



On the Water

Volume 6, Issue 11

November 2004

Member's Only Contest

from Elaine Randolph, Contest Chair

It's November and my fishing season has come to a close unless a weekend frees up so we can get out on a metro lake.

Recent junior releases include: J.T. Doebler – 31" on September 25 on Calhoun using a crank bait and a 40" on October 6 on Cedar Lake using a jerk bait, Andrew Hedensten – 41.5" on October 10 on West Battle Lake using a spinner bait, James Hedensten – 36" on September 19 on Leech Lake using a bucktail, and Zachary Weyland – his first muskie, a 45" on September 19 on Mille Lacs using a bucktail – WOW!!

In the women's division, Terrie DuBe' released a 32" and 44" on Leech Lake on September 10 – both on a Top Raider within 15 minutes of each other. Linda Knutson released a 36.5" on October 3 on Bald Eagle using a perch-colored Top Raider.

Recent master division releases include: Carol Heath – 38.5" on Mille Lacs on September 25 trolling a Pulsator, Don Pursch – 53" with a 26.5" girth – estimated 46.5# on Rowan Lake on September 10 casting a Stump Hawg, and Tony Sommerfeld – 40" on Crow Lake, Ont on August 30 and a 48.5" on September 19 on Winnibigoshish.

In the men's division some of the recent releases include: Tom Batina – 48" on September 30 on Minnetonka, Bob Culbertson – 4 releases in October with a 47.5" the longest, Joe DeMars – 40" on Virginia and 46" on Vermilion, Brent Dovre – 4 releases in September from Detroit and Minnetonka, Jim Doyle – 4 releases in September and October from Calhoun and Minnetonka, Scott Eckert – 3 releases from Waconia using a Phantom, David Gustafson and George Selcke – a total of 17 fish over 30" in 4 days in Canada – 9 releases within 3 hours, Dennis Heath – 48" with a 22" girth – estimated 29# on Mille Lacs on September 26, Bob Junghans – 3 releases on September 23 on Moose Lake, WI, Shawn Kellet – 42", 47" and 51" releases in September on Minnetonka, Jeremy Knutson – 42.5" on Leech Lake and a 36" hybrid on Bald Eagle Lake, Peter Moller – 6 releases on Waconia – the longest was 42", and Jim Kroupa – 38" release on Minnetonka – Jim's comment "1st fish in two years – too depressing to try and calculate the hours".

Congratulations to everyone brave enough to face Mother Nature to go fishing!

Standings continued on page 4



Shawn Kellet (right) and partner Troy Zuelke (center) get a congratulatory handshake from PMTT tournament director Tim Widlacki for their first place finish.

Kellet/Zuelke Team Wins Tournament

Twin Cities Chapter Vice President Shawn Kellet and his partner Troy Zuelke took first place with 51-inch and 42-inch muskies in the PMTT tournament on Lake Minnetonka September 25-26. The first place finish earned the team a chance to fish the final PMTT tournament held at Lake Chautauqua, NY in October. The team caught only one fish in that tournament, which was won by a team with a record-setting seven fish. Congratulations to the Kellet/Zuelke team for a great Lake Minnetonka win.



From Our President

I recently had the opportunity to spend two consecutive weekends on Lake Vermilion in October. While I saw a lot of fish during that time I didn't boat a lot of fish. Only one was willing to eat and I have never seen a fish so hot to eat as this one.

The fish first came up on my 7" Jake that I was ripping over the rocks of a point. She took a swipe at the bait and missed and moved off to the rear of the boat ignoring my attempts at a figure 8. My boat partner at the time was throwing a Triple "D" which he quickly tossed in the direction of the fish she immediately took a whack at his bait and made contact but she didn't get any hooks. By this time I was ready to cast again and I tossed the bait behind my partner and behind the boat and here she came again on my bait, miss and didn't stick around for the figure 8. She headed off to the deeper water so I figured I had one last chance at her. I toss the bait in the direction she headed and started to work that Jake as fast and erratic as possible. As the bait neared the boat she came up from underneath and smacked it in my full view. Next thing I knew she was standing on her tail about 5 feet from the boat and I could see that she may not be hooked too well. While my partner was getting the net ready she made a couple of short strong runs that had me worried that the hook up wouldn't last. Once the net was ready she came up to the surface on her side and slid right into the net. As soon as she hit the net

she exploded again and my Jake let loose right away. I was right about the poor hook up, but was fortunate to find out after she was in the net. After a quick picture and measurement she was on her way, all 46" of her.

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly I forget about the hours I put in before catching a fish like that, or any muskie for that matter. It seems that the experience lingers for some time wiping the time slate clean and instantly renewing the interest and will to pursue these fish.

Another experience I had in those two weekends was to witness the beginning of the fall migration that gave me a clearer understanding of what I've heard and read about. The fish on the second weekend were not where I found them the first weekend. The first weekend the water was still relatively warm mid to low 50s and the fish were still in late summer haunts. By the second weekend the water temp had dropped to mid to high forties and the fish had begun to stage for the fall whitefish feast and the summer haunts were barren. I never really spent enough time on one body of water to ever see this type of movement. I usually have to start out guessing and hope that something will happen in the spots I choose to fish.

Today I have a better handle on what when and why on some of the movements. It may not be a lot, but it's a piece I didn't have before.

Come to meetings; share your stories and ideas.

Joe DeMars

Thank You

The Twin Cities chapter wants to extend a heart-felt thank you to Paul Villnow. At the October General Meeting Paul gave the Twin Cities chapter a check for \$1000 in memory of his wife Mary who recently lost her battle with cancer.

Paul related a story of Mary working with a muskie they had caught late one fall evening on White Bear Lake. Mary stayed with the fish long after dark to make sure she made it to be caught another day.

Mary was insistent that they both do as much for the Muskies Inc. organization as they could, making sure they split their Muskies Inc. memberships, joining the Twin Cities chapter and the North Metro chapter.

Muskie Award Nominations

The Twin Cities Chapter Muskie Award is presented every year at our Winter Picnic/Awards Banquet. This honor is conferred upon a deserving member who has consistently devoted time and energy over the years to promoting and improving the goals of Muskies, Inc. The Muskie Award was first awarded in 1974 to Gil Hamm. Last year the award was shared by Tom Glander, Larry Proskin and John Olson.

Nominations for this award will be accepted until the first Tuesday in December. Nominations must be made *in writing* and must include a history of the person's involvement with the Twin Cities Chapter over the years. Board members will select the winner by secret ballot.

Send nominations to Elaine Randolph, 1039 Wedgewood Lane N., Eagan, MN 55123 or email to e-rand@umn.edu. Call Elaine at 651-452-1209 with questions.



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4020

September 22, 2004

Frank Schneider
Muskie, Inc.
5704 Wentworth Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Dear Mr. Schneider:

I was recently made aware of a contribution by Muskie, Inc. to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Your donation in the amount of \$3,000 will be used for the purchase of minnows to feed muskie fingerlings as part of our fish production program.

On behalf of the Department of Natural Resources, please convey my appreciation to your membership for their support.

Yours truly,

Ronald D. Payer
Program Chief
Division of Fish and Wildlife

cc: Gene Merriam, Commissioner
John Guenther, Director of Fish and Wildlife
Dave Schad, Fish and Wildlife Operations Chief

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Frank Schneider, Jr. recently received this letter on behalf of the chapter from the Minnesota DNR. As part of the Awards Ceremony at our 37th Annual International Muskie Tournament held in September, Frank Schneider gave a \$3,000 check from our chapter to the Minnesota DNR to be used for the muskie resource.

The 37th annual Frank Schneider, Jr. International Tournament raised nearly \$10,000 to be used for the chapter General Fund.

Chapter Elections

Nominations for members of the chapter's Board of Directors will be taken at the November 9 meeting. This is the time for any of you who have ever wanted input into the club, ever been interested in serving, ever wanted to change policies, ever been disgruntled at decisions made by past boards to step forward. Board members serve for two-year terms.

Elections of board members will be held at the December 14 general meeting. Once the board members have been chosen, chapter members will then elect the board officers (president, vice president, etc.) from among the board members.

Be sure to attend next two meetings so that you may have a say in how your chapter is run.



Joe DeMars shows off the 46" muskie caught during the Lake Vermilion chapter outing in October.

Vermilion Outing

Six members of the the Twin Cities Chapter escaped to Vermilion for a long weekend of muskie hunting October 14-18. The first afternoon was uneventful as everyone settled into the cabin which had 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and 2 fireplaces. Three boats tested the waters but saw no muskies.

Friday found everyone fishing hard but only one muskie was released – a beautiful 46". Others saw some fish, had a few near misses and then, of course, there were northerns. A steak dinner, warm fireplace and good music set the tone for peaceful slumbers.

Waking up Saturday morning to an inch of snow in the bottom of the boat, 35 degrees and a 25 mph wind almost sent the hardy anglers back to bed, but someone in the group kept saying it would be a BIG muskie day. Everyone went fishing (at times in near-whiteout conditions) and had fun(?) controlling boats and keeping the fingers warm. At quitting time gloves and mittens were hung by the fireplace with care in hopes they would be dry by morning. A big pot of chili with chips and several different homemade dips helped the anglers thaw out.

The sun woke them up on Sunday but the temperatures didn't rebound very fast. Joe DeMars and Greg and Elaine Randolph tried their "hot spots" one last time and left for home after lunch. Tony Vold, Paul Villnow and Greg Ide could still hear the muskies calling so they stayed until Monday. It paid off for Greg who also brought in a 46" fish.

Not many fish were caught but what are these outings for? – the fishing or getting to know other chapter members better? In all probability, this trip will be offered again next year so join up – it was a blast.

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.

NOVEMBER 9

General Meeting. Speaker: Will Hardy.
Nominations for Board members accepted.

DECEMBER 14

General Meeting. Speaker: Kevin Dickenson.
Elections of new Board members and officers.

JANUARY 11

General Meeting. Speaker: Lance Christensen.

FEBRUARY 8

General Meeting.

FEBRUARY 19

Winter Picnic and Awards Ceremony.

Member's Only Contest *continued from page 1*

STANDINGS: (AS OF 10/19/2004)

JUNIOR'S DIVISION

- 1st Place – Evan Nicolai – 5 fish – 78 points
 2nd Place – J.T.Doebler – 3 fish – 24 points
 James Hedensten – 2 fish – 24 points
 Cody Wolff – 1 fish – 24 points
 5th Place – Andrew Hedensten – 2 fish – 22 points
 6th Place – Zachary Weyland – 1 fish – 19 points
 7th Place – Dallas Nicolai – 1 fish – 18 points
 8th Place – Eleni Wolff – 1 fish – 12 points
 9th Place – Samantha Doeblen – 1 fish – 10 points
 10th Place – Megan Doeblen – 1 fish – 7 points

WOMEN'S DIVISION

- 1st Place –Terrie DuBe' – 7 fish – 70 points
 2nd Place – Cindy Hegdahl – 3 fish – 58 points
 3rd Place – Linda Knutson – 3 fish – 46 points
 4th Place – Dianne Dahl – 3 fish – 39 points

MEN'S DIVISION

- 1st Place – Shawn Kellet – 18 fish – 286 points
 2nd Place – Pete Moller – 17 fish – 234 points
 3rd Place – Dean Roll – 16 fish – 221 points
 Bob Culbertson – 20 fish - 221 points
 5th Place – Brent Hirsch – 15 fish – 193 points
 6th Place – Scott Eckert – 14 fish – 147 points
 7th Place – Jim Doyle – 14 fish – 178 points
 8th Place – Kevin Clouse – 8 fish – 136 points
 9th Place – Phil Groth – 8 fish – 116 points
 10th Place – Tom Batina – 7 fish – 107 points

MASTER'S DIVISION

- 1st Place – Tony Sommerfeld – 12 fish – 180 points
 2nd Place – Kurt Hostager – 12 fish – 161 points
 3rd Place – Brian Hanson – 6 fish – 130 points
 4th Place – Mark Sewald – 7 fish – 87 points
 5th Place – Don Pursch – 3 fish – 76 points
 6th Place – Patti Slack – 4 fish – 74 points
 7th Place – Chris Swentkofske – 4 fish – 73 points
 8th Place – Carol Heath – 4 fish – 40 points
 9th Place – Mark Fredrick – 1 fish – 16 points

RELEASE OF THE MONTH

- May – official – no entries greater than 45"
 June –official – Shawn Kellet - Minnetonka – June 5
 July – official – Greg Randolph – 52" – Eagle Lake,
 Ontario – July 3
 August – official – Kurt Hostager – 53" – White Bear –
 August 25
 September – unofficial – Dennis Heath – 48" – Mille
 Lacs – September 13
 October – unofficial – Bob Culbertson – Baby Lake –
 47.5" – October 2

Reporting all fish, big and small!

Bring Your Receipts

Save your receipts from Joe's Sporting Goods, Thorne Bros. Fishing Specialties, or Reed's Sporting Goods. Bring them to the General Meeting and you'll get one free entry in the rod and reel drawing per receipt. Receipts must be dated within 30 days of the meeting.

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On the Water is published
monthly for members of the
Twin Cities Chapter of
Muskie's Inc.

Copy deadline: Second Friday of
each month

Contact: Graphic Works
612-866-4730 • olson@3pete.com

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**next
meeting**

NOVEMBER 9

**SPEAKER:
WILL HARDY**

Will is an old-time Muskies Inc. member from the Alexandria area. He is a prolific angler and will give some insight into how he has succeeded in getting so many large fish over the years.



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