

DWWC Newsletter

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 10

DECEMBER 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pike Fishing in a Chilly Canadian Storm

By Curt Frisbie

We stood on the porch of our cabin and surveyed the blustery sky. The Canadian weather at the beginning of our fourth day of fishing at Gangler's Lodge was iffy, windy, and threatened to get worse by the hour. Most troubling was the prospect that the wind gusts might increase enough to keep our de Havilland Turbine Otter float plane from landing to pick us up later that afternoon. Visions of spending a very chilly night in the wilderness on Belsham Lake just below the Northwest Territories spun uneasily in my head. July was supposed to present warm weather, cool breezes and fluffy clouds to our chosen area. Instead, a cold front surrounded us as it ripped across central Canada and the upper mid-US. The clouds had turned an unfriendly shade of

gray, bordering on black, and frigid winds and rain threatened to penetrate every unprotected piece of our clothing. But, we decided to go for it during a lull and our Otter eventually skied to a stop at the make-shift dock and my wife, Gena, and I got out and watched as the work-horse plane flew out to drop another pair of the original ten passengers at another spot on the lake. Our native guide, Bernard, quickly had our 16-foot Alumarine boat with its 25 hp motor humming. Rain pelted us lightly as we ploughed through the then-light waves. But, one look at the still menacing sky convinced us to stay within the protected shoreline areas and not venture out into the middle of the choppy, white-capped lake.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukah! Happy New Year!

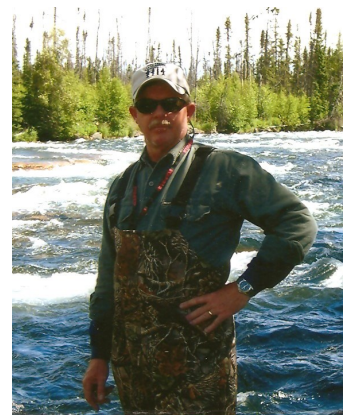
As I sit to write this December column, I'm reflecting on the wonderful Thanksgiving feast that my wife Kathy, as always, prepared for our family. I hope each have you also enjoyed the pleasures of family, friends and good food on the day where we (should) pause to give thanks for all the blessings we enjoy because we live in this wonderfully free country. Christmas will be here soon and our home has been magically transformed into a wonderland of Christmas decorations, and is filled each week with the love and laughter that is always present as we prepare for that glorious day. And then on Christmas morning the joy of unselfish giving is seen and felt on the faces and in the hearts of the eleven people who make up our special family.

Do you get the idea that there is something besides hunting that I really love about this time of year? Now there is laughter, joy and love in our household all year long, but at this time of year there is so much more of it, and it is truly addictive! The entire holiday season from Thanksgiving to New Year's is just so special for us. I hope the same is true for each of you and your families.

Everyone celebrates this time of year in their own fashion, which is as it should be. I want to wish each and every one of you, and your families a safe, healthy and glorious holiday season ...and good hunting!

I look forward to seeing you all in the coming year at the March 7 banquet, Club dinner meetings, and other events.

Joe Chenoweth
DWWC President



Members Bulletin Board

*This is a personal service to DWWC members ONLY, no commercial. You may submit your ad by email to the following: info@dwfcc.org. Send in Word format as an attachment. We can post for **three months**; if your item sells prior to that time, please email or call the office and we will remove the advertisement.*

WANTED

- **Quality hunting lease.** Will consider all offers. Call Todd Fecht at (972) 679-8980.
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- ◆ **Youth Doe Hunts.** Hunts require youth to have taken hunter education and have valid Texas hunting license, and be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Guides, lodging and food are included in the price. Each hunt has space for 6-8 youth. Please send checks to DWWC office at 1221 W. Campbell Rd Ste. 215; Richardson TX, 75080 or call the office at (214)570-8700 to pay by credit card. *(Deposits are non-refundable).*
 - ⇒ January 9-11 Ranch is located in Albany TX (approx. 2.5 hours from Ft. Worth). Cost: \$125 per hunter. For additional questions or details, email or call: Aaron Alston 903-445-2584; aaron@easttexashomesllc.com.
 - ⇒ January 16-18 Hapgood Ranch located between Bowie and Wichita Falls. Cost: \$150 per hunter. For additional questions or details, email or call: Martin Traylor 254-432-9806; martin.traylor@gmail.com.
- ◆ **Monthly Program Meetings.** Second Thursday of every month at the Sheraton North Dallas at the Galleria. Complete information at www.dwfcc.org.

Save the Date!
Mark Your Calendar!
Start Inviting Your Friends and Family!

*Annual Woods and Waters
Banquet and Fundraiser
March 7, 2015
Plano Center*

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(continued from page 1) We were quickly surprised! The fishing in that chilly weather was good. We drifted through likely walleye spots and immediately starting getting strong hits and pulling them in. Photos were taken. More fish came to hand and posed for posterity. The chilly air was not dampening their enthusiasm for our plastic offerings. Twenty-two to 26-inch catches were the norm but the cold weather seemed to keep most of the bigger, and obviously smarter, 28-inchers at home, down deep out of harm's way. Mepps spinner baits, lead-head jigs and even Rat-L-Traps worked when attached to a spinning reel. I was glad I brought gloves with me even if they were thin, summer golf gloves, as the wind continued to pick up while the sun moved across the sky. The sky threatened to clear up while two of our boats met on shore and the guides prepared a scrumptious, fried walleye lunch

with potatoes, onions and beans. A crowd of seagulls waited patiently for us to get out of their way so they could clean up any scrap of food we had left behind. A small, immature bald eagle circled overhead but he was apparently full from an earlier meal and just watched us with evident curiosity.

We continued to fish after lunch with about the same amount of success. The two of us had pulled 36 walleye into our boat plus six small to medium-sized pike running to 32 inches before we decided to call it a day while our pilot was

still willing to try to land in the choppy soup. After circling us once to get a good look, the Otter landed with a seeming effortless grace and we piled on board. A repeat performance got the last two fishermen off the lake and we headed back to the lodge and a warm heater. It was a good day for us but not what Gangler's would call a "great day." On a great day our boat would have caught more walleye and lake trout than we could count.

Our trip was one that Ken Gangler had donated to the Dallas Safari Club's Wednesday evening auction in 2013: four days of fishing for two people at his North Seal River System lodge on Lake Egenolf.

Gangler's has 7,200 exclusive watershed square miles where all four species of the Canadian Grand Slam are always within reach. No less than 23 fly-out lakes are available to the guests, including some lakes that have yet to be touched by fly or hook. Ken only serves 24 fisher-people at a time; thus, there is never a crowd to deal with on the water. The lodge is spacious and neat featuring a bar, pool table, ping pong on the porch, a store for clothes, lures and more with all purchases on the honor system, a fireplace and pot-bellied stove, large kitchen, dining tables, sitting area....all the amenities you would expect at a first class lodge. To get there you overnight in Winnipeg and are taken early the next morning to the local private airport where one catches a Beechcraft 1900C which, in our case, held 16 passengers and their gear.





The flight was two hours to a fueling station and then another hour until it was wheels down at Gangler's in Northern Manitoba. It is about 50 miles south of Nunavut, the newest, largest and northernmost territory in Canada. Guests at Gangler's stay in comfortable cabins featuring a living room, one or two bedrooms, bath, and screened porch. This is hardly roughing it!

On our first morning our plane was delayed a couple hours in Winnipeg because of a questionable gauge reading. When all systems were checked and a "go" was declared, the flight quickly settled into its usual comfortable and effortless float in the clouds. A quick lunch of chili was downed at the lodge and we were out the door and down the dock where we met Bernard who was to be our guide for the entire trip. Our boats were 18 foot Alumarines with 50 hp motors. The shape of these boats kept the waves from coming over the sides in all but the roughest seas. Bernard drove us a long way to his

day. Our spinning rods with lead head jigs and white or yellow tails attached were fixed for us in advance. Gena and I cast our offerings toward shore with the North Seal Pike as our quarry. We each got one on at about the same time but I lost mine while she pulled hers in to pose for the photo album. Somehow, on just about every trip we go on, she almost always catches the first one, the last one, the largest one, the prettiest one and the most! She is my fish-whisperer, I suppose. It seems like my purpose in life is to be her photographer. But, given our late start that first day we had to be satisfied with her catching five pike while—for once—I beat her with ten pike lifted out of the water, the largest about 38 inches who posed for his or her picture.

Thursday was a good day for our boat. We continued to look exclusively for pike. Each spot was thrashed with our lures until the fish quit biting. Bernard then took 10 to 15 minute trips to new locations. Pike were caught but no really big

ones were attacking our offerings. Fortunately, the rain was spot leaving us alone while we worked the shore lines and other likely hiding spots. By the first time our stomachs started to growl, we had taken about 25 pike off our barbless hooks and released all of them except the few saved for lunch. As usual, the guides did all the fire building, fish cleaning, and cooking while we watched and explored the countryside and took pictures. Adam Carnes, an artist from Chicago, and his family friend, Luke from Florida, joined us. Adam's mother won the trip in a drawing at some event she attended and gave it to Adam as a gift. Nice Mom! Soon, our guides had fresh fried pike for us with potatoes, corn and the rest of the fixings. Everyone got seconds on the pike as it was outstanding. Then it was back to "work" as there were still plenty of fish to be caught. At the end of the day Gena and I had put 40 pike in the nets, took pictures of most of them, and then released them to be caught again when they grew up. Still, no lunkers were making an appearance. I guess the smaller pike beat them to our bait? By 3:30 to 4:00 PM it was raining steadily and I put on my rain suit as we headed back in and Gena and I huddled up to try and stay warm. Then my Gilleys hat flew off and we had to turn around and fish it out before it disappeared. Going home was not much fun and I looked forward to putting the heater on high in our cabin upon return.

David Wolsoncroft-Dodds, a professional pike fly-fishing guide from Wiltshire, England was staying at the lodge for a few days and tying flies. An amiable fellow who is passionate about his craft, he wrote "Fly-Fishing For Pike" (2010) where he exhibits his wide knowledge of this relatively new sport. One look at the cover of his book will convince you that he knows how to catch the really big ones!

The unseasonably cold and windy weather was still playing havoc with our fishing. As it turned out, Friday was to be no exception. I caught seven medium-sized pike and Gena caught another four before we decided to head back in. The endless cloudy and rainy skies, and the chilly winds finally got to us. We had not expected such unseasonably cold weather. Gena forgot to bring her rain pants and got her bottom half soaked and cold as small waves occasionally whipped over the sides of the boat. Our chilly hands did not help. Reaching shore we decided to have lunch and then take a nap before going out in the afternoon around 2:00 but, when we woke up and looked at the drizzle and high winds and rocking boats at the dock we decided that playing pool would be more to our liking. Two other men in our group made the same decision. While I have never played pool well, sometimes I do get lucky and I can boast of beating Gena at pool 5 games to 4.

Sunday, July 13, was our day to fly back to Winnipeg. It was a pleasant, uneventful ride back. We were sorry the weather did not cooperate with us but....that is the way fishing goes....sometimes you cannot catch a fish with dynamite and sometimes you fear your arms will fall off from exhaustion reeling them in. This was a time when the unseasonable weather said we were not going to be able to brag about all the giants we



boated. But, there is no question in my mind that the Gangler's reputation as a first-class, primo fishing lodge is warranted, and a second trip is in order....soon! The regular price is \$4,195 per person for four days' fishing, and you should contact Ken Gangler at kengan-

gler@ganglers.com to reserve a spot or for more information.

Once we got back to Winnipeg we stayed a couple days to see the sights. Our first stop was the Assiniboine Park Zoo where the new polar bear exhibit had recently opened. You could see the bears from ground level while they lay in the open field or you could walk underneath the water and view them swimming and eating behind large plexi-glass barriers. Afterwards, we took a cab to the Canadian Mint where they made all the Canadian coins plus, surprisingly, the coins for over a dozen other countries around the world. The next day found us at the Winnipeg Art Gallery where we viewed the hanging art indoors and the sculptures in a roof-style garden gallery. Finally, we explored The Manitoba Museum where the most interesting exhibit was of the Nonsuch, a ship originally built in 1668 and involved with the founding of the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1970 a new Nonsuch was built in England and eventually sailed to Canada where

it was placed in the Museum. It was a good end to a very pleasant trip with Ken Gangler as our inestimable host. We shall return!

Curt

Member Photos

“A couple of pictures of fishing taken at Lake Fork on Sept 24, 2014. Guide David Strahan and I were jigging spoons on the bottom for largemouth bass and caught this 9 ½ lbs. catfish in about 23 feet of water. David kept the fish and fried him for dinner the next day. Fished all day and

caught one largemouth bass, the catfish and several small bar fish (5 or 6 inches yellow bass or baby sand bass). Great weather to be on the lake.”

Jim Webb



Curt Frisbie III with a 22lb Peacock Bass caught on the Rio Negro in Brazil with Amazon Adventures Outfitters.



Photos from DWWC September upland bird hunt with Golden Prairie Hunting Service in Sublette, Kansas.

Above: Tim Cutts, Henry Seeligson, Phil Cutts, and Phil’s dog, Barr.

Right: Donnie Russell, Henry Seeligson, Tim Cutts, Phil Cutts, John Cutts and Phil’s dog, Barr, with chukars.



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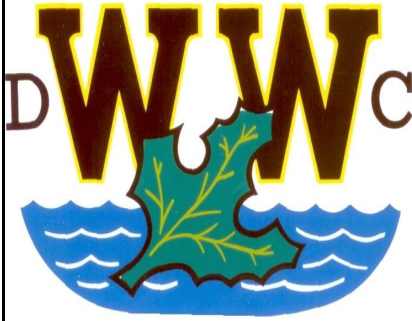
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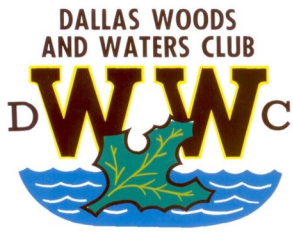
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