

The Dogumentary

30th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

March 2012

Trout Fishing in Full Swing

The trout season began in MN on Jan 1, and the WI season opens March 3. Plan on getting out with a fellow Dog anytime the weather allows. That's quite a bit of potential fishing time before the ice is out and the regular season begins.

The **March meeting** will be at Tuttle's on the First at 6pm for dinner and 7pm for the meeting. Our speaker will be **Scott Peterson** who will talk about using electronics to more effectively catch fish. It will be interesting to hear what kind of gear he likes best – and dislikes as well.

2012 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

Mar 1	Monthly Meeting
Mar 17	Trout Tournament
Apr 5	Monthly Meeting
Apr 14	Trout Tournament
May 3	Monthly Meeting
May 19	Walleye Tournament
June 1	Bass Tournament
June 7	Monthly Meeting
June 23	Multi Tournament
July 12	Monthly Meeting
July 21-28	LOTW Rock'nRoll Musky Tour
Aug 2	Monthly Meeting
Aug 17	Multi Tournament
Sep 6	Monthly Meeting
Sep 8	Multi Tournament
Oct 4	Monthly Meeting
Oct 6	Bass Tournament
Nov 1	Banquet

See the last page for 2012 Tourney Details

Be sure and check out the Waterdogs website and blog for the latest in fishing reports and other information.

From the Desk of the President, Greenstick – Dave Haberle



In past years' March Dogumentaries my predecessors have penned their thoughts on making fond family memories, fishing with kids, promoting the sport of fishing, lots of fishing tips (none sure-fire, of course...) and even the Biosonix Fish Activator. (Uh, Griz, how's that thing working, anyway? And is it very heavy to carry when fishing Wisconsin trout streams?) But now, with March right around the corner, we'll finally be able to realize the main reason we all joined this club, the opportunity to go fishing with a good friend! So let the fun begin! Near-legendary troutmasters Shatner and Fluffee have cooked up an all-you-can-eat buffet for the first event of the year. It's the first event I can remember that's so easy to score even (waterdog name of your choice) can do it -- the more you catch, the more inches and points you get! Later in this article you'll find some sure-fire tips that can make the difference between, well... I'll save it for later...

Our resident legal authority, Lars d'Anglere reminds us about upcoming fishing license expirations... and it was such a pleasure to tell him that your Minnesota license is valid until April 30th. Lars countered with, "Au, mon ami... zey iss fishinging Visconsin!" Dang. After a

quick check with the Wisconsin DNR's web site, last year's Wisconsin license expires March 31st, so you're okay for the first trout event but you'll need to renew before the second one in April. If you don't have a Wisconsin license now, wait until March 7th when the 2012-13 licenses are issued. And if cost is an issue, the \$10 one-day, \$24 four-day and \$28 15-day licenses are good alternatives and yes, you'll need the \$10 trout stamp, too. It's very convenient -- you can buy them on-line and print them out yourself.

Next time you see Suzy, thank him for all his good work on securing some great speakers for our meetings! March's meeting sounds like even more good stuff with Scott Peterson, professional bass guide speaking on how to use your electronics more efficiently, so be sure you've got March 1st on your calendar -- you won't want to miss it! But for those of you who missed February's meeting, you missed.... cake. Old Fart was kind to share his carrot cake in celebration of his 39th birthday... again... Thanks, OF!

You also missed Steve Carney, the February meeting's speaker who shared some thoughts on why he doesn't like sponsors, or why they don't like him, or some combination of the two... Steve captivated the Dogs with his no-nonsense approach to fishing, such as "fish with the same line, same rod no matter what species it is." He's developed a technique that he says works wherever he goes -- it's essentially a combination of shallow-running Rapala crank baits, lightweight jigs, and simple hooks, all using the same Powerbait shad lures in black, perch or silver. It's certainly simple to remember, and it sure reduces the need for a large tackle box! Shatner and FD, who won a day of fishing with him last year, agreed that Steve's boat is pristine and sparsely apportioned with fishing gear. A quick read of some of Steve's quotable quotes highlight the night and why the Dogs loved him -- the man pulls no punches:

- "I hate Minnetonka. I can't teach people how to fish milfoil"
- "I'm not really an electronics guy -- I use a flasher, the other things show you history, not what's there right now"
- "I fish 6-8 feet deep most of the time with light line, a light rod and no leaders

-- I tie direct"

- "People generally use too much weight to get the line down. Keep it light. Most of the time a 1/16 split shot is all you need. Then when the fish grab it, it doesn't alert them so much because they don't feel the resistance."
- "Find the fish, then back off and cast to the spot. Long casts work good."
- "A power minnow, 6-foot rod, 6-8 pound line, I fish it for everything. You know how the gear responds and how to adapt your style."
- "I don't own a spinner bait. I don't use live bait."
- "I use a #5 shad Rap in silver or perch color on lakes that I don't know so I can cover it fast and find out where the fish are."
- "I hate Gulp. Love Powerbait. Shads of 4 or possibly 5 inches work."

Okay, you've waited this long, so I'll sign off with Greenstick's Top 5 sure-fire rules for successful trout fishing:

5. Make sure your waders are waterproof *before* Friday night, March 16th, the night before the tournament.
4. Trout have good eyes. Camo is good, going fluorescent red isn't a great idea. Stay low and watch your shadows.
3. Cast upstream from where you want to fish and let the current bring the lure to the fish. Let it look natural.
2. With the recent and projected snows, the streams may be a bit deeper with more current. Be alert.

And the #1 rule:

Remember that gravity works. Standing is good; falling into a hole is bad. Take it from me, I have experience in this area...

Trout Tales

By FD

A small cadre of Waterdogs has been making regular trips out to the Minnesota trout streams during this unusually mild winter season. Streams fished have included Hay Creek, the Whitewater, Garvin Brook, Rush and Pine Creeks south of Rochester, and Crooked Creek by Caledonia. Some streams have put out fish well, while others have been more difficult, but it has been fun for all to get out and see some new water. The good news is that the DNR is leaning towards opening all trout waters in the SE part of the state to the winter season next year.

On President's Day Monday Feb 20, I went out with Shatner and Carmen on yet another day when the temps were forecast to be above freezing. At first we were headed to Hay Creek, but after talking a bit about some successful scouting that Kirk had done on Crooked Creek, we decided to go there instead. Crooked is way down in the lower SE corner of the state, 6 miles from Iowa and 15 from Wisconsin. From town, it's about a 2.5 hour drive.

The creek sees little pressure, being so far from bigger cities, and we saw no tracks in the snow on the first mile that we fished. The creek was improved many years ago and is still in good shape, with good fish-holding water throughout. The browns were biting well, with a few rainbows also caught, with our total catch more than 50 fish, mostly in the 9-14" range. They bit on all baits, from Rapalas to jigs and spinners, with the challenge being to sneak up on them, as the water is small at maybe 10 feet wide and a foot deep, on average.



Of all the streams we have tried this winter, Crooked has been the best, and there are other similar streams in that part of the state that may be just as good. But with the Wisconsin season approaching, those other MN spots just might have to wait until next year. The true fact of the matter is that the Wisconsin streams are not only closer, but have more and bigger fish too, so bring on the month of March!



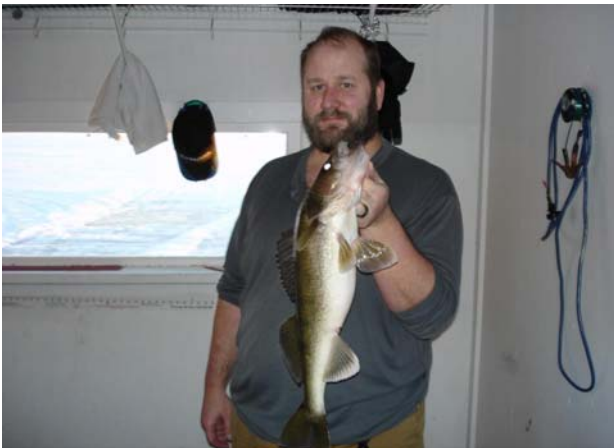
Ice is Nice

By Griz

LOTW Ice Fishing Report 1:

I ventured up to Lake of the Woods out of Zippel Bay Resort from 2/10/12 to 2/12/12 with my dad, brother and a friend of my brothers. Unfortunately we arrived at the same time as a cold front that brought negative teen temperatures overnight and the usual "fishing was pretty good yesterday but today was slow" comments from other anglers staying at the lodge. For this trip we were staying on shore in one of the lodges motel style rooms and fishing out of a day shack in 29 feet of water. The rooms were nice, the prices were right, service was good and the shack was more than adequate. We fished from around noon until just after dark on Friday, 7:30 AM (the landing at the lodge is gated until 7:00 AM) just after dark on Saturday and from 7:30 AM until about 11:00 AM on Sunday.

As mentioned earlier, fishing was slow, but we did managed to catch about 50 walleye and sauger (along with a few bonus whitefish and tulibee) for the trip. That being said, many of the fish were 4"-8" long. We ended up keeping about 15 between 12" and 16" and I caught one nice 23.5"er (see photo) that had to go back due to the slot limit.



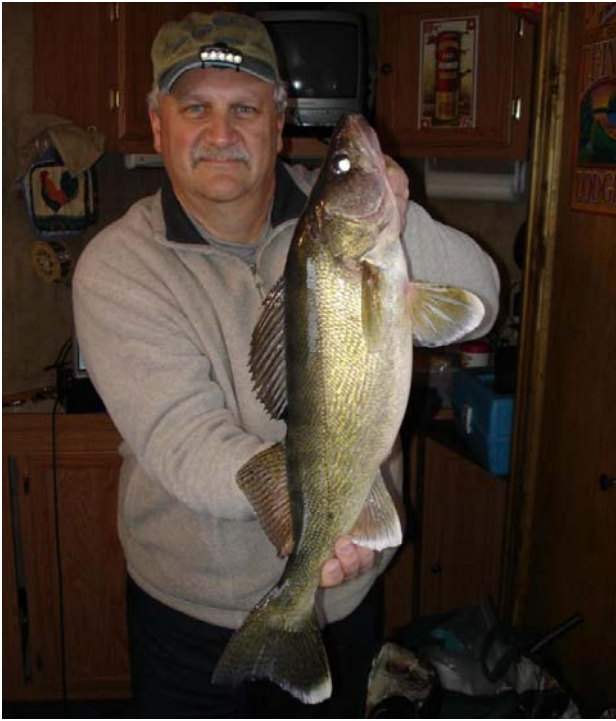
We cooked up a nice fish fry one night back at the resort and took the others home. We also learned the you can't trust your GPS - in this case a Tom Tom - in the north country as it led us down a "Minimum maintenance - Use at your own risk" road (see photo).



Report 2:

Glenn "Puddin' Man" Johnson and I just returned from a trip to LOTW from 2/19/12 - 2/22/12. We stayed in a friend's Ice Castle located on the north edge of North Arnesen's Reef in 32 feet of water. We arrived late Sunday afternoon and got a little fishing in before shutting things down for the night, catching 3 walleye and sauger. Monday brought slow fishing and a rain/sleet/snow combination before noon that eventually turned into 5"-6" of snow and 20+ mile per hour winds for the next 24+ hours. Downsizing was key to catching fish on Monday. We managed to ice 16 walleye and sauger using a dead stick technique with jigs and jigging spoons tipped with minnow heads. Live minnows got bit a lot less on Monday than the minnow heads alone.

Tuesday remained windy with blowing snow and a low barometer, but the fishing improved a great deal. We caught fish throughout the day and the fish seemed more aggressive, eventually converting to wanting to hit live minnows instead of just the minnow heads. We managed to ice 33 walleye and sauger on Tuesday and rounded out our limit of 8 walleye (between 15" and 19.25") and 8 sauger (between 12" and 14") plus two nice "bonus" perch. One perch that Glenn landed was just under 1.5 pounds (see photo). We only managed to land two walleye over the slot size but we also released 5-6 the were in the 16" - 18" range before keeping our last fish. Glenn caught the largest walleye of the trip, a nice 21.75"er (see photo) that was fat (almost 5 pounds) and my best was a 21"er.



Got a Keeper!!!

Joyce and I were blessed with our first Grandchild on Saturday, Feb. 18th, at 8:18. Jenna Elizabeth Kapaun arrived weighing 7# 7oz and 20" long with a bit of red hair. Jenna, Mom Krissy, and Dad Dan are doing fine at home in Northfield. Looking forward to another new fishing partner in a few years! Here are photos of Jenna with a proud Grandpa Dave and Great Uncle Rick!

In addition to the walleye, sauger and perch we also managed to land 8-10 whitefish and tulibee and one nearly 6 pound eelpout (see photo), my first. We packed up early on Wednesday morning and headed home without fishing, but we had a great trip. Despite the weather/front moving through we managed to land 52 walleye and sauger (granted, many were small) 2 perch, 8-10 whitefish and tulibee and an eelpout in just over two full days (6:30 AM - 7:00 PM +/-) of fishing. We also lost several other fish on the way to the hole. It was quite the trip.



Dave is now a Grandfather!



Rick is still an OF, and also a Great Uncle

Tournament One is in 3 Weeks!

2012 Tournament Schedule

Gentlemen, Mark Your Calendars!

Date (Saturdays)	Hours	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
Mar 17	7:30-2pm	Trout	Wisconsin	Fluffee – Shatner
Apr 14	6:30-1pm	Trout	Wisconsin	Fluffee – Shatner
May 19	2-9pm *	Walleye	St Louis River	Little Angel – Chips
June 1 (Fri)	1-9pm	Bass	Scott/Dakota Cos.	Felix – Banana
June 23	5:30-noon	Multi	Forest Lake	Perp – Carmen
Aug 17 (Fri)	6:30-1:30pm	Multi	St Croix	OF - Janitor
Sep 8		Multi	Pepin	Suzy - Hillary
Oct 6		Bass	Clearwater	Griz - Nasty

*St. Louis River options:

1. Fish till the 9pm weigh-in and drive home
2. Stay for dinner and drive home
3. Stay overnight and drive home in the morning
4. Stay overnight and fish Sunday for fun and keepers (limit 2 >15")