

Have Rod... Will Travel... &
Have Sled... Will Travel...
The Professional Guide Service of the Northwoods
for all types of Fishing & Snowmobile Tours

"Where Clients are Guests ... & Guests Become Friends"

Fishing Walleyes "Before" the Season Opener

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NEW! NEW! NEW! I would like to take you back to last year and the beginning of that season. If you recall I am always looking for more places to fish and I made a season discovery last year. In a nearby section of the Wisconsin River 20 minutes south of Eagle River there is a section of the river that does not close and is open for walleye ALL YEAR!
Last year I visited this area and found some really great walleye river fishing. AN EARLY SEASON right in my backyard. Fish limit of 3, a size limit over 15 inches and a production of some good action and some nice size fish to boot.
Therefore for those of you who have cabin fever I will start a pre-season walleye outing to this section of the river. Guessing that the River will be open enough to launch a boat by April 1st I will be ready for anyone who just can't stand it any longer and we



can get out even earlier in this open area.

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? Rivers are considered as migratory bodies of water and the DNR has certain section open as few walleyes spawn in the river. You need to know your sections and the rules & regulations, this is why I just discovered it last year. I am normally a lake fisherman and follow lake laws and policies. Since this is an area of little pressure I can usually get on some good early patterns here and there are good fish to be caught. If you can not wait for the opener give me a call.

"Let's Go Fish'n"

Learn the "Fishing Secrets" of the Moon
CHECK OUT THE "LUNAR EYES" & LUNAR ESX" WORKSHOPS
www.HaveRodWillTravel.com
click on the "Fishing Seminars" page

"Lunar Eyes & Lunar Esx" Workshops will be Hosted this Year

In an effort to bring both fishing fun & education to my guests, once again I will run the "Lunar Esx" workshops; and will be adding the "Lunar Eyes" workshop. Two seminars for both Musky and Walleyes during the two best phases of the Lunar Feeding Period; Full Moon & New Moon.

Both Workshops will come to you at some FANTASTIC package pricing. You will get two days fishing with a top Eagle River Guide and Two Nights of Lodging at a Great Price of \$610.00 per team of two Anglers. All you need to do is pick the fish you want and the date of the workshop.

HERE ARE THE SCHEDULED WORKSHOPS:

WALLEYE

June 3rd, & 4th, 2008 (Tues. & Wed) on the NEW MOON
June 17th, 18th, 2008 (Tues. & Wed.) on the FULL MOON

MUSKY

July 16th, 17th 2008 (Wed. & Thurs.) on the NEW MOON
Aug. 1st & 2nd, 2008 (Fri. & Sat.) on the FULL MOON
Each of this workshops will come in at a SPECIAL PACKAGE price of \$610.00 per Team of 2 anglers (\$305 ea.). There will be a package price if lodging is not required. For more information contact me.

## Ice Fishing Wrap-Up

To put things very plain the best walleye fishing is **still** early ice. It seems to me that once that ice gets thicker than 10 inches they go deeper and it is harder to catch those trophies.

On November 28th I put my last day on the water, my 148th day, the lake I fished was literally the last lake to be open. I was fishing muskies with a bull dawg and caught a 29-1/4 inch walleye, 9-1/2 pounds, yes it was an accident but it showed me something... just how big a bait a bull dawg is for a walleye to hit in cold water. (Photo upper right) . The lake was freezing

around me and I have a tough time getting off, it was froze over the next day. A week later I went back, to ice fish the lake, and caught (2) 27 inchers close to 8 pounds; After that things tapered off.

I had a few guests out this year but they came later and fishing then died. I worked my butt off to get them fish but the walleye bite was not good and only got a few smaller eyes. Strangely as it was we did get many flags but those fish went into a "pickup & drop mode. I actually pulled the shack early to fish other lakes to get my guest a

better bite on Northerns & bass which did pick up very well.

I also had a short run on those trout this year and I did put a couple of meals in the freezer on them.

So once again for the trophy walleye get that early bite next year, I will have a new plan on that. I do believe I will become more mobile next year and get a big portable shelter... Most likely I am looking at the Frabile Fortress in the insulated version.



## The Snowmobile Wrap-Up

Snowmobile tours gave me a big increase this year. I average 2 tours a week towards the end of the season. It was really amazing as a new word was out on my tours. I actually had another call for one while writing this article but conditions are starting to become "iffy".

The entire season however was fantastic. We had good snow before the Holidays, the ice castle was built and the snow is

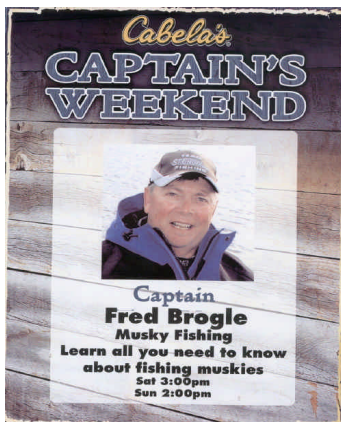
still on the ground at the beginning of March, with only three melt days in January. Currently as I write this article the potential may continue right to April with a little more snow.

I made a big move a few weeks ago and put together a special video on "Snowmobiling for the Beginner" so far it has seemed to be a big success as I have had many calls on it to date. Here at the middle of March I

am still receiving calls for bookings. The video covers everything from clothing, to rentals, to safety tips, and riding. The video is hosted on my website: [www.HaveRodWillTravel.com](http://www.HaveRodWillTravel.com) and click on the Snowmobile Tab you will find the video here.

This years bookings went from corporate outings to a solo husband and wife and I believe they all had fun.

## Cabela's Captains Weekend "Captain Fred"



Well this month I had a great opportunity to be apart of a teaching seminar as I was invited to the Cabela's Spring event, titled THE CAPTAINS WEEDEND; located at the Richfield store.

I was given a space for a vending booth and I spoke each of the two days on "Fishing Muskies in the Northwoods". I had the great pleasure of speaking to many people which is important for me to gain new contacts. I had also had a good

friend from my old FD come up from Illinois just to see me, Ken McAfee just join the retired ranks an came up to see my lecture.

I was also highly impressed with the Cabela's staff as everyone went out of their way to help and were very friendly.

I am already looking forward to next year and hope to return. I have been asked for my input and I will be working with Cabelas to make it a bigger event.

## Guests of the Quarter: "The Herlin Family"

In our last Newsletter I made mention of naming a guest of the Quarter rather than the guest of the year. I have so many fantastic people fish with me and now more snowmobiling it is hard to give a name to any particular person or party. Since however we are just coming off a fantastic snowmobile season and the winter quarter I think it only right to give this issues honor to a snowmobile outing.

Back in August, of last year, I received a call from a nice lady wanting to book a snowmobile trip; my thought was... well right now I am in the middle of the fishing season. My lady quest told me she wanted to get the family together and December 27th was the only day they could get together. None of them had snowmobile experience and it had to be then.

I explained that the earliest our season can open is around December 17th after the last deer season. I also stated as much as the Holidays can be a most memorable time the chance of having good snow is 50/50.

Well they went along with the booking and I helped them with lodging and snowmobile rentals; and as luck would have it we got some great snow before the Holidays even started and the trip was great.

So for that great endeavor to get an early booking and getting the family together my guests of the quarter are Ann Herlin, husband Rich, Daughter Kara, and sons Todd, Clark, and Steve. They all had a GREAT time and enjoyed their first snowmobile ride.

We got their rental sleds at Heckels and since they were the first outing of the season they were also Heckels first sleds to go out so Ann and the family had "Band New" snowmobiles for the trip. We too the ride to the U.P. stopping at Bauer's Dam and lunch at Bent's Camp. It was a great Holiday ride. For the Herlins I did a season opener video which you will find on my website. So check it out a [www.HaveRodWillTravel.com](http://www.HaveRodWillTravel.com) Shown below are some of our photos.



## Snowmobile Tours: A record-breaking year!

To say the least snowmobile tours this year have been the start of a block-busting record. This year we had good snow but once again the website has brought more inquiries and more bookings. I can almost foresee a time that snowmobile tours could take over ice fishing as that actually was a slight drop this season. Ice fishing is really becoming a tough/hard job in preparation.

One of the things that I did this year was to produce more videos on snowmobile tours. The Google video public display brings inquiries to me just on the video alone. But if some searches snowmobile tours they can hit on my website or the video. The hottest video I put out was my most recent "Snowmobiling for the

**Beginner**" and it features almost everything you need to know for your first experience. Starting with proper clothing, how to get proper sled rental instructions, on to safety tips and instructions, a snowmobile ride, places to eat, checking the group, and returning to your lodging. The video has only been out for a few weeks but I am still getting inquiries.

Now at the end of the season it may be doubtful if I get another ride in as I have so many things to finish before the open water season. I will be looking for more snowmobile guests next year and I guess I will need

to get a new sled to show them around, my Cat is 11 years old, but in really good shape. **IT'S FOR SALE** so if you're interested you know how to contact me but you might want to do it soon before I trade it.



## Professional Quality Service at the Best Price

As a reminder from last months newsletter the cost of gasoline is hitting us all, my record 148 days on-the-water last year maybe difficult to break this year as the increasing cost of getting to the lake will be much higher this year. As I tell all my guest I pre-fish lakes prior to your outing as I would like to give you the best day possible. I checkout waters prior to your arrival to make sure my spots are still holding fish.

In order to keep that quality of my fishing I need to address the current problem of fuel to be cost-effective.

My \$200.00 fee on a half day and \$300.00 fee on a full day is the lowest fee I can charge under the Eagle River Guide Association Rules; I have locked those price in for the 2008 season. In order to re-coop some gasoline cost, I have added fuel surcharge that I will adjust based on the current cost of

fuel. Through the season this may go up and down with the price of gasoline.

I want to keep the quality of my fishing and still give you the best price I can offer, because we are all in this money crunch together.

The current surcharge is \$15.00 making a half day \$215.00 and a full day \$315.00. So lets go fishing and relax.

### NEW Website Editor "Better Picture — Better Stories — Better Videos"

If you are looking to view my website right now you may find some old or new, updated or not updated parts of the website currently as this article is being written I am under construction on the new.

The new website is going to be greatly improved with new photos, stories, and some impressive videos.

Gallery photos will have the feature of clicking on a photo and you will get a larger pic-



tures and then you will be able to scan through the whole album in a large format. For more single outing with more photos I will be featuring special guest slide shows it's going to "BE A KEEPER"

I will be increasing storylines and the biggest improvement I will have will be the videos. Videos will be screen activated where they are viewed in the website itself. It may take a little while to transfer from one site to the other but I expect in two weeks or by the end of March to be done. The old site will remain active but you will know when the new one is online. So keep watching for the change and I will shoot you all an email when it's done!

### MUSKY NEWS: Proposed New Season Through Bad Legislation

In a recent story, the Northwoods may see an early musky season in 2009; to say the least **I am strongly opposing this for two major reasons:**

The proposed season will start the first Saturday in May, rather than the last Saturday; it is to be a catch and release period and barbless hooks are to be used. The problem to this is, May; and especially the beginning of May can be a time of spawning for the musky. This is an extremely vulnerable time in the life cycle of the musky. To target spawning fish is a terrifying idea. A lost fish whether it be in an angling accident, or just a mishandling problem; not only kills that fish but the thousands of young that maybe hatched from the eggs it carries.

From a history perspective the walleye population has shown us a dramatic decline from the tribal harvest which is done in the Northwoods yearly during the walleye spawn. Our limits today of 1 and 2 fish are directly related to this factor. It took several years to see this and I do not want this to happen to our Musky Fishery.

Because the musky is less plentiful to begin with the loss of just a few egg-bearing fish at this time could be devastating to our future. I do not think you need to be a fisheries biologist to understand this.

The second reason is how this law was passed. Here in Wisconsin we have a Conservation Congress which has a two process for the DNR to review any proposed law changes. Anyone person can write a resolution for a law change but it will have to go through the Congress and Special Committees for a review and yet it still comes back to the state residents to vote on it.

What happen here is we have a **very few special interest people** that "In the Name Of" promoting better business... chose to have an early musky season to bring in tourist to fish for muskies because the "walleye season is so bad". They are looking to fill their Short-Term pockets with "visitor gold"; and if they destroy the musky fishery they won't be here by the time it dies out to care.

Several years ago we did have an early season but our DNR saw this as a problem and changed the season to what it is today in order to protect the musky fishery.

These few special interest people tried to pass this before in 2005 & 2006... it lost through the actions of the Congress and the collective people of the State. This year they took their resolution to a legislator in the name of Dan Meyer; Dan slid this resolution into the budget where it was signed into law by the governor and bypassed the Conservation Congress. This is like a Gestapo tactic and it sets a precedence and many people oppose this just from that stand point. Think if a PETA person could get some legislator to write a law change like this and we could loose all hunting and fishing rites, this was a bad way!!!

So what can we do... two things:

1) write an email to Dan Meyer and tell him he was wrong for doing this; email Dan [rep.meyer@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:rep.meyer@legis.state.wi.us)

2) On April 14th go can go to your Conservation Congress meeting and vote against the early season; vote **NO & NO** on page 19 of the Conservation Law changes. For more information contact me at: [guiding@HaveRodWillTravel.com](mailto:guiding@HaveRodWillTravel.com) or call me a **715-479-5873**. **I am working to improve our fisheries! Please Help!**

**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**

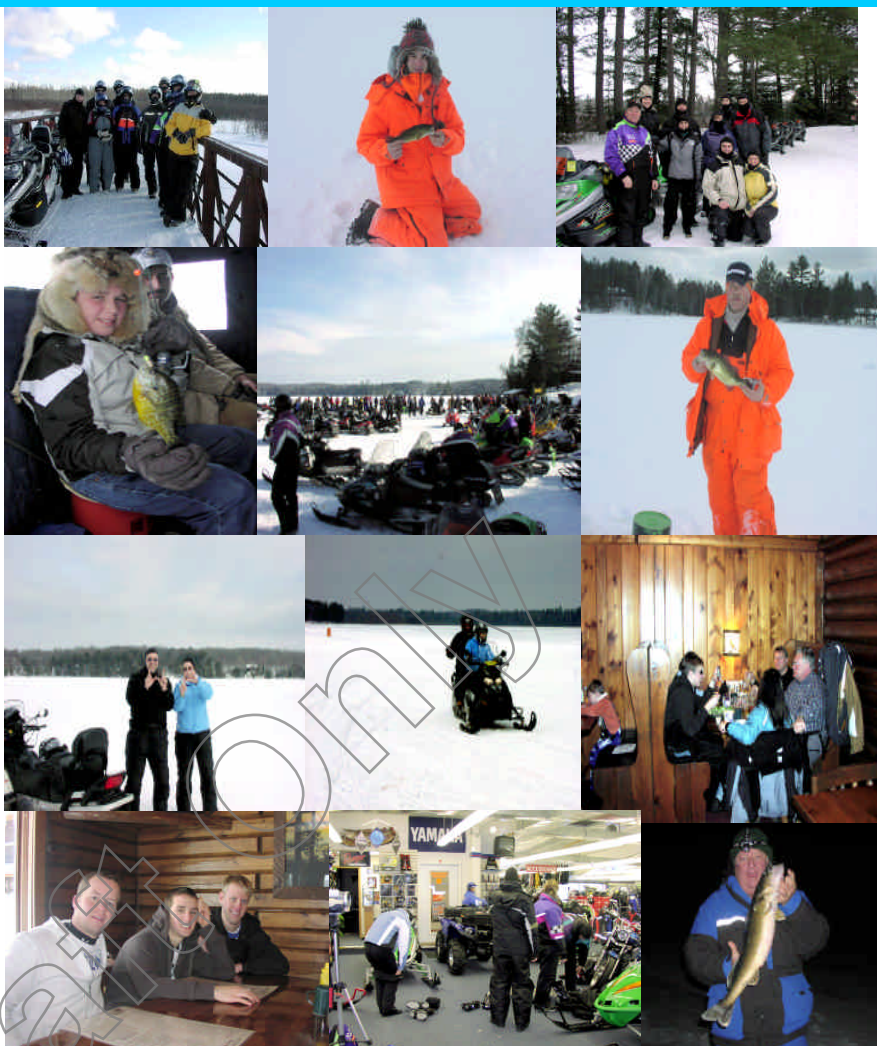
**Chanticleer 715-479-4486**

**Golden Pines 715-479-7178**

**Eagle Waters 715-479-4411**

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

**Clearview 715-542-3474**



**Final Comments From Fred**

On my reflection this was an extremely fast season, winters are usually long in feeling but to me it went by fast. I am very appreciative to my increasing clientele and those of you who have sent many referrals.

In a few weeks I will be preparing for the open water season and I am expecting to be fishing in my river location for wall-eyes in less than 30 days... time seems to be flying. I will be finishing my 5th season as a guide and I continue to enjoy my new job and learn more things and better fishing locations.

DO NOT FORGET THOSE "LUNAR EYES" and "LUNAR ESOX" WORKSHOPS, I have put a lot of preparation in them and I think I am offering a GREAT price in these Package Deals for TWO.

In addition to the workshops and the special outings do not forget about our musky fishing, it is my best and I continue to hold with the thought that the BEST musky fishing is in the **FALL; OCTOBER & NOVEMBER**, so please keep that in mind as you make your fishing plans.

I can only hope that every year is an improvement over last. I want to improve my services and you can always help with your input. Remember as much as I want you to catch fish that is always dependant on that day but I can always work to make your day the best on the water.

**Good Luck & Good Fish'n**

*Fred*