

HAPPY NEW
YEAR



Have Rod... Will Travel... & Have Sled... Will Travel...

The Professional Guide Service of the Northwoods
for all types of Fishing Outings & Snowmobile Tours
"Where Clients are Guests... & Guests Become Friends"

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Fishing was Good in 2008 but, the New Year is Welcome!



**Early Spring
Walleyes
that I will be
looking for.**

Looking back at the 2008 fishing season I see it as a very good year but it left many goals unfinished. The impact of the economy was up and down throughout the year as the clientele was average in May and June, but came to a halt in July, and slightly rebounded in August, with a very good fall musky season. All in all, I had just as many outings this year as I did last year.

This Spring walleye fishing most likely had been my best in years as I fished a new lake that produced some good numbers and sizes this year. The good bass season was very short this year due to unstable weather I never had that good early bite but the mid-summer bite did come on well but it was a time when my guests were not here to see.



"August was August" but we had some good weed walleyes that stretched from June through this month. The walleye weed bite remained good from the rather cool summer we had. We went through the entire year without hitting a 90 degree temperature, the highest recorded temperature here in Eagle River was 88 degrees for the entire year.

It was a strange Fall as we got the extended season which I like, and the musky fishing this year was great. My guests had a 70% catch ratio after October 1st, but I myself caught very few. Good for guests but this was one of my goals that I missed this year.

However, the season did end

abruptly as winter hit us about a week before Thanksgiving this year. Once we got that first sheet of ice, it stayed and never withdrew and many of the lake that stay open late froze early. Ice fishing started right at this time. In order for me to finish some open water musky fishing I had to go down to Green Bay which I will address in another article.

December then hit us with record cold temps as we had many night hitting 20 below. This caused a quick freeze and by Christmas we had 15 inches of ice. The early ice fishing was not that good than. Anyway another year past, more lessons learned and it will be applied to 2009.



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Lunar Seminars Change to a more Custom Design

As many of you know I have a high regard in the lunar activity as the best feeding times during the FULL & NEW Moon phases. I can not tell you how many times this effect produces good fishing but is based on local weather conditions. It is a predictable instance when your time is short and a occasion that you can plan for.

What I plan to do this year is continue the Lunar Seminars but with a twist; I plan to provide custom out-

ings on an individual/partner basis. Listed on my website www.HaveRodWillTravel.com will find the Calendar times of the Full and New Moon from May to December. If you are looking to enhance and improve your fishing skills based on lunar effects I will offer custom outings on these special days and times.

Fishing these days and times will be for either walleye or musky, but expect to fish in the early

morning or late evening. You will find a seven day window of the FULL & NEW Moon, the three days before and three days after. Times of feeding are Moonrise & Moonset.

So if you are interested in fishing these predicted times please check the "fishing seminars page" on the website. If you need more information give me a call **715-479-5873** or visit the website.

Muskies of Green Bay

Have Rod... Will Travel... & Have Sled... Will Travel...

The Professional Guide Service of the Northwoods

GREEN BAY MUSKIES... A Fall Addition Highlight



Jim with a 52 inch



Joe with a 47-1/2



My 44-1/2



Glenn with a 48



Joe Jr. with a 51-1/2



My 47 inch

After finishing my second season in Green Bay (Lake Michigan & Fox River) it has come without a doubt one of my best finds for trophy Musky Fishing. I have decided to add this special outing to my guided tours. It's unique prospect comes with special consideration. For many of my quests who live away from Eagle River, this comes as a good place to meet people half way or to shorten a ride by two to three hours.

Factors involved in this outing are: 1) the best time for this event is in the months of October and November. 2) best results for trophy fish at this time are using a trolling method. 3) On the water fishing times will be from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The current local guide price is \$500.00; a price that I can not undercut. My travel from E.R. to G.B. is almost three hours one way but I know this water very well now and know it has a big plus advantage. Friends and peo-

ple from my fishing group are continually catching fish in the upper 40's and lower 50's. My last day out by myself the day before Thanksgiving (November 26th) I caught this trophy measuring 48-1/4 in length and a girth



Caught November 26th

of 23-3/4. I had to take the photo myself. Without a doubt this is a fabulous fishery... it is however a fragile fishery. More and more people are fishing it and it must be preserved. This outing will strictly be a "catch & release" with every effort giving to release the fish in a healthy manner. Fish regulations on

these fish for 2009 will be a 54 inch size anyway.

THE G.B. OUTING: Cost will be \$500.00 for a one day outing. A two day outing will add \$350.00 to the second day and your guide's overnight expenses. This would be lodging and meals.

The promise is... this is a high potential for landing a trophy musky. In my time on the water here we have boated a nice fish 75% of the time. Persistence and knowing the water is essential. Tidal effects do occur in Green Bay and you need to know your rock reefs. This is a great opportunity to "land the big one", so for more information call **715-479-5873** or visit the website: www.HaveRodWillTravel.com or email

guiding@HaveRodWillTravel.com

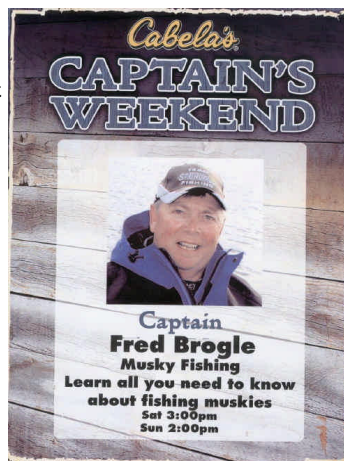
NOTE: That all fish shown in these photos were returned to the wa-

"Captain" FRED to Return to Cabela's for Spring Seminar

Last year I received my first invitation to the Richfield, Wisconsin Cabela's Store. As a first experience I hope to be invited back and I have been. Fine tuning my presentation I will speak both days of the "Captains Weekend" as part of the seminar package.

Once again I will speak on my favorite topic... FALL MUSKY FISHING and how to doctor up and repair your soft plastic baits.

The Captains weekend will be held on Saturday March 7th and Sunday March 8, 2009. I will be allowed a vendors booth where I can speak about my business and pass out information. I can provide all information about my fishing in the



Northwoods, Due to company policy I can take guests information but will not be able to book outings while in the store.

In addition to my booth I will

then give to afternoon seminars on my topic described. Schedule times have not been announced.

So if you are looking for something to do that weekend come up to Cabela's and share a cup of coffee with me or visit my seminar. The Richfield Cabela's is located North of Milwaukee on Highway 43/41.



Last Year's Booth

GUESTS of the YEAR: Dr. Bill Mallory & Igor Zoran Milos

This years guest(s) of the year also falls to the best musky outing of the year. In September I had the pleasure of taking out Dr. Bill Mallory and his best friend Igor Zoran Milos. Igor is new to American fishing and came with Bill to fish for walleyes on September 22nd, as in most days this year the wind was no ally as gusts near 30 m.p.h. blew and white caps no matter where you went. Needless to say it was one of the few bad outings and we only caught a few fish.

Bill and Igor did enjoy their day as I tried to fill the time with fishing education as they had a very more days. Their interest in fishing was very well accepted and I told them the I "would shine" much better on a later Fall Musky outing. Bill said we just might take you up on that.

Well Bill called me a few weeks later and wanted to return with Igor to give that Fall Musky fishing a chance so they returned October 21st.

The day was cold and it was high blue sky that day, Another one of those days when you might think you won't see one let alone catch one. This was a full day and the morning only showed us one fish. We broke for lunch around 12:30 and I told the guys we needed to be back on my favorite spot by 1:30

as the lunar feeding time was at scheduled for a late afternoon bite.

The guys were casting and I was dragging two suckers. As we moved along a tight shore with a good rock drop, Igor was starting to tire and not watching to close when a huge musky about 48-49 followed his bait, making swipe but missed the lure. Igor saw the fish late and was very excited. I marked the spot and we moved out on a circle to give the fish a break.

Now out on a weed edge the back sucker line went down it was decide when we started Igor would have first fish. Not to get him too excited I just handed him the pole telling him I was not sure but he should set the hook. With that he set the hook and the battle was on and Igor was very excited but we land this nice 43 incher.

Twenty minutes later the drop line (which is under the boat) goes down so I handed the pole to Bill and said your turn. Bill was up front as the fish took him around and back by the trolling motor. Huffing and puffing and dropping to his knees Bill had a BIG smile on his face, he got the thrill of a lifetime

with a 40-1/4. Two fish caught and I still wanted to go back where the big fish came out. Getting back on the spot I was running a short line on the drop sucker, lifting the line up and down as we went by the big rocks. Out of no where this fish came again and hit the sucker so hard and ran so fast I could not get the rod out of the holder. Hooked for just a half minute or so you could see how big he was in the clear water but got off.

Bill and Igor were so fascinated by this and things then warmed up quickly. They both caught their first musky and both were nice fish.

Both fish were released healthy back to the water. Both Bill and Igor visited Rick Lax Taxidermy before they left getting replica mounts done on their fish.

With all that fun and excitement Bill and Igor are named my "Guests of the Year" and I am sure they will be back to get that one that got away.



Igor with a nice first fish measuring 43 inch. Big Smile Igor



Dr. Bill Mallory with his first Musky coming in at 40-1/4 inches, Good Job Bill!

Note the High Blue Sky Day but these fish came right during that afternoon feeding period

The Start of the Snowmobile Season "First Tour"

Well as I reported earlier this year I had a left medial knee replacement on December 2nd and I told the Doc he had to have me ready for snowmobiling before Christmas... I was ready.

Back in August I received a call to book a snowmobile tour for December 23 and I was willing to obliged. The Pezza Family was spending the Christmas Holiday in Eagle River and wanted to have first hand experience riding a snowmobile.

Jo, her husband Tony, two children Aiden & Mitchell and Tony's parents Betty and Rag are from Brisbane, Australia, in the Queensland. Therefore making the Pezza family my quests who have traveled the farthest to visit Eagle River and use my service.

I had a great time with them as I thoroughly enjoyed the outback accent and me being called "mate". It was a fun first trip to start the season as we rode up the 13 trail to the U.P. stopping at a few places to warm up and have

some lunch. I had to ask Rag if there was a place called "Walkabout Creek" and he said he did not think so.

Had a great time with these folks and they rented sleds for a second day and went out on their own out to St. Germain. They reported back to me they had a great ride on day two from the learning experience of their first day. To the folks from the "Land Down Under", Thanks and Have a Good Day Mate!



The Pezza Family



Lunch Break

For Sale



**94' CHAMPION 176
DC Elite w/ 2004
Mercury 150 hp
Optimax**

The complete boat package of boat, motor, trailer, & extras comes as a special offer. This is a High-Performance Bass Boat with hydraulic jack-plate, hotfoot, S.S. prop and Hydraulic steering. It has a top speed of 65mph. If bought new today this package would cost over **\$50,000.00**. This boat has been well maintained over the years and the new Optimax motor has less than 50 hours. It gets very little use since I mainly use my guide boat now. It is garage stored and is in great condition. To view and interactive "take a ride" video go to my website: www.HaveRodWillTravel.com and got to the **FOR SALE** page. I have lowered the asking price to **\$15,750.00** which is my rock bottom price. Check it out!



**Victory Quick Strike
Musky Sucker V-Harness**

Last year and this years success in the Fall musky fishing has come from the use of my own sucker harness. Truly a Quick Strike Rig it has a catch percentage of 96% on fish takes in the last two years. I am now offering this setup to you at the price of \$7.50 ea. plus shipping. For more information visit the web www.HaveRodWillTravel.com info video available on proper use.

WWW.EagleRiverFishingGuidesReferral.com

With the successful creation of my own personal business website www.HaveRodWillTravel.com I have taken a new step by introducing a second website for informational purpose. As a local fishing guide with many quests I am often asked many questions on lodging, dining, rentals, events, tackle & sports, and many more information requests about my area. As an ambassador to the Chamber of Commerce I have created a second site just for my **REFERRALS** site name: www.EagleRiverFishingGuidesReferral.com. Here my quests, and future quests can look up my personal recommendations for their special questions. Looking for some additional info... Check out this site!

What's Cooking for 2009

Well it will be fish, fish, fish; after this years experience I can say that I will look forward to the walleye opener this year as the new lakes addition will give me a larger resource for catching fish.

During the month of May I will be spending a great deal of time "getting on fish" and when the Musky opener comes I will

make the switch but will stay on top of the walleyes. Continued experiences show the walleye bite good through June and the musky bite starts about the time the walleye ends.

August is a tough month when warm water conditions occur. Cooling waters of September do pick up the bite but you need to draw a caution as "turnover"

approaches. Once turnover concludes then all fishing is good until ice over.

The with the ice the best walleye fishing will occur from the time you can walk out to mid January then they move deeper.

Last year I had 148 days on the water this year I feel well short but will take a crack at that 150 day mark, so look out!



MUSKY TALK



I indication in my previous article my personal goals of musk fishing feel well short of my intentions, mostly due to my focus. My guests got fish but I found the bite lacking. Therefore I plan to reset the clock and try again. I wanted the 50 plus this year but came close on my last day out with a 48-1/4. I will try again! Also I am going to make a tough goal and shoot for 40 muskies this year, a goal I think is possible. I have developed a few new theories and plan to have new tactics for the season, looking to catch more and bigger fish.

Additionally, I will be working hard on the musky fishery here in the Northwoods. As the new Regional Director for Muskies Inc. I will be taking a leading role in Region 2 which covers the three sates of Michigan, Iowa, and Wisconsin. I have been very active with the restructure of this International Organization.



This 40 inch was one of two I caught on Lake Vermillion it came on my first cast last day on a Top Raider on a windy rough shore 2 foot waves.

Muskies Inc. is a great organization and if you are looking to join a fishing club, Muskies Inc is an organization to look at. Your membership will include 12 issues of Muskies magazine and 12 issues of the Headwaters newsletter if you join my chapter. Learn all you can about musky fishing, plus you will be invited to all the fish outing, banquets, and holiday parties. If interested give me a call and I will send out the information.

This year I became very active in Conservation Legislation and have made many contacts throughout the state. I plan in the future to be a member of the Conservation Congress and work to improve our musky fishery. Currently an opportunity that we are seeking are some of my Green Bay Friends are working to enhance the musky size limit on Green Bay to increase from 50 inches to 54 inches, this will help keep those big fish going. In my own area Vilas County has no 50 inch lakes that I am aware of, but through the Conservation Congress we are past the first step in a two step process to increase the size limit on Big Sand, Long, and Kentuck lakes to a 50 inch limit. For more information:

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The Photo Album: A Few Guests of 2008

