



# On the Water

Volume 5, Issue 2

February 2003



Seven-year-old Grady Wellman displays a 40" muskie he caught on Lake Independence.

## Muskie Expo in March

Make plans now to attend the Muskie Expo March 7-9 at the National Sports Center in Blaine. This three-day event is the only local show devoted exclusively to the muskie. The Expo is open from 2 to 9 pm Friday, Saturday from 10 to 7, and on Sunday from 10 to 4.

There will be over 100 muskie-related exhibitors including lure manufacturers, guides, resorts, and retailers and boat dealers with show specials. All three days will feature seminars by top muskie pros. Terry Trane from KQRS radio will be on hand Friday evening and Sunday morning.

Hospitality House will again sponsor a large "Kids Midway" area. Kids 12 and under are free, so bring the whole family. Adults cost \$7 to get into the Expo, \$12 for a three-day pass. See you there!

## Minnesota Muskie Alliance Formed

The first meeting of the Minnesota Muskie Alliance was held in Waite Park, MN on December 27th. The Alliance was formed at the suggestion of Perry Smith, MI International President. "There are many benefits that could evolve for being more organized ... Collectively, you can plan your approach to resolving state issues," he explained. Illinois, Ohio/Kentucky and Wisconsin all have an alliance organization. Membership of their alliances include all MI chapters in the state(s) as well as other independent muskie clubs.

Eight MI chapters in the state were represented at the meeting. The Minnesota DNR, Musky Hunter magazine, the MN Muskie Guide Association and the Professional Muskie Tournament Trail (PMTT) also sent representatives. George Selcke, TC Chapter representative and member of the Alliance Steering Committee,

opened by stating that the meeting "lay a foundation upon which our interests will be directed in and for the future... We need a platform, a focal point, to deal with issues concerning muskies in Minnesota... We have to get organized to protect our interests."

A mission statement was agreed on: **THE MINNESOTA MUSKIE ALLIANCE IS AN ORGANIZATION TO ADDRESS MUSKIE-RELATED ISSUES IN MINNESOTA.** Then the assembled group spent the day discussing and planning how to organize the Alliance, becoming informed on issues and learning about and formulating policies.

The Alliance will be headed by a committee consisting of two Co-Chairs and one Secretary/Treasurer. Committee officers will be elected at the next meeting, January 25. Alliance members decided that Officers need to be available, committed, have knowledge of the political process and peo-

ple, and have knowledge and communications interface with local and state DNR. Alliance member groups will contribute to the operating budget. Jim Lilenthal, Fisheries Area Supervisor for the DNR Little Falls office explained the position of the DNR – they can attend meetings, inform and advise, but cannot formulate policy and vote. The group realized that the Alliance will have to be politically active and informed.

Issues that the Alliance intends to address include Leech Lake spawning grounds, stocking of muskies into more lakes, habitat protection, clean water, public education about muskies, and political pressure/influence.

Twin Cities chapter representatives for the Minnesota Muskie Alliance are George Selcke, Brad Coyne and Paul Villnow. Please contact them if you have issues or concerns you want the Alliance to address.

# From Our President

Last year at this time I wrote an article about the 3 R's. Not the traditional 3 R's but a different set – **REFOCUS, RECOMMITMENT, and REBUILDING**. I thought this would be a good time to review and use those thoughts to measure progress on these issues. The original article is in italics followed by today's observations.

*It is time to **REFOCUS** on the purposes of Muskies Inc. These purposes are what we as a club are about. If you haven't read them lately here they are.*

- To promote a high quality muskellunge sport fishery;*
- To support selected conservation practices based on scientific merit and carried out by authorized federal and state agencies;*
- To promote muskellunge research;*
- To establish hatcheries and rearing ponds and introduce the species into suitable waters;*
- To support the abatement of water pollution;*
- To maintain records of habits, growth, and range of species;*
- To disseminate muskellunge information;*
- To promote good fellowship and sportsmanship among men, women and children.*

*I encourage you all to think of what these purposes mean to you and how you can contribute to their fulfillment. Remember it takes time, money, and people to work effectively on these goals. It will be my focus to make time, find money, and recruit people.*

There are many things that can pull our attention away from these purposes. As I look back at the time I became active in this organization it seems that our primary focus was that of survival. Being concerned with survival doesn't leave much time to be constructive on the higher level that our purposes outline. One of the contributing issues was that we were financially stressed. I'm not sure how we got there, but due to two good years of profit from our tournament, we are in much better shape financially. So much so that we have a substantial surplus to carry over from last year's budget. The board will be considering the allocation of that surplus in the coming months. If you have projects or ideas that you think should be considered please express them to the board.

Another issue of survival that the club has recently experienced is that of leadership transition. In the recent history of the club there was a call for the older, experienced members to step down and let the younger folks have a shot at running things. Except for a few cases that call was heeded leaving a gap, if you will, in the leadership. I'm not here to judge whether or not the right thing was done in this regard, I'm just pointing out that a difficult period of transition was created. Also, in the last three years the club presidency has changed hands in as many years adding to the transition burden.

Over the past year two of our older members gave me a couple of things to think about. One told me that except for a few key people, our chapter would blow away like a "fart in the wind." My internal response to that comment was, who am I to keep the wind from blowing? Another member told me that what the club needed right now is consistency. Now, I might not be the best person to be president, but if there is one thing I am, it is consistent. Overall, I believe we have weathered the recent financial and transitional storms to the point that it is now time again to be proactive with regard to our purposes.

*The next of the R's is **RECOMMITMENT**. To those of you who have been active members in the past but are not currently active, I invite you to recommit yourselves to some part of the ongoing business of Muskies Inc. Your past experience is valuable and would be appreciated.*

Here I would like to point out a person who has come back in a big way. George Selcke is currently our Regional Vice President, our representative to the international, and is passionate and committed to his involvement. One of George's contributions to the world of muskie fishing last year was to spearhead the steering committee organizing the Minnesota Muskie Alliance. This ongoing task has already born fruit as the Alliance is about to have their second meeting. Great job! Thanks George!

*The final R is **REBUILDING**. The rebuilding I refer to is rebuilding the volunteer base of our club. This is a necessary and important task – without volunteers none of the work we plan can be accomplished. I think most of us know that the work of Muskies Inc is done by a handful of active members. I know that those who benefited from that work are much greater than a handful. If you have ever fished for muskies, and I know you have, you have benefited from Muskies Inc in one way or another. I, for one, am thankful for the foresight, commitment, and effort of those who have given so much in the past to make muskie fishing what it is today. If you are a member who has not yet been active in Muskies Inc, I encourage you to take the step and discover the benefits active membership can bring. Don't be shy or intimidated – I haven't met a member yet that wouldn't welcome your involvement. There is something you can do!*

To the issue of rebuilding I would like to point out that the board has been refreshed with five new members. Chris Mueller, Stu McIntosh, Dianne Dahl, Eric Shultz, and Shawn Kellett. Their presence and enthusiasm has already sparked new ideas and efforts within the club that should be visible shortly if they are not already.

Finally I want to thank all of you that worked at the St. Paul Sportsman Show. Your time and effort is appreciated.

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



## Chapter Plans for Four Summer Fishing Trips

Each season the Twin Cities chapter plans a number of muskie fishing trips for chapter members. Details have not been finalized yet, but the dates have been set for three trips this summer. Save the dates

The first trip of the season, scheduled for the Canadian muskie opening, June 21 through June 29th, is a boat-in outing to Barker Bay Outposts at the center of the Manitou Lake system in Ontario. The group will be limited to 14 people. This is the first year the chapter has organized a trip to this location. Contact Greg Ide (612-331-5034) or [gregide@aol.com](mailto:gregide@aol.com) to reserve your spot.

A trip to the Winnipeg River, Ontario is scheduled for July 12 through 19. Again this year, the base of operation will be Paradise Cove Resort. The water is everything you could ask for and there are large fish in them. We are able to take 16 to 20 anglers. Preference will be given to former attendees. Contact Paul Hartman (651-488-9017) to make reservations.

The chapter's annual trip to Red Wing Lodge in Morson, Ontario, is scheduled for August 16 through 23. Fish can be found on rocks, cabbage, muck, sand, boulders and rice in this part of Lake of the Woods. This trip is well worth the effort to attend. If you would like to join us, make your reservations soon with Terrie Dube (651-636-3441).

A trip to Musky Bay Resort on Crow Lake in Ontario is planned for September 27 through October 4. Some very large fish have been taken from Crow Lake this time of the year. Those who went on this trip last year had a great time. To make reservations or for more information, call Paul Hartman (651-488-9017).

Keep these dates in mind when making your plans for this summer's fishing trips. Details of all the trips will be in next month's issue of *On the Water*.

## 2002 Chapter Wrap-Up

Who knows it takes nearly \$40 thousand to run our chapter? Each individual MI chapter must be self-sustaining. The yearly membership dues we each pay go to the international organization not to our chapter.

The Twin Cities chapter has a number of fundraisers to keep itself running. At the January meeting, treasurer Steve Hedensten shared last year's financial information.

### General Fund:

Beginning balance	\$11,139.15
Ending balance	\$17,285.05
Total deposits	\$45,409.56
Total expenses	\$39,263.66

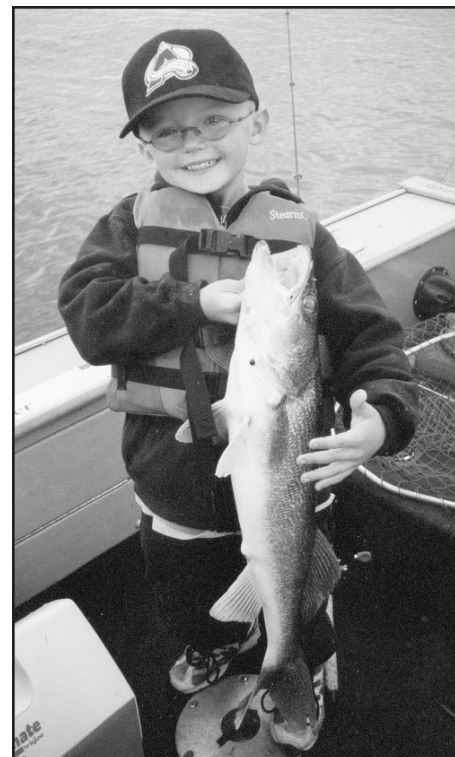
Money to run the chapter comes from our tournament, raffles at the welcome table at monthly meetings, and money donated to the club from the Muskie Expo. Chapter expenses

include putting on our Vets Home Opener, Capable Partners outing, Kids outings, and printing and mailing the newsletter.

Last year the chapter spent nearly \$5,000 on projects for the muskie resource. \$3,000 was given to the MN DNR at our annual tournament, and the rest went toward other projects. All funds raised by the chapter's Rearing and Project Raffle held in the spring go toward the muskie resource.

\$3,390 in the general fund has been allocated to a project on Leech Lake to protect muskie spawning beds that the board voted to support last year. If that project does not go forward, the chapter will retain the allocated money.

Any questions about the chapter's finances should be directed to Steve Hedensten (651-765-2493).



Grady Wellman with a 27" walleye entered in the chapter's Kids Only Fishing Contest. Just about any fish caught by contestants will be counted for the contest. The chapter's Kids Only contest is open to any child of a MI member. This year's winners will be announced at the Winter Picnic.

## Members Only Contest

from Elaine Randolph, Fishing Contest Chair

Oops, I goofed – no contest winners announced yet. There would be no surprises at the Winter Picnic on February 8, if the winners were announced in this issue of the newsletter. I promise the results will be in the March issue for those who don't attend the Winter Picnic.

The final entry for 2002 came from Don Pursch. Jiggging a green fireball jig in 17 feet of water, he released a 39" muskie at 4:40 p.m. on December 20. There was 12 inches of ice and he only had a 10-inch hole. Quoting Don, "WHAT A BLAST!"

In recent years, Bob Culbertson and John Newnam have submitted the first release form of the year. Who will it be this year?

*Reporting all fish, big and small!*

# Back Home....

from Juris Ozols

The duties of life have impressed their nefarious powers on me, and I've missed a lot of recent TC chapter doings. I had to be in Ottawa when we had that wonderful night for Smokey, to my eternal regret. And I've also ended up being a part-time secretary, missing board meetings, due to other travel. But finally, I made the January meeting, and it was a joy to be home again.

I got to see Smokey, with his spirits as high as ever, even if he moves a bit slower than he used to. I got to witness Terrie DuBe's surprise fiftieth birthday party, and watched her pull some mighty frisky shenanigans with a diaper and other things. Then the usual superb presentation by Marv Kiley, with all kinds of wisdom on fishing Lake of the Woods and other waters. I sold hugs by Patti Slack, for \$20, to various new and old members (have to remember to collect...).

And my buddy Jerry Peters and I sat down with Denise Olson and talked technical details about the web page that Jerry is putting together for our chapter. And there was Frank Schneider, studying the latest doings and mis-doings by the legislature. And John Olson and Curt Ellis and the Pauls Hartman and Villnow and Tony Vold and Elaine Randolph, and my friend (and new MI member) Craig from Cub foods, and Brent Dovre visiting us from Fargo, and Hugh Becker, still coming to meetings for over a 30 years in Muskies Inc., and just a whole bunch of other new and old-timers.

I brought along my trusty Minolta and snapped pictures, some of which you see in the collage – I really enjoyed that too. Capturing the events of our chapter with photography is one of my delights, and makes some of those nefarious things easier to bear.

So it was great to be back. I promise I won't stay away that long next time...



At the January meeting – clockwise starting at the top left: Smokey Swenson with Terrie DuBe modeling her special birthday duds. The other end of Terrie's "birthday suit." Marv Kiley shares some great fish stories. Frank Schneider, Jr. perusing the news. Paul Villnow and Smokey share a moment. John Olson, Tom Hanson, Paul Hartman, Hugh Becker, and Rick Hartz. The new TC chapter Board of Directors is introduced. "Over the Hill" with Patti Slack, Terrie, and Elaine Randolph.

## A Great Invention?

What could you do with a combination GPS/cell phone? The de-liars device could be attached to a teenager's car and the GPS coordinates sent to you every 5 minutes. Or – you could attach it to someone's else's boat

and, well, get their GPS coordinates every 5 minutes. Greg Ide says if it was attached to his boat "you would notice that I nap a lot." But, he also says that since there's been one on Dick Pearson's boat, he hasn't had to chase him anymore to find his best spots.



# Tread Softly, as Into the Night

from Juris Ozols

Can you recall that pivotal day in your life when your beloved tackle box – that battered but boon companion of many years – was simply stuffed to overflowing? And you had to run out and buy a larger one? And then, you had to run out to buy a larger boat because the old one is stuffed to overflowing with tackle boxes. But wait!! You dragged your new boat home and it's overflowing the garage...

And it extends to other aspects of family life. My wife has 57 house plants, give or take. Some have moved cross-continent three times and invariably arrive in better shape than I do. I've long ago given up complaining about them. In a moment of lapsed judgment (or incredible stupidity, some would venture), I once let slip that I owned 95 muskie lures and was eagerly looking forward to reaching the century mark. And so began the Battle of the House Plants vs. The Muskie Lures. My only consolation is in knowing I can buy more tackle boxes to hold more lures, but my wife can't buy a bigger house to hold more plants. I think.

But you say you yourself don't have a problem with too many tackle boxes? Then I say you live in the Sahara and are reading this newsletter in a porta-potty at a camel rest stop. Or else your boat is a converted car carrier, and renamed Muskie Maru.

Two summers ago I tripped head-long over one of a half-dozen tackle boxes laying adrift in a guide's tournament boat. A horrific tangle ensued, during which my rib cage made Mach-2 contact with one of the tackle boxes. Ten minutes later the guide nervously inquired as to the whereabouts of two spare St. Croix rods with Calcutta reels attached. My partner said he hadn't the faintest. I played dumber than dumb. Of course they were at the bottom of the lake, where my sprawling outthrust hands had sent them. Unseen, in all the commotion, by anyone but myself. I felt really rotten that one or more tackle boxes hadn't gone over the side, instead.

Sometimes I wonder just what it is that the muskie tackle manufacturers expect of us. Do you suppose they ever hold corporate meetings where outside experts in psychology and human behavior are called to testify as to the absolute tolerance levels of the customers their clients are serving? Does the word "saturation" ever pass their lips? And if so, can we be sure they're using the word in its proper context, and not just referring to the fact it's raining outside?

If truth mimics fiction, as I believe it often does, then the following scenario, or something close, is destined to spring to life, and soon. I present it as a wire service story, datelined in a Minnesota hamlet. For the moment, it's make-believe.

Cal Ingebretsen says he's 'sworn off' muskie fishing after his wife Helen presented him with a mail order catalog gift

on his landmark fiftieth birthday.

"I opened this rather heavy four- by six-foot box," says Cal, "and inside was something called the 'Tow and Go Tackle Tender.'" This auxiliary fishing item, complete with 30 feet of floatation rope, features a watertight lid and a weighted keel so that the fiberglass hull always returns to an upright position. The beehive interior contains enough vertical cubicles to hold 400 lures and assorted muskie minutiae.

Ingebretsen says he tried to picture this towed repository skipping along behind his boat – and that's when his world came crashing down around him.

"The worst part," Cal admits, "was the realization that I actually did need some sort of contraption like this if I ever again expected to move around in my boat – and never mind a fishing partner with all his gear. I suddenly saw myself, all alone in the middle of the lake, my head sticking up through a pile of tackle, and that's when I lost it."

Cal bit the bullet, made peace with Helen, and gave the Tackle Tender to his grandkids. Cal says they make great sport with it in the family swimming pool by loading the barge with ice cubes and popsicles, Charlston Chews, Red Vines and even roasted weenies.

Ingebretsen says he has absolutely no desire to learn what his wife paid for the Tender, and doesn't care. "All I know is, I'm eternally grateful to her for helping me see the light. I start bowling lessons on Saturday."

Are there ways to avoid quitting cold turkey? I think I found one, at a boat landing in Chippewa County, Wisconsin. Three guys, maybe late twenties, equipped with macho magnum flyrods. Like a Cajun, I come equipped with a big curious and so stopped to chat.

The boat owner seemed unusually relaxed. "Well, in answer to your question," he began, "yes and no. Yes, we've got lures alright – something over a couple thousand. And no, they're not invisible. They're just stashed away is all, out of sight. That's what's great about fly fishing for muskies – you can pack one helluva whollop and it don't even look like your gun is loaded."

Our subject then turned his attention, and not unkindly, to another boat coming into the landing: "Hey JoJo! I see your Lowe is taking a few gulps over the gunnel. Better dump a couple hundred of them crank baits before you swamp yourself."

The beat goes on. My youngest daughter gave me a Bucher Super Raider for Christmas. I smiled and gave her a hug in return and announced that I was going to buy the Moccasin Bar in Hayward just so I had a place to hang the monster muskie this plug was going to catch.

Then I went over in the corner. Hot tears welled in my eyes and I dabbed at them with a scrap of holiday wrapping paper. The Raider was the wrong color.

## — *this 'n that* —

### Chapter Outings to Take Place in the Metro Area

This fishing season the Twin Cities chapter will be holding several outings at metro area lakes. New board member, Shawn Kellett will be organizing the outings with initial plans calling for meeting every other weekend for fishing and fellowship with fellow muskie anglers. Call Shawn (952-380-1218) with suggestions or if you want to help with the planning.

### Projects to Support the Muskie Resource

The board of the Twin Cities chapter is in the process of making decisions on which projects to support with our project and rearing funds. They are looking for input from chapter members on projects and causes for which to

allocate funds. If you have ideas where the club should spend money allocated for the muskies resource, please give any board member a call. They will have to make their decisions fairly soon.

### Annual Winter Picnic and Awards Banquet

Our Twin Cities chapter Annual Winter Picnic/Awards Ceremony will be Saturday, February 8 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Bloomington. Following the dinner we will honor the winners for both our Kids-Only and Members-Only Fishing Contests. We look forward to seeing you all there!!

### Introduce a Friend to Muskies Inc.

Some great new incentives are in the works for anyone signing up new members to the chapter. Details will be released next month.

### St. Paul Sports Show

The TC chapter had a great show at the St. Paul Sports Show January 15-19. Twenty-four new members joined our

chapter during the show and another fifteen or so just have to turn in their membership forms. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped man our booth at the show. Anyone who has a spare TV or VCR that the chapter could use for the show booth please contact Brad Coyne (612-724-6697).

### Classified Ads

Place an ad in the On the Water classifieds. Where else can you let over 450 avid muskie fans know about whatever it is want to sell? Charges are \$5.00 per month per ad. Send ad information and check made out to Muskies, Inc. by the second Friday of each month for insertion into the following month's publication to: Graphic Works, 7125 17th Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423.

### New Meeting Location

Monthly meetings for the Twin Cities Chapter are now held at the Knights of Columbus Hall (1114 West 79th Street) in Bloomington. Directions are on the back cover of this issue.

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# calendar of events

*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.*

**FEBRUARY 8**  
Annual TC Chapter  
Winter Picnic/Awards  
Ceremony  
KC Hall Bloomington

**FEBRUARY 11**  
General Meeting –  
Speaker: John Newman

**MARCH 7-9**  
Muskie Expo – National  
Sports Center, Blaine

Saturday 2-9, Saturday  
10-7, Sunday 10-4

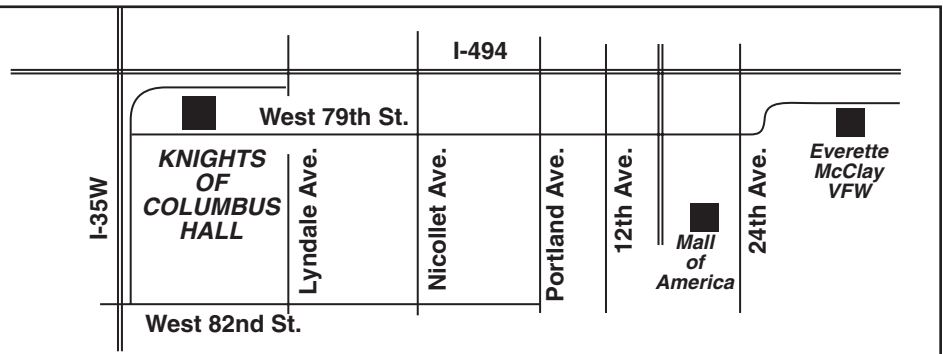
**MARCH 11**  
General Meeting

## THE 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.*



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## next meeting

**FEBRUARY 11**

**SPEAKER:  
JOHN NEWMAN**

*"Oddball Tactics for More and  
Bigger Muskies" – John, a prolific  
muskie fisherman, will share  
some different ways to approach  
getting big fish into the boat.*



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