

What a year 2020 was!! Someday when we look back and are asked how we got through a pandemic, quarantine and total shut down I'll be able to tell of all the fishing I did. Fishing was one of the few things that did not shut down and I am happy I had that as a hobby. It's a good thing that my room looks like a bait and tackle store as I had most of what I needed. See mom; "it pays to stock up and that you can never have too much fishing stuff!!" You never know when the next shutdown will be.

I spent a lot of time fishing with my Dad and brother during the shutdown. As some restrictions were lifted though I fished a lot with Riley Hemme, Master Angler of year runner up. Riley is one of my best friends, we help each other out by taking each other to various "hot spot" fishing locations. Its an unsaid rule that these spots are not shared with anyone. However, I had a great lake with pretty much a guaranteed master bluegill and largemouth this summer. I very much wanted Riley to get these master fish but my dilemma was sharing this spot and ensuring the secret. We agreed that I would take him to this spot but he had to wear a blindfold and leave his phone back. He agreed for the sake of the master. I felt really weird driving around with a person blindfolded in the passenger seat, but this gave us many-many laughs. Riley said that it was worth it after the spot panned out and the master fish that we were in search of was achieved.

This year was not my best master year. I had to get a job and that severely impacted fishing time. They didn't understand my need for fishing. So of course, I had to find a new job lol. But all joking aside I still consider myself very lucky and grateful for all the masters I did catch.

I have a lot of fellow master angler friends that I am grateful to fish alongside!

I want to thank my parents and my lucky charm Grandpa for all their support.

As always thank you to WIFA for this Amazing opportunity! Here's to my Senior Master Angler year!!

Brendan Papesh