

Master Angler 2021

Fishing in the Master Angler program this past year was very laid back for me.

The trials and tribulations of fishing competitively has made me a more well rounded thoughtful person. I have been involved with WIFA since before it was WIFA when my dad was the MC for the state tournament and I helped him out. I watched my brother not only win state titles but win the master angler title himself as a Junior. When I was a freshman I began to realize the time and effort that was required to be competitive and I focused on that solely in 2020. Winning the 2020 Master Angler title was the result of a perfect storm for myself.

This year however, after transferring schools I wanted to reset my gears and focus on a few other things. Football became my main passion and I dedicated my spring, summer and fall to getting ready for the season. Additionally with the privilege's of having a car I began to work a lot more so that I could earn money for my upcoming venture to college.

With that being said, I set out to catch 14 fish for the Master Angler program putting me in the hall of fame for the third consecutive year. It allowed me to really enjoy the master angler program more as there was less pressure. It really allowed me an escape as fishing was a lot more relaxed when I did go out. In fact I often left my bump board at home.

These past four years have been amazing and have helped shape the person I am today. By being part of the fishing team and master angler program I have been able to do some amazing things like teach others to fish, clean donated fish and gives the filets away to worthy causes like homeless shelters, domestic abuse shelters and veterans.

These humbling experiences have made me realize how lucky I am to be able to compete and succeed at master angler. Not everyone has the privilege's to go fishing all the time let alone fish for really big fish. That was the focus of my season and I did have a lot of fun.

My favorite fish was probably the rainbow trout. A good friend of my dads took us out for the second year in a row showing me how to catch these huge fish in small tributaries. Dan taught me the ins and outs of it including finding the fish, knowing where they made their beds and of course how to place the spawn sac in front of them. Sometimes it took a lot of presentations for them to finally strike but when they did it was on.

By being involved with the program it was easy to make new friends when I transferred schools and those friends have now become my best friends. The trust that we have in each other allows us to be able to share fishing spots without worrying about taking anyone's secret spot. I would like to thank all that have helped me over the years. I would like to thank my brother Austin, who blazed the trail for me in WIFA, I hope that I was able to fill his shoes. Having a brother who also loves to fish means I will always have a fishing buddy. I would also like to thank my dad who's hours of research, fixing poles, and having equipment ready did not go unnoticed.

Finally thank you to Teddy Bonde and the WIFA board for putting this event on year after year. Your work may go mostly unnoticed but it makes a difference.