



On the Water

Volume 5, Issue 3

March 2003



Dave Hotchkiss, left, shows off the 50-incher that was the biggest fish caught during last year's club trip to Red Wing Lodge, Lake of the Woods. Greg Pirritano, right, got this 48-incher right in front of the lodge.

Join the Chapter Outing to Red Wing Lodge, August 16-23

How many times have you heard yourself say, "Geez I would love to go fish Lake of the Woods????!!!" Well, here's your chance!!! Join the Twin Cities and North Metro MI chapters as they head for Lake of the Woods August 16-23, 2003 for a fun-filled, action-packed week of fishing at Red Wing Lodge!!!!

The stay includes housekeeping cabins, dockage, boat ramp charge, ice, a week's worth of Anne's jokes (and laughter at yours), Mike's telling you where the fish are, and Betty making sure you have everything you need (whether you need it or not)!!! ALSO, you will enjoy a free meal at the lodge one day during the week prepared by the excellent chefs. PLUS, you will have the chance to win your week FREE – courtesy of the Bartletts and Red Wing Lodge, and a rod and reel, and lots of door prizes and well, let's just say wait and see what else!!!!

Last year's outing was totally awesome. With over 25 people, there were over 40 fish caught for the week. Twelve were over 40" and the average was 36.45". By 9am Sunday morning Chris Johnson had already caught his first fish and an hour later his wife Julie had a 41-incher. Greg Pirritano caught a 48-incher right out front of the lodge!!!! You really don't have to go very far for a fish!!!

OR... you could be Dave Hotchkiss who on the last night threw a bait and had it stop dead. He thought he was hung up on another rock, until he remembered he was throwing a top-water!!!! It was no rock, but a good 50-incher with only one hook in its mouth. Fishing partner and net man, son Matt, landed the fish for dad. The smiles on those two guy's faces when they came in!!!!

Where else could you go for a week and have as much fun as we do at Red Wing Lodge????!! Give Terrie DuBe' a call at 651-636-3441 to sign up. The cost is only \$180 per person. A deposit of \$50 must be in by April 1st. There is still room available. But it will fill up fast. Hurry – what are you waiting for!!!!

See inside for information on other club trips this season

MUSKIE Award Presented at Winter Picnic

Each year the chapter presents the MUSKIE AWARD to a person who has contributed to the chapter the past year – or years. This year's recipient of the award, Juris Ozols, was honored at the Winter Picnic/Awards Banquet on February 8.

Patti Slack, the 2000 MUSKIE award-winner, presented the award. "We all have been blessed by the work Juris has done in one way or another, whether it is by word or picture, or the countless, countless, countless hours he gives to the club," she explained. "Thank you for the articles in our newsletter. Thank you for the articles in the *Muskie* magazine. Thank you for the covers!!!"

For several years Juris has created not only the *Muskie* covers for international, but also the yearly calendar. Juris has served our chapter on the Board of Directors, been the chapter Secretary, volunteered at Sport show booths, and promotes Muskies Inc. by signing up friends and strangers. You can always find him at chapter events – the Vets Home Opener, our Capable Partners Outing, and the others.

Patti mentioned that Juris has "unselfishly probably put on more miles than anyone." Rumor even has it that to get to one or two events he drove several hundred miles each way (from vacations in northern Minnesota) to volunteer. We've also heard that he enjoys having a beverage that might consist of beer or two.

Congratulations to Juris Ozols!!!

From Our President

If you have ever questioned whether or not it's worthwhile to attend our general membership meetings, let me assure you it is. Those attending the February meeting were treated to an excellent presentation by John Newman. John's blend of story, fact, humor, and humility were very entertaining and informative. Some of John's material revealed a man who has questioned the value of muskie fishing for himself and through that process come up with a healthy balanced outlook on our sport. Thanks John, for an enjoyable presentation. Incidentally, John regularly attends meetings and I know there are a lot more stories and information that he is readily willing to share. Just ask!

Our last board meeting, in part, dealt with the allocation of our budget surplus from 2002. Initially, issues were listed to consider. Two were removed from the surplus agenda and were unanimously passed and funded from the 2003 general fund. The first was to contribute \$250 to the newly formed Minnesota Muskie Alliance to help with initial administrative costs. The second was to contribute \$500 to the 2004 Muskie Symposium to be held on Sept. 17th-19th, 2004 in Indianapolis, Indiana hosted by the Hoosier Hunters.

The remaining seven issues were prioritized through an objective voting process in which each board member had 10 points they could assign to the seven issues as they saw fit. The top three issues that will be the focus of the chapter's allocation are:

- *Raising and stocking fish*
- *Increasing funding more youth projects*
- *Improvement of the White Bear Lake public access dock*

At the next board meeting we will be dealing with the details of those issues and allocating funds toward them. If you have any input on these issues the board would be happy to consider your ideas.

Other issues considered for funding by the board include a Lake of the Woods telemetry study, Catch and Release information signs to be put at different boat launch sights throughout the state, contributing funds to the chapter's Merrill Lynch account, and sponsoring a new MI chapter.

Our Winter Picnic was held February 8th at the Bloomington KC hall. An enjoyable event to say the least! Thanks to Patti Slack and Tom Bastian for organizing the event and thanks to all the other volunteers who helped out.

Remember, the Minnesota Muskie Expo is just around the corner. Please plan to attend. It is a good way to support our club.

Come to meetings; share your stories and ideas.

Joe DeMars

Frank Schneider, Jr. Named Minnesota Conservationist of Year

Frank Schneider, Jr. was one of several Minnesotans honored for their efforts to further conservation at the Minnesota Conservation Awards Dinner in February. Frank was given the John Rose Award as Minnesota Conservationist of the Year by the Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance. For years he has represented hunters, anglers and trappers at the State Capitol and was one of the founding members of the FWLA. He has received numerous other awards for his efforts over the years. Lance Ness, president of the FWLA described Frank as the "epitome of what a conservationist is in Minnesota."

Kid's Fishing Contest Participants Honored

Congratulations to the kids 12 and under who entered fish in the 2002 Twin Cities Chapter Kids Fishing Contest. They were honored at the winter picnic on February 8th. Rules of the contest were simple. All fish were caught using legal means and the fish had to be witnessed by a parent or another adult. Any size fish of almost any kind qualified for this contest.

Contest entrants were Andrea Bastian who caught panfish, bass, northern pike and a 30-inch walleye; Tom Hedensten who entered panfish and crappies caught on several occasions; Dallas Nicolai with a 25 inch walleye released on Lake Inguadona; Andrew Smith with panfish, crappies and a large mouth bass; and Grady Wellman who released a 40-inch muskie and a 27-inch walleye.

In addition to being honored at the awards ceremony, each of the kids received their choice of a tackle box or a "grab bag" full of lures, bobbers, hook-outs, and other helpful tackle.

Muskie Expo

Don't forget to attend the Muskie Expo March 7-9 at the National Sports Center in Blaine. Hours are 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. Entry is \$7 for adults, \$12 for a three-day pass.



Winter Picnic – Fun, Games, Food and Awards

Nearly 100 people showed up for this year's annual Winter Picnic and Awards Ceremony held on February 8th at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Bloomington. And a great time was had by all. There were games and raffles, a great dinner, and then lots of fish stories.

As the evening started, everyone got a chance to try their hand at the many games, and the winners got to take away some great lures and other prizes. After a great dinner was enjoyed, Elaine Randolph gave out the awards for our Members Only Contest. And, as required, each winner had a fish story to share. When the fish stories were over, it was time for the MUSKIE award, given this year to Juris Ozols who promptly invited everyone present upstairs for a round. The finale was the raffle and five lucky winners went home with great fishing packages.

Thanks to Patti Slack and Tom Bastian who put together this great evening that was enjoyed by all who attended.

As you can see from the pictures provided by none other than Juris Ozols – with some help from friends – the evening was filled with smiles and fun!

Chapter Outing for Canadian Muskie Opener

The Twin Cities chapter will be taking its first trip to the Manitou Lake system June 21-19, the week of the Canadian Muskie opener. Is this the best big muskie water in the world? Barker Bay Outposts is strategically located in the center of the 50-mile long Manitou system. Entirely boatable and without rapids, the five major muskie areas are: Esox Lake, Manitou Stretch, Lower Manitou Lake, Manitou Straits and Upper Manitou Lake. It's crystal-clear trout water with a few dramatic additions that make this arguably the best big muskie water in the world. ("Where do you believe the

next world-record muskie will be caught?" *Muskie* May 1996). There are 20' deep weedbeds teeming with baitfish, occasional stained-water bays with healthy northern pike and small-mouth bass, and even a large mesotrophic bay with walleyes. The Manitou has fine season-long fishing with 50+-inch fish caught from June through October.

The Manitou Lake system has a reputation for producing exceptionally large fish. Last year, two brothers, winners of last year's MI photo contest, both caught their fish (50" and 52") on the Manitou ("An Unforgettable

Canadian Adventure...": *Muskie* February 2003) Several recent Barker Bay visitors have caught large fish. Shouldn't you be next?

People can, and do, pay over \$1400 per week to fly in and fish these waters. The Barker Bay Outpost boat-in outing will cost \$250 (tax included). If you wish to arrive on Friday June 20th, there will be no additional charge. The group will be limited to 14 people. A \$50 deposit is required by April 1 to reserve your spot. Call Greg Ide 612-331-5034 evenings, or e-mail gregide@aol.com to make reservations or for more details.

And the Winners Are...

from Elaine Randolph, Fishing Contest Chair

Winners of the Members Only Contest were announced at the Winter Picnic on February 8. Each winner received a plaque from the chapter and got to tell everyone a "fish" story.

RELEASE OF THE MONTH

JUNE

George Wahl 51" Lake of the Woods, Ontario

George had a good opening week on Lake of the Woods, releasing several 50+-inch muskies. This fish hit a purple Eagle Tail on June 20 at 3:00 p.m. in 5 feet of water.

JULY

Chris Swentkofske 53" Beltrami County, MN

Chris supplied the following details for this fish: a 23" girth for a calculated weight of 35#, caught at 8:30 am on July 26 using a black stomper.

AUGUST

Curtis Baier, Sr. 52" Lake of the Woods, Ontario

At 10:45 a.m. on overcast and raining August 3, casting a black and red Fudally reef hawg into the reed and bullrushes, Curtis was rewarded with a beautiful 52" muskie.

Brian Hanson 52" Mille Lacs, MN

Of the 11 muskies entered by Brian in 2002, this was the only 50 incher. Under clear skies and a moderate southeast wind, this fish hit an orange stomper at 8:45 p.m. on August 7.

John Olson 52" Leech Lake, MN

If I had not made a loosing bet with John in June, we probably would not have heard about other 9 muskies John released this year, but I am sure #10, the one that hit his favorite red jackpot on August 24, would have been reported. At 6:40 p.m., the winds were calm and the skies were clear.

SEPTEMBER

Mark Tietjen 53" Leech Lake, MN

Mark's winning fish was released at 6 p.m. on September 1. The girth was 24-1/2", for an estimated weight over 39 pounds. Mark was casting a Lillytail when the fish hit.

OCTOBER

Kendall Klaus 51" Georgian Bay, Ontario

Trolling a silver and black Basin Bait at 8:45 in the morning on October 17 was the perfect set-up for catching this fish. The muskie had a 22" girth and estimated weight of 30 pounds. This was the first time Kendall fished Georgian Bay.

NOVEMBER

Tony Sommerfeld 51" Lake Minnetonka, MN

Of the 27 releases (283 points), this 51" muskie with a 24-1/2" girth and an estimated weight of 38 pounds, was the largest of the year. November 3 was the date and firetiger slammer was the bait.



This 51-incher from Lake Minnetonka earned Tony Sommerfeld the November Release of the Month.

LONGEST HYBRID RELEASE

Jeremy Knutson 47" Mille Lacs, MN

August 7, first time on Mille Lacs, and a beautiful 47" fish couldn't resist a red and silver giant killer. This fish with a 19 3/4" girth would weigh over 22 pounds.

MASTER'S DIVISION

Ten people entered 162 fish for a total of 2,308 points in the Master's Division this year (compared to 9 people and 100 fish last year) with 8 of 50" or longer. Congratulations to Mike Cookas, this year's winner who released all but one of his fish in Wisconsin, his longest was 45" and his average fish was 38". But when one releases 43 fish for a total of 533 points, he becomes the 2002 Master's Division winner.

MEN'S DIVISION

Thirty-eight men entered 160 fish for a total of 2,377 points. The average fish almost 41". Eight were 50" or longer.

1st Place 21 Fish 329 Points Mark Fredrick

Mark entered fished from three areas this year, Hubbard County with 4 releases in July, Lake of the Woods in October where he released 10 fish in eight days and Beltrami County where he released 7 fish, two that were 49". His average for the year was 42".

2nd Place 18 Fish 207 Points Bob Culbertson

Bob started his year at Cave Run, Kentucky with a 38" release on April 21 and ended it on Baby Lake with a 46" release on September 7. Bob's longest release was 46.5" on Leech Lake and his average as 37.5".

3rd Place 11 Fish 183 Points Warren Hartman

Warren had a great opening week in Ontario with 8 fish, three on the same day. All of Warren's fish were from Ontario, his longest was 49" and his average was 42.5".

WOMEN'S DIVISION

According to the records kept by Jim Bunch at the International level, five women from this chapter entered fish this year, but I am reporting only three. Having won the Twin Cities Chapter Women's Division in the past two year, Cindy Hegdahl, with 14 releases this year, the longest being 50.5" and Carol Heath, with a beautiful 48" release on Leech Lake this year, makes them Masters Division participants.

1st Place 4 Fish 53 Points Sharon Swentkofske

Northstar Lake on June 16 was good for a 36", Mille Lacs yielded a 40" release on July 13 and a 39" release on August 10", and a 41.5" release on Cass Lake on September 21 makes Sharon a Master's Division participant for the next three year.

2nd Place 2 Fish 22 Points Lois Harvey

Casting a Teddy Bait on Lake of the Woods was the right combination for Lois' 40" release on June 27 and 34" release on August 23.

JUNIOR'S DIVISION

The junior division is not based on ability to catch fish, but rather age – age 17 or less on January 1. Four young men released 27 muskies for a total of 453 points – the average muskie was 42", the longest was 51".

1st Place 11 Fish 207 Points Gary Wolff

If you need a guide on Vermilion, 7 of Gary's fish, including one of his two 51", were released there. A 45" average for the year is outstanding!

2nd Place 6 Fish 89 Points Evan Nicolai

Three fish on Leech Lake and three fish in Hennipen County made for a pretty good year – a 41" average. The longest, released on October 29, was 46.25" and had a 24" girth for an estimated 33 pounds.

3rd Place 5 Fish 85 Points Jake Heath

Winning the muskie division of the Leech Lake Musky/Northern Derby Days with a 48" release and a 43" release average, Jake is the other young man joining the Men's Division.

4th Place 5 fish 72 Points David Cotter

David started the year on Lake Minnetonka with a 48" release on June 3 and ended it with another 48" on Bemidji on October 18. With a 40 + inch average, David will be moving to the Men's Division in 2003.

LONGEST RELEASE OF THE YEAR

The Twin Cities Chapter traditionally has given the winner of Longest Release of the Year a replica. Members Only Fishing Contest Rules state there is only one winner – one reproduction – and if there is a tie, the tiebreaker is by drawing. This year there was a tie for Longest Release. So, by drawing, this year's recipient of the replica is Chris Swentkofske with a 53" fish and a 23" girth with a calculated weight of 35 pounds. The fish was caught July 26, at 8:30 am on an unspecified lake in Beltrami County using a black stomper.

Chapter Trip to Winnipeg River Scheduled for July

This years' Twin City Chapter Winnipeg River outing will be from July 12-19. Once again we will be headquartered at Paradise Cove in Minaki, Ontario. This is the chapter's tenth season on the Winnipeg River, and each year there have been countless big fish encounters and catches.

In fact, a number of the participants on this outing have caught their personal best including Jamie Murphy, Dave Overland, George Ronnestrand, and Paul Hartman. The Winnipeg River is also an incredible pike fishery with 40-inch-plus fish caught every year. The trophy walleye and bass fishing is also world-class for those willing to take time off from the muskie hunt to pursue them.

While the Winnipeg River is the connecting link flowing from Lake of the Woods to Lake Winnipeg, it fishes more like a lake. The majority of the action on this trip occurs on Rough Rock Lake, Big and Little Sand, Gunn and Pistol Lakes. The water clarity is about 4 feet with a black stain. Most years, fishing is great with topwaters and jerkbaits. However, participants have also had good success on big bucktails with grey or black and orange baits producing the bulk of the action. Most of our fish are caught off rock points and reefs and from weed beds, but attendees might want to consider trolling the vast open-water stretches with large lures to contact some of the biggest muskies.

A number of past participants think this is the club's best outing of the summer and should be strongly considered by anyone looking to fish Canada for their first time. The weather is typically very nice, camaraderie is great and the maps have all the best spots marked. By working as a group to pattern fish everyone has better fishing.

The outing will be limited to the first eighteen to register and the cost is only \$180 per person for the week. To reserve a spot, a deposit of \$50 is due by April 1 to Paul Hartman, 1159 Galtier, St. Paul, MN 55117. Be certain to contact Paul at 651-488-9017 to check availability, as the trip fills fast with such great fishing.

this 'n that

MN Muskie Alliance

The Alliance, a recently-formed group whose members include state-wide MI chapters and other interested muskie organizations, recently elected officers. Rollie Olson (MI-North Metro) and John Skarie (MI-Fargo-Moorhead) will serve as co-chairs. Steve Cady (MI-St. Cloud) is Secretary- Treasurer. Three committees, DNR Communications/Information, Media Interface/Support, and Political/Legislative Support were formed. The group will meet again in March.

New Members

Some great incentives from Muskie Innovations will be awarded to anyone signing up new members to the chapter.

Fall Outing to Crow Lake

This fall our club's die-hard trophy hunters will be returning to Crow Lake September 27 through October 4. Once again the outing will be headquartered at Muskie Bay Resort, located on a secluded bay about seven miles north of Nestor Falls, Ontario.

Crow is among the worlds' most pristine, ultra-clear-water muskie fisheries. Weed beds are almost non-existent in this lake, so most of the action occurs on rock reefs, points and breaklines. Not only can casting be tremendous if weather permits, but this is a great trip to learn the ropes for success on trolling trophy muskies. The trip will overlap with the last four days of the lake trout season so be certain to bring your light tackle along. As the trout come shallow in preparation for the fall spawn, fishing is truly incredible. Also as the lake trout come shallow the biggest muskie in the lake follow,

creating the potential for something spectacular to happen at any moment.

Paul and Chris Trinker are unquestionably among the most attentive, friendly hosts of any camp. Once again, they have offered to give the weeks' lodging free to the member releasing the largest muskie for the week. Also on the schedule will be a couple of evenings up in the lodge partaking in the complimentary pizza parties. Participants also have the option to upgrade to the American Plan, which includes breakfast and dinner for only \$10 per day. This is a great opportunity to make new friends and learn new waters.

The outing will be limited to the first eighteen to register and the cost is only \$150 per person. To reserve a spot, a \$50 deposit is due by April 1 to Paul Hartman, 1159 Galtier Street, St. Paul, MN 55117. Contact Paul at 651-488-9017 to check availability.

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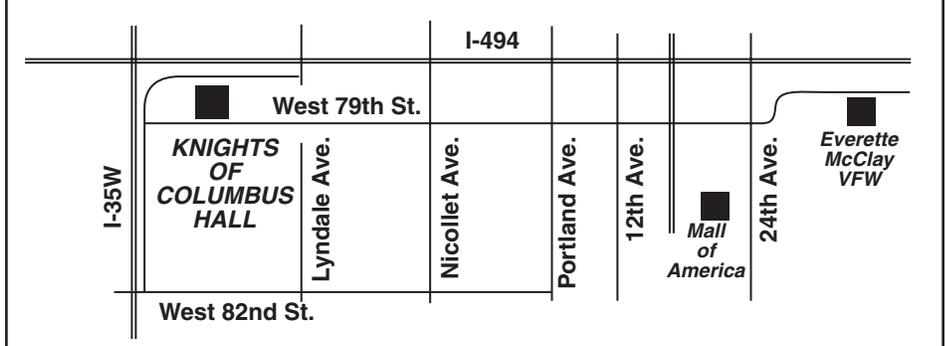
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Sandy's Blackhawk Island Resort

A tentative chapter trip September 13-20 to Sandy's Blackhawk Island Resort on the Northwest Angle, Lake of the Woods is currently in the planning stages. If at least 12 people commit to the trip by the March 11 general meeting, the trip will be viable. Cost will be \$210 per person if there are twelve participants. Please call Brad Coyne 612-724-6697 or Dick Halvorson 952-221-3299 to express interest in this 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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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.

MARCH 7-9

Muskie Expo – National Sports Center, Blaine
Saturday 2-9, Saturday 10-7, Sunday 10-4

MARCH 11

General Meeting: Speaker Wayne Klemz

JUNE 7

Minnesota Muskie Opener

JUNE 21-29

Chapter Fishing Trip: Barker Bay Outpost, Manitou System

JULY 12-19

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

AUGUST 16-23

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

SEPTEMBER 6-8

Frank Schneider Jr. International Tournament

SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 4

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

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next meeting

MARCH 11

**SPEAKER:
WAYNE KLEMZ**

"Innovative Techniques When No One is Having Success." Wayne, one of Minnesota's top muskie fishing guides, will share some. He will share a great list of ideas to try for opening day.



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