



# On the Water

Volume 9, Issue 4

APRIL 2006



**THE MINNESOTA MUSKIE EXPO**, held March 10-12, was filled with muskie-related items. Over 100 exhibitors were on hand with the latest in baits, boats, replicas, artwork, equipment, rods, reels, as well as resorters and retailers. Seminars by top muskie guides and educators were held all three days.

This is the Twin Cities Chapter booth where a number of Expo attendees signed up as new members. We welcome them and look forward to seeing new faces at our monthly meetings. Juris Ozols has more photos from the expo on page 3.

## **Manufacturer's Night to be Held with April Poolside Event**

**O**ur April 11 general meeting will be a poolside demonstration sponsored by Thorne Bros. Come see some of the newest lures previewed in the crystal clear pool water. See all the action, how the lures are made to dance, and get your blood flowing for the upcoming season.

Manufacturer's Night, traditionally held along with the Swap Meet in May, will also be held at the April meeting. The newest products from a variety of manufacturers will be on display and available to purchase.

Don't miss this exceptional evening that will take place at Oak Grove Middle School in Bloomington. The doors open at 7:00 pm and the pool demo starts at 7:30 pm. A map to the middle school and driving directions can be found on page 5.

## **Project and Rearing Raffle**

*from John Newman, Jr., Project and Rearing Fund Chairs*

**T**he Project and Rearing Fund Raffle is our primary source of funding for all the chapter's projects for the muskie resource. Last year the funds raised by the raffle purchased 300 young muskies that were stocked into White Bear Lake. One hundred percent of the raffle proceeds go directly back into the muskie resource.

Good news, the raffle is off and running. The raffle committee has been working hard and attending several boat shows and sport shows to sell raffle tickets. The bad news is that we haven't sold enough tickets. Once again we are asking all members to participate in the sale of raffle tickets so there will be ample funds to purchase muskies for stocking this fall. Chapter members will be receiving ticket packets the first week in April. If you didn't receive the packet and want to participate, please call me (651-699-8676) and I will send you tickets.

Raffle prizes include a boat/motor/trailer package (Triton DV168SC/50 hp Mercury 4-stroke motor), shopping sprees at Thorne Bros. and Joe's Sporting Goods, and a MinnKota Endura 30 trolling motor. Raffle tickets are \$2 each. The drawing will be held at the July chapter meeting.

This year, we are having a contest for selling tickets. Each month there will be a drawing for incentive prizes. To qualify you must sell a total of 20 tickets for May, 40 for June and 60 for July. Prizes include Phantom lure packages, Bulldog lure packages, Trolling motor battery, rods, restaurant certificates, and \$50 gift certificates to Great American Marine. The top sellers can win vacation packages to Birch Villa on Cass Lake, Vermilion Dam Lodge, and Shingwak Resort on Lake of the Woods. The incentive program will be completely explained in your ticket packet.

We would like to repeat what we did last year or even increase our stocking efforts. The only thing that will stop us is the availability of dollars for the project. I hope you can see the importance of our stocking raffle.

You, the individual member, will make this happen. I will be waiting for your returns and I hope you will make me work hard and go to the bank often.

For more information or additional tickets, call me at 651-699-8676.

Thank you for your participation.

## *From Our President* SHAWN KELLETT

*I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Endless days of fishing here I come... uhhh, I mean more sleepless nights and pooppy diapers here I come. At least I won't put too many hours on the boat this year (like that's a good thing).*

*What's happening?????*

*Well, by the time you read this, the banquet for the 40th Anniversary of Muskies Inc. will have come and gone. I'd like to thank everyone who helped pull this off. A special thank you goes to Greg and Elaine Randolph for heading up this monumental event.*

*EVERYONE IN THE POOL!!!!!! Remember, don't show up at the Knights of Columbus Hall for the April meeting. The chapter will be holding a poolside lure demo/manufacturers night at Oak Grove Middle School.*

*We're going to need some bodiees to help get the remaining fish out of the Paul Hartman's Minnesota Muskie Tournament rearing pond sometime in late April/early May. If you're interested please call or email Paul (763-786-6031, paulandkristihartman@yahoo.com) or myself (952-380-1218, windgods@msn.com) so we can get you on the call list. We're at the mercy of the DNR truck so we may not have a lot of advanced notice. The goal is to be sure we've cleared out as many adult fish to insure that the fry we put in the pond in early summer will survive to be netted in the fall harvest.*

*The Twin Cities Chapter is also looking at starting up to two rearing ponds of our own. I've spoken with Roy Johannes of the DNR and he's willing to give us the muskie fry for free. The chapter would be responsible for feeding and netting the fish in the fall. We're still in the process of working with the DNR to determine where the fish may go. I'll keep you posted.*

*For those out there that would like to make a difference in the chapter. We're looking for some people who would be passionate about working with our youth program. Ever since Curt Ellis and Tony Vold have been ill, we haven't had someone to take ownership of that position. If you have the drive, we can help provide you the tools to make things happen. Drop me a line and we'll talk.*

## Sponsor Program

You will see a number of new ads in this issue of *On the Water*. Last year, the board voted to implement a program to provide consistent treatment and to thank the sponsors who give so much to our chapter. As part of the program, we will be including sponsor ads in the newsletter several times a year.

Sponsors donate products, gift certificates, trips, and resort stays for our tournament, rearing fund raffle, and welcome table. Without them, we would not be able to hold the fundraisers that help our chapter function.

If you're looking for a new bait, keep in mind that manufacturers of some of the most productive baits ever designed are among our sponsors. And remember to buy them from sponsoring retailers. If you want a muskie trip this season, keep the sponsoring resorts in mind.

## Minnesota DNR Visits Club

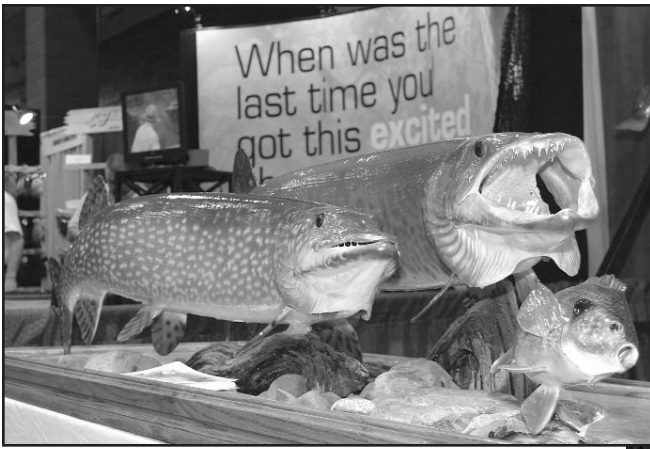
*from Greg Ide, Twin Cities Chapter Board Member*

On March 14, 2006, our chapter was visited by Roy Johannes and Jerry Younk of the Minnesota DNR. The evening began with a historical presentation, showing how overfishing caused the decline of the fishery in the early 1900s, the unsuccessful Shoepack rearing project from the 1950s to 1984, and the subsequent use of telemetry to locate spawning Leech Lake muskies. Studies proved Leech Lake muskies to be the best strain for Minnesota and soon broodstock lakes were created. In two of the broodstock lakes, Elk and Pleasant, all of the fish are now PIT tagged, allowing the DNR to do long-term studies on the growth and senescence of muskies. Then was a presentation about the hatchery and rearing program. Present goal is to stock 30,000 fingerlings statewide yearly. A portion of the fingerlings are produced by private fishfarmers. Unfortunately, the private rearers have recently fallen short of goal, from 6500 fingerlings produced in 2003 to less than 400 fingerlings in 2005. Luckily, there are a couple of large ponds that have yearlings and older fish in them. This spring the DNR is going to enlist volunteers from Minnesota Muskies Inc. chapters to capture fish from these ponds, and stock them in Minnesota waters. Watch for your chance to help with this essential project.

Mr. Johannes and Mr. Younk then answered questions from the audience: "**Why not create more catch and release lakes beyond Elk Lake?**" Mr. Johannes replied that years ago the DNR proposed Cass to be catch and release, and muskie anglers fought it. DNR is currently proposing Mississippi River from Blandin Dam (Itasca County) downstream to Coon Rapids Dam be designated catch and release.

"**Why not supplementally stock large natural lakes like Winnie, Ingudona and other Longville lakes?**" Mr. Johannes described an experiment where Little Boy was stocked and

**DNR** continued on page 3



*Left: When was the last time you were this excited? We're talking about that poor Bluegill, who is obviously about to be lunch. Below: Terry Hagstrom, selling Frabill nets. Terry runs the finest annual event for our chapter, the Vet's Home fishing opener.*



*Steve Tooker (owner) and John Olson at the Loe's Resort booth. Loe's, up on Leech Lake, is a home away from home for many of our members.*



*Far left: Our booth featured a great Muskie mount (replica!) and a fine magazine cover collage put together by Greg Ide. Really nice looking booth. Left: Brent Fox and fiancée Beth, who worked the chapter booth, are getting married in April.*



*Above: Mike (left) and Ross Bartlett from Red Wing Lodge. They're one of the nicest resorts in Canada and great friends of Muskies Inc. Left: George Wahl, the guiding light behind the Muskie Expo, with daughter Julie supervising the welcome table.*



**DNR** continued from page 2

Wabedo was studied as the control lake. Fish were tagged, stocked into Little Boy, and assessed three years later. Unfortunately, few tagged fish were found so the experiment to supplement the natural lake with stocked fish was deemed a failure.

***“But, look at the successful supplemental stocking of Big Lake and Mille Lacs Lake, also lakes with low native populations?”*** Mr.

Johannes responded that there are habitat issues on Longville area lakes that make them dissimilar to Big and Mille Lacs, and that Longville lakes currently have a fishable muskie population. *(IT IS MY OPINION THAT WE FISHERMEN OFTEN FEEL STOCKING IS THE SOLUTION TO EVERY PROBLEM. THE DNR LOOKS CAREFULLY AT THE “FISHABLE POPULATION” FISHERMEN ON WINNIE WON OUR 2004 FRANK SCHNEIDER INTERNATIONAL FISHING CONTEST. IF WINNIE DID NOT HAVE A FISHABLE POPULATION, WHY WOULD A CONTESTANT CHOOSE TO FISH IT IN A CONTEST SITUATION? IT INDICATES, FOR A KNOWLEDGABLE FISHERMAN, WINNIE IS A GOOD CHOICE, EVEN UNDER THE PRESSURE OF A COMPETITIVE SITUATION. INGUADONA, LITTLE BOY AND THE OTHER LONGVILLE LAKES ALSO RECEIVE LOTS OF PRESSURE DURING THE TOURNAMENT, INDICATING TO THE DNR THESE LAKES HAVE ENOUGH FISH TO WARRANT PRESSURE DURING A TOURNAMENT. IN A MULTI-LAKE TOURNAMENT, ANGLER PERCEPTION CAN BE LEARNED BY THE RELATIVE PRESSURE EACH LAKE RECEIVES. CATCH RATE AND SIZE IN THE TOURNAMENT ARE ANOTHER MEASURES OF EACH LAKE'S PRODUCTIVITY. AND, YOU THOUGHT THE DNR DID NOT LEARN ANYTHING FROM TOURNAMENTS!!!)*

Mr. Younk then described a telemetry technique first tested by Rod Pierce (DNR fisheries biologist-Grand Rapids) in which a transmitter was inserted into the oviduct of female northern pike. Mr. Younk tested the same procedure with Muskellunge in Elk Lake. The transmitter is expelled at spawning to allow the DNR to find sensitive spawning areas without the expensive and time-consuming telemetry that was used in the past. This tool gives the DNR data that can be used for habitat protection.

**DNR** continued on page 6

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.  
 Meeting for April 11 will be held at Oak  
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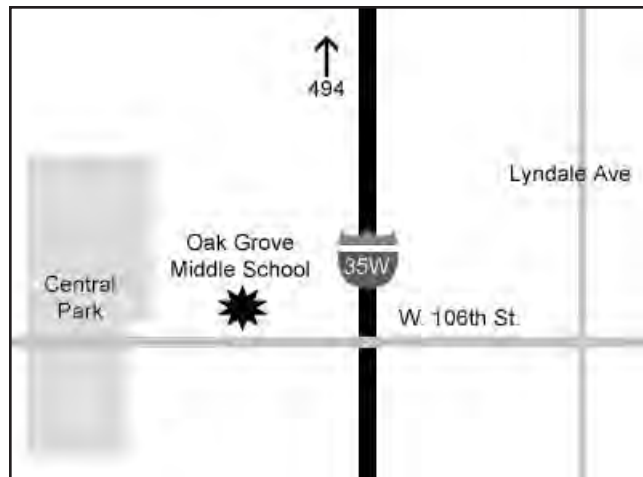
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**Poolside Meeting – Oak Grove Middle School**



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**Muskie Tale**

*Dick Chapman submitted this entry for last year's Muskie Tale Award. Since it didn't happen during the last year, it was ineligible, but we thought it was a pretty good story anyway.*

I fished muskies one day with a legendary bar owner on Wisconsin's Chippewa Flowage. His name was Dan McGrew and he operated the Chippeflo Inn just outside Hayward on the East fork of the Chippewa River. We nicknamed him Dangerous Dan McGrew.

I have a wooden lag. Dangerous Dan didn't know that.

In the course of the day, I hooked a small muskie, barely legal size, and wanted to release him quickly to avoid damage. Well, the rascal was too lively and thrashed around enough to embed the hooks of the lure into my artificial leg – right through my denim jeans. I quickly grabbed some nearby pliers, freed the lure from my leg and from the fish and got him back into the water. Then I continued casting with the same lure.

Later that night as Dangerous Dan tended his own bar, I played some miniature pool with some buddies.

He turned to my Muskies Inc. pal Bud Meier, pointed at me and said, "That's the toughest son-of-a-bitch I ever saw!" Bud said, "Why's that?" Dan said, "Takes hooks out of his leg with a pair of pliers." We never let Dan forget it.

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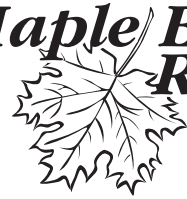
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DNR continued from page 3

*“What can be done to alleviate the danger to muskies if angled in hot weather. People fish for muskies in 80 degree water in Indiana.”* Mr. Younk described “checks” on the growth rings of scales of Waconia fish and no such “checks” on the Grace Lake fish when they were studied. Waconia, being much more southern and warmer than Grace, had fish that probably were responding to peak

water temperatures, which could result in interruption of growth for a short period of time in the summer, so no growth occurred. During warm water periods of the year, careful handling of fish is important.

*“Why not issue a muskie stamp to get monies for the program?”* Mr. Johannes said stamp programs for lesser species like muskie cost too much to administer, thus not enough money is received to justify the stamp. A Lake Superior stamp is currently

being proposed by Lake Superior interests, and almost all of the expected revenue would go to administration.


The meeting ended on a high note. Mr. Johannes described how some natural reproduction in MilleLacs has reduced stocking requirements from 5000 fish per year to 3000 fish every other year. Mr. Younk described the netting of a 57-incher on Lake Bemidji in 1998, the largest muskie the DNR has netted so far. He mentioned the DNR trap net data for the 27 lakes for which he had the most current netting data showed at least one 48-inch muskie trapped in every lake, and at least one 50-inch muskie in 57% of the lakes. Then, an angler gave the DNR an accolade by pronouncing that “muskie anglers will never be satisfied”. That, 10 years ago we were happy to see a 42-inch fish, now we expect to catch a 50-inch fish. If ten years from now the standard fish is 55 inches, muskie anglers will still not be satisfied. (Applause followed this statement.)

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*A big thank you to all the manufacturers, retailers and resorts that have helped the Twin Cities chapter in the past year by donating merchandise and trips used for incentives and prizes for our fundraising events as well as the prizes for the Winter Picnic and the welcome table at each meeting.*

*Please make every effort to support these sponsors so they have an incentive to keep on supporting us. Without them this chapter could not do what it does for the resource and its members.*

*If you're looking for a new bait, keep in mind that manufacturers of some of the most productive baits ever designed are among our sponsors. And remember to buy them from sponsoring retailers. If you want a muskie trip this season, keep the sponsoring resorts in mind.*

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## next meeting

### APRIL 11 POOLSIDE DEMO AND MANUFACTURERS NIGHT

*Show up at Oak Grove Middle School in Bloomington for a demonstration from Thorne Bros. of the newest muskie lures. Manufacturers representatives will also be on hand to show their latest wares.*

DIRECTION TO POOL FOUND ON  
PAGE 4.



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