

Fishing and Outdoors in WNY

'Eyes have it': It's been a good fishing summer

BY CAPT. FRANK CAMPBELL
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Where did it go? Summer, that is. Here in WNY, a lot of us would agree that our summer weather is about as good as it gets.

As I reflect on the past few months, the fabulous fishing we enjoyed comes to mind. Many different species shined this year, but one stood out: The walleye fishery really made for some outstanding trips just about anywhere or to anyone I spoke with.

The Lake Erie walleye factory just kept producing "limit catches" all season long for those anglers willing to follow the giant schools of fish, as well as the fleet of boats that pursued the tasty species.

Closer to home on the lower Niagara River, the angling community seemed just as happy catching good numbers of walleyes, but also good size of the popular gamefish. In fact, I would venture to say that we were treated to one of the best summers of walleye fishing I can remember.

From Devil's Hole all the way out to the green can on the Niagara Bar, anglers in the know were taking "yellow pike" with relative ease. I received many reports of personal best fish, or very first caught walleye were funneling in. Shore anglers were able to enjoy the bounty, as well, with good action to be had off the New York Power Authority fishing platform and the Artpark area of the river.

In my opinion, some changes that took place to the regulations about a decade or so ago allowed some very successful walleye spawns and population increases the anglers are enjoying today. The limit and season changes made the possession limit one fish per angler from Jan. 1 until March 15, which protected more egg-laying females to complete the spawn.

Some individuals may not have agreed with the change back then, but it's hard to argue that the lower Niagara River walleye fishing hasn't improved dramatically since the implementation of the changes. I wasn't around, but I wonder if regulation changes could have altered the fate of the now-extinct blue pike?

Speaking of the summer of '23, I was able to get away up north to make some memories with some great friends and family last month. As I get older, I appreciate the time off the grid creating these memories. First it was a trip to Moon River in Ontario with my buddy, Todd, and



Frank Campbell with a Quebec pike.

my son, Peter. We were met with high water conditions from the previous day's rain, and mosquitos that seemed to appear after a rain.

Due to the high water, we limited ourselves to fishing offshore or above a set of rapids where we made camp. The shore fishing was pretty good for the small area we had to work with, and we managed to catch numerous walleye, northern pike and smallmouth bass on a variety of presentations. The best action we found was above the waterfall while fishing out of a kayak and canoe. We landed numerous pike and smallmouth bass on spinnerbaits and body baits.

The highlight of the fishing portion of the trip was helping my son land his biggest pike to date. It was a great fight on light tackle, and we were happy to release the beautiful predator for someone else to enjoy another time. We were also treated to great campfires, good food, and the howling of coyotes or wolves one night fairly close by.

Sometimes getting off the grid with no phone or computer service is exactly what the doctor ordered.

As if one venture up north wasn't enough, I was blessed to be able to accompany good friends up to another friend's cabin in Quebec for some fishing, laughs, over-eating, adult beverages, and off-the-grid relaxation in another beautiful setting. We caught numerous walleye, and I was able to catch my biggest northern pike to date. We made the best out of some marginal weather, as it rained at some point just about every day - but there was no complaining. The naps were nice, and it did make for some interesting cards in addition to extended happy hours. With or without good fishing, it is always great to get lost for a short time frame.

I hope all the talk of making memories spurs some of the readers to do just that. It doesn't have to be up north off the grid, as it could be right here in Niagara County. I see it happen every time I have the privilege of taking clients out on a charter. Oft times, we forget most of the fish we have caught on different outings but remember who we were able to spend time with. Make those memories!

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.



Joel and Maryjo Erway, honored for their service to soldiers, are pictured with Dominic and Leah Erway, and Village of Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch.

Erways thanked for honoring military

Prior to the recent Village of Lewiston monthly meeting, Joel and Maryjo Erway were presented with a certificate of appreciation for their efforts to honor the military.

For the past three years, the Erways have treated active duty and retired members of the U.S. armed forces to coffee, desserts and other food items over the Independence Day holiday. The Erways have partnered with local businesses the Orange Cat Coffee Co., the Village Bake Shoppe and DiCamillo Bakery.

Village of Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch said, "We'd like to honor them for their community service on Fourth of July weekend by paying for former or active military service members' (orders). It just goes to show you what wonderful, caring individuals we have in our community."

ATTENTION
Village of Lewiston Residents
Scan the QR code below or visit wnypapers.com for your 2023 Newsletter

Jammin' Polkafest 2023
Featuring Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push and The Buffalo Concertina All Stars
September 16, 2023 12:00-8:30pm
Historic Holy Trinity, 1419 Falls Street, NF
\$18 ADULT • \$7 AGES 12-16 • FREE 11 AND UNDER
Outdoors with Tent, Dance Floor, Polish Food, Beverages, Basket Auction, Split Club
Details for our fundraising event can be found at www.historicHT.org/copy-of-events

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The Youngstown Village Diner
425 Main St., Youngstown • 716-745-9858
~ WEEKLY SPECIALS ~
FRI SEPT 8TH 6AM-2PM - Fish Sandwiches, Tuna Melts & New England Clam Chowder
SAT SEPT 9TH & SUN SEPT 10TH OPEN AT 6AM
Eggs Benedict, Fresh Peach Pancakes, Spinach & Feta Omelet & Our Full Breakfast & Lunch Menu
The Diner will be closed for employee vacations Monday, September 11th thru Wednesday, September 20th
We will be reopening on Thursday, September 21st.
Thank you for a great summer and we'll see you on the 21st!

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Most people agree that in order to better yourself and get ahead in life, you have to be able to study. Today, many drugs that have harmful side-effects are being utilized to handle learning problems in children and adults. For more information: www.cchr.org
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One of my patients is a chiropractor today because of a specialized chiropractic technique, which resolved the underlying structural cause of his difficulty with processing the written word. To help him catch up, I had him study, the *Basic Study Manual*, a study technology developed by the American writer and educator, L. Ron Hubbard. In his research, Mr. Hubbard discovered that studying does create certain physiological and emotional reactions. His study technology has methods of resolving all study phenomena and gets any student able to learn and apply any subject. While taking a business course, I was introduced to "Study Tech". It has certainly helped me. For more information: www.appliedscholastics.org
Nutritional deficiencies, sugar, environmental toxins, sensitivities to foods or food additives can cause imbalances in the functioning of various organs that can lead to mental fog, slowness or confusion. Finding the cause is paramount to the correct natural handling.
Rose Chiropractic, P.C. is located at 435 Ridge St., Lewiston. Call (716)754-9039. New patients are welcome.