

Area anglers roam widely for fishing adventures

By STEVE POLLICK
BLADE OUTDOORS EDITOR

Follow the Fish this week takes a short summer break from the regional angling scene to catch up with the tales of some area outdoors folks who have followed the fish to Alaska, Tennessee, and destinations in between:

Kesagami Lake, Ont. — For 16-year-old Dan Ford, of Perrysburg, it was the fish of a lifetime.

Imagine a 51-inch northern pike weighing an estimated 30 pounds with a girth of 24 inches. Only young Ford didn't have to imagine it. A real one smashed a 1-1/8-ounce Johnson Silver Minnow so hard that it put a 30-degree bend in the spoon just behind the eyelet.

Stan Joehlin, of Curtice, Dan's grandfather, was there to witness the thrill of it all and relate the story. Also along were Dan's twin brother, Doug, and his uncle, Ken Joehlin, of Uniontown, Ohio, and his cousins Laura and Russell Joehlin, of Uniontown.

"The walleye fishing was very good but the pike fishing was slow due to the prolonged heat and high water temperature," said Stan. [Sounds like this summer's story in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan.]

"The first three days of the trip only produced five pike over 30 inches for all six [anglers] combined. On the last day of the trip, using only a light-action walleye rod with 12-pound line, Dan hooked and landed the 51-inch northern pike.

"When the fish was in the catch-and-release landing cradle, the 4-1/2-inch long, barbless-hook lure had passed right through the fish's gills. Guide Eric Farlow, of Sarnia, Ont., estimated its weight at 30 pounds and girth at 24 inches."

Kesagami, located well to the north, just below James Bay, is rated one of the best pike lakes in the world. Young Ford's fish was the largest land-



Guide Eric Farlow cradles Dan Ford's monster pike as Ford, right, and cousin Laura Joehlin enjoy the moment.

ed from this catch-and-release lake in two years and is only three inches under the lodge record of 54 inches.

Goodnews River, Alaska — John Sinkovic and Mike Pasztor, well-known members of Toledo's Mudjaw Bowmen and avid bowhunters, also find a



John Sinkovic and salmon

way most summers to do a fishing float trip down one of Alaska wilderness rivers.

This summer found them on a 14-day, 90-mile float on the Goodnews, 375 miles southwest of Anchorage and as usual, it had some highlights. Like a too-close encounter with a grizzly bear.

Each night the men beached their inflatable on gravel bars and made camp mid-stream, for some protection. But, adds Sinkovic, "each campsite we chose had many bear signs, along with caribou."

At one camp he even cobbled together a camouflage-shirted "bear-scare." It was an

Follow the Fish



up again. So I stood up tall, waving my arms up in the air.

"He let out big woofing sound, turned, and ran back in the same direction he came from. In my right hand I had a .44 mag. Taurus — and lucky for him and me I did not have to use it." Lest you think this a sourdough's tall tale, Pasztor from his hide 80 yards away was snapping photos all along — you can see the .44 magnum in John's hand and the huge bear at spitting distance.

"This has to be my greatest wildlife experience — ever — and I do believe my angels were with me again."

Sinkovic, incidentally, is among a six local bowhunters leaving for a black bear hunt at Caramat, Ont., tomorrow.

Ludington, Mich. — It's been a good year for salmon and steelhead fishing out of this classic Lake Michigan port, and Andrew Lemle, of Perrysburg, is here to tell you so.

He and two buddies, Jeff Cornelius, of Perrysburg, and Chad Wakefield, of Toledo, fished with skipper Bill Nowak, of Point Place, who annually runs his 31-foot Walleye Queen out of Ludington between spring and fall bouts with walleyes on western Lake Erie.

One morning they left port at 5:15 a.m. and a half hour offshore, still in the dark, Nowak and his mate start setting rods under deck lights. "Before the third rod is set the first fish bites and I land it," said Lemle. It is a mature king, or chinook, salmon of about 17 pounds.

While the crew was setting the remainder of the rods, three "go off" simultaneously and the three young men each handle a fish at once.

Nowak reminds the guests of the "holy hour in fishing" and there it was, before sunup.

Nowak said it has been a good summer for kings on Lake Michigan, and the very early morning "bite" is crucial. He often has had 18 to 24 hits by 9 a.m. Right now the mix includes coho salmon, steel-



Andrew Lemle, nice king

head trout, and some kings. Back to Lemle's day:

"Before long it's 11 o'clock in the morning and we have 12 king salmon in the cooler," Lemle said. "The captain and mate are packing up lines to move out into deeper waters of 400-plus feet to fish for steelhead, the acrobatic fish."

By 2:30 p.m. they had boated four steelies, of which Lemle speaks in glowing terms for their out-of-water leaps, cartwheels and other acrobatics, which cause him to relate how "the steelhead came out of the water for another smacking geysier of silver spray." They do that to an angler's imagination.

Needless to say, the guys talked about it all four and a half hours back to Toledo.

Roan Mountain, Tenn. — It's a long way between the man in the photograph, handling a 27-pound striped bass from the Holston River near here, and a towheaded, barefoot 12-year-old boy fishing, Huckleberry Finn-like, on the banks of the Maumee River in downtown Toledo, as seen in a prominent photograph in The Blade on April 24, 1973.

It is 22 years and about 450 miles, actually. But the man and the boy are the same.

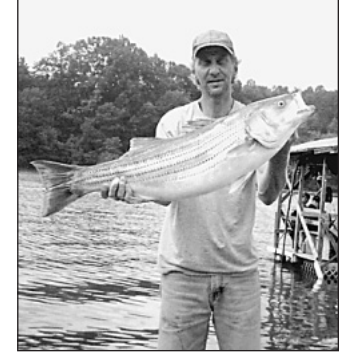
He is Richard Hummer, and he returned to his boyhood hometown here last week for

the first time in those 22 years. And in making his rounds he went back down to that same fishing spot, just downstream from the Martin Luther King, Jr., Bridge, in East Toledo.

"We were just down there, wasting a little bit of time," Hummer said in the easy southern drawl he has picked up. He moved to Tennessee with his late stepfather, Gene Watson, just after his "Huckleberry" photo appeared.

Now a builder of log cabins, he has become an avid angler since that casual boyhood day down at the river. "We caught a fish or two," he remembers, looking at the old news photo that shows him sitting, legs stretched out and the fishing rod wedged between his toes. Just like the mythical Huck.

This time on the Maumee he didn't catch a fish, but he mimicked the pose of long ago in a snapshot taken by his sister, Cindy Hummer, of Toledo. He's a boy no more, except



Richard Hummer, striper maybe at heart.

But down on the Wautoga and Holston rivers in east Tennessee, he pursues striped bass, rainbow trout, and brown trout. "We use big bluegills," he says of bait for strippers. For big brown trout, his favorite lure is the Rattlin' Rogue crankbait.

In either case, it is easy to see that the former Toledoan has upgraded his angling experiences considerably since his barefoot boyhood

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Tunnickliffe sails to silver at World University Games in Turkey

By SHIRLEY LEVY
BLADE SPORTS WRITER

Perrysburg native Anna Tunnickliffe and Andrew Campbell of San Diego made a strong showing in the 2005 World University Games, Aug. 11-21.

Campbell, a junior at Georgetown University, pushed past home port favorite Kemal Mutlubas of Ismir, Turkey, on the final day to capture the gold medal for the Laser Championship.

Tunnickliffe, a member of North Cape Yacht Club and a recent graduate of Old Dominion University, took second and a silver medal in the Laser Radial class.

Other members of the U.S. team were Brendan Fahey of the University of Washington, who finished 12th in the Laser championships, and Jenny Gervais of St. Mary's College of Maryland, who placed 15th in the Laser Radials.

Local Boating

The 12-race series was held at Karsiyaka Sailing Center in Ismir, Aug. 16-21.

Going into the final day, Tunnickliffe was only one point behind Poland's Katarzyna Szytynska. But despite an outstanding overall performance that included four firsts and two seconds, she was unable to close the gap and Szytynska walked off with the gold.

"My goal was to get a medal," Tunnickliffe said, "and to come away with the silver is pretty exciting. [Szytynska] is really fast, so it was good to be right there with her the whole regatta."

"It's a good step forward going toward the Olympics."

Head coach and USA Team leader Gary Bodie was equally excited and happy.

"It was a fabulous ending for us ... and a great stepping stone, for sure," he said.

"Both Andrew and Anna are really making strides toward the ultimate goal [making the U.S. Olympic Sailing Team]. Their experience here is invaluable."

Campbell and Tunnickliffe's results are even more impressive when you consider the fact that the two arrived in Izmir less than 24 hours before their first race.

Both traveled to the World University Games after competing in the European Laser Championships in Split, Croatia, where Tunnickliffe finished eighth.

Winner of the Europeans was 18-year-old Paige Railey, Tunnickliffe's closest rival for the Laser

Radial slot on the Olympic Team.

LOGBOOK: For aspiring Olympic sailors like Tunnickliffe, Railey and Campbell, racing is all about winning.

But for some winners, racing has an added twist.

Take Bob Porter of Oswego (N.Y.) Yacht Club, whose sloop Hiawatha was the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet Class B winner in the 2005 Trans-Erie Race.

Porter's participation in the 140-mile Trans-Erie was the crowning achievement in a campaign to race the Great Lakes' "Big Four."

His main goal was to complete the Lakes' longest offshore races — the 333-mile Chicago Mackinac, the 253-mile Detroit Mackinac, the 388-mile Trans-Superior International and the

Trans-Erie — a total of 1,114 miles, all in one season.

He not only did it, but won awards in three of the four events.

And even though Bruce Geffen was proud of winning the multihull class in this year's Detroit Mackinac, it was just one more event in a summer-long pursuit of extreme sports.

Geffen, an eighth-grade history and English teacher in Ann Arbor, is using sailing to help him train for the Ironman Triathlon in Panama City, Fla., in November.

"My friends call it 'Bruce's season of endurance,'" he said. In May, he competed in the Salomon/Moosejaw Spring Fury, a 10-hour sprint race in the Waterloo Recreation area near Chelsea, Mich.

The following month, he entered Michigan's first Coast to

Coast Adventure (trekking) Race from Frankfort to Oscoda.

Two weeks later he sailed the Chicago to Port Huron Solo Race and then went on to sail the Huron Doublehanded Challenge.

"Sailing short-handed is an excellent way to build endurance," he said.

"I also do a lot of biking, swimming, lifting weights and running. And I try to eat right."

AUGUST BOATING EVENTS

26-27: Regatta, Point Place Boat Club

27: Commodore's Cup Race, Port Clinton Yacht Club

27: Solo Race, Ford Yacht Club

27: Inter-Lake Yachting Association Travelers Trophy, Erie Regatta best 6 of 10 and awards presentation, Cleveland Yachting Club

28: Western Lake Erie Challenge Series, Anchor Pointe Marina

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GOLF

Curtis has fun, shares Buick Championship lead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CROMWELL, Conn. — Golf is fun again for Ben Curtis.

The 2003 British Open champ is winless since hoisting the claret jug and has only two top-10 finishes. But his confidence is back and, in the past few weeks, so is his game. Curtis shot a 6-under 64 yesterday for a share of the first-round lead with J.L. Lewis at the Buick Championship.

Curtis began a turnaround last month when he finished third at the Western Open and then contended early at the PGA Championship with a first-round 67 at Baltusrol for a share of the lead.

"Just seems like one good thing's led to another," Curtis said. "Everything has kind of come together at the right time. It's just fun to go out and play again."

Curtis birdied his 17th hole, and Lewis birdied his 18th to emerge from a group of players bunched at 5 under. Their rounds were two of the eight bogey-free opening rounds.

Kevin Sutherland, Justin Rose, Franklin Langham, Vaughn Taylor, coming off a win last week at the Reno-Tahoe Open, and NCAA individual runner-up Michael Putnam, who is making his PGA Tour debut, are a stroke

back.

Former U.S. Open winner Corey Pavin is among a group of four finishing at 4 under.

Curtis opened with consecutive birdies and played error-free throughout.

He grabbed the lead by rolling in a 16-foot birdie putt on the par-3 17th.

It was Curtis' first appearance at the Buick Championship. He was scheduled to play in 2003 immediately following the British Open, but pulled out, citing fatigue.

"It was my rookie year and I pretty much signed up for every tournament," Curtis said. "After I won it, it was one of those things where you had to sit back and just think about it. I didn't want to come in here and just shoot 80."

"Obviously, I felt bad for not coming here."

Lewis made a 10-footer on his final hole, the 406-yard, par-4 ninth, to catch Curtis. Lewis, whose best finish on Tour has been a couple of second places, also had a bogey-free round. He lamented failing to make good on several birdie chances.

"They're out there. I had plenty of chances," he said. "And believe it or not I putted better than I did last week."

4 share Tradition lead

ALOHA, Ore. — Dana Quigley could hardly believe he made a 45½-foot eagle putt to close out the first round of the Tradition.

"Seemed like 25," he said, joking. "I must be putting well." The putt on No. 18 gave Quigley a 5-under 67 and a share of the lead at the Tradition, the final major of the year on the Champions Tour.

Loren Roberts, John Harris and D.A. Weibring also were at 5 under at the Reserve Vineyards & Golf Club in the suburbs west of Portland, where temperatures reached 90.

"I was amazed at how soft it was," Weibring said of the 7,150-yard South Course. "I know they haven't had a lot of rain, so they put some water on it."

R.W. Eaks, Walter Hall, Mark McCumber, Allen Doyle and Mark Johnson were in a group a shot back at 4-under 68.

Quigley joined the 50-and-over tour in 1997.

He has won 10 times, has been a runner-up in 15 other tournaments and is a two-time winner this year.

Five share Wendy's lead

DUBLIN, Ohio — Defending champion Catriona Matthew

was one of five players tied for the lead — in the biggest first-round logjam this year on the LPGA Tour — at the Wendy's Championship for Children.

Matthew shot a shot 6-under-par 66, a score matched by Paula Marti, Soo-Yun Kang, Heather Daly-Donofrio and Marisa Baena.

Another nine players were a shot back as the 144-player field took advantage of soft greens and a short course to post 69 subpar scores.

The five leaders make up an international team all by themselves, representing Scotland (Matthew), Spain (Marti), South Korea (Kang), the United States (Daly-Donofrio) and Colombia (Baena).

Top Amateur seed loses

ARDMORE, Pa. — South Carolina-Aiken junior Dane Burkhart made two long birdie putts to upset top-seeded James Lepp and advance to the third round of the U.S. Amateur.

Burkhart, the NCAA Division II champion, birdied the 11th hole at Merion Golf Club with an 80-foot putt and hit a 30-footer on the 14th to take the lead.

Lepp, a junior at Washington, was the Division I champion.



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Ben Curtis, whose only Tour victory is the 2003 British Open, opens the Buick Championship with a 6-under-par 64.