



On the Water

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No Other Fish Makes Your Knees Shake

from Bob Junghans

No other fish makes your knees shake." That's how Diana Mindar explains her 20-year passion for fishing muskies. "The strength. The fight. The rush you get. There's nothing else like it," says the Illinois native who is half of the only all-female team in the 2005 Professional Muskie Tournament Trail (PMTT).

It's actually Diana's second year on the PMTT. Last year she and her partner finished seventh at the Shelbyville, Kentucky, qualifying tournament; good enough to put them in the 2004 championship. "We also would have finished 9th at the Cave Run tournament, but I lost a fish that was in the net when its gill plate got caught on the netting. When I freed it, it just squirmed out of the hole in the net and swam away. My partner never forgave me, but I would rather have the fish alive and swimming free than have it get injured and die."

This year Mindar is teaming with Terrie DuBé, administrative secretary of Muskies, Inc. For the diminutive DuBé, a 19-year veteran of muskie wars, it will be her first time on the professional tournament tour.

"I thought about it a couple of years ago, but things came up and I couldn't do it," said DuBé. "When Diana asked me to team with her this year I jumped at the chance."

At least a small part of that enthusiasm was triggered by DuBé's 2004 season; her best ever, in which she won the women's division of the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc., season-long contest and also finished in the top ten of the 37th Annual Frank Schneider, Jr., International Tournament; a tournament she once chaired.

DuBé, her 2005 fishing aspirations and her Ranger boat will be moving to Walker, Minnesota, before the season opens. She's giving up her "day job" as a credit manager of a St. Paul company to pursue her dream of fishing every day. She will remain in her position with Muskies, Inc.

Mindar, meanwhile, will continue her job as a dental assistant in her home town of Aurora, Illinois, while she pursues her dream. "Actually, Terrie will fish a lot more than I will this year," she explained. "I don't own my own boat, so I have to wait for someone to invite me. I do fish quite a bit, but it's not nearly enough."

Although technically a professional fisherman because of her prize winnings on the PMTT last year, Mindar hesitates to



Terrie DuBé (left) and Diana Mindar (right) are the only all-female PMTT team for the 2005 tournament season.

put herself in that category. "When I'm fishing against guys I've been reading about and who are icons in the industry it's scary," she says. "I really learned so much from them last year. Once they realized we weren't just in it for the publicity or a photo, they were really helpful. I think most of them wanted to really see us succeed. And it was really a rush when we beat most of them at Shelbyville".

This year the duo plans to fish all four qualifying PMTT tournaments: Cave Run in April, Pomme de Terre in May, Eagle River in June and Chippewa Flowage in August; all leading up to the PMTT championship on Lake Minnetonka in October.

"We'll do it for the thrill of the competition," says DuBé, "and we certainly hope to qualify for the championship, but, for the most part, we do it to have fun, meet lots of people and talk about muskies."

"It's fun to be with people who have the same drive and passion for the sport as you do," adds Mindar. "The camaraderie and just the chance to talk muskies is worth it."

Are there advantages and disadvantages of being the only all-woman PMTT team?

"Some people are a little standoffish," said the loquacious Mindar, "and last year on Minnetonka we had some people – not tournament fishermen – harass us in the boat, cutting us off and generally making it difficult to fish.

All-woman team *continued on page 4*

From Our President SHAWN KELLETT

As I write this there's only 74 more days until the Minnesota Muskie Opener. The days are getting longer, and we're finally starting to see winter come to a close. My wife is about to kill me as I'm "playing" with all the new baits I got at the shows, and reliving memories of the old warhorses. Man, I can work that new True Glide jerk bait reeeeeeeaaalllly good while sitting on my couch watching TIVO'd muskie shows. Yes sir, my wife is about to kill me...

This is always a fun time of year for me, because this is when we welcome the new members we've signed up at the shows. We have done a great job recruiting new members this year and renewing some that have been away for a while. I encourage everyone to look around the meetings and strike up a conversation with a new face. That person could be your next net man.

For new members, feel free to corner anyone with any questions you may have. A lot of information can also be found on the MI website. This is your club now and the members are your fishing brethren. I know most people in our chapter, and as far as I know none of them bite (again, as far as I know). We're looking forward to see what all you new members can bring to the club. If you're interested in getting your feet wet and contributing right away, come talk to me and I can get you going in the right direction.

I want to let everyone know about the improvements to the Muskies Inc website. Check out www.muskiesinc.com. The site is

totally revamped. There is even a message board for the Twin Cities chapter. Go to www.muskiesinc.com; then click on "members only" on the top of the page. When you get to the next page, you'll have to create a password if you haven't been there before. After you are logged on, look at the menu on the left side of the page and click "member forums". Click "enter member forums area" and you'll be brought to the message board. Scroll down to the chapter boards and you'll see us on top. This is a great way to look for a fishing partner, make announcements, or just get some opinions. I think it could be a great way for our chapter to communicate better.

I want to take a second to tip my hat to Rollie Olsen, past President of the North Metro Chapter. At their last meeting Rollie stepped down after an 8-year run as their President. After seeing what goes into the job, I have a new respect for Rollie's commitment. Enjoy your retirement Rollie, you've earned it!

I also want to congratulate and thank George Wahl regarding the Minnesota Muskie Expo. I heard that there was a record attendance number on Saturday. I was sick that weekend so I wasn't able to hang out as much as I'd like to, but my pocket book is a little heavier for it!

For those that don't know, George donates a portion of his profits from the show to the club every year. Over the last decade this has totaled to more than \$40,000, if memory serves me right. We all owe George a big THANK YOU!

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upcoming 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.

APRIL 12

General Meeting. Speaker: Gary Bartlett.

Gary is a guide on Lake of the Woods who catches some big muskies every year. This is a must see seminar. Gary will share tips for fishing Lake of the Woods specifically and also discuss patterns and tactics that have generally proven productive.

MAY 10

General Meeting. Annual Manufacturers Night/Swap Meet.

Go through your tackle boxes and equipment. Bring your rods, reels, lures, motors, boats to the meeting and be prepared to bargain. Joining us will also be area manufacturers representing more aspects of muskie fishing than you can imagine.

Also note:

APRIL 16 – Thorne Bros. Annual Spring Spectacular.
“Muskie Guide Panel” at 11:00 am.

All-woman team *continued from page 1*

But for the most part, once the other PMTT anglers found out we were for real, there were no problems. In fact, we may have an advantage in some ways. We seem to get sponsors easier than a lot of guys do. There are some really good fishermen out there who are having trouble finding sponsors. We actually have people coming to us to ask if we'd like to have them sponsor us. And a lot of guys will actually give us marked maps and share their hot spots with us. We're certainly not going to turn them down."

"I think there are some different expectations, because you're a woman," adds Dubé, "like fixing your own boat, and things of that nature, but I really don't think there is discrimination in this sport. There are more and more women becoming muskie fishermen, and there are a lot of husband and wife teams now."

As for this year's tournament trail, all we can say is "stay tuned and watch out" because these two make a formidable team.

"I'm so anxious to get on the water," exclaimed Mindar. "I keep having this dream of a 53-? -inch fish. I woke myself up the other night setting the hook!"

They are already living out their dream. Now if that one will just come true on Minnetonka in October the only all-woman PMTT team will also be the PMTT champs.

Tickets and raffle information for the 2005 Rearing Fund Raffle are being mailed to each adult member of the chapter in early April. Please sell as many of them as you can. Every ticket sold will help put more muskies in our lakes and rivers.

Your Raffle Committee has been working hard and has some great incentive prizes for ticket sellers. Drawings for incentive prizes will be held during the May, June and July meetings for those who have turned in their tickets. The top four sellers will receive trips to US and Canadian resorts.

Incentive prizes and resort trips are listed in the mailing you will receive with your tickets. Any questions should be directed to John Newnman 651-699-8676

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