

TEACHING FISHING NEWSLETTER 2024

"TEACHING FISHING" IS WHAT WE DO!
BY BILL HILTS, JR.



VOL . 9



As the Greater Niagara Fishing Expo

is nearly set for Feb. 15-18 at the Niagara Falls Convention Center, we stand behind our motto and catch phrase now more than ever. The show offers the fishing community a long list of educational opportunities focused on fish, fishing, boating and all the components needed to be successful on the water. It's a gathering like no other in the state and the region.

"This year we are offering over 250 seminars being delivered by over 80 qualified instructors," insists Joe Yaeger of East Amherst, the wizard behind the curtain who puts together all this angling education for the Expo. It's like a big puzzle, putting together information for young and old, novice and experienced anglers.



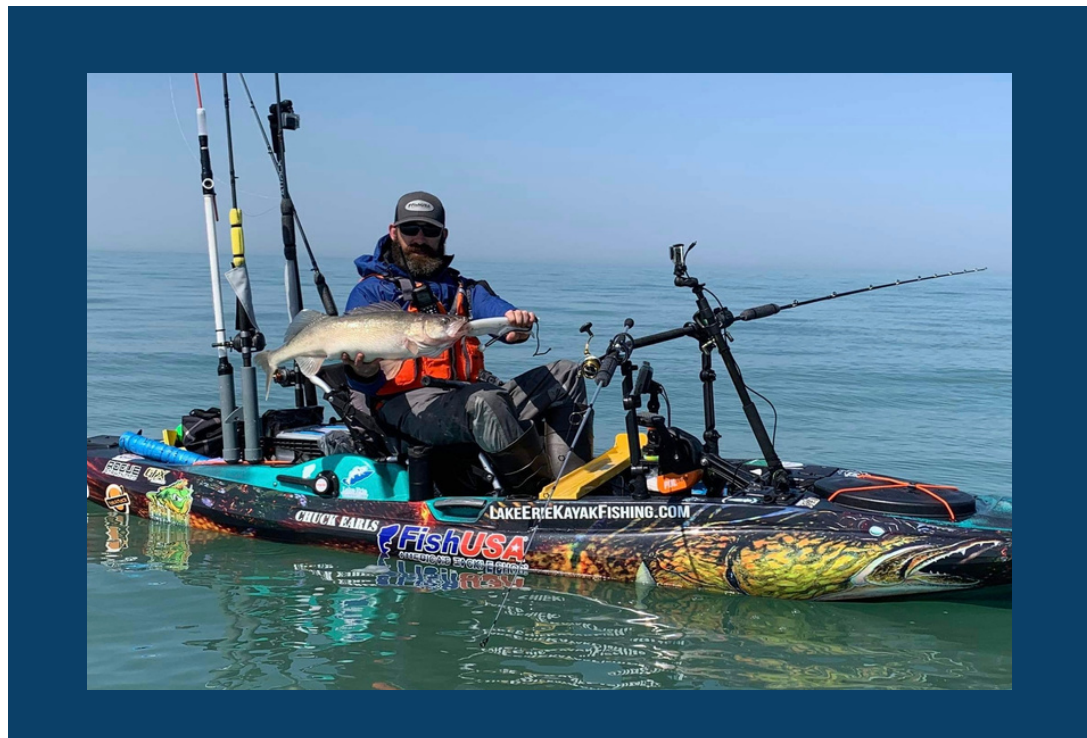
“The knowledge that is available will make you a better fisherman,” says Yaeger. “How far you want to take it is totally up to you. It’s the biggest all-fishing show in the state, put on by fishermen for fishermen.”

There are numerous species disciplines such as salmon, trout, walleye, bass, perch, and musky. There is a wide variety of tactics and techniques that can improve your skill level or take you down different piscatorial paths. Trolling, drifting, fly fishing, centerpin fishing, and kayak fishing are just some of the available options. Let’s not forget about marine electronics, boat rigging, and general boating. Fisheries management and general fishing topics are also part of the mix.

Situated in Western New York, the focus is on the Great Lakes – as it should be. Lakes Erie and Ontario, all the corresponding tributaries, and the Niagara River combine to form a freshwater wonderland. We are blessed with a myriad of casting, drifting and trolling options that the rest of the country is envious of. Throw in some big-name personalities sharing their expertise, both on the local and national level, and it’s the perfect marriage of all things fishing.

For example, walleyes and Lake Erie go together like wings and blue cheese. We are riding a wave of success that currently puts population levels at nearly 100 million fish age 2 and older in the lake. This is the absolute best time to learn how to fish for walleyes. Mark and Jake Romanack with the Fishing 411 television show are back to give one of their popular Ultimate Walleye Clinics on Feb. 18.

There are over 30 walleye seminars over the course of the four days, featuring other big names like Jim Klein, Jim Steel, Mike Yarema, Randy Jaroszewski, TJ Yetzer, Bud Marsh, Gary Katta, John Forbes and more. Take advantage of what they will be offering you.



Speaking of Lake Erie, let's talk about black bass and yellow perch fishing, too. We already know about the Top 10 ranking for these waters with Bassmaster Magazine in 2023. Steve Quinn, formerly with In Fisherman and a member of the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame, will be giving a unique video seminar. Local experts like Brad Brodnicki, Capt. Joe Fonzi, Scott and Alex Gauld, Capt. Justin Warriner, and so many more will offer over 60 bass seminars – many on the 5,000-gallon Hawg Trough. This unique stage allows presenters to use the big aquarium to show off lure and fish movement.

In the perch arena, local experts like Capt. Joe Fonzi, Sean Firkins, Steve Brzuszkiewicz, Daryl Wiese, Tom Miranda, and Nick Sokolowski will share insights into catching Lake Erie gold. Some of these are ideally suited for beginners and the perch clinic on Saturday with Brzuszkiewicz and Wiese will be standing room only.



Over on Lake Ontario, salmon is king, followed closely by trout. During the main portion of the show, there are nearly 50 seminars focused on open lake salmon and trout fishing with big name personalities like Captains Matt Yablonsky, Jonathan Ross, Anthony Ellis, Bob Songin, Brian Gambell, and more, freely giving the intel to make you better on and off the water. If you are just getting started with salmon and trout fishing, there is a Beginners Clinic on Sunday run by the members of the Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Association to help to get you started.

The tributary river/stream fishing in Western New York offers some of the most prolific sport fisheries available in the world. On Lake Ontario, the tributary action is outstanding because of the diversity being offered to shore-bound casters and waders. Chinook salmon tops the list of targeted species, followed by Coho salmon, brown trout, steelhead, and Atlantic salmon in no specific order.

The Lake Erie tributary fisheries, consisting primarily of domestic rainbows and steelhead, remains solid, too. If you want to learn how to fish any of these Great Lakes tributaries, experts like Gerald Brydalski, Wade Rowcliffe, Adam Palmer, Logan Culver, Justin Warriner, Logan Noon, Hunter Swoope, Jacob Barnes, and Marcus Barnes will share tips and details. Niagara River experts from boat include captains Richard Brant and Ted Kessler. Shore guide Culver is also in the mix for river rats.

DEC will once again be holding an "Open House" during the Expo, set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. As part of this unique gathering, there will be fisheries biologists and resource managers for not only the Great Lakes, but for inland waters as well. They will answer your every question in an informal room setting. You won't find a lineup like this at any other sport show in the state and it's a great opportunity to see the mindset of the decision makers.

Kayak fishing is currently riding a huge wave of popularity across the country. The Expo will help you take it to the next level. Getting started in kayak fishing might seem like an easy prospect, and for some it is, but the show will give you the knowledge you need to begin – from what kind of kayak to fish from and how to rig it to what fishing gear works best, accessories to use, and what electronics fit the bill. At least 20 kayak fishing seminars are being planned for the show for all experience levels.



Chuck Earls of Northeast Ohio will be one of the featured kayak speakers, bringing more than three decades of experience fishing Lake Erie, focused on walleye, bass, and steelhead. Another excellent seminar speaker is Craig Koepke of Michigan City, Indiana who plies his kayak talents on Lake Michigan with a focus on open water salmon and trout fishing. Koepke, a retired charter captain, will share his knowledge – information that will apply to Lake Ontario, especially in the spring in and around the Niagara Bar.

There will also be a special Kids Fishing Clinic on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. that is limited to the first 60 students who register. It's a perfect way to get the next generation of anglers started. Check out: www.niagarafishingexpo.com.

There are other presentations that should be of interest as well. For example, maintaining your fishing reels should be a priority and Chris Kempf will show you how to do that. If you want to learn about the proper handling of your fish, top taxidermist Paul DeAngelo will help explain what you need to do. There will also be presentations on the many threats to our waterways, from the proposed hydrokinetic project in the Niagara River to the wind turbine farm proposals on the Great Lakes to the invasive species threats to the Erie Canal. You need to be aware of these concerns so that you can help to defend these amazing natural resources.

Anchoring all this education are over 180 vendor booths in the main exhibit hall and foyer, many of which are tied directly into the seminars. Most of what you hear being talked about and used by the experts is available for purchase at the show, helping you to make informed decisions. The show is a one-stop-shopping option for all things fishing at special show pricing. Big name manufacturers like Okuma and Daiwa; Garmin, Scotty, Fish Hawk and Smart Troll; Douglas Outdoors, Shark Cannonballs, Torpedo Fish Products, Musselhead Tackle, Magnum Metalz, and Muddy Creek; lure companies such as Dreamweaver, A-Tom-Mik, ITO Flies, Gambler Rigs, and more; outlets like TAAR Fishing, Vic's Sports Center, Capt. Bob's Outdoors, Nick's Sporting, Route 18 Tackle, and Doc's Tackle – the list of exhibitors is a long one.

Some of the best multi-species boats for fishing in our fertile waters will also be displayed through places like Bow and Stern, Collins Marine, Blue Water Marina, Lime Lake Marine and others. Spring is not that far off and it's okay to start dreaming.

It's important to note that all these seminars and exhibitor options are all included in the price of admission (\$10 a day, \$25 for a show pass). There is no additional charge and parking is free this year. Yes, parking is FREE! "Teaching Fishing" is what we do, and we invite you to be part of this growing family.

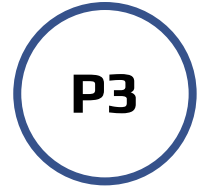
FREE PARKING!

FREE LOTS:



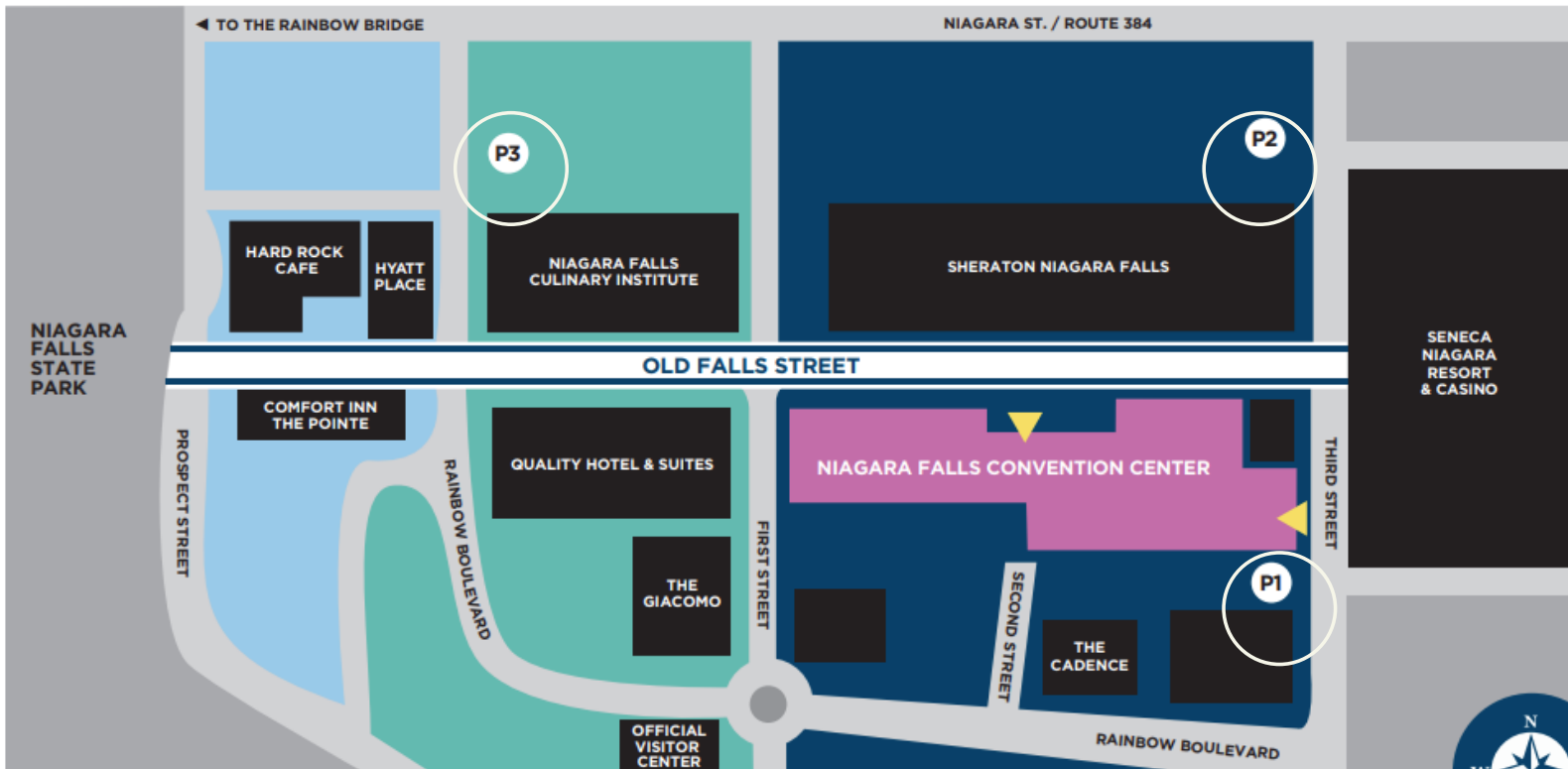
THE VENDORS WILL MOST LIKELY FILL THIS LOT FIRST.

GRAB A TICKET ONCE YOU PARK, VALIDATE INSIDE OUR BUILDING.



ATTENDEES PLEASE FOCUS MORE ON THESE LOTS.

GRAB A TICKET ONCE YOU PARK, VALIDATE INSIDE OUR BUILDING.



- PARK BLOCK
- MIDDLE BLOCK
- CONVENTION CENTER BLOCK
- ▶ ENTRANCES TO NIAGARA FALLS CONVENTION CENTER

PAID PARKING LOCATIONS

- P1 THIRD STREET LOT
- P2 SHERATON NIAGARA FALLS LOT
- P3 RAINBOW RAMP

TICKETS & LODGING

- ALL VETERANS, ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL, CAREER AND VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE, AND EMTS RECEIVE \$5.00 OFF SINGLE OR MULTI-DAY EXPO ADMISSION TICKETS WITH VALID ID. TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN PERSON, AND DISCOUNT IS VALID FOR PERSONS SHOWING ID ONLY. NO REFUNDS AVAILABLE IF TICKETS ARE PURCHASED ONLINE. OFFER VALID FEBRUARY 15-18, 2024.
- CHILDREN AGES 12 AND UNDER RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION WITH A PAYING ADULT. LIMITED TO TWO CHILDREN PER PAYING ADULT. [CLICK HERE](#) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FREE KIDS FISHING CLINIC, INCLUDING REGISTRATION INFORMATION.

TICKETS

[CLICK HERE](#)

LODGING : ALMOST SOLD OUT



COMFORT INN STARTING \$75.00

[CLICK HERE](#)



WINGATE STARTING @\$89.00

[CLICK HERE](#)