



2018 Esnagami Times Annual Newsletter

Volume 30

January 2019

The 2018 season was a very busy and enjoyable one for us. A big thank you must go out to our returning guests and new guests from near and afar, many of whom have become good friends. We must also send a shout out to all of our excellent staff.

Although purchasing the lodge in December 1989 made 2018 a 30 year anniversary of sorts, we realized as the summer wore on, that the upcoming 2019 season is *really* the 30th *OPERATING* year ... so it looks like we will have to keep the celebrations going!

There have been numerous events to celebrate over 30 seasons at the lodge. Not coincidentally, most of them involve the people who have visited or worked at Esnagami. There have been many birthdays and milestones



ESNAGAMI TROPHY CATCH AND RELEASE CONTEST FOR 2018:

Michael Giardulli - 46 1/4"
Northern Pike
Val Bernardi - 30 1/4" Walleye

2018 TROPHY CATCH AND RELEASE WINNERS:

These anglers names were drawn from 500 + trophy entries:

1. Susu Earick 25" Walleye
2. John Humont 31 1/2" Pike
3. Mandi Hickman 39" Pike

reunions and several marriage proposals (including one this summer ... Congrats to Max and Martha!!), a 10 year Anniversary for Katy & Matt, and even a wedding held on Squirrel Island a number of years ago. Esnagami has certainly been a special place for many.

FISHING TRENDS

Some wonderful fishing memories were also created in 2018, starting out with the mis-adventures of Mike Wang and Dale Grudzina, who are long time lodge guests that love to fish Esnagami Lake opening week. A delayed ice out this spring saw Mike and Dale navigating their way around ice flows and jams for the first couple of days in their trip. They were once even stranded for several hours within sight of the lodge. At least we could see where they were, and enjoyed a chuckle or two as we watched them from the lodge main deck. Not to be deterred, Mike and Dale continued their quest for open water and were rewarded the next day with a fantastic flurry of pre-spawn Pike fishing. Their persistence paid off and Mike and Dale tallied 18 trophy Pike between the two of them. Many of the Pike were in the mid 30's range with the largest at 39".

As the weather and water warmed up over the next few weeks, many Esnagami anglers enjoyed some world class Pike, Walleye and Brook Trout fishing. In early

Congratulations!

2018 CATCH & RELEASE LEADER BOARD

TOP TEN CATCH & RELEASE LEADERBOARD 2018		
PIKE	WALLEYE	BROOK TROUT
		
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mike Wang 18 2. Dale Grudzina 18 3. [Name] 15 4. [Name] 14 5. [Name] 13 6. [Name] 12 7. [Name] 11 8. [Name] 10 9. [Name] 9 10. [Name] 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. [Name] 12 2. [Name] 11 3. [Name] 10 4. [Name] 9 5. [Name] 8 6. [Name] 7 7. [Name] 6 8. [Name] 5 9. [Name] 4 10. [Name] 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. [Name] 15 2. [Name] 14 3. [Name] 13 4. [Name] 12 5. [Name] 11 6. [Name] 10 7. [Name] 9 8. [Name] 8 9. [Name] 7 10. [Name] 6

ESNAGAMI ON TV

Kyle and Tina Randall, hosts of The Wilderness Journal Outdoor Show, joined us two times last summer, filming some great Walleye and Pike fishing. Check out their web site @ www.wildernessjournal.com to see when these shows will air.

Thank you so much again to everyone who joined us at Esnagami Lodge in 2018! We sincerely appreciate it and hope to see you at the lodge this summer!

Cheers! Eric & Sue

FISH. Collectively they caught and released 19 trophy Pike and Walleye. This group had been previous winners of the “biggest fish of the year contest,” and they were able to catch both the biggest Walleye (**Val Bernardi 30 1/4” Walleye**) and Pike (**Michael Giardulli 46 1/4”**) of the 2018 Season as well. This cemented their place in the record books, and won 2 free trips back to Esnagami! Congrats to Val and Mike!



Val Bernardi

SHOW SCHEDULE



1. Jan 10th to 13th, Novi, MI
[Ultimate Fishing Show](#)
2. Jan 19th & 20th, Cadillac, MI
[Wilderness Journal Outdoor Expo](#)
3. Jan 24th to 27th,
Schaumburg, IL
[Chicagoland Fishing Travel & Outdoor Expo](#)
4. Feb. 15th to 18th,
International Centre, Toronto
ONT
[Spring Fishing Show](#)

We hope to see you at one of the shows!

CAMP TRENDS

The Esnagami Staff of 2018, was kept very busy around camp painting, building, roofing, fixing decks, and docks and maintaining the boats and motors.



Michael Giardulli

Early season Brook Trout fishing was as good as ever. Anglers caught and released numerous Trout in the 16 – 20” range (2 – 6lbs). **Pat Devincenzo** topped the leader board with a beautiful **20,”** 6 lb Brookie.



The biggest project of the summer was building a new cabin at our Merkley Lake Outpost Camp. We flew down a work crew (supervised by EWL guide Scott Hutchings) to dismantle the old cabin and build a new one. The guys did a great job! We are sure the guests who have been there in the past will appreciate the new renos this spring.

The addition of new Mercury 4 stroke motors, were not only more environmentally friendly, but had better gas consumption, and ran quieter on the water. We will purchase an additional 11 new outboards for the upcoming 2019 season.

**VISIT OUR FLY
FISHING WEBSITE**



Pat Devincenzo

We mentioned family reunions earlier, and the Earick clan put together a very impressive one this summer. **Max (Sr.) and Susu Earick** have been joining us at Esnagami for all 30 years!! This summer, Max and Susu, plus 12 other family and friends, took over half of the lodge. Along with celebrating the family gathering, the group also showed us how well they know how to fish Esnagami Lake. The Earick clan put up some large numbers of Walleye and Pike into the "Trophy Catch and Release program" ... 29 in all with numerous Walleye 27 - 29" in size, Pike up to 37- 38" as well as 2 Brook Trout at 18 & 19 1/2." Best of all while having a fun filled week!

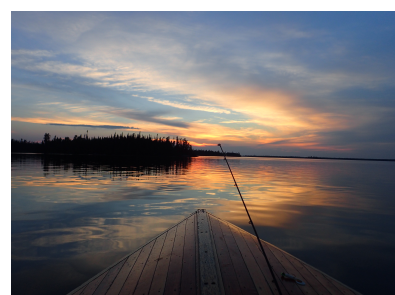


ESNAGAMI LAKE DEPTH CHARTS



Thank you to all of the guests that joined us for the 2018 season. All the best for the New Year and we hope to see you all in 2019.

Eric and Sue Lund & Family



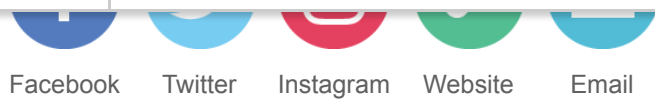
sheer *numbers* of catches. A few mentionables are: **Roger Dyke** - 7 Walleye 24 - 28," **Ryan & John Preston** 6 Brook Trout 18 - 19 ½" (4 - 6 lbs), **Jane Hagedorn & Vicki Nelson** - 11 Walleye and Pike up to 28" & 38," **The Willis family** - 13 Walleye with several in the 27 - 28 ½" range, **Kurt Jackson's group of Pike fishers** - 27 entries with 3 in the 40" + range. Father and Son team **Mark and Noah Stewart** - 40" & 41" Pike. **Ron Davison, Ken Davison and Eric Winterstein** ended the season with 12 entries in the Pike category. Ken's 43 ½" put him in second place for largest Pike caught and released in 2018.

Best of all, every one of these trophy fish were released!!



**Ready to book your adventure or need more information?
Contact your host: Eric and Sue Lund.**

Winter Telephone: **519-474-6988**, Summer Telephone: **807-329-5209**



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