

# Red Rock Guiding Service

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## Captain Walt's Log

### Local Area Fishing Reports

Well, the unusual weather continues this summer. July is usually a hot month, allowing the thermocline to develop on local area lakes. The unusually cool weather this year continues to affect fishing patterns on all the local inland lakes.



**The Fox Chain O' Lakes & Fox River** produced bass, walleyes, bluegills and crappies during the month of July. The lack of rain has resulted in slower water flow all month long. Walleyes have been caught in the current areas around bridges and river mouths. Walleyes are hitting jigs & live bait rigs baited with crawlers & leeches. Some walleyes were caught trolling crank-baits. Largemouth bass are biting on the usual bass baits, such as jigs with plastic trailers, plastic worms, and as always jigs with live bait such as leeches and crawlers. The photo on the left is 2 clients with typical Chain O' Lakes bass caught in shallow water using plastic worms & jigs with leeches.

**Lake Geneva** saw a non-typical water temperature pattern. With the hot weather at the end of June, the surface water temperature rose to almost 80°. Then with the cooler weather during July, the water cooled off again ending the month in the mid 70's. Fishing has been good one day and slow the next. It is hard for the fish to adjust to the daily up and down movements in the water temperature.

**Lake Delavan** has produced some nice pike & bass during July. Fishing varied from day to day also, but some bass are caught in shallow water each day using plastic worms. Live bait rigs with a large minnows started producing in July & yielded some nice pike and bass. Fish were taken along the weedlines in 15-25' FOW. The photo on the right has 2 clients with a typical northern pike caught on a live bait rig in 20' FOW.



### Fishing and Boating Tips

August should bring some hot weather and with it warmer water and hopefully a thermocline on local lakes. When this happens, the bass and pike fishing on Lake Geneva and Lake Delavan will be in the typical summer pattern.

Boating is at its peak in August as the end of summer vacation nears. The Department of Natural Resources & local police are out enforcing safety on the water. Know the rules before you go boating and you will have a safe and pleasant experience. A citation from the authorities is a good way to ruin a pleasant day on the water. Violating the speed limits and no wake restrictions are quick ways to a citation.

### Fish of the Month Contests

Our **Fish of the Month** Contest allows our guests to judge the quality of the fish they catch. The fish caught are rated against National Fresh-water Fishing Hall of Fame records. The fish with the largest point value based on the specie specific formula is the **Fish of the Month**. There are separate contests for **Gamefish** and **Panfish**. Gamefish species eligible include Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Northern Pike and Muskie. Panfish species eligible include Crappie, Yellow Perch, Bluegill/Sunfish and Rock Bass. A score of 100 pts. would equal the National Fishing Hall of Fame world record.



**Game Fish of the Month** was a 21½" walleye caught on the Fox Chain O' Lakes by Kami from Chicago, IL on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

This fish was caught on a leech suspended below a slip bobber. This walleye earned 59.73 pts. and was immediately released.

Kami's father Rick is admiring her catch, which was Kami's largest walleye to date. Congratulations Kami!

**Panfish of the Month** was an 11¼" black crappie caught on the Fox Chain O' Lakes by 12 yr. old Jackie from Gurnee, IL on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The fish was caught using a wax worm & slip bobber rig. This crappie earned 62.51 pts. & was immediately released. Congratulations Jackie!

Jackie's dad Matt and her sister Adriana hold the 11¼" crappie, while Jackie holds another fish she caught.



Questions or comments, please email us at: [captainwalt@redrockguidingservice.com](mailto:captainwalt@redrockguidingservice.com) or call 847-710-5453.

Thanks for the feedback!