

Pike-spearfishing season heats up

Praised during warm weather for its smallmouth bass and muskie fisheries, Lake St. Clair is often overlooked for its northern pike population.

Until the lake freezes over that is.

Once a solid cover of ice forms, pike spears can be found in force, particularly in Anchor Bay.

"Usually in February we're getting to the tail end of the ice fishing season and fishing is really picking up," said Brian Ward, owner of Selfridge Sport and Tackle, on the lake's west shore. "Pike are active at this time of year."

For some reason people who spear seem to do better than people using tip-ups. With the onset of spring, just around the corner, northerns are feeding ravenously in preparation for the rigors of spawning. They're moving into the weedy flats and shallows of Anchor Bay.

"Most of them are taken in shallow water, five feet or less," Ward said. "The secret is to be patient and to be quiet. They're pretty spooky when they're in shallow water like that."

Permanent shanties are nice,

but a portable will allow you to move around and finds the fish. Most spears cut a hole at least two-feet-square. A decoy live suckers in the 14- to 16-inch range are killed. As they lowered into the hole and the wait begins. Speareers sit attentively above the ice and wait for a pike to approach.

"Northern pike are big predators and they cruise through looking for a meal," Ward said. "You have to stay ready, because you never know when they'll show up. And they usually dart in, take the sucker, then they're gone. If you're not paying attention you can miss everything."

Spears range from five times to eight times and weight is a variable.

"Most guys like weighted spears, so they can get them down to the fish in a hurry," Ward said.

The south end of Anchor Bay off Fair Haven features lots of heavy weed beds, which tend to hold plenty of fish. The area north of the Selfridge Air Force Base, at Brandenburg Park, is another winter hot spot.

Access to Lake St. Clair is available at several public launch facilities including Algonac, off Highway 43 at the mouth of the North Channel and in Fair haven, north of Selfridge, and at Brandenburg Park south of New Baltimore.

Spearfishing season runs through the end of February. The season is open on inland waters, except designated trout lakes. In addition, there is no spearfishing on Oakland County's Tipton and Heron lakes. For other lakes closed to spearfishing check the 2002 Michigan Fishing Guide.

It should also be noted that there is no muskie spearfishing on Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair or Detroit rivers. Don't make a mistake and inadvertently spear a muskie. Pike are darker in color with light spots while muskies have a lighter background and dark spots. Be sure of your target before you let the spear fly.

The legal size limit for northern pike is 24 inches on most lakes and there is a five fish daily limit. (That limit includes walleyes, sauger, flathead catfish and northern pike in any combination.)

For updates on ice conditions, fishing updates and bait and tackle needs call Selfridge Sport and Tackle at (810) 949-2998.

Bill Parker covers the outdoors for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Bill Parker, c/o Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.



Salute to grid champs

Farmington High School football players whoop it up Tuesday night after being presented with a championship banner. The event and banner-raising ceremony took place in the school gym following the varsity basketball game. The Falcons were OAA Division III co-champions with North Farmington last fall, and they won the school's second district playoff title in four years.

Bill Bresler/Staff Photographer

THE WEEK AHEAD

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| BOYS BASKETBALL
Friday, Feb. 14
K. Farmington at Harrison, 7 p.m.
Stoney Creek at Farmington, 7 p.m.
Catholic crossover at Cville, 7 p.m. | BOYS ICE HOCKEY
Thursday, Feb. 13
Redford CC at PH Northern, 6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 14
Farmington at U.S. Stevens, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 15
Clarkston at Farmington, 8 p.m.
Cranbrook at Redford CC, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 15
Fort Huron at Mercy, 6:30 p.m. | Thursday, Feb. 13
Waters at Windsor Spitfires, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 14
Saginaw at Plymouth Whalers, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 15
Mississauga at Plymouth Whalers, 7:30 p.m. |
| GRS VOLLEYBALL
Thursday, Feb. 13
Farmington at Clarkston, 7:30 p.m.
H. Farmington at Ferndale, 7:30 p.m.
Andover at Harrison, 7 p.m.
Catholic League at Madonna, 1BA.
Luth. Westland at Clarensville, 7 p.m. | ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Saturday, Feb. 15 | Thursday, Feb. 13
Division I team district tournament, at Walled Lake Western
North Farmington vs. Livonia Stevens; Farmington vs. Walled Lake Western. Both matches at 6 p.m. Final to follow an intermission. |

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

- FISH BUDDIES FISHING CLUB**
The Fish Buddies Fishing Club meets the third Tuesday of each month in Rochester. Meetings are open to all anglers, boaters and non-boaters. Call (248) 656-0556 for more information.
- SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION**
The Oakland County Sportfishing Association meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month at the Drayton Plains Nature Center, 225 Denby, Drayton Plains. Call (248) 693-4389 or visit the club's web site at <http://gotolake.com> for more information.
- DOWNRIVER BASS ASSOCIATION**
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain (4100 Fardee Road) in Taylor. For more information, call Ron Fodor at (734) 676-2863 or send an e-mail to ralf22@home.com.
- METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS**
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Oakland County High School, Call Dominic Liparato at (248) 476-5043 for more information.
- MICHIGAN FLY FISHING**
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Middle School, located on Middlebelt Road between Seven and Eight Mile roads. Visit www.mffc.org on the Internet for more information.
- FOUR SEASONS**
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center 1520 Farmington Road. Visitors are welcome. For more information, please call Jim Kudaj at (734) 591-0843 or send him an e-mail at jkudaj@aol.com.
- HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS**
The Huron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 23600 Flat Road, Flat Rock. Call Carol White at (734) 285-9343 for more information.
- CLINTON RIVER BASS 'N' RATS**
The recently organized Clinton River Bass 'n' Rats meets the first Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Gander Mountain Lodge. Call (810) 247-9900 for direction and additional information. The club is an affiliated chapter of the B.A.S.S. National Federation.
- OKLAND COUNTY PARKS**
COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (248) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

www.HometownLife.com
INTERNET ADDRESS DIRECTORY
Put your business On-Line, call 1-800-988-4214

- ACCOUNTANT**
Boyle & Co. CPA, P.C. — www.boylecpa.com
- ACUPUNCTURE**
Acupuncture Institute of Michigan — www.dmeedles.com
- ADVERTISING AND MARKETING SUPPLIES**
Ezaco — www.ezaco.com
- APARTMENTS**
CAN BE Investments — www.can-be.com
- ART MUSEUMS**
The Detroit Institute of Arts — www.dia.org
- ASPHALT/CONCRETE PAVING**
Alex Paving Industries — www.alexpaving.com
- ASSOCIATIONS**
Oakland Youth Orchestra — www.oymj.org
Suburban Newspapers of America — www.suburban-news.org
- ATTORNEY**
Education — www.lawyers.com/marshallynuck
- AUDIO VISUAL SERVICES**
AVS Audio — www.avsaudio.com
- AUTOMOTIVE**
Auto Extend Warranty — www.autowarrantyextend.com
Competition Limited — www.hioutputbulbs.com
Davis Auto Care — www.davisautocare.com
John Rogin Buick-Isuzu-Suzuki — www.jrogin.com
- AUTO RACING**
Alan Dragway — www.milandragway.com
- BAKING/COOKING**
Martha Lynn Tuck — www.lilym.com
Jiffy Mix — Chelsea Milling Company — www.jiffymix.com
- BOATING**
Boat Warranty Extend — www.boatwarrantyextend.com
- BOOKS**
Apostolate Communications — www.apostolate.com
- CANCER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT**
Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma — www.ctcl-mt.org
- CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE**
Birmingham/Steubenville Chamber of Commerce — www.bhoc.com
Garden City Chamber of Commerce — www.gardencity.org
Howell Chamber of Commerce — www.howell.org
Livonia Chamber of Commerce — www.evia.org
Novi Chamber of Commerce — www.novi.org
Redford Chamber of Commerce — www.redfordchamber.org
West Branch/Field Chamber of Commerce — www.westbranchfieldchamber.org
- CHAPELS**
Harpis Village Chapel — www.harpisvillagechapel.com
- CHILDRENS THEATRE**
Marjorie Theatre — www.northbemaquistheatre.com
- CLASSIFIED ADS**
Hometown Newspapers — www.hometownlife.com
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers — www.observerandeccentric.com
- COMMUNITY SERVICES**
Beverly Hills Police — www.beverlyhillspolice.com
City of Huntington Woods — www.huntington-woods.mi.us
Common Ground Sanctuary — www.commongroundsanctuary.org
Detroit Regional Chamber — www.detroitchamber.com
Leadership Oakland — www.leadershipoakland.com
- CREDIT BUREAUS**
Ann Arbor Credit Bureau — www.a2cb.com
- DENTISTS**
New Dental — www.newdental.com
Smile Maker — www.smilemaker.org
- EDUCATION**
Livingston Educational Service Agency — www.liveston.org
Oakland Schools — <http://oakland.k12.mi.us>
- ELECTRONIC SERVICE AND REPAIR**
ABL Electronic Service, Inc. — www.ablerv.com
- ENGINEERING/CONSULTING**
International Technologies Consultants — www.itcfoat.com
- EYE CARE/LASER SURGERY**
Greenberg Laser Eye Center — www.greenbergye.com
Michigan Eyecare Institute — www.michiganyecare.com
- FESTIVALS**
Music and Motorfest — www.musicandmotorfest.com
- FISHING**
Under Lane Farms — www.underlanefarms.com
- FLOORING**
Dandy Hardwood Flooring Company — www.dandyfloors.com
- GALLERIES**
Cowboy Trader Gallery — www.cowboytradergallery.com
- HOLISTIC WELLNESS**
Roots and Branches — www.rootsofbranches.com
- HOME BUILDERS**
Belanger Builders, Inc. — www.belangerbuilders.com
- HOME IMPROVEMENTS**
Accent Remodeling 1 Inc. — www.accentremodeling.com
Complete Carpets and Duct Cleaning — www.completecarpetsandduct.com
Morris Painting — www.morrispainting.com
- IDENTIFICATION & LAMINATION**
Identification Lamination Products — www.identlam.com
- INSURANCE**
J J O'Connell & Assoc., Inc. Insurance — www.oconnellinsurance.com
The Insurance Focus — www.insurancehouse.com
- INTERNET HOSTING**
HomeTown Digital — www.hometownlife.com
ISOC00018 16848 CERTIFICATION SUPPORT
Arch Associates, LLC — www.archassociates.com
- JEWELERS**
Showroom of Elegance — www.showroomofelegance.com
- LAWYER SERVICES**
Law Offices of Judith Blumeno — www.lawyers.com/jblumeno
- MANUFACTURE/WELDING WIRE**
Cor-Met Inc. — www.cor-met.com
- MANUFACTURERS REPRESENTATIVES**
Electronic Sources — www.esrtd.com
Hankel Environmental Technologies — www.hankelenvironmental.com
- MEDICAL TESTING**
Access Diagnostics Inc. — www.accessdiagnostics.com
- MEDICAL SAVINGS PROGRAMS**
Grand Cayman, Car Estate Representative — www.greiff.com
- MEDICAL SUPPLIES**
Innovative Laboratory Acrylics — www.innovative-lab-acrylics.com
- MUSIC MEMORABILIA**
Classic Audio Repro — www.classicaudiorepro.com
- PAINTING**
Art Images — www.art-images.com
- PARKS**
Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority — www.metroparks.com
- PUBLICATIONS**
Candem Publications — www.candem.com
Equine Times — www.equinetimes.com
- QUALITY SYSTEMS & PRODUCTIVITY**
Arch Associates, LLC — www.archassociates.com
- REAL ESTATE**
Birmingham Bloomfield Rochester South Oakland Association of Realtors — www.justlisted.com
Detroit Board of Realtors — www.detroitboardofrealtors.com
Largest Realtors — www.largest.com
Sellers First Choice — www.sellersfirst.com
Web, Manuel, Snyder & Ranka — www.webmanuel.com
Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors — www.wwoar.com
- RECYCLING SERVICES**
Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County — www.mrasc.org
- REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**
Midwest Fertility and Selection Center — www.selectgender.com
Center for Reproductive Medicine & Fertility — www.reproductive-medicine.com
- RESORTS**
Sandcastles on the Beach Resort — www.sandcastlesonthebeach.com
- RESTAURANTS**
Albans Restaurant — www.albans.com
Bistro 127 — www.bistro127.com
Italian Epicure — www.italian-epicure.com
- RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES**
United Methodist Retirement Community — www.umrc.com
- SHOWING**
Rancho-Gershenson Properties Trust — www.rancho-gershenson.com
- SPORTS GEAR**
Outdoor Pursuits — www.outdoorpursuitsinc.com
- SURPLUS FOAM**
McCough Corporation — www.mccough.com
- SURPLUS PRODUCTS**
McCough Corporation — www.mccough.com
- TRAVEL AGENCIES**
Cruise Selections, Inc. — www.cruiseselections.com
- WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT**
HomeTown Digital — www.hometownlife.com
- WELL SERVICES**
Keller Well Drilling — www.keller-well-drilling.com
- WORSHIP**
First Presbyterian Church Birmingham — www.fpcbirmingham.org
Rochester First Assembly Church — www.rochesterfirst.org
Unity of Livonia — www.unityoflivonia.org
- YOUTH ATHLETICS**
Westland Youth Athletic Association — www.wyaa.org

Hey College Hockey Fans! TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

Family Pack
4 Tickets, 4 Little Cessars pizza slices, 4 Cokes ONLY \$39!

Call 313-308-7575

Saturday, March 1, 2003 • 7:30pm

M. vs. S.

Tickets \$20, \$18, \$13 and \$9

Enter to win Detroit Red Wings Tickets

Check Today's Classifieds Section

How You Can Enter to Win!

Observer & Eccentric