

The Dogumentary

29th Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

June 2011

If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles.

June 2011 Meeting

The June meeting will be at Tuttle's Grill and Bowling Alley on Shady Oak Road in Hopkins, as usual. Dinner starts around 6, and the meeting will follow at 7pm.

Our speaker will be our own Todd Bollig who will talk about the upcoming bass tournament on Big Birch Lake which he is familiar with. He will also clue us in on the methods he used at the walleye tournament to place first, along with Griz. Be sure to attend to find out what the likely best methods to use will be on this new water for most Dogs.

From the Desk of the President, Captain Kirk



2011 Waterdogs Fishing Club Calendar

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| June 2 | Monthly Meeting |
| June 18 | Bass Tournament |
| July 7 | Monthly Meeting |
| July 23-30 | LOTW Rock N Roll Musky Tour |
| August 4 | Monthly Meeting |
| Sep 1 | Monthly Meeting |
| Sep 10 | Multispecies Tournament |
| Oct 8 | Smallmouth Tournament |
| Nov 3 | Banquet! |

It is hard to believe that we are half way thru our tournament season already and our fourth event for Bass is less than two weeks away. We have had a lot of quality fishing so far with the venue but we have also had to battle the usual "Waterdog Weather" of wind and rain. Our Mille Lacs tournament was no exception with the last couple of hours fished in the rain and the rumble of thunder not too far off. It has also been good to see our new members participating and doing well in our tournaments.

Shortly after the Mille Lacs tournament I ran across an article in one of the outdoor magazines I get talking about electrical storms. It immediately brought back some of the discussion that Perp, Bud and I had just a few days before. We had been watching the approaching rain clouds from the SW for most of the morning. When we heard some distant thunder we got in to a debate on how far away the lightning might be and how long it might take us to get off the lake. I am sure many of you have been in this same situation and had similar discussions.

Here are a few facts from the article I recently read:

Fishermen on open water are the most vulnerable outdoorsmen in a storm.

Lightning is the second greatest cause of weather fatalities after flash floods.

Fishing often peaks with an approaching low pressure or storm and we fishermen like to take advantage of that situation and push the limit.

It takes 10–15 volts to start your motor while lightning might contain 3,000,000 volts.

If you can hear thunder it is possible to be struck as lightning has been known to travel 100 miles horizontally.

Lightning is about 1 inch wide and at a temperature of about 30,000 degrees.

What to do:

Obviously get off the water and avoid the risk as our club has no award for bravery (stupidity) in an electrical storm.

If on the water get your boat next to something taller like shoreline trees or a bridge.

If in open water make your boat as low as possible by lowering antenna, rods and other equipment.

The Bass season opened this last Saturday with FD and I visiting Artsie with a Dr. Pepper at Schutz lake. After about 15 minutes of fishing I was overcome with pain from what turned out to be Kidney stone. For his heroics in getting me home and my boat put away I would like to make FD our first nomination for swabbie of the year. 37 hours and 42 minutes later the stone passed giving me instant relief from the worst pain I have ever encountered. My Bass season won't get started until sometime this week but I will be anxious to hear reports from other Dogs at our meeting this week.

Thursday we will hear from new member Todd Bollig on Bass fishing and what to expect at Big Birch Lake.

Shatner

Wet Dogs and Walleyes

The Weather Committee failed again as rainy weather once again came just in time for another Waterdogs tournament. However, that didn't stop the walleyes from biting as many big fish were caught by the 9 teams fishing the Milles Lacs on the weekend of May 21-22. The size of the fish caught makes you realize how tough it is to catch walleyes within the legal keeper slot of under 18". There were 81 walleyes caught by club members in the tournament, and only 25 were smaller than 18". Each team caught at least one fish of 22.5" (4 lbs), up to the top fish of 27" (7.3 lbs), of which three were caught by Bob Blakely, Todd Bollig, and Mark Bystrom. The winning team of Todd Bollig and James Ferstenou caught a total of 13 fish for 44 pounds, which is about a 3.5lb average. Their weight was 6 pounds more than the second-place team of Bystrom and Blakely. The team limit was 8 walleyes per-day, and no team was able to fill out either day of the tournament.



Todd Bollig with a too-big-to-keep walleye

Most of the fish were caught with leeches on slip bobbers in anywhere from 8 to 20 feet of water. The winning team will spill their guts at the next meeting and let everyone in on their winning secrets.



Steve Clinton with a nice 26.5

Turkey Time

By Banana Boy

For some time, myself and a group of guys have been venturing to a northern Missouri farm for quail and turkey. The farm, previously owned by my friend's grandfather, sits on 800 acres of mixed farmland, timber and pasture – prime habitat for turkey and quail. Not to mention, there are several ponds full of bass, hybrid bluegill and crappie. For turkey's, you can only hunt till 1pm – leaving the afternoon for fishing and morel mushrooms. The perfect man's retreat!

Three years ago, I invited my dad down for the spring turkey hunt...to get out and enjoy some time together. He's not much of a hunter, and wasn't quite sure what to expect. That year he bagged his first gobbler and he was hooked.

This year, we got down there Thursday afternoon – enough time to scout some spots for morning. We usually position ourselves alongside the edge of a crop field in a narrow strip of timber that runs along the river. There's always activity in the area. The only concern is the area can easily become swampy – not ideal for the birds or us. Turns out the area held up OK given all the moisture we got this spring, so we picked out our spots. I positioned myself close to my dad, as he bought a new "homemade" call this year that sound more like a squeaky door than a turkey.

That next morning – about 4:30am – we navigated our way across the field in the dark of night. After setting up our decoys, it was time to sit and wait. As the sun started to break, we heard an eerily close pack of coyotes going crazy. We were sure

this was going to spook the gobblers, but they remained active on the roost. While we saw plenty of jakes and toms that morning, none got within range – likely on guard because of the coyotes. That afternoon, we hit a few farm ponds and caught 30+ bass with 20" being the largest.

On Friday, my dad and I decided to distance ourselves to cover more area. While my dad stayed in the same blind, I moved to an area nearby that was located near a clearing alongside the river. We heard a number of birds the day before on the other side of the river and this spot provided an opening for those birds to fly over from the roost. As the sun came up, I noticed two toms and a hen roosting in a tree about 40 yards away – on the other side of the river. One tom was very active gobbling and blowing out his feathers. I had not seen this before while in the roost, and knew he was very focused on his lady friend.

While positioned perfectly, my challenge was getting the birds to fly across river to our field. Therefore, my goal was to get the hen to join me. After about 30 minutes of calling, success, the hen flew across the river between me and my decoys. Not 30 seconds later, the big tom followed. My heart was racing, as he landed within 10 yards, although my shot was blocked by trees. Moving slowly, I leaned around the trees, fired and dropped the 21 pounder. Within a minute, to my surprise, the second tom flew right by me and landed just passed where I had dropped the other bird – about 15 yards out. Still in range, but blocked by trees, I maneuvered to take a shot. I fired twice and missed – probably because I was shaking after what was unfolding. Oddly, the bird didn't move, so I went to fire again – click! I was out of shells. I checked my pockets, but realized I had only brought three with me, expecting limited action. Nothing I could do but watch as he walked away.

To top off an already perfect day of hunting with my dad, the fishing was great and we even stumbled across an area in our trek between the ponds where we found nearly 6 pounds of morels. Most came off stumps with one patch holding 28 mushrooms. By the way, if anyone has a good wild turkey recipe let me know.

BB



Branden and Tom

2011 Tournament Series

Gentlemen, Mark Your Calendars!

| Date | Species | Location | Dogs in Charge |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| √ Saturday April 2 | Trout | Wisconsin | Janitor - Shatner |
| √ Saturday April 30 | Crappie | Prior Lake | Griz – Banana - Suzy |
| √ Sat-Sun May 21-22 | Walleye | Mille Lacs | Fluffy - Carmen - Lil Angel |
| Saturday June 18 | Bass | Big Birch Lake | Analist - Bud |
| Saturday Sep 10 | Multispecies | Minnetonka | Chips - Spanky |
| Saturday Oct 8 | Smallmouth | Rum River | Perp - Buick |