

BWCA Wednesday 8/14/19

Ben, Rolando, and Chris woke up at 5am for an early fishing trip. The sun was coming up and there was smoke on the water. Two small bass were caught and released. Headed back to camp for a great breakfast of oatmeal and coffee cooked up by Ed "Cooky". Everyone filled their stomachs and their canoes for a day trip to Johnson Falls on the far west side of the lake. Sunny skies and an easterly wind pushed us down the lake quickly. Trolling down the lake did not produce many fish. All guys and canoes headed to Johnson Falls, made it down in 1 ½ hours, record time. We all walked the trail and met at the base of the falls. After pictures were taken we walked to the upper falls and were it all began. Lowlands and a quiet river fed these waterfalls. More pictures were taken before trekking back to the canoes. We had a nice lunch together before splitting up. Ron, Rich, and Tim stayed on Pine Lake fishing and traveling back to camp. Rolando/Chris, Ed/Don, and John/Ben ventured off to Little Caribou Lake. The 80 rod portage had a little incline and a stream to cross. It was wide and smooth so portaging was not a problem. Little Caribou is a nice lake split into two sections. We stayed in the east section and were blown by a light breeze across the lake. Rolando caught a 19" bass on a hook and worm. He was yelling and laughing about his catch. No time to waste after pictures were taken, his line was back in the water. Within 10 minutes Rolando landed two more large bass equal in size. Lots of laughing and smiles. Ben caught a northern about 30" long needed assistance from Don to identify it. Ben caught a bass and Rolando caught a walleye, both were good to keep. Other fish were caught, bass and perch, but no more keepers. We left Little Caribou with 6 great fish. Now to paddle back to our campsite dragging the fish in tow. The wind was not bad but still slowed us down a little, 2 hours of paddling to return. Everyone was happy to have fish to eat again. Ron, Rich and Tim caught over a dozen bass but they did not keep any. Mashed potatoes and fish for supper filled us up. No leftovers allowed, Ben had to eat the rest of the fish. After dishes were cleaned and coffee was made we sat around and talked. Pastor Don shared a Bible story while the moon rose over the horizon. Full moon tomorrow. Plans for tomorrow's trip were discussed, trout fishing. Cool night will make for great sleeping weather. As we went to bed the loons started calling to each other, I think they like the bright moon.

BWCA Friday 8/16/19

Another beautiful day, sunny and calm. Rolando, Ben, and Chris got up at 5am to do some trout fishing on the south shore of Pine Lake. White jig heads and white Mister Twisters were used to lure in the fish. The guys fished in about 80 feet of water and it took the jig 34 seconds to hit the bottom of the lake. They fished these depths without any luck so the decision was made to move closer to shore for walleye and bass. Rolando caught some small bass there were released. Chris caught a walleye that measured about 16 inches. It went on the stringer and the fishing

continued. Not much luck after 7am and the guys were getting hungry. Rolando, Ben and Chris trolled across the lake northbound towards the campsite. No more fish this morning. During our breakfast of bacon and eggs the days plans were discussed. The older generation were going to stay on Pine Lake while the younger generation of guys were going to portage south to Long Lake. There were no topographical or general information about Long Lake so this was a gamble. On the way to the Long Lake portage Rolando spotted a canoe on the south side of Pine Lake. Rolando and Chris got out to check the canoe and the surrounding area. It was an old aluminum craft that was in okay condition. Rolando took some pictures and it was decided to leave it there. Off to the portage! An easy find since someone had left their packs by the water. The plan was to make the portage in one trip. Rolando and Ben took the canoes while John and Chris carried the gear. The portage was steep and overgrown but passable. Made it through the brush and the mosquitos and got out on the water as quickly as possible. Long Lake is narrow and had grass on the sides, perfect for moose. As the group entered the lake it started to sprinkle. Raining gear came out but it never rained hard. After a few minutes the clouds moved and the sun came out. Headed west trolling and throwing rapalas. Chris caught a hammer handle northern and lost a lure to another nice sized northern. John caught a walleye near a pile of rocks that was in the middle of the lake. Spirits ran high looking for more fish. The group continued west with one or two more hits. On the west end of the lake there was an island so everyone paddled there next. A westerly wind pushed us east, down the south side of the lake. We ate our lunch in the canoe and enjoyed the sunshine. Rolando was trolling with a worm. He caught a nice walleye and the game was on. No sooner had he got it in the net Chris had a walleye on. Rolando netted Chris's fish while his was still in the net. Huge smiles on faces. John and Ben were called over so Rolando and Chris could use their stringer since they failed to bring one. To their surprise John and Ben were catching walleyes and had a few on the stringer already. The honeyhole was discussed and everyone was anxious to try a few more passes. Just east of the hole a few more walleyes were caught and the stringer was getting full, one fish for every man on the trip. The group tried to paddle into Stump Lake but was impassable, low water and rocks. The possibility of monster fish in Stump Lake made for a tough decision to make tracks back to camp, it was 4 pm. More walleyes were caught and released as the group paddled back to the portage. A quick stop to check the campsite on Long/Stump Lake was planned. Chris walked the trail to the site, overgrown and full of berry bushes. A group occupied the site so it was never seen. A quick portage back to Pine Lake was planned because of the precious cargo. John took the fish and sprinted to Pine Lake so they would stay alive and fresh. Rolando and Ben carried canoes while Chris carried the gear. Made it safely back to Pine Lake but tired. Collected wood along the shore on the way back. Chris spotted an ice auger in the shallows of the lake. It took some effort but the auger was extracted from the lake floor, ready for ice fishing. Made it back to camp safely and shared stories about the trip. Time to rest before cleaning fish tonight. The older generation caught more bass and kept two really nice ones, no walleye or trout. Bathes were in order and a few guys jumped in the lake. Rolando, John, and Chris cleaned ten fish.

Rolando cooked the fish over the fire in aluminum foil pouches filled with fish, butter, and spices. Everyone ate their fill and were happy. After supper Pastor Dan sang a song he wrote and we communed together. What a perfect way to end the week. The group sat around the fire and talked until the moon rose. A full moon makes for a beautiful night. Mosquitoes and an early morning drove everyone to their tents, tomorrow we pack up and paddle out. We had perfect weather for the entire week, 70s during the day and cool nights. Some rain fell but it did not soak us. Plans for another trip were discussed.