

NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA FISHING REPORT

Published by Blackwolfe Communications LLC

Issue: June 16, 2021

The NW PA Fishing Report is brought to you by:



Pennsylvania's Great Lakes Region
crawford • erie • mercer • venango



Fishing with Darl Black

Information Service



Ken Smith, our regional crappie guru, shows how big those Shenango Lake white crappies can grow with this nearly 16 inch fish.

The Landing Net by Darl Black

This issue arrives in time for you to make your Father's Day fishing plans. It's been a pretty exciting June so far. Expect the many species on inland lakes continue to feed fairly shallow for another week or so, before they set up in deeper water for the summer. Seems to be a very good year for smallmouth bass on inland waters, as well as for muskies. See what else has been biting and where in this issue. On Lake Erie, the summer walleye bite is just getting started—perhaps a bit slow according to some anglers, but when you check out the charter boat catches it appears the fish are here to be caught if you have the knowledge and time to put into finding them.

The NW PA Fishing Report provides timely angling information for Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Venango counties. Fishing comments and photos are offered by regional tackle shops and area anglers. The NWPAFR is based on experiences, observations and opinions of individual contributors; information is considered reliable but comments are not independently verified. In providing information or pictures, you are agreeing to your comments being edited for clarity and brevity, and posted to websites and distributed electronically.

NW PA FISHING REPORT for June 16, 2021

Published by Blackwolfe Communications, L.L.C.

COUNTY BY COUNTY REPORTS

French Creek- flowing through all four counties

Pete @ SmalliesontheYough Guide Service; filed 6/13: I have not been fishing for smallmouth since the spawn started, so on visit to French Creek this past week, I was hoping to find it was over. Observing a bunch of empty beds and fry along the banks was an indication the spawn was concluded. So, I started fishing. used a Ned Rig to fish deeper current, and started catching bass, including a 19-inch smallmouth. I have guide dates open from now until September if you would like a wade trip on French Creek or the Allegheny River. (See photos on right)



CRAWFORD COUNTY



Pymatuning Lake

Bean @ Richter's Bait; filed 6/14: I've received word that several individuals are catching muskies in the Linesville area of the lake on large live bait - including suckers, bluegills and small crappies. On the South End, the daytime walleye bite shifted out a little deeper to about 12 to 18 feet. Other anglers are still casting the weedbeds at night and picking up some walleyes, but for the most part these are sublegal fish. No reports of crappies.

Mark Melega

Norm @ Jamestown Marina; filed 6/14: My customers are picking up a few walleyes in the weeds, but they are small. Other anglers are trolling worm harnesses on planer boards to catch walleye. Bass are active. But by far, anglers are catching more perch and catfish than anything. Fortunately, size of perch is very desirable – so customers were returning pleased with their catch.



Blackwolfe photo

Laurie @ Duck-N-Drake; filed 6/14: Anglers are still bringing in crappies to be weighed for the Crappie Madness event, but the leader-board has not changed in a couple weeks; the contest runs until July 31. See recent photos. Some walleye catches being reported but few limits. Best bites right now are perch, bluegills and catfish. (Editor – See leader board for Crappie Madness on the Gamma Page.)



Duck N Drake photo

Patty @ Poff's Place; filed 6/14: My regular customers are still catching some very nice perch. For perch, try working the weeds with a jig and piece of crawler; other perch are deeper, too. Customers report good catches of bluegills in the shallows. But I'm hearing of a lot of small walleyes being caught.



Duck N Drake photo

Sara @ Linesville Marina; filed 6/14: If you want to catch walleyes, you've got be on the water very early in the morning. Select anglers are returning to the Marina with limits by mid-morning. I have reports of crappies being caught in 6 to 8 feet of water. Perch and catfish round out the catches.

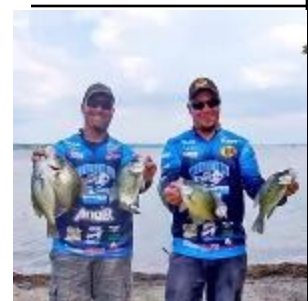
Gus @ G & G Marine Electronics; filed 6/14: My fishing partner Dan and myself finished 4th in the two-day NE Ohio Crappie Club Tournament this past weekend. We had a two-day tournament limit (8 per team per day) of crappies for a tad over 20 pounds. We caught most of our fish along North End weedlines utilizing Garmin LiveScope. (See photos)



Gus Glasgow near 2lb

Stan Teitelbaum (Shaker Height, OH):

- May 29 – I had a good day for bass on Pymatuning using mostly a wacky rig, along with a small jig here and there around timber. Also used a tube on rocks and vegetation. I stopped counting fish 2 hours into the trip.

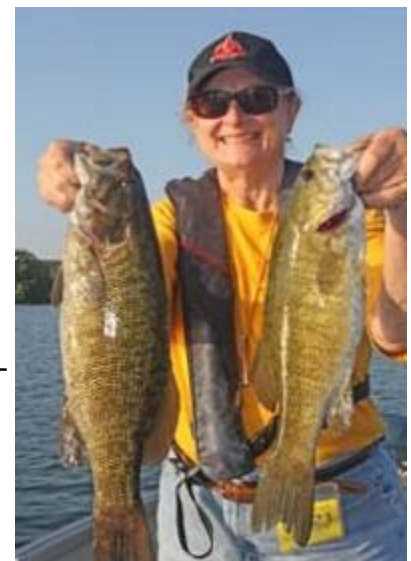


Team Glasgow 4th place

- June 4 – Fishing on Pymatuning picked up today about mid-morning. There were a number of smaller bass – but all seemed to fight like fish twice their size. I’ve been catching a lot of smallmouths; they aren’t big but their airborne ballet is a sight!
- June 12 – Even on a high traffic day, Pymatuning South End produced for me today. I spent most of the day fishing weeds.
(See photos on right)



Darl @ Fishing with Darl Black; filed 6/14: Since the last Fishing Report on May 26, Marilyn and I returned to Pymatuning twice. First trip over a week ago, we were searching for offshore bedding white crappies which reportedly had finally moved onto beds, but struck out on crappies, catching only several average-size smallmouths and a “silver” cat. This past weekend, I liked the looks of Saturday afternoon’s heavy overcast, so we made a late day run to look for bigger smallmouth – leaving all panfish tackle at home. Only a single 12” smallie was caught the first two hours. Then to my dismay the front arrived early with weather suddenly changed to blue skies and bright sun. I told Marilyn I was ready to go home whenever she wanted to. She insisted we fish a spot we had discussed earlier. I ran the boat to the site, then sat down in the back to have a sandwich and pout about the weather change. She picked up a rod with a deep crankbait, and proceeded to put on a Pymatuning Smallmouth Clinic! Guess I’ll be letting her pick the days and baits to fish next time. (See photos)



Conneaut Lake

Marilyn @ Blackwolfe Communications; filed 5/27: Darl and I finally made it to Conneaut Lake just in time to avoid the Memorial Day crowds. Normally we like to go earlier in the month, but weather and work delayed our visit. We simply worked the shoreline. It was a breezy afternoon making it difficult to see in the water. But we were able to see numerous areas with hundreds of panfish beds – uncertain if bluegill or pumpkinseeds because there were no fish on them. Throwing small soft plastic jigs, we had non-stop action catching largemouth, smallmouth, pike, bluegills, pumpkinseeds and rock bass. (See photos below)



Tamarack Lake

Marilyn @ Blackwolfe Communications; filed 6/7: For an upcoming article on the re-birth of Tamarack Lake, Darl and I chose an early morning to see how the 2020 stocked fish we growing. A buzzbait around stick-ups didn't yield a largemouth bass. Next stop was the fishing pier, where we used tiny jigs with live bait below a bobber to discover a booming panfish population. We caught bluegill, pumpkinseed, green sunfish and what we believe was a hybrid green sunfish crossed with pumpkinseed...maybe. Oh yes, just before leaving, Darl got our first Tamarack largemouth bass since the lake was drained years ago – not a lunker bass like the lake was previously known for, but it's a start! Tamarack is strictly catch and release for all species right now. (See photos)



Tamarack is full and fish are growing



Green Sunfish



Hybrid sunfish?



Future Lunker LMB

Canadohta Lake

Jerry @ Timberland Bait Shop; filed 6/14: We will be holding our Father's Day Bass Tournament on Canadohta on Sunday, June 20th from 8 AM to 11 AM. Entry fee is \$20.00.

You can sign up at the bait shop or the morning of the tournament at the Fish Commission Ramp. See Timberland Facebook page for more information.

I've been informed by the owner of the Union City Dam water supply company that any kind of boats (kayaks, canoes, rowboats) will no longer be permitted on the water supply lake due to blockage of water pipes by zebra mussels. Shoreline fishing only from now on. I have been asked to consider doing a bank fishing tournament there later this summer and an ice fishing tournament this winter; that is under consideration.

ERIE COUNTY

Lake Erie

Jake @ FishUSA; filed 6-14: Walleye fishing continues to be fairly slow for most anglers. The better fishing seems to be on the western side of Erie County in 20 to 60-foot range. The key has been running planer boards and stickbaits away from the boat, but still in the top 25 feet of water. Smallmouth fishing is almost done in the bay but is very good in the lake where rock piles have been key to finding bass. (See photo)



Jake @ FishUSA

Bill @ Tudor Hook-N-Nook; filed 6-14: The walleye bite has been tough for most anglers, but there are some charters that have been doing very well under these conditions. The lake is extremely clear; the other day when I was out with Dutch Fork Fishing Charters, it was possible to see a hooked walleye in 30 feet of water. Keith Eshbaugh of Dutch Fork has been able to produce limits for his customers by "worming the fish to death" with Ghost Blades and Butterfly Blades. (photo)



Dutch Fork Charters

Poor Richards; filed 6-14: mixed reports on walleyes with some coming from 15 to 30 feet and others at 50 feet. Both plugs and worms are reportedly producing.

Kirk @ East End Angler; filed 6-14: I've heard from some anglers there was a school of perch in 40 to 50 feet off the Cribs. Walleyes seem to be holding on the West Side; hardly a walleye reported



Dutch Fork Charters

from East Side, except from one customer who showed me a picture of 8 to 9 pounders from East Side. Reports indicate worms and harnesses doing better than plugs. Harnesses with Butterfly Blades appear to be outfishing willow or Colorado blades by a wide margin. The first of two Erie Walleye Tournaments is this Saturday; next event is in August.



Buckets Charter



Emily Prihode 9lb 10oz

Chad Prihode; filed 6/14: Back on June 5, Emily Prihode caught a 30.5-inch 9 lb. 10 oz walleye which earned her an award citation from the PA Fish Commission. It was taken in 43 feet of water west of Walnut Creek on a Bagley Bang-O lure 100 feet behind the boat on an in-line planer board. (See photo)



Gus @ G&G Marine Electronics; filed 6/14: I spent three days last week fishing Presque Isle Bay. Bass were tough to come by. Smallmouths caught in deeper bay water had been worked over while on beds, with every smallie caught showing multiple hook holes. I got a few large-mouth on a jig in the weeds, but it was the crappie that took a bass flipping jig that really surprised me. Also, if anyone lost a ladder in the Bay, I found it on Garmin Side-Vu. (See photos)



MERCER COUNTY

Lake Wilhelm

Pam @ Maurer's Trading Post; filed 6/14: Only reports we had involved the very good crappie fishing happening at Wilhelm this past week. No details on lures or location.

Editor: You can count on Brad Bee to be those Lake Wilhelm LMB!



Brad Bee on Wilhelm

Shenango Lake

Randy @ Fish West PA; filed 6/14: Shenango has been giving up some really big fish this year and this past month has been no exception. Really good crappies in size and numbers for both black and white crappies. Although walleyes have been off and on, other gamefish species have been very active and fighting hard under current pre-summer wa-

ter temperature. Big hybrid stripers, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, flathead catfish and channel catfish have been stealing the limelight. This month will bring fish closer to their summer deep water areas, but right now they are still feeding in relatively shallow water. Tight lines...Randy. (See photos below)



Randy with Hybrid



Jenna with Flathead



Jeremy with LMB



Jeremy with Hybrid Striper



Scott Selle

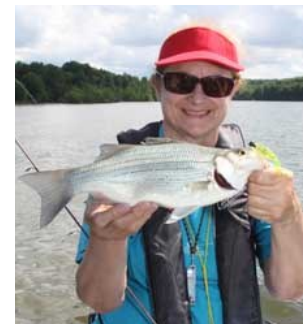
Scott Selle; filed 6/14: Here is a picture of a hard spawned out crappie from Shenango this past week; it was taken on a Bobby Garland Baby Shad. (Photo left)

Brock "Captain Hook" Morocco (Hermitage); filed 6/6: I've been catching really nice smallmouths along the shores of Golden Run on Shenango Lake in the morning. (Photo right)



Captain Hook

Darl @ Fishing with Darl Black; filed 6/12: June 12th was a grubby day on Shenango Lake. Marilyn and I headed to Shenango with the idea of catching a hybrid striper and some white bass. But as a warm up, we started crappie fishing. We found a mess of suspended black crappie with our new Garmin Echomap (see Garmin page for details) and caught fish after fish – almost all on a 4" Galida's Grubz even though we tried a smaller Crappie Slider. Then we started searching for white bass and stripers; caught a number of solitary white bass on Grubz, but did not run into a school. So, we switched to fishing rock piles for smallmouth, but caught were largemouth – on Galida's Grubz. In the end, Galida's Grubz that caught 90% of all fish. (See photos below)



VENANGO COUNTY

Angler Al's June Diary

Angler Al @ Buttermilk Hill; filed 6/13: Sweltering heat during the afternoon with penetrating rain during the evenings, I battled the weather. Discovered the best window for weather was first light. I cashed in on French Creek and Sugar Creek smallmouth, bluegills at Wilhelm and some dandy trout on the fly on Oil Creek.

Most of the time I use live baitfish. Dead drifted, weighted to the bottom or suspended with a float are my common presentations. From minnow-size to bigger chubs, fish have been smashing all sizes of live baitfish.

Small twister tails in Chartreuse tipped with a small fathead catches crappies and big bluegills on Wilhelm. Substitute a piece of crawler on the jig and you will catch all the panfish you want.



Luke Ralph on Oil Creek

Oil Creek has been fun for catching trout on my fly rod. The artificial lure only section has been listed in the top ten trout streams in Pennsylvania. As a result, I meet anglers who travel long distances to enjoy this slice of trout water. I take time to witness high caliber fly fishermen. Often introducing myself and welcoming them to the Oil Region. A local lad from Oil City, Luke Ralph, impressed me. He is only 11 years old, but has exceptional ability.

He caught and released a number of trout while other struggled to get a hit. All were caught on a beadhead hare nymph hand-tied by his granddad, Dale, who was mentoring him. Great to see men sharing time on the water with our youth!

Mike Galkowski and I went to Justus Lake for opening day of bass. Mikey caught several largemouth bass but none made the 15-inch minimum. However, he did land a dandy 18-inch brown trout. It smashed a red side minnow, while bass took black side dace. (See photos)



Mikey on Justus Lake



Allegheny River

Jeff @ Keystone Connection Guide

Service; filed 6/13: During guide trips late last week on the Allegheny, the river was up and murky from recent rain. We caught smallmouth bass up to 18 inches by working spinnerbaits and swimbaits near the bank. Also,



some walleye action on small spinners dressed with Galida's Grubz. (See photos L & R)

Area Guide Services contribute to the NW PA Fishing Report

Looking for a trip on a Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Venango county water?
Check them out!

Dutch Fork Guide Service: Lake Erie Walleye trolling, casting and jigging. Keith Eshbaugh; 724-884-3977; www.dutchforkcustomlures.com

Keystone Connection Guide Service: Allegheny River Smallmouth, Walleye and Musky plus Pymatuning Walleye. Jeff Knapp; 724-902-6082; keystoneconnectionguideservice@gmail.com; www.facebook.com/keystoneconnectionguideservice.

Smallies on the Yough LLC: wading for Smallmouth Bass on the Yough River, Allegheny River and other streams. Pete Cartwright; 412-215-6254; pete@smalliesontheyough.com; www.facebook.com/smalliesontheyough/.

Wildwood Outfitters: Fly fishing for Trout, Steelhead and other species. Nick DelVecchio; www.wildwoodoutfitterspa.com/; www.facebook.com/wildwoodoutfitters.

Names drawn for prizes for this issue...

Spool of Gamma Line your choice: Jeremy Heavner

Lure packet 1: Scott Selle

Lure packet 2: Al Bell

Cover shot pack of Galida's Grubz: Ken Smith

In order to receive your prize, you must email me with your shipping address within one week of the publication date on the Fishing Report. Thank you, Darl Black darlblack@windstream.net.

The Livewell

Brought to you by:
Wiegel Brothers Marine
704 1/2 Elk Street
Franklin, PA 16323
Phone 814-437-2077



Email: Debbie@riverjetpro.com



Ron Page and team mate with
over 20lbs to win Conneaut Lake

Musky Fever Continues into Summer



Bill Logan with his 119th musky



Jeremy with 18.5 lb Shenango striper



Scott Selle with Tionesta Dam
musky



Jake @ FishUSA with
Chautauqua musky



Black Knight Industries

Oil City, PA 16301

www.gammafishing.com

Gamma Line may be found locally at the following tackle shops:

- Consumer Direct Sports (CDS) near Grove City Outlet Mall
- Maurer's Trading Post, Franklin, PA

The Leaderboard for the Pymatuning Crappie Madness derby remains the same from nearly 3 weeks ago. Review the leaders and try to change it—Derby runs until July 31.

ID#	NAME	lb.	oz.	Length
49	Gary MANVILLE	2	4.4	15 1/2"
183	Frances D'Rourke	2	3.0	14 3/4"
315	Terry Sowards	2	2.0	15 1/4"
236	Howie Moore	2	1.2	15 3/4"
267	Steve Uhrin	2	1.0	15 1/8"



Sunset on Pymatuning Angler by James Scott

GARMIN INFORMATION PAGE

- Real anglers share actual fishing experiences with Garmin units



After having my new Garmin Echomap Ultra 126sv installed by G&G Marine Electronics the end of May, Marilyn and I finally had an opportunity to give it workout on Shenango Lake this past week. Our goal was white bass and perhaps a crack at hybrid stripers if we ran into them schooling on the surface. But plans changed when we found an incredible number of crappies suspended in the mouth of a cove. The marks were scattered from point to point from just below the surface to the 17-foot bottom, plus heavier concentrations on the occasional bottom object (log or stump). How do we know all marks were crappies? We caught them from just under the surface, mid-depth and rolling the bottom on 4-inch Galida's Grubz. Wind was blowing in the mouth of the cove which may have help set them up, because we checked leeward cove mouths but no fish. All crappies were 9 to 13 inches. And they were all black crappies! We fished them for over an hour, left to hunt down some white bass and returned to fish them for another 30/40 minutes. A fish on about every 3rd cast. Fun time catch and release – didn't keep a fish! - Darl Black

