

Looking for Long? You'll find him on area lake

The feisty smallmouth darted out from the comfort of a patch of weeds and inhaled the rubber-skirted jigghead. Instinctively, the angler swiftly set the hook and an all-out brawl ensued. The thick-bodied smallmouth circled under the boat, made a run back toward the weeds, then rocketed out of the water like a Tomahawk missile in an attempt to shake the hook. With a taunt line and a seasoned counter-attack the angler prevailed and landed the fish. After admiring the beautiful green and yellow colorings on the bass guide Kevin Long quickly released it back into the dark, choppy water of Lake St. Clair.

With a smile of contentment on his face, Long turned to the water and took another long cast over the sandy shore. For some, such an encounter would go down in memory as another day on the water. For Long, it was a continuation of an opportunity to live out his childhood dream.

"Ever since I was a young kid, I dreamed of becoming a professional fisherman," said Long, who grew up in Bloomfield Hills and now lives in Oxford. "This is like a dream come true for me. It's what I've wanted to do for as long as I can remember."

OUTDOORS

Long's parents, Bob and Barbara, own a cottage on Lake Charlevoix and as a youngster Kevin spent many summers on the lake. It was during one of those summer vacations that Long was befriended by local Dan Miller who taught the youngster the ins and outs of fishing.

"He was really my fishing idol as a kid," said Long. "He kind of took me under his wing and really got me interested in fishing. He showed me how to work baits and where to find fish, stuff like that."

In the back of his mind, Long knew, even back then, that he would some day take fishing to the next level.

Upon graduating from Andover High School, Long enrolled at Michigan State University where he earned a degree in marketing.

"It was kind of a compromise with my parents," he said. "They wanted me to go to college, and I wanted to fish, so I majored in marketing. I could market myself as a fisherman when I got through with school."

While attending MSU, Long joined the Lansing River Rats

fishing club and began fishing in Bass Federation Tournaments. In 1993 he placed in the top five in three of the six tournaments he fished in and knew then that he was on the right track.

"That really got me fired up, because then I knew I could compete with some of these guys," said Long.

Today the 25-year-old touring pro fishes in Red Man, Tri-State and BASSMASTER tournament trails and runs Long Cast Guide Service (1-888-536-FISH) for smallmouth bass, walleye and musky.

Bass season opened June 20 on Lake St. Clair, and the St. Clair and Detroit rivers, which is where Long concentrates his efforts. He also enjoys fishing Saginaw Bay, Lake Erie and assorted inland lakes. On an outing on Lake St. Clair last week, Long and a companion caught 29 smallmouth in five hours ranging in size from two to four pounds.

"Right now we're fishing post-spawn, pre-summer fish," Long said. "The general pattern we're fishing is five to eight feet of water over gravel beds with weed patches in the main lake flats. Check the western shore of the lake from Metro Beach all

the way to the mouth of the Detroit River. There are a lot of hot spots throughout the area and a lot of nice fish, too."

Jerk baits such as Rattlin' Rouges and Bomber A's work well at this time of year as do tube baits on-ounce jig heads. Long prefers "Catchem" tube baits in crayfish (brown and green) and baitfish (white with specks) colors.

The tournament season is in full swing and Long is off to a great start. On June 8 he and partner Scott Dobson won the Angler's Choice Tournament on Saginaw Bay with a five-fish limit that weighed 18.15 pounds. On June 20, Long returned to the bay and placed fourth in a Red Man Michigan Division Tournament with five bass weighing 16 pounds, 5 ounces. He also holds the big fish record for the Red Man tournament on Lake St. Clair with a six-pound, 10-ounce smallmouth.

As the recent outing came to a close Long batted down the equipment and turned his bass boat toward the dock. With another successful day on the lake etched firmly in the book of life the childhood dream continues to play itself out for Kevin Long.



Catch of the day: Fishing guide Kevin Long shows off a Lake St. Clair smallmouth bass.

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

ARCHERY

HOLIDAY SHOOT
Detroit Archers will hold a Holiday 3D Shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 4-5, on its walk-through course in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 for more information.

3D SHOOT
Oakland County Sportsmen's Club will hold a 30 target 3D shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, July 12, on its walk-through course in Clarkston. Call (248) 623-0444 for more information.

BOWHUNTERS RENDEZVOUS
The Michigan Bow Hunters Rendezvous will be held July 25-26 at the Springfield Oaks Fairgrounds in Davisburg. The show offers seminars, shooting exhibitions, MUCC's live encounters show, Yoder's Big Game Exhibit, free archery shooting and instruction for the kids, a 3D course and much more. Admission is \$5 for both days and children 15 and under will be admitted free. Springfield Oaks is located on Andersonville Road.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS
The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (248) 623-0444.

JUNIOR ARCHERS
A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. Saturdays at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110.

CLASSES/CLINICS

FLY TYING
Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tiers. Call (248) 650-0440 for more information or to make a reservation.

HUNTER EDUCATION
Wayne County Sportsmen's Club will hold several hunter education classes in the upcoming months at its clubhouse and grounds in Remus. These classes will be taught by certified instructors. Students must be present for both days of their respective class. All equipment will be provided. Classes will be offered Aug. 29-30, Oct. 2-3, Oct. 17-18 and Nov. 7-8. Oct. 2 is \$10.50 and includes lunch both days. To pre-register call (313) 941-9688.

CLUBS

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparic at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School. Call (810) 478-1494 for more information.

FOUR SEASONS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Senior Citizens Center in the Livonia Civic Center. Call Jim Kudej at (810) 691-0843.

FISHING BUDDY
The Downtown Fishing Club meets monthly in Rochester Hills. The meetings are open to all anglers. Call (248) 656-0556.

CLINTON VALLEY BASS
Clinton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome). The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Watford. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-5910.

BASS ASSOCIATION
The Downtown Bass Association, non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 676-2863 for information.

TOURNAMENT

OAKLAND BASS MASTERS
Oakland Bass Masters will hold its fifth annual Tournament for Toys benefit bass tournament on Sunday, July 19, on Lake St. Clair. A portion of the proceeds from this two-man team tournament will benefit the pediatric patients at William Beaumont Hospital. Registration is \$75, and \$80 after July 15. Call (248) 542-5254 for more information.

SEASON/DATES

DEER
August 15 is the deadline to apply for an antlerless deer permit.
ELK
July 15 is the deadline to apply for a September or a December elk permit.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (810) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (810) 685-2433. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7067.

FISHING IN THE PARKS

Learn the basics of fishing including how to bait a hook, basic knots, casting and fish ecology during this weekly program, which is offered Tuesday's at 6:30 p.m. through August 11 at Metamora-Hadley, Pontiac Lake and Island Lake.

SENIOR STROLL
A nature hike for senior citizens along a wheelchair-accessible trail begins at 9 a.m. Tuesday, July 7, at Maybury.

BIRD HIKE
Learn to identify some of the area's birds during this naturalist-led hike, which begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, July 11, at Maybury. Participants should meet at the riding stable parking lot off Beck Road, 1/4-mile south of Eight Mile Rd. A similar program will be held Aug. 6.

COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration is required for nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register.

WINGS OF THE NIGHT
A slide presentation, craft session and an evening walk to learn more about the misunderstood, yet very helpful, bat begins at 8 p.m. Friday, July 10, at Independence Oaks.

STREAMSIDE SAFARI
View the Clinton River at its source and discover some of the fascinating creatures that make their homes along the river during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 11, at Independence Oaks.

Bowlers make contribution, too



champion football team at the University of Michigan residing here.

Then there is the city's love for the Lions, Tigers and Pistons. But perhaps to the Sporting News' surprise, Detroit also is a hotbed for bowling.

So it came as no surprise that it also was announced Monday that the year 2000 Michigan State Bowling Tournament has been awarded to the Detroit metro area.

The tourney will run 17 weekends, starting the second week of January, 2000. About 16,000 bowlers from the entire state are expected to vie for more than \$300,000 in total cash prizes.

This is big news and so very appropriate just when the Detroit area receives due recognition for sports. Being the nation's bowling capital just adds to Detroit's outstanding sports reputation.

The site of the 2000 state event will be Sterling Lanes and Bonanza Lanes, both of which

are owned and operated by Mark and Diane Voight of Farmington Hills.

The Voights also own Super Bowl in Canton, Merri-Bowl in Livonia, Century Bowl in Waterford, Plum Hollow Lanes in Southfield and Troy Lanes.

The Voights were elected to hear the news when announced and pointed out that it will benefit the entire community to have such an influx of bowlers and the extra attention that it will generate for the sport.

"The Detroit Bowling Show '98, which was announced in this column earlier has been postponed, probably until late January or February of 1999."

It had been slated for the Southfield Pavilion, which would have been a terrific site, however, the plans are on hold. Any announcements will be coming out in this column when the word is to be released.

A disappointment for those who had inked it in their schedule. I used a pencil. Eraser, anyone?

In the recent Senior Olympics held at Frankenmuth, it was a dear old friend, Mary Mohacs of Livonia, who took the gold medals in women's bowling events. The medalists in men's bowling were the Gold Dust Twins from West Bloomfield - Mort Friedman and Phil Horowitz.

Mohacs, as most readers know, is a hall of famer who has to try to find space on her trophy shelf for anything else. The same

is true for Friedman and Horowitz, who have competed against each other in singles and together when the events were doubles.

Strange but true

Dick Resetz of South Lyon had served his company as a field rep for bowling products. His company, AMF, had been making a lot of changes recently - heavy expansion in domestic and foreign markets, huge investments in bowling centers and new manufacturing.

But for Resetz, it turned out to be a very bad year as AMF decided that they no longer required his services. Some of us know that routine.

So a very nice banquet was held last Wednesday to honor Resetz. It took place at Anderson's in West Bloomfield. For Dick, it was a well-deserved event for such a fine person and a very decent bowler in his own right.

Many of his friends, former customers and company people were in attendance and who might you ask, would throw such a bash?

It was the Brunswick people - Resetz's principal competitors when he was with AMF!

Maybe they were glad to see him go?

No, no. It was a gesture of appreciation to a man who did his job well, never bad-mouthed his competition and handled his position as the true gentleman he is.

Steps to Greatness

Presented by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and the Livonia Observer

The first step in your Steps to Greatness is designed to excite, enhance, and educate you and your staff.

TOPICS

- ★ Integrity in Sales
- ★ How to Build Endless Referrals
- ★ How to Qualify a Prospect
- ★ Winning Without Intimidation

Cost of seminar includes Bob's book and 12-cassette package. Retail Value \$146

Featuring National Speaker and Author



Bob Burg
Million Dollar Round Table Speaker

Local Speakers Include:



Robert Shenefelt
Great White North Distribution Services



Rich Levinson
RHL & Associates

SPONSORED BY

Exhibit Works

Citizens Bank

Franklin Covey

WALSH COLLEGE

HURRY! SEATING IS LIMITED!

Thursday, October 8, 1998 • Burton Manor • 7:30 - 4:30 p.m.
For Reservations, call 734-427-2122 • FAX 734-427-6055
Visit our Web Site at www.livonia.org/steps

\$149 All Chamber Members:

\$199 Non-Members

Advance payments only: Check, Visa, MasterCard

INCLUDES BREAKFAST AND LUNCH