

Master Angler by Cade Stankowski

2020 was a very odd year for everyone, but that oddness led to me being able to win the master angler contest this year. With the restrictions in place I found more personal time on my hands especially during the month of August. A typical August for me, I am busy with football and limited with my fishing. This past summer I was able to put 4 fish on the list during that timeframe when in the past I struggled to get one.

I had a couple of fish really give me a challenge this past year. In particular was the largemouth bass. I traveled all over the state to try and get one. Finally during ice fishing I was able to pull one out with my automatic fisherman setup. Two other fish were difficult as well, both species of suckers. I missed the run due to baseball but I realized that everything was a week off due to that. Although I missed the run it helped me out with a few other fish down the road.

I made a lot of great memories this past year. We traveled everywhere to catch fish. We spent a week in Minnesota, and fished from the Mississippi to Lake Michigan. My favorite fish was the smallie. My dad, brother and I took a trip kayaking down a ten mile stretch of the Wisconsin River. It started out rough as the mosquitos were thick and it was raining. My brother and dad both caught muskies and I was way ahead of them. I saw a tree down in the middle of the river and casted my Googan Krackin' Craw to it. I thought I had a snag until the snag started pulling me around in the kayak. I started hollering and by then my brother had made it to me to help lip it. It was the biggest bass any of us had ever seen. A local fisheriee biologist aged it at over 18 years old!

I want to finish off by thanking my dad. He spends a lot of time, money and resources to help me year after year and this year was the one. I also want to thank my brother Austin. He was able to take my out multiple times and put me on fish from his former pursuits of the master angler. Finally thank you to WIFA for making this competition. I have learned a lot about fishing, myself and life that will help me in the future.