

The Dogumentary

23rd Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

June 2005

Next Meeting – River Rats

The next club meeting is Thursday, June 2 at the Hopkins VFW with dinner at 6pm, and the meeting beginning at 7:00.

For the seminar this month, we will have two presentations. First, Mike Leopold, a Prior Lake resident, will talk about fishing for catfish and other species in the Minnesota River. Mike will talk about where to fish, and how to fish, for the big cats. He will be followed by Chris "Dr. Sticky" Downey and John "Dr. Meat" Schaffhausen, who will talk about how to protect yourself from sunburn and the long-term affects of exposing your skin to the sun.

For the July meeting, we will have a presentation from a Thorne Brothers expert about fishing for muskies at the Northwest Angle. We will be meeting at the Thorne Brothers store in Fridley for this pre-LOW pep talk.

Days Until LOTW Countdown:

57

President's Corner: Doug Squire



Well, the 2005 fishing opener for me will be a memorable one. I drove 2.5 hours south, not north like most of the fisherman, to Winona MN. The day was kind cool at 45 degrees and kind of off and on rain, but that wasn't an issue. I spent 3 hours in the St. Mary's University gymnasium with elbow-to-elbow people watching my daughter Kelsey's graduation. If you have had a son or daughter graduate you know what I mean, a very proud moment and one I will not forget. It definitely beat out sitting in a boat at least for that day anyway.

The Sunday of opening weekend I called the group of guys on Mille Lacs where I usually attend for the update. I had the boat loaded and ready to go, but I wanted to hear the report first. As of Sunday at 10:00AM only about six fish caught among 15 guys or so. The lake was plenty windy and cold water at 47 degrees

The 2005 Waterdog Calendar Gentlemen, Mark You Calendars!

June 2	Monthly Meeting
June 4-5	Walleye Tourney
June 24 (Fri)	Multi-S Tourney
July 7	Monthly Meeting
July 23-30	RockNRoll Musky Tour
Aug 4	Monthly Meeting
Aug 20	Bass Tourney
Sep 1	Monthly Meeting
Sep 17	Musky/Pike Tourney
Oct 6	Monthly Meeting
Oct 15	Wissota Outing
Nov 3	Banquet – Biaggi's

Tournament details are on the last page.

and rain. With that fine report it didn't take long for me to decide bag the opening weekend, as the weather didn't look any better for the balance of the day.

Chomping at the bit to wet a line I at least got a chance to get out on Tonka last Saturday. I got out about 6:00AM with overcast conditions and light winds. I headed out to the reefs near Big Island, I had only one other boat out there with me. I graphed a few fish so I threw in a jig and leech. I drifted around a bit with just one small bit. A few more boats ended up joining me, why I don't know because nothing much was going on. I then moved over to Brackets point, not a boat over there but I tried it any way. Not long after I got there it started to rain and wind picked up big time out on the south east. I had at least a nice drift down the point as long as I had a drift sock out and trolling motor slowing me down a bit. I made a couple of drifts then I swear every boat on the lake was on Brackets point I spent the next hour or so moving into different depths and only picked up one 3 lb northern. In the three plus hours out on the lake I didn't see another fish caught, so needless to say a rather slow day.

I hope you guys at least got a chance to get on the water, from the reports I heard not to many fish were being caught opening. The first week of June might be just about right for a good walleye bite, so the guys headed to Duluth on June 4th weekend my guess is that it will be a successful tourney.

Mamas Boy

Richard's Dirty Little Secret

Richard 'Old Fart' Anderson has been on the winning trout tournament team for all of three years that we have held a trout tournament. Part of his secret is that he has been practicing and pre-fishing, and learning more about where and how to catch the wily trout, and by his account has been trout fishing ten times this year alone. I also discovered another OF secret, and that's the amazingly good fishery that is available at Hay Creek, just south of Red Wing. On Monday, May 9, I (Fishdick) and OF went to Hay Creek after work, starting to fish at 4:15, and stayed until it was too dark to see, at 8:15. During that 4-hour time, we caught and released 60 brown trout (23 for FD and 37 for OF) on spinners. That's a rate of

one fish caught every four minutes, and for each one that was caught, at least 3 or more hit and missed. Rick has repeated these results on several other occasions on Hay Creek this year.

The key to Hay Creek's success seems to be the large amount of wood and rock structure that is in the water, much more so than you find on the Root or Whitewater. There are barely any empty areas where there are no fish, so playing 'leap-frog' with your partner means that you are still fishing close together. The fish are all browns, and about 20% of them were near 10" or over. The water is as small as some of the creeks that feed the Root, but the fish density is much higher.

According to the DNR map, there are 7 miles of poor trout water and 7 miles of good trout water on Hay Creek. No doubt the upstream half is the better choice. The creek may be too small to host a club tournament, but if you're looking for a lot of action and practice it sure will give you that. And, it's only half as far away as some of those other more famous streams, and could also be a good spot throughout the summer. Several other Dogs have also fished the Hay with success this year. When are you going?



Ricky with another Big Brownie

Fishing With Kids Is A Wonderful Experience, Cuts And All.

By Helen Keller

My wife, 3 year old daughter Annika, 1 1/2 year old son Sam, and I traveled north to the Whitefish Chain for a weekend family get-away. We got on the road just in time to catch the rush hour traffic, but still got the boat launched for an evening of walleye fishing.

PETA would be happy with our efforts, as we didn't harass a fish that first evening.

Anyways, to make a long story short, the following day was windy, making the big lakes of the chain un-fishable. So we decided to take the kids out and catch some crappies. We packed up for an afternoon of fun (with enough stuff to last 3 weeks) and boated off to a small, protected lake on the northeast side of the chain.

The kids were in a great mood, enjoying a bumpy ride and a Bald Eagle flying over-head. We arrived a 1/2 hour later and began to search the lake for the warmest water. 56° F... 58° F... 61° F, that's it, let's start here, I say. We tossed out some crappie minnows with slip bobbers and began our quest. The kids are doing great I thought, as they watched the bobber float in the crystalline water.

About 5 minutes later, a bobber slips under the water and I catch a 14 inch bass. The kids were delighted, each petting the fish and laughing while it slipped back into the water. Catch another! catch another! they scream as they bounce around the boat.

A few minutes later, my bobber disappears under the water. I set the hook and catch a small Northern. I boat the fish and it hold up for the kids to look at, I repeat - look at. In a moment of parental bliss, my wife and I watch the kids giggle happily at the spotted green fish (now named spot).

Being the curious one, Sam wanted a closer inspection. In a flash, he reaches toward Spot's toothy mouth. Spot, also being curious decides to inspect Sam's fingers more closely. Sam, a bit surprised, let's out a "fish is biting me scream", a scream we had not heard before, and suddenly we have a "situation".

After a few expletives fly (the kind that your kids will repeat when company visits), I hand the fish to my wife and pry *&\$#@ Spot's mouth open. Sam is released from the toothy grip and the fish somehow finds its way back into the water. Within minutes, however, the moment of terror is forgotten as my wife's bobber slips under the water.

FISH ON, THEY SCREAM!!
Helen

Canadian Opener 2005

By Carmen

Shorty and I were invited by business associates to spend the Canadian opener at the Silver Muskie Lodge and Outpost on Redgut Bay of Rainy Lake. We drove up together Friday, May 20, and got to the Lodge by mid-afternoon with partly cloudy sky. We did some pre-fishing that afternoon using jigs and minnows but did not boat many fish while other members of the group did find some walleyes near Turtle River. We heard that the crappies were hot at the North end of Spawn Inlet so we went up there for awhile and I caught one about 11". There were several boats in the area but we did not notice anyone having any serious action. Shorty had decided not to bring his boat, much to the delight of several rocks in the area, but fishing in a 16' boat with a 15 horse motor got him rather frustrated. I heard "I should have brought my boat" several times as we crawled our way from one spot to another. One fellow from South Dakota discovered bottom bouncers worked very well.

Saturday morning was overcast and threatening rain. We fished Perry Straits for a couple of hours and caught small walleyes under the slot. We decided to try Cliff Narrows which is on the way to Turtle River and Spawn Inlet. On the way is a group of islands and one has a rock just above the surface about 30 feet off the northeast point. Someone has placed a 55 gallon steel drum on the rock and the spot is known as "The Barrel." Last year a 30" walleye and a 40+ musky had been caught there. So we had to try it. Shorty threw his jig onto the rock shelf near the shore of the island and landed a 20" smallie. His first reaction was "That's going up on the wall." We took photos and measured the girth at 15". We returned to the Lodge for breakfast and while we were there the rain started. Shorty found the dart board and challenged me to a game. I suggested we open up the bottle of single malt Scotch to make it interesting. We played all afternoon until supper when we noticed that half the bottle was gone and we could barely find our way to the dining table. By the way, Shorty plays darts very well even if he can hardly stand up.

On Sunday we were scheduled to fly in to the outpost on Trout Lake. The low ceiling kept

the plane on the ground until mid-afternoon. We made the best of it by visiting the Barrel – nobody home. By Sunday afternoon we were at the outpost. It is a two-room cabin that until this year had no electricity other than a solar powered pump to bring water to the door. This year we were spoiled by solar powered electric lights that made a huge difference in comfort. We lit the old gas lamps for comparison and we surprised what we used to think was good lighting. The fishing was slow and we were chased off the lake by a heavy rainstorm that I hoped was a sign the system was moving out. I was right and the skies began clearing but the fishing was still irregular.

There are two spots to fish on Trout for early walleyes. One is called Crow Rock and it is traditionally a place where you can find your limit pretty quickly. Not the case on Sunday afternoon, but we hoped they would turn on Monday like they did last year. The other spot is called Crackshot, where the Crackshot River enters into the lake. There is a small hole at the mouth of the river that occasionally holds fish but has not been very productive for the last few years. On Monday, under clear skies and no wind, six guys (there were a total of 8 in our group) all decided to try Crackshot. It is not a very big spot so Shorty and I went to Crow Rock. WRONG! Those six guys limited out in less than two hours with several walleyes pushing 20". We got zip. Shorty and I went to Crackshot after breakfast and the bite was over. The rest of the day was spent hunting trying different techniques. We had limited success with Lindy rigs and floating jigs but nothing like we have been accustomed to. Still, we all got limits, ate our fill, and brought some home.

Rock 'n' Roll Musky Tour Update

By Suzy

It's less than 60 days until we head up north for the annual Rock 'n' Roll Musky Tour!

As of this issue, we continue to hold steady at 28 Dogs and guests. Guests include former Dogs Chris "Southern Man" Covert and Paul "Hadji" Schweppe. Other guests include Colin "Little Fart" Anderson, Bryan "Bomber" Squire, and Fluffy's friend Glen "Mayo" Sturchio.

The trip booklet is being edited and will be finalized for the July meeting. The booklet will feature a table of muskies caught between 2000 - 2004 (except for 2001, for which we are missing most of the data), based on location and size. It's interesting to see which spots consistently turn out fish, year after year.

The list of cabin mates will be distributed at the June meeting to allow each cabin to start making preparations for the trip.

Shirts and hats are in. Stocking caps will be in later in June. Fluffy has mixed up a masterful brew of tunes based on the names of big muskies (50+ inches) caught so far, or that we fantasize about catching. A number of Dogs also have placed orders for the Muskies on the Shield book, written by musky guide Dick Pearson. All of this stuff will be handed out at the July meeting at Thorne Brothers.

For the rookies joining us on the Tour this year, namely Dr. Meat, the Perp, and Rocky, all Dogs are invited to bring in their used musky lures and donate a lure to each rookie to help them build up their stock of proven musky-catching baits. Please bring your lures to the June meeting.

Side note:

I spoke with Dave and Jessica Fandrich last week about the upcoming trip. They want to give our group a heads up that gas will be in the \$2.75 to \$3 range this year. Last August, a local man who delivered gas to them and all of the other resorts at the Angle was killed in an airplane crash. His wife has taken over the business and is trying to keep the business running. Between this situation and the fluctuating gas prices, we should be prepared to pay more for gas this year.

Dear Suzy by Steve Dupont



Dear Suzy: With our upcoming tournament on the St. Louis River, if we catch an exotic species such as a goby, ruffe or zebra mussel, what is the proper thing to do -- put them back into the water or dispose of them at the landing? *Duluth-Bound*

Dear Duluth-Bound: I checked with the Minnesota DNR on this question. The answer is not exactly clear and I will update the Club when I learn more. But for now, here's the rationale: Because exotic species cannot be transported, you have no choice but to toss them back into the water after you catch them.

Dear Suzy Q,

I've always wondered about this: After a day of crappie or walleye fishing with live bait such as minnows or leeches, if I have any left-over bait that is still alive, should I dump the remaining live bait into the lake or river water or dispose of them in another way? **Dumper**

Dear Dumper: According to the Minnesota DNR, it is illegal to dump live bait into Minnesota waters. Even if you have live bait left over, you should either attempt to keep them alive for more fishing fun, or toss them into the garbage or your garden.

Dear Suzee,

How can I beat Griz? *Nasty As I Wanna Be*

Dear NAIWB: Great question, as I've wondered that myself -- many times. And I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking that either. The one thing I really appreciate about the Griz is that he's fairly open in sharing information. Go back to the December 2004 issue of the Dogumentary, for example, Griz shares his thoughts about how he approaches each tournament and the entire season, for that matter. And look for an article by the Griz in the upcoming LOTW trip booklet, for which he contributed his top 10 tips to catching more muskies. Short of tailpiping Griz during a tournament, I would strongly suggest you follow his own advice -- study the lake/river that you're going to fish; make time to pre-fish a tournament; talk to other Dogs; carefully observe what others are doing; and be confident in your approach but flexible enough to change when things don't work out.

Dear Suzaroo:

Can you get ticketed from a conservation officer for peeing off the side of your boat? *Peed Off*

Dear Peed Off: According to Jason Abraham, a DNR information officer, citations written to anglers who dispose of urine in state waters have been upheld in court. The statute, 97c.056, states that a person may not dispose of any substance in state waters, or allow any substance to enter state waters, in quantities that injure or are detrimental to the propagation of wild animals or taint the flesh of wild animals.

Waterdogs 2005 Tournament Series

Mark Your Home and Work Calendars and Let's Go!

Date	Species	Location	Dogs in Charge
✓ April 16 (Sat)	Trout	Root River (Preston-Forestville area)	Mueller – Keller
✓ April 30 (Sat)	Crappie	Prior Lake	Dupont – Karsjens
June 4-5 (Sat-Sun)	Walleye	St Louis River – Duluth	Hennessey – Miller
June 24 (Fri)	Multi-species	Minnetonka	Blakely – Ferstenou
Aug 20 (Sat)	Bass	Rush Lake by Rush City	Lantto – Johnson
Sep 17 (Sat)	Muskie/Pike	Mille Lacs	Leibroek - Haagenon

Waterdogs Fantasy Fishing League Standings

		Root River		Prior Lake		St. Louis		
		Trout	points	Crappie	points	Walleye	points	Total
Mamas Boy	starter	Old Fart	19	Suzy	3	Little Angel		22
	backup	Fluffy	12	Janitor	6	Griz		18
Suzy	starter	Fluffy	12	Bertha	3	Grz		15
	backup	Janitor	10	Nasty	12	Old Fart		22
Happel	starter	Fluffy	12	Perp.	3	Old Fart		15
	backup	Suzy	6	Fish Dick	8	Nasty		14
Griz	starter	Fluffy	12	Old Fart	10	Nasty		22
	backup	Old Fart	19	Suzy	3	Little Angel		22
Farm Boy	starter	Fluffy	12	Nasty	12	Buick		24
	backup	Felix	12	Roid	3	Griz		15
Juan Valdez	starter	Keller	10	Chain Saw	3	Nasty		13
	backup	Old Fart	19	Miller	15	Griz		34
Janitor	starter	Fluffy	12	Roid	3	Janitor		15
	backup	Bertha	0	Chain Saw	3	Griz		3
Little Angel	starter	Old Fart	19	Bertha	3	Felix		22
	backup	Buick- DNF	0	Fluffy	6	Buick		6
Old Fart	starter	Old Fart	19	Helen K.	10	Janitor		29
	backup	Dr. Meat	0	Perp.	3	Little Angel		3

Starters - points count for year end final standings

Backup - points are for tie breaker