

Brendan's Master angler letter

I feel I am nearing the end of a chapter that I am not yet ready to close. I've had such a blast fishing for masters these last four years. Not going to lie I'm going to miss it big time. The first master fish I caught after I was no longer eligible felt strange not to register, But I'm happy knowing I gave it all I could and finished with my best record.

Every master fish I caught this year was difficult. I had lots of unsuccessful trips. I think that's why I have so many memorable fish this year.

I went most of the summer not catching any master fish, But I didn't let that deter me. I finally got a flat head and that became my slump buster, then I got four more master fish in the next four weeks.

With that said it wasn't easy – from sleeping in a target parking lot in the truck ; waiting to go back out fishing the next day, to taking shifts with Riley sleeping in the boat as we pulled an all nighter.

This master angler program has made me an all-around better fisherman. It forced me to go outside my comfort zone and learn new fishing techniques. Throughout the years I've also learned it's OK to reach out to other people and resources to ask for help and tips.

Back in eighth grade Riley and I dreamed about our names both being on the master angler of the year trophy , and that dream became a reality this year. I hope we've inspired others to do the same.

I want to thank my parents, family & friends for the all support and WIFA for giving high school anglers an amazing program and opportunity.

Huge congrats to Riley on a record-setting year. Now let's go take some lunch money winning tournaments!!

Brendan Papesh

3 time master Angler hall of fame