

The Dogumentary

31stYear

The Of-fish-ial Mouthpiece of the Waterdogs Fishing Club

March 2013

2013 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

March 1	Wisconsin Trout opens
Mar 7	Monthly Meeting
March 16	Wisconsin Trout 1
Apr 4	Monthly Meeting
April 6	Wisconsin Trout 2
April 20	Trout Backup Date
May 2	Monthly Meeting
May 18	Southern Fried Walleye

MarchSpeaker

Fluff and Shatner will provide the program for next week's meeting. It will be called "Where the Trout are (?)". We have had the how to speaker at last meeting so this will be "where to" fish. **Please ask everyone to bring their laptops and I-Pads. (Wifi is available)** We will share the many online resources that are available such as maps, stream survey data and forums than can assist teams in planning for the trout event. After our short presentation teams will have time to meet and strategize for the upcoming event. Shatner

Dogumentary Changes

Two new additions to the Dogumentary in the upcoming months.

1. Tip of the Month. They will be collected and supplied by the Analist who has provided the tip for this month.
2. Monthly bio of a Waterdog Member starting next month to help us all learn a little more about each other. Attached along with this month's Dogumentary is a Word questionnaire. You can either fill that out or (I would prefer) use the questionnaire as the basis for a few paragraphs about your life, family history with fishing, etc. Please complete this and return it to Juan.

From the Desk of the President,

Well the days are getting longer and Spring is almost here. I for one am tired of shoveling but

know we aren't out of the woods yet! After our last meeting I have been looking forward to the trout tournaments coming up, hopeful the fish will be biting. Thanks again to our seminar committee for lining up another great speaker, keep 'em coming!

I finally had an opportunity to do some ice fishing with my son. While I wouldn't say ice fishing is a passion of mine, I did enjoy the father-son time. As things usually go for us,



we typically have a few hours to fish before other projects come up. We were monitoring the traffic on the lake and didn't see much action but decided to head out anyway. Of course I got to have the fun of dragging everything out and back again as my brother-in-law wasn't around (or his four wheeler for that matter), but it actually was a nicer day without the gale force winds we normally battle. Now the lake we fish has historically been good for getting crappies out of the ice but over the last several years the reports have definitely declined. I was truly only hoping we caught at least one fish and considered anymore would be a bonus. We set up camp and got the underwater camera going, one of the main reasons my son likes to ice fish. We saw several crappies right away but only lookers. They would come to

investigate various baits and presentations but just were not interested. Then of course they suddenly scatter and two small northernns go snaking by, also not interested. We had to rely on the bass to be hungry enough to bite.

I was pleasantly surprised to see a few walleyes go by which have been quite scarce. Now that he has seen walleye in the lake, my son agreed that we can try for them this summer. All in all the catching was slow but we still had fun and can say we at least got out once this winter. Who knows, maybe next year we might even go...twice. Hopefully the real ice fishermen are doing well and can share their stories.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting. In case you were wondering about my typical food choice from Tuttle's: yes it is a burger and no it is not on the menu. Our kind waitress has been very helpful in conveying my special order to the kitchen. Simply ask for a double burger with whatever cheese you like, top with onions or mushrooms, and don't forget the bacon!

Dr. Meat/John Schaffhausen



Lake of the Woods Update

I have had 12 Dogs pay deposits. A check for \$1800 has been sent to reserve spots for those 12 members. Those participating, please begin the process of obtaining RABC permits and Canadian license and be sure your passports are up to date. Let me know if you need access information.

Carmen

Hey Hey Cripple Crik

One of the cliques within the club is known as the "Goon Squad", which consists of Fluffee, Carmen, and FD, who are known for their sometimes ill-advised outings for trout and other creatures. The goal of the Squad is to seek out the unusual and different locations for their antics, often flirting with disaster, but we're all still alive. A break in the cold weather for Presidents Day, Monday Feb 18, tempted the Squad to head to the far reaches of the winter trout season to Crippled Crik in southern MN, where trout-fishing success had been experienced the year before. It was a 3-hour drive from town, and the temps started out at around 27, but warmed to 38 with overcast skies and light winds, overall a perfect day to be out walking the streams.

The Crippled Crik winter stretch is about a 2-mile run that takes about 4 hours to fish, and is mostly flat ground with no bush-whacking or mountain-goating required. The stream is relatively small at about 30' wide and 6"-12" deep, and most of it borders a farm and cow pasture on one side, and a bluff on the other. The water was running a bit lower than when we were here last year at the same time, so the fish were more concentrated in the deeper water. Also like last year, our guide was an old beagle from across the street, who followed along for the whole 2 miles of river and back, nibbling on cow pies and an old deer carcass along the way.

We started all out with different lures, a jig, a spinner, and a Rapala, but it was quickly determined that the fish were hitting the Rapala best, so we all switched over. In all, we caught 33 brown trout, with most of them running 6"-14".

The highlight of the day was a 21.5" trout caught by Fluffee on a silver CD1 Rapala. Hard to believe that a fish that big can exist in a stream that is so small.



On the way home, we hit "Dickey Lake", another big pool on a small stream, and got 2 more trout, but half the pool was frozen over. The weather also changed on the way back where our nice spring day turned into a blowing blizzard, but at least we were able to take advantage of the small window of comfort for a few hours of great fishing. FD

Fishing with Spanky

My employer forced me to attend the National Auto Dealers convention in sunny and warm Orlando the second week of February. Although it was before the Tarpon bite starts and generally a slow time for saltwater fishing I decided extend my trip a few days to try some saltwater fishing anyway. After the convention I headed down to SW Florida where I had a



chance to fish with a guide one day and also with Spanky for a day. The weather was perfect and in the low 80's for my entire visit. I can see why Spanky disappears from our club activities late every fall.

My first saltwater experience was with Capt. Kevin of Sea Gone Fishing and we went out of Calusa south of Marco Island. Capt. Kevin's trips are into the Ten Thousand Island National Wildlife Area which has a lot of inner waterways amongst the Mangrove covered islands. This is truly a great place for sightseeing as well as back water fishing. In addition to catching 12 species of fish we saw many types of birds, sharks, rays, dolphins and even a manatee. My captain shared a wealth of information on tides as well as how to target specific species and I would highly recommend him to anyone visiting this area. Spanky had referred me to him thru another guide he knew. At the end of the day with Capt. Kevin I put a 25" Redfish I had caught on ice and drove about an hour back north to Spanky's place at Fort Myers Beach. What a great place he has right on a canal with his own docks and 2 boats. Rather than go out for some pizza that night as we had planned Spanky grilled the fresh fish in his back yard. Over dinner and a



couple beers that night we debated our plans for the next day. Spanky had intended to take us offshore with a friend in a 32 foot boat but thought it would be better to stay in the backwaters when we heard the forecast for high winds.

We started our day around 7:30 by heading several miles out into the gulf to net some bait to be used for our backwater fishing. This in itself was an adventure and a new experience in the choppy water. About the time we arrived

at the navigation marker a couple miles off shore where the bait fish can be found the fog rolled in. A lone guide in his flats boat with the same plans arrived at the marker about the same time we did. We watched as he efficiently gathered some bait and headed back thru the fog. Now it was our turn to back the boat as close to the marker as possible



and throw the net. After a few attempts and getting soaked from the waves Spanky caught a net full and we headed back to his place to prepare his flats boat for the backwaters fishing in the afternoon.

While preparing the flats boat we happened to throw a couple bait fish off Spanky's dock and noticed they were quickly gobbled up by a hungry school of fish lurking under the dock. So out came a rig with a bobber fished over the bait fish. We quickly landed some Jacks and Mangrove Snappers. As we landed these fish a very bold Blue Herron arrived and literally tried to help us remove the fish from the hook.

We spent the afternoon fishing from Spanky's flats boat in the backwaters behind Fort Myers Beach along with another friend of his who knew and fished this area quite often. The plan was to target Redfish and Snook with the bait we caught earlier and with live shrimp. We ended the afternoon with 4 Redfish and a Snook all caught on spinning gear while we casted up near the overhanging mangroves.



What is that?

The top fish was about a 25" Redfish that Spanky landed on one of the bait fish we netted in the morning. The 3 Redfish I caught all came on live shrimp rigged Texas style like we often fish bass here. The key seemed to be getting your bait as close to the mangroves as possible during the dropping tide which created some moving water.

I have had a number of great LM and SM outings with Spanky since he joined the club a few years ago and now I can add saltwater fishing to our list of great memories. Thanks again Spanky for your hospitality in Florida. I can see why you disappear every fall. Shatner

Analyst's Tip of the Month

It's All In The Hook

I was fishing the walleye tournament on Mille Lacs several years ago with the Janitor. We had located a pod of fish on a rock reef and were drifting and pitching leeches on slip bobbers. Janitor was getting bit numerous times yet they were ignoring my offering. We compared rigs and the only thing different was that he was using a red hook. I was skeptical the simple color of a hook could make a difference, but seeing as that was the only logical explanation Janitor loaned me a hook to try. Almost immediately my bobber went down & I boated a mid-20" walleye. Several minutes later my bobber goes down again; another fat and sassy walleye slides into the net. Cast after cast they are crushing my new rig. With 15 minutes of fishing time left a large bolt of

lightning flashes across the sky. Though we both wanted to stay, we decide it wasn't worth the risk and headed toward the landing. We ended up in second place, missing 1st by less than one fish—which based on the pace of the bite would have taken less than five minutes. Though we fell short of the checkered flag, we still caught a mess of fish and had a great time together. In large part to a simple red hook. Thus my tackle tip is to buy some red hooks and give 'em a try as at times they can make a big difference. Analist

Poker Party

An indoor attendance record was set when 10 club members met for poker at the Janitor's house in February. It was the usual great get-together with great food, lots of laughs, and a few quarters changing hands, mostly out of the hands of OF and Kojak.



Shorty's Tarpon (and Bass?) Adventure

Guys final chance if anyone is coming down for Tarpon. We also have some Big Bass down here. We could always make a side trip to LakeOkeechobee. It's only about 80 miles from my place



24.5 inches. 7lbs 13 ozs.

2013 Tournament Schedule

Date	Hours	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
Mar 16	TBD	Trout	Wisconsin	Carmen & FD
April 6	TBD	Trout	Wisconsin	Griz & Fluffee
April 20	TBD	Trout	Backup for Trout 1 or 2	
May 18	TBD	Southern Fried Walleye	TBD	Little Angel, Bud & Banana
June 7-8	TBD	Mille Lacs Flip-Flop	Mille Lacs	Janitor, Duper, Chips
July 13	TBD	Shot in the Dark Bass	TBD	Kirk, Analist
September 14	TBD	Multispecies	Minnetonka	Greenstick and Helen
October 5	TBD	Smallmouth	Rum River	Perp and Nasty