



On the Water

Volume 9, Issue 3

MARCH 2006



Twelve-year-old Alec Spurbeck caught and released the longest fish by any member of our chapter this year. He was honored at the Winter Picnic/Awards Banquet on February 18. Following tradition, the chapter gave Alec a graphite replica of his 52.5-inch fish.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Members Only Contest

from Elaine Randolph, Outgoing Members Only Contest Chairperson

The winners of our chapter's Members Only Contest were honored at the annual Winter Picnic/Awards Banquet held on Saturday, February 18. Winners were honored with plaques and the rest of the attendees got to hear some great fish stories from the honorees. We've included not only the top winners in each category, but also some details and information about the catches and big fish that earned these people their honors.

LONGEST RELEASE OF THE YEAR

The longest fish turned in by any member of our chapter this year was caught by twelve-year-old Alec Spurbeck. The 52.5 inch fish was his first-ever muskie. The muskie was caught on July 24, 2005 from Lake Mille Lacs. The fish also earned Alec a plaque for July Release of the Month and for third place in the Juniors Division.

Some details about this fish from the release form: The fish was caught about 4:00 in the afternoon on a Salmo perch crank bait. The winds were calm and the skies sunny. The lake depth was 10 feet and the fish depth was 3 feet.

continued on page 3

Muskie Expo

Don't forget the Muskie Expo March 10, 11 & 12 at the National Sports Center in Blaine. 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, retailers and boat dealers with show specials will be represented at the Expo. Kids 12 and under are free, so bring the whole family. Adult entry for the Expo is \$9, a three-day pass is \$15.

**[www.twincities
muskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org)**

Our chapter website has recently been redesigned by Joe Mellot and Mike McGrath. In the near future the site will have a lot more content up including tons of photos from the 2004 and 2005 Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament, and chapter activities and projects such as rearing and stocking projects, Capable Partners Outing and Veteran's Home Opener. There is also a calendar of meetings and chapter events, and chapter board member information.

A message board has also been added so that members can communicate with each other. Maybe you have a rod, reel or bait you are looking for or would like to sell or trade. Even better, maybe you have an open seat in your boat and would like someone to man the net for your next 50-incher. This would be a great way to meet other members, share the water and learn.

A big thank you to Joe and Mike for taking on this project. They are always looking for input so if you have comments, questions or suggestions please email them at www@twincitiesmuskiesinc.org.

International Awards Banquet and Fundraiser

Elaine and Greg Randolph

Our Muskies Inc. organization is celebrating its 40th year of existence in 2006. The Twin Cities Chapter is the host for one of the biggest events of the year. The MI International Board Meeting and Awards Banquet will be held March 31 and April 1, 2006 at the Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Hotel in Bloomington. MI members from all over the country will be here to attend.

Your help is desperately needed. First, order your dinner tickets at \$30 each no later than MARCH 20. There is an order form in this newsletter and also in the Muskie, Inc. magazine. They will also be available at the March 14 general membership meeting. If not all dinners are sold, our chapter, as host, will have to pay for them.

Secondly, an event this size cannot happen without lots of bodies. Help is needed from chapter members for almost everything during the two-day event. All commitments are firm commitments. The success of the weekend depends on you showing up for your shift!

Call Greg and Elaine Randolph at 651-452-1209 to sign up for a shift.

HOSPITALITY ROOM

FRIDAY NIGHT, MARCH 31

BARTENDERS – 2 people per shift – Three two-hour shifts are available from 7 pm until 2 am. The duties are very easy; serve standard bar drinks, wine, beer and pop. There will be a jar on the bar for donations so there is no worry about the cost per drink or making change.

NAME TAGS – 2 people per shift – Request (or assist if necessary) everyone wear a nametag consisting of first and last name and chapter association. This will help people renew old friendships or make new friends. Two one-hour shifts are available from 8 pm to 10 pm.

SELL DOOR PRIZE TICKETS – 2 people per shifts – Two two-hour shifts are available from 7 pm until 11 pm. There will be drawings throughout the evening and one must be present to win. The tickets prices are set to make the math very easy – 3 tickets for \$5, 8 tickets for \$10 or 20 tickets for \$20.

HOST/HOSTESS – 2 people per shift – Mingle with the guests. Make sure snacks are available, pick up dirty

dishes/glasses, wipe off tables and remove garbage as needed. Three two-hour shifts are available from 7 pm until 2 am.

SATURDAY NIGHT, APRIL 1

BARTENDERS – 2 people per shift – Two shifts are available from when the hospitality room opens after the banquet until 2 am. The duties are very easy; serve standard bar drinks, wine, beer and pop. There will be a jar on the bar for donations so there is no worry about the cost per drink or making change.

HOST/HOSTESS – Several people are needed to serve Anniversary Cake immediately after the fundraiser. There is no set shift length, but help is needed to pick up dirty dishes/glasses, wipe off tables and remove garbage as needed.

REGISTRATION TABLE

Greet our guests from the Twin Cities Muskies, Inc. table inside the front door of the Hilton Hotel. Everyone attending will receive a Berkley tote bag and a Twin Cities Welcome Envelope containing the weekend

continued

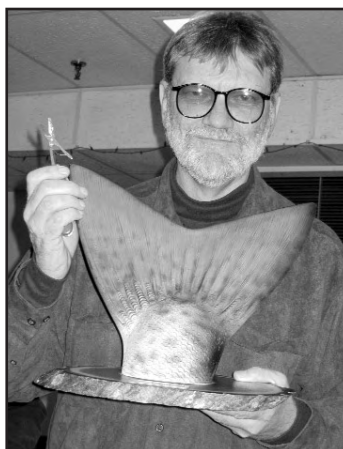
Muskie Tale Award

The first annual Muskie Tale Award, presented by Jim Kroupa to the person who turned in the best story that took place during the past year, was given to former Boy Scout, Greg Ide. If Greg had not been a Boy Scout, hundreds of muskies would have died.

Here is Greg's "Muskie Tale".

Be Prepared. It's the Boy Scout motto. I always carry a Swiss Army knife and a flashlight in my pocket. You never know when you will need them.

On May 21, 2005, I was along with several other volunteers to help seine the Minnesota Muskie Tournament rearing pond to get whatever muskies we had missed in the fall.



All went well until we actually began removing muskie's from the net. Then, to our dismay, it became apparent that the net mesh size was too large and the muskies were gill-netting themselves. "Who has a knife?" the call went out. My knife, the only one present, was passed from person to person, releasing the fish from sure death. Luckily, on one dropped the knife of the result would have been sure death to lots of fish.

But, why did no one else have a pocketknife? Did everyone arrive without pockets? Did no one belong to the Boy Scouts? No airport metal-detectors at that pond. Don't know why no one carries a pocketknife anymore, but in the future – Be Prepared!

schedule, banquet ticket and other materials. There might be an additional envelope containing items for the International Fund Raiser. Two people shifts are available on Friday, March 31 are 10 am - 2 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm and 6 pm - 9 pm. Shifts on Saturday, April 1 are 7 am - 10 am, 10 am - 2 pm and 2 pm until 6 pm.

SELL RAFFLE TICKETS AT THE BANQUET - SATURDAY, APRIL 1

These tickets are for the Twin Cities Chapter raffle, which is a part of the fundraiser to help defray our costs. The winner must be present. The tickets prices are set to make the math very easy – 3 tickets for \$5, 8 tickets for \$10 or 20 tickets for \$20. Sales will start around 5 pm and end when the tickets are drawn. Needed are about 7 outstanding salespeople!

ASSIST WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FUNDRAISER – SATURDAY, APRIL 1

Ken Karbon, Chairman of the International Fundraising Committee, will assign tasks. Typically this includes showing the live auction items to the crowd as the bidding is taking place, assisting the auctioneer with the bidding, and keeping the show moving. There are openings for about 8 people.

LET THE PARTY BEGIN!!!

Work the Chapter Show Booth

Volunteers are needed for the chapter's show booth during the Muskie Expo. Please call Brad Coyne at 763-412-6697 to work at the expo. The total number of volunteers per show is being limited this year because of the high number of those getting in for free. So if you want to see the show for free, call Brad to volunteer to work the chapter booth.

Members Only Contest *continued from page 1*

MASTER'S DIVISION

Past winners of both the Men's and Women's Division fish in the Master's Division for three years after they have won their division.

Eleven people entered 108 fish for a total of 1,511 points in the Master's Division this year. Previous Women's Division winners, Cindy Hegdahl and Lois Harvey accounted for 11 fish and 139 points and 5 fish over 40 inches. David Cotter, Jim Doyle, Mark Fredrick, Brian Hanson, Kurt Hostager, Mark Sewald, Tony Sommerfeld and Chris Swentkofske released a total of 63 fish for 971 points and 5 fish over 50 inches.

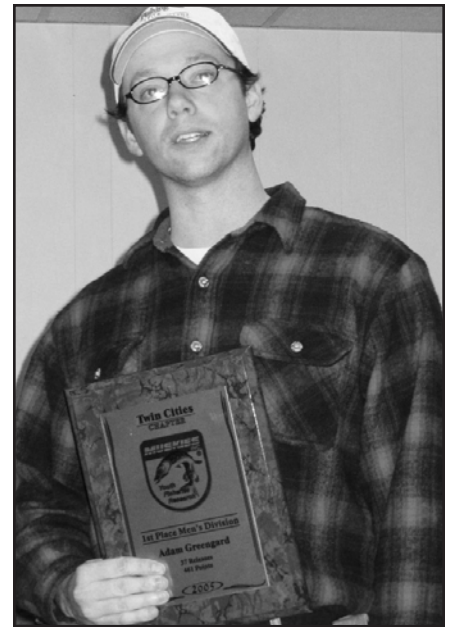
This year's winner, Michael Cookas, released 34 fish; the longest was 46 inches from the Chippewa River in Wisconsin; with an average release length of almost 38 inches and a total of 401 points.

MEN'S DIVISION

Sixty men entered 404 fish for a total of 5,419 points (compared to the 49 men who entered 298 fish for a total of 3,906 point in 2004, the 47 men who entered 280 fish for a total of 3,369 points in 2003 and the 38 men who entered 160 fish for a total of 2,377 points in 2002). The average fish was almost 37 inches. Thirteen muskies were 50 inches or longer and 41 muskies were 45 to 49 inches.

FIRST PLACE: ADAM GREENGARD
38 FISH – 478 POINTS

Starting with a 41 inch release from the St. Croix River on May 30 and ending with a 40 inch release on Lake Harriet on November 30, Adam's average release was just shy of 39 inches. His longest release of the year was a 49-incher on July 5 on Rainy Lake. He also released fish on Calhoun, Nokomis, Cedar, Elk Lake, White Bear, and Vermilion.



Adam Greengard with 38 fish won the Men's Division of the Members Only Contest for 2005. Adam did a lot of his fishing on metro lakes and had much praise for our local fishery,

SECOND PLACE: BOB CULBERTSON
35 FISH – 411 POINTS

Bob is a fish catching machine – in 2001 he placed third with 18 fish and 171 points, in 2002 he placed second with 18 fish and 207 points, in 2003 he placed second with 24 fish and 262 points and last year he placed third with 26 fish and 296 points. One would think that 35 fish and 411 points would or should graduate him to the Master's Division, but, alas, Bob is still the groomsman and not the groom – never having won first place. His longest release was a 46-incher on September 6 on Leech Lake.

THIRD PLACE: DEAN ROLL
22 FISH – 368 POINTS

Dean's first reported catch of the year was a 36-incher on July 9 on Minnetonka and his last reported catches were 3 on October 30 from Lake St. Clair. In fact he had 10 releases in 3 days including a 52-incher that earned him the October Release of the Month. Dean's average fish was over 42 inches.

continued on page 4

Members Only Contest

continued from page 3

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Six women entered 18 fish for a total of 254 points (compared to the 3 women who entered 15 fish for a total of 179 point in 2004, the 8 women who entered 18 fish for a total of 238 points in 2003 and the 3 women who entered 7 fish for a total of 81 points in 2002). The average fish was 40 inches and the longest was Holly Knutson's 47-incher from Bald Eagle on November 13.

FIRST PLACE: CAROLE JANIK

6 FISH – 88 POINTS

Successful lakes for Carole this year included a metro lake or two, Lake of the Woods and Waconia. Her longest release was 46 inches and her average was almost 41 inches. For at least the next 3 years Carole will be joining the other Twin Cities Chapter "pros" in the Master's Division.

SECOND PLACE: AMY ORR

4 FISH – 66 POINTS

With her average release of 43 inches for the year, Amy took the early lead on June 11 with a 40 inch release on Waconia. On August 20 she released a 44 and a 43-incher on Miltona and the final release of the season, another 43-incher, was on Waconia on October 30.

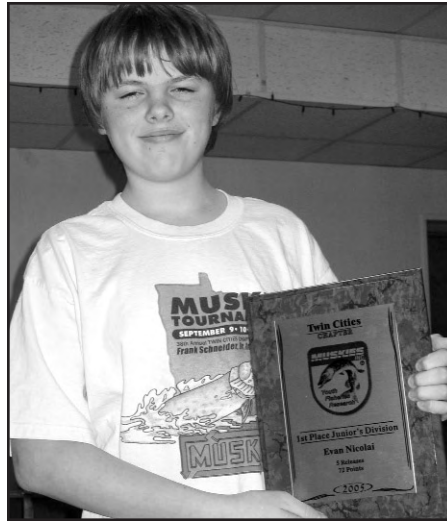
THIRD PLACE: LINDA KNUTSON

3 FISH – 40 POINTS

July 9, August 7, and October 23, were "muskie" days for Linda. Winnipeg River, Baby Lake and Bald Eagle were the bodies of water and 38 inches, 37 inches and 43 inches were the length of the catches. Linda's average was 39 inches.

JUNIOR'S DIVISION

The junior division is not based on ability to catch fish, but rather age – age 17 or less on January 1. Eleven young people released 24 muskies for a total of 275 points – the average muskie was 37.5 inches, the longest was 52.5 inches. Last year 10 juniors



Evan Nicolai won the Junior's Division of the Members Only Contest. He released 5 fish this year, with a 40-inch average.

released 23 fish for a total of 294 points and in 2003, 6 juniors released 11 fish for a total of 164 points.

FIRST PLACE: EVAN NICOLAI

5 FISH – 72 POINTS

And this young man just keeps releasing fish – a 3-year champion! Evan released 2 fish on Leech Lake – a 40-incher on July 15 using a white and silver Viper and a 39.5-incher on August 13 using a silver Slammer. Fishing Cass Lake on July 9, a 37.5-inch muskie hit the black and silver Muskie Candy spinner bait. On June 30, a 39 inch muskie smacked Evan's Phantom on Eagle Lake in Hennepin County. Evan's first entry of the year came on June 23 casting a Phantom on White Bear Lake. This year Evan can boast a 40 inch average.

SECOND PLACE: CODY PAETZEL

7 FISH – 71 POINTS

Cody started his season with a 31 inch release on April 25 from Cave Run, Kentucky followed by a 34-incher on June 25 on Minnetonka. Then in August he released a 33-incher and two 38.5 inch fish on West Okoboji and a 33-incher and a 44-incher on Minnetonka. His season average was 36 inches.

THIRD PLACE: ALEC SPURBECK

1 FISH – 27 POINTS

Details on front page.

JUNIOR'S DIVISION HONORABLE MENTION

SAMANTHA DOEBLER – 3 FISH – 26 POINTS

On August 5, I should have been fishing the St. Louis River with Samantha instead of Leech Lake with my husband because she released a 33 and a 41 inch muskie and I released nothing. She also released a 30-incher on Escanaba Lake in Wisconsin on May 15.

ZACHARY WEYLAND – 1 FISH – 20 POINTS

September 4, Mille Lacs and a black and white Hunter tail was the perfect combination for Zachary. Last year it was a 45-incher and this year the muskie was 46 inches. What an outstanding average.

JAMES HEDENSTEN – 1 FISH – 15 POINTS

It had to be a long year for Jimmy because his release did not happen on opening day as it had the past two years. Finally on October 9 on West Battle Lake a 40.5 inch muskie decided to reward him for a season of hard work.

DALLAS NICOLAI – 1 FISH – 13 POINTS

Last year Lake Inguadona was good to Dallas, so she tried it again this year. July 16 was a lucky day for both Dallas and the 39 inch muskie she released.

MEGAN DOEBLER – 2 FISH – 11 POINTS

Lake Calhoun must be one of Megan's favorite muskie lakes because on July 30 she released a 30-incher and on November 5 she released a 33-incher. Great job for such a young lady.

J.T. DOEBLER – 1 FISH – 10 POINTS

Escanaba Lake in Vilas county Wisconsin is an experimental lake but that didn't stop J.T. from catching a 30-incher on May 16. What a great way to start the season.

ANDREA DOEBLER – 1 FISH – 5 POINTS

June 11 had to be a very special day for Andrea because she went muskie fishing on Cedar Lake and released a 31 inch hybrid. Great job for a great six-year old!

GRAY HOSTAGER – 1 FISH – 5 POINTS
How old were you when you released your first muskie and how long did it take to catch it? Hopefully three-year old Gray will remember his 31-incher released on Mille Lacs on July 30.

RELEASE OF THE MONTH

JUNE: BRENT HIRSCH

52" – WINNIPEG RIVER, ONTARIO

Brent caught this fish on June 29 casting a black Ghost Tail in 12 feet of water. Brent also released 5 other muskies ranging from 31 to 48 inches from June 19 thru June 26 on the Winnipeg River.

JULY: ALEC SPURBECK

52.5" – MILLE LACS, MN

AUGUST: DAVID NICOLAI

51.5" – LEECH LAKE, MN

David was casting a silver Slammer on August 6 when this 51.5 inch muskie hit. The same day he also released a 36 inch muskie.

SEPTEMBER: PATRICK COTTER

51.75" – LEECH LAKE, MN

Casting a silver Grinder into 2 feet of water on September 3 resulted in Patrick catching this fish. Patrick reported 3 other muskie releases this year for an average release of 46 inches.

OCTOBER: DEAN ROLL

52" – LAKE ST. CLAIR, ONTARIO

On October 27, Dean was trolling his brown and yellow Nils Master in about 10 feet of water when a beautiful 52-incher hit. His 10 Lake St. Clair releases averaged over 44 inches.

NOVEMBER: BRIAN HANSON

50" – MILLE LACS LAKE, MN

Of Brian's reported 12 releases and 236 points, this 50-inch muskie tied as his second longest of the year. Brian released a 51-incher on September 17 and another 50-incher on August 20. Brian's seasonal average was 44 inches.

LONGEST HYBRID RELEASE OF THE YEAR

KURT HOSTAGER – 47" – LAKE ELMO, MN

On June 15, Kurt was casting a perch Grandma into 15 feet when out of the cabbage a beautiful 47 inch hybrid emerged. This was the longest release recorded by Kurt this year. His seasonal average was 39 inches.

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

From Elaine Randolph:

For the past eight years I have had first hand knowledge of over 2,700 muskies that were entered into the Lunge Log, the lakes, the hot lures, the special colors, weather conditions, bottom and structure but none of this information can replace time on the water. Between added responsibilities to my full-time job at the University of Minnesota and my need for more time on the water, I have resigned as the chairperson for the Twin Cities Chapter Members Only contest. Now that the Winter Picnic is over, I can clean all the Members Only materials out of my guest room and hand it over to my replacement, Pete Randall. But more important than cleaning there are two other things that still need to be done. One is to thank my husband Greg for without his help the tabulations would not have been proofread prior to writing the monthly articles. The second is to thank everyone who entered fish over the years that enabled my signoff to remain true —

Reporting all fish, big and small



REGISTRATION FORM

40TH ANNUAL SPRING BOARD MEETING, BANQUET AND FUND RAISER

MARCH 31 –
Hospitality Room
7 pm – 2 am

APRIL 1, 2006
Dinner and Awards
5 pm - till ?

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NORTHWOODS BUFFET DINNER \$30.00 per person – Minnesota Wild Rice Soup, Pan-Fried Walleye, Chicken, etc.

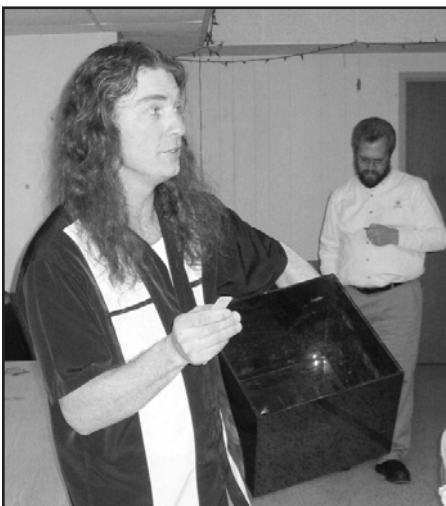
_____ **TICKETS @ \$30 each** _____ **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MUSKIES, INC.**

Mail to: Attn: Greg Randolph, 1039 Wedgewood Lane N, Eagan, MN 55123, Phone: (651) 452-1209

Great Time Had at the Winter Picnic

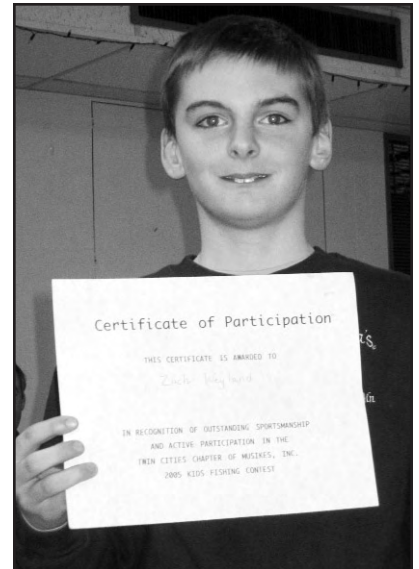
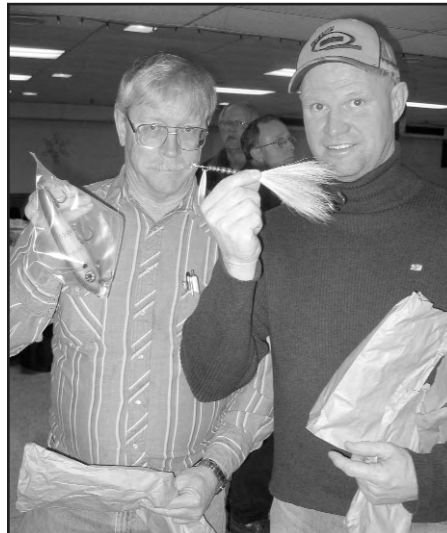
Our chapter's annual Winter Picnic and Awards Banquet was held Saturday, February 18, 2006. Everyone started out the evening playing "muskie version" games of chance and winning lots of great muskie prizes. After a buffet dinner, the winners of our chapter's Members Only Contest were honored. Jim Kroupa presented the first annual Muskie Tale Award to Greg Ide and the chapter's long-standing Muskie Award to Denise Olson. After the awards portion of the evening, a drawing was held for all those who purchased raffle tickets. Tom Bastian called numbers

Right: A couple of happy winners display some of the prizes they won playing the games of chance before the meal. Below: Blackjack was one of the games played for prizes. Bottom: Tom Bastian announced numbers of the winners for the raffle.



for prizes ranging from rods and reels, electronics and other muskie paraphernalia.

A big thank you goes to Patti Slack for all the work she spent planning this evening. All-in-all those who attended had a great time. Join us next year for this event.



KIDS ONLY CONTEST

Zach Weyland was the only child (12 and under) who turned an entry to the chapter's Kids Only Fishing Contest. During 2005 Zach caught at least one of almost every variety of fish found in Minnesota. Zach also caught and released a 46-inch muskie this year which earned him an honorable mention in the Junior's Division.

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tc chapter contacts

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Members Only Contest

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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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Zero Max
Wades Custom Tackle
World of Knives

what's inside

Members Only Contest Results .	1
Muskie Expo	1
Chapter Website	1
International Banquet	1
Muskie Tale Award	2
Winter Picnic	6

next meeting

MARCH 14
DNR REPRESENTATIVES

Minnesota DNR Muskie Rep Roy Johannes and Minnesota DNR Muskie biologist Jerry Yount will discuss the Minnesota muskie program.

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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