

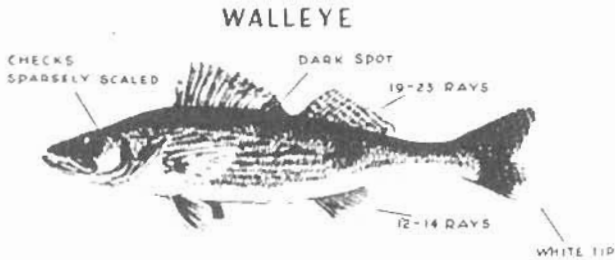
5/1/76

Natural History Notes



MIKE DOMBECK grew up in the Moose Lake area and graduated from Hayward High School and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He has a B.S. degree in Biology and an M.S. degree in Aquatic Biology. He has taught Zoology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and is presently a staff member of the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History. Mike has also been an area fishing guide since his high school days.

FISHERMAN'S DELIGHT THE WALLEYE



What fish is the most sought after game fish and the most highly prized food fish in the Upper Midwest? The walleye, without a doubt. The walleye, being the largest member of the perch family, is closely related to sauger, darters, and perch. The eyes, from which the walleye gets its name, are large with a pearly luster and glow when spotlighted at night. Important distinguishing characteristics are the white tip on the lower lobe of the tail fin and the dark inky blotch on the posterior end of the spiny dorsal fin.

Sawyer County is the heart of the native walleye range which extends North to the Yukon and South to Arkansas. Wisconsin has well over 1,000 walleye lakes with almost 100 of them being in Sawyer County plus over 150 miles of rivers.

Walleyes thrive successfully in clean unpolluted lakes with rocky shorelines or incoming streams which are utilized as spawning grounds. The spawning run begins late in April soon after the ice breaks up and water temperatures reach 38°F. The males reach the spawning grounds before the females. When the water temperature reaches 42° to 50°F

spawning begins. Eggs are deposited randomly and sift between rocks and gravel in well oxygenated water from one to four feet deep. One-half inch fry will hatch in about two to three weeks after spawning occurs. The average female walleye will lay about 50,000 eggs of which less than 500 will survive their first year. Very large females have been known to lay over 600,000 eggs.

By the end of its first year a walleye may grow up to seven inches, up to 13 inches by the end of its third year, and 17 inches by the end of its fifth year. Females begin spawning in their third and fourth years. The average life span of the walleye in this area is about seven years. The females usually grow larger than their counterparts. Walleyes up to 18 years old have been recorded, the largest being 36.25 inches and weighing 22-1/4 pounds.

Being near the top of the food chain the walleyes are predators. The very young feed on zooplankton and larval insects and soon small fish, even other walleyes. As they grow, larger minnows and other fish become their main diet supplemented by insects like the mayfly and other aquatic inhabitants. They are staunch competitors of both large and smallmouth bass. Walleyes introduced into prime bass lakes soon cause the decline of the bass.

Anglers use many techniques for catching walleyes, from still fishing to trolling to bait casting. We can thank the walleye for many hours of rest and relaxation in the clean fresh air and fantastic scenery of our northern lakes. For every day spent fishing you'll live another day longer.

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5/1/76
COMMENT

The clockwork of the nature kingdom is a never-ceasing wonder . . . everything has its order. A few nights ago we watched the annual phenomena of walleye rushing upstream to spawn, and no matter how many times one views the ritual it is fascinating. The fish look so huge in the water — they are — and the walleyes' glowing eyes when spotlighted in the dark add excitement to the adventure. Needless to say, only looking is permitted!

This issue's "Natural History Notes" explores the walleye's instinctive habits; we're certain you'll find it interesting and informative. We are proud to introduce our new columnist, Mike Dombek. Like Allen Mattis, Mike is a local boy who grew up loving this area and successfully pursued a profession in the natural sciences.

There was hardly time for local residents to catch their breath between seasons this year. The winter was extremely busy with ideal snow conditions for snowmobilers, downhill and cross-country skiers . . . Did you know the U.S. Cross-Country Ski team trained at Telemark, the Olympic Try-Outs were held here, and that 983 skiers registered for the Telemark to Hayward American-Birkebeiner IV Race in February? The weather on race day was glorious, the sight of so many racers awaiting the starting cannon was breathtaking, with the resulting nationwide publicity an indication of the growing popularity of cross-country skiing and the annual Birkebeiner Race hosted by Telemark.

But winter is over . . . to you early fishermen and returning homeowners, a warm welcome!

CONNIE MILLER

P.S. Discerning readers might recognize wooley sheep in the foreground of Mary Marple's whimsical painting!

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Summer Fun



MAY 8 — SATURDAY

6th Annual Charity Ball — At Telemark Lodge. Dinner at 7:00 p.m.; dancing at 9:00. Call 634-8227 for reservations.

MAY 18 — TUESDAY

Stan Kenton and His Orchestra — 4-hour Dance-Concert at Telemark Lodge. Seating limited; for reservations call 634-2959 (Hayward) or 798-3811 (Cable).

MEMORIAL DAY TO LABOR DAY

Stock Car Races — Each Sunday at Northern Lites Speedway. 10 miles N.E. of Hayward off Hwy. 63; starting time 2:30.

JUNE 12, 13 — SATURDAY, SUNDAY

Saddleites Horse Show — Hayward Lions Center.

JUNE 19, 20 — SATURDAY, SUNDAY

Short Stop Golf Tournament — Hayward Country Club.

JUNE 25, 26, 27 — FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

Hayward National Musky Festival — Contests for all ages. Giant Fish Contest and Display; Carnival; Parade Sunday afternoon.

JULY AND AUGUST

Cowboy Polo — Each Monday evening at Mrotek's Riding Stable, East of Hayward on Hwy. 77.

Indian Pow-Wows — Every Tuesday and Thursday evening at Historyland.

Ski Skats Water Show — Sunday and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Hayward City Beach.

JULY 3, 4, 5 — SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY

21st Annual Gathering of the Tribes Indian Pow-Wow at Historyland. Authentic dancing and pageantry by hundreds of Indians from midwest tribes and from many far-away states.

JULY 4TH — SUNDAY

Giant Homecoming, Old-Fashioned Picnic and Fireworks Display. Community celebration with a glorious, free fireworks display at dusk.

JULY 7, 8 — WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

Antique Show at the Hayward Armory. Sponsored by Antique Club.

JULY 30, 31, AUGUST 1 — FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

Lumberjack World Championships at Historyland Bowl. Contests of strength and skill with competitors from all over the world. A 2-1/2 to 3-hour show; \$10,000 in prizes; nationally televised.