



On the Water

Volume 5, Issue 5

May 2003

Buy Your Entries for the Project and Rearing Fund Raffle

from Dick Halvorson, Raffle Chair

A multi-year chapter muskie stocking program was discussed at last month's board meeting. Plans involve buying muskie fingerlings/yearlings to be stocked in one or more metro lakes. Projects like this are the reason our chapter's annual raffle exist. This project and others like it – past, present and future – all share the same goal – improving muskie fishing for everyone for many years to come. The downside of this is that 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.

Remember, the drawing will be held at the general meeting on June 10th. Just complete one of the entry forms printed in this newsletter and mail it or turn it in at this month's meeting. You will not be asked to sell any tickets. However, you ARE being asked 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.

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. Just fill in one of the forms in this issue and mail it with your check (made out to Muskies Inc).

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 18-10, 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.

Raffle continued on page 2



Oh, my! See story on page 3.

Join Us at the Vet's Home Opener

Saturday, May 3rd marks the annual "Fishing Opener" at the Minnesota Veterans Home held by our chapter for residents of the home. There will be a fishpond stocked with trout, lots of fishing and a tasty "shore lunch."

The Veterans Home Opener is one of the more memorable traditions of our chapter. Volunteers from the chapter will help residents catch their fish, clean them, and cook and serve the fish with all the fixin's.

Come on out to the Vets Home on Saturday morning. You will have a great time! Please call Terry Hagstrom, 763-561-9399 for more information.

From Our President

The financing for our fish-stocking program for 2003 has grown since last month. At the end of March we had a total of \$2400. Due to some resourceful thinking at the April board meeting and the generosity of a few of our members, our total now stands at \$5040. That total roughly equates to 700 fingerlings that we will be able to stock into White Bear Lake this fall.

One of the resources tapped to increase our total was the project and rearing fund account. This account is managed for seed money for our annual rearing fund raffle. The account had a balance of \$1622.87. The thought here is that since Dick Halvorson is doing such a great job on the raffle by getting all the prizes donated, the rearing fund account doesn't need such a high balance. Therefore it was reduced by \$1000 which was added to the stocking program.

Another resource tapped was a Merrill Lynch savings account owned by our chapter. This account can potentially add \$2725 to the stocking program. Money from this account will ONLY be used to match contributions made directly to the 2003 stocking program. Contributions are being matched 2 to 1 from this account.

Currently this account has added \$1360 to the program, thanks to some of our members contributing a total of \$680. That leaves us with \$1365 still to be tapped, but only if we have contributions to match. So send us \$20 and we'll turn it into \$60; send us \$100 and we'll turn it into \$300. Just send something and we'll turn it into FISH! Let's see if we can use up the remaining \$1365. One member contributing money had his contribution doubled by his employer, who matches employee contributions to non-profits. If your employer has a gift-matching program, make sure you tap that resource when making your contribution. Remember, your contributions are tax deductible.

We have a couple of new youth projects in the works. As details of these projects develop, they will be announced. We will be needing people to help with these projects. Please consider doing so if you are able. One project that was established last year by Curt Ellis will be repeated again this year on May 17th at Lake Nokomis. Curt is looking for volunteers to help kids with the basics of fishing. This is a shoreline event that requires some one-on-one attention for the kids involved and their Big Brother or Big Sister.

As we approach the start of another season, take the time to go through your gear and equipment. It will be time well spent. I'm almost ready to go. The boat came out of storage a week ago and most of that was ready before it went in. I do have to check the wheel bearings on the trailer yet. That should be high on your list too. I used to work in a welding shop and I can't tell you how many trailer axles I've fixed because of poor bearing maintenance. I'm sure you've all seen boat trailers sitting on their axles along the side of the highway.

A picture is worth a thousand words they tell me, what else can I say?

Come to meetings; share your stories and ideas.

Joe DeMars

Manufacturer's Night/Swap Meet

Don't miss the May meeting. Joining us will be area manufacturers representing more aspects of muskie fishing than you can imagine. You can buy your new toys at unbeatable prices, or if you can't find the exact color or size or whatever, you can place an order.

Now that it's spring, and you've all had time to go through your gear, bring your rods, reels, lures, motors, boats to the meeting and be prepared to bargain. We're also having a swap meet.

Raffle continued from front page

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!

NOTE: The wrong dates were published on the entry form in last month's On the Water. Your entry must be turned in by the June 10th chapter meeting, or received in the mail by June 9th.

Welcome New Members

The Twin Cities chapter has added 87 new members as part of the national membership drive since the beginning of the year. It's nice to see new faces at the meetings.

Congratulations to Brad Coyne of our chapter who came in second in the international contest, earning him a fishing trip. Diane Dahl and Larry Proskin also placed.

The Wrong Woman...

from Juris Ozols

"If a man would want to make an utter and complete fool of himself, there are but two certain ways to do it. One is to fall in love with the wrong woman. The other is to take up muskellunge fishing." — An anonymous fishing sage

I ran across that line some decades ago, and it's stuck with me. I've quoted it to scores of people and have never gotten an argument, especially from muskie folks (or divorced folks, for that matter). But I've gotten many a laugh.

LAUGHS... Don't we need more of them in our muskie world? There's so much seriousness wrapped around today's muskie things, that, well, I have to laugh.

Read the current commercial magazines, watch the TV shows. We're bombarded with deadly serious exceptionally professional articles.

We're told how to catch more and bigger muskies. We're told how to catch them faster, how to do this, how to do that, the other thing, etc. We're given "in-depth techniques" so that we can find and stalk and catch...

My goodness! Is this fishing we're talking about?

Well, I suppose a muskie fisherman should be serious. After all, he's got a \$20,000 boat, a \$30,000 car to tow it with, many more thousands of dollars of equipment. And what happens?

Two guys go on a fishing trip. They rent all the equipment: the reels, the rods, the wading suits, the rowboat, the car, and a cabin in the woods. They spend a fortune. The first day they go fishing, all day, but they don't catch anything. The same thing happens on the second day, and on the third day. It goes on like this until finally, on the last day of their vacation, one of the men catches a 30-inch fish. As they're driving home they're really depressed. One guy turns to the other and says, "Do you realize that this one lousy fish we caught cost us fifteen hundred dollars?" The other guy says, "Wow! It's a good thing we didn't catch any more!"

Maybe that story is too true to be funny. But maybe not. I'd like to think that the very heart of muskie fishing has a special core of wonderful humor. And I think we all know it's there, even though surrounded by all that serious nonsense. Without the humor, could we put up with the nonsense?

Some of the best muskie writing captures that. George Sandell, in his books, blasted right through the serious stuff and entertained us magnificently. If you haven't read

"Muskie, Muskie, On the Wall," you've missed out on one of the very finest of muskie things.

Bill Gardner spent a full season fishing for muskies in Wisconsin a couple of decades ago. You'd think he was as serious as could be. But his classic book, "Time on the Water" chronicles his year from a very light-hearted perspective. Bill didn't catch his "Moby Muskie" that year, but his book is enchanting.

And I've got a book in my library — "The Fishing Hall of Shame" — that's packed with delightful stories about the sport, without a hint of seriousness. So the fishing literature — today's magazines aside — is full of humor. One last example

from one of my books:

"A small town Doctor was famous in the area for always catching big, heavy fish. One day while on one of his frequent fishing outings he got a call that a woman at a neighboring farm was giving birth. He rushed to her aid and delivered a healthy baby boy. The farmer had nothing to weigh the

baby with so the Doctor used his fishing scale. The baby weighed 32 lbs 10 oz."

But how about something else near and dear to my heart — photography? Well, we need to work at that. I've got over 400 pictures in my Muskies Inc. Photo Contest and magazine cover files, but only a small handful come at the humorous side of muskie things. Dick Halvorson gave me one of the best — the infamous July 2001 "Backlash" cover that's generated more comments than any other cover I've done.

I'd like to inspire all of you, as you're out there seriously chasing those muskies, to keep your camera handy and look out for the funny things that happen, like that backlash. When they do, take the pictures and send them in to me for the photo contest — I promise to use them.

From "Muskie, Muskie, on the Wall:"
*"Take it from me," claimed Angler McPhee,
"He's the biggest Muskie you ever did see!"
But without any picture,
It was pure conjecture,
And all we could do was agree.*

So let me close with the other picture I show here, submitted by my friend Tony Welch. This one is a crack-up. Perhaps it captures aspects of muskies that show the seriousness of some muskie fishermen. Well, maybe so, but I'd like to think that it really shows what can be done with humor and muskie fishing.

But — I sure hope that picture is posed. If it isn't, then Tony is certainly in love with truly a "wrong woman"!



Members Only Contest

Elaine Randolph, Fishing Contest Chair

In the past few months, there have been several discussions on the MI website regarding the Members Only Contest. In late January the subject was "Why don't more people submit their fish?" I don't have the answer to that question. Whether a member enters a fish or not is a personal decision. What I do promise is every entry I receive that adheres to the rules will be entered.

In February the question was "Why do you enter fish?" 1. Contest (Chapter or International)? 2. Contribute to a collection of catch data? 3. Ego/ Validation? (you like to be counted), or 4. Other? Here again, it's a personal decision.

The follow-up discussion was about registering fish online. As the Twin Cities Chapter web site develops, I am

interested in looking into this. The big question is – is it worth the expense to set the program up for 400-450 fish a year? Personally, I doubt it. If I had to register 40-45 fish a week, I would definitely say yes! Does our chapter release that many fish a week? I'm willing to do the work to find out.

Rules and regulations for the Members Only Fishing Contest are printed on the entry blank and are available on the MI web site: www.muskiesinc.org/members/mem_only_fish_policies.cfm. Twin Cities Chapter contest follows the same rules. Also available at that site are the measurement and picture policies. There was a motion to make a few changes to the contest rules at the International Board meeting in April, so watch this newsletter and the web site for those changes.

The point system used for the contest is quite simple. For releasing a 30" muskie, 4 points are awarded, and an additional point is awarded for every inch over 30". Thus a 40" fish is worth 14 points, a 50" fish is worth 24 points and a 60" monster is worth 34 big points. Fractions of inches are rounded to the nearest inch.

RELEASE PATCH – If you want a patch, you must check the box on the entry form. For each released muskie 30-49", there is a 3.75 x 1.5 inch embroidered iron-on cloth patch designed to be applied on a coat or jacket. These patches have a red outline with a light blue background.

For released muskies 50" or longer,

a 3.5 x 4 inch patch with a dark blue background and red outline is available. It has a designed blank at the bottom to apply a white star to represent up to five 50-inch releases. A second master patch and subsequent stars will be issued for the second five 50-inch releases, and for subsequent multiples of five 50-inch releases. The Century Club patch is issued for 100 or more entries in the Lunge Log. A blank patch and stars is available for subsequent sets of 100.

INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATE – If you want a certificate, please check the box. The certificate is 8.5 x 11 inches and is suitable for framing. It reads: Muskie Release Certificate – For Dedication to the future of Trophy Sportfishing – Awarded to _____ In Recognition of Outstanding Sportsmanship in the Successful Landing and Subsequent Release of a _____ Muskellunge from _____ on _____.

ANNUAL CERTIFICATE – If you want an annual certificate at the end of the year, please check the box. The certificate reads: Annual Muskie Release Certificate – For Dedication to the Future of Trophy Sportfishing – Awarded to _____ in Recognition of Outstanding Sportsmanship in the Successful Landing and Subsequent Release of _____ Muskellunge during _____.

Once again, watch the newsletters and web site for any changes in the contest rules for 2003. Good luck and have a safe and successful season.

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Twin Cities Chapter Fishing Contest for Kids

It's time to take the kids fishing. Children who are members of the Twin Cities Chapter and are age 12 or younger are eligible to participate 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.

An award will be given to every child who:

- Catches a bluegill, perch or sunfish of any size.
- Catches 5 or more bluegills, perch and/or sunfish of any size in one day.
- Catches a white bass, or a black or white crappie of any size.
- Catches 5 or more white bass, or black or white crappies of any size in one day.
- Catches a catfish, bullhead or carp of any size.
- Catches a catfish, bullhead or carp of 12 inches or more.
- Catches a smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, walleye or sauger of any size.
- Catches a smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, walleye or sauger of 12 inches or more.
- Catches a northern pike of any size.
- Catches a northern pike of 18 inches or more.

Note: Muskies 30 inches or more caught by anglers age 12 years or under will qualify for the Junior Division of the Members Only Contest. Muskies less than 30 inches don't qualify for any contest.

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.

One entry per child should be submitted for the entire 2003 fishing season. All entries must be received no later than January 10, 2004. The contest form must be signed by both the child and parent/guardian. Be sure to keep track of your child's catches, then pick up an entry form at the welcome table at meetings. Last year, we had only a few entries. We want to see more this year.

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.

*Take a child fishing and remember –
have fun and be safe.*

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*

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

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone DAY (_____) _____

EVE (_____) _____

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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*

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

Capable Partners

The TC Chapter's annual outing with Capable Partners will take place on Sunday, June 15 (not 14 as reported in last month's issue) at Lake Independence. Capable Partners is an organization of physically-challenged individuals. We need chapter members to guide the Capable Partners anglers whose challenges vary from blindness to paralysis for a morning of muskie fishing. At noon the anglers will be treated to a "shore" lunch. Anyone who wants to is welcome to go back out after lunch for more fishing.

This is a great way to spend a day fishing and get to know other muskie anglers. About eight more boats are needed to host all the Capable Partners who want to participate. To volunteer your time and/or boat for this outing, contact Paul Hartman at 651-488-9017.

Kids Fishing Outing

The chapter's special kids outing is scheduled for Saturday, May 17th at Lake Nokomis. The day will begin with a mini-workshop showing the kids how to rig up their equipment with a little discussion about safety, strategy, and technique. The rest of the time will be spent attempting to catch that "big one," and a lunch will be served. Please call Curt Ellis, 952-830-1498 to volunteer for this fun day.

Chapter Fishing Trips

Member's fishing trips to Canada this summer still have a few openings. Make plans now for some great fishing trips with fellow chapter members.

BARKER BAY OUTPOST, MANITOU LAKE SYSTEM • JUNE 21-29, 2003 (CANADIAN MUSKIE OPENER)

This is our first trip to the 50-mile long Manitou Lake system. The 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 to reserve your spot. Call Greg Ide 612-331-5034 evenings, or e-mail gregide@aol.com to make reservations or for more details.

PARADISE COVE RESORT, WINNIPEG RIVER • JULY 12-19, 2003

This is the chapter's tenth season on the Winnipeg River. A number of past participants think this is the club's best outing of the summer. The weather is typically nice, camaraderie is great and the maps have all the best spots marked. The cost is only \$180 per person for the week. To reserve a spot, send a deposit of \$50 to Paul Hartman, 1159 Galtier, St. Paul, MN 55117. Contact Paul at 651-488-9017 to check availability, as the trip fills fast with such great fishing.

RED WING LODGE, LAKE OF THE WOODS • AUGUST 16-23, 2003

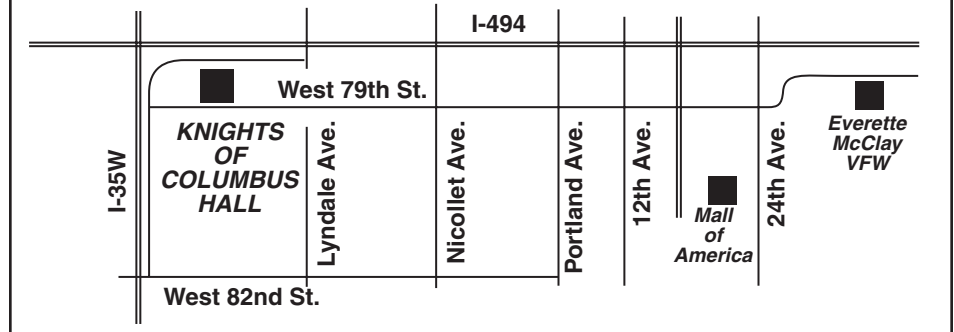
Join Twin Cities and North Metro MI members for a fun-filled, action-packed week of fishing at Red Wing Lodge! Call Terrie DuBe' at 651-636-3441 to sign up. The cost is only \$180 per person with a deposit of \$50. There are still spots available, so join in the trip.

MUSKIE BAY RESORT, CROW LAKE SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 4, 2003

An overwhelming response has nearly filled the trip to Crow Lake. The cost is only \$150 US, with a \$50 deposit due now. Please call Paul Hartman at 651-488-9017 as soon as possible if you are interested in reserving the last spaces.

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.

MAY 3

Vets Home Opener

MAY 13

General Meeting: Manufacturer's Night and Swap Meet

MAY 17

Kids Fishing Outing, Lake Nokomis

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: 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 6-8

Frank Schneider Jr. International Tournament

SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 4

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

what's inside

Raffle Update	1
Vet's Home Opener	1
From the President	2
Manufacturer's Night/ Swap Meet	2
New Members	2
The Wrong Woman	3
Members Only Contest	4
Kid's Fishing Contest	5
This 'n That	6

next meeting

**MAY 13
MANUFACTURER'S
NIGHT AND SWAP MEET**



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