

Clinton Township recreation director hosts fishing TV show



Frank Pizzo, at left, Clinton Township Recreation Director and host of new television show, “Fish ‘N’ Trips” with one of the show’s guests, Tim Heim of Baltimore, Maryland.

By [Gina Joseph](#), The Macomb Daily
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Frank Pizzo, at left, host of the new television series “Fish ‘N’ Trips” with the show’s guest, Captain Adam Collett of Mega-Bite Charters in Traverse City.

Frank Pizzo of Clinton Township didn’t tell a soul, not his mother and father or anyone else in his family, not even the friend who told him about the audition. Nobody knew he was angling to become host of a television show about fishing, food and outdoor fun.

Now everyone knows.

He’s the host of the new TV series, “Fish ‘N’ Trips” airing on the World Fishing Network.

“The whole thing is crazy,” said Pizzo, who grew up fishing on Lake St. Clair and has always been an outdoor enthusiast. “I didn’t tell anyone I was applying because I figured there was no way I was going to get the job.”

Yet, it was made for him.

As a youngster, he was a seasonal employee for Clinton Township Parks and Recreation, where he eventually landed the job as assistant recreation director under the township's former director Linda Walter. When Walter retired, Pizzo took over the position of director and has been there ever since.

"It is no surprise to me that Frank could end up hosting a television show on a national network," Walter said. "From a young age, Frank has had a dynamic and energetic presence. He is curious about everything and a lifelong learner. He has applied those characteristics to his development as an outdoorsman. You won't find a more knowledgeable or ethical -- fisherman or hunter."

The recreational director also hosted a long-running cable TV show for Clinton Township Parks and Recreation and worked as an extra on several made-in Detroit films including "Kill the Irishman" with Vince D'Onofrio and "Prayers for Bobby," starring Sigourney Weaver.

It was this experience and his genuine passion for fishing -- sparked by the afternoon fishing trips that he and his brother shared with their father, Sam Pizzo, that appealed to the show's executive producer and owner of Eleven 4 Films John Bujak.

"We put a feeler out on social media for a host. We got quite a few responses, but Frank was the most sincere of candidates," Bujak said. "Some people who applied were just wannabe actors or fishermen looking for air time."

Pizzo didn't want any of that.

He just wanted to fish, to experience fishing in different parts of the country and to show people what a wonderful, hobby it can be.

"He's very good on camera, very knowledgeable and when he's speaking, you can hear his love of fishing," Bujak said. "He knows how to get people energized about going outside and exploring the world."

So, what's the show's hook?

It's not just about fishing.

It's about the mom and pop restaurants that people go to before and after fishing or what to do when the fish aren't biting. The kind of stuff everyone wants to know.

Since Bujak and Pizzo are both Michiganders, the first episode sails from Detroit.

"We went fishing on Lake St. Clair and caught some huge muskie," Pizzo said. "Then we went to Sinbad's, which has been in Detroit forever, and from there went to the Detroit Outdoor Center."

Besides an interesting segment, the DOC gave Pizzo another chance to work with his old boss, Walter, who was appointed by the governor to oversee operation of the center that gives visitors a taste of Michigan's great outdoors in the heart of the city after she retired from her position for the township.

"I saw the preview, and it looks fantastic. I'm very excited," Pizzo said.

Walter agrees.

"This show will be enjoyable for those interested in learning more about fishing. Foodies will enjoy the restaurant segments and everyone will love learning more about the interesting places Frank will visit," she

said. "Macomb County could not ask for a finer representation. Frank is truly a hometown hero, one that everyone can be proud of. People should tune in and enjoy some 'Fish-N-Trips' with Frank Pizzo."

Season one of the series being produced by Eleven 4 Films in Canton premieres on the World Fishing Network at 10 p.m., April 6. Local broadcasts will be shown on: Comcast, 743; AT&T, 1679; and Dish, 394.

For more information visit the show's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/fishntripstv/>