

Fishing and Outdoors in WNY

Once again, it's a learning opportunity

BY CAPT. FRANK CAMPBELL
Destination Niagara USA Director of Outdoor Promotions

I know I've said it in the past, but Feb. 15-18 will be one of the best opportunities to expand your fishing knowledge, as the Greater Niagara Fishing Expo takes place at the Niagara Falls Convention Center.

This event is known throughout the fishing community as the "teaching fishing" show, as it offers more than 250 seminars presented by some of the top charter captains, professional fishermen, and hard-core anglers both locally and on a national level. The seminars are only part of the expo, as over 180 booths will be filled with products to purchase, outdoors-related agencies to answer questions, and organizations to support.

There are numerous not-for-profits that I believe in and like to support but, if you get the opportunity to visit the show, please take time to stop by the Catching Dreams booth and take the time to speak to Capt. Ned Librock of Pendleton.

What Ned and his organization do is amazing. Ned and his fellow captains are offering fishing therapy to childhood cancer warriors to escape for a morning of fishing on the local waterways. I have seen the great work that the Catching Dreams organization does in person, so please make it a point to stop when you are at the expo and learn more about the positive impacts that this organization makes.

If you are not able to attend the show in person, please take a look



at the Catching Dreams website at www.catchingdreamscharters.org.

Another absolute must at the show is a stop at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation open house from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday in the Cataract Room. The DEC will be very well represented, with members of the different arms on hand to answer questions and field concerns as it relates to fisheries here in Western New York. This is a face-to-face, one-on-one opportunity to speak with biologists, researchers, ECOs and adminis-

trators, including Chief of the Bureau of Fisheries Steve Hurst.

I have attended this offering in the past and it was great. The staff that is on hand is very friendly and knowledgeable but, most importantly, willing to listen and take the time to address any concerns you may have. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn what the DEC is all about.

This show really does a great job of balancing education and retail options while representing most of the different fishing opportunities we have on local waterways. The price is right at \$10 for a one-

day pass or \$25 for all four days. In addition, this year, the expo will be offering free parking at all city-owned lots. If you would like more information on the seminars and other offerings available at the Greater Niagara Fishing Expo, please visit the website at www.niagarafishingexpo.com. I hope to see you there.

As winter tightens its grip on the WNY area, I often find myself searching the television for options to pass the time and stay warm in the house, all the while dreaming about what fishing adventures lie ahead. While search-

ing through the channels recently, I came across an episode of "Fishing 411" that was filmed on the Niagara Bar last spring. It got me thinking about several other TV shows that were filmed in the area last year, and just when and where they could be viewed. No fewer than six different camera crews visited the area to produce episodes for their shows, which included "In-Fisherman," "Bigwater Adventures with Mark Davis," "Let's take it Outside," "Fishing 411," "Midwest Outdoors" and "Rush Outdoors."

The viewership reach from these shows is quite large through several networks, including The Discovery Channel, The Outdoor Channel, The Sportsman Channel, The Pursuit Channel, the World Fishing Network, and many regional Fox Sports channels. It is due to the unparalleled fishing opportunities that we offer here on the Niagara Frontier that so many fishing shows choose to film here.

If you have not taken the opportunity to partake in some of the world-class fishing we have locally, do yourself a favor and look up one of the episodes filmed locally and see through the eye of the camera what it is all about from the warmth and comfort of your home.

I hope to see you enjoying the local outdoors. Every week, I produce a fishing report ("Niagara County Fishing Hotline"), and you can access it online at www.niagarafallsusa.com or by simply calling 716-282-8992, ext. 4, to hear what's up in the world of fishing. It is updated every Wednesday.



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