

Outdoor Adventures



"STS is an interdenominational ministry whose purpose is to mentor men and boys in Godly wisdom through the scriptures and outdoor adventures"

Chairman of the Board
Mel Swanson

CONTACTS

Mike Schachterle
Interim Exec. Director
Tel: 612-867-8469

email: mwswisdom@yahoo.com

Marty Chapman
Photographic Director

AbelerDesign@gmail.com
Newsletter Design

WEBSITE

www.stsretreats.org

God's answer to the problems our great nation faces today.

The Bible is not simply great literature. It is good news for all people everywhere, a message both to be understood, and to be applied to daily life.

One reason for meeting together at church or a retreat is for us to encourage one another; Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us that.



Crow Duck Naming Rights

By Bill Abeler

Fishing was a bit slow one balmy July morning on Crow Duck, due more likely to the guide than the windless conditions. My two fishing partners, Jeff Human and his teenage son, Lucas, were content, but they jumped at the chance for an adventure.

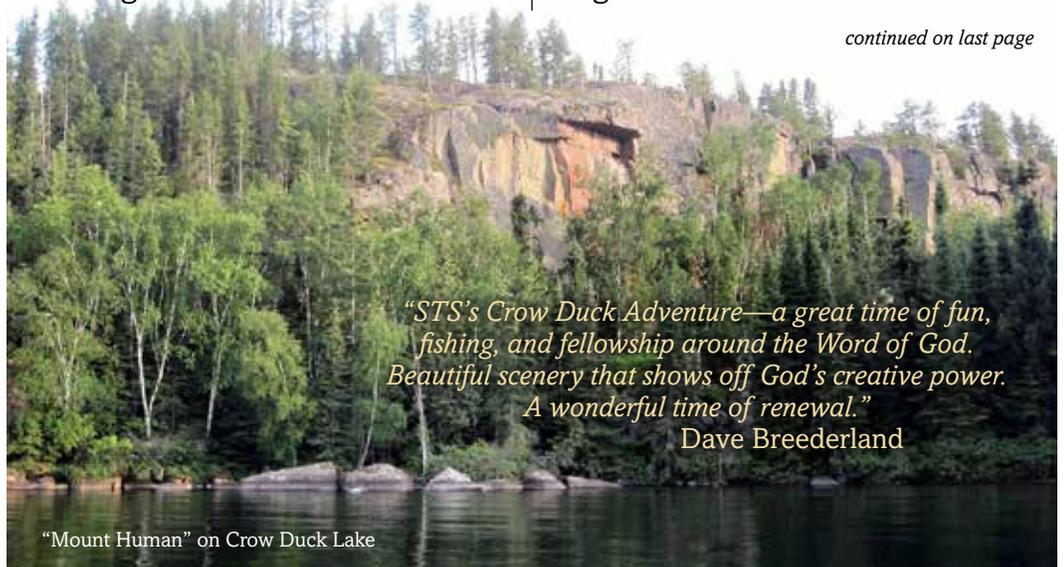
"See that big hill," I asked, pointing to the highest summit on Crow Duck. "Want to be the first ones to climb it?" There was no hesitation. There was also no trail, but we got up there anyway. The view was incredible. So was the achievement. In fact, every year thereafter I'd ask my boat partners, "Hey, anyone want to climb 'Mount Human'?"

Special spots deserve a special name. On another July STS trip, the weather was super-hot with temps one degree short of 100 and humi-

dity one point above. My brother, Dave, and his good friend, Don, were pitching plastic for smallies with much success. In one stretch, Don, dripping wet in sweat, was on fire, hauling in several healthy bronzebacks in succession. The massive shelf of rocks towering above us begged for a name. "Onyshuk Bluff" was the perfect fit.

A few years later, a couple of boats joined me in the bay across from Onyshuk Bluff. The action was ridiculous, with walleyes coming out of the water at times one a minute. On another trip to same hole, a friend and I boated over 100 walleyes in just two hours after dinner! An STS rookie named Cal Otto was especially hot, so much so that the location became famous overnight as "Otto-Matic Point."

continued on last page



"STS's Crow Duck Adventure—a great time of fun, fishing, and fellowship around the Word of God. Beautiful scenery that shows off God's creative power. A wonderful time of renewal."

Dave Breederland

"Mount Human" on Crow Duck Lake



Mentoring: *fishing for men...with fish*

By Dr. Mel Swanson

IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED a little more of life, a Christian faith, or a specific skill than someone else, than you are in a position to share your experience with someone less fortunate. Throughout my life, I have observed teenagers who are looked up to and emulated by younger school-aged children; or where someone who has been a Christian for several years, has studied the Bible, and grown in his faith can be a big help to a younger Christian.

So what is a mentor? The dictionary definition says it's a trusted counselor or guide. As we strive to gain wisdom for our own lives, we can make tremendous contributions by building into relationships with younger people in order to become a trusted friend. Hopefully, when faced with struggles, that the young person turns to a mentor for advice. Whether a dad or grandparent, mentoring occurs first with one's own children, but many younger people need an adult other than their parents to give another perspective.

Many young people are struggling today; anxiety and depression among teens and young adults is near epidemic levels. Pressures from social media, overly busy schedules, and the perceived needs to perform in school, sports, or to keep up with friends weighs heavily on today's youth. Also, there are many important decisions—choosing a career, where to get an education and paying for it, who to marry.

More seriously, this is a time of questioning whether the faith they grew up with is what they should believe and make it their own or not. Many quit going to church after leaving their parents' homes, or, while attending college, their faith is attacked, being exposed (indoctrinated) to destructive world-views. Many have

grown up without fathers in the home or divorced parents, leaving hurts and scars. This pain and depression is often dealt with by harming themselves.

There is an urgent, real need for caring adults to mentor younger people. Some of us have experienced a stable family life, with both a mother and a father who loved us—yet many kids don't have that advantage. Previous generations did not have the same pressures as most kids today. Are those differences a hindrance in providing encouragement to a young person?

One of the most important factors in helping a young person is to show you care and carefully listen to concerns. Having gone through a similar struggle they might be facing can be valuable in giving encouragement and a fresh perspective. One of the best ways to develop such a relationship is to find activities that both adult and young person can enjoy doing together.

So, how does one become a trusted mentor? It does not require a lot of education, money, specific skills, or even have your own act together. For some, it might be volunteering with a sports team and befriending through interaction. The goal of Success Through Scriptures Ministry is to have caring adults, who love the outdoors and fishing, provide an example of a Christian faith by incorporating scriptural principles into men and boys while enjoying God's creation. Another opportunity is to talk to a youth pastor about your willingness to mentor a youth who might be interested in such a relationship. Not all young people are interested, but some would welcome the opportunity and this can be valuable for both persons involved. It only takes humility and a willingness to listen—then both can learn and grow, sharing experiences and planting seeds of wisdom. • ms



From the STS Founders

*“Be on guard; stand firm in the faith;
be men of courage; be strong.”*

I CORINTHIANS 16:13

Have you ever noticed that most modern Christian ministries in local churches take place within the confines of their walls, usually in the fellowship hall? In the summer of 2005, the Lord impressed upon us to start the ministry now known as **Success Through Scriptures (STS)**.

His encouragement was to have this ministry outside the walls of the church. In the New Testament, we see that Jesus spent a great deal of time outside, and most of his miracles were done outside where the people were. This is not to say that having a ministry inside is wrong. At times weather will prevent going outside. Even with STS we have some indoor fellowship, but most of our activities occur in God’s outside classroom. There is something about the freedom one experiences while on a lake in the wilderness. God has given us a great outdoors to enjoy—fishing or just fellowship.

Fishing is such an incredible sport. Not only does it provide excitement when you hook and land a nice fish, but simply being on the water brings you a sense of peace and joy beyond understanding. Very few pastimes or sports can lay claim to that. Anyone can enjoy fishing.

The idea of sharing the gospel through fishing and camping is nothing new. Jesus did it with fishing and there are many ministries today that are sharing Christ through fishing and camping.

But let’s face it—evangelism is often difficult for many Christians. We claim we do not know how to witness or think the “right opportunity never comes our way.” But if we connect our faith with something we enjoy, like fishing, then sharing the gospel can become easier and more natural to us. Many times when we connect the gospel to something others have an interest in, they are more willing to stop and listen. It is all about connections.

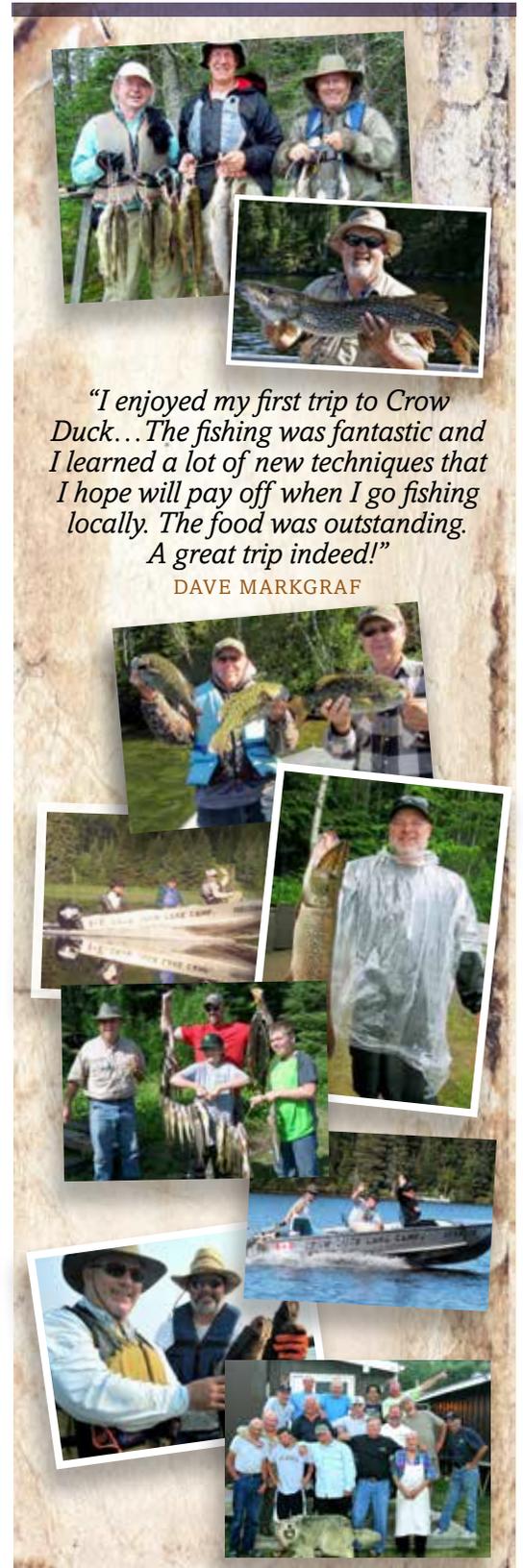
Maybe you’d like to be part of STS by attending one of our trips or maybe the Lord is impressing upon you to become involved in this ministry. If so, feel free to contact us. 



Mike Schachterle
with “Bobber Bill”

Mike “Shep” Sheplee

Mike Schachterle 612-867-8469 | Mike Sheplee 612-418-6584



“I enjoyed my first trip to Crow Duck... The fishing was fantastic and I learned a lot of new techniques that I hope will pay off when I go fishing locally. The food was outstanding. A great trip indeed!”

DAVE MARKGRAF

*Visit our website.
100’s of photos,
calendar of events,
activities, and more.*

www.stsretreats.org



Crow Duck Lake, the great fishery it is, deserves to be memorialized with an abundance of honorary place names. “The Honey Hole,” for one, is a traditional go-to favorite, marking the spot in Rice Bay where walleyes and pike stack up as the water warms. “Phil’s Bay” and “Petty’s Pool” are newer names, each with its own story. Next time you have the fun of fishing in the Whiteshell’s finest, you might just want to try tagging your own secret spot.



The portage to Saddle Lake leads to more legendary sites. “North Concord Shore,” for one, can be found just up from the landing on the west side and always the first (and sometimes only) stop for the gang from West Concord, Minnesota. Last year, I added “Gaylord’s Bay” to the list, named after a friendly guy who showed our struggling team where the action was to be found on the east side. And we nailed ‘em!

One location that will forever lure me in is “Adulterous Point,” found just over the saddle. Named for the wayward woman warned of in our GPS studies (Proverbs 5-7), this hotspot irresistibly tempts unsuspecting fishermen with its classic structure and healthy walleye population. What’s more, we’ve found that Saddle Lake’s biggest ‘eyes seem to hole up there. Ah, but there is a price to be paid, weighed out in the ton of lead sacrificed to the huge boulders below.



Space doesn’t permit to tell the stories of “Fitzgerald Point,” “Schachterle Island,” “Walleye Jacuzzi,” “Lonski Tree,” or a host of others. But when it comes to naming rights, everything is in play—including boat teams (“Three Amigos”) and fishing techniques.



A few years back, I got to fish solo with long-time friend, Steve Winje, on his first trip to Canada. He not only hooked his first walleye, but he caught more fish in one day than in his whole life combined! It was understandable, then,

that he needed a little coaching on first hooking and then boating his fish. By day’s end, the net stayed in the bottom of the boat and the “Winje Method” was perfected. Taking advantage of a fish’s own momentum to rocket it into waiting hands proved to be great entertainment!

When it comes to naming rights, the Creator God stands as the ultimate authority not only on all these amazing places to fish, but on the fishermen themselves. Thanks to the One who has a name above all names, He alone can write our name where it matters most—in his Lamb’s Book of Life.

*There’s a new name
Written down in glory,
And it’s mine,
Oh yes, it’s mine!
And the white-robed
Angels sing the story,
“A sinner has come home.”
With my sins forgiven
I am bound for heaven,
Nevermore to roam.*

C. Miles Austin’s old gospel hit got it right. As for those famous Crow Duck and Saddle fishing spots, I think we did, too.

Bill Abeler



“I had fished off and on throughout my life, but never with much success. I kept hearing how great the fishing was up in Canada and decided to give STS a try. I was not sure what to expect, but figured it would be fun to learn how to fish from a bunch of guys who knew what they were doing. I caught more fish that first day than I had in my entire life and was literally hooked.”

STEVE WINJE | Lino Lakes, MN

Bill Abeler made nine STS trips to Crow Duck from 2008-2017, eight as the GPS teacher. The Executive Director at Camp Lebanon (Upsala MN), “Bobber Bill” graduated from the University of Northwestern—St. Paul and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.