



On the Water

Volume 9, Issue 8

AUGUST 2006

2006 Muskie Tournament

Our chapter's 39th Annual Frank Schneider, Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament will take place September 8, 9, and 10. Twenty-one lakes in the Walker-Bemidji-Cass-Winnie-Longville areas will be open to fishing. The Grand Prize this year is a Ranger 618T Fisherman, with a 90 hp Mercury motor. Any contestant who registers a muskie of any size during the tournament is eligible for the grand prize drawing held at the Sunday Banquet and Awards Ceremony in Walker City Park. The Sunday event also includes a great burger and brat meal, door prizes for all contestants, and a tournament-only raffle.

Tickets will go on sale August 1st and are the same price as last year. Individual adult tickets are \$70.00, juniors \$30.00. You can purchase them in person at Thorne Bros. and Joe's Sporting Goods in the Twin Cities or at Reed's in Walker and Baxter/Brainerd and at Jerry's One Stop in Longville. You can also purchase them on line at: www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org (click on tournament), our chapter web site.

Ticket pre-sales will close on Labor Day, September 4, but will open again at Reed's in Walker and Jerry's One Stop in Longville on Thursday, September 7. NO tickets will be sold after 9:00 pm on Thursday.

You do not have to be part of a "team" to fish the tournament. There are no judge boats. However, every fish entered must be witnessed. The witness must sign the registration form, and a picture (film or polaroid) is required for verification.

Prizes are awarded on a point system similar to our Members Only contest and include rods and reels, fishing tackle, and a ton of other fishing stuff. First place winner will receive a trip to Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods. Prizes are given to the top 10 adult anglers and the top three juniors. Top prizes also include stays at Huddle's Resort, Spirit of the North Resort, and New Leech Lake Campground on Leech Lake; Sunset Cove Resort and Sah-Kah-Tay Resort on Cass Lake; Vermilion Dam Lodge on Lake Vermilion; or Pine Beach Resort on Lake Garfield. The person who enters the biggest fish will get a graphite replica of the fish made by FiberTech Reproductions.

The Mary Villnow Memorial Award, a total of \$1000 cash, will be awarded to the top three female anglers – including juniors – registering a fish. Mary's husband, Paul, created this award not only to honor his wife who was an avid muskie angler, but also to encourage female anglers in the sport of muskie fishing.

TOURNAMENT *continued on page 4*



PROJECT AND REARING FUND RAFFLE Chairperson John Newman (left) displays the winning ticket after the raffle drawing held at our chapter meeting on July 11. The raffle ticket for the first prize boat, motor, and trailer was held by Greg Pirritano (right). More raffle information on page 2.

IMPORTANT: If you did not sell all your tickets for the project and fund raising raffle effort, **ALL UNSOLD TICKETS MUST BE RETURNED.** Minnesota State Law requires that each non-sold ticket is returned and accounted for.

MAIL ALL UNSOLD TICKETS to: John Newman, 1031 S Howell Street, St. Paul, MN 55116. Thanks for your help.

DON'T FORGET
THE AUGUST 8 MEETING WILL BE
OUR ANNUAL POT LUCK SUMMER
PICNIC AT MINNEHAHA FALLS PARK.

Burgers, brats, buns and pop will be provided. Everyone should bring a dish to share. This is an enjoyable night for the whole family, so bring the kids. Everyone is invited to share fishing stories, some great fishing spots and good fun. If you have questions, call Shawn Kellett at 952-380-1218.

From Our President SHAWN KELLETT

I hope everyone's season is going well. I know that I've had to get creative getting out on the water since the new addition to our family arrived. I see many muskie anglers who get VERY tied up into fishing and forget what really matters in life. Do yourselves a favor since water temps in many waters are getting questionable for safe releases, take the kids/wife/girl-friend out in the boat and spend the day. Wet a line, take a cruise or explore new water.

We all need to give John Newman and his crew a BIG THANK YOU for their efforts putting on the stocking and rearing raffle this year. The money we netted will be used to improve our muskie fishery. John is looking for people to support this fundraiser (and maybe run it) in 2007. I challenge our members who've been around for a while and haven't been on a committee yet to consider being a part of this event next year. All our profits from this event go to stocking and rearing project so you're really only helping yourself by getting involved.

I want to pass on some praise we got from a visitor at our July meeting. This person lives in a different state and decided to come to a meeting to kill some time. He

was VERY impressed with how friendly everyone was and he even joked around about leaving his local chapter to join ours. This speaks to the heart of one of the stereotypes that MI carries: we just aren't approachable and that we're very secretive. I know I felt that way years ago and even left MI on two different occasions because of it. I'd like to think our club is now more open to our new members, but it takes everyone's contribution EVERY meeting to keep that warm, welcoming atmosphere alive. I realize everyone has their friends in the club (me included), but when you get a chance, try to include the new guys/gals in your conversation or welcome them to your table for a beer or whatever. New blood is needed in every organization to keep it fresh and fun. If we can keep our new members interested in the club during those critical first six months, statistics say that we'll keep that member long-term.

On that note, I want to explore an idea I heard another chapter was doing. As some of you know, I FINALLY got my name drawn for a city dock in Excelsior (Lake Minnetonka). We have a pontoon moored out there now (of course I have GPS, rod holders and planer boards). I'd like to get some feedback

from of our new members about having a "newbie day" on the lake. I'm thinking that I'd get some help from our other members and take some of the new guys out. Many of our new members have some basic questions about Lake Minnetonka and muskie fishing in general that they may not feel comfortable asking at a meeting. I also think this will create new friendships in the club resulting in a better Twin Cities chapter. If you're interested in participating or have ideas about this event, drop me a line at windgods@msn.com or call me at 952-380-1218.

Lastly, I just want everyone to take special care while fishing during the hot months. I know everyone has their own opinion of how hot is too hot for a successful release. Just try to keep those fish out of the water an even shorter time than you normally would, or just take water release pics. People will still be impressed with the fish and most experienced people will respect you more for keeping the fish in the water in those circumstances. Remember, most of the fish we all catch have been released by someone else and hopefully the fish we release will be caught again.

Stay cool!

Project and Rearing Fund Raffle Update

from Bob Culbertson, Raffle Co-chair

The 2006 Project and Rearing Fund Raffle has officially ended. Through the efforts of our membership we sold \$18,700 worth of tickets! After we paid for the boat and other expenses associated with running the raffle, we have about \$8,500 to spend on muskie rearing projects.

Who were the winners, you ask? 1st Prize - Triton Boat, Motor and Trailer was won by Greg Pirritano; 2nd Prize - \$300 Thorne Bros. Certificate was won by James Randall; 3rd Prize - \$150 Joe's Gift Certificate was won by Adam Walsh; and the 4th Prize - MinnKota Trolling Motor was won by Mark Fitch.

With any effort this large there are many people that

need to be thanked. It starts with the membership. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to sell tickets especially our top sellers. Our top six ticket sellers brought in \$4,450. If you have the chance, we all need to extend a special thanks to the following; Pete Randall, Adam Walsh, Joe DeMars, Jeff Stevenson, the team of Stu McIntosh & Dianne Dahl, and Matt Olson.

We also need to thank our generous sponsors. This group has stepped up on behalf of the Twin Cities Chapter for several years. Our Ticket Sponsors are Frankie's Live Bait and Marine, Thorne Bros., and Joe's Sporting Goods. We also

RAFFLE continued on page 5

Members Only Contest

from Pete Randall, Contest chair

I am new at this and really didn't get any guidance when I took on this task! No worries, we're getting the hang of it!!

As of July 25th at 12:00 pm 120 fish have been caught and reported.

O.K. first will be Lunker of the month. I believe they need to be 45" or more to qualify. Well, no problem there:

LUNKER OF THE MONTH:

MAY – no entry greater than 45"

JUNE – unofficial – Brant Bunney – 51.5 – Waconia – June 16

JULY – unofficial – Adam Walsh – 55.5 x 26.0 – Lake Of The Woods – July 3

Man, what a fish!! Adam has tied with David Nicolai for the longest reported length for the Twin Cities Chapter, but if you factor in the weight – biggest fish ever caught in our chapter!!! Way to go. Ya, I've fished with him...

Like I said, I am new at this. So I do not know yet how to distinguish if a person is in the Masters division, Men's division and Junior's division. But, I will!! As for now, just so you all can see the standings, all men will be in the Men's division and all women will be in the Women's division. Juniors, sorry.

MEN'S DIVISION:

1ST PLACE – Joe Mellot – 11 fish – 193 points

2ND PLACE – Adam J. Greengard – 11 fish – 166 points

3RD PLACE – Dean A. Roll – 10 fish – 160 points

4TH PLACE – Jeremy M. Knutson – 7 fish – 123 points

5TH PLACE – Brant Bunney – 6 fish – 110 points

6TH PLACE – Adam Walsh – 7 fish – 105 points

7TH PLACE – Chad Hagel – 7 fish – 99 points

8TH PLACE – Phil Groth – 9 fish – 87 points

9TH PLACE – Jim Doyle – 4 fish – 70 points

10TH PLACE – Bob Culbertson – 6 fish – 63 points

WOMEN'S DIVISION:

1ST PLACE – Linda Knutson – 1 fish – 10 points

2ND PLACE – Cindy Hegdahl 1 fish – 9 points

After I talk to past chairperson, Elaine Randolph, a little bit more in depth and I figure out how to tell if a person is in one division from the other, I will update this information on the chapter website. Heck, if I want to know if the fish was a true muskie, or a hybrid I need to look at every entry that comes through... There has got to be a better way??

So yes, no hybrid division standings yet either!!

If you have any information, or input or spot any errors please email prandall@charter.net or call me at 952-201-5000.

Thanks for everyone's patience.

this 'n that

Volunteers Needed

KTIS, 98.5 FM, is hosting a kids FISH-A-THON this summer. Area kids are collecting pledges for fishing and the money they raise is for inner city ministries. Much has been done already, but help is needed for a couple things.

First. Gander Mountain and others have been collecting used fishing rods/reels that need to be refurbished. These will be donated to inner city youth at some area events. Help is needed in refurbishing a few HUNDRED outfits.

Second. They could use a few more people with boats for the last event, which is taking kids fishing on White Bear Lake on August 26th.

If anyone can donate a couple hours for rods/reels or if you are interested in taking kids out on WBL please call Brent Fox at 651-491-0101. We will have a MI banner and as a bonus can maybe even get some kids interested in Muskies! Please call ASAP and thanks for any help!

Chapter Trips

There are spaces available for both Chapter trips this remaining this year. If you can take the time, join other chapter members for some great fishing and camaraderie.

RED WING LODGE, LOW

The annual North Metro/Twin Cities Chapter combined trip to Red Wing

Lodge on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods will be the week of August 19-26 (full moon). Cost is only \$200/person and includes a Housekeeping cabin, free dockage and bag of ice a day, and dinner with door prizes one night courtesy of the Bartletts. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required. For information or for reservations, call Mark Chatelle, North Metro Chapter (612-275-1189).

VERMILION DAM LODGE

An outing on Lake Vermilion October 13-15 at Vermilion Dam Lodge is also planned. If you would like to join other chapter members for a weekend of great fishing and fun, contact Joe DeMars (612-861-8930).

TOURNAMENT *from page 1*

Abu-Garcia and Lindy-M/G-

Beckman are each giving bonus awards of up to \$1000 for top muskies caught using their products. Details will be in each tournament packet.

Even if you don't make it to the top 10 places, you will still have a chance to win some great prizes in the the Tournament-Only Raffle. Tickets will be on sale only at the tournament and only 1000 tickets will be sold. First prize is a trip to Trail's End Lodge,

Clearwater/Pipestone chain in Ontario. Other prizes include a MinnKota trolling motor, MarCum Technologies fish finder, underwater viewing system, full-day Leech Lake guide trip with Dan Craven, Basin bait, Big Woody bait, Phantom lures, TrueGlide baits, and much more.

Participating in the tournament is an excellent way to support our chapter and get in a lot of muskie fishing. We hope to see you there. It is always a great time.

Help Needed at Tournament

The Tournament Committee needs the help of at least 20 more people for the Awards Banquet on Sunday. Call chairpersons Stu McIntosh/Dianne Dahl at 651-699-9817 to volunteer.

Volunteers are needed for:

- Pick up registration forms from registration stations at 10:30 and promptly deliver to Tournament Headquarters (one person for each registration station).
- Help collect and tabulate registration forms at Headquarters
- Set up at Walker City Park
- Set up Leader Board and maintain standings
- Deliver film to be developed and pick up when ready
- Man table selling tournament raffle tickets and merchandise
- Collect drawing stubs for door prize drawing and hand out door prize packets
- Collect and sell meal tickets
- Help keep garbage cans emptied
- Help clean up park at end of day

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#1 On The Water

RAFFLE continued from page 2

need to thank several of our resort sponsors who again have stepped forward for several years to offer a trip to their resort as an incentive prize for our top ticket sellers: Shingwak Resort on Lake of the Woods, Birch Villa Resort on Cass Lake, and Vermilion Dam Lodge on Lake Vermilion. Finally, we need to thank all the other sponsors who provided incentive prizes for this year's raffle; Axle's Restaurant, Bib's Box, Buon Giorno, Carbones Pizza, Chet's Wine and Brewsky, Great American Marine, Moose Country Restaurant, Muskie Barge Co. LLC, Musky Innovations, Parkway Auto Care, and Phantom Lures. Please consider our sponsors when you are making purchase decisions.

Last, but not least, we all need to thank John Newman for his leadership of the Raffle Committee the past two years. Without all of his hard work, it wouldn't happen.

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.

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Upload photos onto the chapter web site, www.twincities-muskiesinc.org and share them with everyone. There are links on how to do this on the first page.

Show off your recent or even old photos of fish you have caught. This can be a lot of fun and you can email the pages to your friends and family.

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On the Water is published monthly for members of the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc.

Copy deadline: 15th of each month

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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

AUGUST 8

SUMMER PICNIC AT MINNEHAHA FALLS PARK

Burgers, brats, buns and pop will be provided. Everyone should bring a dish to share. This is an enjoyable night for the whole family, so bring the kids. Everyone is invited to share fishing stories, some great fishing spots and good fun.



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