



BASS

BUZZ

Remembering 2009

Most of central North America, including Campfire Island, experienced a cool windy spring, and a summer that never did heat up to the normal high temperatures. The bass fishermen worked hard to keep up to the number of fish caught in previous years, the pike fishermen enjoyed a successful season, as did the walleye fishermen. This year, the bass and walleye seemed more difficult to pattern and could change depth and structure in very short order. With that being said, we saw lots of nice fish – all species. Rainy Lake delivered; she just required a little more patience this year!

Art Garcia started the year off with a nice 50+ fish day, most over 3.5 pounds. The wind and cold (and snow!!) threatened to put a damper on the fishing, but Art managed to put in a 40+ smallie day at the end of his trip including a nice bass over 5 lbs. Bob, Matt & Rob German enjoyed some decent smallie action that got better as the week went on, and fought a few nice bass over 4 lbs. LB Keller's group ended May with some good 30 to 60 fish days. David Gann found the biggest pike (40"), James & Harry landed some nice walleyes in the 8-pound range, and LB and Mark got into the big smallies over 20 inches, the biggest was LB's 5.4 lb beauty.

Bill Roller's group started June off with some 30 to 45 fish days, and were entertained at night with black bears. Dick Mahan's group followed with 30 to 45 fish days as well, and sweetened the pot by catching several 8-lb walleyes. Art Garcia and Dean spent the next week trying out some new techniques that did produce some 4.5 lb bass, and ended the week with warmer weather and some nice smallies in the 19"-20" range. John & Kay Clower experienced the entire range of fish days - from fair to great – with Kay landing a 20.5 inch smallie. Every day got better and ended with a 60+ fish day. At 90 and 89 years young, John & Kay – our hat's off to you both!!

Rick Amigh & Rusty Stone enjoyed a great top-water bite and averaged 50 to 60 fish days with some close to 5 lbs. Best day was about 85 smallies all on top-water baits. The Kalinowski family enjoyed their weekend getaway and took home some upgraded bass fishing skills – Derek had the biggest at 18.5 inches. Dave Crowson and family enjoyed their first Campfire trip – Austin hooked the biggest bass at 20.5", Mitchell reeled in the biggest pike (40"), and Robert found a 19.5" smallie that wanted to play. The Knox family followed with a great day – smallies up to 20+ inches, walleyes in the 6-8 pound range, and Wendel produced some quality fish on his top-water bait. Art Garcia was joined by Harry Hersloff for a few days on this trip, and Harry's big fish were a 42" pike and 8 lb walleye. Good to see you back Harry!

Rich & Phil Middleton fished through a couple of slower days for numbers of fish, but size was pretty good – both caught 36' to 37" pike and 5-7 lb walleyes. Rich's biggest bass came in at 19.5", and Phil landed his first smallie using his fly rod. Robert & Philip Byers got into some good numbers of fish on the back end of their trip; quality fish throughout with bass up to 20.5", walleyes up to 8-9 lbs, and pike up to 36 inches. Marilyn & Ernie had a little bit of everything for weather – Marilyn had the biggest pike at 42.5", biggest walleye at 10 lbs, and Ernie hooked the biggest smallie at 20+ inches. Jim Orr & Ralph Scott hit a tough bass bite so they went walleye fishing – one day over 35 walleye, Jim landed a 10 lb walleye and Ralph brought in a 34" pike.

Bob & Shar German had some nice weather for this trip – bass were a little slow but found some in the 4-4.5 lb. range, lots of walleye, and pike to 36 inches. Eric & Laura Rinehart fished through the warmest temps of the entire summer to find Laura's best pike (39") and smallies to 19 inches. Sam & Penny Hesser enjoyed their first trip to Canada and caught a good assortment of smallmouth bass, pike and walleye. Art's last trip had Art & Dean catching good numbers of smallies and walleye all over the lake...from 1" of water to 30 feet deep. The Marek brothers closed the season out for us - good bass fishing and lots of walleye in the 25"-27" range.

Great year – but strange weather. The warmest days were in September, not July – water temps were 72 degrees on September 21st!! To Bill Kessler, Dan & Jack Hanon, the Stoltenbergs, and the Gorsuch family – we missed you!

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 show from January 8-10, 2010. Wayne will also be at the All Canada Shows (Ross' Camp booth) in Pheasant Run, Minneapolis and Sioux Falls, ND. For more information, email: fish@campfireisland.com. We'd love to see you at one of the shows.

You may hear some negative press on Ontario's new proposed tax system, the HST. We qualify to rebate your GST (or HST) at source so your tax rate at Campfire Island will be increasing by only 1%. We are changing our packages slightly – the fishing license will not be included in the package price – it will be a separate charge on your account. You will notice that package prices have increased slightly for 2010 as well. Deposits received prior to January 25th, 2010 will trigger the 2009 rate (not including the fishing license). We would appreciate cheques for deposits if possible.

Take care! Thanks for the summer of 2009! See you next season!

Dean, Wayne, and Pat

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