

Canadian Fishing Adventure

One Kid's Story

2004

Tanner Gauler lives in Ohio, and is the grandson of Brian Gauler of Columbia, Missouri. Brian has been coming to Black Bear Fishing Lodge on Red Lake, Ontario for the past 15 years. This was his first time to bring along his grandson who was only 10 years old, and had never fished before. Grampa brought some spin cast push button reels for him to use. After his first day, Tanner asked Grampa if he could try his type of reels. That got him started with spinning reels, and he hasn't looked back since.

That first year was mostly casting for Northerns, and even a "snake" was a thrill for Tanner. The occasional Walleye while back trolling really made his day. Mostly it was time spent with Grampa in a fishing camp on Red Lake, Ontario.



Grampa Helping Rig up



Dinner at the lodge



Big rod for small boy



First Northern

2005

The next year Tanner joined his Grampa with some other friends from Oklahoma and made the trip for a second time. This was a little better year for Tanner, as he now had an idea what fishing in Canada was all about. With his own spinning rigs given to him by his Grampa, he began to have more success, and even landed a 4 pound Walleye that was his largest fish ever. The shore lunches and time at the lodge with friends he met made the time go by quickly. On the last day he was casting for Northerns and caught a 5 pounder on a #5 Mepps spinner. What a way to finish the week!



Fishing with Grampa



Bringing home a stringer



Braggin board



Big Northern with Grampa

2006

By the third year, Tanner was eagerly looking forward to his annual fishing trip with Grampa to Black Bear Lodge. He even called Grampa to make sure they were going again. And what a year that was. The fishing just seemed to get better and better, with a Northern (same #5 Mepps!) that was just in the slot at 33 inches. What a thrill for Tanner, who was only 48 inches himself! Putting him back in the water was the biggest thrill ever for Tanner fishing in Canada. And he made new friends with some of the older boys who were there with their school fishing club. He was now a "regular," and no longer asked Grampa to tie his tackle or take his fish off the hook. Canadian fishing was in his blood!



Fishing with a new friend



Making more friends



Shore lunch with Grampa



Biggest Northern yet

2007

Tanner was now in 7th grade, and had grown over 1 foot since his last trip. That 7' rod didn't seem quite so overwhelming. And it was a good thing he had grown, because so had the fish he caught. The second night he was casting for Northern (yep, that favorite #5 Hot Orange Mepps!) and a 15 pounder slammed it. Man, what a fight. Tanner kept his cool, and played that fish for over 10 minutes. Brought him along side the boat, and Grampa netted it! What a thrill. Almost 40 inches, the fish was a dream come true. The fish had swallowed the spinner, and by the time Grampa could get it out, it was pretty much a "goner." Tanner and Grampa tried for 15 minutes to revive the fish, but to no avail. The good news was it made a mighty fine set of fillets! Tanner took them home with him, and treated the family to a Canadian shore lunch fish fry in their own home in Ohio! Now, that's what's becoming an avid Canadian fishing person is all about.



Wow! Northern Lunker



My first wall hanger



Braggin Board with Grampa

Future

The story isn't ended. Tanner still plans to join his Grampa in his now "Annual Canadian Fishing Trip to Black Bear Lodge on Red Lake" just as long as he can make it happen. Watch out, you Northern (and Walleye, too!). Tanner and his Grampa are coming back!