

# A Big Walleye Was Caught Following Advice from Joe and Bonnie Moris

By MIKE DAVIES

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My wife, Gena, and I want to say thanks to you and Bonnie for taking time from your vacation to stop by our home and visit with us. We love to show off our home and yard to anyone, and you and Bonnie were very gracious guests. But the real reason that we need to say thanks goes deeper than that. While we were walking around the yard, Gena asked Bonnie how you managed to get away from the golf course for more than one day at a time. Joe, you were quick to say "when Bonnie sees that I need a break, we start planning a vacation, I don't think anyone who has retired would look back on their career and wish they would have worked more."

**As you and Bonnie left our place and**

continued on your vacation, Gena quickly seized the moment and said, "Mike, we need to get away like that, I'll take care of the details here, you take care of them at work." The next day Gena had a trip planned for the following weekend. I set it up at work (which was easier than I thought it would be), and we were busy planning a fishing trip to Sag. A co-worker who used to guide would meet on the landing at 7:00 a.m. and show us around the lake. Neither of us got much sleep on Friday night, but we had no problem being at the landing on time. The Day started out hot and kept getting hotter until by 10:00 a.m. it

was 85° F and not the best weather for fishing, but perfect for hanging out at the lake. In

spite of the weather, I caught a 26", walleye got a picture and released her. By then, Jim had to leave, and Gena and I were on our own for the next two days.

**We set up camp on a very secluded Canadian island**, (one Gena says hasn't seen that level of romance in quite some time.) We had no timetable and two days to get it done. The following morning, we set out fishing in one of the spots Jim said might hold fish, what followed is *the rest of the story*.

We started catching some nice fish, then Gena got herself snagged again, or so I



*Gena Davies catches a big walleye measuring 31.5" off a secluded Canadian island thanks to some friendly advice from Joe and Bonnie Moris.*

thought. When the snag started stripping line, I started to get serious. I really got excited when the walleye surfaced and we got a look at a real nice-sized fish. Twenty minutes later, we had a 31.5" walleye in the net and in the boat. The picture above says it all. I like the look on Gena's face as much as the monster walleye. We got the fish back in the water, took a break and thought about the fact that we probably wouldn't have been there had we not talked with you and Bonnie concerning the value of a break from work.

**I also knew something else had changed in that moment.** Gena had now caught a walleye bigger than I ever had and was taking full advantage of that fact. The rest of the day Gena provided all kinds of helpful hints like "cast into the rapids, work the jig quicker, don't reel in so fast. In the instant she landed the fish, she had become the new guide and I was now the student.

I never did catch a bigger fish but it was the lesson we learned from you that taking the time to do what has importance to your wife and you that really matters.

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