

# OTTER STREET FISHING CLUB

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### We want to hear from you!

Do you have suggested blog topics or article features you'd like us to cover? Please email your suggestions to the email listed above!

### Questions may be directed to:

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For marketing or communications questions please contact Linda Nikolaus at fishingclub.otterstreet@gmail.com

# Otter Street Fishing Club News

NOVEMBER 2020

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## COVID-19 and the Club

2020 has been quite the year for many reasons, some good—some not, but one of the most impactful external forces that has affected our Club, community, nation and world has been the COVID-19 pandemic. When the virus crept in earlier this year, we were hopeful it was going to be short-lived and life could go back to “normal” soon. Sadly, its no secret that was not the case. Aside from the illness count and death toll amongst Americans, it also had an effect on our little Oshkosh-based Club as well. While thankfully we aren’t aware of any members contracting the illness, we had to look at the 2020 calendar through the lens of social responsibility and safety for our members, volunteers, and community.

We postponed the Wild Game Feed (three times), we put several safety measures into the place for our June Walleye Tournament, we socially distanced at our meetings, and we ultimately cancelled the 2020 Kid’s Fisheree all together. While challenging decisions, these were the right decisions for all. We are very much looking forward to a more traditional 2021 with a calendar full of events for you all.

Thank you for your support as we navigate these uncharted waters. We’re confident that we’ll come out of this stronger with the generosity and support of the community, sponsors, and most importantly, YOU, our members. Cheers to a healthier and more active 2021.

## FEATURED OSFC CONTRIBUTION

As you know, the mission of our Club is *the betterment of fishing on the Lake Winnebago system*. All of the causes, projects and organizations we support are directly in support of that mission and vision. *The featured contribution of 2020 is....*

**The BOWEN STREET DOCK in Oshkosh!** This coveted community fishing spot was long overdue for a facelift to make it an enjoyable and safe place for all to fish. The decking was deteriorating due to the age of the dock and frequent community use throughout the years. In conjunction with Battle on Bago, Otter Street contributed to half the cost to repair the dock (totaling \$16,030), with the remaining cost to finish the project being covered by the city. The “new” dock also has sidewalks built in to make this a more accessible, safe pier for all.

City of Oshkosh Parks Director, Ray Maurer told *WeAreGreenBay.Com* “the city appreciates what these clubs have done and continue to do to support the betterment of fishing on the Lake Winnebago system through the work and dedication of their members.” For more information on the project visit our FB page or visit *WeAreGreenBay.Com!*

**CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS:**

**President:**  
Jim Erdman



**Vice President:**  
Don Herman



**Secretary:**  
Julie Nikolaus



**Treasurer:**  
Terry Wohler



**BOARD MEMBERS:**

- ◆ Scott Engel
- ◆ Bob Hable
- ◆ Chris Anderson
- ◆ Glenn Curran
- ◆ John Nourse
- ◆ Drew Clark
- ◆ Bill Brehmer
- ◆ Sandy
- ◆ Milt Schafer



*Elections for the Board are held during our March meeting. The Officers hold annual terms of office and the rest of the Board are elected for three year terms.*

**2021 WALLEYE TOURNNEY CHANGES**

2020 marked the end of the Catch and Release format for our annual Father's Day Walleye Tournament. Over the past few years, with Battle on Bago, we've been monitoring the trends, polling the anglers and working with the DNR to keep a keen eye on conservation while still putting on an exciting, competitive event for all. So, with that, we felt this year's event was the perfect time to retire our old format, and plant the seeds for a new era of Otter Street Walleye Fishing come 2021. In a survey completed by anglers who have fished the tournament, it was overwhelmingly in favor of moving to a CRR format. We are confident we have the team in place to make the changes we need to adapt swiftly and seamlessly.

For those who are unaware, CRR stands for Catch—Record—Release and it's a format used within the tournament circuit, most famously by AIM, who developed the system. Long story short, in a CRR format, the anglers are provided a tournament issued bump board, and set up with an app or SD card—once they catch a fish, they take a picture of their catch. From there, there are additional measures taken to ensure the accurate measures get recorded. There are many benefits to the CRR format including fish survivability; being a conservation club, we are excited to adapt to this new format of fishing. There will be MUCH more detail we provide to you as it relates to the format, what it is, how it works, exciting new ways to spectate, etc. All updates will be posted our blog at [www.theosfc.com](http://www.theosfc.com) and on our Facebook page @OtterStreetFishingClub. Please be sure to follow both to remain up to date all things OSFC.

**Now, before we put the 2020 event to bed, let's recap some highlights:**

1. Shout out to this year's winning team comprised of Joe Pausha and Eric Palmquist. They brought in a total 2-day weight of 30.61 lbs., earning them a spot on the trophy and \$20,000. Check out the official press release on our site.
2. Congrats to all anglers, volunteers and sponsors—you were officially a part of a GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS event! We had 375 teams total surpassing the previous record of 356 for "Largest Tournament Field" for a Freshwater Fishing Tournament.
3. We wrapped up our 40th anniversary of the tournament, and the final year of catch-and-release

**Otter Street  
#WalleyeWisdom**

**Did you know...**

\*Current world record Walleye is 25 lbs., and was caught in Tennessee

\*At night walleye come to shallower water to feed

\*This year WI DNR revised the regulations to reduce the bag limit from 5 walleye to 3

\*Adult walleye typically feed on yellow perch and minnows



**#FishingFunnies**

*What sort of music should you listen to while fishing?*

*Something catchy*

*What do you call a fish that won't shut up?*

*A largemouth*

## A NON-TRADITIONAL WILD GAME FEED

What has always been a wildly popular (pun fully intended) Club fundraiser, our Wild Game Feed has, despite our best attempts been adapted for 2020 due to circumstances beyond our control (hello, COVID-19). The event was originally scheduled for the end of March, moved to the end of May, in a third attempt to host the in-person event, we moved it to Sept. 10th at Primo in Oshkosh. HOWEVER....given the current climate and risk, we had to get creative so we could still hold the event, despite an in-person soiree not being a viable option.

On September 17th Club Secretary, Julie Nikolaus and Board Member Scott Engel hosted a virtual wild game feed where we were still able to draw for thousands of dollars in prizes, including a Mercury 9.9 motor, trolling motor, Eagle River stay, Gambling Machine, several gift cards from Roxy and Primo, Battle on Bago swag and fish tickets and more.

THANK YOU to all of our generous donors, and for those who participated in the event. While we wish we were able to be in person; there will always be next year!

For a full list of winners, visit [www.theosfc.com](http://www.theosfc.com) or check out Facebook.



## AIM WI TEAM of THE YEAR...

Many congrats are in order for OSFC President, Jim Erdman and his fishing partner, Jeremy Hurst. As many of you know, they're very active within the fishing community and fishing tournaments throughout the season. They've been involved in many things, but none quite as exciting as their recent honor: winning the **2020 Wisconsin Team Of The Year Honors for AIM**. According to AIM representatives: "to win the most coveted title in any fishing tournament series, you need to be consistently good, and the team of Jim Erdman and Jeremy Hurst proved they were, taking 17th in the AIM Weekend Walleye Series/Garmin/Berkley Wisconsin state championship Aug. 22 and 22, and locking in 2020 Team Of The Year (TOY) honors in one of the most challenging seasons ever." For a further breakdown of their season-to-date accomplishments visit the *Aim Pro Walleye Series Facebook* page. Congrats guys; well deserved!



Photo credit:

AIM Pro Walleye Series Facebook

OTTER STREET thanks all of our hard-working and dedicated volunteers, generous donors and sponsors. OSFC Members and supporters + community organizations and partners—we are 100% dedicated to fulfilling our mission to the betterment of fishing and conservation on the Lake Winnebago system.

With that being said, we **NEED** you. Current members, new members and volunteers...everyone plays a huge role in our success! Please continue to [#supportyourlocalfishingclub](https://www.facebook.com/otterstreetfishingclub) and help us have the biggest impact on our wonderful community.

Send an email to [fish-ingclub.otterstreet@gmail.com](mailto:fish-ingclub.otterstreet@gmail.com) to join or volunteer.

Otter Street Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 271  
Oshkosh, WI 54903

## 2020 DEDICATION AWARD WINNERS...



*Wayne Hoelzel* accepting his award with his son by his side at our 2020 Otter Street—Battle on Bago Walleye Tournament.

*Thank you to both Wayne and Steve for your many years of service and support to the Otter Street Fishing Club*

The second recipient of the Dedication Award goes to **Steve Karow!** He was unable to attend the event, but his son, Ted, accepted on his behalf!



## WHY SHOW UP?

In order to continue to fund projects within the community we depend on YOU, our life members, our annual members, and our volunteers and sponsors. From a fundraising perspective, we depend heavily on new annual or life membership dues to help us advance our mission, along with events that we host each year. With 2020 being a less than stellar year for events due to COVID, it's even more critical that we get the word out about our Club to those who may not know! You may say, "but, I'm already a member?" To that we say, GREAT...thank you! Who else do you know that might want to join? We are always looking for new people to join our OSFC family, and fresh eyes to help us stay on top of what we want to accomplish. **Aside from memberships, there are many other ways you can help support your local fishing club:**

≥ **Be an OSFC Social Media Ambassador:** Follow, like, comment and share Otter Street posts, pictures & news on your social media sites

≥ **Donate monetarily:** a little can go a long way or **donate prizes** for an event like our Game Feed, Kid's Fisheree, or Winter Fisheree

≥ **Join Otter Street as a member (and encourage others to do so as well):** You can do this on our website - it's \$15 for the annual membership or \$150 for a lifetime membership! [www.theosfc.com](http://www.theosfc.com)

≥ **Volunteer your time or your talents:** We'd love to have you!

≥ **Show up to Club Member Meetings:** show up and advocate for your Club and community!