



On the Water

Volume 5, Issue 7

July 2003

Project and Rearing Fund Raffle Drawing Held June 10 – Winners Announced

from Dick Halvorson, Raffle Chair

This year's Project and Rearing Fund Raffle officially ended with the drawing for prizes at the June meeting. Our chapter's annual raffle provides funds for projects that improve muskie fishing for everyone for many years to come. The raffle is our primary source of funding for all the projects we contribute to that go for the muskie resource. One hundred percent of the raffle proceeds go directly back into the resource. Buying equipment, and/or minnows to feed musky fingerling for the state DNR's muskie program, research, and spawning habitat restoration are a few projects that this raffle has helped fund. Winners of the drawing are:

1ST PLACE – DOUG MALSON – A 3-night stay for two people at Horseshoe Bay Resort on Leech Lake, plus 1 full day of guided fishing with Jack Shriver Sr., 1/2 day of guided fishing with Ted Gwinn, and 1/2 day of guided fishing with Jim Murphy.

2ND PLACE – JERRY MONTONYE – a 1-week stay for up to eight people at White Birch Lodge on Whitefish Bay of Lake of the Woods, Ontario.

3RD PLACE – NORDIS KENDRICK – a 1-week stay for four people at Shingwak Resort on Whitefish Bay of Lake of the Woods, Ontario.

4TH PLACE – BRENT HOFFSTEDT – a 3-night stay for four people at Vermilion Dam Lodge on Lake Vermilion, Minnesota.

5TH PLACE – BERT WILLIAMS – a 2 night stay for two people at Sportsman's Lodge plus _ day of guided fishing with John Myhre at Moose Lake, Wisconsin

6TH PLACE – ELAINE RANDOLPH – a 2-night stay for two people at Daisy Bay Resort on Lake Vermilion, Minnesota.

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone that entered.

Special thanks to: Horseshoe Bay Resort, White Birch Lodge, Shingwak Resort, Vermilion Dam Lodge, Sportsman's Lodge, Daisy Bay Resort, Jack Shriver, Sr., Ted Gwinn, Jim Murphy, and John Myhre who generously donated prizes for the drawing at no cost to the chapter.

Thanks also to Jay K. for the help at the drawing. See ya next year!

This Year We Got Fish Too! – Kids' Fishing Outing

from Juris Ozols

Last year the fish stayed home. Then, at the end of the morning, two bluegills and one tiny walleye – that was it. But this year, with warmer weather and blue skies, the fish showed up too for our crowd of eager young anglers.

Working together with the "Big Brothers / Big Sisters" organization, our chapter hosted ten youngsters out on Lake Nokomis for our second annual Kids' Outing. And did they haul in the fish! Now mind you, part of the morning's catch included the typical assortment of bluegills and perch. But – and this might give us hotshot muskie pros some pause – one young lady hooked and landed a 15-inch smallmouth bass and a bit later an even bigger largemouth. And you should have seen the smile and sparkling eyes!

We started out like last year. Curt Ellis and Tony Vold, again worked with the kids to rig up rods, tie on bobbers and hooks, and explain a bit about the rules and customs of fishing. And this year, Dick Halvorson also lent a helping hand with the kids. (As it turned out, Dick was our designated "fish handler" and did a great job of landing most of the fish. But next time you see him, kindly don't question Dick about what happens when you grab a line and try to pull in a big bass to shore...)

I wandered around, took pictures, and "interviewed" the kids. Most of them had little or no prior fishing experience. But the first young man to show up, 10-year-old Kifa, claimed to have caught "lots of fish." And how big? Well, Kifa stretched his arms out about as wide as he could, and said that he'd once brought in a catfish "that long."

He obviously showed promise as a fisherman –

Kid's Fishing Outing *continued on page 3*

From Our President

Last year at this time George Selcke, Brad Coyne, and Paul Vilnow initiated the development and organization of the Minnesota Muskie Alliance. I'm happy to report, if you haven't heard already, that that mission has been accomplished. Thanks you guys for an excellent and timely job.

It is getting closer to the International Tournament time. This year's Tournament will be held on September 5th, 6th, and 7th. As always, there will be an impressive prize selection including the Grand Prize of a Ranger 618 boat with a Mercury motor. If you've done this tournament before, you already know how much fun it can be. I hope every one of you are planning to participate again this year. If you haven't participated before, this is a good year to try it out and experience the Tournament for yourself. Keep a look out for future announcements regarding the tournament.

August 12th is slotted for our annual summer picnic at Minnehaha Park. This outing always proves to be a good time so start planning now to attend. If you're coming, bring a dish to share and the chapter will provide the burgers, brats, or chicken and the soft drinks. This event begins at 6 o'clock – an hour earlier than our regular meetings – so keep that in mind. Hope to see you there! Bring your maps!

Just a reminder to board members, our meeting schedule for the summer is as follows. The July board meeting will be held at 6:00pm on the 10th – the same day as the general meeting, but an hour earlier. There will be no board meeting in August, but remember to attend the picnic. In September we will return to the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.

I hope your fishing season has gotten off to a good start! I've been out a few times already, but have only been able to get small fish so far. Oh well, the season is still early and there will be plenty of fishing ahead. I know that eventually something larger is going to take the bait. I hope your muskie season will be as enjoyable as I anticipate mine will be. I look forward to more time on the water. Fish or not, it's always a good time.

Come to meetings; share your stories and ideas.

Joe DeMars

Members Only Contest

from Elaine Randolph, Contest Chair

SUMMER! It's my favorite time of the year to receive mail. Release forms are much more interesting to read than the junk mail – so start stuffing my mailbox.

NEWS FLASH! Joe DeMars is the first TC Chapter member to enter a fish in the 2003 contest. On April 26, at 8:30 am a 32-inch muskie from Clear Lake, Iowa hit Joe's muskie snack in one foot of water. This young muskie was carefully released back into its 53 degree home.

As in the past several years, John Newman released his first fish of the year on Cave Run Lake, Kentucky. On May 18, just minutes before the end of the PMTT the 49-incher hit a reef hawg. This release made John and Bob Culbertson the second place winners!

JUNE 7 – MN MUSKIE OPENER! Kevin Clouse worked his usual Saturday shift at a car dealership in Bloomington and then went fishing that evening. The Sugar Lake muskies rewarded his effort with a 44 inch release at 9:50 pm and a 41-1/2-inch release at 10:30 pm – both on a rapala. He also had 2 other muskies on but lost them. At 10:00 pm on June 10 Kevin released a 34-incher on Independence.

EXTRA! EXTRA! Junior member James Hedensten released his FIRST-EVER muskie on June 7 on Bald Eagle. The 34-inch fish hit a spinner bait at 8:15 am in 6 feet of water. Not to be outdone, father Steve released a 35 inch muskie. Steve also released a 38 inch muskie on Bald Eagle on June 14.

Tom Becker released his first fish since last season, a 36 incher on Minnetonka on June 13. A black and orange bucktail was the lucky bait. One hour into opening morning, Jim Doyle released a 50-incher. I am still waiting for the entry form for the details, but the picture Jim sent via email proved she was a beauty.

OFFICIAL STANDING AS OF 6/19/02

MENS DIVISION

1	Kevin Clouse	3 fish	42 points
2	John Newman, Jr.	1 fish	23 points
3	Steve Hedensten	2 fish	21 points
4	Tom Becker	1 fish	10 points
5	Joe DeMars	1 fish	6 points

JUNIOR DIVISION

1	James Hedensten	1 fish	8 points
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If you have any questions or need NEW AND IMPROVED release forms, see me at the meeting or call me at 651-452-1209. Mail your completed forms to:

Elaine Randolph
1039 Wedgwood Lane N.
Eagan, MN 55123

Reporting All Fish, Big and Small

Kid's Fishing Outing

continued from front page

he just couldn't wait to get through with the academic part of things and get his line in the water – even before the other kids got set up. And Kifa stayed with it the whole morning, even though, as it turned out, the hot hand belonged to someone else.

That hotshot angler was Yesenia, also 10 years old and in fourth grade. She said she'd fished once before, but without much luck. Well, it seemed that this day she couldn't get her bobber and leech in the water for more than a couple of minutes before getting something big to bite. In addition to the big smallmouth and largemouth, she also hooked another large bass (here we won't get into the sad Dick Halvorson tale) and then even managed to bring in a fair-sized sucker. So Yesenia had the best luck, but I believe that all the kids got at least one fish.

Let me comment that both last year and again this time out, I was enormously impressed with the friendliness, politeness, and attentiveness of all the kids. For some of us, our children are long grown up and gone. We're used to living in the company of a frequently cantankerous crowd of Muskie Inc. grownups, largely male. So, to see the charming behavior of this bunch of 10- or 12-year old kids, from various backgrounds, well, it restores one's faith in the youth of our generation. I've found it refreshing to be reminded of that.

(Now, I have to report that the next weekend I went muskie fishing on Bald Eagle with John Olson, "O.F." himself. And John behaved almost as well as the kids, so maybe there's hope after all for our generation.)

All-in-all, the beautiful weather



and the hot action with the fish made for a grand fishing morning. As I've written before, our chapter has the Vet's Home Opener a week or two before the Kid's outing, and those old warriors take just as much delight in fishing the trout pond as the kids do going after Nokomis bass. That delight

is infectious – you can't leave either event feeling down or sad.

And as I've also written before, next spring don't wait to see how your calendar for May fills up. Just make sure that you can do both of these chapter events, and I promise you two truly delightful mornings.

— this 'n that —

Kid's Fishing Contest

Don't forget to keep track of your children's catches this season and enter them in the Chapter Kids Only Fishing Contest. The rules are simple. All fish must be caught by using legal means and the fish must be witnessed by a parent or another adult. Just about any fish a kid may catch will qualify. Children of chapter members age 12 or younger are eligible. An award will be given to each and every child enters at least one of the ten categories. All awards will be made at the 2004 Winter Picnic and Awards Night.

One entry per child should be submitted for the entire 2003 fishing season. All entries must be received no later than January 10, 2004. Submission of photographs when submitting an entry is encouraged. Photographs should have all pertinent information, such as

anglers name, date of catch, size of fish, body of water, etc. on the back of the photo.

Successful Releases

Releasing a muskie is one way to ensure it grows to its true potential. Two easy rules to remember for a successful release are: baits can be replaced – muskies can't; and never keep the fish's head out of water longer than you can hold your breath.

Make the release quick. Have the right equipment readily available. When holding the fish, support the belly with one hand and the tail with the other. After a quick photo, place the fish back in the water and work it slowly back and forth. Remember, never fight the fish longer than necessary, minimize its time out of water, and handle the fish as little as possible.

Open Letter to Chapter Members:

I would like to personally thank the four members of our chapter who were at the Kid's Fishing Outing at Lake Nokomis on Saturday, May 17th. Curt, Tony, Dick and Juris were the ONLY members of our club to step up to the plate and be there at this event sponsored by the entire chapter.

With nine children in attendance, this was only a 3-to-1 ratio. If any of you have ever taught anyone how to fish, you know that this doesn't give the amount of attention needed to each participant.

Each of us has our priorities, and only a certain amount of spare time. I do understand this! So, let's applaud those that volunteer on ANY project and not criticize anyone that volunteers their personal time and energy. Thanks again!

Patti Slack

Raffle Donations

The following resorts and guides support our chapter through their donations to our Project and Rearing Fund Raffle. The next time you're planning a trip, consider supporting them by using their services.

- Horseshoe Bay Resort, Leech Lake, 218-547-1366
- White Birch Lodge, Whitefish Bay, Lake of the Woods, 1-888-776-1057 or 1-888-659-3333
- Shingwak Resort, Whitefish Bay, Lake of the Woods, 807-226-5630
- Vermillion Dam Lodge, Lake Vermillion, 218-666-5418
- Daisy Bay Resort, Lake Vermillion, 218-753-4958 or 1-800-449-8306
- Sportsman's Lodge (John Myhre) Moose Lake, Wisconsin, 715-462-3847
- Jack Shriver, Sr., Leech Lake Guide, 218-894-2094
- Ted Gwinn, Leech Lake Guide, 218-547-3514
- Jim Murphy, Leech Lake Guide, 763-566-1237

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Members Only Contest

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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.

JULY 8

General Meeting. Speaker: Scott Shore.

JULY 12-19

Chapter Fishing Trip: Paradise Cove Resort, Winnipeg River, Ontario

AUGUST 6-8

Chapter Challenge, Red Wing Lodge, Lake of the Woods

AUGUST 12

Annual Chapter Picnic. Minnehaha Falls Park.

AUGUST 16-23

Chapter Fishing Trip: Red Wing Lodge, Lake of the Woods

SEPTEMBER 5-7

Frank Schneider Jr. International Tournament

SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 4

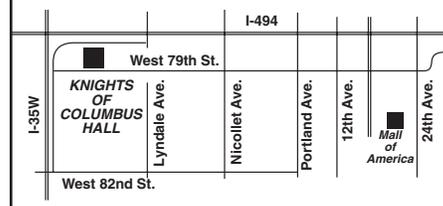
Chapter Fishing Trip: Muskie Bay Resort, Crow Lake, Ontario

CANADIAN FISHING TRIPS

There are still some openings for all our chapter fishing trips this summer. For more information contact Paul Hartman (651-488-9017) about the Winnipeg River and Crow Lake trips, and Terrie DuBe´ (651-636-3441) about the Red Wing Lodge Trip.

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER MEETINGS HELD AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

in Bloomington, 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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next meeting

JULY 10
SPEAKER:
SCOTT SHORE

Scott will share secrets and strategies – sand, weeds and rocks – for huge Mille Lacs muskies.