

# Have Rod... Will Travel...

Custom Fishing Guide Service & Snowmobile Tours

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P. O. Box 1102 - Eagle River, WI 54521 715-479-LURE (5873) [www.HaveRodWillTravel.com](http://www.HaveRodWillTravel.com)

Greetings  
From; The  
Northwoods &  
Welcome to a  
New Year



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## The Professional Guide Service Of the Northwoods

"Where Clients are Guests & Guests become Friends"

### "LUNAR ESSOX" (Musky) Workshop Scheduled 2007

H.R.W.T. will host first LUNAR ESSOX (MUSKY) WORKSHOP Well you have read my reports several times about fishing muskies during the lunar phases and feeding times. If one could predict the best possible time to catch a musky it would be during the Full & New Moon Phase and using the feeding times of moonrise and moon set.

This summer you will have the opportunity to fish a special workshop that will include just that. I will be conducting two workshops that will be held on a Full & New Moon this summer and each class will be two nights. In a Special Package to include two

nights of lodging & two nights of fishing with top area guides who fish the nocturnal beast. This is a most thrilling and explosive adventure and a time you will not forget.

**First Class: Sunday & Monday July 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> 2007.**

**Full Moon Phase:** Fishing Sunday & Monday nights from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Lodging nights of Sunday & Monday.

**Second Class: Sunday & Monday August 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> 2007.**

**New Moon Phase:** Fishing early Monday & Tuesday mornings from 2:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m.



Fishing dates target the actual night of the full & new moon while fishing times target the best feeding times based on moonrise & moonset, (barring local weather & conditions).

Package Price is **\$595.00** for a **team of two anglers** and includes two nights of fishing with a guide and two nights lodging at the Eagle River Inn with optional weeknight available. You will have a different guide each night and fish a different lake each night. For more information call **715-479-5873 (pick your partner and let's go fishing!)**

### Ice Fishing Wrap-UP

**Ice Fishing In General** – This was a very good year for ice fishing in relation to mobility. Snow accumulations were low and we never had warming temperatures during the season. Ice formed quickly on many lakes, so slush never became a problem. This made travel very easy and moving around was good.

I decided to try a new lake this year, for my shanty, one that I normally fish in the Spring & Fall it's a good lake then but the winter was not. We got several fish there but not one keeper walleye. Every time I wanted a big fish we went back to my "secret lake" that I fished last year, Shown to the left is my fishing partner Glenn with a 26-

1/2 inch Male caught early in the season. This was our largest walleye of the period. Notice how thin the males are, but this is an unusually large fish for a male. Last year early ice was very good for big fish but not this year. Seasons do run in cycles, normally weak winters bring better spring fishing so I am hoping for the best. Here is about average for this year's ice season;



16 to 18 inches were common on my old lake, just not the big of last, **LOOK OUT SPRING!**

Another thing about this lake was the early ice; when everyone was out fishing on 6 inches of ice this lake was still open, something hard to explain. Next year I will reconsider my possibilities. Towards the end of the season I took up the art of ice fishing for trout (rainbows & browns). This was my first experience at trout through the ice and it really did not take long to figure the "dos & don'ts" so next year I will be adding "ice fishing for trout" to the agenda, so if you like to give this a try I got the spot. (**Ice Fishing Cont. P-3**)



***“Make it a vacation plan to visit Eagle River this year, during the Sesquicentennial Celebration; be apart of 150 years of History in the Northwoods, and a top Fishing Area to try.”***

## It’s Not Early to Book Your Dates 2007

### NEED A VACATION PLANNER?

Here at H.R.W.T. I can help you organize a vacation plan. From lodging, to eating, from activities to events; I can help you schedule the current movement here in Eagle River as we celebrate the Sesquicentennial year in 2007.

My best planner no doubt is fishing and I have a variety of methods and time slots to get you, your family, friends, or your business outing on the water for a day of fishing. In a multitude of choice here is a review.

The Standard **HALF DAY**, Enjoy 4 hours on the water during a selected morning, afternoon or late evening. **FULL DAY**, Increase your day to 8 hours of fishing with a shore lunch break. **NIGHT EVENTS**, fish for trophy class fish at a time when big fish come in close to shore, fishing 4 hours after dusk. Finally a **SPLIT DAY**, which is becoming very popular. Fish two separate time periods in an early morning and an early evening outing. On our longer summer days this can give you a mid day break of 4 to 5 hours for some family fun

lunch, site-seeing, shopping, etc. This then puts you in the key lower light feeding times for a better fish catching possibility. It also allows us to fish two bodies of water and maybe to fish species, ie. (walleye in the a.m. musky in the p.m.)

Customizing a day on the water is something you will enjoy. Plenty of extras with your outing and on full day with two types of lunches, 1) a guaranteed walleye shore lunch, or 2) a picnic style box lunch. To view your entire options visit the website (under custom rates) at:

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

## Walleye Outlook for 2007

### THE WALLEYE FORECAST

I do not want to be premature but as I said on the ice fishing report the walleye “ice fishing” was not at its best this year. Lower numbers and smaller fish were taken through the ice, by all anglers. Patterns from, season to season, do develop and it would be my estimation that this Spring we will have a GOOD opener that will take us through to June.

Ice looks like it may go out early as we are experiencing temps in the 60’s as I am writing this review. Open water could occur as

early as in the next week or two. If water temps rise, and they do after ice out, we could have a spawn the first week of April when the first full moon arrives. Even if delayed it looks like this year’s opener will be GREAT.

I plan to get out with the boat A.S.A.P. gathering all types of lake conditions, scouting for walleye with camera and looking for structure will be a key factor; “I will be ready.” Already booked for “opening day,” I am planning to put fish in the boat. Every year we add

to our resource of “knowing the fish.” In addition weather models are showing us the possibility of a warm wet season, this would be very welcome as many of our lakes are experiencing drought conditions. This would be a plus factor as well as rising water conditions also benefit a good catch.

It is going to be a good walleye year so make some plans to be here and not to let that big one get away.

## Snowmobiling Finishes with 2 Feet\*\*\*

Well the snowmobile season this year started a little bleak. We no sooner finished our musky season and the lakes started to freeze and some snow fell. However, a mid December stall left us wondering. Many people went to Michigan thinking we did not have any snow. Although our conditions were not ideal at the beginning of the season, local



riding was a secret as we had some good riding at times. This year was an example that you should

never put your sled away too early. Our best snow and conditions arrived at the end of February and held close to mid March. Over two feet of snow with cold temperature kept the trails in perfect conditions. Our largest group rides of 20 & 17 riders hit the trails the last week of February and first week of March. Snowmobiling: (cont. page 3)

## Snowmobiling (cont.)

A fun ride that I did get a chance to take was our “Republican Ride”. Sponsored through the city of Minocqua, six of our State Legislators came to ride on the trails. Riding with us was the Speaker of the House and Vice Speaker. Along with Senator Dan Meyer and many others we had a GREAT afternoon on the trail. Meeting at the Thirsty Whale on Lake Minocqua for a luncheon we took off on a 50 mile trek that took us out to the local ski resort and back. It was a sunny day, about 25 degrees and the trails were perfect for the snow we had; “flat and white all the way”.

Riding was very good at times and it was unfortunate that some people missed out on some good riding when they thought conditions might be poor.

So if you ever think you would like to try this sport, Eagle River is the spot. Trademarked as the “Snowmobile Capital of the World” you will see why we got that name. If you are a first-time rider come on up, rent a sled and snowmobile gear and I will guide your through some of the most pristine winter landscape you will ever see. Snowmobile Tours also found on the website.



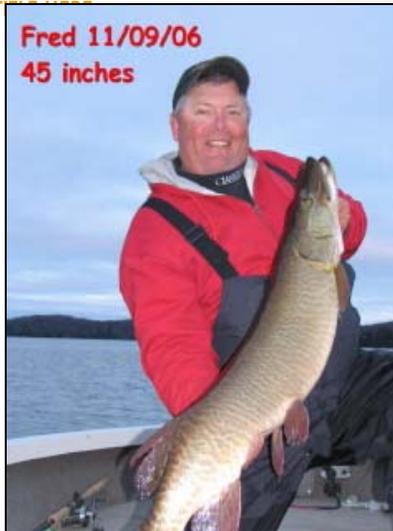
these fish have a different battle plan, they will run straight up to put slack in your line to get off. This was a lot of fun and here a few pictures of Glenn & myself with a couple of nice eaters. We found these fish to be an early morning bite up until noon. So if you wanted a Split Day on the ice we could fish for trout in the morning and walleye in the evening. Early ice seems to be the best time for these but these photos were taken at the very end of February. Here is Glenn with a couple

nice ones.

## Ice Fishing (continued from page 1)

Always expanding my fishing horizons I now have a place to fish for trout through the ice. Learning this technique of using tip-downs and jigging rods, the method became very simple. Finding the fish in the 30 to 50 feet of water was something that took a few days. In this particular lake we need to find the rock/rubble fields and the very deep grass beds, the rest is easy. But watch out,





## Never Forget about Muskies!

I suppose I will never have a newsletter that does not talk about Muskies. Last fall was really an exciting season. We were trying to get a fish over 50 inches and it just did not happen. However, I did have 6 consecutive fish in November that measured; two 44 inch, one 45 inch (shown) two 45.5 inch and one 46 inch; the possibility is real and big muskies do exist. Anyone of these would have been a nice “replica mount”, but for me it will be a 50+. It was fun and exciting and surprisingly many came on artificial baits in the

coldest of waters. I actual caught a muskies on a Hellhound in 36.5 degree water temp. You will not see me put that boat away early next year.

BIG PLANS for BIG MUSKIES this year. The Lunar Essox (Musky) Workshop will head one of my big programs. Working on a few new lakes with some new strategies and techniques will increase chances for my guests. I still say, “If you want BIG fish the Fall is the time,”when the water temps slip into the 40’s.

## Largest Musky in 30 Years, Here in Vilas County



Here is one of my reasons for staying on the water until the bitter end. Tom Gelb seen at the left is a row trolling enthusiast. On the last day of the season Tom caught this Vilas County gargantuan. The fact alone that he deserved a fish that day, Tom fished in high winds with temperatures dropping into the teens on the front of a winter storm. Water temps about 34 degrees, a day I elected not to go out because

I had no one to fish with.

Tom’s effort’s were rewarded a hundredfold, as after the long grueling battle this fish measured 53 inches and weighed 51.5 pounds. No musky in Vilas County, in nearly 30 years, has been caught that weighed over 50 pounds. This was a well deserved fish and a testimony to “Never give up, Never put the boat away” and “Big fish do inhabit our waters.”

## The New Regional Vice President for Muskies Inc. Chapter 12

Well after a loss in the elections last year and a successful win this year I have a new position; I am now a Regional Vice President of Muskies Inc, serving Chapter 12 /Headwaters. As a director for nearly four years I had been looking to do more for our chapter and the musky resource. The Headwaters chapter is based here in Eagle River and has nearly 450

members; here musky fishing is a way of life. It is an economic partisan to the Northwoods. There are 50 chapters nationwide in MI and I have some work to do now. Keeping the musky resource is one of my goals and serving in Muskies Inc., can help me do that. I will be

supporting more than ever “Catch & Release,” along with youth and educational awareness programs. I hope to use my input for better stocking programs, better genetics, and hoping to keep the sport going well into the future. As RVP I hope to be a

delegate for this progressive



Chapter here in Eagle River.

## AREA RECOMMENDATIONS



## Walleye Fishing Tips... "Does Size Matter?"

This is a question that has plagued anglers for years. I have always believed that "big baits catch big fish", but there are times that down-sizing is necessary. Spring and cold fronts are times that, smaller is better. However, Spring walleyes will bite big baits during the pre-spawn and later post-spawn periods. Sounds confusing, it can be. I have always thought I needed to fish walleyes with small baits (small jigs & small cranks).



As a Musky & Walleye angler I find this to be very apparent in the Spring as bait sizing seems to cross-over. Muskies will take walleye jigs during the walleye spawn and walleye will take smaller musky baits in their later post spawn when you are fishing early muskies. Here I took a 23" walleye while fishing for early muskies on a 7 inch Grandma Bait. Walleyes will once again return to those gravel areas for another round of big time feeding, late post-spawn.

Walleyes put on the feedbag prior to spawning, and you will find them on the shallow gravel bars where they like to lay their eggs. When the local weather conditions are right will find them in a feeding frenzy, taking larger bait fish to fatten up for the spawn and immediate post spawn periods, when they do little feeding. Fishing these gravel areas, when warm winds are blowing in, can produce walleyes on big baits like husky jerks & other large stickbaits; casting bigger jigs tipped with large minnows. Catching walleyes at the tail end of the spawn and the first week of the post spawn requires downsizing & finesse way of fishing.

The final point is know the period that you are fishing, Spring can be tough, but there will be times when; "**Bigger can be Better**".

## "Back on the Water" Video Productions

Once again I would like to say that I am enjoying the making of my video clips. I recognize the fact that they may never be on the level of Al Linder or Bill Dance but they are fun to make and I promise to continue to do them. My camera will always be in the boat for guest action and I will do videos for you to continue to enjoy your trip long after you leave Eagle River. I will be making HQ DVD's for you so you can continue to watch that fish catching experience.

It seems I have tackled some of the glitches on the Google uploading and I will post many of my teaching

experiences as well. A video library has been placed on my website and you can travel there to see the many clips I have made. Please take into consideration that many of these were videos made while we were learning the software.

To create a movie does take a lot of time. First to capture it on the computer and edit the clip of roughly 10 minutes takes about 3 hours at best. Then the process of making a movie is also about 2 hours pending if you are going to DVD or placing it into a file. File entries are the ones that I upload to the Google public viewing site; this may take 5

hours pending the size of the file. Then it could be up to 5 hours for processing and acceptance of the video. So as you can see it can be time consuming, but they are FUN!

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter should come out in June to report on the start of the Walleye and Musky season. A segment will be given to "Scouting Pre-Season". So, will see you on the water.

**Good Luck & Good Fishn'**

*Fred E. Brogle*

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 or 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. (You will need to provide your own boots & gloves, but they can be purchased here as well).

### LODGING

There are tons of places to stay here in Eagle River and I would like to recommend just a few.

#### Elite Lodging:

WILD EAGLE Resort 877-945-3965

#### Top Shelf:

EAGLE RIVER INN 877-479-2051  
EAGLE WATERS Resort 800-892-8377  
MAPLE SHORES 715-546-3111

#### Best Value

DAYS INN 715-479-5151  
EDGEWATER INN 888-334-3987  
SUPER 8 888-945-0888  
RIVERDALE 800-530-0019  
HIAWATHA MOTOR 888-479-4442  
STOP-A-WHILE RES. 715-479-3833

### AREA EATERIES

Riverstone	Hiawatha
12 Pines	Chanticleer
Golden Pines	Michael's
Eagle Waters	Clearview
Eagle River Inn	The ERA

"For my complete list of area recommendations please visit the website:"

[www.HaveRodWillTravel.com](http://www.HaveRodWillTravel.com)  
here you will find connecting links