

The Dogumentary

45th Year

All the News That's Fish to Print!

April 2026

2026 Waterdogs Schedule

April 2nd Meeting 6:30 pm at Tuttle's
Trout Talk with DNR & Dog Experts; TJ
Debates, FD, Captain Kirk

May 7th Meeting 6:30 pm at Tuttle's
Guide Bindee Vang talks Metro & Mille Lacs Bass

Tournament Dates for 2026

.... get on your calendar today!

May 1st (Friday) crappies on Tonka (Lulu, Dboy)

May 30th – May 31st Ottertail Overnight (Pat, Uno)

June 20th Bass on Washington/Stella (Bolf, CrawD)

July 18th Bass on Cannon Lake (Clara, Hillary)

August 15th Multispecies Horseshoe (Kat, FD)

Sept 19th Bass on Lake Francis (Bernie, Chips)

The Trout are Biting! Get In on the FUN



The more kinds of fishing you do, the more options you have to enjoy. These next few weeks are a great time to discover or re-discover the great stream trout fishing opportunities we have nearby. No special equipment is needed. The Trout Expert Panel at the April meeting is here to answer your questions and get you out there fishing. Don't miss this opportunity to become a better trout angler!

From the Desk of the President



There's something about early spring in Minnesota and Wisconsin that makes you want to try something new. This year, for me, that meant two trout fishing trips with Kirk.

Trout fishing wasn't something I had focused on before, but that's one of the biggest benefits of being part of this club—learning from others. Kirk's

passion and willingness to share quickly got me interested, and before long I found myself hooked on a whole new style of fishing.

The experience paid off with two milestones: my first brown trout in Minnesota and my first brook trout in Wisconsin—an exciting start to a new passion.



That's what makes this club special—members helping each other grow and try new things. If you've been thinking about mixing it up and trying this style of fishing, say the word—we'll help get you on the water.

I'm looking forward to our April meeting, where TJ DeBates and a few club members will be sharing their strategies for targeting trout in Minnesota.

Tight lines,

Jobe/Lulu

EZ Cats by FD (aka Bob Dickey)

The big rivers in MN were running high for most of last year and as a result, premier catfish guide Darren Troseth was fishing the Horseshoe chain of lakes and writing about it on Facebook. Kathryn and I decided to give it a try and found it to be an easy way to tangle with some hard-fighting fish. It's cheap, close, and a total riot.

The Fish - The Horseshoe Chain is part of the Sauk River Chain of lakes (SRCL) with several larger and smaller lakes and bays that all hold catfish and most other species. If you look at the DNR Lakefinder reports for the larger bodies of water in the system – Horseshoe, Cedar Island, and Long – you will see capture amounts of catfish that are equal to the bluegill numbers and way higher than that of the other gamefish. They have sampled fish up to 29", or about 8 pounds, but larger ones are present. An ice-fishing tournament this past winter saw several cats over 10 pounds with the largest weighing in at 17.



The Rig – Thanks to Darren, we found that a really easy way to rig for cats is with regular bass gear and a slip bobber. You don't need a fluorocarbon leader as cats feed much more by scent than sight or sound. We use a #1 or 1/0 circle hook and a tiny weight to keep the bait down. With the circle hooks, almost every fish gets caught in the corner of the mouth and they have a hard time shaking it off.

The Bait – Darren uses raw shrimp for bait which we have tried with success also, but our go-to is chicken marinated in red Jello powder for maximum scent appeal. Cut a chicken breast into finger-sized strips and sprinkle in a good amount of Jello powder into a zip-lock bag. Cheap and effective. Crawlers also work but you'll catch a bunch of other species using them as opposed to mostly just cats using chicken or shrimp. Other baits and methods would probably work too, but we have not tried them.

Fish Location – Cats are everywhere in the SRCL but we have had our best luck along the weedline in 5-6 feet of water. The weeds grow out to only around

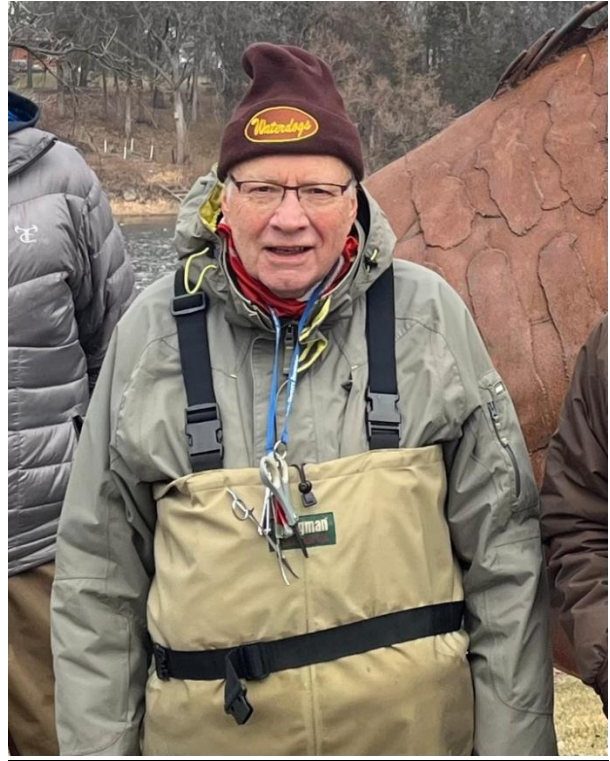
6 feet in the system and are really patchy into the deeper water. This is not a sharply-defined weedline at all. Look for larger shallow areas of weeds and set up in the 6-foot zone. Many times, you can catch a bunch of fish just sitting in one spot. Set your bobber at around 4 feet and let it drift with the wind.



Access – We have been using the Cedar Island Lake access which is an OK access but a little on the rustic side with a dirt parking lot but at least it has a concrete ramp. The August club tournament on the system will be using the Cozy's private ramp on the north end of Long Lake which has a \$3 launch fee but is all paved and smooth. There is another ramp on the south side of Long Lake that has less parking and also a dirt parking lot. One other access exists on the river system just south of Richmond, but this one is a totally dirt launch and a bit of a hike by water to get to the lake system.

Cat fishing on the SRCL is an easy way to catch some good fish that fight like a crazed smallmouth and run under the boat along with other kinds of wild antics. This would also be an easy place to bring someone that may be newer to fishing and wants to tangle with some critters that can really pull hard.

Waterdog of the Month-HOF Rick Anderson aka Old Fart



If you look around the table at the next Waterdog meeting, Rick and Bob Dickey will likely have more years of membership than the rest of the attendees combined. Rick has been in the club for going on 43 years straight since 1983! When the club treasurer struggled a bit, Rick stepped up and took on the role of treasurer. He has been shouldering this responsibility ever since.

Not only a leader in the club, Rick also gives back to his community through his annual bike sale. HE IS LOOKING FOR BICYCLE DONATIONS NOW and people willing to help clean and refurbish bikes. The sale will be May 2nd at Dick's Valley Service in Apple Valley. 100% of the net proceeds (over HALF A MILLION DOLLARS SO FAR) go to Dakota Country nonprofit organizations; Kids 'n Kinship and Darshans for setting a wonderful example for us all.



DOGS IN FLORIDA March 2026

Rick's favorite thing about the club is the camaraderie; being around friends he has had for years and meeting the new members. He believes maintaining the club matters and considers the bylaws clear and effective. "You don't need to be a perfect fisherman to be a member and there is a lot of learning." Rick's Dad didn't fish much, so much of his learning has come through the club.

Some of Rick's favorite memories involved the Lake of the Woods trips, with drive-up chatter on CB radios and hanging out with 20 to 24 members that would be involved. Taking his son on the trip for two years is a special highlight. "The fun was fishing with him, and he and I fishing with other members." The loss of some of the key members and the decline of the fishing are his suggestions as to why the trip lost energy.

He earned his handle at the LOTW trip due to high fruit consumption and the resulting intestinal impact. Maybe the "old" part of the handle was added to denote a delicate condition as old as humanity

Fellow dogs trailer issues on the LOTW trip (Carl and Janitor), a food fight during a shore lunch, and a run-away steak grill at a resort are among other fond memories. (Ask him to tell you the stories!) Back surgeries and a recent shoulder replacement impact the fire to muskie hunt. Luckily there are other fish to target and new friends to make.

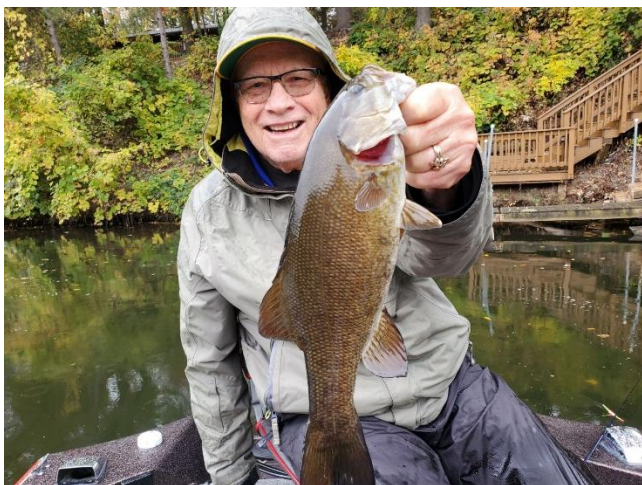
Rick's concern is that electronics and gadgets will affect fish and fishing. "We should have an unplugged tournament with no electronics and two rods allowed.

Keep it simple, keep it fun, help members learn, that is why I've been in the club for forty some years."

Wise words from a wise man. Wisdom to embrace and celebrate with a food fight and some fruit consumption. If you haven't had a chance to meet Rick yet, try to sit next to him at the next meeting and introduce yourself. Celebrate the gift of Rick!



Butcher, wife Lyn, & Shamu catch in Marathon





Shamu, Spanky, and Lulu got into Red Grouper 50 miles off Fort Myers Beach