

This year fishing for master anglers was a blast. One positive thing about this pandemic is that it gave me the opportunity to fish more than I would have been able to in a “normal” year. I loved every minute of it!

I want to thank my family for supporting me and always letting me go fishing, especially my dad, who would always come with me on a trip when I was looking to catch a particular fish. I am also grateful to my friends for their enthusiasm and willingness to fish with me any time regardless of conditions.

Memorable catches were plentiful for me this year, but the musky was something I will never forget. I would not have been able to do it if it weren't for the time, patience and encouragement my uncles Mike and Danny Wojtusik showed in teaching me all about musky fishing. I lost track of how many times I casted one weekend in my quest for the musky master angler. It was a long weekend of fishing with no luck, so we decided to pack up and leave because I had to be back for football.

Determined not to give up though, my cousin, my brother and I asked Mom and Dad for “one more quick trip out to one of our spots” because there was a front moving in. On my 3rd cast, I casted behind the boat a big tiger musky crushed my topwater. It was one of the most exciting things while fishing I have ever had. There is nothing like a big explosion on a topwater.

In the fall I was stuck on 10 fish and really wanted to get to 14 to earn Hall of Fame. My best chance was to try for salmon and trout while they were running. I had never targeted salmon or trout before this trip, but I was confident I could learn how to catch them. Catching 3 fish in one day put me really close to hall of fame. It was one of the most fun fishing experiences I ever had because the salmon and trout put up a great fight.

The Master Angler Program is the reason I tried new things and set out to catch as many different species as I could. I really enjoyed the challenge of targeting various classes of fish. This contest makes fishing more fun, and other than football, it is no doubt the activity I will miss most about high school when I am off to college in the fall. I will never forget the memories I have made fishing for masters. These last 2 years have been so fun, and I learned a great deal about fishing and life that I will continue to use now and in the future.

Thank you WIFA for making this all possible.

Joe Marx