



Governor's Opener On Kab A Success

Anglers on Lake Kabetogama saw perfect weather for opening day walleye fishing

By Jerry Carlson www.outdoorsweekly.com

This year's Governor's Opener on Lake Kabetogama was quite different than the White Bear Lake event of 2009. Not only was the weather extremely cooperative, the north woods location was picturesque and serene. Lake Kabetogama is a 25,000 acre lake located just south of Rainy Lake in

Northern Minnesota. It is loaded with walleye structure and boasts more than 200 islands. One of the unique features of the lake and region is the presence of Voyageurs National Park. This 200,000 acre playground is open for public use and sees thousands of visitors each year.

Due to the park, much of Kabetogama is undeveloped. However, there are a couple of large parcels of land that are owned by private individuals. These areas are dotted with cabins and resorts. The resorts on Kabetogama see lots of activity throughout the year. With impressive walleye and smallmouth fishing available, anglers and families come to test their skills as well as enjoy the north woods scenery.

Opening day walleye fishing was quite productive. Although the fish were deeper than originally expected, they were willing to bite. The governor was among the successful anglers catching four walleyes with a 22 incher in the mix. Not surprisingly, a jig and minnow was the hot ticket.

As is always the case, the entire event was extremely well run. The food was exceptional but so was the warm welcome we received from the local people and business owners. The Pederson family from Grandview-Tall Timbers Resort treated our media crew like family.

There is little doubt that Lake Kabetogama is a vacation destination. With excellent accommodations, Voyageurs National Park, abundant wildlife, postcard caliber scenery and outstanding fishing, Kabetogama has the entire package.

Outstanding Opener

By Troy Weathers www.outdoorsweekly.com

What an outstanding experience my family and I had this year on opening day of the Minnesota fishing season. We were invited to join over 400 other guests at Governor Tim Pawlenty's last opener. The Governor and First Lady were successful in their pursuit of walleye and Mrs. Pawlenty showed her skills at cleaning them. Gov. Pawlenty spent much time visiting with everyone and was especially kind and encouraging to the youth who enjoy fishing. They were gracious hosts.

We left Lake Kabetogama; however, believing the true hosts of the Governor's Fishing opener are the community and the families that live there. The local folks who volunteered their time: cooking, acting as local guides, the resort owners who donated lodging, the clean up crews etc. It was quickly obvious this was a most impressive and well-organized community.

One of our favorite people, was the first lady we met at the media hub. We arrived at the Kabetogama Visitors Center and were immediately invited to a makeshift buffet of materials, schedules, information and treats. Our new friend was so excited to tell us she was staying at the same place as us, Snyder's Idlewild Resort, and suggested we all go swimming as it is the only resort in the area with an inground pool. This would have been quite inviting if it had not been 50 degrees and raining. She was a hoot.

As we arrived at the resort, we were met by the owner, Tim Snyder. He showed us around his impeccably groomed grounds and invited us into our cabin. It, too, was clean and welcoming, (which is important when you are vacationing with your wife and children). I was told we'd be staying at a fishing resort, I think it'd be better referred to as a "family resort". The playground inviting the kids to slide, the cozy swing near the lake, abundant fire rings and many games in the activity center make this the perfect place to bring your entire group.

The beauty of this lake is breathtaking. Lake Kabetogama is part of Voyageurs National Park. While there hundreds of people fishing, we rarely saw another boat. There were no jet-skis or wave runners. The peace and quiet was overwhelming. We were told the water was down more than 3 feet this spring, and combined with the later opening date and early ice out, the guides were unsure of how successful the fishing would be.

Our fishing guide, Jeff Cloyd, assured our girls that they would catch fish. And catch fish they did. Within minutes, Maddie pulled in a nice sauger. Shortly after, Katie caught a beautiful 23 - inch walleye. We continued to catch fish off and on throughout the day as Jeff shared with us his secret fishing spots. No worry, we'd never be able to find them again, this lake is over 65 miles wide!

We attended all of the community events: picnics, minnow races, making lures, painting fish and canoe rides. Watching and participating in these activities and observing the welcoming selflessness of the volunteers was really extraordinary.

I would highly recommend a family trip to anyone looking for some excellent fishing and an overall great vacation.

Our wonderful resort hosts Tim and Cheryl Snyder would welcome your call. The Snyder family has owned and operated the Idlewild Resort for over 28 years. I would call and book your fishing vacation soon as Tim was sharing their rather full log of reservations for the 2010 season with me and they were filling up fast. What a great experience for the Weathers family!

Good fishing everyone!



A Kid's Perspective An OutdoorsWeekly.com Exclusive

Fishermen Are Really Nice People By Madeline Weathers



Maddie (left) and Katie (right) Weathers were welcomed to the 2010 Governors Fishing Opener by Governor Tim Pawlenty.

A few weekends ago, my family and I were invited to the Governor's Fishing Opener on Lake Kabetogama. We had a blast! I learned many new things and met a lot of very nice people. One group of people that stood out to me were the fishermen. They were all so generous. For example, our fishing guide, Jeff, offered us many treats and always wanted to help me and my sister. He was funny and super nice, bringing us all over the lake in his boat. Jeff seemed just as happy as me when I caught my fish. I think he was chosen to be our guide because he has kids too and he takes them fishing a lot. For us, he was the perfect guide.

The couple who owned the resort we stayed at, Tim and Cheryl, were also really nice. They had wonderful cabins and a very nice atmosphere. They shared everything with us and their employees were just as nice. They gave us a golf cart to take down to the lake! These people stuck out as caring people.

All weekend, I kept thinking how lucky I am to have this opportunity. I would like to thank everybody at the Governor's Fishing Opener and let them know that I really appreciated them and was so pleased to meet them.