

# Lake Michigan anglers dial in on lake trout

**J**EFF DAVIS' FACE light up like a beacon in a light house. The 11-year-old Bloomfield Township resident had finally broken our box and landed a 20-inch lake trout.

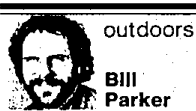
All the fishing reports coming from the northwest section of the northern Lower Peninsula last week indicated the fishing would be great. Limit catches of lakera and steelhead had been the rule rather than the exception for the past two weeks. But our crew of seven, including Davis and his father, Charlie, managed to elude all those hungry fish for a full three hours Wednesday before Davis broke the ice by landing our first laker.

**BETSE LAKE**, cluttered with a few dilapidated posts which formed the foundation of a once-roaring saw mill, rests quietly on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan at Elberta. It serves as home port for Southfield's Jon Moleksy and his Wa-Hoo Charter Service.

Moleksy began working on charter boats as a teenager. He started his own charter service six years ago while a freshman at the University of Michigan and is probably the only college graduate to fish himself through school.

During the week, Moleksy works at a desk job in Traverse City while first mate Dave Grant runs charter trips. On weekends, and any other time he can slip away, you'll find the 1986 Buick Wildcat Grosse Pointe, seated comfortably in the captain's chair of a 27-foot Sportcraft dubbed "The Wa-Hoo."

**A PICTURESQUE VIEW** of the Sleeping Bear Dunes glistening in the afternoon sunshine arose in the distance on our starboard side as we motored out of Betse Lake and into the luscious blue waters of Lake



outdoors

**Bill Parker**

Michigan. Minutes later, South Manitou Island reared its great sandy head and peaked at us through the hazy horizon.

But it wasn't the spectacular views that lured Moleksy to the area as much as the smorgasbord of fishing opportunities.

"It's so great up here," said Moleksy, who started his charter service charter out of Muskegon. "The versatility of having lake trout in here close is fantastic. And if the lakera aren't hitting the steelies will be. Then, a little later (in the summer) the salmon begin to move in."

**THE BANK** of Lake Michigan drops off sharply just south of Platte Bay below the Pointe Betse Light-house, which is where we began our excursion.

"The lakera tend to stay at a certain depth when they find the water temperature they like," explained Moleksy. "The ideal temperature range is in the upper 40's to low 50's. Right now, they're slacked out on the bottom in 60 to 75-feet of water."

An abundant supply of baitfish, primarily alewife, keep the lake trout in the area during the early summer months.

"There are still tons of baitfish up here," Moleksy said. "Practically every fish we catch has a belly full of fish."

**WE CONCENTRATED OUR** efforts on lakera this day. Because of a late start (we didn't wet a line until nearly noon) the action was slow for the first three hours. But as evening

approached the feeding activity of the lakera increased.

Jeff's fish hit a green spin-n-glow trailing a series of star and green cow bells off a downrigger in 65 feet of water. The bait of choice, however, turned out to be a laser squid trailing a silver fluted dodger.

"Fish on!" yelled Moleksy, as one of the line snapped free from a downrigger and the pole tip began its ritualistic dance. Charlie did the honors this time as a dandy laker succumbed to the razor-sharp hook hidden in the midst of a rubber squid.

The action was torrid for the next two hours as our party of seven took 12 lakera and one lonely burbot. All the fish were caught on rigs set on a downrigger.

**HAD EVERYTHING GONE** according to plan, we would have ventured out some 25-miles from shore to match wits with the forty steelhead. Radio reports from other boats coming in to dock revealed near limit catches of steelies.

"Steelhead action has been fantastic and will continue that way through the middle of July," Moleksy said.

"The fish are gathered at the seamount -- an area where the warm shore water meets the colder water from the center of the lake. The seamount is usually loaded with insects, which the steelhead feed on re-venously."

"They're (steelhead) suspended in the upper 10 feet of water feeding on insects," Moleksy explained. "When they hit, a lot of times they'll head for the surface and jump right out of the water. The action right now is unbelievable."

Sport anglers and charter boats will work the lakera and steelhead for the next few weeks until the salmon begin to move in.

"The salmon kind of disappear a little but early in the summer and re-



Bloomfield Township residents Charlie, left, and Jeff Davis are all smiles while joining Southfield's Captain Jon Moleksy and his first mate Dave Grant in front of a day's catch of lake trout.

one really knows where they are," Moleksy said. "The Kings (chub) will start showing up in mid July and the cutts will be back in early August. It's primarily a lake trout and steelhead fishery until the salmon start showing up."

Wa-Hoo Charters can be reached in Southfield at 616-946-4566.

**REWARD OFFERED**  
The Coalition of Michigan Sportsmen has instituted a \$1,000 reward program for individuals providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of game law violators in the state of Michigan. The Coalition encourages sportsmen to help put an end to the criminal poacher by re-

porting all illegal activity. Contact the Coalition at P.O. Box 6083 Saginaw, MI 48606. Anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Write to Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009 or call Bill Parker at 644-1101, 2:21-2:41.

## outdoors calendar

### IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

- June 4: Lake Huron, Sportfishing Kids Fishing Derby will take place in Okemos. Call (517) 733-4400 for more information.
- June 4: Fish Tally Tournament will take place at Veterans Memorial Park in Bay City. Call (517) 688-2133 for more information.
- June 9: The Southeast Chapter of the Hokey Mountain 128 Foundation, a non-profit organization, will hold a big game banquet and dinner at the Grand Manor at Fairlane in Dearborn. Tickets are \$75 per couple and \$50 single. Call Jack Hamilton at (313) 952-357 or 357-0912 for more information.
- June 30: Motor City Charity Classic Tournament will take place on Lake St. Clair. Call (484) 401-0151 for more information.
- June 30: National Sporting Clays Association State Championship will take place at the Hunter's Ridge Hunt Club in Oxford. Call (517) 828-1100 for more information.
- June 30: Michigan Division of the Operation Bass Hunt Man Trail will have a bass tournament on Saginaw Bay. Call (517) 463-9114 or (502) 542-8110 for more information.
- July 3: Pickering Tournament will take place in Allegan. Call (784) 5957 for more information.
- July 4: Kids Fishing Day will be held in Hartsville. Call (517) 728-5107 for more information.
- July 4: Hartsville Lake Trout Festival will be held in Hartsville. Call (517) 728-6426 for more information.
- July 5: Ladies Powder Puff Derby will be held in Hartsville. Call (517) 728-5107 for more information.
- July 10: A 15-week broadcast league begins at the Royal Oak Archery walk through range in Lake Orion. Call (628) 8649 or 693-9749 for more information.
- July 10: Kirby deadline for the July 11 operation: Bass Michigan Division qualifiers in St. Clair. Call (313) 453-9114 for more information.
- July 13-14: 1991 Midwest Open Field Target Championship Match for guns will take place at the Western Wayne County Conservation Association. The field is limited to the first 100 applicants who register. Call (419) 943-5943 (WVCCA clubhouse) 522-2243 or 369-9030 for more information.
- July 13-14: Seventh Annual Walpole Tournament will be held in Selawick. Call (517) 883-3738 for more information.
- July 13: A cone shoot begins at 10 a.m. at the Royal Oak Archery walk through range in Lake Orion. Call (628) 8649 or 693-9749 for more information.
- July 18-21: Mariner Festival will be held in Tawas City. Call 1-800-35 TAWAS for more information.
- July 20-21: Arrow Fest will take place

### at the Western Wayne County Conservation Association

- Call 633-9943 for more information.
- July 20-21: Masters Walpole Circuit Tournament will be held in Saginaw. Call (517) 883-3738 for more information.
- July 20-21: A walleye tournament will be held in Cassville. Call (517) 289-0331 for more information.
- July 21: Operation Bass will have a Michigan Division qualifier at Harley Knapp Park in Clair. Kirby deadline is July 10. Call (313) 453-9114 or (502) 542-8110 for more information.
- July 21: A 30-shot begins at 8 a.m. at the Royal Oak Archery walk through range in Lake Orion. Call (628) 8649 or 693-9749 for more information.
- Aug 3: Backlanders Bass Club of Livonia will hold a bass fishing derby beginning at 9 a.m. at Guller Park in Ann Arbor. Call (313) 453-9114 or (502) 542-8110 for more information.
- Aug 19: Western Wayne County Conservation Association will have a 3-D archery shoot at 10 a.m. on its walk through range in Livonia. 1. Archery Call (517) 883-3738. 10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. daily or 425-0377 evenings for more information.
- Through August: Jack Levenson Sailing School will have classes on Lake St. Clair. Call (616) 767 for more information.
- Through Sept. 2: Crooked Lake Fishing Club will take place at Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston. Call (425) 0877 for more information.
- Through Sept. 2: Bull Lake Fishing Contest will take place at Addison Oaks County Park. Call (525) 4677 for more information.

### METROPARKS

- Junior Naturalist: a program for children ages 10-12 in which participants will learn about the environment. Begins at 2 p.m. Saturday at Indian Springs. Participants should bring a lunch and dress for the weather.
- World of Spiders: a slide program about spiders. Begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Indian Springs.
- Most Metroparks programs are free, but some have a nominal charge. Advance registration and a vehicle entry permit are required. For more information, call 1-800-234-6531.
- **CLARK COUNTY PARKS**
- Kitty Donohoe, returns to the Fido Amphitheater at 1 p.m. Saturday. Donohoe will entertain and educate adults and children about the earth through songs and the use of various instruments. There is a \$5 entry fee for persons 18 and over. \$3 for family.
- **Franklin Park** will have a program for children ages 3-6 including songs, stories, a nature hike, a simple craft and a snack, begins at 10 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 2, at Independence Oaks.
- **Butterfly Primer**, a program in which participants will learn to identify butterflies. Begins at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 6, at Independence Oaks. The program will also prepare participants for a butterfly census of the park the following week.
- **Junior Naturalist** (ing gardening), a gardening class for children which includes stories, activities, crafts and more, begins at 1 p.m. Monday, July 8, and at 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, at Independence Oaks.

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All young men have one responsibility in common. They have to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. All it takes is five minutes at any post office to fill out a simple form. So if you know a young man about to turn 18, remind him to register. It's one of those things he's got to do.

**Register with Selective Service**  
*It's quick. It's easy. And it's the law.*

A public service message of this publication and selective service system.



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