

# The Dogumentary

26th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

April 2008

## March Meeting at the Hopkins VFW

We have a speaker for the April meeting. Mike Yurik was referred to us by Gander Mountain. Mike is a multi-species fisherman and will talk about some non-typical tactics he likes to use for crappies/pan fish like, "start by throwing away the anchor".

Mike Yurk grew up in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and while still in high school there, began writing outdoor and feature stories for the local newspaper. In the late 1960s and early 70s while attending college at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Mike wrote outdoor stories for several central Wisconsin newspapers. He sold his first magazine article in 1970 to Fur-Fish-Game magazine. In 1972 Mike joined the U.S. Army and retired in 1994 as a major. Mike has published over 400 articles in various national and regional outdoor publications, and is currently one of the fishing editors of Mid West Outdoors magazine, and a staff columnist for Outdoors Weekly. Mike's current books, The Fireside Reader the Campfire Companion and The Battles of Joe Red Bird published by Publish America are all available and can be ordered through Amazon.com and Barnes and Nobel. His first novel, The Muskie, is currently out of print. Mike Yurk lives in Hudson, Wisconsin, where he continues to write and fish throughout the Mid West.

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

## 2008 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

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

## *From the Desk of the President, Little Angel*



### **What a difference a few days makes!**

On Wednesday before the trout tournament, Mama's Boy and I went to pre-fish the Rush River before the Saturday tournament. The weather was nice, in the 30's and the sun was out off and on. We fished the Rush in several

places down by El Paso. We started at about 2:30 and fished to about 5:30. We caught several trout during that time so I was encouraged that we may do well on Saturday.

During that trip I was walking along the bank and saw a rainbow trout lying in a rocky area. I got within a couple of feet of it and just lowered my spinner down in front of his lips and jiggled it for 10-15 seconds. Nothing! I ran it over his back and head. Nothing! I thought maybe it was dead so after I had aggravated it for about 5 minutes I stepped forward and it took off. It was probably 12-14 inches in length. I walked about two feet further and there was another one about the same size. I played with that one for about 15 seconds before it took off. I was surprised that they did not spook when I came up on them. There was no way short of stepping on them that they wanted to move and they were not hungry at all.

Saturday arrived and Chips and I hit the Rush where he and Buick had some luck earlier in the year. We got nothing. We then moved over to El Paso and tried the same area I had fished on Wednesday and nothing there either. The water had risen about two feet and was cloudier than on Wednesday. Although we stuck out, it sounds like those who went to some of the smaller creeks had much more success. Next year I will know better.

It sure as fun to be out, although it was frustrating in the morning with the line and rod eyes icing up often.

With one tourney under our belt it is time to look ahead to the crappie tournament. As I am fortunate to keep my boat at home in my garage, I had done a little pre-inspection and noticed one roller on the trailer had a weld broken on it. I jacked up the boat to pull it off and need to take it in for welding. I am sure it is just one of many things to address on my boat this year. So, a word of warning to the Dog's... don't wait to the last minute to check things over. I have often heard the phrase a boat is like a hole in the water that you just keep throwing money into. Sometimes I have to agree with that.

There has been some discussion over various e-mails about the future scoring of the trout tournaments. The Analyst has brought up some good points about how to look at scoring in the future. If anyone is interested in a brief discussion on the topic and would like to stop by the VFW a little before our regular meeting time, I think it might be worth a little friendly discussion. It is certainly just talk at this point.

See everyone on Thursday. Same time, same place.

Lil' Angel

### **Skinny Water = Big Fish**

Twenty Waterdogs enjoyed relatively good weather at the first tournament of the year, plying the streams of Western Wisconsin for the elusive trout. Warmer temperatures earlier in the week caused the run-off to increase, and the water levels to rise, causing poor fishing in the main river sections. This was a change from just a few days earlier, when the pre-fishing was more successful in the more traditional spots. Waterdogs were forced to use other strategies in order to find clear water and catchable fish. Some did it, and others were shut out, but in the end, being mobile and versatile allowed teams to get on the board with some good fish.

In first place was the team of Shatner and the Analyst, who filled a card with brookies caught from the smaller South Fork of the Rush River, right in the town of River Falls. Their catch included the highest point-fish of the tournament, a 14" brookie, caught with minutes to spare in the tournament. This was an area that the team had pre-fished, and was the main spot they fished during the tournament.

In second place was the team of Fluffy and The Janitor, who also scored a card full of brookies by working several different streams until they connected with fish.

In third was the team of Farm Boy and FD, with a card of all browns caught from just one area on the Kinni, by highway 94. Farm Boy caught the largest fish of the tournament, a 17" brown. In fourth was the team of Helen and Nasty, with a mixed bag from several locations.

In fifth place was the team of Suzy and Chainsaw, with a short card of 8 fish, but good sizes of browns, and in Sixth was the team of The Perp and Mama's Boy, with ten brown trout, all caught within the last two hour of the event.



**Enjoying the Camaraderie at the Park-N-Fish**

We are in luck to have the five teams that caught limits of fish at the trout tournament tell their stories in this issue of the Dogumentary. It is interesting to see the different strategies that the teams used to find fish under difficult conditions. Thanks for your contributions!

### **Tales from the Trout Tournament**

#### **Analizing a Winning Strategy**

By The Analist

On our pre-fishing outings Kirk and I had located several pools on the South Fork of the Kinni holding lots of Brook Trout. We had actually stumbled on the location while driving by. While pre-fishing we could easily see pods of fish (20-50) holding in the deeper water and were able to catch them at will. However, as many of us found out during on the day of the tournament, water conditions had deteriorated considerably.

Upon arriving at our stream, water visibility was down to less than 1 foot (vs. being gin clear previously). We struggled to catch several fish over the first hour or two. We made several moves to try locate clearer water, but to no avail. We decided (mostly it was Kirk's idea) to stay put and keep working the areas in which we had previously located the pods of fish.

While I had a lot of success pre-fishing with a 3 inch Gulp leech on a small lead head jig with a hand-tied treble hook stinger, they

weren't going for it very well that day. I suspect this may have been due to the poor water clarity. As such, we caught most of our initial fish on #9 Rapalas and small silver-bladed spinners. We had our card filled out by approximately 1 pm, at which time we took a short lunch break and discussed our strategy for the remainder of the day. We decided to split up and work separate holes in an attempt to increase our average size.



**The 'Secret Angler' Catches Big Brookies on a Large Plastic Worm**

Fish activity really picked up after lunch. I believe Kirk stuck with the spinner/Rapala while I carried 2 rods and was switching lures (alternating between a spinner, a small Rapala, and my Gulp worm) every 5-10 minutes. My two largest fish (a 12 & 12 ½ inch Brook) came on a 6 inch natural colored Gulp worm on an 1/8 oz mushroom head jig with a hand-tied double treble stinger (I found out that this was legal by discussing the issue with the Trout specialist with the WI DNR). I caught my 18 inch brown pre-fishing with the Gulp leech. While working the holes I would catch several fish on one lure and then nothing. I would switch to a new lure and repeat the same scenario. Both of the larger fish came from areas in which I had already caught multiple fish with other lures, and they hit on the first cast with the worm. My thought was that the larger fish were more efficient predators than the smaller ones and by throwing them something larger I may get them to eat. I'm convinced it worked.

By day's end we had upgraded our average nicely (all ten above 9 inches). Kirk's last fish of the day turned out to be the largest...a 14 inch

Brookie. He called me on the phone and told me the good news. Then he said that he had forgot his camera and asked if I would come and take a picture of the fish as he figured no one in the club would believe it otherwise. With approximately 30 minutes left I made the 10 minute trek downstream and took a photo of the incredible fish. He had caught it from the same hole in which we had caught numerous others, but apparently a bit tighter to the bank (almost beneath some tree branches). He had fouled up his line catching the fish so he decided to stop for the day (I think he wanted to end it on a high note). I fished a bit more then we called it a day. An incredible end to what started out as a very difficult day.



**Shatner's 14" Brookie  
Highest Tournament Point Fish**

**Location, Location, Location!**  
By Perp

Mama's Boy and Perp began the day on the Rush at the 72 Bridge and fished upstream past the Ellsworth Gun Club. The water was fast and high, but not as high as it had been the day before. There were no fish to be had. We then moved up to El Paso and ran into Bud and Meat who not had any luck either. We fished at both ends of town, but again, nothing. We decided that the day called for drastic measures and something entirely different, so we drove up to the Willow north of Baldwin. The water looked

better, but another hour and a half and nothing to show for it. Our plan had been to end the day on the Kinni at the 94 Bridge, so we had a sandwich and drove to the bridge arriving about 1:30. FD and Farmboy were fishing there and gave us both good and bad news. The bad news was they had a full card and were culling. The good news was there were fish that could be caught. In the next 90 or so minutes we proceeded to fill our card with 10 browns. It had been a long frustrating day, but ended on a good note.

**A Tale of Two Schoolgirls**  
By Fluffee

Our day started like most everyone's; staring at a Rush-ing River of chocolate milk wondering where the heck the fish were. We put in at one of the bridges north of El Paso and spent entirely too much time breaking guide-ice and not even getting a bump. After almost 2 hours of slow going in what would otherwise be some of the most beautiful trout area around, we figured we needed to retool our approach. We decided to head further up river to where the amount of in-flow would less. We passed Griz's truck on the roadside and put in just upstream from there. Bumping in to Little Angel and Chips coming down stream, we were greeted with similar reports – bupkiss. Janitor and I had retied more times than we can imagine. We threw everything and then some; jig-and-a-twister, rapalas, panther martins, vibrax, you name it. Nothing. The day was half over and we needed fish soon. We decided to take our Plan B and retool it; look for even smaller water - a creek or brook. So off we drove.

We cruised by many creek access points, some were frozen over, some spots looked good but we were motivated to push on to one that Janitor had heard of in the vicinity of Elmwood. We found what we were looking for; a small, well running creek of clear green water. In a shaded spot by some trees we but in near the road crossing where the bridge abutment created a pool. Scrambling down about 6 foot of bank we were rewarded with two small sub-9 inch Brookies after a few casts. Janitor turns to me and comments something to the effect that "this is our spot". I head down stream about 15 yards to the next fishable stretch. I get a nine. A cast or two later yields my best fish of the day, an 11 ½ inch Brookie takes the bait. While I'm landing this fish Janitor is shouting down stream at me

“Eleven inches”! I’m shouting back “Eleven and a half”!

We meet up again with some-kind-of-eating grins on our faces. Janitor is at the top of the next pool and testifies that this is a multi fish hole. So he with his Panther and I with my jig proceed to strip about a half dozen Brookies from it. This is the beginning of a 2 hour joy ride that had us giggling like school girls by the end. We continued to proceed upstream, mostly shoulder to shoulder, taking all manner of Brook Trout from every turn. Deep banks, sandy bottoms, dark holes, fast rocks; they all yielded fish. They’d follow bait right up to our waders and hit. We’d spot them alongside us and sight-fish catch them. Incredible. We never switched from our original baits; they both continued to yield productive results equally.

By time it was near the quitting hour we had proceeded no more than a half mile up stream. We’d moved slowly and made contact with at least 60 fish; all Brookies and most in the 7 – 10 inch range. As we looked to quit, the canopy of trees gave way to open fields and the creek narrowed to the standard farm-stream you see so often. That was our signal – good place to end. We dropped a few more casts at our starting point before we left. Good thing too, as these yielded a 10 and 10 ½ that appears to have given us the narrowest of margins for victory.

### **Like Shooting Fish in a Barrel**

By FD

Farm Boy and I were partners for the trout tournament, and the weekend before, we got together to pre-fish some of the waters. We started pre-fishing on the Kinni by the 94 bridge and did OK for a few hours, and then went over to the Rush and enjoyed a couple of hours of skunktime. On the way home, we decided to start at the Kinni 94 spot, but were worried about all the possible competition for that rather small area, so we were working on strategies on how to deal with that. As it turned out, no one else went to that way upstream spot on the Kinni to start the tournament, so we had the area to ourselves for most of the day.

The action began slow, with the first fish coming after about a half-hour, and the second another half-hour later. But then, the action picked up and continued to improve through the morning. It got to the point where there were several times that we would catch fish on a few casts in a row, as we got to a count of 10 quickly, and were culling about two hours into the tournament. We even remarked that it was like shooting fish in a barrel, as you almost expected a fish on every cast. We used a variety of lures, and they all worked, but I got most of mine on a PM or Vibrax spinner, up to a 15.5”, and Farmy got most of his on a black jig with a grey tail, including his 17”. We caught some fish under the 94 bridge hotspot, but our most productive spots were about half-way between the access and the bridge. All our fish were browns, which was odd, because we had caught a few brookies there the week before.



**Farm Boy’s 17” Brown  
Largest Tournament Fish Caught**

In the end, we had a limit of 13” to 17” browns, and saw a heck of a lot of fish to get there. I don’t know how many fish we caught all together, but it was probably close to 1000. We almost were ready to move to another spot when the action slacked for a half-hour, but then realized that the day was almost gone, as it was already 1:30. So we worked the flatter area downstream from the access and even banged fish and upgraded our card in that barren looking stretch. That’s also when Perp and Mama showed up to share in the bounty.

## Helen and Nasty's trout run

By Nasty Boy

Helen and I started out at Cady Creek. While pre fishing the day before, I learned that the fast and stirred up water produced few fish while the smaller streams remained clear and active. We stopped at a spot that Andy Roth showed me. I had also caught many fish here during the pre-fish. Our goal was to fill our card, then go look for a big one. By 9am and at my second pool, I already had nine counters. I pulled out to see if Helen was also into the fish....he wasn't. I showed him my lure and explained how I was fishing. [which was what...?] Immediately Helen started catching a few. By 9:30 am we had a full card with six brook trout and five browns. All of our brook trout were 9 or 9.5 inches. We caught many many, many brook trout that were 8 inches. I did have a 13 inch brown on the card. As planned we moved, hoping for bigger fish. We stopped by the spot south of El Paso on the Rush. After a conversation with Dr Meat and Bud we decided to move on. Next stop was the Eau Galle. The spot looked awful from the bridge but the water was clear. We decided to give it 20 minutes. Within a minute or two I had a 16.5 inch brown. I went back and got Helen and we decided to stay. The browns were there and biting. We caught quite a few with others in the 12-14 inch range. We had what we though was very good card with the nice browns and some brookies. We caught fish all day (both brook and brown trout) except for our quick stop at the Rush. What a great day to be on the stream. My suggestion for the tournament committee in 2008 is to have a split card allowing only half of the fish to be brooks and half to be browns. Similar to how

we handle the Northern/Musky tournaments. That venue will reinforce multi species and will make fisherman try new streams and techniques.

### *Fish'n Funnies*

*A woman goes into Wal-mart to buy a rod and reel. She doesn't know which one to get, so she just grabs one and goes over to the register. There is a Wal-mart associate standing there with dark glasses on. She asks, "Excuse me sir. Can you tell me anything about this rod and reel?"*

*He says, "Ma'am I'm blind, but if you drop it on the counter I can tell you everything you need to know about it from the sound that it makes." She didn't believe him, but dropped it all on the counter anyway.*

*He said "That's a 6' graphite rod with Zebco 202 reel and 10 lb. test line. It's a good all around rod and reel, and it's \$20." She says, "That's amazing that you can tell all that just by the sound of it dropping on the counter. I think it's what I'm looking for, so I'll take it."*

*He walks behind the counter to the register. And in the meantime, the woman farts. At first she is embarrassed, but then realizes that there is no way he could tell it was she. Being blind, he wouldn't know that she was the only person around.*

*He rings up the sale and says, "That will be \$25.50."*

*She asks, "But didn't you say it was \$20?"*

*He says, "Yes ma'am, the rod and reel is \$20, the duck call is \$3, and the catfish stink bait is \$2.50!"*

## 2008 Waterdogs Tournament Series

Date	Species	Lake	Dogs in Charge
✓3/15	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 (Friday)	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