

The Dogumentary

30th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

April 2012

April 5th Meeting

The April meeting is at the usual digs of Tuttle's Bowl and Grill where the shoes are multi-colored and the onion rings are juicy. Some also endorse the sundaes. Our speaker will be Bill Scherck from the TV show Due North Outdoors and he will discuss trout fishing among other topics. The meeting starts at 7, with dinner and member mingling starting at 6pm.

2012 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

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

Upcoming Speakers:

May: Todd Dankert – Former Waterdog

June: Open – looking for Bass speaker

July: Robb Kimm – Muskies on LOTW

August: Herman Fasbender – Former Dog
St Croix River

From the Desk of the President, Greenstick – Dave Haberle



So far this year, the temperatures have been wonderfully unseasonably warm, many have put the snow blower away in favor of gassing up the lawn mower as the grass is starting to green-up, and our first event of 2012 is already behind us. Many congrats to all club members who were able to enjoy a warm and breezy day in search of the wily Wisconsin trout! While I'll leave all the details of that day to the stories that (hopefully) will also appear here, I'd like to wish the Analist and Todd Bollig special congratulations on lapping the field... (I won't... but I said *I'd like to**) However, I will share a couple recent reflections...

Five years ago I was awarded my club handle for my tremendously inept trout fishing skills. I was originally teamed with Helen and Banana boy, but after some team reorganizing that morning, I found I was paired with Bud

because Griz (Bud's partner) had become ill. I vaguely recall it had something to do with someone named Montezuma... but that's another story. I didn't know anybody in the club at that time – I'd only attended a couple of the monthly meetings. Bud and I had a great time that day – we didn't catch many fish, Bud took a little unexpected swim, and I had a couple brief bouts with gravity, resulting in the double compound fracture of my left leg (gravity won). Even now, five years hence, my physician reminds me that my leg will never be as strong as it once was and that trout fishing for me might remain a memory.

So a couple weeks ago while most of you were out working Wisconsin's trout streams, I used the day to ready my boat for the season. I opened the garage door to enjoy the warm breeze and put away all the Christmas lights that were laying on top of the boat; I removed the boat cover and re-mounted the Lowrance units, the marine radio and the stereo, charged the batteries and cleaned it out, all the while reminiscing back to the wonderful fun I had trout fishing five years ago (until the gravity thing, that is)... When about 1:30 p.m. came around I thought about how everyone was probably racing toward the restaurant with score sheets in hand, muddy boots on feet, smiles on faces, maybe some sunburned cheeks and ears and quite possibly one or more Wisconsin highway patrol cars with lights flashing away... I missed hearing the laughter that always fills the air after one of our events, and the calls across the table -- "How'd you guys do?" I even missed the moans and groans about the trout that broke off. And I thought to myself, "what a great group of guys this club has" and once again realized how fortunate I am to be a member.

And THEN I remembered that I'm not fishing the *second* trout event, either, and so I ask, could this be the excuse I've been waiting for to buy another boat?!?!?

Anyway, I want to put a couple things on your radar screens. Our April meeting will host speaker/writer **Bill Scherck** of the popular television show, ***Due North Outdoors*** who'll talk to us about trout and smallies, or maybe it was small trout... I can't remember... At our May meeting, we'll be repairing rods & reels after our speaker and short business meeting, so start scoping-out your neighborhood spring garage sales for used fishing gear that can be

fixed up. And lastly, please remember that we have a member who does not yet have a handle; be ever alert for that single, most opportune moment when an appropriate handle pops into mind...

-Greenstick

*April Fools!

All You Can Eat at the 336-Foot Seafood Buffet

The first trout tournament of the year was a new venue that counted every fish caught by all teams, no matter how small. Brown and Brook trout were counted equally in a contest that had "total Inches" as the goal. The winning strategies came down to finding a brook trout stream that was loaded with small fish, and then catch as many of them as possible without spooking the school.



The club was spread out over a large area of Western Wisconsin, but the best results were achieved on Cady Creek and the South Fork of the Hay River, where the tournament was won by the Analyst and Todd Bollig. Their total of 121 brook trout in a 6.5-hour tournament amounted to a fish every 3.2 minutes, not counting drive time and walking time.

Todd also caught the largest fish of the tournament, a 14" brook trout, from the Hay, and a 13.5" brookie was caught by Farm Boy

in Cady Creek. For browns, the biggest was an 18" caught by Griz, but it was not a tournament where catching big fish was the deciding factor.



The top baits were jigs with assorted trailers, small spinners, mostly Panther Martins, and Rapalas. Generally, smaller was better, as that was easier for the smaller trout to bite and stay stuck. The smallest fish caught were 4 brookies of 3" each, caught by the team of Nasty-Chips.

In all, the club caught 475 trout at the tournament, for a total length of 4038 inches, which is 336.5 feet of colorful dotted fish. The average size was right at 8.5", with more fish caught that were smaller than that, than larger. There were 384 brook trout caught, and 89 browns, which is a 4:1 ratio of brooks-to-browns. There were also two rainbow trout caught by the team of Carmen-Banana, out of the Rush River.



The relatively short hours for the tournament left little time to explore, and limited most teams to one or two streams within easy driving access.

The next tournament will count just the 2 largest brookies and 2 largest browns per team, for a complete change of tactics from Trout Tournament I.

Team Bystrom and Bollig take a Big Bite at the “All You Can Eat” Tourney.

By: The Analyst

While I had hoped to do some pre-fishing the week prior to the tournament I ended up taking my son back up to LOTW (Angle Outpost) during his spring break the week of the tourney. Our strategy for the day was to target Brookies as even though they clearly run smaller than Browns, on a good stream we figured we could easily catch them 2:1 over the Browns. With the S. Fork of the Kinni out of play and the Cady likely to be elbow to elbow with Dogs (been there, done that), we decided to fish a stream I had pre-fished 3 years ago; the South Fork of the Hay in Barron County. My fishing log book from 2009 noted I had caught a lot of Brookies, but that they tended to run on the small side so—for this reason I had not been back to the stream up ‘til now. Further assisting our decision to go there was that it was one of the few sections of streams in the entire Western part of state of WI that Shatner had not yet been to (that is likely to change in short order...).

With a carefree attitude me and my “trout tourney virgin” arrived at our stream promptly around 7:45 am. For our first test run we decided to fish for 1 hour and meet back at the truck to compare notes. I went upstream and Todd went down. I started the day with a small spinner (size 0 Panther Martin) as it is a great search lure, but the fish wouldn’t even look at it. I then switched to over to my standby 1/16 oz jig and Gulp Leech (with stinger of course) and immediately caught fish. Most of the fish came from the heads of small pools just below the rapids. Around 9 am we met back at the truck and compared notes: Mark 9, Todd 15; not a bad start, especially if we could keep up the current rate. Todd had been using a 1/16 marabou jig (naked) and had landed what was the biggest fish of the day (a 14” Brookie), however he had failed to read the rules and forgot to take a photo (that’ll teach him to pay attention to details).

With a good start to the day we decided to stick on the Hay. I stuck with my jig and Gulp leech for most of the day, but did catch one fish on a small Rapala and a couple on the Panther Martin as I worked my way back to the truck and plied previously fished waters. Todd

began with his marabou jig(s) but switched over to the proven 1/16 oz lead head jig (white) tipped with a Gulp Leech after losing his only three black and one pink marabou ones. Todd spent the majority of the afternoon at just one hole. While the hole was full of hungry fish, getting at them wasn’t easy. The fish were located upstream of a fallen tree and the only affective way of getting at them was to kneel on a high bank crouched beneath the limbs of trees (which ate numerous jigs) and attempt to make accurate casts without getting hung up. Near the end of the day he tried several different locations around his honey hole, but was only able to catch a few; kneeling and casting beneath the tree limbs turned out to be the only affective way.

At the end of the day we tallied up our catch; 121 fish, or 1,048.5 inches--we figured we had a good shot at placing highly. However, we were unsure about team Shatner as he Kirk spends so much time on these WI streams I think he has started naming the fish. In the end our 87.375 feet of fish were enough to put us in first place. Team Nasty & Chips put up a good show with 100 fish, but thankfully their fish ran much smaller than ours. Also thanks to Nasty for deciding to abandon the Cady for another stream late in the day--leaving the schools of biting Brookies at his feet for alternate unproven waters (just another 51 fish out of the Cady and we would have placed second). Oh well, there’s always next year...

LOTW Update:

At this writing we have 14 Dogs who have made their deposit for the annual trip. This is the lowest count for the tip since the third year of the tour, when 16 attended. That was 22 years ago.

Going are Felix, Shorty, Sticky Fingers, Janitor, FD, Griz, Kojak, Perp, Puddin’ Man, Chips, Dr. Meat, Carmen, Dr. Uno, and Banana Boy. A few more are still “maybes”.

We remind those going on the trip to make sure your 1. Passport, and 2. Ontario Outdoors Card are current, and that you obtain your 3. Remote Area Border Crossing Permit and 4. your non-resident fishing license.

Carmen

Tackle Tips from Teminal Tuna

Here are some tips gleaned from various members over the past few months to make your fishing better and easier.

- From Fluffee comes “Polarized Shooting Glasses”, which are light-colored polarized lenses that work well in low-light conditions when the traditional fishing glasses are too dark. They are available at Cabela’s for around \$50, and probably elsewhere.

- For some trout fishing, try a small cross-lock clip if you like to change lures frequently. They make a very small one that will even work with a jig. The only problem is that if you break off, it’s another 6 cents down the drain.

- When casting for trout, engage the bail with your hand, rather than using the handle crank. Each time that you turn the handle before the bail flips, it puts an extra twist in your line and after an hour you’ve got a cluster on your hands. Try flipping the bail with your hand, which also allows more control by “feathering” the line as it goes out, and see if your days of twisting are over.

- Hemostats are for doctors, pot-smokers, and fly fishermen, as they are good at removing #24 bead-heads from the fleshy part of a trout’s mouth. But if you use regular lures with real hooks, try a small 4” needle-nose pliers for hook removal. You will find that it fits your hand better and gives you better leverage for removing hooks than a scissor-style remover.

- If you are going to replace your Camera, consider a water-proof model that would be more appropriate for your fishing and other outdoor uses. Both the Analist and Shatner have been using new cameras that allow for underwater shots and these cameras are much more durable that a regular camera. It eliminates the need to keep your camera in a water-proof bag while fishing. And, you can take shots like this:



But you have to catch the fish first.

Spring Break up North II

By: the Analyst.

While still not back to 100% from my recent back surgeries, after 3 months in the house (and much of that time spent in bed) I was feeling cooped up and dying to get out and do some fishing. So like last year I booked my son and I for 3 days of fishing back at the Angle Outpost.

Day 1:

After a hot breakfast at Jerrys we were loaded into the Tracked Bombers and shuttled out onto the 30 inches of remaining ice. Our guide brought us to the west side of Lunatic Island—which lies several miles south and west of Oak Island. The house was located in 14 foot of water. After 2 hours of fishing, and not even seeing so much as a hint of a fish on our locaters, I put a call into Jason and requested a move. About 45 minutes later we were brought to a lone house on a reef located closer to Oak Island. I think we had our first fish on even before I could get our 4 lines set—an obviously good sign. Like last year we were set up with a jig on one line and a bobber/dead stick line on the other. We were using what has become my go-to ice jig rig, which is a Buckshot jig with the treble replaced with a 3” drop line tied to a small #12 treble and a minnow head. We caught the majority of our fish this day on the jig. While I didn’t keep tabs the first day we likely landed more than 50 fish; the evening bite was crazy!

Day 2:

After talking with the other fisherman the prior evening and hearing they did poorly on the reef we decided to stick with our house from the previous day. We used the same jig set up again today, however, I adjusted the bobber set ups to keep the minnow just 3" off the bottom (as opposed to approximately 12" the day before) in light of the fish's reluctance to come off the bottom when working them on our jigs. While we still caught the majority of the fish on the jigs, we did much better on the bobber set ups today. At the end of the day we landed a total of 62 fish: 42 Walleyes (with a 22" and 23" fish being the largest), 13 Saugers 2 Perch (including a 13 incher by my son), 4 Tulibee, 1 Eel pout and 1 31" Pike. A great day to say the least!



Day 3:

Same house, same techniques, improved results. Things slowed down a bit during the afternoon today, however, the time was filled with "exciting" games of War—at my son's request. While statistically the odds of winning are 50/50, things did not play out this way on our trip. On the prior two days I think my son had lost 5 in a row, so today he was bound and determined to win one. On our 4th game the tide finally turned and he won; the cards were put away and our attention was once again focused on our locaters. Our final day turned out to be our best yet, 88 fish, including: 67 Walleyes (a pair of 20"-ers our best), 13 Sauger, 3 Perch, 1 29" Pike and 4 Tulibee.



In summary another great trip at the Angle. While I realize a lot of the Dogs are not ice fisherman, you are really missing out on a lot of fun. If you use a guide service like the one available at the AO Lodge, it's really quite simple: a few short rods, your walleye reels from summer, some slip bobbers and hooks & a handful of jigs. Give it a try and I *almost* guarantee you'll be back...

2012 Tournament Schedule

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")