

# HAVE ROD... WILL TRAVEL...

## WINTER ACTIVITIES FOR 2007/2008 ICE FISHING & SNOWMOBILE TOURS

**H.R.W.T. THE PROFESSIONAL  
GUIDE SERVICE OF THE**

DECEMBER 2007 FALL QUARTER VOL. 1 ISSUE 4

**"WHERE CLIENTS ARE GUESTS, & GUESTS**

### "LUNAR ESSOX" & "LUNAR EYES" FISHING WORKSHOPS

This years first "Lunar Essox" Workshop brought many inquiries from many anglers and gave reason for its return. So not only am I bringing the workshop back, I will be expanding it.

This years schedule will bring in **four** separate workshops. TWO workshops dedicated to walleye and TWO workshops dedicated to muskies. All workshops will be inclusive to the lunar activity of fish feeding during the Full Moon & New Moon phases.

Workshops are based on a team of two people ( a partnership is suggested) and is priced in a package for those TWO Anglers. There will be a choice of a (Guide Only) or (Guide/ Lodging) package. Fish two nights with an area guide, a different guide each night or include two nights lodging at an incredible savings.

Learn guide secrets of fishing at night during the FULL & NEW Moon phase, fish the key times of Moonrise and Moonset. **Each workshop limited to six teams.**

Lunar feeding is one of the most predictable times to catch fish and you can become a part of this. Be it walleye or be it musky we can work a time for you.

Both workshops will consist of a packaged deal for two nights that will include lodging at one of Eagle River's finest Inns "the Eagle River Inn" a resort dedicated to style & comfort. To see more on the lodging visit their website;

[www.eriver-inn.com](http://www.eriver-inn.com).

In addition to your lodging you will receive two nights of fishing with an area guide from the Eagle River Guides Association. Your first night will have an instructional session at the lodge to meet the guides, have a briefing, Q&A, and drawing of the guides. Each workshop will host different times based on that lunar period.

For complete details you may call Fred Brogle at 715-479-5873 or visit my website at:

[www.HaveRodWillTravel.com](http://www.HaveRodWillTravel.com)

and go to the **fishing seminars** page.

Package Prices with lodging are:

**Musky or Walleye \$610.00**  
(this is a team price)

**Workshops Guide only \$470.00**  
Workshop Dates

**#1 Full Moon Walleyes**  
**June 2nd & 3rd, 2008**

**#2 New Moon Walleyes**  
**June 17th & 18th, 2008**

**#3 New Moon Muskies**  
**July 16th & 17th, 2008**

**#4 Full Moon Muskies**  
**August 1st & 2nd, 2008**



**HAVE A  
MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

### BACK ON THE WATER 148 DAYS

Well as I got into the open water season I thought it might be interesting to set a goal of a record number of days to be "Back on the Water" fishing. This would include all days; days with guests, days in a tournament, days scouting, the Monday night league, and just days of fun fishing. Looking at the calendar, a nice round figure or 150 days seemed tough but not impossible, so it was set. This

would be in the six months of open water and as the season progressed it looked a little harder. 150 days in six months, when I only worked 96 shifts in a year as a fire fighter; this would be some feat. Getting into the end of October it now seemed possible but weather would be a factor. By mid November many lakes started to freeze. On November 28 I put in my 148th and last day on the

water as only 2 lakes had access on this day. That night everything locked up tight as 5 nights of 0 temps brought the season to a close. With Only two left in the season "I Could have done it". Anyway I fished for muskies on that day but with no luck, I did however catch this **29-1/4" 9 lb** walleye on a musky bull dawg.



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## THE SNOWMOBILE REPORT



A group takes a lunch break at a trail restaurant.



A stretch of the legs to see some deer and other wildlife



The chance to catch trophy walleyes like this is best during the early ice season.



Trout make a fine catch in winter and make a great meal.

Well we are getting a great start for winter this year as extreme cold and snow have already hit the Northwoods. For the last two weeks plus, we had temperatures well below freezing. On December 6th we had a record cold of -17 degrees. In addition to that we received one major snow fall and several smaller layers. So with a foot of snow on the ground and ice forming on all the lakes trails are doing quite well. In fact, at the time of this report some local trails are open and actually being groomed. Sleds are out but caution is the word right now as many private lands are not opened yet,

as the deer hunt season is still open. Officially all trails in Vilas County will open Wednesday December 12th.

Looking for a banner snowmobile year it looks very good as I started booking tours for this season back in August. This winter along with snowmobiling there are other points of interests for Eagle River will be "Klondike Days", "the World Champion Snowmobile Races, the new craze of "Pond Hockey Tournaments", and of course ICE FISHING. The early cold weather is also a Great indication that after three years we will be able to erect the famous "ICE CASTLE" which everyone look

forward to see.

So enjoy some of the best camaraderie and view some beautiful winter landscapes on a snowmobile tour... IT WILL BE FUN!!



The E.R. Ice Castle

## ICE FISHING STILL A FUN OUTING

Ice Fishing is an amazing time and way to fish for walleyes. Early ice is certainly a great time to catch a trophy or two. It is also one of the best times for getting a fresh fish fry dinner. Fishing from a comfortable shelter that is heated we can show some exciting action.

The use of radio controlled trip sensors on tip-ups and larger live baits helps with quick and early detection of a strike and

helps in a selective catch & release.

Fishing times of suggestions on walleye are the four hours of dusk. Fishing from 3 o'clock till 7 o'clock are best. (as seen in the photo big fish bite in the dark).

When temperatures are nice I will even set guests up to do a little jig fishing for panfish where you can also get some nice crappies, bluegills, and

perch.

In between all the fishing action I have a stove to make fresh hot chocolate, coffee, and soup.



Heated Ice Shanty 7x8

## ICE FISHING FOR TROUT

Last year I expanded my ice fishing outings to include a lake that has trout. This is an exceptional way to catch fish but requires a little extra participation from my guests on this one. Since this is a single purpose lake/species I will only use a portable shelter; some of your fishing may be on a chair right on the ice. A different technique of using tip downs and jigging rods are different

form the tip-ups and radio receivers on walleye fishing. Trout however are great fighters and also offer a fantastic fish dinner.

Fishing for trout will also come in deeper water and you will be fishing 30 to 40 feet of water and some times deeper.

Fishing times for trout are more of an early morning mid-day bite, and usually happen in

streaks where you will get several bites all at once.

The lake that I fish holds both rainbow and brown trout. Average sizes are 14 to 18 inches, but it is not uncommon to get one in the mid to upper 20's. You need to specify when booking that you would like to fish trout.

**NEW PROFILE: SPECIAL GUEST OF THE QUARTER**

Completing my first year on the newsletter I found it very complimentary to do a segment on the special guest of the year. Since all my guests are special I have decide to place a special guest feature in each newsletter.

So this quarter's Special guest is Doug Mulford. Doug is from Illinois and is a full-time Fire Lieutenant from the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District, the same Department that I am from. In fact Doug was a Fire Fighter on my shift and worked on my company. When I retired Doug was promoted to Lieutenant shortly after my leave.

Doug enjoys fishing and has been looking for a trophy musky. Three years ago he came up for one day but our weather was not favorable and we only had a few follows.

Last year he planned an outing around the same time but broke his finger on his reel hand the day before leaving.



This year, I was really hoping to get Doug a nice fish. He had two days that he could fish and brought the family along. He also brought his wife's parents and Ron (Doug's father-in-law) went fishing with us, Ron like musky fishing as well.

As a GOOD turn of fate we had two exceptional days of fishing as we turned 15 muskies in two days, with

Doug catching two. One of those fish was this 43 incher. Action was unbelievable as here in the first week of October we still had a tremendous top water bite.

Doug and Ron had a GREAT time, and all of this action was caught on video. If you would like to see this HOT action you can visit my website:

www.[HaveRodWillTravel.com](http://HaveRodWillTravel.com) and go to the **videos page**, "it's a great clip".

**Will see Doug and Ron Back Next year!**



**Another Year to say "Fall Muskies can't be Beat"**

"You can lead a horse to water but you can't make them drink!" As I learn my lakes more and more and understand their patterns, I can only continues to say Fall is the **ABSOLUTE BEST TIME** to fish Musky, for a Trophy!

Yes it can be cold and miserable at times but if you properly dress for the occasion you just may be surprised at the results. There are days that you can, and days that can't, but Fall seems to be a time when you can it is more plentiful. This fall I had 8 and 9 consecutive days that I, my partner, or guest have caught big muskies. In fact we have had many days that we pulled doubles and a few days of triple. Two days we caught four. When the water gets below 50 degrees "Look out" it is time.

In addition to our catches I have

dramatically improved my catch ratio with my new modified V quick strike sucker harness. Testimonials of this fall season have caught over 40 fish with only one loss. It could be luck and maybe it could be a great concept. With the season now over, I will be taking time to make an market these harnesses for next year. If you use them you will have great success.



## GREEN BAY MUSKIES "A POSSIBLE ADD ON"

Fishing muskies this year brought me to TWO new waters which I found to be a great attraction. Still convinced that Vilas County and the surrounding Eagle River area is tops in musky fishing I fished both Lake Vermillion and Green Bay this year.

Fishing Green Bay is an escape to more southern waters but it requires some very special equipment and the ability to handle rougher water. Found here is the Great Lakes Spotted Musky, it is a much lighter color, almost a silver color.

You need to know the water

here as you fish rock reefs and shallow water which causes some danger. One factor that most people do not realize is Lake Michigan has strong tidal effects and it would not be uncommon to see water rise or fall as much as 2 feet or more.

Some great fishing is found here but this area has become one of the most FRAGILE fishery around "Catch & Release" is an absolute must. Fishing here will get you a trophy but I find a particular window when it is best. Although they can be caught all year summer patterns

are light as it may be due, to the fish going out to the deep water of Lake Michigan. The Fall period of October and November seem to be best. It is the same time when our fish here in Eagle River fatten up for winter.

As a trial bases I will be adding Green Bay to my outing schedule and I will match the local price of a trip at \$500 (for two). You will fish a slightly shorter day as the on the water time will be 8:30 to 3:30 "All Catch & Release"

I have learned the tricks so, for more information give me a call.



**G.B. Musky 44 inch with a 20.5 inch girth**



**G.B. Musky 47 inch with a 23 inch girth**

## WHAT'S IS COMING IN FOR 2008/MUSKY

Well the very first news I can report for 2008 is a new Musky season. For years many of the WI anglers have tried to get the musky season to open with the walleye season. South of Hywy 10 Musky opens on the first Saturday in May, north of that it opens on the last Saturday in May.

We currently have a bass "Catch & Release" that open

with the walleye and musky anglers have been looking to do the same . The DNR had been opposed to this and so am I. However special interest groups got this passed through the budget and for 2008 Musky will open on the first day of May state-wide. There are conditions on this season yet to be determined 1) it will be a "catch & release as with the bass season, and 2) you will

be required to fish only with **barbless** hooks.

Although I will fish this part of the season I do not agree with the extension as this is a vulnerable period as musky could still be in the spawning period. So if you want to fish this period I ask for your highest regard for protecting the species. CPR & use barbless hooks.



**Tony, my last guest of the season caught this 37" musky 11/20/07 on a bull dawg he lost a bigger one.**

## GUIDE FEES: TO INCREASE BY \$5.00

It was my hope that I could hold pricing for 2008 but certain circumstance have changed. There are two issues that have affected the 2008 pricing season, they are, 1) an alignment with the Guide Association, and 2) gas prices.

As a member of the Eagle River Guides Association that is home to 23 area guides it is an agreement that no guide would undercut the Associa-

tion base price. In 2006 the E.R.G.A. raised prices to \$200.00 for a half day and \$300.00 on a full day. The increase came in late and I already advertised pricing at \$195.00 and \$295.00 respectively. So for 2008 I was reminded of that agreement.

In addition all individual guides have raised prices due to increased gas expenses. I am choosing to cover this

expense by a surcharge while gas price remain high. Therefore each outing will carry a gasoline surcharge of \$15.00. If gas prices should drop this charge will be removed.

However, by matching the base price and adding a surcharge I will still have **the best rate in town.**

### 2008 GUIDE RATES

- Full Day ——— \$300.00
- Half Day ——— \$200.00
- Split Day ——— \$350.00
- Family Shift Day- \$300.00
- Night Outing — \$225.00
- Early Morning -- \$225.00
- Additional Hours -\$25.00
- Gas surcharge ---- \$15.00

All other amenities of shore lunches, bait, etc. remain the same and will be posted on the website.

**AREA RECOMMENDATIONS**



When you are visiting Eagle River I would like to reference some of my personal favorites to assist you. If you are looking to buy, rent a boat or pontoon Heckel's will offer some of the best pricing in town. If you are here on a snowmobile trip and need to rent a sled this is the one stop place. They even rent Snowmobile suits & Helmets. (No gloves or boots, but available for sale).

**LODGING**

There are tons of places to stay here in Eagle River and I would like to recommend just a few. If the below listing have their own website you will find it in my website.

**Elite Lodging:**

**WILD EAGLE Resort 877-945-3965**

**Top Shelf:**

**EAGLE RIVER INN 877-479-2051**

**EAGLE WATERS Res 800-892-8377**

**MAPLE SHORES 715-546-3111**

**Mid Range:**

**DAYS INN 715-479-5151**

**EDGEWATER INN 888-334-3987**

**SUPER 8 888-945-0888**

**RIVERDALE 800-530-0019**

**AREA EATERIES**

**Riverstone 715-479-8467**

**12 Pines 715-479-4734**

**Chanticleer 715-479-4486**

**Golden Pines 715-479-7178**

**Eagle Waters 715-479-4411**

**Michael's 715-477-2604**

**Clearview 715-542-3474**



**FINAL COMMENTS FROM FRED**

148 days on the water is really quite a feat for the open water season. It was a banner year for guests but the season held a few setbacks; the fishing season was not as good as it should have been. From opening day fish took patterns rarely seen and making adjustments was difficult. Reflecting back I can see what happened.

The season started with unusually high temps which put the walleye immediately into a deep summer pattern on the deep mud flats; they did not stage and return to the rocky areas to feed. In a combination of a GOOD spawn, all fish produced well and created an over abundance of bait fish for ALL predators. Milfoil which now seems to be over run on many Northwoods lakes added to the hardships. Milfoil is extremely difficult to fish because of the heavy mat that it forms.

Both the OVER abundance of bait fish and predator fish took home in an area you could not fish. Fish had plenty to eat all season from the millions of fry fish. A final ingredient in this difficult season was that the Northwoods suffered an extreme drought this year. The DNR reported that lake levels had not been this low since 1952. Many natural lakes lost 18 to 24 inches of water and reservoir lakes like the Rainbow Flowage were down 15 to 16 feet. If the fish did not hold to milfoil then they went deeper with the drought. This Fall gave a little rain with some moderate recovery. All-in-all things should have been much better. This information. Cold fronts always a problem but these three made the season really tough. **Going to make 2008 better, so I hope to see you again!**

*Fred E. Brogle*