

Captain Walt's Log

Outdoor Shows in 2011

One of my favorite wintertime activities is to attend sport shows. They are a great place to get new ideas and make plans for the upcoming season. Here are my favorite shows in the Chicagoland & surrounding area. There is a new show at the Lake County Fairgrounds in March. This is one of the only shows in Lake County and could be a good one.

- **Chicago Boat, RV & Outdoor Show**; Jan. 12-16 | McCormick Place, Chicago, IL | chicagoboatshow.com
- **Chicago Muskie Show**; Jan. 14-16 | Harper College, Palatine, IL | chicagomuskieshow.com
- **Milwaukee Boat Show**; Jan. 21-30 | State Fair Park, West Allis, WI | showspan.com/mbs
- **Americas Outdoor Show**; Jan. 26-30 | Stevens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL | americasoutdoorshow.com
- **Tinley Park Fishing & Outdoor Show**; Feb. 12-13 | Tinley Park H. S., Tinley Park, IL | tinleyparkfishingshow.com
- **Madison Fishing Expo**; Feb. 25-27 | Alliant Center, Madison, WI | madfishexpo.com
- **Great Outdoor Expo**; Mar. 5-6 | Woodstock North High School, Woodstock, IL | greatoutdoorsexpo.net
- **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show**; Mar. 9-13 | State Fair Park, West Allis, WI | jsonline.com/sportsshow
- **Outdoor Sportsman Expo**; Mar. 18-20 | Lake County Fairgrounds; Grayslake, IL | lcfair.net

America's Outdoor Show

This grand daddy of all Chicagoland outdoor shows will run from January 26-30 at the Donald Steven's Convention Center in Rosemont, IL. Last year, the show had a new owner who revitalized and reformatted this once great show. It was smaller, but a very high quality show. Gone were all the "flea market" style vendors. This year, the show is larger and even better than last year. Lots of great activities for the family and kids.

A terrific speaker lineup, including Al & Jim Lindner, Kevin Van Dam, Babe Winkelman, Gary Roach and many other top fishing, hunting, and outdoor personalities. The show will occupy the one largest exhibit hall. There are more manufacturers reps exhibiting (St. Croix, Quantum, Plano, etc), which is a sign that the show has improved. I encourage you to attend. You can check out the show by visiting their website at americasoutdoorshow.com. They offer discounted advance tickets online and parking in the CTA lot with a free shuttle to the door. Capt. Walt will exhibit again and we will be at booth # 530. Stop by for a visit and let's talk fishing.

2010 Northern Pike

Shown below are some of the northern pike we caught this past season. We even caught northern pike on the Fox Chain while fishing for walleye! Pike are voracious feeders and put up a good fight once you get them hooked. Most of the pike we catch are hooked on live bait rigs with large minnows during summer and fall. Lakes Geneva and Delavan have good populations of northern pike. All these fish were released.



Lake Delavan | 7/12/10
6 lbs. 8 oz. | 31"



Lake Geneva | 8/2/10
9 lbs. 0 oz. | 34"



Lake Geneva | 8/6/10
6 lbs. 0 oz. | 32"



Lake Delavan | 10/10/10
7 lbs. 0 oz. | 32"



Lake Delavan | 10/30/10
6 lbs. 8 oz. | 30"