



# On the Water

Volume 8, Issue 3

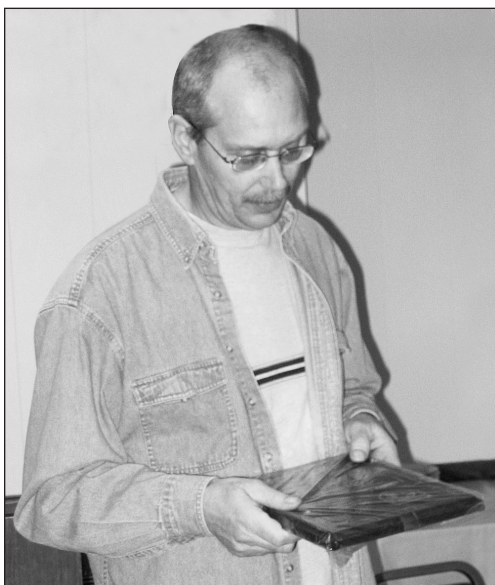
March 2005

## Joe DeMars Honored with Muskie Award

Past president Joe DeMars was presented the Twin Cities Chapter Muskie Award at our February meeting. This award is given each year to a chapter member who has "constantly and unselfishly devoted time and energy over the years to promoting and improving the goals of Muskies, Inc." Joe served as president of our chapter for three years and also served as tournament director two of those three years. Joe has been a great representative of our chapter and continues to serve on the board, and on committees for our international tournament the project and rearing fund.

The Muskie Award is traditionally given at the Winter Picnic, but since Joe had plans to be out of town then, the chapter honored him during the February meeting.

Congratulations for a well-deserved honor.



Joe DeMars looks over the Muskie Award plaque he was presented the February meeting.



Cindy Hegdahl displays the graphite replica by Fiber-Tech Graphite Reproductions of her 55-inch muskie that was the longest release recorded for the chapter Members Only Contest in 2004. Traditionally, the winner of the Longest Release is given a replica of the fish by the chapter.

## Winter Picnic and Awards Banquet

The Twin Cities Chapter annual Winter Picnic and Awards Banquet was held Saturday, February 19 at the Bloomington Knights of Columbus Hall. Those who attended spent time at several games of chance with prizes that included a variety of muskie baits, lures and other gifts. After a delicious buffet supper, chairperson, Elaine Randolph announced the winners of the chapter Members Only contest, as well as honoring the under-twelve-year-olds who entered a variety of fish in the chapter Kids Fishing Contest.

## And the Winners Are ...

### LONGEST RELEASE OF THE YEAR

October 29th the mail at Elaine's house wasn't much different from normal – a couple of bills, a little junk mail, and a few entry forms. The first one opened was from Mark Fredrick, and included the following note. "Hi Elaine, I might need to get a new partner. That Fishin Hat on the other side of the boat is pretty BIG – 55". UFF DA – Mark". She dug through the rest of the mail to find the one from Mark's partner, Cindy. Her note was much shorter. "Elaine, How about this 55" Pig – Cindy".

This year's winner of the Longest Release of the Year is Cindy Hegdahl with a 55" caught on a crank bait October 24 on Lake Bemidji.

Member's Only continued on page 3

## *From Our President* SHAWN KELLETT

*Only 104 days left until MN opener as I write this. Boy is that depressing. Thank God for the show season!*

*First I'd like to thank Patty Slack and Tom Bastian for organizing and running the Winter Picnic. It was a great time, with even MORE baits given out than anytime I can remember. If you didn't get to go this year, be sure to put it on your calendar for next year. We've reserved the same weekend and Pattie has agreed to plan it again. If you have any input or would like to help with the event feel free to talk to her.*

*We're currently trying to build our youth program. Steve Jonesie (new guy at Thorne Brothers) and I are currently looking for volunteers to help us create a "Family/Kids Meeting." This meeting would include games for the kids, possibly involvement with Big Brothers/Sisters, water safety, etc. We're looking for people who can manage several of these small events during the meeting. Please contact Steve or myself with your interest.*

*Remember the Minnesota Muskie Expo is going on March 11, 12, & 13th at the National Sports Center in Blaine. If you haven't been to this show yet you're really missing out. Just remember to bring your cash because there isn't a cash machine (or I just can't find it, anyone surprised?). I'll be there supporting the hard-working bait manufacturers all weekend.*

*Remember, once you have over a couple hundred baits your wife doesn't know the difference between them all – just like all her black shoes.*

*Our chapter will have a booth at the show as usual. If you have any friends that have been hemming and hawing about joining, now is the time. Each person with a NEW (not renewal) 2-year membership, will get a Grandma Bait, Abu Garcia towel, spool of Spiderwire Stealth, and a TON of other gifts and discounts. QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED, so don't let them put it off. The gifts will probably be gone by Saturday mid-morning. My wife may just have to join!*

**Show up to a meeting. Meet a new friend. Join a committee. It's YOUR Muskies Inc!**



**This Lund 1650 SS, with Yamaha 40 hp motor, Shoreland'r trailer is the First Prize in the 2005 Project and Rearing Fund Raffle.**

## **Project and Rearing Fund Raffle**

*from John Newman, Project and Rearing Fund Chair*

**T**he Project and Rearing Fund Raffle is our primary source of funding for all the chapter's projects for the muskie resource. Buying equipment, and/or minnows to feed musky fingerling for the state DNR's muskie program, research, and spawning habitat restoration are a few projects the chapter has done in the past. One hundred percent of the raffle proceeds go directly back into the resource.

This year's raffle is set up and ready to roll. Your Project and Rearing Fund committee has been busy and the raffle has some great prizes. First prize in the raffle drawing is a boat/motor package – a Lund 1650 SS, Yamaha 40 hp motor, Shoreland'r trailer. Second prize is a MinnKota 55 trolling motor, courtesy of Nelson Marine. Third prize is a \$300 gift certificate from Thorne Bros. Fourth prize is a Hummingbird Matrix 27 depth finder, also courtesy of Nelson Marine. Fifth prize is a \$150 gift certificate from Joe's Sporting Goods. Raffle tickets are \$2 each. The drawing will be held at the July chapter meeting.

Chapter members will be receiving ticket packets the first week in April. We ask all members to participate in the sale of raffle tickets. We have all had the great opportunity to utilize our Twin Cities muskie fishery. It has to be one of the best in the country and our stocking programs have helped immensely to enhance the resource. We must, however, be vigilant and continue to stock our lakes and possibly even create new muskie waters.

Members will be able to win a number prizes by selling their tickets and returning them by a certain date. Incentive prizes include gift certificates to the Axels Restaurants, Buon Giorno Italia, Carbone's Pizza, Parkway Auto Care, Great American Marine, and many others. Vacation packages to Shingwak Resort on Lake of the Woods, Birch Villa on Cass Lake, and Vermillion Bay Lodge on Lake Vermillion will go to the top sellers. The members program will be explained further in the ticket packet sent out in April.

Thank you for participating.

**Don't Forget the MINNESOTA MUSKIE EXPO March 11-12-13  
National Sports Center in Blaine.**

**Friday – 2 to 9 • Saturday – 10 to 7 • Sunday – 10 to 4.  
Adults – \$9 • Three-day pass – \$15 • Kids 12 – Free**

## MASTER'S DIVISION

Eleven people entered 89 fish for a total of 1,437 points in the Master's Division this year. Previous Women's Division winners, Patti Slack, Cindy Hegdahl and Carol Health accounted for 23 fish and 363 points and seven fish over 45". Mark Fredrick, Brian Hanson, Paul Hartman, Kurt Hostager, Don Pursch, Mark Sewald and Chris Swentkofske released a total of 47 fish for 689 points and 10 fish over 50". This year's Master's Division winner, Tony Sommerfeld, released 19 fish with an average release length of 41" and a total of 285 points. One of his fish was 52" and it didn't even qualify for Release of the Month.

## MEN'S DIVISION

Forty-nine men entered 298 fish for a total of 3,906 points (compared to 47 men entered 280 fish for a total of 3,369 points in 2003 and 38 men who entered 160 fish for a total of 2,377 points in 2002). The average fish was almost 40". Fourteen were 50" or longer and 34 were 45" to 49".

### **First Place 30 Fish 403 Points Jim Doyle**

Starting with a 32" release on Minnetonka on June 6 and ending with a 42" release on Minnetonka on December 11, Jim's average release was 40". His longest release of the year was 50" on November 14 on Minnetonka. He also released fish on Calhoun, Inguadona, Winnibigoshish, and Lake of the Woods.

### **Second Place 23 Fish 358 Points Shawn Kellett**

Releasing fish in Wisconsin in May, in New York in October, and on Minnetonka the rest of the year, Shawn's average fish was 41.5". He released two 51" muskies on Minnetonka on June 5 and September 26.

### **Third Place 26 Fish 296 Points Bob Culbertson**

In addition to his home lake, Baby Lake, Bob entered fish from Cass, Leech, Sugar and Independence. His catching season started on May 14 on Shelbyville, IL and ended on November 16 on Baby Lake. Bob's longest of the year came on Baby Lake – a 47.5". Bob's average fish was 37".

## WOMEN'S DIVISION

Either it was a very tough year for the women of the Twin Cities Chapter or those who released fish decided not to enter them. The women who entered fish this year are all winners.

### **First Place 9 Fish 94 Points Terrie DuBe'**

Lake of the Woods and a black Musky Buster were the secret ingredients for seven of Terrie's fish. The other two were released on Leech Lake. Her longest release was 44" and her average was 35.5". As with all winners of the Women's or Men's Divisions, for at least the next 3 years Terrie will be

joining the other Twin Cities Chapter "pros" in the Master's Division.

### **Second Place 3 Fish 46 Points Linda Knutson**

August 16, September 12 and November 3 were "muskie" days for Linda. Leech Lake and Bald Eagle were the bodies of water and 41.5", 45" and 36.5" were the length of the catches. Linda's average was 41.5".



*Terrie DuBe', Women's Division first-place winner.*

### **Third Place 3 Fish 39 Points Dianne Dahl**

With all the work Dianne did on the International Tournament, she still found time to fish the St Croix River. Dianne's three fish were 38", 39" and 40".

## JUNIOR'S DIVISION

The junior division is not based on ability to catch fish, but rather age – age 17 or less on January 1. Ten young people released 23 muskies for a total of 294 points – the average muskie was 39", the longest was 50". Last year 6 juniors released 11 fish for a total of 164 points.

### **First Place 5 Fish 78 Points Evan Nicolai**

And this young man just keeps releasing fish – up this year from last year's high of 4 fish and 63 points. Evan released 2 fish on Cass Lake – a 46" on June 13 using a silver Double D crank bait and a 42" on June 20 using a green and white Ernie. Fishing Cedar Lake on June 27, a 38" muskie hit the silver Double D crank bait. On July 16, a 39" smacked Evan's Hunter tail on Inguadona. Evan's final entry of the year came on August 7 once again casting a Hunter tail this time on Leech Lake. A 42.5" hit it at 8:00 pm. For the second year in a row, Evan can boast a 42" average.

### **Second Place 4 Fish 38 Points Samantha Doebler**

With a 35.5" release on August 19, and a 39" release on October 22 both from Calhoun, 10-year-old Samantha waited until November 20 to make her big move in the Junior standings. Casting a white and black Triple D crank bait into the milfoil on Cedar Lake in Hennepin County, the 36" muskie at 11:30 am. Then just an hour later, Samantha released a 30.5" hybrid. What a way to end a great season.

### **Second Place 4 Fish 38 Points J.T. Doebler**

Six-year-old J.T. entered his very first muskie – a 30.5" – on July 31. He was casting a Musky Candy on Cedar Lake. On September 25, casting a white and black Triple D crank bait into the milfoil on Calhoun, J.T. released a 21". Cedar Lake in Hennepin County was a good place to be on October 6 and November 20 because J.T. released a 40" muskie both days. A 35" average for the year is outstanding!

## Red Wing Lodge, Lake of the Woods

If you've never been on a fishing trip to Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods, you have missed out on one of the best muskie fishing experiences a person could have!

If you've never had real hospitality at a resort, this is the place to go. Owners Mike, Anne and Betty Bartlett will make sure you have a GREAT TIME!!!! Mike will be there to help with hot spots, trouble with motors, anything to get you fish!!! And Anne, well what is there to say about her, other than ONE HELL OF A WOMAN!!!! She'll make you laugh till you cry!!!! And Betty – you haven't eaten, till you've tasted her cooking!!!! They're all there to make your stay at Red Wing one you will never forget !!!!!!!

The folks at Red Wing Lodge have been one of the Twin Cities chapter's most consistent supporters, donating at least one trip every year as prizes at our annual fall tournament. They believe in Muskies, Inc. and try to help in ways that they can, not only for our chapter, but for other chapters and to our International board. Red Wing Lodge has also been the site of the Chapter Challenge a number of years.

If you want to experience great fishing, beautiful scenery, and great hospitality, join the Twin Cities and North Metro outing to Red Wing Lodge

this year. The outing will be held this year from August 20-27th, 2005.

This is a week of fun-filled fishing and great fun for all who go! The outing includes a great housekeeping cabin, free dockage, ice, one wonderful meal courtesy of the lodge, door prizes, and GREAT FISHING!!!!

Last year's outing topped the best year ever at Red Wing – 19 people and over 80 fish. It was one hot week!!!!!! Most of the fish were between 35 and 45 inches. As usual, the North Metro team caught almost half of them. But then when you go out at 5 am and don't get back till after 10 pm, in wind and rain, well what should we expect! Good job guys!!!!

Summer is coming fast, so don't forget, this is great time to make reservations for a fantastic week of fishing vacation. Cost is \$200.00 per person and there is \$50.00 non-refundable deposit required. Contact Mark Chatelle (North Metro) 952-544-6466 or Terrie DuBe' 763-786-9656. They'll be happy to give you some more information, answer any questions you might have, or take your reservation.

OR ... talk to Red Wing's Mike Bartlett who will be at the MN Muskie Expo March 11,12, 13th. He'll be there to answer all your questions!

Put your name in for a great week of fishing, fun, and that lifetime fish!!



*Hosts Extraordinaire Mike and Anne Bartlett will see to it that you have a fantastic time when you come to Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods for a fishing vacation. Plan your own trip or join the Twin Cities/North Metro outing at Red Wing August 20-27 this summer.*



**Honorable Mention 1 Fish 24 Points Cody Wolff**

Not very often does Elaine get the honor to send a 50" release patch to a 12-year-old young man, but Cody received his after entering his 50" fish from Mille Lacs on August 3. He was casting a top raider at a cabbage bed in 5 feet of water at 7:30 pm when the big fish hit.

**Honorable Mention 2 Fish 24 Points James Hedensten**

Is it possible that Bald Eagle Lake is James's favorite place on opening weekend? This is the second year in a row that he has released a 40" on the opener – June 5. His second fish was a 36" on Leech Lake on September 19.

**Honorable Mention 2 Fish 22 Points Andrew Hedensten**

Look out men, there is a new man in your division, as Andrew turned 17 in July. He released a 32" muskie on White Bear Lake on June 20 and a 41.5" muskie on West Battle Lake on October 10.

**Honorable Mention 2 fish 21 Points Megan Doebler**

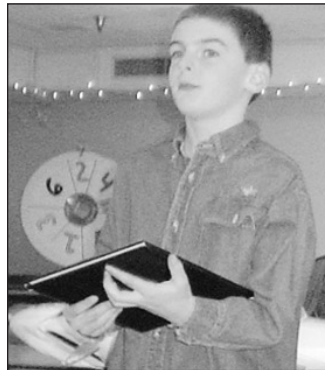
Release #1 was a 33" caught on a black and silver slop master on Cedar Lake in Hennepin County on July 1. Release #2 came on Lake Calhoun on October 20. This time Megan was casting a yellow and black tap dancer. Great job for only being 8 years old!

**Honorable Mention**

**1 fish 19 points**

**Zachary Weyland**

WOW! His first muskie and it was 45" long! Mille Lacs Lake was the place, a purple hunter tail was the bait, and September 19 was the date. Zachary and his dad, Dave, were trolling in strong south winds over sand and cabbage beds.



*Zachary Weyland caught his first muskie this year.*

**Honorable Mention 1 fish 18 points Dallas Nicolai**

July 30 had to be a very special day for Dallas because she released her very first muskie – a 44" beauty! She was trolling a white and black believer on Lake Inguadona in 17 feet of water when the suspended fish hit. Just wait until this summer!

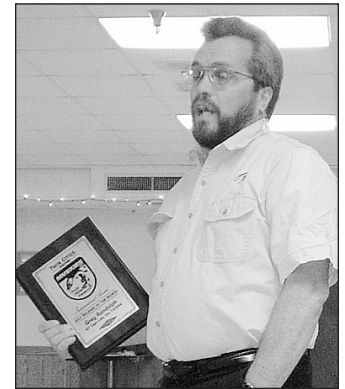
**Honorable Mention 1 fish 12 points Eleni Wolff**

What is an eleven year old doing on Mille Lacs Lake at 6:00 am in the fog and mist? If the date was August 21 and her name was Eleni, she would be releasing a 38" muskie caught on a black hog wobbler row trolling over some junk weeds. Nice Job!

**RELEASE OF THE MONTH**

**JUNE Shawn Kellett 51" Minnetonka, MN**

Shawn reported the girth at 21" and an estimated weight of 28 pounds. This suspended fish hit a suick at 8:00 a.m. on June 5. Shawn released a second 51" on September 26. Could this be the same fish?



*Greg Randolph tells the tale of his 52-inch fish, the longest release for July.*

**JULY Greg Randolph 52" Eagle Lake, Ontario**

On July 3, Greg was casting an old grey and white suick into 10 feet of water when at 8:45 pm the fish hit. Elaine received the release form by 10:00 pm along with a request for a 50-inch release patch.

**AUGUST Kurt Hostager 53" White Bear Lake, MN**

Kurt was casting an orange and black Buchertail on August 25 when this 53" muskie hit. An hour later Kurt released a 42" and then a half hour later a 39". Not a bad day on the water!

**September Dennis Heath 54" Mille Lacs Lake, MN**

Trolling a fire tiger pulsator in 9 feet of water on September 13 resulted in Dennis catching this fish bearing tag number 36247. The fish was 13 years old and 50.1 inches long when she was tagged near Isle on April 30, 1997. Dennis released a 20-year-old fish with a 22" girth and an estimated weight of 32.7 pounds in zone 33. No doubt catch and release works!

**OCTOBER Cindy Hegdahl 55" Lake Bemidji, MN**

Do you remember what were you doing on October 24? Do Cindy and her partner Mark Fredrick recall anything besides THE FISH. They had problems in getting an accurate girth measurement, but estimated it between 26 and 27 inches. What a PIG!!

**NOVEMBER Paul Hartman 54" Mille Lacs Lake, MN**

Paul released this 54" fish with a 27" girth and an estimated weight of 49.2 pounds at 1:30 pm using a white bulldawg. But 2 hours earlier he released a 53.5" muskie with a 26.5" girth and an estimated weight of 47 pounds. At 2:30 boat partner Chris Swentkofske also released a 50.5" fish with a 25" girth and an estimated weight of 39.5 pounds. November 20 – what a day on the water!

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone from the infamous follows, to the near hits or misses, to all the entries I received, and to all the winners!

*Elaine Randolph, Members Only Contest Chair*

## Thorne Bros. Seminars

### March 3 – The Basics of Muskie Fishing – 7 pm

Jim Murphy will show you the fundamentals – from equipment selection and how to use it to landing and releasing your catch.

### March 24 – How to Make Yourself a Better Muskie Fisherman – 7 pm

Luke Ronnestrand will show you some simple things to boat more and bigger fish. Luke put a lot of big fish in the boat last year.

Also scheduled is **Thorne Bros. Annual Spring Spectacular** on Saturday, April 16. The day features a “Muskie Guide Panel” at 11:00 am. Guides on the panel include Wayne Klemz (Metro), Jason Hammernick (Mille Lacs), Tom Wehler (Vermillion) and Jim Murphy (Leech). Featured that day will be new products for 2005 and a one-day store-wide sale.



**FOR SALE: 2000 18-ft. Alumacraft Tournament Pro 175.** 80 HP 4-stroke motor (less than 50 hours), Shoreland'r trailer with spare tire (never been used), Pinpoint trolling motor with forward and rear depth finders, three swivel seats, two canvas covers (one for trailer, one for docking). \$12,000 or BO Must sell! Like new! **Call 763-745-0921.**

**FOR SALE: 14 ft. AlumaCraft with trailer.** 50 hp Merc, tilt & trim, Hummingbird locator. \$2200. Russ Peterson. 612-618-0391.

*Classified ads may be submitted by members of the Twin Cities Chapter. Charges are \$5.00 per month per ad. Send ad information and check made out to Muskies, Inc. by the second Friday of each month for insertion into the following month's publication to: Graphic Works, 7125 17th Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423.*

## this 'n that

### Thank You to Paul Hartman

The Project and Rearing Fund Committee wants to extend a big “Thank You” to Paul Hartman who gave the committee a booth at the Walleye and Bass Expo held in February free of charge. The committee was able to not only display the first-prize boat, but also sold raffle tickets for the drawing.

### Tournament Raises \$10,218

The 2004 Frank Schneider International Tournament was extremely successful for the chapter. A check for \$10,218 was presented to the chapter by Dianne Dahl, Tournament Committee Co-chair at the February meeting. The annual tournament is our chapter's biggest fundraiser.

Chapter expenses include our Vets Home Opener, Capable Partners outing, Kids outings, and printing and mailing

the newsletter. Money to fund chapter operations also comes from the welcome table raffles at monthly meetings, and donations to the club from the Muskie Expo.

### Josh Borovsky Seminar

Muskie guide Josh Borovsky will be one of the featured speakers at an April 9th fishing event hosted by Lupient Chevrolet of Bloomington (1601 Southtown Drive). There will be a number of door prizes and free giveaways. You can increase your chances of winning a prize if you RSVP before March 25. Those who RSVP by that date will have their names put in an additional drawing. Please call Josh at 612-508-2759 or e-mail [jerryemu@lupient.com](mailto:jerryemu@lupient.com) to RSVP.

Josh has been featured on recent episodes of “The Lindner's Angling Edge” tv series as well as a number of fishing-related publications.



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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.*

## MARCH 8

General Meeting. Speaker: Lance Christensen

## MARCH 11, 12, 13

Minnesota Muskie Expo. National Sports Center, Blaine.

## APRIL 12

General Meeting.

## MAY 10

General Meeting. Annual Manufacturers Night/Swap Meet..

## Kids Fishing Contest 2004

Thanks to all the parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and other adults in the lives of the children ages 12 and younger for taking the time and having the patience to TAKE A KID FISHING. This is not really a contest because everyone is a winner – the kids and the adults. Dallas Nicolai, Evan Nicolai, Zachary Weyland and Thomas Hedensten had fun catching northerns, walleyes, and crappies and sunfish. Some of them even caught bass and trout. For their efforts, each received several baits to try this spring.

## Bring Your Receipts

Save your receipts from Joe's Sporting Goods, Thorne Bros. Custom Rod & Tackle, 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.

*Lance was unable to make it when scheduled a couple of months ago, but will be at our March meeting and will have some great muskie "tales" to share with us.*

**LANCE CHRISTENSEN  
SPEAKER:  
MARCH 8  
meeting  
next**

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**what's  
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