

The Dogumentary

28th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

April 2010

April Meeting

The April meeting will be at **Tuttles Grill** and bowling alley on Shady Oak Road. The March experience was a good one with the better facilities, food and hospitality than we have grown used to at the VFW. Our waitress 'Dimples' got a kick out of learning our handles, and even bestowed the new handle of "Caveman" on brother Raymo.

Our April speaker will be Ron Schara who will talk about to get a good deal on having your pet fish cremated and other topics of current interest.

*From the Desk of the President,
Brian Karsjens – 'The Perp'*



2010 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Apr 1 | Monthly Meeting |
| Apr 10 | Trout Tournament (4/17 alt) |
| May 1 | Crappie Tournament (5/8 alt) |
| May 6 | Monthly Meeting |
| June 3 | Monthly Meeting |
| June 5-6 | Walleye Tournament |
| June 18-19 | Bass Tournament |
| July 8 | Monthly Meeting |
| July 24-31 | Rock n Roll Musky Tour |
| Aug 5 | Monthly Meeting |
| Aug 28 | Multispecies Tournament |
| Sep 2 | Monthly Meeting |
| Sep 18 | Multispecies Tournament |
| Oct 7 | Monthly Meeting |
| Nov 4 | Banquet |
| Dec 2 | Monthly Meeting |

See the last page for 2010 Tourney Details

I was at a family event the other day and my aunt asked me what was my favorite fish to catch. Before I could answer, my wife said that it was the musky. I thought about why she would answer that way and how I would have answered.

Musky fishing does have a level of excitement that is unique. For me it is not something I do often, so when I do catch one, I tend to talk more about it. More so than with any other species, fishing doesn't mean catching. A musky more than any other fish I can think of is totally unpredictable in when and if it will strike. It may decide to hit the moment the lure hits the water, or it may be a two-crank Shorty, or it may come from nowhere and hit half way back to the boat or on a figure eight. Sometimes it shows itself and follows the lure, causing the heart to start beating faster, and still it may or may not hit. You never know when during the retrieve to expect it. You always have to be ready and on guard. Sometimes you can fish for days and not catch or see one. The

suspense and surprise factor make musky fishing special.

I thought about fishing for pike and how much fun that can be. Well, that is unless it is a little slimmer stealing your bait. It hits hard and gives a good fight. The northern pike was the first big fish I ever caught and I always enjoy catching them. Besides, they make a good meal.

Then there is the walleye. I wish I were a better walleye fisherman. I find it to be elusive. It seems there are more ways to fish for walleyes than almost any other species. Do I use a jig and bobber with a leech, or a minnow? Do I drift or slowly troll a live bait rig across the bottom, or should I use something artificial. Do I troll with a Hot'n Tot, or a Rapala or a Thin Fin? If drifting or bobber fishing, how long do I let the walleye take the bait before setting the hook? Lots of questions and even more answers. It sure is fun to catch a nice walleye or two, and especially nice when there are enough for a meal.

Spending an evening or afternoon with kids or other family members on a nice crappie hole is a lot of fun. A nice sized crappie is a lot of fun to catch and it puts up a good fight. If the time and location is right, you can spend more time taking fish off hooks than actually fishing.

I enjoy fishing for largemouth bass. There is nothing like having one explode on a frog or popper. It is also fun when a big bass slowly picks up a worm and you just feel a little extra weight on the line and wonder should I set the hook or should I wait.

I grew up catching small mouth bass on the river. The fight that the smallie gives is so exciting. It doesn't seem to matter if it is a big fish or a small one; they all give a great fight. Whether it is on a spinner, or a top water plug or a worm, I always enjoy fishing for small mouth bass.

But then there is winter and spring trout fishing. Along with musky fishing, this is something that I have started doing since joining the club. Spending a sunny day on a trout stream tossing spinners with ultra light gear has become a favorite of mine. I look forward to

this time of year and looking for a nice brown or brook trout.

My answer to my aunt's question would be more like "It depends on what I was fishing for that day." That is one of the reasons I so enjoy the Waterdogs Multi-species Fishing Club. Every species is special and fun to catch. I guess I don't really have just one favorite.

Perp.

Get Ready for Trout

Part of the fun of fishing is being ready to go and make that first cast without having to do a lot of maintenance and planning at the stream or lake. Getting ready early can make for a better day on the water. Here are some tips for what to bring and how to get ready for the upcoming trout tournament.

Bring two rods – a main rod and a spare. Small panfish-style spinning rods work best in the tight quarters that you are often casting in for trout, and it's also easier to carry when walking through the woods. Bring a spare rod that's ready to go in case of breakage, and also any spare spools that you may have and string them up in advance. Some guys even bring 3 rods with a lighter rod for mostly jigs, and another for spinners.

Line should be 6 pound test at most, with 4 pound being the most versatile for throwing different baits. Line twist will happen after casting jigs and spinners for a few hours, and the braided lines seem to hold up the best through this rough treatment. I use 4lb Fireline Crystal.

Here's a tip to do at home to straighten your line out for fishing: Walk off or cast a long length of line out on your driveway and cut the lure off. Then close the bail and pinch the line between your fingers and walk to the end of the line while it unwinds in front of you. After a couple of 'walks' it will be straight again and you can reel it up. Now you're good for a few hours of tangle-free fishing. When you're out afield you can straighten your line by letting it out downstream without a lure, and then reel it back up, or if you're walking in an open area let it out and drag it behind you for a bit to take out the twist.

Lures to bring are jigs that are 1/32 – 1/16 oz, and small twister tails of 1”-2”. Gulp grubs are real effective. Spinners that work best are the Panther Martin and Vibrax spinners in the 00, 0, and 1 sizes. Sometimes dark colors work best and sometimes flashy colors are better, so you’ll have to switch around depending on the weather and the water. Some Dogs also throw standard Rapalas in the silver or gold colors in sizes from 2” to 4”. There may be a time that they will work, so you might as well bring a couple. And of course, some really unorthodox methods may also be effective, like The Analyst’s bass-sized multi-treble hook worms from last year. You may wish to experiment, but the odds are probably more in your favor with the standard stuff.

Other things to remember to bring are:

- Small needle-nose pliers
- Scissors or line cutter
- Your Waterdogs measuring board
- Camera
- Bottled water and a portable snack
- Fingerless gloves
- Waterproof marker

Be sure to take a picture of your partner and any “Board Member” trout that he catches.

2010 Waterdogs Tournament Series

The Adventure Begins!

| Date | Species | Location | Dogs in Charge |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Saturday, April 10 (4/17alt) | Trout | WI Rivers | Fluffy, Caveman |
| Saturday, May 1 (5/8 alt) | Crappie | Minnetonka | Bananarama |
| Sat-Sun, June 5-6 | Walleyes | St Louis River | Chips |
| Fri-Sat, June 18-19 | Bass | Carver Co Lakes | Nasty, Felix |
| Saturday, August 28 | Multispecies | Lake Alexander | Janitor |
| Saturday, Sep 18 | Multispecies | Mississippi Pool 2 | Suzy, Shatner |