

The Dogumentary

25th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

April 2007

April Meeting

The April meeting will be held at the Hopkins VFW on Thursday April 5, with dinner at 6:00 and the meeting starting at 7pm. Our guest speaker will be the Swede from Swede's Guide service on Lake Minnetonka. He will fill us in on the best crappie locations and methods for catching fish at our upcoming tournament. It appears that most of us will be attending the tournament, so you will not want to miss this lecture.

Our meeting speaker schedule is close to being filled for the year, with many entertaining and informative guests lined up. Here's what's ahead:

- April: Swede's Minnetonka Guide Service
- May: Mark Fisher – Rapala
- June: Wayne's World talks Muskies
- July: Thorne Bros pre-LOTW
- August: Tackle Terry Tuma
- September: Farm Boy hosts the Waterdogs 25th Anniversary party
- October: open – working with Schara

<u>The 2007 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar</u>	
April 5	Monthly Meeting
May 3	Monthly Meeting
May 5	Crappie Tournament
June 2-3	Walleye Tournament
June 7	Monthly Meeting
June 15-16	Bass Tournament
July 5	Monthly Meeting
July 21-28	LOTW Musky Tour
August 2	Monthly Meeting
August 18	Multi-Species Tournament
Sep 6	Monthly Meeting
Sep 15	Musky/NP Tournament
Oct 4	Monthly Meeting
Nov 1	Annual Banquet
Dec 6	Monthly Meeting

President's Corner – James Ferstenou



The tournament details are on the last page of each Dogumentary.

The first tournament of the year is in the books, the weather has been unbelievable for late March and the spring crappie action should be starting soon. Unfortunately I was not able to make this year's trout tournament due to illness (that's only the second tournament that I've missed since joining the 'Dogs) but there were a decent number of fish caught. Congratulations to the team of Kirk Duholm and Bob Blakely on their win. I look forward to hearing about their winning strategy at this month's meeting.

114
Days to LOTW

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As I'm sure most of you know by now the trout tournament was not without incident, though. During the tournament, Dave Haberle broke his leg and needed assistance to get back to Kevin Miller's vehicle and to get to the hospital (apparently showing no signs on pain throughout the process, he even called in their team's fish to me on the way to the hospital). We'll have to vote on which one of the many possible handles that this has spawned at the meeting.

I would like to use this opportunity and incident to remind the club of the importance of safety on our outings. Something like this can happen at any time, not to mention the routine injuries like scrapes, cuts, sprained ankles, etc. Please keep safety in mind at all times, especially when in remote areas like trout fishing or on Lake of the Woods. Be prepared to deal with medical issues that can arise. Keep a basic first aid kit in your vehicle and boat or tackle boxes. Have a cell phone or marine band radio available for use if needed and know where you are at in case you need to describe the location to someone else. This is especially true for Swabs on Lake of the Woods. Please do not rely on your Captains to navigate all day long. You need to know where you are coming from, are currently and are going as much as they do in case of an emergency. Also, if you do not already have a basic knowledge of first aid (or wilderness emergency and survival techniques) please take some time to learn. There is a lot of information available that is easy to read and use, whether it's in book form, on the internet in a video, etc. You never know when being prepared will pay off for yourself, your family or your friends.

That's all for now. Until next month, keep your lures in the water and your hooks sharp.

Griz

### **Trout Across the Border**

The first tournament of the year was held on March 17 on some of the streams in Wisconsin in Scott and Pierce counties. The event drew a below-average number of Waterdogs, at just 16, but was a fun event for those that did attend. The Weather Committee did a fair job, with temperatures starting in the low 20s, but

warming into the 30s as the day progressed. The club concentrated on the Kinnickinnic and Rush Rivers, and caught brown and brook trout, and one rainbow at various locations on the rivers. The Kinni was more of a bushwhacker's paradise with country that was a little harder to get through. The Kinni is a sand and gravel base with lots of wood in the water, while the Rush is more of a rock and boulder bottom, and a little easier to navigate.

Every team caught fish, with fish counts ranging from 9, up to two teams that caught card limits of 15 trout. The best bite seemed to come early in the day for most teams, although some fish were also caught after the sun rose higher on the water.

In the end, it was the more-experienced team of the Janitor and Shatner, who put together a string of all brown trout, including the biggest brown at 15", to win the tournament. They caught their fish on both spinners and Rapalas in the Rush River. The boys will explain their winning strategy at the next meeting.



**The Top Three Trout Teams**

The largest brook trout was caught by FD at 12", and the lone 13" rainbow was banked by the team of Helen and Banana Boy.



**Carmen Cradles a Brown**

This ends the club's tournament experiment with Wisconsin waters, as the licenses expire at the end of March, but certainly some members will renew to take advantage of more of the great trout fishing that is available so close to home.

**The Documentary Interview: Rick Wagner**

By Suzy



**Handle:** Wags

**Where you live:** LeCenter, Minn.

**Hometown:** Bloomington, Minn.

**Where you work:** Fabcon

**What you do at work:** National accounts coordinator

**Where you went to college/high school:** 2-year degree from Minneapolis School of Drafting

**Spouse's name:** Paula

**Kids:** Ten kids and 16 grandchildren

**Pets:** Winston, our four-year old husky

**Favorite fishing rod:** The one I'm fishing with...

**Favorite fishing lure:** Spinnerbait -- it can catch just about anything

**Favorite fishing reel:** Baitcaster, as long as it backlash on me

**Favorite species to fish for:** Musky, northerns and bass

**Favorite restaurant:** Famous Dave's or Red Lobster

**Favorite beverage:** Coffee in the morning, Pepsi in the afternoon, cold beer in the evening

**Favorite cut of meat:** T-bone or NY strip

**Last book you read:** Book on Mt. Washington art glass

**Favorite fishing pro:** All of the Waterdogs

**What you do for fun when you're not fishing:** Antiquing, woodcarving, hunting, camping and golf.

**Favorite body of water to fish on:** Lake of the Woods

**Your boat:** Don't have one yet -- currently looking

**Your dream boat:** Ranger 620

**Why the Waterdogs?** Griz and Felix kept telling me how much fun they had with the Dogs. And that the Dogs are a bunch of great guys who are willing to share fishing tips and continuously learn about fishing.

**Seinfeld or Everybody Loves**

**Raymond?** Everybody Loves Raymond

**Mary Tyler Moore or Rhoda?** Neither

**Rocky or Lethal Weapon?** Lethal Weapon

**Favorite type of music/band and/or artist?** Country and classic rock

**Favorite on-the-water snack food?** Jerky, but I really don't eat much while fishing

**Best largemouth bass fishing tip?** Don't be afraid to try different things

**Favorite fishing tackle store?** Cabela's

**Body of water that you've never fished that you would most like to fish within the coming year?** Mille Lacs for muskies (Buick -- you wanna go?)

**One of your all-time favorite fishing memories:** Fishing with my kids and grandkids

**Word that best describes you:** Quiet

**Favorite dessert:** Meat and potatoes

**Your fishing vehicle (for towing your boat or your dream boat):** 2007 Chevy Suburban

**Favorite fishing magazine:** In-Fisherman

**Favorite fishing TV show:** Simply Fishing (12:30 p.m., Saturdays, Ch. 45)

**Volunteer or community activities (other than Waterdogs):** Relay for Life

**Favorite fishing tip (any species)?** Be patient

**Biggest musky:** 36 in.

**Biggest northern pike:** 36 in.

**Biggest walleye:** 23 in.

**Biggest largemouth bass:** 19 in.

**Biggest smallmouth bass:** around 3 lbs.

**What fishing "personal best" would you like to hit in the coming year?:** 50 inch musky

## Spinning the Creeks

By the Perp

My son, David (home from college on spring break) and I went to the Rush twice last week to do some trout fishing. Tuesday afternoon we went upstream from the 690 (Stone Hammer) Bridge and had a nice afternoon on the river. The weather was great, the fishing was great, but the catching was tough. I caught a couple of browns and he had one on, but lost it about 4 feet away.

Friday, Buick emailed that he had been over Thursday morning and had great success (14 browns) downstream from the same bridge. This was an area that Buick and I had fished in the tournament with some success. His recommendation was to go farther downstream than we had gone during the tournament.

Saturday morning David and I went back over with the idea of fishing downstream from the Stone Hammer Bridge. We arrived at the bridge about 9:00 AM (college kid hours) and were greeted with 2 other cars already there. (Thought one might have been Felix.) We headed downstream and to our delight didn't see a soul all morning. There were 8 cars at the bridge when we returned at 1:15. It must have been crowded upstream.

We walked about a mile down stream fishing some spots along the way with some success. David caught his first trout on the way down, an 8 inch brook. About a mile down stream, we found a pool about 2 feet deep on the outside of a bend and David hit started catching browns. They were hitting right at the break where the bottom turned from dark rock

to light sand. He picked up 5 in about 15 minutes ranging from 12 to 14.5 inches in length. We worked our way back upstream and continued to catch both browns and brooks. David had 12 fish that he had to unhook to release and another half dozen that were either water or air releases. I ended up with 6 fish caught and another 6 air and water releases at my feet. I lost the biggest brown of my life trying to get a grip on it as I lifted it out of the water. Lesson learned; buy a net, it would have been worth it.

All the fish were caught on Panther Martin spinners, yellow and white barrel and a spotted tan blade with a plain treble hook. The fish didn't like the spinners with hair on the hooks.

Passing on fishing experiences to the next generation is a great way to spend a day and it is even better when it is your son. He said he enjoyed trout fishing even when we weren't catching fish, but I think he is hooked now. Now he wants to it with a fly rod. So, my thanks to the Water Dogs for taking me trout fishing and giving me something new to share with my son.



**David Karsjens Checks Out a Brown**

## **Waterdogs Fishing Club 2007 Tournament Schedule**

(Note the Date Change for the Crappie Tournament to May 5)

| <b>Date</b>                 | <b>Species</b>     | <b>Location</b>              | <b>Dogs in Charge</b>        |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ✓ <b>March 17</b>           | <b>Trout</b>       | <b>Kinni, Rush, etc – WI</b> | <b>Janitor, OF</b>           |
| <b>May 5</b>                | <b>Crappie</b>     | <b>Minnetonka</b>            | <b>Perp, Mamas Boy, OJ</b>   |
| <b>June 2-3</b>             | <b>Walleye</b>     | <b>St Louis River (O/N)</b>  | <b>Griz, Nasty, Chips</b>    |
| <b>June 15-16 (Fri-Sat)</b> | <b>Bass</b>        | <b>Carver Co Lakes</b>       | <b>Banana, Carmen, Felix</b> |
| <b>August 18</b>            | <b>Multispecie</b> | <b>Pepin</b>                 | <b>Bubble, Bertha, Bud</b>   |
| <b>September 15</b>         | <b>Musky/NP</b>    | <b>Waconia + others</b>      | <b>Suzy, Rocky, Buick</b>    |