

# The Dogumentary

22<sup>nd</sup> Year

The Waterdogs Fishing Club

December 2004

## A Special Thanks to The Janitor...

And all the other Waterdogs that made the banquet a big success. It was fun for the whole family and featured several new features that made it one of the best banquets ever. Special awards were won by Duper for both Waterdog of the year and Swabbie of the year, Griz for Captain of the year, and Dr. Sticky for Weenie of the year. The slide show was also a great reminder of the fun that we had during the past year, with copies passed out that can be played on your TV's DVD player. Nasty, Griz, and Duper took home custom made rods for their top finishes in the tournament series.



Matt Mueller congratulates Waterdog of the Year, Steve Dupont

All club members left with a commemorative poster that was put together by Mr. Blakely with the highlights of this most memorable year.

## Office Elections

The polls indicate a close race between the candidates for VP, with the 'catch and keep' party closing in on the 'walleyes only' group, and barely ahead of the 'fish naked' contingency. At the October meeting, the club held nominations for next year's officer positions, which will now be voted on at the December meeting.

The nominations for **VP** for next year are: Griz, Farm Boy, and Juan Valdez.

**For the Board of Directors**, Leibrock, Sticky, Shorty, and Fishdick were nominated in addition to the vp nominees.

The VP nomination speeches and election will be made at the December meeting, so be sure to attend, or you just might be risking getting a tan with no tan lines next summer.

## The 2004-2005 Waterdog Calendar

Dec 2	Monthly Meeting
Jan 6	Monthly Meeting
Feb 3	Monthly Meeting
March 3	Monthly Meeting
July 23-30 2005	RockNRoll Musky Tour

## President's Corner:

Writing my last column as President coincides with one of my favorite holidays, Thanksgiving. By time you read this though, that holiday will be in the dust and we'll be bearing down on Hanukkah, Christmas and the New Year. I like those holidays as well but for different reasons. The world and our lives in it, move too fast sometimes, and most of us probably feel we

don't stop to be thankful or say "thanks". I know I feel that way. It is in that spirit that I want to thank all of the Waterdogs for a great year, some terrific friendships and the opportunity to serve as President.

I've finally had a chance to read through Duper's collective feedback from the members survey. I found it very invigorating, with many great new ideas and plenty of affirmations of some old ones. Mama's Boy has some terrific stuff to work with in 2005, including a lot of committee volunteers. Unless I'm mistaken, the club seems to have moved to a new level participation. I saw some of this in 2004 with several high level turn-out tournaments. Perhaps this same enthusiasm has carried forward in other club activities. In any event, I don't doubt that Mama's Boy will make it another fantastic year for the group.

Many of you have asked what my post-Presidential retirement plans are. Well, it won't take much to increase my attendance at club activities. Hopefully the new job will settle in and other home pressures will slacken up to allow me to be more active with the 'Dogs. Near term, I'm already starting to eyeball the Winter Trout season, now just about five weeks away. Over the Labor Day holiday I took my 15 year-old son Steve up to the North Shore and we stopped and fished little streams all along the way. He showed the patience and skill to throw tiny baits into tiny water in order to catch trout, which he did. Perhaps after New Years he and I will make our way to the Whitewater or beyond and find some new spots. He can help me with my 2005 resolution: Beat Nasty in the 2005 Trout Tournament!

I hope the holiday season finds all Waterdogs, there loved ones and friends, healthy and happy.

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### **Christmas Gift Ideas for Needy Waterdogs**

Now is the time to ask Santa for some things that you need, but may not buy otherwise. Here are some gift ideas to help answer that most difficult question, "what do you want for Christmas".

**Digital Camera** – A name brand digital camera of 3.2 mega-pixels is as much as you need, and now sells for under \$200.

**Muskie Landing Net** – Make sure you don't lose your Personal Best musky with a Beckman or Fabrill net with a 36" hoop, or larger, and treated netting that costs under \$100.

A floating **Measuring Stick** of 48" or larger is a great tool to accurately measure your Personal Best, from muskie shops or Home Depot.

**Kevlar Gloves**, or similar, for handling those toothy critters.

**Lake Map Books** of 50-70 lakes are available for many areas of Minnesota or Wisconsin. Instead of paying \$8 for a single lake map, these books cost \$20 and will give you many more lake ideas. Start with the East or West Metro editions, from Gander.

**Map Case** – Really good ones are available at Gander.

**Rod Socks** for keeping your rods untangled, and in the worst case, floating.

**Amber Polarized Sunglasses** for low-light conditions.

**Senko Worms** in a variety of sizes and colors.

**Popular Lures** - Scum Frogs, Chug Bugs, Spinner Baits, large and small Mepps and Vibrax.

### **The Club is What You Make It**

According to the recent club survey, the camaraderie is the number one feature of the club that most members like. Different members like different things about the club, and the good thing about that is that the club can accommodate all these different ideas. There is no pressure on anyone to do anything, however most of us would like to see everyone participate in as much of the club as they can, because that's what makes it the most fun. The club has a requirement of a 50% attendance in order to be considered an active member, but this is rarely an issue. Many of the members fell short of that mark this year, but since we're all buddies, no one's complaining. A good plan for all of us next year would be to mark the club dates on our calendars at work and home, so that other plans can be made around them. We usually have all the event dates picked for the year by the end of January. Whatever else you do with the club is your choice. Some guys take the tournaments more seriously, and others like different parts of the club. You can even make up something new, like Griz did in his analysis of the tournament and Lake of the Woods statistics. Feel free to pitch in, create something new, or get involved in the club anyway that you wish. It's your club to make it the way that you want it to be.