



# On the Water

Volume 5, Issue 12

December 2003

## Entries for Members Only Contest Due January 3

from Elaine Randolph, Contest Chair

It's mid-November and there is still open water so I expect to be busy registering fish until the end of December. **THE 2003 CONTEST ENDS ON DECEMBER 31 AND ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 3, 2004.** Everything must be recorded and the winner's names sent to the international chairman by January 10. No exceptions! Time is short! The Winter Picnic/Awards Ceremony is February 21!

At the recent Fall International Board Meeting the following motion was passed that will impact the Members Only Contest for 2004.

*For a member to get credit for the Annual Members Only Fishing Contest and the Lunge Log that is posted in the Magazine and the Website in addition to the information that is already required, the following information must be submitted on each annual MI Release Form; 1) The State or Province, 2) The Lure type and 3) The Name of the Lake or River. NO EXCEPTIONS!*

If anyone is interested, there was a lengthy discussion regarding this change on the website Bulletin Board.

Another piece of good news is you, as members, will be able to enter your own fish on-line starting in early 2004. The way the process is scheduled to work is a member enters the information within 30 days, the entry comes to me for logging into the Twin Cities Chapter Contest, and I forward the entry to the Lunge Log.

If you have questions or run into problems, I am usually just a phone call away. Of course, I will still be available to do the entering for you.

*continued on page 2*

## Kids Only Fishing Contest

The Chapter's Kids Only Fishing Contest will end on December 31. Rules are simple: All fish must be caught by using legal means and the fish must be witnessed by a parent or another adult. An award will be given to each and every child who satisfies the criteria for at least one of the ten categories. All awards will be made at the 2004 Winter Picnic and Awards Night.

Almost any fish of any size is eligible. Species include: bluegill, perch, sunfish, white bass, black or white crappie, catfish, bullhead, carp, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, walleye, sauger, or northern pike. The contest is open to kids 12 or younger. One entry per child should be submitted for the entire fishing season.

The contest form must be signed by both child and parent/guardian. Forms are available at meetings or contact Smokey Swenson. Entries should be submitted to Smokey Swenson, 4023 Girard Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412.



## Mark Your Calendars

Our 2003 fishing season is starting to slow down – actually for most of us it is over!!!! We're starting to think about the holidays ahead, the new year and dreaming of next year's fishing season.

Mark your calendar and make plans to celebrate the 2003 Muskie Season at our annual Winter Picnic/Awards Banquet February 21, 2004. For the second year in a row, we will hold this event at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Bloomington, MN.

The Winter Picnic is really a fun event. Plans call for have a delicious dinner, socializing, games with fabulous prizes and, of course, honoring the top anglers of the year who participated in our Members Only Contest. Tickets available at the December meeting, so please plan to join us for an evening of fun and entertainment. If you have any questions call Patti Slack at 952-808-1469.

# From Our President

Unfortunately we are approaching the time of year that Mother Nature will be closing the door on our favorite pastime, unless you are fortunate enough to take advantage of some of the warmer climates that offer year 'round muskie fishing. I find this time of year depressing for a period, as I come to realize that my fishing time is about up. It always seems that I didn't have enough time on the water. The truth is that I'll never get enough time on the water. Even after a long disappointing day in which I'm glad to finally get my feet on the dock, I almost immediately start thinking about the next time out. So, the cycle continues.

Our source for fish to stock in White Bear Lake, Minnesota Muskie Farm, has had difficulty harvesting from their rearing ponds due to ice and fish not coming into the nets. At this time we have stocked 58 2-year-old fish at 24" each and about forty fingerlings. It is uncertain how many more we will be able to actually stock in White Bear Lake this

year. Hopefully, we will have more information to share at the general meeting in December. If we are unable to do any more stocking as a result of the harvesting issue, all funds designated for this will carry over and we will try again next year.

It has been about a year since we made the move to the K.C. hall for our meetings. From what I can tell, the transition has been a smooth one with few mishaps along the way. The K.C. hall seems to be a good fit for us and I haven't heard any news to the contrary. I guess we can consider it home.

At the December general meeting we will be following the nomination and election processes for our board of directors and executive officers. If you have an interest in serving on the board contact Brad Coyne at 612-724-6697.

**Come to meetings; share your stories and ideas.**

**Joe DeMars**

## Members Only

*continued from page 1*

### MEMBERS ONLY STANDINGS:

(AS OF 10/15/2003)

#### JUNIOR'S DIVISION

- 1 Evan Nicolai – 4 fish – 63 points
- 2 Gary Wolff – 1 fish – 15 points
- 3 Shaina Wolff – 1 points – 13 points
- 4 Samantha Doebler – 1 fish – 12 points  
Eleni Wolff – 1 fish – 12 points
- 6 James Hedensten – 1 fish – 8 points

#### WOMEN'S DIVISION

- 1 Lois Harvey – 6 fish – 96 points
- 2 Terrie DuBe' – 3 fish – 39 points
- 3 Linda Knutson – 2 fish – 36 points
- 4 Elaine Randolph – 2 fish – 23 points
- 5 Pamela Carroll – 2 fish – 15 points
- 6 Dianne Dahl – 1 fish – 12 points  
Wendy Hedensten – 1 fish – 12 points
- 8 Liz Sewald – 1 fish – 5 points

#### MEN'S DIVISION

- 1 Jeff Melton – 21 fish – 292 points
- 2 Brent Hirsch – 17 fish – 236 points

- 3 Bob Culbertson – 19 fish – 208 points
- 4 Matt Olson – 21 fish – 205 points
- 5 Duff Thury – 15 fish – 186 points
- 6 Jim Doyle – 13 fish – 163 points
- 7 Jake Heath – 9 fish – 148 points
- 8 Kevin Clouse – 10 fish – 135 points
- 9 Bobby Johnson – 9 fish – 117 points
- 10 David Gustafson – 9 fish – 111 points

#### MASTER'S DIVISION

- 1 Mark Sewald – 21 fish – 296 points
- 2 Tony Sommerfeld – 22 fish – 245 points
- 3 Brian Hanson – 13 fish – 228 points
- 4 Mark Fredrick – 13 fish – 192 points
- 5 Kurt Hostager – 9 fish – 111 points

#### HYBRID DIVISION – No entries

#### RELEASE OF THE MONTH – (MINIMUM LENGTH FOR CONTEST IS 45")

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| May  | John Newman, Jr. – 49" – Cave Run Reservoir – May 18 |
| June | Chris Mueller – 52.5" – Lake of the Woods – June 23  |
| July | George Wahl – 52" – Lake of the Woods – July 19      |

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
|        | Richard Wolff – 52" – Mille Lacs – July 31                 |
| August | David Nicolai – 55.5" – Leech Lake – August 9              |
| Sept   | Patrick Cotter – 53" – Leech Lake – September 20           |
| Oct    | unofficial – Steve Proskin – 50" – Minnetonka – Oct 8      |
| Oct    | unofficial – Bobby Johnson – 51.33" – Nokomis – October 25 |
| Nov    | unofficial – Chris Mueller – 46" – Sugar – November 1      |

**All entries must be mailed by JANUARY 3, 2004 to:**

**Elaine Randolph  
1039 Wedgewood Lane North  
Eagan, MN 55123  
651-452-1209**

*Reporting all fish, big and small.*

# Dryberry Tales, 2003

from Juris Ozols

We went up to Dryberry again this year, Tom Bastian and me, Terry L, and then my buddy Peter Hunt, along with guide Neal Larson. Pete's a sad case of "Muskie Fever." He lives and works in Texas, fishes bass there, but comes up to Minnesota twice a year for some serious fishing. He's fished muskies with us now a half dozen times, Leech Lake, Waconia, and he's even had a couple of Bastian-guided outings on that infamous "Metro Lake" (which can now be revealed as Harriet since the muskies have quit biting there).

Peter has never caught a muskie. He wants very badly to do that.

Peter jumped at the chance to fish Dryberry. During the past year we had fed him a steady diet of dreams and lies about the monster muskies of that fabulous lake. He bit. We had to promise him that the chances of drowning on the way to and from the island were remote, but that was okay. He came up from Texas the first week of September.

The hour-long boat ride to Neal's island was uneventful. So were the first three days of muskie fishing, very uneventful indeed. On the fourth day, tired of not catching giant muskies, we switched to smallmouth bass, a fish that also grows to huge proportions on Dryberry.

But smallies are far easier to catch, and that's what we wanted, "Action!" Which we got, that beautiful afternoon on one of our favorite hot spots, "Moose Inlet," home of those magnificent smallmouth bass of Dryberry...

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Well, look at that! Pete's got



another one! Wonder if he's tired of catching those three pounders by now? But man, this one is way, way better. Look at him fly through the air, head shaking, water spraying! Spectacular!

I grab my camera, start snapping pictures. This could be some great shots. But I'd really like the fish jumping again.

"Hey man, make 'im jump! Gotta have a picture in the air! Pull 'im up, pull 'im up!"

Peter leans back, rod bent over, line zinging through the water. But the blasted fish won't jump!

"Can't do it," Peter yells back at me. "Won't do it!"

And then the drag starts squealing – the fish is actually pulling the boat around!

"Hey," yells Peter again. "You gotta follow it, the trollin' motor, I can't hold it!"

I grab the control of the trolling motor, swing the bow around, start following the fish. And that helps. The line starts coming back toward us, and we come up alongside the fish so we can see it down in the clear water.

Well, look at that! No wonder Peter couldn't bring it in – the bass is wrapped around a huge log! Lots of fallen trees in Moose Inlet, even a beaver house, so not a surprise. Well,

we've got to get it untangled.

As Peter dips his rod in the water to start jiggling the bass loose... Hmm... Funny how it's wrapped around the tree. All I can see is the tip of the fish's tail and just the nose. And then... The log starts moving, toward our boat, its tail slowly wobbling through the water. And its eyes are looking up at us... And just as it disappears under the boat, the

muskie opens its mouth, the bass pops to the surface, and the gigantic muskie sinks away into the depths of Moose Inlet, Dryberry Lake.

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Peter had to sit down, knees shaking. I thumbed the bass with my own shaking hands, got it in the boat, tried to measure it, but gave up on that as a lost cause. Let's just say the smallmouth was well over 19 inches long. I got a shot of Peter holding the fish. He released it and it darted away, apparently no worse for the wear.

Peter and I frothed the waters for the next hour with our muskie outfits. A muskie that wanted to eat a 19-inch smallmouth for a snack... We didn't see it. Peter didn't catch his muskie that week.

Furthermore, when the week was over and we left for home, the wind didn't blow, the waves didn't rock, and our boats didn't almost sink on the way to the landing. I'm sorry about that – it would have made for great pictures again, like last year.

And I'm also sorry I didn't get a shot of that giant muskie with the bass in its mouth.

But maybe next year? Peter will be back. You see, I understand he's working on a unique lure, one that looks like a huge smallmouth bass...



# MinnAqua Opportunities

Roland E. Sigurdson, Aquatic Education Specialist, MN DNR Division of Fisheries – MinnAqua

The Minnesota DNR MinnAqua program had a great summer season and introduced many young people and adults to the fun and excitement of recreational angling. The program teaches over 20,000 kids a year statewide to fish and understand our fish habitat through seminars at lakes, in schools and at parks. There is a small cadre of full time workers but we rely mostly on volunteers. We couldn't have run these large programs without your help. If I didn't say it before, I'll say it now. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

This winter, MinnAqua has some adventures lined up as well. If the temperatures cooperate this year, we could really use a few more expert anglers on site at the events. If you think you would have time to assist with one of the events listed below, please contact me for event specific information and directions. Roland E. Sigurdson, 612-625-1291, 173 McNeal Hall - 1985 Buford Avenue, St Paul, MN 55108, or 612-625-1263 Fax.

## Parent/Child Ice Fishing for Beginners

Forest Lake Community Ed, Forest Lake  
Saturday, January 17th, 2004  
10am - 2pm

## Ice Harvest Festival

Hyland Lake, Bloomington  
(MinnAqua provides ice fishing area)  
Saturday, January 24th, 2004  
Noon - 4pm

## Ice Fishing on Whaletail Lake

Gale Woods, Minnetrista  
Saturday, January 31st, 2004  
1pm - 4pm

## Parent/Child Ice Fishing for Beginners

Cenaiko Lake, Coon Rapids Dam  
Sunday, February 1st, 2003  
1pm - 4pm

Thank you for supporting MinnAqua and good luck fishing!!

# Highlights from MI International Board Meeting, Fall 2003

from George Selcke, Twin Cities Chapter Regional Vice President

A new President, Greg Wells from the Between the Lakes Chapter, # 20, was elected. He will function as Perry Smith's assistant until he assumes the office at the Spring 2004 Board meeting.

Perry Smith was recognized as the newest member elected to the Muskies Inc. Hall of Fame. Perry's induction was greeted by unanimous acclamation.

The Treasurer's report followed. The proposed 2004 budget is \$393,195.00, with the substantial increases seen in expenses – from salaries, advertising, printing, prizes and publications, *Muskie* Magazine, the website, and recognition awards.

## Executive Committee

The Corporate Partnership Committee reports increased relationship with Gander Mountain – their CEO will be attending Spring Board meeting and Awards banquet. Presently, two companies, Mills Fleet Farm and Minnkota, are being pursued for relationships. Mills Fleet Farm plans to be involved only on a local area with local chapters (much like WalMart stores), but plans for Minnkota will be on national level.

The Spring 2004 Board meeting and Awards Banquet will be hosted by the North Metro Chapter, #21. The Fall 2004 Board meeting will be hosted by the Cass Lake-Bemidji Chapter, #46. Tentative plans for Spring 2005 are the Fox River Valley, Chapter #39 and Fall 2005 (the Muskies, Inc., Symposium) the Hoosier Muskie Hunters, Chapter #42.

## Finance

The Finance Committee oversees fundraising programs: Commemorative Lure, Canadian Trips, Fig Rods, Credit Card, Calendars response for donations, and Cookbook (not rolled-out yet). They also administer the Gil Hamm Memorial Fund and the Kermit Benson Memorial Scholarship Program (two possible grants of \$1000.00 to be awarded this year).

## Research

There were eight \$500.00 grants awarded from Gander Mountain's commitment – recipients will be published in the *Muskie* Magazine. The International Muskie Symposium has been postponed until Fall 2005 because of the loss of the chairman and expense and time to obtain scientific papers!

## Membership

As of the meeting, Muskies, Inc. members totaled 6,879. The 2004 Membership Drive program includes fully paid Canadian trips for 2-4 persons for Chapters with the highest percentage of new members. Cost of membership, for those signed between 1 January 2004 and 31 March 2004 will be reduced to \$25.00/yr. (save \$5.00). Also there will be Muskie Esox Show specials.

The calendar program has shipped 5200 copies to households with additional copies at Gander Mountain. The Youth Committee will be publishing 10,000 copies of Youth Fishing Handout.

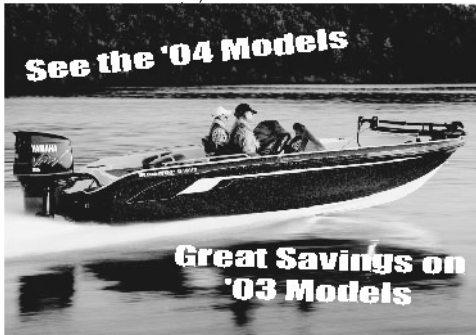
## Communications

The new editor of the *Muskie* Magazine is Jim Smith, former President of Muskies, Inc., affiliated with the Colorado Chapter. The website is being upgraded.

To date, there have been 12,277 entries in the Members Only Fishing Contest, with 233 over 50", and 92% released.



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### tc chapter contacts

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[www.muskiesinc.org](http://www.muskiesinc.org)

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# calendar of events

*Muskies Inc. Twin Cities Chapter General Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1114 West 79th Street, Bloomington, MN (just off I-494 & Lyndale Ave.) at 7:00 pm.*

## DECEMBER 9

General Meeting. Speaker: Ed Philpot. General Election of Board members.

## JANUARY 13

General Meeting. Speaker: Jack Burns.

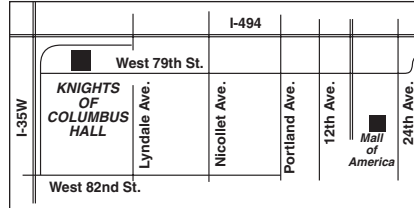
## FEBRUARY 10

General Meeting

## FEBRUARY 21

Winter Picnic/Awards Banquet

### TWIN CITIES CHAPTER MEETINGS HELD AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL IN BLOOMINGTON



*Knights of Columbus Hall in Bloomington is located just south of I-494 on West 79th Street just off Lyndale Avenue South. To get there from I-494, exit at Lyndale Ave., turn south to the first light (W. 79th St.) and turn west (right). The KC Hall is about three blocks on the right side. From I-35W you can exit at 82nd St., follow the east frontage road to 79th St. and turn east (right). The KC Hall is on the left. Or take 82nd St. east to Lyndale, turn north (left), go to the first light at 79th St. Turn west (left) and proceed to the hall. Park in the lot on the west side of the building.*

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