

The Dogumentary

29th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

March 2011

Wisconsin Trout opens March 5. Last year's license is good through March 31.

March 2011 Meeting

The March meeting will be at Tuttle's Grill and Bowling Alley on Shady Oak Road in Hopkins, as usual. Dinner starts around 6, and the meeting will follow at 7pm. Perp recommends the Onion Rings.

Our speaker will be TJ DeBates from the DNR who has spoken to us before. He will discuss trout and trout fishing, which he likes, and also any other political or outdoor issues that you would like to hear about.

From the Desk of the President, Captain Kirk



2011 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

March 3	Monthly Meeting
April 2 (or 9)	Trout Tournament
April 7	Monthly Meeting
April 30 (5/7)	Crappie Tournament
May 5	Monthly Meeting
May 21-22	Walleye/Laker Tournament
June 2	Monthly Meeting
June 18	Bass Tournament
July 7	Monthly Meeting
July 23-30	LOTW Rock N Roll Musky Tour
August 4	Monthly Meeting
Sep 1	Monthly Meeting
Sep 10	Multispecies Tournament
Oct 8	Smallmouth Tournament
Nov 3	Banquet!

I am looking forward to our March meeting next week when we will be hearing again from our friend with the DNR, TJ DeBates. TJ will cover a number of DNR related topics such as license fees and share some information on one of his passions of trout fishing.

Speaking of trout fishing, on Thursday we will get the final details and information on our upcoming Quest for Trouzilla. Participation is looking great with 27 Dogs signed up for the April 2nd event. Pairings should be done by our meeting on Thursday giving teams several weekends to get out together to prefish and strategize.

In working out the final details for Troutzilla there was quite a bit of discussion and differing views on what to set the bag limits at. Historically our tournaments have been all over the board on with Bag limits. Our By-Laws don't appear to address the issue and I don't know that they need to. Our Tournament Committee plans to bring the issue before the club to get some guidance for setting bag limits for future tournaments.

The average high and low temperatures for March 1 is 34° and 18°. By March 31 the average high and low is 49° and 30°.

Greenstick deserves a thank you for stepping up at the last minute and filling in for No-Show Schara. His Tips and Tricks talk on photography will be very helpful for us amateurs who just take picture after picture of fish with no creativity. The highly anticipated year end video production should be even better this year. Fluff has some ideas he will share with us this Thursday on another way we might add to that video production as well.

We are already seeing a fair amount of information sharing from members on their fishing experiences this year. Our multi talented Greenstick has added another means to share information on the Members Only section of our website. He has set up a forum which might a good place to share your fishing experiences and techniques. Take a couple of minutes to register on the forum and check it out.

In the interest of sharing fishing knowledge and experiences I would like to share some information that is timely and may be beneficial to some of you as you prepare for this years Troutzilla. I have fished the Wisconsin streams now for 4 years and have had some success there. I attribute this to a lot of pre-fishing, having some great tournament partners and doing a lot of trout fishing while growing up in SE Minnesota. Hopefully you will find some of this helpful.

Equipment:

I like to use a short (5 ½ ft) rod for the small brush lined streams where casts are usually short and difficult. On the larger more open streams I like a 7 ft rod to get the longer casts. For line I like the Crystal Fireline in either 2 dia/ 6lb or 3dia/ 8lb. Some may think this a bit heavy but it works for me.

Baits;

#1 for me is the floating Rapala in Silver or Gold and 5cm to 13 cm in size. Don't be afraid to use the 11 and 13cm sizes.

#2 is the jig ranging from 1/32oz to ¼ oz depending the situation with depth and current. Tip the jig with black or white Gulp tails of 1-3 inches.

#3 is the Silver or Gold Panther Martin spinner in sizes 0 to 2.

Methods:

Fish upstream or across stream in order to not spook the fish in the clear water. When using the Rapala it can be casted and then drifted into hard to reach places before being retrieved. Look for

unusual and seldom fished spots. These can be far from roads, slow silty water or right in the downtown area of a city. Below a dam or falls is also a good spot to consider as it collects fish that might be trying to migrate up stream.

Streams:

Pierce Co.:

Rush - Good numbers of med to large Browns and a few small to med Brooks. I have only fished north of El Paso and the river gets quite large as you go south of there.

Kinni - Very high numbers of small and med Browns. Lots of good access above River Falls and difficult access downstream towards the St. Croix.

S Fork Kinni - Good numbers for all sizes of Brooks only. Trophies up to 15".

Cady - High numbers of small Brooks and a few small Browns. A few 10-12" Brooks near Elmwood.

Eau Gaule - Good numbers of Browns in all sizes. A few small to med Brooks.

Trimbelle - Medium number of Browns of all sizes. Some Rainbows.

Pine - Very high number of very small Brooks.

Plumb - Medium numbers of small Browns and low numbers of med to large Brooks.

St. Croix Co.:

Parker - Small to med Brooks and small Browns.

Willow - East of New Richmond no fish.

Dunn Co.:

Hay - No fish in lower stretches.

Wilson - A few very small Brooks.

Tiffany - No fish.

Elk - Good numbers of med Browns and a few small Brooks.

Sand - No fish.

Pepin Co.:

Bear - No fish.

I look forward to seeing all you Dogs Thursday .

Website Changes and Additions

By Greenstick

In February, the club added a new and private "bulletin board" feature to the web site that allows members to share information, techniques, questions, comments, for all other members to read and respond to. This should reduce the number of emails while simultaneously allowing members to add things to the web site of a lasting and valuable nature, allowing members to return to them for later review. For example, let's say you visited a specific lake and found a great little hole in one part of the lake. Instead of keeping that to yourself, you could post that information to the other members by posting it in one of the forums on the bulletin board. Another great example is to post a fishing report and there are a few of them there already. Or let's say you have some fishing gear you want to sell or give away -- rather than buy and ad or throw it away, you could post it in the "for sale" forum and make that gear usable again by putting it in someone else's hands. Or maybe you've done some traveling recently and just want to share your experience with whoever might want to read it.

To get to it, simply go to the web site and select the "members only" button. Answer the ID and password to get to the member's private part of the web site, and you'll see a button on the left side of the screen that says "Open Forums." Click on it. The first time you use it, you'll have to "register" yourself by selecting your own user name and password -- I'd suggest using your Waterdogs handle as your user name, but you can invent your own password. After you've registered, you can just log into it directly.

There's a place for jokes, a place for lures, terminal tackle, rods and reels, places for you to post your "how to" tips and techniques, repairs and maintenance, and many, many more main topics. It's a piece of cake to use but here's the catch: it doesn't have a lot of information in it yet so there's not a lot to read. That's because it's waiting for YOU to post something. You can also post fishing photos if you like. Above all, don't wait for Greenstick to post all the information there -- geez, he doesn't know anything anyway!

The forums will only be as vibrant, informative and fun as YOU make them. Sharing information (or even just posting a message to skewer another member in poking fun) is what it's all about and it's a very easy and fun way you can support the club's activities. Let's put it this way, participating in club

activities and sharing the fun of fishing is what Waterdogs is all about. The open forum bulletin board is a simple way you can do that at any hour of the day or night -- you can even do it with your Internet-capable cell phone. So if you DON'T want to share fishing fun, photos and the like with your fellow Waterdogs, why are you a member in the first place?

Remember, the forums are in the private, members only area so only members can get to it to register and post messages. There are only 34 members right now. That's not a lot of potential participants so the open forums need you to log in and start sharing, or posting questions, or posting suggestions, or posting photos, or what-have-you fishing fun. We'll evaluate how successful this whole thing was at the end of the fishing season and if it doesn't get much activity, then we'll close it down and delete it. But this is your opportunity to make it into something really great.

GS

The Ups and Downs of Trout on the Whitewater by Fluffee

Sunday February 13 found Carmen and Fluffee bound for the Whitewater River valley in search of Trout. We had a report from FD and Shatner after their Saturday excursion that Slim Pickens and Hardlee Worthit were haunting the Whitewater. They reported low, clear water and spooky fish with only a half dozen to account for. This was not cause for optimism. However Sunday dawned and for the first time this year the overnight lows did not go below 32 degrees. This was cause for optimism.

We hit Elba a little after 9:30 am and proceeded to the Middle Branch right near town. Carmen fluffs a fish and I was lucky enough to land it. First fish of the day turns out to be a pretty little 11.5" Rainbow on our first spot. This was cause for optimism. Two hours later we had worked downstream to the mouth of the South Branch and up that stream as well with not another fish caught. This was not cause for optimism. We decide to high tail it to one of the small Brook Trout streams in the valley that Shatner and FD visited the day before. We manged to pull a couple of smaller brook trout out. Now we had both shot the skunk and we have two species under our belt. Cause for optimism. However this spot should have produced more. It's clear to us that Shatner and FD had done more damage to this hole than we had hoped. Optimism fading.

Off to the Main branch finds us further downstream from Elba where the water is deeper, darker and moving quicker. We switch tactics and forgo our jigs for Rapalas, pitching them across the wide river. In quick order we land three browns. Optimism at its highest! The Trifecta is complete and all three trout are nice foot-longs. Carmen tops the list and the day at 13.5". Two more stops yield a few more fish and we max-out the day at 10 caught. Not great, but considering the low clear water and bluebird skies, we should consider ourselves lucky. We do.



The banks are steep on the Main Branch and the dirt gives way in clumps. Climbing up and down the banks is an exercise that once complete is greeted by slogging through snow that ranges in depth from six to twenty inches. The optimism of our bevy of Browns gives way to exhaustion by time 4pm rolls around. The towel is thrown in and we turn our attention to the drive home. It was hard to tell for certain if the fish populations were down, but it appears so. While we spooked some fish, we did not spook a lot. Under these conditions you would have noticed fish moving and we didn't see that many. Shatner's summation of his Saturday experience was to wait for March and head to Wisconsin. I agree.



Fluffy got the triple Rainbow, Brown and Brookie from Whitewater area streams on Saturday.

Hay Creek Revisited

It was back to Hay Creek for Shatner and FD on Saturday Feb 19, seeking redemption from the low numbers of the previous two weeks of trout. We had been to Hay two weeks earlier, but the snow was two feet deep and more all over, so getting around was a real sweat-fest. The snow pack was down considerably on our second visit after the thaw of the previous week, and it was easy walking on top of the hard crust and we only punched through occasionally. The temp got up to 32 that day, but was in the low 20's when we started around noon. We fished the pasture and open field area where much of the stream has been improved. The fish at first were just rolling at the baits and we caught a few on spinners and jigs with twisters. Smaller baits worked better at first, with the strategy of dragging the bottom of a pool with your smallest jig picking up some fish. After a couple of hours the action picked up with the bigger fish also becoming more active and hitting bigger baits like Rapalas and larger spinners. We only fished till 3:30, but the action was really picking up until the time we had to leave, and we imagined that fishing until dusk would have resulted in a lot more fish. In all we caught more than 30 in 3.5 hours - all browns, to 13.5".



2011 Tournament Series

Gentlemen, Mark Your Calendars!

Date	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
Saturday April 2 (4/9 Alt)	Trout	Wisconsin	Janitor - Shatner
Saturday April 30 (5/7 Alt)	Crappie	Prior Lake	Griz – Banana - Suzy
Sat-Sun May 21-22	Walleye/Lake Trout	Grand Rapids MN	Fluffy - Carmen - Lil Angel
Saturday June 18	Bass	Big Birch Lake?	Analist - Bud
Saturday Sep 10	Multispecies	Minnetonka	Chips - Spanky
Saturday Oct 8	Smallmouth	Rum River	Perp - Buick