



The Marker Buoy

April 2021

Next Meeting: The next monthly meeting will be April 14th at the Hoffman House at 6:30 pm. Strict socially distancing and wearing a mask will be mandatory for all attendees. This month's speaker will be Ted Peck. He will be speaking about multi-species fishing on the Mississippi River.





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Captain Ted Peck is an Illinois native, growing up in Carroll County. His 1st solo overnight trip on the Mississippi was on the family pontoon boat at age 11. After graduating from SIU-C with a degree in journalism in 1973 Peck got his first job out of college as editor of the Durand Gazette. He then worked for Rosecrance Rural campus for several years before joining the Beloit Fire Department from which he retired as a Lt. in 2001. Peck started writing outdoors stuff when editor of the Durand Gazette back in '73. He wrote for the Freeport Journal-Standard for several years, then the Beloit Daily News. He has been writing a column for the Janesville Gazette for over 30 yrs. This column appears on Fridays. Over the decades, Peck has written hundreds of articles for many state, regional and national magazines. He has done hunting/fishing segments for 9 different TV production companies. For many years Peck did weekly radio shows on 99.9 WJVL in Janesville and Y 95 in Rockford. He has published three outdoors focused books. Peck started guiding on Apple Canyon Lake, Miss. R. Pool 13 and the lower Wisconsin river about 1976. He has been a licensed Wisconsin non-resident guide since 1980. This body of work earned Peck enshrinement in the National Freshwater Fishing hall of fame in 2020 as a "legendary guide" Only about 450 anglers have earned this recognition over the history of sportfishing. The Hall of Fame opened in 1985. It is located in Hayward, Wisconsin. Peck continues his life mission to educate, inform and inspire anglers with writing and in-the-boat instruction, fishing an average of 200 days annually all over the United States, Canada, and beyond. At age 70 he is closing in on 10,000 days on the water. His personal motto is *Semper pergendum intrepide* (essentially: always forward fearlessly). He plans on fishing until he can no longer pick up a rod and the Great Rainmaker calls him home. For a guided trip on pool 9 of the Mississippi River contact Ted at 563-544-4611 or check out his website: www.tedpeckfishing.com.

Upcoming meetings and speakers: Club leadership is researching potential speakers for the May meeting and subsequent monthly meetings.



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Club News: In the coming months bigger and better prizes which will include rods, reels, and combos will be included as raffle prizes in the monthly table raffles.

Fisheries News: Local fisheries biologist Brennan Caputo has communicated to the club that white bass are overpopulated in Pierce Lake and they could stand some harvest from anglers within regulation guidelines.

Upcoming Club Outings:

May 7 - We will be placing the fish cribs into Pierce Lake on Friday May 7. We need volunteers to help transport the cribs from the storage area down to the boat launch. We will have two trailers to make the transfer. The Fisheries Dept. will have two boats here to take them out to the lake locations. We will need club members at the park at 8:30 a.m. and we should be done by early afternoon. Please notify Jerry Fisher if you will be able to help (815-979-5374). Due to liability issues the fisheries staff will be taking them out and put them into the water. We will be shooting some video and still pictures of the installation.

May 11 - Pierce Lake - Bass and Crappies - This will be a late afternoon to dark outing for bass, crappies, white bass and maybe a musky. This is a full moon period and the fish activity should be very good. Launch anytime you want and we will gather at the boat launch just after sundown.

May 22 - Rock Valley Anglers Bass Tournament in Walworth County.



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June 4-6 - Lake Erie walleyes - Port Clinton, Ohio. Some members will be trailering their own boats and others can book a trip with a small boat charter captain or go out on a head boat. The head boats take out a larger number of anglers for a daily fee. The head boats will involve cast crawlers and the smaller charters (Usually in boats like a Ranger 621) will be trolling. These boats will accommodate 2-3 fisherman. Specific information will be available at the April meeting. If you are unable to make the meeting, call Jerry Fisher.

March Fish of the Month Winner: Tom Wesseln caught a 15 inch crappie on Wilson Lake in Alabama on 3/15/21





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Members Only Fishing Contest

Best of Breed: Standings as of: 04/11/2021

Species	Angler	Length (in inches)
Smallmouth	Kerry Schaible	19
Largemouth	Kerry Schaible	18.5
Northern	No Entries	
Muskie	Kerry Schaible	37
Catfish	No Entries	
Walleye	Kerry Schaible	24.5

Angler of the Year: Standings as of 04/11/2021

Angler	Largemouth	Smallmouth	Walleye	Bluegill	Crappie	Total Length
Kerry Schaible	18.5	19	24.5	8.5	12.25	82.75
Tom Wesseln					15	15
Scott Campbell					12	12



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Panfisherman of the Year: Standings as of 04/11/2021

Angler	Perch	Bluegill	Crappie	Total Length
Kerry Schaible	10.75	8.5	12.25	31.5
Tom Wesseln			15	15
Chris Olson	14.75			14.75
Scott Campbell			12	12

General: Only fish caught from waters accessible by the general public are eligible.

Contest #1: Fish of the Month

All entries caught during a calendar month will be evaluated by the Board of Directors to determine a winner. Entries must be received by the 1st Wednesday of the month following the catch to be considered. A \$15 gift card will be awarded to members catching the winning fish. **Each member can win only once per year.** Species considered—Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Muskie, Walleye, and Catfish.

Contest #2: Fisherman of the Year

Fish will be judged on length accurate to 1/4 inch. The lengths of each member's best individual fish of 5 different species will be added to determine a total length. A \$100 gift card will be awarded to the longest total length. A \$50 gift card will be awarded to the second longest total length. A \$25 gift card will be awarded to the third longest total length. In the event of ties, the winnings will be split evenly. Contest Species—Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Walleye, Bluegill, Crappie.

Contest #3: Best of Breed

Fish will be judged on length accurate to 1/4 inch. A \$20 gift card will be awarded to members catching the longest fish of each species. In the event of ties, a \$10 gift card will be awarded to members catching the longest fish of each species. Each member can win only once per species. Contest Species— Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Muskie, Walleye, and Catfish.



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Contest #4: Panfisherman of the Year

Fish will be judged on length accurate to 1/4 inch. The aggregate lengths of each member's best individual fish of the 3 different species of panfish will be added to determine a total length. A \$50 gift card will be awarded to the member with the longest total length. In the event of ties, the winnings will be split evenly. Contest Species—Bluegill, Crappie, and Yellow Perch

Submitting fish for the contests is very easy. Just use the copy/paste the email template. Paste the template into an email, complete the questions, attach picture(s) of the catch, and send to: rockvalleyanglers@gmail.com

Copy/Paste Email Template for Electronic Fish Entries:

- 1) Name:
 - 2) Date Caught:
 - 3) Species:
 - 4) Length (inches to 1/4 inch):
 - 5) Lake/River:
 - 6) State:
 - 7) Picture: [Yes or No]
 - 8) Date Entered:
 - 9) Witness:
- *Remember to attach picture(s) to email prior to sending.
*Send to rockvalleyanglers@gmail.com



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Recent Member Catches





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New Boating Law: There are new engine cutoff device wear requirements for recreational boat operators as part of the National Defense Authorization Act that included a U.S. Coast Guard Reauthorization. Effective April 1, 2021, the new law requires a vessel operator to use either a helm or outboard lanyard or wireless ECOS on certain vessels less than 26 feet when traveling on plane or above displacement speed. Engine cutoff devices can be located at the helm of the boat or on the tiller or body of an outboard engine and typically connect a boat's operator to the cutoff switch with a lanyard. Some ECOS devices eliminate the lanyard and rely on wireless proximity devices to shut down an engine if the operator goes overboard. These vessels include boats that have a functioning engine cutoff device installed at the helm or on an outboard engine or have wireless ECOS, or boats manufactured beginning January 2020. The Coast Guard increased the number of boats required to have ECOS installed after this date in an effort to reduce boating accidents and fatalities. Exceptions to the ECOS requirement include if the main helm of the vessel is in an enclosed cabin or the vessel is not operating on plane or at displacement speed. Low-speed activities such as fishing or docking do not require use of an ECOS. The vessel operator is also exempt if the boat's motor produces less than 115 lbs. of static thrust – or about the size of a 2-hp engine. The new law applies to all federally navigable waterways. As this is a federal law, states do not have the ability to enforce the new ECOS regulation — though seven states (Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Nevada, New Jersey and Texas) currently have their own ECOS laws. BoatUS expects most states to amend their regulations to match federal law over the coming years. While boat operators who fail to follow the new requirement could face a \$100 civil penalty for the first offense, BoatUS expects the U.S. Coast Guard's initial focus will be education. Boaters are encouraged to check the U.S. Coast Guard website for additional information on this new use requirement and other safety regulations and recommendations. "BoatUS supports responsible use of cutoff devices and wants to get the word out to boaters to be aware of this new requirement so they can prepare," said BoatUS Manager of Government Affairs David Kennedy. "We believe the new requirement allows recreational boaters to operate their vessels in a practical manner while increasing boating safety." "Source:

<https://boatingindustry.com/news/2021/03/15/new-boat-engine-cutoff-switch-law-takes-effect-april-1>



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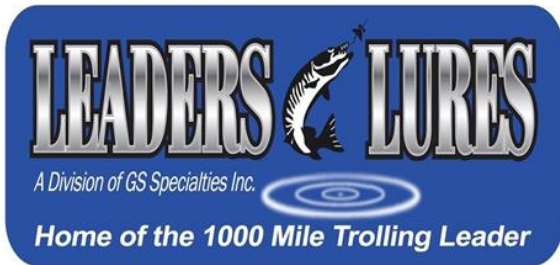
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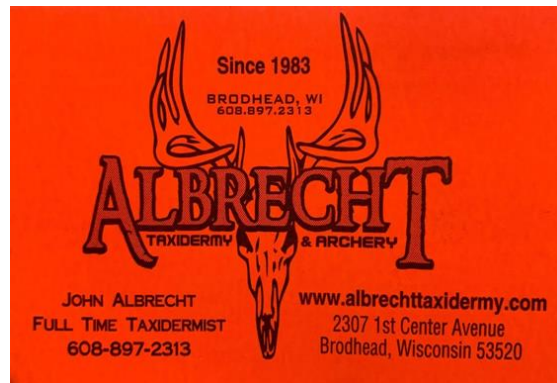
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