

The Dogumentary

26th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

March 2008

March Meeting at the Hopkins VFW

Our March Speaker will be Andy Roth from Bentley's Fly Fishing shop in Bloomington. He grew up in River Falls fishing the Kinni and Rush, and still lives there. He is a biologist by training and a fly fisherman, but he spin fished for many years so he will have a lot to talk about. Andy should be a fun speaker!

The meeting starts at 6 with burgers and tots for dinner, with Andy speaking at 7 pm.

From the Desk of the President, Little Angel



Well, thank goodness March is here and the tournaments can begin! It has been awhile since I have been to the trout tournament, so I am looking forward to the upcoming event. I have already started to organize my tackle for the coming year and set aside a separate group just for the trout tournament.

I can't say I am an avid trout fisherman, so I did a little internet investigation and found an interesting article. Maybe this will help us all a little in March.

Three Main Trout Senses- Author: Brett Fogle

An angler should be familiar with the three main senses a trout uses. These are:

Smell:

Trout have amazing powers of smell. For humans, trying to understand smell underwater is rather difficult since we can't do it. However, trout have no difficulty smelling underwater, so it is worth an anglers time to make sure that they aren't introducing foreign smells into a trout stream (which can warn a trout to a lurking danger such as a fisherman.) When fly fishing for trout, do your best to avoid any artificial

2008 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Mar 5	Monthly Meeting
Mar 15	Trout Tourney
Mar 29	(Trout backup date)
Apr 3	Monthly Meeting
Apr 26	Crappie Tourney
May 1	Monthly Meeting
May 3	(Crappie backup date)
May 31	Walleye/SM Tourney
June 5	Monthly Meeting
June 20(Fri)	Bass Tourney
July 3?	Monthly Meeting
July 19-26	Rock&Roll Musky Tour
Aug 7	Monthly Meeting
Sep 4	Monthly Meeting
Sep 13	Multispecies Tourney
Oct 2	Monthly Meeting
Oct 11	SM Bass Tourney
Nov 6	Annual Banquet

The 2008 tournament details are on the last page of the Dogumentary

smells that are completely foreign to a trout stream. Avoiding these smells, though, is often easier said than done, as the sources of these smells can come from many sources. Fly line cleaners, fly floatants, epoxies and glue can all contribute alien smells to a trout stream. Other things such as aftershave, deodorant and even the smell of your clothing can all tip off a trout that an angler is near. Obviously, you can't get rid of all foreign smells you may introduce into a trout stream, however, there are a number of easy things a fisherman can do to reduce the likelihood of a trout getting wise due to smell. When using fly line cleaners and fly floatants, use the newer ones that are designed to 'mask' the chemical smell. The cleaners and floatants are usually the same price as other 'non-masking' chemicals, but can go a long way toward reducing the likelihood of a trout becoming alert to the fisherman due to smell.

Also, before hitting a challenging trout stream, it never hurts to leave the cologne and other fancy deodorants back in the hotel room. On a challenging trout stream, an angler needs every edge they can get, and avoiding strange smells to finicky trout is a good way to do this.

Remember, trout have very powerful senses of smell. It is only logical that they will use this sense to identify flies presented their way to determine whether or not is something that is good to eat. A funny smelling fly, due to either chemical floatants or inadvertently smelling like Old Spice, is a good way to send a trout away from your fly and onto more 'naturally' smelling food.

Sight:

Sight is of crucial important to trout, which is not surprising. After all, it's the sense that they use when determining whether or not to eat something that comes their way. Trout, in particular, have excellent close-range vision although they lack in long-range vision. This close range vision by the trout is why so many imitation flies may fail to grab the interest of a trout – the trout can easily determine if given time if the fly looks like something it is accustomed too.

A trout sees the world through what is known as the 'trout's window'. This window is a cone

shaped view that extends up from the eye at an ever-increasing diameter. Thus, the deeper the trout is, the more the trout can see.

A trout will only eat something that passes within this cone of vision since this is where they can see it and inspect it. Due to their other excellent senses, trout may very well be aware of something on the water that is outside of this cone of vision. But a trout consider eating it if it sees the fly in their cone of vision.

This knowledge leads to one strategy all anglers should use when fishing to rising trout. When fly fishing to a rising trout, it is very important to drop the fly not where the rise was but upstream of where the rise was. By presenting a fly upstream from the rise, the fly will float down the river naturally, not just suddenly appearing in the trout's cone of vision, which is likely to seem suspicious to a cunning trout.

Trout also have the ability to determine color, including subtle shades of color. This is why the same fly in two different colors can produce remarkably different results when fishing, the trout may simply be eating one color insect and avoiding others.

Lastly, trout also have the ability to see the profile of a fly. Of all the characteristics of a fly, this is perhaps the most important. A fly that does not have the same profile as seen from underwater compared to what they are accustomed to eating, is not likely to be very successful. For this reason, it is always important to make sure that your flies float properly, especially when dry fly fishing.

Moreover, even if your dry fly is a spitting imitation of the real thing, it is not likely to draw strikes if your fly floats awkwardly (or partially sinks).

This is a good reason to avoid the real cheap flies you may see - the colors of these cheap flies may look right, but the profile is likely to be wrong when on the water.

Sound:

Trout have an acute sense of hearing that is well worth understanding. Trout have two sound receptors. The first one runs along the length of the fish's body. This receptor picks up frequency vibrations – such as the banging of rocks or oars

against a boat. A second receptor, located inside the trout's ear, is used to detect the movement of aquatic insects which the trout eats. This receptor is extremely acute, allowing the trout to hear sound frequencies well outside the human hearing range. This hearing receptor of the trout is what allows the fish to find food even in very murky water.

Because trout have such acute senses of hearing, anglers need to keep several things in mind when fishing for trout.

First, trout can't hear human voices outside of the water. Thus, having a loud conversation about something along the bank of a river will not spook the trout.

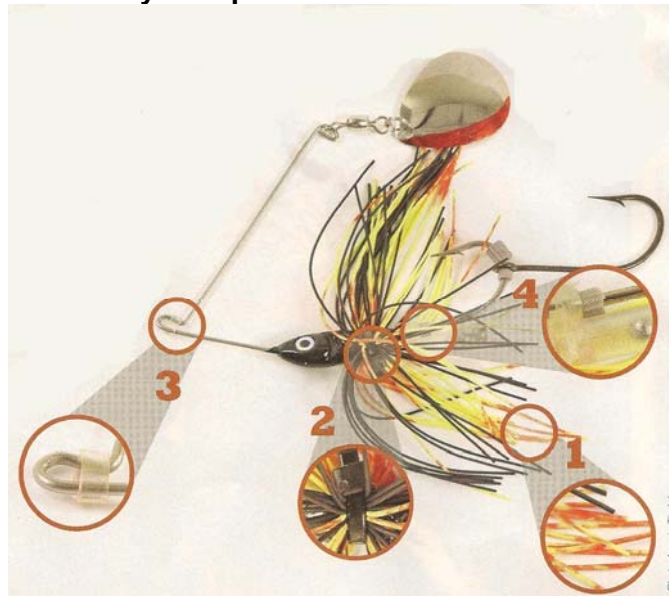
Second, trout are acutely aware of vibrations and sound that occur in the river. Banging oars on the side of a boat is a wonderful way to alert the trout to your presence, thus spooking them. Likewise, great care should be taken when wading. Wading loudly either caused or by the splashing of the water or the movement of rocks beneath the angler's feet, is easily heard by a trout – especially in slower moving water. In fast water, these vibrations tend to get drowned out by the current and rapids. But in slower water, such as runs or spring creeks, it is crucial that an angler take care when wading.

Third, trout are easily able to hear things that fall into a river, especially in slower water. A nearby trout can readily hear a grasshopper or other bug that falls into the river. Because of this, care must be taken in casting to prevent the fly line from making a splash in the water or from having the fly itself strike the river at full force. A gently dropping fly is far more likely to attract the attention of a trout than one that gets slammed into the river due to a bad cast or too heavy of a fly or fly line.

More of Little Angels Creative side

In January we converted can coolers to reel protectors. Well, on the next cold winter day you may want to break out your spinner baits and make some of these modifications:

Trick out your Spinnerbaits



1. Use a red permanent marker to add a bleeding effect to the skirt and edge of the blade.
2. Use a small cable tie to replace the ineffective rubber band skirt holder.
3. Add a small piece of clear plastic tubing to the eye if you like to use snaps – this keeps the snap from sliding down the wire.
4. Use 1/8" screen spline (used for replacing damaged window screens) to hold the rattle in place and 3/16" spline for your trailer hook keeper.

Hope to see everyone at the March Meeting!

New Dog – Old Dog

We received some bad news last month on the day of the February meeting that Rick Wagner was leaving the club for an extended period of time. And, while it looked like we would finally be tapping into our waiting list for a new member, former member Mark Bystrom showed up at the meeting to announce his return, and bring us back to 30 members again. We look forward to Mark's enthusiasm and penetrating 'Analist' questions.

A Gold Star for Perfect Attendance

According to the information provided by club secretary, historian, and spreadsheet specialist, The Perp, only one Waterdog made every event last year, which included all 12 meetings, 6 tournaments, and the Schara event. It's a challenge to make 19 events that are all placed on the calendar early in the year, especially when you have family and work events that often must come first. Some guys are able to juggle all the details of life, and make it all work, and last year, that was Mama's Boy, Doug Squire, who put it all together. Way to go, Mama!



Ice fishing 2008

Nasty and Son went ice fishing several times this winter. Alex decided he likes it as long as there is plenty of food. Our first try was to Lake Washington trying for those nice Crappies. Too bad we were late and followed a cold spell. The big ones had moved on. Buick and Helen can attest to this. Alex dumped a box of crackers down the hole and spent an hour fishing them out. We had bad minnows that day so Alex went to a different house and came back with some different minnows. Still no fish. Our second try was to Bush Lake. We went there because it's so close and I have been seeing a group of guys fishing the same spot day after day. We went out on a cold windy day. I couldn't leave the portable ice house because it kept trying to blow away. Alex went and played football with a bunch of other kids. No fish that day. The fishermen were going for Northerns. One guy caught a real nice Crappie. In talking, he told me Bush Lake has Crappies up to two pounds. I wouldn't have believed it, but I did see that nice one. Our third trip was to Bush

Lake again. This time to the south bay for some sunnies. Nice day! We walked out from the access, I drilled four holes, got four rigs set up, baited and down. The kid stepped in the hole and filled his boot with water, so we packed up and went home. Let's call that an ice fishing season. Trout starts tomorrow. Remember as Ron Schara says, bring a kid fishing. What he doesn't say is don't plan on fishing.

Hog Walleyes, Anyone?

The internet pictures that were sent around about the guys breaking ice to get out to the walleyes on Lake Michigan reminded me of some trips I took out there in the mid '90's, where I caught my personal best walleye and saw many other big ones.

Those photos were from Little bay de Noc on the north end of Lake Michigan, out of the town of Gladstone, MI. The bay is about half the size of Mille Lacs, and in the fall, the walleyes move up from the big lake and stage in the bay for the winter before they spawn in the rivers that run into the bay. I visited the bay on three different years, and each time we boated at least one 30" walleye. The time to go is in October, when the weather can be pretty rugged out on a large and exposed body of water, but the results are worth it.

On one trip, I met two guys there in late October from Madison WI, a broker and a big client. I towed my 16' Yar-Craft for about 6 hours, over to Gladstone to meet my friends. We were there for a 3-day fishing trip, but the first day was snowing and blowing and about 20 degrees, so no one went out. The next day, though, was up to 40, sunny, and with light winds, so it was perfect.

There were about 40 boats out on the lake, and the standard pattern is to troll a long run along the eastern shore for about 4 miles, then motor back down and start again. The run is so long that the boats are spread out well away from each other, and it was never a problem being too crowded. That was good, because the fishing method requires a lot of room. You can use two lines each on Lake Michigan, and in order to troll enough lines, you use those in-line planer boards to get two lines out from the boat, and then trail 3 more lines off the back. It turns out that in a smaller boat, using six lines would increase the tangle factor by so much, it reduced

the productive fishing time, so we just stuck with 5 lines.

The fish are down at 25'-50', so we use leadcore line to get down to them. We had 20 or 30 yards on each reel, with a 30 foot mono leader and some heavy mono backing. All that line meant using Ambassadeur 6500's, and when they were all set out, there was very little line left on the reels, as that leadcore takes up so much room. For lures, Storm Thundersticks and Wiggle Warts worked well, although we also caught fish on Rapalas and other crankbaits too.

The rods are all in holders so that once they're set out, you can focus on other important matters, such as drinking Schnapps and smoking cigars. I explained to my buddies that the 'catching-order' for when a fish struck, would be the client first, then the broker, then me, and we would just rotate through the order. The exception was if you held a rod in your hand to give it extra action, that you could catch a fish out of order. They wanted to see the action part, so I picked up one of the rods and gave it a few slow pumps, and a fish hit it. It was a 30-incher, the first fish of the trip, and my personal best. Of course, there was a rod being pumped by somebody all day long after that. In all, we caught 27 walleyes that day, most all in the 20-30 inch range. The client wanted to take a few fish home, so we saved three of the smaller ones – they were about 3 pounds.

The third day was really windy from the south, which is where main lake Michigan is. There were monster rollers coming in, and all the fisherman just lined up at the access in the morning and watched the huge waves. No one went out. So for a 3-day trip, we only fished one day, but all 3 of us caught our best walleyes ever, and had a good time visiting the local establishments otherwise. I'd sure like to go back some day, but that type of fishing is not conducive to Ranger bass boats. You need a deep boat with rod holders that can troll down to 1 – 1 ½ mph. I know a few guys with rigs like that, and I have the rest of the gear, so if any of you would like to go this fall, let me know, and I'll throw in my guide services for free.



This Could Be You!

Fish'n Funnies

A pastor, a priest and a rabbi were out for a day of fishing. After getting into the boat they had just pulled away from the dock when the rabbi said stop the boat I forgot the coffee, the pastor who was driving the boat said I will turn around and take you back to the dock and the rabbi said oh no need I will be right back. The rabbi quickly jumped out of the boat and ran across the water to shore and then to his car to fetch the coffee and then ran back across the water and got back in the boat. Well the pastor not wanting to be shown up by the rabbi said oh my I forgot the sandwiches and quickly jumped out of the boat to attempt running across the water like the rabbi but instead sank quickly to the bottom of the lake. With that the priest looked angrily at the rabbi and said you should have shown him where the rocks were.



"This looks like a good spot, momma, bring grandma and the kids!"

LOTW News

The Party Cabin is rumored to be undergoing some changes this year with a new member who will enforce a new set of rules and set some new work standards for this unruly group. More details later...

2008 Waterdogs Tournament Series

Let the Festivities Begin!

Date	Species	Lake	Dogs in Charge
3/15 or 3/29 alt.	Trout	WI Streams, Rush, Kinni	Helen, Perp
4/26 or 5/3 alt.	Crappie	Pokegama by Pine City	Griz, Banana Boy
5/31	Walleye/SM	Green Lake (Spicer)	Farm Boy, Bud
6/20 (Fri)	Bass	Sylvia by Annandale	Lil Angel, Chips, Fluffy
9/13	Multi	Mille Lacs	Mama's, Greenstick, Otis
10/11	SM Bass	Rum River	Suzy, Wags