

# Walleye



## The 2022 Season Numbers Are In!!



Our 35th season of the **World's Best Trophy Walleye Fishing** at Gunisao was phenomenal, to say the least. It sure was nice to see everyone again! We enjoyed some great fishing and good times, and many memories were made. **3 out of 5 guests went home Master Anglers** this season — **353 different anglers** landed a combined total of **770 Master Angler fish**. **65% of all Manitoba Master Angler Walleyes in 2022** (May-August) **were caught at Gunisao**.

This season Gunisao produced four 32" Walleyes — caught by Jerry Wood, Pat McKune, Aaron Youngdahl, and Joe Goetz. They tied for the second largest caught in Manitoba in 2022. Of the 708 Master Angler Walleyes caught, 106 were 30" or larger.



**Carey Heitman** 

Carey Heitman landed a whopping 44" Northern Pike, the largest of the season at Gunisao. Of the 46 Trophy Northern Pike caught, 7 were 43" or larger.

Budd's anglers also caught 12 Trophy Whitefish, 3 Trophy Suckers, and 1 Trophy Perch.

Thanks to all of our guests for another great season of Trophy Fishing, and congratulations to all of our Budd's Master Angler Club 2022 members!

If Trophy Walleye's your Game, then Budd's is the Name!™

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## **Looking Back... And Forward**

Budd's Gunisao Lake Lodge welcomed all of our anglers back during the 2022 season and we are relishing settling into norms after a whirlwind of ups and downs over the past few years. This is our first newsletter since 2019 and we would like to say THANK YOU!! We have been humbled by the support and loyalty of our guests, friends, and family over the last 5 years.

Our 5 year roller coaster ride began in the fall of 2017. After the season ended in August, we experienced our first "Great Bear Break-in". Two

bears broke into the main lodge and wreaked havoc for 6 weeks, causing over \$250,000 in damage. Closely following this discovery, the Budd Family suffered the untimely losses of Dusty's brothers, James



**Dusty and Doc** 

Budd Jr., and Brendon Budd (former manager of the Lodge from 1989 to 2001).

Spring of 2018 brought both the stress of piecing the Lodge back together before guests arrived, and the excitement of a new season with a freshly renovated lodge.

That fall we had the misfortune of a second "Great Bear Break-in"; this time totaling \$40,000 in damages. The race to rebuild followed in the spring of 2019. We prevailed, but began one of our driest seasons ever recorded. On June 13, a lightning strike approximately 9 miles from camp started a small fire that quickly grew out of control and placed the Lodge in a wary situation. Fire fighting crews were eventually deployed and began trying to save the Lodge. In the end, 86,450 acres of land around Gunisao Lake had burned; but our beloved camp was saved and we had a great season overall.

2020 was looking to be a record breaking season. The Lodge was 98% booked, planes were scheduled, staff was hired...and then the world stood still from COVID. We tried to make the best out of our situation and headed to camp to spend part of our summer. We had more time on the water and around camp as a family than ever before, but it was eerie and sad without the usual hustle and bustle normally going on at that time of year.

The night of July 2 brought a massive storm with straight line winds and we awoke

to a cabin that had been knocked off its stilts, several roofs that needed re-shingling, and a float plane that was flipped over and destroyed. Clean up and reconstruction began quickly afterwards. The border never opened, and the season ended up being a complete loss.

2020 continued to be hard on the Budd Family as Dusty's father Dr. James Budd — founder and previous owner of Budd' Gunisao Lake Lodge from 1987 - 2013 — became progressively sick, and entered into hospice care in September.



**Doc and Dusty** 

Doc Budd took his last breath on October 12, 2020 at the age of 88.

In 2021 the pandemic rolled on and the border stayed closed to Americans, but again we headed to Canada, optimistic there would be

some sort of a season. At that time restrictions in Canada allowed for some Canadian citizens to travel, so we planned to host Canadian guests from July 13-25, then being able to host American guests for another three weeks if the border opened up. In the end 34 Canadian Guests were able to make the trip to Gunisao, but unfortunately the second phase of our plan never came to fruition because the border didn't open until August 9th.

Then along came 2022, marking Dusty and Jennie's 21st season running the Lodge. We were able to welcome our guests back in full force (all 550 of them), and we had a fantastic season of great fishing and good times.

Over our 5 year roller coaster ride, we also made some nice upgrades — we added a pontoon boat to our fleet, re-shingled many of the cabin roofs as well as the main Lodge, resided part of the Little Log cabin, placed name signs on all cabins, laid new flooring in the Big Log cabin and several bathrooms in other cabins, hired a new bartender/store manager and built a new cabin for them, did some painting inside the Lodge to brighten things up, and completely remodeled the Tackle 'n' Things Store.

As we look forward, we are excited for future improvements around camp, continued great fishing, and of course welcoming you all back in 2023.

- The Budd's



Jerry Wood Pat McKune

Aaron Youngdahl Joe Goetz

**Brandon Abell** 

Stephan Seko John Nicholson

Ed Theobald

Sabra Wood

Jacob Olson

John Sever

Daniel Foor

Thomas Meader

Robert Haddorff

Glenn Buchko

**Garrett Wobst** Alec Wahlin

Duane Peterson

Richard Johnson

Chuck Pillsbury

John Olson

Ernie Costello

JP Olson

Jack Naylor

Robert Strawman

30.75

30.75

30.75

30.75

30.5

Jim Craig

Lirim Lecaj

Conrad Hahne



Lloyd Dyck

Paul Nichol

Maclain Bailey

**Brian Feeney** 

Mark Dupont

Jeffrey Rupp

Steve Botcher

Curtis Johnson

Jacob Chaffee

Joel Mashek

Spencer Werth

Jon Sinnen

Chuck Cvra

Richard Hutter

Lucas Amundson

Mark Brandenburger 30.5

Heather Hamilton 30.25 2

James Scheuring 30.25

30.5

Mark Lee



Amanda Smyth

Thomas Wiskow

Devan Kharitou

29.75 3

29.75 2

**Brad Greiner** 

Bruce Butler

Darin Balken

Franklin Bradley

Doug Dozeman

Hannah Lowen

James MacDougal

Brandon Sommers 29.5

Rebecca Graf

Bob Clark

Byron Snider

Edward Boyer

Scott Rau

## World's Best Trophy Walleye Fishing









43.75

43.5

43.25

41.25

41.25

41.25

	= Size (inches	Of Largest	Trophy Caugi
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Patricia Begotka

Reid Davidson

Steve Johnson

Todd Schrader

Barb Losing

Bryce Holden

Hadly Skaw

David Guckenberg 29.25 3

ize (inches) Of Largest Trophy Caught	= Total Trophies Caught

Alex Brainerd



**Master Anglers** caught by

353 different anglers!!

Jon Jontz

Matt Cowan

Paul Durand

28.5



28.25

28.25

28.25

28.25

Scott Ruser Shawn Friesen Simon James Thomas Senior Mark Ericksen Jamison Day Mark Graf Callan Young **Curt Uebele** Dale Brandenburger David Maltry Grea Meader Jason Kuehne Jeremy Sims John McGee Kevin Miller Les Zanotti Matthew Edwards Rob Lyngstad Steve Reuvers Will Smetana

22.5 22.25 2

Llovd Dvck

Les Zanotti









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Jason Sylte

Jamison Da

Terry Huseman

### 2023 trips are already 90% booked — don't delay, BOOK YOUR TRIP TODAY!

	MOST POPULAR	
3 Full Days	4 Full Days	7 Full Days
<b>\$3095</b> / Person	\$3995 / Person	\$5695 / Person
Arrive at Lodge by 7 a.m. Tuesday • Fishing by 8 a.m.	Arrive at Lodge by 7 a.m. Friday • Fishing by 8 a.m.	Arrive at Lodge by 7 a.m. Tuesday or Friday • Fishing by 8 a.m.
Return to Winnipeg by 9:30 a.m. Friday	Return to Winnipeg by 9:30 a.m. Tuesday	Return to Winnipeg by 9:30 a.m. Tuesday or Friday
Allows for a Mid-Week Trip	Gives you a Weekend Trip	Gives you 7 Days of Fishing

Each trip includes a full day of fishing on the first day, plus:

- 500-mile round-trip chartered flight from Winnipeg to Gunisao Lake One experienced guide for every two guests
- Large 18-foot Alaskan Lund Boats with 40hp Yamaha 4-stroke motors
   Delicious gourmet meals
   Daily Shore Lunch

  - Deluxe private accommodations and daily housekeeping services
     Free fishing license
     Free frozen minnows

Ask To Be Put On Our Waiting List – Be next in line for openings

## -WalleyeManitoba.com - (517) 676-FISH (3474) email: Dusty@WalleyeManitoba.com