



November 2017

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Twin Cities Walleyes Unlimited Monthly Newsletter



President's Letter:

Members,

I want to thank the board and committee members for all of their hard work. As demonstrated by our first few speakers of the Club's 2017/2018 season, we are off to an excellent year. Make sure you have all our remaining meetings marked on your calendar.

If getting elite speakers was not enough, the Club's board and committee members have signed on some new heavy weight sponsors, Scheels and Custom Jigs 'n Spins. Please support these new sponsors, in addition to our many long standing sponsors.

Additionally, the Club has grown to well over 200 paid and active members. What a great group of people and better they are our friends and excellent fishing resources.

It looks like our Board and Committees have applied their fishing skills of patterning fish to getting speakers, sponsors, and members. Excellent adjustment.

We hope others who want to get involved will. The Board and Committees are having a good time and would welcome additional volunteers.

Join TCWU Today

Last Meeting:
Thursday, Nov. 2nd
Terry Tuma

****look for a re-cap in next month's newsletter****



Next Meeting:
Thursday, December 7th
Keith Kavajecz

Thanks and best regards.

Joe Roach
President of TCWU



Upcoming Meetings

TCWU to Host Ice Outing for Veterans and their families

TCWU members will volunteer host an ice fishing event specifically for all veterans and their family members on Big Marine lake on February 11, 2018. This will be in partnership with the Minnesota National Guard, Clam's Ice Team, Morrie's Automotive. [More details to come on our website.](#) Click below to send an e-mail to TCWU's event coordinator if you are interested in volunteering to help with this event:

[Click here to volunteer](#)



Guest Speaker Re-cap

Gary Wicks - September

Gary Wicks joined us in September to share his 36 years of rod building knowledge. He talked through rod building from start to finish; rod selection, handles, guides, action and sensitivity. He was a very engaging speaker and the members responded with a lot of great questions. Below find a list of tips and interesting things he shared.

Gary singled out the importance of the spine of the rod and rod guide alignment. Every rod blank has a spine and when aligned with the guides it gives the rod a natural bend and added strength. A rod will not perform well when it's out of alignment and the feel will be off.



Gary was asked if you can buy a finished rod from a store that could be out of alignment ? He answered yes and it's very likely. He gave us some tips for checking in store where you're not likely to hurt the rod.

Guide placement was also a big topic. Gary bent one of his rods and showed us where they should be placed, which made it easy to see. Gary also shared that spinning rods usually don't require as many guides as a baitcasting rods and the first guide should be 24 inches from the reel set. Baitcasting rods also must have enough guides to keep from dipping below the rod when bent.

Three top trending guides:

Alconite is durable and best bang for the buck, Zirconium, which is a little harder guide and Microwave, which reduces the span of the line coming off your reel to improve cast efficiency.

Other tips, questions and answers from Gary:

- **What is more sensitive wood or cork handles?** *Wood due to its density, but it's at least about 2 ounces heavier.*
- **How do you maintain cork handles?** *Cork can dry rot due to oils from your hands and fish slime. Sand them lightly to open the pores. You can apply a sealer as well, if desired.*
- **My rod tip broke off, do I need to adjust my guides and will I lose sensitivity?** **No need to adjust your guides, keep as is and just add a new tip.** *You will not necessarily lose sensitivity, but you may experience a reduction of action (may become a little stiffer).*
- **How should I store my rods, should I reel them up so there is a slight bend or keep them straight?** *Keep them straight to keep the rod in its original design. He noted that leaving your rod hanging over the edge of your boat with a big lure hanging on it can permanently bend your rod. Be especially cautious on hot days, which can really impact them.*
- **What kind of rod do you recommend?** *Its personal choice, select the type of rod based on how you like to catch them. If you like to fight the fish and play them out, go with a good action rod. If you like to reel them up quick and get them in the boat, chose a reduced action rod.*

Gary was extremely engaging and passionate about his craft. If you are looking for a new rod that is perfectly aligned/tuned, consider building one with Gary. He offers Custom Rod Building Classes, where you chose the exact rod you want to make. **NOTE THAT TWIN CITIES WALLEYES UNLIMITED IS SCHEDULING A ROD-BUILDING CLASS WITH GARY: BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A SIGN-UP FLYER.** His prices are very competitive, his product is top of the line, plus you get to design and build. What a perfect holiday gift and consider having a fun family event. We highly encourage you to check out Gary: feel free to check out his Facebook Page or Website below:

[Gary's Facebook Page](#)

[Gary's Website](#)

Russell Nelson
Board Member of TCWU

The Griz - October



What a treat to have Minnesota Hall of Fame fishing legend Dick "Griz" Grzywinski join us in October. Griz captivated the audience with his stories, techniques and stayed around to talk with the members well after the program.

The Griz is focused his presentation on jig fishing on the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers. He opened with vertical jigging and shared the techniques he has developed and perfected to help us improve our

game.

Griz vertical jigs year round and tends to use 1/4 oz short shank fireball jigs. Jig weight selection is dependent on the river current, so he will fish a 3/8 oz. when it is heavy. He told us, "you have to find the right feel to make the right presentation". Sometimes on odd size such as 5/16 can make the difference. He often fishes with Suffix Hi-Vis Yellow with a #18 swivel and a two foot leader.

Techniques, tips and tricks to try:

- Hook the minnow through the mouth and out between the eyes to prevent the bait from helicoptering.
- Let your jig free fall after a jig, "do not follow it down and don't bounce it like a ball off the bottom". There are too many snags, so don't drag your jig.
- Use a stinger hook in clear water, use a 3 inch mono clip on. Let hang free, don't hook it in the minnow.
- Concentrate in 4 to 10 feet in the Mississippi, down to 30 feet in the St. Croix.
- Soft tip rods provide better jig action and catch more fish. A seven foot 721 Loomis is one of his favorites.
- Boat position can be key to success.
- Feeding walleyes stage above the wing dams. Anchor above them and cast into them.
- Troll upstream in rivers with crank baits and spinners.
- He will use a #7 jigging rap, but recommends we change the bottom hook to a bigger size.
- Jig weight is more important than color.
- Make turns on slow days, fish will hit on the turn.

A couple of interesting things you may not know:

Griz has a bar named after him out on the west edge of Winnie. He mentioned that he uses dead fatheads, which turn silver when they die and imitate shiners. He has never paid for the high priced shiner.

He loves pool two on the Mississippi and helped spearhead the campaign to make it catch and release only back in 1993. There are huge walleyes in there. He also noted that they are starting to get big walleyes in the Minnesota river, which is great news.

If you are interested in fishing with The Griz, contact him at:

fishwiththegriz.webs.com or call him **after 9:00 pm at 651-771-6231**, because if you call before then, he will be out fishing.

Russell Nelson
Board Member of TCWU

Conservation Corner - Zebra Mussels

Ever since they were first found in the Duluth/ Superior harbor in 1989, Zebra Mussels have been one of Minnesota's most prevalent aquatic invasive species (AIS). Female zebra mussels can lay 100,000-500,000 eggs in a single year and consume tiny food particles in the water through filter feeding. The absence of these particles make it difficult for smaller species to find food and can cause significant damage to a body of water's food chain. Zebra Mussels not only harm other lake species but humans as well. By attaching to hulls and motors, zebra mussels can reduce efficiency and performance in boats and can also clog irrigation intakes and other pipes. Swimmers can also cut themselves on the razor shells of these mussels when they attach to rocks, ladders, and swim rafts. To prevent the spread of Zebra Mussels, be sure to follow safe use-techniques, including the following:

- Clean** any weeds, debris, or visibly attached zebra mussels from your boat or trailer
- Drain** your livewells and baitwells and keep drain plugs out while traveling



- Dispose** of any unwanted bait in trash
- Dry** docks, lifts and other equipment for at least 21 days before putting it into another body of water

Will Roach
Board Member of TCWU

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