



BASS

BUZZ

Remembering 2007

The 2007 season is behind us and as we review the year to write this newsletter, we are overwhelmed by all the wonderful people who have chosen to visit Campfire Island for their fishing vacations. This is our opportunity to thank every one of you for another great season. Normal water levels this year helped make the fishing a little more predictable – our challenge this year was the wind, and the storms that blew in with it! The talent and experience of the guiding staff shone through this year – huge! Gustly, ever-changing wind is one of the most difficult conditions to consistently find and catch fish, and as you read through the year's recap, you realize that Dean, David, Wayne, Harry & Jason are all very good at what they do...day after day, you won't find any better!

Art Garcia started the season off again this year, but he had to get through thunder and hail storms to find the sunny day that allowed him to enjoy his best day of bass fishing on Rainy...90 smallies with many over 4 pounds. Gene and Jackie had a 4-day smorgasbord – big pike (34" & 36.5"), a 5+ lb smallie, 5 to 8 lb walleye, and lots of bass action to boot. Bob & Matt German enjoyed a week of 25 to 35 bass each day, with a kicker day that produced over 60 bass total and one 5+ pound smallie each. The Richard Place group found good bass action – Richard and Rich had a good day with over 40 smallies, Brad & Dave landed some nice 4.5 lb bass, but Ralph took the honors with a big 41" pike and a 5 lb smallmouth.

In June, the Roller group had a great trip with the bass just starting to make their beds. Kevin Roller's first cast produced a 39" pike and Philip Roller landed a 43" pike on the last day. Dick & Gary had an awesome first day with 70 bass, and Russell & Kevin matched it with a 70-bass day of their own. Paul Thieberger and David Fudge caught 30-35 bass each day in spite of big storms and tornado warnings...and topped it off by both of them landing a 5-pound beauty. Ed Werneke caught the wind as well, but enjoyed watching his granddaughter Stephanie fight her first-ever bass, pike and walleye...and some nice top-water action for himself.

Art Garcia came back with his fly rod and caught some action on a white Clouser fly...a couple of 25-30 bass days, and then a great day of 50 fish with 6 of them over 4.5 pounds. Robert Byers had fun with bass up to 4.5 pounds and pike up to 36". The Knox family enjoyed 30-fish days that included some 4.5 lb smallies and said that all the big fish were caught on top-water baits. Bill Kessler caught some high winds, but managed to land 25 to 55 bass per day, with lots of 4.5 lb bass on top-water baits. Jay Klotz's group enjoyed some good pike action up to 27.5 inches and also caught some pesky 3-8 lb walleye while trolling for those pike...Eric Rinehart and Bob Williams enjoyed a 40 bass-day that Bob topped off with a 19.5" beauty. Steve & Teresa Lekich rounded out June with some great fishing in spite of the wind...Steve landed a couple 4+ lb bass in the mix, and Teresa crowned her first trip to Canada with a 5 lb smallie and a 35.5" pike.

On his July trip Art landed 30-35 smallies per day, with his big fish being a 20" bass and 27"-29" walleyes. Charles & Maudy Stoltenberg saw the biggest winds of the season but managed some 30-35 fish days and topped the trip off with a couple of 19.5" and 20" smallies. Dean & Wayne fished the Fort Frances Bass Championship at the end of July and their 8th place 2nd day finish gave them their ride through the tent, but they ended up in 22nd place with 50.34 lbs total weight for 3 days (1st place was 58.36 lb). Eric & Laura Rinehart got us back on track in August with some pike and walleye as well as the biggest bass at 19 inches...the last day produced good pike and walleye action with Laura's 35.5" pike being the biggest. Bill Bacon & Gill Ash got into the big bass again this year – 25-30 fish days and a couple of those days included 4 smallies that ran 4.5 lbs or better. Gill topped his trip with 2 bass that measured 21" and weighed 5.5 pounds. The Orzoff group found some nice fish, with Arnold best-in-the-group for quantity and Stewart finding a 36" pike and an 8 lb walleye.

Gerry & Mary Denness raised the bar for measuring a great trip...Gerry caught a 40" pike on his 1st cast and a 35" pike on his 2nd cast, and Mary owned day 2 with two 21" bass weighing 5.5 lb each...25 to 35 smallies every day, lots over 3.5 lbs, several 19", and at least 4 in the 20" range. The Barrett boys found bass fishing was a little slow at first, but the action was good with Chris (36") and Tom (37.5") finding some big pike and Jason (30") landing a big walleye.. Then they got into some 20+ bass-days and Butch fought a 19.5" beauty. The Delmastro family had a blast with Dean...lots of 30" pike and fair numbers of good smallies...Philip had a line on bass that were 4 lb or better, Greg ended up with a nice walleye count (25-28 inches), and 13-year old Tim had the best-of-trip with two 19 _ inch smallies.

In September, the Kanak group got into a couple of 30-35 fish days – some good 4 to 4.5 lb smallies – Guy and Dick both landed a nice 12 lb pike and Allen caught a 4.5 lb bass on a top-water bait. Ray & Rusty Pflueger enjoyed 30 to 40+ fish days that included Ray's 8 lb walleye, 12 lb pike, and a 20.5" smallie for each of them. Art had a great September trip with 30-50 fish each day that included a fair number of 19+ inch bass and up to 10 walleye per day. Dwight Sutterfield's crew enjoyed 20-50 fish/boat days, lots in the 4.5 lb range - Leroy wound in a 22" beauty and everyone hooked walleyes every day anywhere from 5-8 pounds. Eric & Laura Rinehart got into some good weather and some great fish - 20-40 fish days - Laura fought two smallies over 5 pounds each and Eric landed a 15 lb pike and a 6 lb walleye. Dean & Wayne ended September having some fun at the fall bass tourney, and finished 3rd place with a 2-day weight of 39.21 lbs (1st & 2nd were 39.54 and 39.30)...how's that for close?

Great year – some nice fish in spite of the goofy weather...more and more smallies every year that are 5 pounds or better. Lots of deer on the island this year...eagles swimming in the water...bears running along the shoreline – all makes for some interesting wildlife stories! If we didn't mention your big fish, please accept our apologies - we'll catch you next year! Campfire Island will have a booth in the All Canada St Louis and Omaha shows again next February. The show schedule has not been finalized yet - but we do know that Wayne will be at the All Canada Show (Ross' Camp booth) in Pheasant Run and Minneapolis. We'd love to see you at one of the shows.

Take care! Thanks for the summer of 2007! See you next season!

Dean, Wayne, and Pat