



On the Water

Volume 5, Issue 6

June 2003

A Beautiful Day – Vets Home Fishing Opener 2003

from Juris Ozols

And even the weather was great on that Saturday morning in May! But I'm really talking about the wonderful event our chapter held, for the 15th year in a row now, at the Minnesota Veterans Home. As in the other years, we brought out the fishpond and hosted the old warriors of the Vets Home as they tried their luck at hauling in those 500 trout for a fish fry. And they got 'em and we filleted and fried them and it really was a beautiful time!

This is the fourth year I've done the Vets Home Opener, and I just love it. Last year I told you about all the smiles on the faces of the Vets as they go after the trout. That's enough right there to keep me coming back every year. But it's just as much fun to see the smiles on the faces of the families of the Vets as they help out. And our regular Muskies Inc. volunteers, and folks who just seem to drift by during a stroll in the park – well, I've never seen a frown yet on anybody's face. If your soul might need a bit of an uplift, mark that first Saturday in May as a "don't miss" day for next year.

There are certain traditions – some things don't change. This year my favorite Vet

Vets continued on page 3



From Our President

The Vets Home Opener marks the beginning of the fishing season for some of us. Thanks to Terry Hagstrom this event was a huge success. The weather was perfect, the fish were hungry and so were the folks that came to eat 'em. Lots of smiles and laughs were the order of the day, and so that was the way it went. Thanks also, to all the volunteers that help make this event possible. Especially those of you that spent your time cleaning fish. That task makes for a long morning and you deserve our thanks and recognition.

At last count there was \$5670.00 in the stocking fund. If you are interested in contributing, we are still accepting donations and are still matching donations 2-1, so your money will go a little farther than you might have thought. Fish will be stocked this year in White Bear Lake.

Speaking of White Bear Lake, those of you that fish there may be interested in knowing that the chapter has donated more dock sections for the public access – one 16-foot section with legs and a 4-foot shore-to-dock ramp. This should improve the use of that access. Thanks to Eric Schultz for taking

on and completing this project.

Another successful project is the Big Brothers/Big Sisters outing at Lake Nokomis. Curt Ellis and his team educated and entertained 9 kids on May 17th. The chapter supplied them with rods, reels and some tackle to get them started in fishing. I've been told by some that they don't believe this event is worth the time and the money because it only touches a few kids. I have to disagree with that belief because if it only touched one kid it would be worth it. Job well done gentlemen. Your time and efforts are appreciated. Thank you!

The chapter Capable Partners outing on Lake Independence is slotted for June 15th, and it's always a good time. We still need a number of members/boats for the day. If you're willing to help out contact Paul Hartman, 651-488-9017.

We are finally entering the time of year we have waited for. I hope your season will be productive and that you enjoy every moment of your time on the water. Be safe, catch a bunch and turn 'em loose.

Come to meetings; share your stories and ideas.

Joe DeMars

Support the Project and Rearing Fund Raffle

from Dick Halvorson, Raffle Chair

This is your last chance to put in your entry for the chapter's annual raffle for the Project and Rearing Fund. The drawing will be held at the general meeting on June 10th. Just complete one of the entry forms printed in this issue and mail it with your check (made out to Muskies Inc). Entries will also be taken at the June meeting, but things will go faster if they are mailed.

A \$5 donation gets your name in the drawing one time. A \$20 donation gets your name in the drawing five times. A \$50 donation gets your name in the drawing twelve times, and a \$100 donation gets your name included 25 times. The more you enter, the better your chance of winning – and the more we have to put back in the resource.

Not many entries have been received so far, so please take the time to send yours in. Our chapter's annual

raffle exists so projects like the planned buying of muskie fingerlings/yearlings to be stocked in one or more metro lakes can happen. The projects all share the same goal – improving muskie fishing for everyone for many years to come. These projects don't come cheap. That's why your support of this raffle is so important. Not only do you get to help our sport grow and improve, but you also get a chance to win one of our great raffle prizes.

You are not being asked to sell any tickets, just to buy a ticket (or two, or three, etc.) And, if your friends, neighbors or fishing buddies, would like to enter, they are more than welcome.

This year we have some great raffle prizes for you to win. And again this year, they are all fishing trips and guide time – no tackle, no toys – just fishing!

FIRST PRIZE: A three-night stay for two people at Horseshoe Bay resort

on Leech Lake, September 18-20, 2003. The trip includes a full day of guided fishing with Jack Shriver Sr., a half day guided fishing with Ted Gwinn, and a half day guided fishing with Jim Murphy.

SECOND PRIZE: A one-week stay for up to 8 people at White Birch Lodge on Whitefish Bay, Lake of the Woods.

THIRD PRIZE: A one-week stay for four people at Shingwak Resort on Whitefish Bay, Lake of the Woods.

FOURTH PRIZE: A three-night stay for four people at Vermillion Dam Lodge, Lake Vermillion.

FIFTH PRIZE: A two-night stay for two people at Sportsman's Lodge with a half day guided fishing with John Myhre at Moose Lake, Wisconsin.

SIXTH PRIZE: A two-night stay for two people at Daisy Bay Resort on Lake Vermillion after Labor Day.

Thanks and good luck!

Vets Opener

continued from front page

fisherman Wayne Smead (center left in the collage) was back, and once again hauled in a bunch of trout. But a bit of twist this year. We had one “Trophy Trout” in the pond – a big, golden fish of over 5 pounds. Terry Hagstrom also had a big trophy for the angler who got that fish.

Well, when Wayne found out we had that fish swimming around, he went after it with a vengeance! He worked the fish for an hour, from all sides of the pond, using different bait, jiggling the hook, dragging bait around, just whatever he could do to catch it. But the trophy trout must have had some muskie blood in it – Wayne couldn’t get it, nor could anybody else, although a lot of people tried. But it was really fun to see Wayne so intent on getting that trophy. He finally gave up, reluctantly, and set about catching the other “regular” trout, something he has a real knack for.

And some things do change. I kept waiting for one of my other favorite Vets, James Wickman, to show up. A couple of years ago I got a great picture of Jim, 95 years young, dressed in coat and tie with rod in extended hand, going after those elusive trout. The picture captured a look of sheer determination on his face. Then last year he fished again, and again with that same look on his face. But frailer. But this year Jim wasn’t there, and he won’t be...

You know, I didn’t really meet him or talk to him the previous years. I just took pictures. But I’ll miss him.

But there were other new things this year too. There was a certain young lady (top middle of the collage) who was determined to be the official “runner” to take the fish from the pond to our filleting table. And she moved so fast and never stood still that I didn’t get a chance to get her name. It was fun to see her grab the trout from, slipping and sliding in her hands, and scurry them over to the filleters. And

this year my best “cooking” picture turned out to be of Greg Randolph (middle right of collage) who displaced Tom Lund as “Most Photogenic” this year.

Of course, Tom was there too – talk about tradition! – cooking as usual, as were all of our familiar Muskies Inc. folks. Per tradition, the fish fry they prepared and served for three or four hours – fresh fried trout, potatoes, beans, pickles, buttered rolls, cookies, coffee and pop – was immensely enjoyed by hundreds of folks that morning.

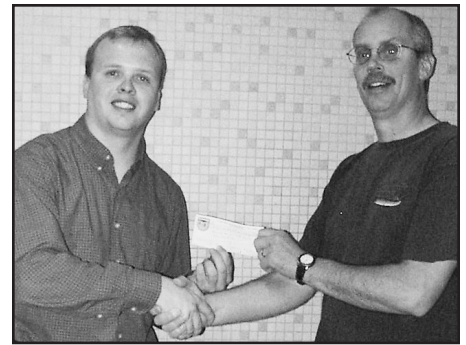
The day is a tribute to all of our volunteers, who bring joy to those Vets. The day runs so smoothly that it’s easy to forget the work required to organize it – Terry Hagstrom does a wonderful job of that. But Terry would be the first one to point out that it wouldn’t happen without the tremendous support from the VFW and American Legion, with some twenty-five chapters graciously providing contributions and help.

And of course the wonderful people on the staff of the Home take care of their Vets with great professionalism and obvious caring. I’ve thought about that – we Muskies Inc.’ers show up for one day a year, but the staff of the Home do their jobs 365 days a year. May God bless them.

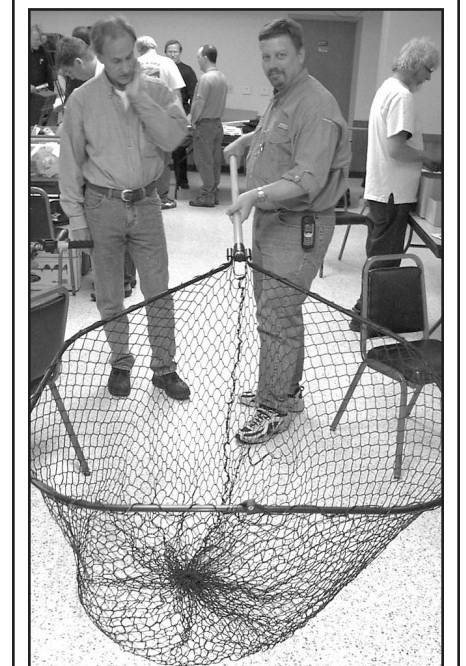
So there you have Vets Home 2003. I’ll be there next year, and once again I encourage any of you who can to come join us. It’s a grand experience, one of the very best our club offers.

Speaking of experiences, and I hesitate to even mention it, but as we were closing up, I myself got a chance to spend a couple of minutes with a fish pole in hand. And – you may or may not believe this – I actually had that huge trophy Golden Trout hooked for a few seconds. But it got away. Like I said, it must have some muskie blood in it.

Terry told me he’s going to do that again with a big fish next year. And you know, if Wayne doesn’t get it first, I’d really like to get a shot at that fish again...



Chapter president Joe DeMars gave a \$350 check from our chapter to be used for fisheries enhancements to Ray Bronson from the Minnesota DNR at the May meeting.



Manufacturer’s Night

Everyone attending the May meeting, our annual Manufacturer’s Night and Swap Meet, was able to find something of interest with all the manufacturer’s representatives showing off their wares.

**TWIN CITIES CHAPTER MUSKIES INC.
PROJECT AND REARING FUND
RAFFLE ENTRY – 2003**

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone DAY (_____) _____

EVE (_____) _____

Muskie Inc Member: Yes Chapter No. _____ No

Check One:

- \$ 5 Donation (one chance in drawing)
- \$20 Donation (five chances in drawing)
- \$50 Donation (twelve chances in drawing)
- \$100 Donation (twenty-five chances in drawing)

Mail with check (payable to Muskies Inc.) to:

Muskies Inc.
c/o Dick Halvorson
1205 E. 96th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425

*Must be received in mail by June 9, 2003 or turned in at June 10,
2003 Chapter General Meeting, KC Hall, Bloomington, MN*

Members Only Contest

Elaine Randolph, Fishing Contest Chair

A new fishing season now upon us. There have been a few changes to the rules for the international Members Only Fishing Contest for this year. The Twin Cities Chapter contest follows the same rules. Regulations and rules are printed on the entry form.

The new entry forms are available at the MI web site, www.muskiesinc.org. I will have them at meetings, or call me (651-452-1209) or e-mail (e-rand@tc.umn.edu) and I will send them to you.

The most important rules to remember are:

- having your membership up-to-date prior to catching the lunger,
- making sure the name of the state or province and the type of lure are listed on the entry form, and
- getting your entry form to me within 30 days of the catch.

Your entry will be automatically be sent on and entered in the international contest. Mail your completed forms to:

Elaine Randolph
1039 Wedgwood Lane N.
Eagan, MN 55123

Reporting All Fish, Big and Small

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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**President/International
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Joe DeMars
612-861-8930

First Vice President

Curtis Ellis
952-830-1498

Second Vice President

Dick Halvorson
952-221-3299

Treasurer

Steve Hedensten
651-765-2493

Secretary

Rob Laliberte
612-618-4922

Regional Vice President

George Selcke
952-933-2608

Members Only Contest

Elaine Randolph
651-452-1209
e-rand@tc.umn.edu

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Brad Coyne
612-724-6697

Dianne Dahl
651-699-9817

Paul Hartman
651-488-9017

Jay Kalsbeck
651-388-8772

Shawn Kellett
952-380-1218

Jim Kroupa
952-474-5967

Stu McIntosh
651-699-9817

Chris Mueller
651-688-3216

Juris Ozols
952-431-4727

Frank Schneider
651-489-7341

Eric Schultz
651-917-8272

Smokey Swenson
612-588-1895

Paul Villnow
651-464-6583

Tony Vold
952-938-7261

George Wahl
763-588-9107

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.

JUNE 7

Minnesota Muskie Opener

JUNE 10

General Meeting. Drawing for Project and Rearing Fund Raffle

JUNE 15

Capable Partners Outing, Lake Independence

JUNE 21-29

Chapter Fishing Trip: Canadian Muskie Opener, Barker Bay Outpost, Manitou System

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 16-23

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

SEPTEMBER 5-7

Frank Schneider Jr. International Tournament

SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 4

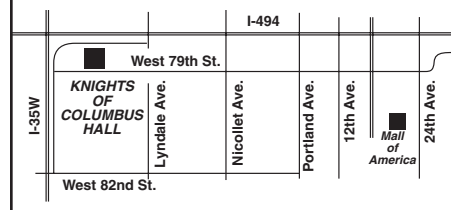
Chapter Fishing Trip: Muskie Bay Resort, Crow Lake, Ontario

CANADIAN FISHING TRIPS

There are still some openings for all our chapter fishing trips this summer. For more information contact Greg Ide (612-331-5034 evenings), about the Canadian Opener, 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.



what's inside

- MN Vets Home Opener 1
- From Our President 2
- Project and Rearing Fund Raffle 2
- Manufacturer's Night 3
- Members Only Contest 4

next meeting

JUNE 10
SPEAKER:
MIKE THELEN-
FIBERTECH

FiberTech is one of the best graphite reproduction specialists around. Mike will share tips on getting the best replica including photography and measurements.



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