



**BASS**

**BUZZ**

*Remembering 2005*

With the 2005 season behind us, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sharing your vacation time with us! For those of you on return visits, it was great to see you again – for those of you visiting us for the first time, we do hope that you enjoyed your stay at Campfire Island and had some fun with the fishing on Rainy Lake. Each week produces memories of wonderful people and great fish, and by the end of the season, we realized we had been blessed with another great year at Campfire Island!

In the first few weeks, the weather – especially the wind – changed at least once a day. Made for some very good pike fishing. The bass fishing tended to change with the wind – some great days and afternoons that produced 19-19.5 inch fish, but some days were a little slower in the mornings. Art Garcia started the season off right with a 5 lb-plus smallie; the Brunners found some 19” to 19.5” bass and a couple of 30”+ pike on both a spinning rod and a fly rod. The Jacob group found some nice 34”-36” pike and James Tichacek hooked into a 40” beauty. Richard Place played a 37” pike, and both the Roller and the Lazarroff groups enjoyed some nice pike action, the bigger ones in the 36-38 inch category.

The good pike action carried on throughout the month of June, and the smallmouth and walleye fishing picked up, with some great top-water days in the later half of June and into July. In the Boulay party, the biggest fish of the trip were caught by Ray (8 lb walleye) and Wally (20 lb-plus pike & 4.75 lb smallie). Joe Pagenkopf landed the biggest bass of their trip at 4.75 lb (19.5 in) and Larry successfully landed a 20 lb pike. Jackey Hildebrandt hooked and fought an 18-lb pike, and Steve Cagel played a 20” smallie. Luke proved to have the hot rod in the Ramsey family – lots of bass and pike, and two pike that went 37-38 inches. The Delmastro family found good action in both bass and pike...with several bass over 19 inches, and pike 34-38 inches...and Tony fought a pike about 42” right to the side of the boat. Tom Edison got into some great top-water action for smallies (up to 18”) and pike (biggest were 34-38 inches) using a 60-year old bamboo rod/reel. Jim Niendorff landed a 27” pike by hand when his line developed a backlash, and the Coury boys, Jessie and Kyle, can be proud of their 21” and 20” smallmouth bass.

August seemed a little slower but did produce lots of 30-40 bass/days and some quality fish...Patt Sanda (4.8 lb), Richard Foster (4.5 lb), and John Anderson (4.8 lb) found some beauties, and David Whittinghill's (5.8 lb) bass was the biggest bass of the year. Tim Walsh played a 4.5 smallie on an ultra-light, Matt Putzier caught some nice bass and pike at the end of August on his fly rod, and Allen Kanak wound in a 42” pike that weighed over 20 lbs! The Kessler crew got in on the top-water action as well – big fish of the trip go to Rick (39” pike), Terry (5.2 lb smallie), and Brad (9.7 lb walleye). The Coyle's enjoyed a smorgasbord-of-guides (different guide every day) and ended up with lots of pike action one day (30-35 inches), a 9 lb-plus walleye, and a good bass day where the fish averaged close to 4-lbs!

September produced lots of fish and big fish...all species! There were good numbers of bass in the 3-4 lb range, walleyes in the 7-9 lb range, and pike in the 34-37 inch range. Bob German and Rob Cassidy had a great 3<sup>rd</sup> day...a 7 lb walleye, lots of pike 30-34 inches and topped it off with some nice bass 4-5 lbs! In the Orzoff group, Wayne Selz got the group award for quality fish... two 5-lb smallies and a 13.5 lb walleye...all in one 5-day trip! George Johnson had a great 4 days...caught the biggest pike (35”), walleye (7lb), and bass (almost 5 lb) of his life. Art got into the fish on his September trip...40-60 bass days (lots 3.5 to 4 lb), big walleyes (8-9 lb), and great pike action (while fishing bass). Tom & Chad put the final touch on 2005 with some great fishing - lots of bass over 3lb, 10-15 lb pike and biggest walleye was 10 lbs.

Truly some nice fish! And lots of wildlife moving around this year – lots of deer, bucks in velvet, bears (both swimming and on shore...and in camp!), and always eagles on the hunt for dinner! There seemed to be a lot of activity in the water this year...Rick Mahem and Ed Boulay ended up swimming unexpectedly...and 3 rods went over board – Art grabbed his before it got too far away, Tom Edison had to go diving to get his back, and Bob German had to GPS his and hook it with a jigging spoon.

Rob & Carolyn were back again this year to help Dean, as was Kelvin and Harry. David Lindsay was a welcome addition to the guiding staff this year, as was his brother Norman. Wayne, Jeff and Dallas also helped out throughout the season. If we didn't mention your big fish, please accept our apologies - we'll catch you next year! You will find a note enclosed if you have reservations booked for 2006. If you have some dates in mind, please don't hesitate to call as bookings for the 2006 season are well underway.

Take care! Thanks for the summer of 2005! See you next season!

Dean, Wayne, and Pat