

The Islands' 2010 Newsletter

Greetings from the Frozen North

January 2010

It's hard to imagine loading up the boats and heading to the island as I look out on the frozen lake in front of the house. The one good thing is that because of the current the ice never really freezes over completely so most mornings we'll see otter out front, floating on their backs eating clams or crayfish. Up until New Years the bald eagles are still around and do their "fly over" religiously at

8AM. I started fishing just before new years and was blown away when I caught, not one but TWO Lakers up by Lyons Sandbar, 33 and 34inchers'. My technical skills, ie: my ability to use a phone or an Ipod to take a picture before releasing, is limited. I did get a great shot of the toe of my boot!!! But now am hoping for at least one more trout to show to sceptics.

Without much technical ability re: computers/ cameras etc, getting something up in a format to share is a bit of a challenge. However we did get a YouTube site up, (If you're able, check out **Siouxretreat100** I'm just starting to download pics from the past year which groups have sent us, plus the wolf video from Gary!!!!

Hooks:

- Check out the YouTube site: **Siouxretreat100**
- If you have photos you'd be willing to share, (and which are presentable to the public!!!) we'd enjoy receiving them - electronically if possible, with any explanation or title you'd like to share or see up on the board at camp.
- Visit our website at www.siouxretreat.com

Fauna at the Sauna

The group from Wisconsin staying at Neepawa were amazed to look out the front window and see a timber wolf down by the sauna. We've had sightings before from the front deck but no one's been able to get a picture. They were inside the cabin, ran for the camera and checked out the front bedroom window to not only see the wolf but 4 pups digging at something behind the Bunkie cabin. Great video and lots of still shots. Thanks Gary for offering to share with other guests.

Another first this past summer was later in Au-



gust the appearance of a young moose, again at Neepawa right behind the kitchen window.

Some great shots as well and a moment to remember for the family visiting.

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What a Fishing Season!!!

I really don't know if we've ever had a better year. For me what was interesting was the variations in baits and techniques. Early in the season, the "NEBRASKAN'S (is there such a word???) used rubber lizards which I've not even seen !!, and slayed the Eyes in the shallows!

Early June the water was high and cold and the Lambert crew, (with sage advice from Kai on choice of baits of course!!) caught Lakers at 30 feet, our first entry into the Master Angler program for a Laker.

The top Northern master Angler at 44 inches was Troy and his 2 boys. A combined effort was required given light tackle and a small landing net.

Lots of slots and over but no one got the MA for walleye this year.

Jim, Pat, and Byron from the Abram Lake island found the spot and the last couple days worked to pick up

the over 27.5 Eye, lots over but just needed the 1/2 inch so still looking!!

Overall, lots of large walleye however as well as slots and eaters so a good season.

I fished myself a lot in September, (ask Moyra!! She apparently kept track as the lawn continued to grow and chores didn't get done), but September was awesome!!!! with really warm 75 degree days and fish everywhere at 30 feet. Kept moving to check out new spots and, like the Wisconsin guys mentioned, didn't once check out a spot without finding fish!!!

The slot size for Eyes plus the Master Angler program is really showing it's value, (other than for Northern which I'm contrary to and working to see changed to allow one over the minimum slot now rather than nothing in the slot).



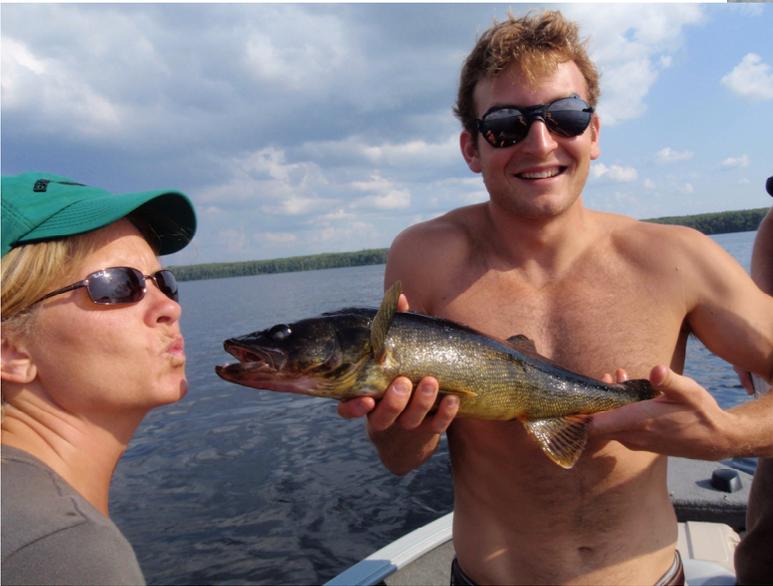
Bragging rights begin at a young age.



Will's monster.

"This was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. I have always dreamed of such a fish and now it is a reality"

“I could not have asked for anything more than to have the boys with me when this fish came in. Keep in mind this was 8 lb line and my lightest rod.”



Mom just loves Walleyes.

New Awards for 2010 Season

A special first time award to be given out next season to Greg and Kelly. It's called the **RELEASE AND CATCH AWARD**.

To get this award you have to catch, then release (including rod and reel), and then catch rod, reel and fish !! I'm waiting for the photo proof before awarding Greg!!!

We expect Stew will be providing a technical update on the effects of leaving

a reel in Minnitaki waters for a sustained length of time which we expect will help future rod throwers to decide whether to dive or wait to retrieve their lost rods.

We did get some photos and I'm going to be posting on our YouTube site, again, **SIouxRETREAT100** as well as printing some up for "bragging rights" at the Islands.



One of Tim's many Master Angler Smallmouths.



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As in the past, we've appreciated referrals from past guests and have given a \$100.00 credit for any new party referred to us. If you do end up sharing your fishing story with anyone, make sure they let us know who referred them to us as we want to show our appreciation through a reduced cost to you!!

For the coming season, we are also offering a deal on a second visit in the season at the normal rate reduced by 25% with the thought that a second trip becomes more affordable for the group or you may want to bring family up or a different group of fishing fanatics!!



Happy New Year



We had a lot of fun through the season and hope the coming New Year is good for all of you and look forward to keeping in touch or, better yet, seeing you on the lake here in Sioux Lookout.

Kai enjoyed some shore lunches with some of the groups and looks forward to having an excuse to get out again next year with the guys.

If you want to get your mind off the weather, work, or whatever, drop us an E-mail, give us a call, or at least pull up the pictures from your last

trip! It's made this -30 degree day better for us just thinking about next years fishing from the island camp!

Sincerely

Moyra and Kai

