



On the Water

Volume 9, Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2006

Working Together For a Better Muskie Fishery

from Shawn Kellett

Last December, the chair of the MMA (Minnesota Muskie Alliance) George Selcke and I meet with Ron Payer and Roy Johannes of the Minnesota DNR. Since Frank Schneider is no longer with us, we thought it prudent to pick up where he left off with the DNR. Our meeting was productive in laying a good foundation to launch a more comprehensive partnership between MI/MMA and the MN DNR. The DNR seemed very interested in working with us to improve and expand the muskie resource. We'll be having additional, in-depth meetings throughout the year to pinpoint action items for both the DNR and MI/MMA to take on. I've included an outline of topics we discussed.

How do we (DNR, MI, MMA) take the State Muskie Program to the 'next level'?

- acknowledging the success of the program to date
- ensuring the continuation of this program without compromising quality
- evaluating the present program (e.g., Minnetonka, Mille Lacs, Vermilion)

How can we best support the DNR and its programs?

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Kids Fishing Contest

Contact Shawn Kellett 952-380-1218 or windgods@msn.com with information for entries for the Kids Only Fishing Contest. The contest is open to members children 12 and under who caught fish of almost any species last year. One entry for the entire year must be submitted by February 8.

Join Us for Upcoming Events

Larry Dahlberg to Speak at Next Meeting

Larry Dahlberg of cable television's "Hunt for Big Fish" will be our speaker. Larry has spent years fishing for many species all over the world. One of his latest pursuits is fly-fishing for muskies. Larry is a lively, entertaining speaker. Don't miss this meeting.

Winter Picnic/Awards Banquet February 18

Our chapter's annual Winter Picnic and Awards Banquet is just around the corner. This event will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2006, at the Knights of Columbus Hall (lower level - same place we hold our monthly meetings), 1117 W. 79th St, Bloomington, MN 55420. Games start at 6:00 pm and dinner will be served approximately 7:00 pm. Again this year, there will be a variety of "muskie version" games of chance and raffle packages for everyone to try. Be sure to bring your kids as this is a family event.

All entrants in the Kids Only Contest will be honored, as well as the winners of our chapter's Members Only Contest. The recipients of both the Muskie Award, and the Muskie Tale Award for this year will also be announced.

Anyone who joins us on February 18 will have a GREAT time. Tickets are \$13.00 each and MUST BE RESERVED BY FEBRUARY 8. Contact Patti Slack at 952-808-1469 to reserve your tickets. Hope to see you all there!!!!

Muskie Expo March 10, 11, 12

Make plans now to attend the Muskie Expo March 10, 11 & 12 at the National Sports Center in Blaine. This three-day event is devoted exclusively to the muskie and muskie fishing. The Expo is open from 2 to 9 pm Friday, Saturday from 10 to 7, and on Sunday from 10 to 4.

Muskie-related exhibitors including lure manufacturers, guides, resorts, and retailers and boat dealers with show specials will be represented at the Expo. All three days will feature seminars by top muskie pros Steve Heiting, Jim Saric, Bruce Shumway, Dick Pearson, Lance Christensen, Don Pursch, Rich Reinert and Larry Ramsell. There will be a large "Kids Midway" area with games and prizes for kids sponsored by Edina Realty, with all proceeds going to Hospitality House and Teen Challenge. Kids 12 and under are free, so bring the whole family. Adult entry for the Expo is \$9, a three-day pass is \$15.

From Our President

SHAWN KELLETT

Is it summer yet??? I don't know about any of you, but I'm working on my "Honey-Do" list like there's no tomorrow. I don't want anything hanging over my head when the season starts. I'm sure the fact that we'll have a new-born around fishing open won't affect my water time much. All they do is sleep right???

For those of you who haven't gotten your winter picnic tickets, you'd better call Patti Slack at 952-808-1469 and reserve your tickets. We've got prizes galore to be won, awards to be awarded and fishing stories to tell. Don't miss it!

We're going to be needing help working at the booth selling raffle tickets for our stocking and rearing raffle. Frankie's Live Bait and Marine has gone to bat for us and is letting us sell tickets out of his area in the local boat and sports shows. There's no way that we could have gotten into these arenas without his help. I ask that you volunteer some time to help staff when we are represented. I also ask that you tell Frankie you appreciate what he's doing for the club. He's got some pretty nice deals on some boats over there too. I've got my eye on one myself. Newborns don't cost much do they? All they do is sleep right?

Our club will be holding a poolside event this year. Brad Coyne, Mike McGrath and Troy Zuelke are working on nailing down a date for this event. Information should be available by the next general meeting and will be published in the next newsletter. The event will be especially cool, because you'll have the opportunity to purchase many of the items right there! Stay tuned for all the details.

Think spring!!!!

Members Only Contest Winners

Winners of the chapter's Members Only Contest will be announced at the Awards Banquet on February 18. Come to the Winter Picnic and learn the final results.

Better Fishery *continued from page 1*

What do we (MI/MMA) want?

- continuous communication (both good and bad)
- periodic evaluations via reports
- accountability of private hatchery
- reallocation of budget to reflect the increase in muskie fishing participation
- feasibility of new lakes (designated trophy muskie lakes)
- possible opening of Tiger Muskies to Walleye/Northern Opener?
- listen to DNR field personnel
- a designated State Muskie Program manager (ownership)
- increased research
- involvement with purchasing/maintaining equipment (private funding)
- timely activities (know schedules)
- protection of existing programs
- enforcement of good practices
- important Legislators / Committee persons to DNR

Right now the DNR is working on two lists of action items MI/MMA can act on. One will be something we can do short term, year-to-year. This could include hatchery capital improvements, muskie identification awareness, regulation changes, or other one-time projects.

The second list will be a list of tasks that are more long-term in nature. Some examples in this could be efforts like Paul Hartman's Minnesota Muskie tournaments rearing pond, increasing the range of muskies, or muskie-related research.

Once the DNR can assess their needs and pass it along, we can work with other MI chapters to put a game plan together where we can all work together for the common goal of better muskie fishing in Minnesota. By tackling muskie-related issues as a group, I believe we can best improve our muskie resource. This way each chapter can use its strengths, be it manpower or financial, to work towards a common goal without potential redundancies from other chapters. This is going to be a process, so we're going to ask for your support and patience. I will publish updates as to our progress as they become available.

Red Wing Lodge Outing

Every year people from the North Metro Chapter and Twin Cities Chapter head up to lake of the Woods together for a week of great fishing and fun! It happens at Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay during the week of August 19-26. (It is a Full Moon up there this year that week!)

There has been a group of people going for the past ten years and new people join them every year. Is this your year to join them? Take a break from Minnesota's pressured waters and heavy boat traffic. It's a great opportunity to fish the world's premier Muskie water at a reasonable price.

Cost is only \$200 per person and it gets you a Housekeeping cabin, free dockage and bag of ice a day, dinner one night courtesy of the Bartlett's. There will be door prizes on that evening. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required. For information or for reservations, call Mark Chatelle, North Metro Chapter, at (612) 275-1189.

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Volunteer to Help at the International Board Meeting

The Twin Cities Chapter will be hosting the Muskies Inc. International Board Meeting scheduled for April 2006. The committee needs scores volunteers to help with the logistics of putting on an event of this size. Please contact committee chairpersons Greg and Elaine Randolph 651-452-1209 to volunteer.

Bring Your Sales Receipts to Meetings

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.

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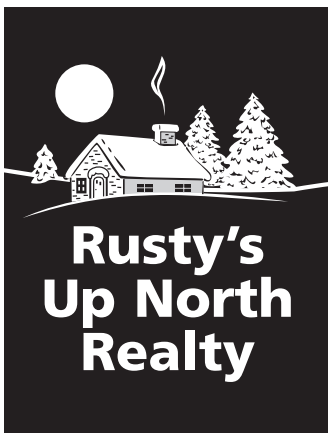
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On the Water is published monthly for members of the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc.

Copy deadline: 15th of each month

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Thank Our Sponsors

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

FEBRUARY 14
LARRY DAHLBERG

*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-
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