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"ICE-UP IS IMMINENT"

As we head into the last weeks of open-water fishing on lakes in our area, cold fronts, snow, rain and sleet will all be here to make for difficult fishing conditions. Only the hardy fisherman will be out beating the water for that once in a lifetime trophy musky or walleye.

With water temperatures hovering around 40° - Ice-up is not far away.

Everyone knows that walleye are hitting jig & minnow combos in 30 to 35 feet of water at this time of year and some of the larger walleye may be even deeper.

What a lot of fisher people fail to realize is the fact that walleye are already in water of 1 1/2 to 4 feet, feeding on small bullheads and 1 1/2 to 2-inch crappie and bluegills in the decaying weeds and stump fields.

With fall turn-over complete on lakes in our area, fish can be almost anywhere. We all know first ice is usually the best ice fishing for walleye, but the walleye are in these shallow areas feeding, weeks before first ice and usually the shallow water walleye are pounds ahead of the 11" to 13" walleye we're catching in deep water.

When it comes to musky - this too is an area that most musky fishermen avoid like the plague; except for a few that "know" this is a potential hot spot.

The recently caught 38 3/4 pounder is an example of just such a situation. This fish was caught on the Flambeau Flowage in 10 feet or less of water.

Granted - a lot of nice fish are caught deep, but don't overlook the shallower water by the decaying weeds and stump fields.

Best of luck,

Sole

DON'T STOP NOW!

by Ken Reinicke

The bitter breezes of November may have discouraged some fishermen but, if you plan thoroughly and you dress appropriately, you can enjoy the best trophy fishing time of the year right NOW! Every year the heaviest fish seem to be registered in November. Their spawn sacs are full of eggs or milt and they have fattened up on prey fish all season so they're as heavy as they'll ever be. Try some of the following hints and you might just get that "wallhanger" you've been looking for all your life!

First. Remember that the water is very cold right now. That means play it safe! If you fall into the water you probably have 5 minutes before hypothermia kills you. SO USE YOUR HEAD! This time of year, more than any other time, you want to use a very stable boat. And the bigger the better. Those deep semi-vees or deep vee hulls are absolutely the best for stability and safety. Lund, Tuffy, Alumacraft, Starcraft and Sylvan come to my mind. Once you've owned one it's tough to settle for anything else. And it's the best insurance policy you'll ever buy!

Snowmobile suits or insulated rain suits with extra large hoods are the best weather protection. A pair of Sorel boots is almost a must. And some Thinsulate gloves for when you're holding onto the wheel or tiller. I'm a firm believer that you can't fish with gloves on so rig up a 5 gallon can with some stable legs on it and install a grate about 8 inches from the bottom. Burn some charcoal in it and about every third cast, or whenever, just put your hands above the lid for a short time and you'll have warm hands all day. You can even cook hot dogs or brats on it if you install a top grate.

I would suggest braided line this time of year for Muskies. Monofilament line is basically a petroleum product and it won't have the same strength that it did in summer. For Walleyes and Smallmouth you don't have a choice so use the best line you can find. For my money you can't beat Stren Mod 2.

A sixteenth-ounce or eighth-ounce jig tipped with a 4 to 6 inch Redtail chub is about the best for those deep Walleyes (during the day) or Rapalas and Minnow imitating baits for casting on the bars and flats at night.

Muskies will want those "big sticks" or suckers in November. Suicks, Bobby baits, Smitty baits, or large crankbaits will get the most action. A one-ounce jig with a Creature tail or a small sucker is another good method.

The Muskies can be at any depth this time of year. Three feet deep to 40 feet deep. So try shallow-running baits, then mid-depth runners and, finally, the jigs if you need to. Just keep trying.

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NEWSLETTER

≈ ≈ **MANITOWISH WATERS** ≈ ≈

Bob McClellan - Guide - Newsletter Publisher
Junction Tackle and Gift
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October was a month of super walleye fishing on the Manitowish chain, but the quality of walleye was very poor, with many 11" to 13" walleye being caught and released. **Spider, Island, Manitowish** and **Stone** were the hot lakes in depths of 25 to 35 feet, using 1/8-oz and 1/4-oz jigs tipped with small to medium-sized chubs or fat-head minnows.



Little Star produced some quality sized 3 to 8 pound walleye in depths of 35 to 45 feet!

Rest Lake also produced some nice walleye in the wood on the north end, using 1/16-oz weedless jigs or slip bobber rigs in 4 to 8 feet of water. **Rest Lake** was also producing some nice smallmouth on rocks at 25 feet.

Island produced some nice 18" to 20" walleye in the shallows by the stumps where the Manitowish River comes in. Jumbo perch were also active in this area for the last couple of weeks.

Some nice 3 and 4 pound smallmouth were caught in **Spider Lake** on the small rock hump just off the north shore in 25 feet of water.

Musky were active and walleye fishermen had a lot of musky hitting jigs and minnows in deep water and also grabbing the smaller walleye when bringing them from depths of 25 to 30 feet! **Alder Lake** produced quite a

number of musky in October in the 36" to 40" range on suckers as did **Island, Manitowish, Spider, Stone** and **Rest Lakes**. Almost every musky caught was either caught on a jig & minnow or a live sucker. Artificials produced a lot of follows, but not many fish.

As we head into November we're looking at about 3 weeks maximum of open water before ice-up.

For those of us brave enough to head out, you'll find a lot of fast action on walleye and musky.

Walleye will continue to be in depths of 30' to 45' of water and also in depths of 2' to 10' of water. The closer we get to ice up the more quality fish will be shallows in **Island, Rest** and the river channels. Look for open water fish in the same areas that have excellent walleye fishing on first ice. Work your rock shore, where cisco spawn, in **Island, Clear, Star, Manitowish, Rest** and **Spider**.

If it's musky or trophy musky you're after, this is the time to work the rocky shores where cisco come in to spawn just before ice up. These shorelines are the same ones used by walleye in late April and early May.

Island, Spider, Manitowish, Clear, Little Star and **Rest** lakes all have good cisco populations on the chain and all are prime lakes for trophy fish. Large suckers 16" to 20" are by far your best bet for late season bait for musky, fished deep off cisco spawning grounds. Deep diving crank baits like Smittys, Rizzo-Divers, Bucher Depth Raiders and your jerk baits like Eddies and Suicks. Remember to work your baits slowly!

Water levels on the Manitowish Waters chain are down to the winter levels, so beware of the rock bar in **Alder**, which is level with the surface and the big rocks between **Island** and **Spider**. Also watch for the shallow sand bar on **Manitowish**, just out from the channel to **Alder**. All of these are navigation hazards!

Good Luck & Take a Kid Fishing.

Bob



Let's Go Fishing

with area guides

NOVEMBER FISHING

PRESQUE ISLE - WINCHESTER AREA

Ken Reinicke

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If you want to catch some Walleyes you will certainly want to fish the lakes in the Presque Isle/ Winchester area this fall. The Walleyes, Smallmouth Bass, and Muskies top the list of species you can catch, but Crappies, Perch, and Bluegills will help you "stock" that freezer for some midwinter treats.

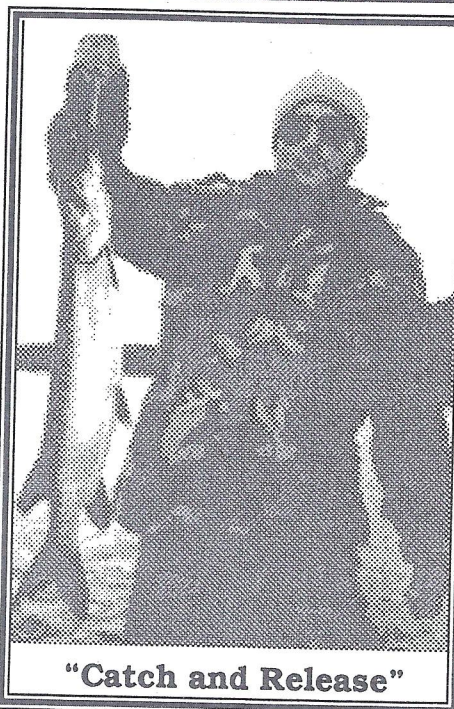
Walleyes are following the traditional fall "feeding Binge" on several of our lakes. **Harris, North Turtle, Birch, Presque Isle, Annabelle, Horsehead and Little Horsehead** are prime lakes RIGHT NOW! I would pick **North Turtle** and **Harris** as the top two, but don't discount the others, especially for big fish. On that count **Presque Isle** has to get the nod. But if you fish on **Presque Isle**, don't be afraid to go deep. REAL DEEP. 45 to 70 feet. If you look around the lake with a graph you'll soon see the reason why.

Fish the traditional way, but use heavier jigs than normal when you go deep. One quarter ounce should be as heavy as you'll ever need to go. And you'll need six-pound test line. 4 pound stretches too much at that depth. Eight pound test might also be a possibility. Big Redtails, 5 to 7 inches long, will get you those big Walleyes. Medium action rods will still be heavy enough to help you set that hook while providing enough "feel" so you can feel those "pickups". At night you can fish the shallow humps and flats with artificials. Six inch Rapalas or any minnow imitating bait should be "swept" across the three feet deep to eight feet deep bars and flats. This is truly the time for trophy Walleyes.

The Smallmouth on **Crab** are still hitting and you fish them the same way you fish for Walleyes. Jig the rod a little as you're fishing the deep bars and humps and don't worry about feeling the strike. They'll let you know. Also try **Katinka, Anne, and Armour**. **Armour** is the "sleeper" with the potential for some huge Smallmouth. Hardly anyone fishes for them.

The Ciscoes are dotting the surface of **Papoose**. Big Musky time is here. Soon the Ciscoes will be "stacking up" along the shorelines and channels. And those "big ol' gramma" Muskies will be right there with them.

Suckers take a lot of fish now, but more and more guys are going to the big jigs with either Twister tails, Creatures, or small suckers on them, and slow jiggging them on the bars at 20 to 50 feet deep. One of these days



"Catch and Release"

somebody is going to hang a 50-60 pounder up here. My guess would be **Presque Isle, Papoose, Trout, or Little Trout**. I'd bet my best Fenwick flyrod that there's at least one in each of those lakes!

The Crappies are still available on **Noseeum, Round, Rock, and Van Vliet**. The chore with these critters is to find them. A good depthfinder and a lot of "hunting" is a must. When you

do find them (and they'll be suspended) a tube jig on 2- or 4-pound test line is all you'll need.

Bluegills are still available by the weedbeds and sticks in **Van Vliet**. A simple worm on a bobber will do the trick. Make sure to take plenty of worms!

Now is also the time for the Steelhead a little further north on **Lake Superior**. Six-pound test line on fly rods using spawn sacks is the way to go. Find the deep bends in any of the streams and you'll find fish.

Go out and get'em!

Ken

LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT!

by Ken Reinicke

This time of year the fisherman with the "touch" has little trouble bringing back a limit of fish. What is the "touch" and how do you get it? Two ways. Either "pay your dues" with a lot of "on the water" time, or save years of work by hiring a good teacher.

It obviously makes more sense to hire a good teacher, so what will that teacher tell you? Or show you? Maybe I can give you some idea of what to expect.

First. Make sure your teacher (guide) has done what he'll be talking about. Have him take you out on the water to prove his ability. If a picture is worth a thousand words, one trip with a "good" guide could be worth thousands of dollars.

You probably know by now the right equipment to use: 4-pound test line, one-eighth or one-sixteenth ounce jigs, a light to medium action rod, and medium-sized Redtail chubs.

(Continued on page 4)

~ ~ ~ **BOULDER JUNCTION AREA** ~ ~ ~

TOM SWANSON'S GUIDE SERVICE

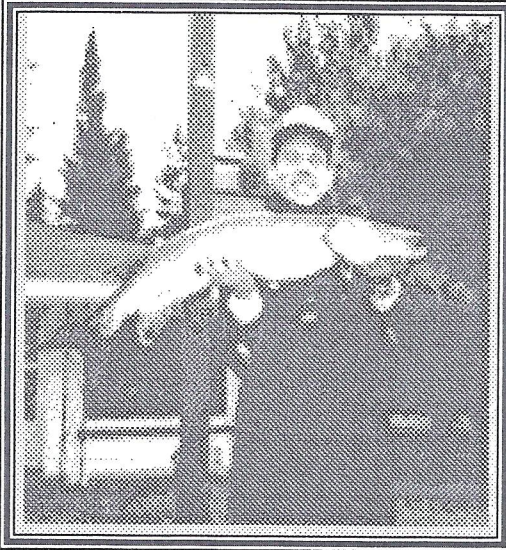
P O Box 144

Boulder Junction, WI 54512 715-385-2168

All we hear about in November is fishing for trophy musky and even though it is the best time to catch a wall-hanger, it is also prime time for large walleye.

There seems to be two distinct patterns for November:

One is fishing very deep water (40 to 60 feet) with 1/4-oz jigs and large red-tail chubs. Deep rock bars are usually where the large walleye can be found. I use large chubs, at this time of the year, because the walleye are feeding on cisco approximately 7 to 10 inches in length. We want to present a bait of about the same size. This method will work in any deep, clear lake that has a large population of cisco. **North and South Trout Lakes** are two of the best for deep-water, November walleye.



"Don't put those spinning rods away yet."

The second pattern, again cisco related, for large November walleye begins when the water temperature drops to 42° to 44°. Low water temperatures start the fall cisco spawning, which takes place along the rocky shorelines. In many lakes this is the same place where the walleye spawned in April and early May. Walleye will follow these large schools of cisco from the deep water to the shoreline. The trick to catching these fish is to use a 1/16-oz jig and a medium to large chub, worked slowly over and down the rock and gravel drop-offs. Some of the finest catches I've ever seen were in November, so don't put those spinning rods away just yet.

Prime walleye lakes in the Boulder Junction area are the **Cisco Chain, Boulder and Big** lakes.

Talk to any trophy musky fishermen about November fishing and you'll see the excitement build. Many of the largest musky registered in a season will have been caught in November.

There are a few tricks to catching large musky in cold water. Large (18" to 22") suckers seem to be one of the best baits, when fished on or near the bottom. Once the

musky strikes the sucker, wait 30 to 45 minutes before setting the hook.

Jerk baits and crank baits also work very well in November when fished along deep, rocky shorelines. For best success, retrieve your bait very slowly, to the point where the retrieval becomes boring. It's important to remember these large fish just can't swim as fast as they did when the water was warm.

One last tip for cold water fishing, don't start too early in the morning. Let the temperatures warm up some, before you start fishing, but stay out later in the day. Many trophy musky are taken the last few hours before dark.

Many lakes in our area are good November musky lakes, but some of the best are **White Sand, Fishtrap and Trout**.

And remember, for quality fishing, whatever the season, practice Catch and Release all year 'round.

Tom

(Continued from page 3)

The prime location for most Walleyes in most of the lakes is at the transition edges; where the hard dropoff edges meet the soft, flat bottom. In most of the lakes you're talking about 24 to 36 feet of water. But it could be different in different lakes.

Instead of jiggling the bait you simply slide it very slowly across the bottom an inch at a slow, torturous inch. Even let it stop and lay still for a while, but keep that line tight! You have to be able to distinguish that "heavy line pickup". When you do feel the line starting to get heavier simply stop and wait, with the line tight. However, keep the tension slight. If the pole tip bends, it's too much pressure. If the line bows, it's not enough pressure. When you finally feel the Walleye starting to turn that minnow around to swallow it remain patient. The "magic" time to set the hook is when you get steady, continuous pressure. If you have a stinger hook it will be when you feel those first "taps" that mean the Walleye has at least half of the minnow in it's mouth. Set the hook hard by "snapping" the rod up and then keep pressure on the fish all the way to the net. I don't play around with those Walleyes and let them fight because the hook, sometimes, is only being held in the fish's mouth, by the pressure you keep on it. One moment of slackened pressure and the fish rolls and is gone.

Women, because of their more sensitive fingers and hands, (let's just say less muscled) tend to outfish their male counterparts at this time. The "touch" really means the ability to tell the difference between the "pickup" and sliding around a rock or boulder. Most people will not believe the light pressure that I'm telling you about and they lose fish after fish without even knowing they were on.

After you get the first one (always the toughest fish to catch) the next one will be easier. It calls for patience, determination, confidence and developing "the touch".

Little things mean a lot!

~ ~ ~ **Mercer Area** ~ ~ ~

Phill Graser - Guide

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The first week in October saw great crappie and walleye action on the **Turtle-Flambeau Flowage**. The walleyes were holding in the deeper holes in the river channel and also on the rocky rip-rap areas 18 feet to 20 feet deep.

Crappies were eager to hit in basin areas 20 feet to 30 feet deep.

By the middle of the month, jumbo perch were excellent in these same 25 feet to 30 feet holes. Mid October also started the Big Musky movement, with the biggest fish of the year being taken. This musky weighed in at 38 lbs. 12 oz.

From about the 14th or

15th of the month on, all you had to do was work the deeper holes, with minnows and you had action.

Starting the beginning of October and gradually getting better each week, Musky action was good to excellent on most natural lakes in the area.

Mercer Lake and **Spider Lake** produced fish to 22 pounds and gave up a real beauty weighing in at 33 pounds.

Crappie and Walleye action didn't start until the 22nd of the month with **Echo**, **Fischer** and **Cedar** leading the way.

Now as we begin the month of November, we have approximately three weeks of open water fishing left in the 1991 season.

The **Flowage** will be good to great for walleye, crappies and jumbo perch all the way through ice-up. Stay with fathead minnows or chubs and fish deep areas. You

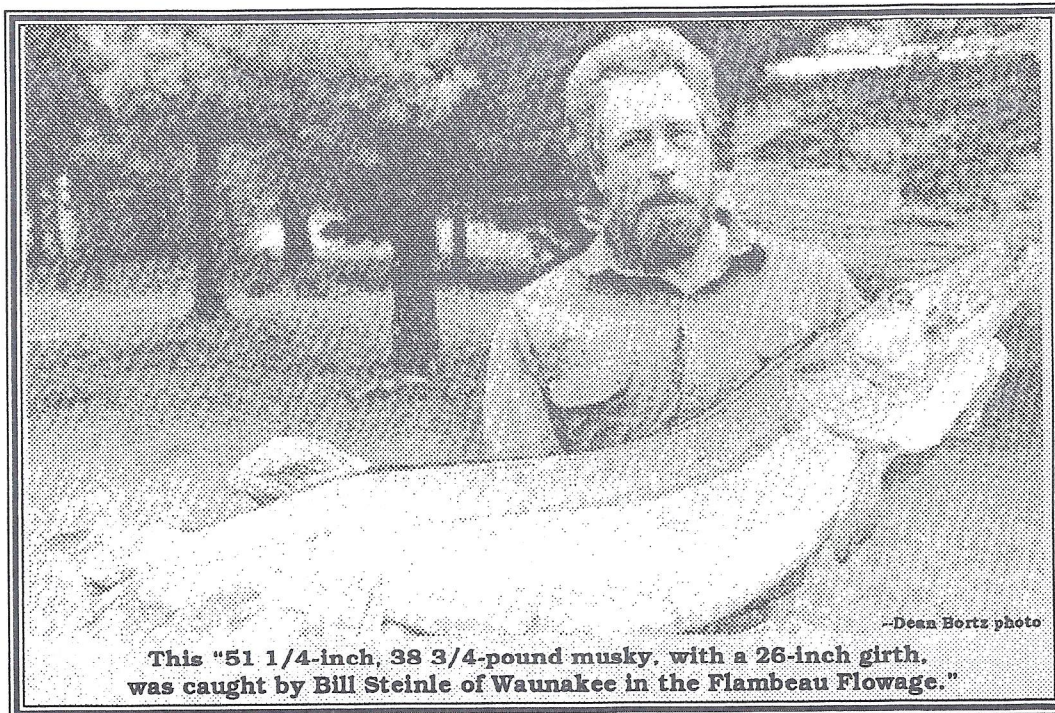
will have some kind of action every day.

Big Musky and nice northern pike will be holding on points or humps near the deeper holes. Some big fish will even be near bottom in these holes. Work suckers on quick strike rigs and be patient.

Mercer and **Tank** lakes will be good for Musky, crappie and walleye. However, the crappies will run small.

Echo Lake will be excellent for slab (12" to 14") crappies and many 1 pound to 2 pound walleye.

Fischer will produce a ton of crappie action, but most will be in the 9" to 10" class.



This "51 1/4-inch, 38 3/4-pound musky, with a 26-inch girth, was caught by Bill Steinle of Waunakee in the Flambeau Flowage."

—Dean Bortz photo

Walleye will be fair to good with an occasional 6 to 8 pounder. Also at this time of the year **Fischer** is capable of producing a real Trophy Musky.

The "Sleeper" trophy walleye lake in the Mercer area is also the deepest (over 80 feet deep) and is also the last lake to ice up.

This lake is **Pike**. If you can take the cold weather, work the 30 to 40 foot rock piles surrounded by 60 to 80 feet water depths. There are many wall-hangers in this lake and now is the time to get them!

The past seven months have been a new experience for me as far as trying to communicate, in writing, bodies of water to fish and how to successfully fish them. I hope I have at least helped some of you out there and I thank Bob for giving me this opportunity.

Until next spring!

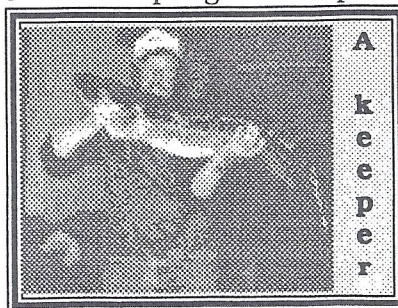
"Keep Moving

& Keep Throwin".

Phill

TIP OF THE MONTH

Be sure to check the condition of the rope on your trailer. You may release the boat from the trailer only to find that the rope broke and your boat has gone astray. You might say you are "up the creek without a paddle or boat!"



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~ ~ ~ **LAC DU FLAMBEAU AREA** ~ ~ ~

John Beda-Guide

3425 Hwy 47

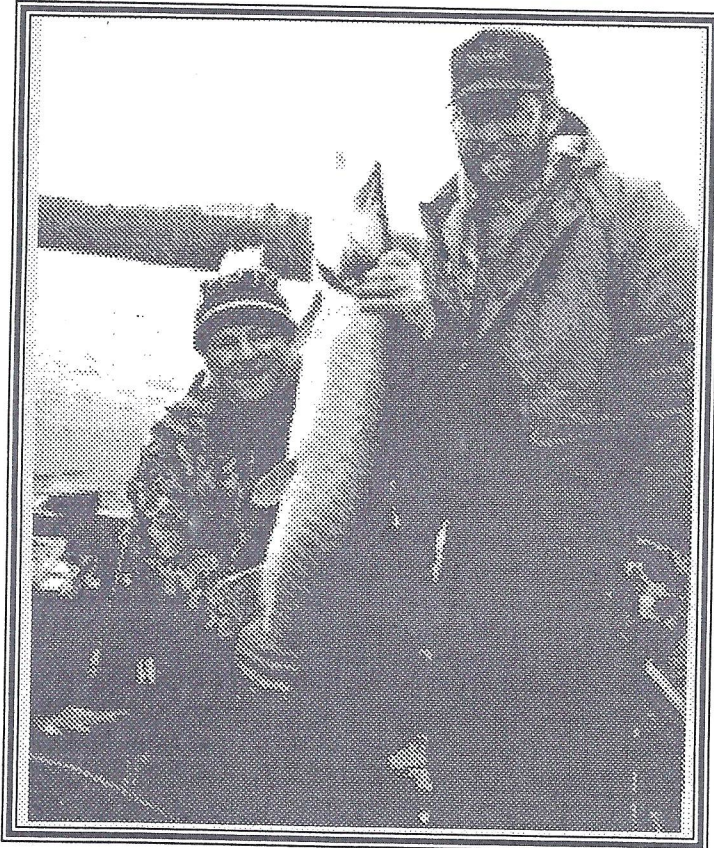
Lac Du Flambeau, WI 54548 715-588-9150

If you're looking for some great fishing, now is the time in Lac du Flambeau area. This is the time of year when musky fishing is a lot warmer than walleye fishing, but both are very productive and rewarding.

Walleye fishing was excellent in October. A 1/8-oz or 1/4-oz jig tipped with a minnow and fished slowly in 25 to 35 feet of water was the number one combo. **Ike Walton**, **White Sand** and the entire **Flambeau Chain** were all excellent producers of October walleye.

Good choices for November walleye are **Ike Walton**, **White Sand**, **Pokegama**, **Flambeau**, **Long**, **Crawling Stone** and **Fence** lakes. Jigs and minnows fished slowly in 30 to 40+ feet depths on sand and gravel bars work great. Don't be afraid to try working weed edges this time of year, as some nice fish will be moving in these areas as we head into ice-up.

Muskys were also very active in October on live suckers and also on jerk and crank baits. **White Sand** and the entire **Flambeau** chain were all excellent.



November is a time for trophy musky. **Ike Walton**,

White Sand, **Pokegama**, **Long**, **Crawling Stone** and **Fence** all have trophy potential. Try using live suckers with quick-set rigs and setting the hook within five minutes of a strike. So far this year, I have seen 16 of 17 with Smitty's Quick Set Rigs.

Try some of the new weighted Suicks and other modified jerk baits. Guides have been using them for quite a few years and have ruined a few good musky lures trying to tune the lures properly. The jointed Eddie bait is also deadly this time of year, along with my all-time favorites, the Smitty Baits.

There's still a lot of good musky fishing to come in the next three weeks, so give it your best shot and remember 40" is the minimum length in the Lac du Flambeau area.

Smallmouth have been biting on the deep rocks and sand in **Little Trout** and **Fence** on jigs and minnows, in depths to 40 feet.

Nice panfish have been biting in **Buckskin Lake** on small jigs and also small crappie minnows. The jumbo perch are hitting in deep water on **White Sand** using jigs and minnows.

John Beda

(Continued from page 1)

Walleyes will probably be picking up the minnows so lightly that you'll simply feel the line get heavy. Be patient and wait til you get steady tension before you set the hook. A stinger hook is a good idea if you keep bringing back a skinned-up minnow.

Smallmouth will be at the same depths as the Walleyes and will hit on the same minnows so you've got two chances. (If there are numbers of Smallmouth in the lake you're fishing!)

Plan your trip carefully, layout your boat appropriately, use a lot of common sense, and then, DO IT! You might be talking about it for the rest of your life.

Have those P.F.D.s ready! Either wear them or have them on the backs of the boat seats so they can easily be reached.

Lay out your equipment so everything is within easy reach. With a snowmobile suit on, or any heavy insulated outfit, it's not easy doing twisting or bending movements.

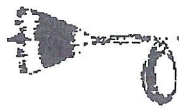
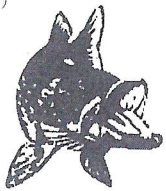
A thermos of hot soup will help keep you warm, and the longer you're on the water, the better your chances!

Have your equipment laid out in the boat so you don't have to move around a lot. It's mighty easy to slip on the frozen or snow covered bottom of any boat.

Specials of the Month

(for Newsletter subscribers only)

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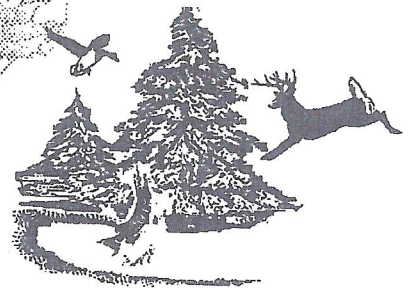
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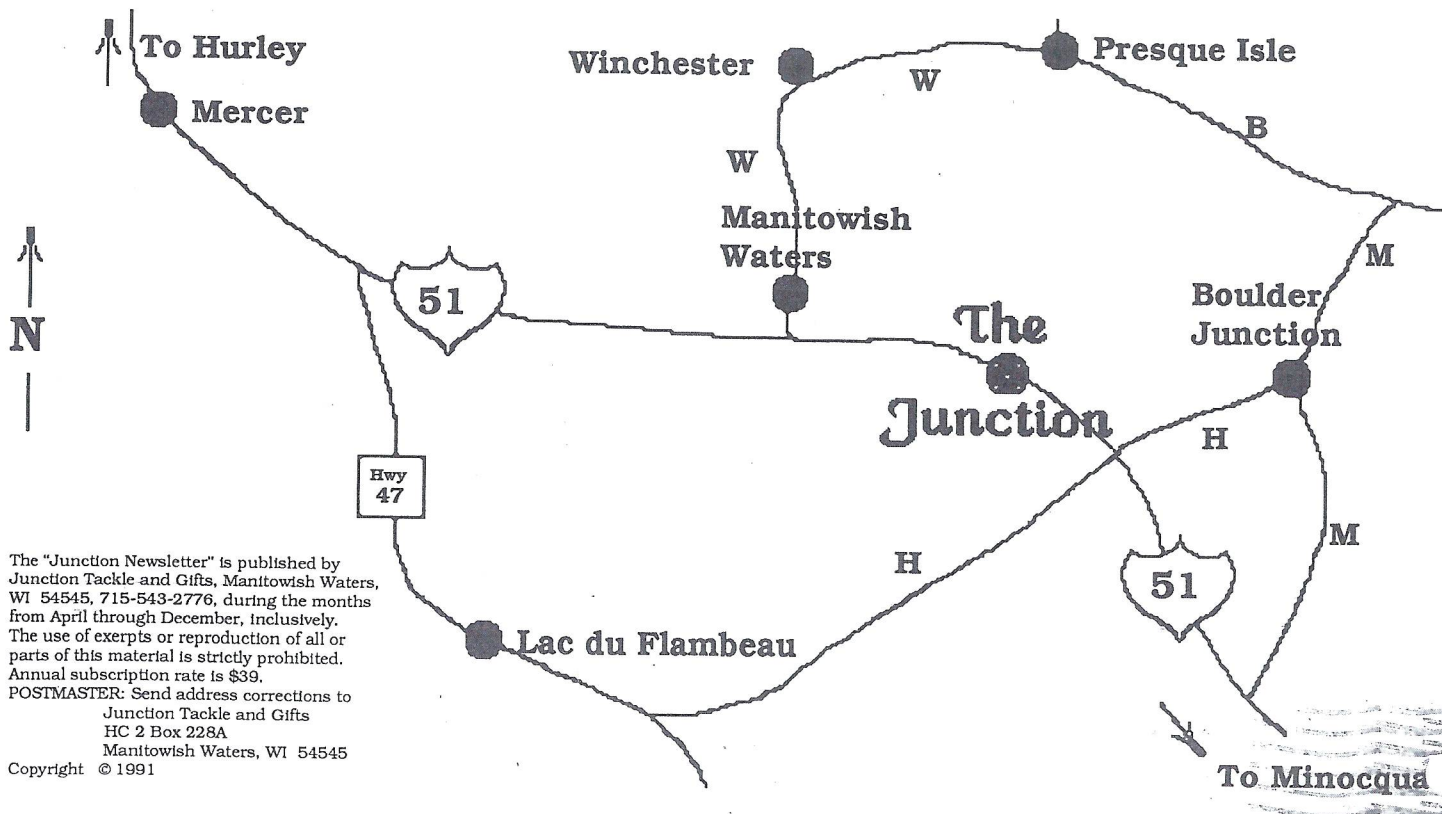
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Address correction requested

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