, just ask.

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Jon Shaw, Edwardsburg, shot this 225 lb. 8 point Buck on opening night. Photo by Hall's Bait & Tackle.



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Orangeville's Motley Crew pose with another batch of honkers. Photo from Gillett's Bait and Hardware.

continued from page 9

shore. Slow current? Fish will be toward the end usually towards the middle of the river.

Slack water will also form where current from a feeder creek or tributary meets the current of the main river. In spring when rain can cause runoff, those spots are also key if water from one source or the other is cleaner.

Another factor to consider - walleyes and sauger prefer hard bottom like gravel or even clam beds. Look for the transition areas where hard bottom meets mud.

Just remember, river bend plus current break equals fish. K.I.S.S.

You can typically eliminate long straight stretches of river. Walleyes and sauger will move through them as fast as they can because there's nothing to hold them in any one spot. The exceptions might include points jutting into the main channel or even holes gouged in the bottom by current, dredging or the prop wash from barges or ship traffic.

River tactics are something else that too many people over-think. They shouldn't.

K.I.S.S. instead.

Slipping downstream using jigs is among the oldest, simplest and most effective tactics. The bait must be on the bottom where the fish are. Some pros like to use the lightest jig

10588 Sprinkle Road,
Vicksburg, MI 49097
269-649-WORM



Jeffery Proffitt caught this pike in Vineyard Lake 1-15-2011. The fish was 31 inches and weighed 7 lbs 10 oz. Photo from Yoder's.

possible. Thin braided line, like TUF-Line, helps with that process better than monofilament line by offering less water resistance. The braided is also more sensitive so light bites are detectable. Other pros prefer to use heavy jigs of 3/4's to 1 ounce no matter how fast the current or how deep the water. They believe bouncing the heavy weight on the bottom lets fish zero in on the bait.

K.I.S.S. for boat control means - chase the line. Use an electric trolling motor to follow the line and match boat speed to the current. The goal is to keep the jig vertical and directly below the boat to feel strikes better and avoid snags.

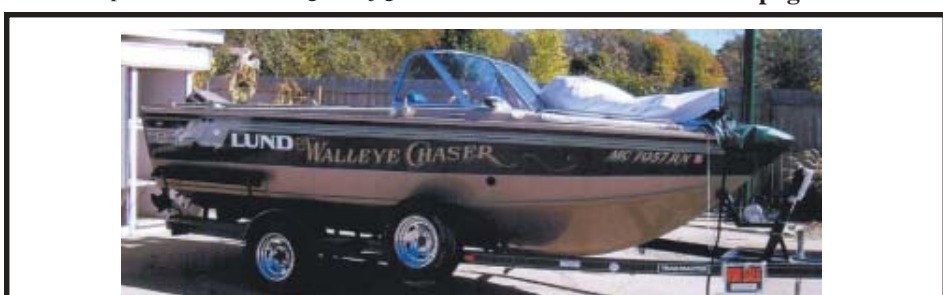
continued on page 35



Christine Shaw dropped this Doe in her tracks at 60 yards. This HUGE Doe weighed in at 197 lbs. Photo by Hall's Bait & Tackle.



This salmon is almost as big as him but just look at that smile of joy. That makes it all worth the time and trouble bringing your young anglers up to find real joyful fun in life and being active out-of doors (not a couch game boy). So pack up the kids, come on up to teach something a school doesn't teach and give Mom a break or bring her along to share in the fun. Photo courtesy of R & J Resort.



For Sale

This 1998 Lund Tye Gran Sport has been used twice in the last two years. It sells complete with: 115 Horse Johnson, 9.9 4-Stroke Johnson, Minn Kota Auto Troller, Two live wells, anchors, four air cushion seats, am/fm radio, Loran fish finder, new covers and trailer, and all safety equipment. Also included will be over \$1,000.00 worth of tackle. Down The Road for \$ 20,000. Call Gillett's Bait and Tackle 269-672-5371 and tell them The Fish and Game Finder magazine sent you.

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Paul at the **Lake Shore Motel** reports the ice fishing in both the Portage Lake and Bear Lake was going strong at the end of Jan. Lots of Delicious Pike and Panfish were being caught. Manistee Lake is ice covered and the fishing was going strong at the end of January. Lots of Pike, Yellow Perch, Steelhead and a few Walleyes were being caught . You can always stop by or call Paul at the Lake Shore Motel for the up to date (Honest) fishing report. They are located on lake Michigan and lots of times you can catch fish off the beach, right out your back door. Be sure you stay at the Lake Shore Motel when you are in the Manistee Area.

Don't forget, The Lake Shore Motel is conveniently located with a full view of Lake Michigan. They also have a fishing pier that is in walking distance. They have Clean rooms, fish cleaning with freezing, a housekeeping unit and a gift shop. They also have a clean cabin to sleep four with all the conveniences of home for rent. They even offer a Special Price Rates for us fishermen. You can call (231) 723-2667 for reservations.

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Mt. Pleasant To Cadillac

By: Larry Sawicki

As of the 4th week of January, Greg from Schafer's Bait & Sporting Goods in Weidman, MI. (989-644-3501) reports fishing is fair to good on most lakes in the area. Lake Isabella is still producing some nice walleye, pike, crappie. In Hay Marsh, bluegill are still biting well, Stevenson Lake pike and bluegill fishing very good with some nice pike being caught. Rabbit hunting fair to good. For a current report call Greg.



Trevin Beebe shot his 1st deer, this HUGE and mighty tasty Doe. Photo by Schafer's Bait & Sporting Goods. Info on page 30.

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Charlie caught these 2 walleye on the South Shore of Houghton Lake by Lyman's on the Lake Resort.

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Jon S. caught this 39 inch pike that weighed 14 1/2 pounds. He was fishing with a tip-up with a sucker in Lyman's sleeper shanty

Roscommon County & Houghton Lake

By: Larry Sawicki

Jack's Place, (989-275-4218) Serving quality food at reasonable prices. Specializing in both seafood and regular American food varieties. Delicious brick oven baked pizza available now.. Heading west on M-18 from Roscommon, past the Hiawatha Canoe rental is Jack's Place. Fresh fish flown in weekly from Alaska. 3-4 tons served annually. Friday, all you can eat cod for \$9.95 or 1/2 pound perch for \$9.50. Always fresh cole slaw. Meals served 'til closing time. A popular entertainment and dining center. See photos and story of Randy Hall's 'all alone' moose hunting expedition to Alaska.

As of the 4th week of January, **Lyman's Bait and Tackle (989-422-3231)** reports walleye and pike fishing fair. Some nice walleye have been brought in. Houghton Lake is notorious for its walleye ice fishing day and night. A shanty can be rented from Lyman's. Reservations are in order to assure a shanty. For a current report call the store. The fishing tackle headquarters in Houghton Lake. Their recent expansion has doubled their space and inventory with all the tackle needed to catch fish in Houghton and surrounding lakes. Always a good supply of live bait. Lyman's urges fishermen and hunters to bring your results or photos for publication in the Fish & Game Finder.



Jordan Valley

By: Pat Stewart

Tom's Bait and Tackle reports there was lots of slush on Lake Charlevoix at the end of January. Needless to say that was causing problems getting around. LOTS of Pike and Walleyes were being caught all along the South Arm of Lake Charlevoix. Excellent catches of Perch were being reported at Ironton. BIG Walleye were being caught at the State Park at Boyne City. All the channel lakes have also been producing lots of Big Pan Fish. Don't forget Tom's Bait and Tackle has the areas best assortment of ice fishing supplies and Live Baits.



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Ron K. was fishing near Lyman's on the Lake when he caught this 34 inch 8 1/2 pound pike.



Northwest Michigan Inc. Traverse City & Buckley

By: Larry Sawicki

Get your bait & goodies at the **Cherryland Grocery, Inc. (231-275-7755)** on us #31 in Interlochen, a couple of miles down from the light. A gas station, grocery store, and a bait & tackle shop. Cherryland pride themselves with their home made plain and smoked sausage, hot dogs, jerky, subs and sandwiches. They do their own smoking. Beer, wine, liquor, groceries, deli sandwiches and tasty ice cream. Live bait, minnows, worms, etc. From the light on #31 at interlochen, the store is located about 4 miles west on the right at the 'green' BP station. ATM machine on premise. Hours: Mon-Thur 6:30-10, Fri 6:30-11, Sat 7-11, Sun 8-10.



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Oakland, Livingston & Washtenaw Counties

By: Gary Talarico

Flint & Frizzen (248-625-3333) is one of the last real gun businesses in this world of box stores. Bruce is a seasoned gunsmith with vast experience in antique, modern and muzzleloader guns. They have a complete supply of muzzleloading and black powder supplies. If you need work performed on one of your prized guns or maybe need just some sound advice, stop by and see Bruce.



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This DANDY 28 lb. Bobcat was taken while hunting with Two Beavers & Cedar Creek Guide Service.



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MARCH 18-20, 2011

NORTHERN MICHIGAN'S BIGGEST HUNTING & FISHING EVENT

Friday 4pm-9pm • Saturday 9am-7pm • Sunday 10am-5pm

DGuides & Outfitters from Everywhere D G.T.A.S.F.A. Trout Pond for Kids
 D C.B.M. Trophy Scoring D Taxidermy Displays D Locked Antler Display
 D Fishing Seminars On Saturday Thanks G.T.A.S.F.A. D Bow Shooting Booths D DNR Personnel On Hand
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You have always wanted to try bear hunting or shoot a bobcat, but didn't know where to go - now you're in luck. **Two Beavers and Cedar Creek Guide Service** specializes in both. I've been lucky enough to shoot a couple of black bears, but I've always wanted to go bobcat hunting.

I suggest you call them now to book your hunt. It doesn't matter if you want a bear or bobcat, they will put you on them. Just check out the pictures in this issue for proof of their guiding ability.

Flash-Two Beavers and Cedar Creek Guide Service has taken a 44 lb. Bobcat in previous seasons. They are still booking this Winters bobcat hunts. Look at the calendar, pick a good week, and call them NOW to book your hunt. If you are looking for a great hunt, you are looking for Two Beaver and Cedar Creek Guide Service.

They still have a few openings for this season. This is a great hunt that you will fondly look back on the rest of your life.

Two Beaver and Cedar Creek Guide Service will **GUARANTEE** a Bobcat or **Bear KILL** if you book a hunt with them.

WOW !!! I just talked to Bill on Jan. 25th when I called to book my early Feb. Bobcat hunt, Bill said they had taken a Beautiful 35 lb. Cat that day. They also had taken a 33 lb. And 40 lb. Bobcat the 2 days before. Hoping I have that type of luck on Super Bowl Week-end.

TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN THE

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Curtis & The Manistique Area

By: Gary
Talarico

The three lakes surrounding Curtis are the Big Manistique Lake, North Manistique Lake and South Manistique Lake. Curtis is located on South Manistique Lake about a half a mile south of Big Manistique Lake, just north of US 2. Big Manistique Lake is the largest of the three. The lakes are teeming with a wide variety of fish. Bluegill, perch, walleye, bass, pike and musky are there for the tempting. Traditionally, South Manistique Lake is the hotspot with lots of musky, largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, pike and perch. However, Big Manistique Lake has a great reputation as well and gives up big pike, walleye and perch. The latest fishing report from JR's is "perch have been biting when the winds allow the boats to get out on the lake. Guys are STILL landing some BIG pike out of Big Manistique Lake" This friendly lakeside town is less than an hour northwest of the Mackinac Bridge; it is a really great place to visit with your pals or family.

snowmobiles, ATV's, boats or motors, Watson's Marina is the place to call if you want fair prices, great service and a knowledgeable staff as part of your outdoor experience. They "sell the best and service the rest!" Don't forget to ask about the extraordinary financing deals on Yamaha products being offered right now, especially some great deals on all ATV's and snowmobiles. There's not a better time to buy a new snowmobile or ATV. Stop by to see the new Yamaha Rhino, with huge discounts and special financing are happening right now. If you snooze you might just lose out so don't delay, call today!

The Curtis Fish and Hunt Shop (877) 586-9531 has everything the outdoor enthusiast could



'Lil Danielle helped catch this 18 inch walleye. She brought it in to JR's to get her picture taken for the Fish Finder.

JR's Sport Shop (906-586-6040) is one, neat old time bait and tackle store. It reminds of the places where I would go as a youngster to buy some worms and a couple of hooks. Kathy and J.R. have everything you will need to have a fishing trip to remember. Fresh live bait, tackle from hooks to rod and reels and everything in between, along with decades of experienced advice on where to go and what baits to try are yours for the asking. Mill around the minnow well and you will probably even hear a fish story or two! Take a look at the albums of successful anglers. It will make you want to get out on the lake right away and then get your picture taken for the Fish & Game Finder Magazine!

Watson's Marina (906-586-9731) in downtown Curtis is located on one of the most beautiful and best fishing lakes in Michigan, South Manistique Lake. They are a full service marina with a very knowledgeable service department and a full line of Yamaha snowmobiles, ATV's, Avalon and PolarKraft boats and Yamaha motors. When it comes to



Shawnie Smith holds her 19.5 inch walleye for the camera at JR's.

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when the Curtis area. Whether you desire a new snowmobile, ATV, boat or even just a new motor, the Fish and Hunt Shop is a must "stop and shop". They offer Lund and Starcraft boats, Crest and Weeres pontoon boats, Mercury outboards along with Suzuki and CanAm ATV's and Ski-Doo snowmobiles. Be sure to check out their ad and their website for fantastic deals. There is a top-notch service department for you when you need it. They offer a great selection of fishing gear along with a full selection of live bait. They have a complete selection of sporting apparel for those of you in need. The advice is always free at the Fish and Hunt Shop. Boat and ATV rentals are available for you're your enjoyment, just call for info or reservations. They are open 7 days a week to accommodate your every need. They are located in beautiful downtown Curtis on South Manistique Lake. Call them toll free at (877) 586-9531 to get the latest hunting, fishing or snow report or visit them on the web at www.fishandhuntshop.com.

Northern Exposure Resort (906-586-3511) northern.resort@sbcglobal.net Is the place to stay for that Ice Fishing or Snowmobile get a way to the Upper Peninsula. Our two bedroom log cabins are right on the shores of Big Manistique Lake just 2 miles west of Curtis. You can cross the lake to get to the trails, and take off in any direction. We are on 10 acres of land and have plenty of room for parking your trailers.

We have cable tv and free wireless internet is available in the cabins.

It's not too early to book that fishing trip or family vacation for next spring or summer. For more information check out our web page at www.northernexposureresort.com E-mail or call for reservation today.

Interlaken Resort & Burnt Island (906-586-3545) is a very unique resort that offers it all. Located on the shores of Big Manistique Lake, the cabins are just steps away from legendary pike, perch and walleye fishing. The modern lakeside cabins are equipped with fireplaces, hot tubs and everything else you might need. Spacious lawns with picnic tables,

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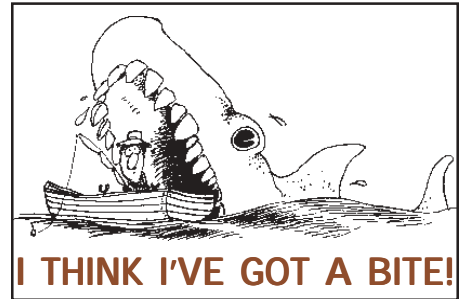
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Big or South Manistique Lakes,
Curtis MI
•Cash Prizes •Raffles•Door Prizes
For More Info Call 906-586-6606

lawn furniture, barbeque grills, volleyball, horseshoes, swings, and a play set await you and your family in the warmer months. Also available are paddleboats, fishing boats, pontoon boats, ski boats and wave runners during the summer season. There is also a game room with a movie and book library. There are new tanning booths and laundry facilities on the premises. Burnt Island is available with two rustic cabins for overnight stays, a pavilion, charcoal grills, fire pit and easy access to and from the resort, by boat of course! Open year round, the only thing you need to bring with you is food if you feel like cooking. A bathing suit is a must at Interlaken all year long! All facilities are open 24 hours a day. Call now to reserve the vacation you won't soon forget.

Stamper's Northern Lakes has the most extensive breakfast, lunch and dinner menu in Curtis, and the tastiest, you will find in all of the Upper Peninsula. Your hosts Kevin and Jill will

welcome you with a cup of steaming coffee and a smile. They offer home cooked meals in a smoke free environment. When in Curtis is sure to stop in to start or end the day right, with a great meal from Stamper's!

Tony's Whitefish Inn in Curtis sits on the shores of South Manistique Lake next to one of the best snowmobile trail systems in the Midwest. They offer a full menu and bar that features "the best pizza in the U.P." and a Friday night fish fry that offers perch, walleye or whitefish. For your convenience free wireless internet is always on. Next time you find yourself in the Curtis area Tony's Whitefish Inn would be a great choice to warm up, quench your thirst and fill your belly with good eats.



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Up North

by
**Gary
Talarico**

As I sit here
staring out the
window at the
falling snow,

knowing that eventually I will have to go outside and jump on the tractor to plow and then man the snow shovel, there is a few February activities that put a grin on my chin. The first one is great ice fishing. Plenty of ice, guys around here are driving their trucks on the ice. Essentially a heated shanty on wheels. I have even partaken in delicious blender drinks, coffee or soup from a 12v outlet. Gotta love modern technology eh? The walleye, perch and pike have been biting pretty good up here in the Upper Peninsula, they just seem to be able to jump from lake to lake. One day it's big perch out of Big Manistique Lake, a few days later the walleye bite like they are jealous. Head to South Manistique Lake and all three are biting. That's why they call it "fishing" and not "catching"! I am fishing Saginaw Bay the first week of this month at Mark Martin's Vacation Ice Fishing School with AIM Pro's Mark Martin, Mark Brumbaugh and 2010 AIM International Champion Mike Gufon. I will let you know next month how it turns out, I am sure fish stories will abound! Another great time on the ice in February in Curtis, located right between Big and South Manistique Lakes, is their 17th Annual Winter Carnival on February 19th. Tony's Whitefish Inn and Budweiser are sponsoring an ice fishing contest. Cash prizes, raffles and door prizes are there for the lucky or good. The carnival boasts fun for the whole family with events like the popular trout cage (big trout in an underwater fenced in area), kid's mini sled challenge, chili cook-off, snow sculpture contest, lots of games including turkey bowling (dead frozen ones I am told), bake sales, hayrides and an on-the-ice bonfire.



Munising Area Report

By: Gary Talarico

Super 8-Munising (906-387-2466) is a snowmobiler's economical way to experience the Munising area legendary trail system. Don't own a snowmobile? They offer sled rentals on site for your convenience. Hop on your sled right from the motel parking lot that is located right on the trail. High octane ethanol free gas is available right across the street. The motel offers 43 modern rooms, all with refrigerators. There is a microwave available for quick warm-ups. There is a free super deluxe breakfast that includes waffles and a variety of breakfast foods to keep you warm and energized while out sledding. After a long day on the trails nothing beats their large whirlpool and sauna to get the kinks out. Call and reserve your room before all the most popular dates are gone.

Big C Realty 906-387-3074 has been in the real estate business in Michigan's Upper

Peninsula for almost 40 years. We currently hold over 100 real estate listings for Upper Michigan, focusing heavily on the unique Central Upper Peninsula region. Our Real Estate listings include a private island estate on Lake Superior, diverse waterfront properties, thousands of acres of vacant land and residential listings for all types.

Real Estate in the Upper Peninsula has become more affordable in recent years and Big C Realty is ready to work with you to view our property listings. Inland lake properties are plentiful, offering an excellent retreat or annual residence. Experience the best fishing, hunting and natural beauty that Upper Michigan has to offer.

The Luxury Property listings at Big C Realty offer the absolute best in Northwoods Living and Lifestyle. Our diverse listing portfolio ranges from luxury log homes, private island estates, secluded inland lake retreats to large tracts of acreage.

Our 40 years of Real Estate experience makes us the perfect locally owned real estate agency to assist with your next purchase or listing in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

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Saturday, March 5 - 10 AM to 9 PM
Sunday, March 6 - 10 AM to 5 PM

www.flintsteelheaders.com/spring_show



Come for just the fishing contest or bring the whole family, you won't be disappointed. February also means fishing, hunting and boat shows. Lots of shows. Monroe, Lansing and Novi are hosting sport shows this month in Michigan, in Ohio Columbus and Euclid. Check out the schedule in the magazine for specific dates. March is pretty busy as well with Grand Rapids, Columbus and Ft. Wayne shows. These are just a few of the bigger events, watch for more smaller shows in your area as well. Try to attend all the events you can. Each one offers a wealth of knowledge with free seminars. There are bargains offered at virtually every booth. It's cheap entertainment and it will help you catch more fish or bag that big buck. I'll be at a number of



This awesome Cromwell property is available from Big C Realty. Info on page 30.

shows, stop by the Fish and Game Finder booth and say hello.

FISH ON!
Gary

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Call for Current Fishing Report

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Photo C
R&J R

I think the BIG GRIN says it all about this
Salmon catch. Great times like this are the
normal not the exception at R & J Resort.



Dan from Farmdale shot this 191 lb. 7 point
buck in Trumbull County on 10-30-10. He
had a 22" outside spread. Photo by Monty's.



Hillman & Fletcher's Floodwaters

By: Pat Stewart

Did you know that Fletcher Floodwaters is the
11th largest inland lake in Michigan. This 9,000
acre lake is full of fish habitat. This has resulted
in Fletcher's Floodwaters being home to one of
the largest concentrations of Northern Pike,
Large Mouth Bass and Panfish in all of Michigan.
It is a true Mecca for ice fishing .If you have
never tried ice fishing at Fletcher's, you have no
idea what you have been missing. Tip ups and
Big baits will produce a FUN day for you and
your buddies running around trying to keep up
with all the action .

We always have a blast pulling all the Pike,
Perch, Blue Gills and Crappies thru the ice.
We've been up there 4 times from Ohio and we
are planning another trip this Winter. Call **Jack's
Landing** to reserve one of their cottages located
right by the lake. In fact, we only fish about 400
or 500 yards out our front doors. They have a
bait shop with all your favorite tackle and Big
live baits. They also have a Bar that you can
visit after a fun day of fishing and try to out lie
each other. This is a trip you will fondly look
back on for many years to come.

Vicki at **Wild Bill's Bait & Tackle** reports the
ice fishing season was in full swing at the with
everything you need for his Winters ice fishing
season. **They carry the areas largest
assortment of ice fishing supplies and live
bait. Including BIG live bait for catching
those Monster Pike.** Don't forget Wild Bill's
is open year round, be sure you stop by and check
them out.

A-1 Woods and Waters, located in Downtown
Hillman, has everything you need for the ice
fishing seasons. They are well stocked with
ammo, rifles, crossbows and hunting supplies.

A-1 Woods & Waters

141 North State Street
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Be sure to check out their gun safes. They also
have a large selection of Carhartt clothing. The
fishing at Fletcher's Pond had slowed down a
little at the end of January due to the recent sub-
zero weather. The fishermen that braved the cold
weather were catching lots of small Pike with a
FEW LARGE PIKE also being taken. The pan
Fish bite was still going strong. Lots of BASS
were also being caught but the season was
closed on them.



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