



On the Water

Volume 9, Issue 10

OCTOBER 2006

Chapter's 2006 Muskie Tournament a Success

The 39th Annual Frank Schneider, Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament has come and gone. What a great time the tournament was this year. David Nicolai came up with the winning fish – a 53-incher (the biggest fish registered in the tournament), a 50-incher, and a 43-incher – all coming from Leech. The Grand Prize, a Ranger 618T Fisherman, with a 90 hp Mercury motor, was won by Brian Hanson. Every contestant who registered a muskie 40 inches or longer during the tournament had their name included in the grand prize drawing. Brian's 44-incher put him well down the list by points, but got his name in the drawing for the Grand Prize boat.

Over 620 anglers participated during the three-day weekend in September, fishing 21 lakes in the Walker-Bemidji-Cass-Winnie-Longville area in northern Minnesota. A total of 106 muskies and one northern were registered over the three days. Places were determined by a point system similar to our Members Only contest. The top seven anglers all registered three fish and it took at least two fish to be in the top twelve. Nine muskies over 50 inches were caught, including another 53-incher, also from Leech, caught by Lyle Fisk. According to the tournament rules, because David's fish was registered first, he earned the first place.



David Nicolai came in first place during the chapter's 39th Annual Frank Schneider, Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament with three muskies, a 53-, a 50- and a 42.5-incher from Leech Lake.

Not surprisingly, the most fish – 43 – came from Leech Lake. What was surprising – although maybe not to those who were fishing – was that Big Lake produced the second-highest number of muskies at 23. Cass Lake was third with 20 muskies.

A \$3,000 check from our chapter was presented to representatives of the Minnesota DNR at the Awards Ceremony on Sunday at Walker City Park. The money is designated to be used for the muskie resource by this tournament.

Abu Garcia awarded bonuses in the form of certificates for Abu Garcia products to the three longest fish caught using an Abu Garcia reel. They were won by David Nicolai (\$500) and Lyle Fisk (\$200) each with 53-inch fish, and by Loren Flom (\$100) for his 51.5-inch fish. The three were also presented Pen Fin Saver nets from

Beckman for having the three biggest fish.

David Nicolai also won a Frabill Big Kahuna net from Frabill for the biggest fish. Because he caught that fish using an M/G spinnerbait, Lindy-Little Joe also awarded him a \$500 product bonus. And, he will receive a replica of his big fish created by Fiber Tech Reproductions in Nisswa.

The top ten places in the release division won a Fenwick rod, Abu Garcia reel, Plano tackle box, Frabill net, Cortland line and assorted muskie lures.

The winner of the northern division won the same prizes except the rod was a Professional Edge Series Custom rod. The top four winners in the release division, the juniors and the northern winner all received fishing vacations to Canadian and northern Minnesota resorts: Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods; Spirit of the North Resort, Huddle's Resort, and New Leech Lake Campground on Leech Lake; or Pine Beach Resort on Lake Garfield.

Of the 22 juniors who entered the tournament, four registered fish. Steve Smith came in first with two fish, a 40.5-incher and a 41-incher caught on Big Lake. The biggest fish turned in by a Junior was Rick Flom's 45-incher. Bryce Bonham and Mark Smith also registered fish. They all received the same merchandise prizes as the release

TOURNAMENT *continued on page 5*

From Our President SHAWN KELLETT

39 years of the Frank Schneider tournament are in the books and we're looking at the big 4-0 for next year. I'd like to thank everyone who helped organize and pull off the tournament and largest fundraiser. And – big thanks to all of you who participated in the event.

This is our chapter's largest fundraiser and it's imperative that we continue to make it a success. Tournament directors Stu and Diane have this tournament dialed in and are running very well, but we need some additional membership support to it pull off for next year. The committee only meets once a month (the last Tuesday of the month) and not only do we spend time planning the tournament, we have a good

time at the same time. If you'd like to help your chapter (and have some fun in the process) you can contact Stu, Diane, or myself and we'll get you set up.

The muskie community in Minnesota needs your help. Voice your support of stocking muskies in Gull Lake and Pokegama to the DNR. I believe we will be successful adding these two dynamic waters, but nothing is a done deal yet.

Our board has been having some strategic planning meetings in order to give better direction for the chapter. One area we've identified for improvement is through our membership committee. We're planning on increasing this committee in order to:

- Increase communication with our new members and make them feel more welcome
- Increase membership in the chapter
- Increase member participation in chapter activities and committees, and
- Better retain our current membership.

We're looking for a few more people to help us with these goals. If everyone could think about it and let us know if you can help we would appreciate it. New blood is the lifeline of every organization and ours is no different.

The cold is coming so stay warm, stay safe and stick a big one!!!

2006 Fish-A-Thon

from Brent Fox

Wow! I had a fun and very rewarding summer helping out with the Fish-A-Thon, sponsored by KTIS, 98.5-FM. For starters, I joined a group at the Maplewood Gander Mtn. store to refurbish used rods and reels that had been collected. We discarded the useless ones (why donate them to begin with? Geez!), oiled or tinkered with the minor stuff, and restrung them with donated line. Yours truly put on at least 20 new rod tips and others wiped and cleaned the gear. All parts, line and cleaning materials were donated. In four hours we had over 175 complete combos. There were two other gatherings and a total of around 400 combos were refurbished.

The Main Event was held August 4th and 5th on Lake Calhoun. Over 400 inner-city youth were given the refurbished rod n' reel combos, taught fishing skills and taken out in boats by volunteers. Volunteers included individuals from both the Twin Cities and North Metro MI chapters. At the dock, a young Tiger Muskie was spotted prowling in the weeds just 15 feet out! A handful of eager kids tried casting to it, but to no avail.

Governor Pawlenty came down for an hour and one lucky kid was selected to meet President Bush during his recent visit here! Most of the kids were brought in by urban pastors working with their neighborhoods to help steer kids away

from gangs and give them the tools and help they need to better their lives. As for fishing – many of these kids need mentors, people who will take them and teach them. There was plenty of food and sunshine for the event and they really had a good time.

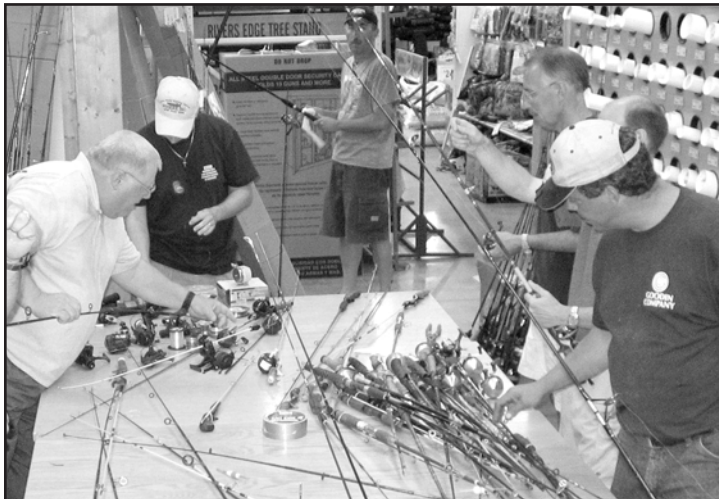
The next event, a tournament on White Bear Lake, was for the kids who were getting sponsors for raising money. Around 120 people participated, including 80 kids and a total of 32 boats with guides. My wife, Beth, and I guided one young man and his dad. We look forward to doing this again next year!

I'll just highlight our 9-year-old pro's day. Connor started out with his own spincast reel. Most of his experience was fishing from docks. After a short while I decided he was ready to advance to spinning gear. I brought enough gear to cover just about anything and I wanted him to have the best chance at catching anything. I gave him a medium-action spinning combo with quality 20# line and a standard 1/2 oz. spinnerbait. We were drifting over a weedbed between the Hwy. 96 boat landing and the rock bar. Connor had just gotten the hang of casting and was putting the lure out about 30 feet or so. Suddenly he had a nice northern jump it! After a short, scrappy fight, it was lost before I could get it in the

FISH-A-THON *continued on page 3*



Brent Fox shows off the 40-inch muskie caught by 9-year-old fisherman Connor, center. Connor and his dad (in back) fished with Brent and his wife Beth as part of the 2006 Fish-A-Thon on White Bear Lake this summer.



Volunteers helped at Gander Mtn. to refurbish donated rods and reels. The refurbished rod n' reel combos were given to inner-city youth during an event at Lake Calhoun.



Governor Pawlenty joined inner-city youth at Lake Calhoun for an event held August 4th and 5th. The kids were given refurbished equipment, taught fishing skills and then taken fishing.

FISH-A-THON *continued from page 2*

net. Might have been 22-24 inches. That was exciting for all of us!

Then, a few minutes later, Connor got a 15 inch northern. Now we know we're onto some action and we've only been on the water about 25 minutes!

The sky was gray and there was a gentle wind at about 9:30 am. "Whoaaa, I think I got one," as I looked up to see his rod bent about double over. For a moment I thought "big weed" then saw the rod pump and knew "BIG FISH!" I quickly grabbed the video camera to record the event and began coaching him. Beth had her arm through the back part of Connor's life jacket to hold onto him while he held onto the rod and fish. There was a disturbance on the water that was clearly a large fish on the end of his line. A moment later Beth, seeing the fish thrash near the surface, thought it was a pike, then exclaimed "No, it's a muskie!"

Connor was wide-eyed and holding on tight. The muskie was making a couple runs while the video changed from my hands to my wife's, then she was handing it to Connor's father so she could keep hold of Connor. Ten feet away the fish cleared about three-quarters out of the water. Connor was visibly shaking and said he could feel his heart pounding! I estimated the fish to be about 42 inches. Connor asked if someone could take the rod. "No way, you can do it, it's your fish!" I coached him. She was a strong, good-looking fish.

After a couple twists and dives she was about ready to take in. You see, at the beginning of the day I told Connor and his father we were probably going to catch a big muskie because I had left the bigger net at home! Anyway... I felt confident I could get a good grip on her and haul her into the boat. On my second attempt I got a good hold, hoisted, and she made it into the boat! There was a chorus of "Oh WOW and HOLY COW!" That young boy held on for a little less than 10 minutes to a fish almost as long as he was tall! I gave him his first "Slimy High 5".

A quick measure and photo op confirmed she was a full 40-1/2 inches! A little short of the 42 I guestimated. Must have shrunk a bit from the fight.

I lowered her into the water and we watched her gracefully swim under the dock, come around and rest on the sandy bottom just off the end of the dock. We watched her for several minutes just resting and breathing freedom before she moved on. Priceless.

The skies cleared and Connor learned a few new things over the next three hours. He did bring in another pike that got him 2nd Place for the pike category. One other muskie was seen or lost by another kid, giving Connor the 1st Place plaque for Largest Fish! I gave him the spinnerbait that he caught it on as well as the video footage! This young man is HOOKED!

Members Only Contest

from Pete Randall, Contest chair

Here we are once again at the end of a great summer and the beginning of the BIG fish season.

I maybe new at this, but I know fall is the season of THE BIG PIGGIES!!

Speaking of big pigs, we have had a total of 12 fish 50 inches or over caught this year so far. There have been three in June, four in July, one in August, and so far four in September. To date, 289 fish have been registered in the Twin Cities Chapter One lunge log. Of that, total six have been registered by juniors, eleven by women and the other 272 by the men. The biggest hybrid caught by our chapter this year was by Curt Hostager with a 38-incher back in July. Only 2 more inches and we would have an entry!

And with that, away we go...

STANDINGS AS OF 9-23-2006

JUNIORS DIVISION:

- 1ST PLACE – Evan Nicolai – 4 fish – 62 points
 - 2ND PLACE – Dane Hostager – 1 fish – 16 points
 - 3RD PLACE – Dallas Nicolai – 1 fish – 12 points
 - 4TH PLACE – James Hedensten – 1 fish – 11 points
 - 5TH PLACE – Thomas Batina – 1 fish – 8 points
- Evan may have this one all but wrapped up, again!!*

WOMENS DIVISION:

- 1ST PLACE – Lois Harvey – 3 fish – 45 points
- 2ND PLACE – Linda Knutson – 3 fish – 31 points
- 3RD PLACE – Amy Orr – 1 fish – 21 points
- 4TH PLACE – Dianne Dahl – 1 fish – 17 points
- 5TH PLACE – Carol Heath – 1 fish – 15 points
- 6TH PLACE – Cindy Hegdahl – 2 fish – 9 points
- 7TH PLACE – Wendy Hedenston – 1 fish – 8 points

8TH PLACE – Christine Rein – 1 fish – 7 points

This race is always tight every month, just keep on chuck'n um!

MENS DIVISION:

- 1ST PLACE – Dean A. Roll – 22 fish – 369 points
- 2ND PLACE – Joe Mellot – 17 fish – 321 points
- 3RD PLACE – Brent Hirsch – 15 fish – 190 points
- 4TH PLACE – Jeremy M. Knutson – 12 fish – 179 points
- 5TH PLACE – Bob Culbertson – 12 fish – 139 points
- 6TH PLACE – David J. Nicolai – 8 fish – 139 points
- 7TH PLACE – Phil Groth – 13 fish – 135 points
- 8TH PLACE – Adam Walsh – 7 fish – 105 points
- 9TH PLACE – Tom Harvey – 9 fish – 103 points
- 10TH PLACE – Chad Hagel – 7 fish – 99 points

If you remember last month's issue, Dean and Joe were going to fish it out for the top spot. Well, Dean, good job... And out of nowhere, Mr. Nicolai makes a charge!!

MASTERS DIVISION:

- 1ST PLACE – Adam J. Greengard – 21 fish – 314 points
 - 2ND PLACE – Tony Sommerfeld – 10 fish – 144 points
 - 3RD PLACE – Brian Hanson – 6 fish – 117 points
 - 4TH PLACE – Jim Doyle – 3 fish – 55 points
 - 5TH PLACE – Kurt Hostager – 6 fish – 27 points
 - 6TH PLACE – Mark Sewald – 1 fish – 19 points
 - 7TH PLACE – David Gustafson – 1 fish – 16 points
 - 8TH PLACE – Mark Fredrick – 1 fish – 7 points
- Ya, I think we will just put Adam down for first place at this point in the game!!*

AND NOW, THE LUNKER OF THE MONTH:

- MAY – official – no entry greater than 45"
- JUNE – official – Brant Bunney – 51.5" Waconia – June 16th
- JULY – official – Adam Walsh – 55.5" x 26 – LOTW – July 3rd
- AUGUST – unofficial – David Gustafson – 51.5" Minnetonka – August 20th
- SEPTEMBER – unofficial – David Nicolai – 53" Leech Lake – September 8th
- Joe Mellot – 53" Minnetonka – September 1st

Looks like thinks are starting to come to a head. The end of the season is a couple of months away now. Get on your winter hats and gloves and let's go fishing!!!

If you need help entering a fish, just ask. Call me at 952-201-5000 or email prandall@charter.net. Or, you may enter a release on the Muskies Inc. web site, www.muskiesinc.org. Or, mail your release forms to:

Peter Randall
6490 158th St W
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Release forms are found on the Muskies Inc. website or I will have them at meetings.

Let's keep on keepin' on, and we'll see you ON THE WATER...

KID'S FISHING CONTEST

Parents – Don't forget to keep track of your child's catches this summer. One entry is turned in at the end of the year. Almost any fish of any kind (except a muskie) can be entered. Muskies caught will be entered in the Junior Division of the Members Only Contest. Everyone who enters the contest will be honored at our chapter Winter Picnic in February.

TOURNAMENT *continued from page 1*

division with trips to Vermilion Dam Lodge on Lake Vermilion; Sah-Kah-Tay Resort and Sunset Cove Resort on Cass Lake; and Little Boy Resort and Campground on Little Boy respectively.

Dona Cornatzer, who registered a 50-inch muskie – the first muskie she had ever caught – was presented the Mary Villnow Award for Female Anglers by Paul Villnow. This award was created in memory of Paul’s wife, Mary, an avid muskie angler who has passed away. Paul’s wants to encourage female anglers with this award. Over 25 females of all ages (two were juniors) fished the tournament and were eligible to receive the Mary Villnow award.

Bob Kubista from Dockside Marine and Snow Pro in Hackensack presented an award to the oldest fisherman in memory of his grandfather. This was the 30th year Bob has fished this tournament and his grandfather got him started. The award, a muskie print, went to Vince Cafaro (79), a member of the Bemidji/Cass Lake MI chapter. Vince quipped that he had been fishing in this tournament for many, many years and it was his age and not a fish he caught that finally got him up on the stage.

And there were more winners all around. Over 200 door prizes – donated by a variety of tackle manufacturers and retailers – were given by draw to all contestants during the festivities on Sunday at Walker City Park. Anyone who witnessed a fish had their name put in for two Lakewood tackle boxes. A tournament-only raffle was also held. For only \$5 raffle ticket purchasers got a chance at a trip to Trail’s End Lodge, Clearwater/Pipestone chain in Ontario; a MinnKota trolling motor; full-day Leech Lake guide trip with Dan Craven; MarCum Technologies fish finder; MarCum Technologies underwater viewing system; Professional Edge Commemorative Custom Diamond Back Rod; Fenwick/Abu Garcia rod and reel combo; Cortland Diamond Back Custom Rod; a big Rapala bait, gift certificates to Joe’s Sporting Goods, stays at Northern Lights Casino and much more!!

Tournament Directors Dianne Dahl and Stu McIntosh and their committee deserve a thank you from the entire chapter for a job well done. Without this tournament, many of the things our chapter does – the Capable Partners and Vet’s Home Opener events, the August picnic – would not happen. Even the printing and mailing of this newsletter is made possible by funds provided because of the tournament.

Remember to thank the tournament sponsors. Without the manufacturers, retailers and resorters who sponsor the tournament it would not be the success it is. the tournament committee especially wants to thank Bob Culbertson for the loan of a laptop used to keep track of the standings.

Next year will be the 40th year that our chapter will be holding this tournament. Please come out and be a part of this great event!



Joe Carlson, Ranger representative, left, and Brian Hanson, in the tournament Grand Prize boat, a Ranger 618 T with 90hp Mercury 4-stroke motor. Brian registered a 44-inch muskie in the tournament that put his name in the drawing for the boat.

Tournament Results

RELEASE DIVISION

	CONTESTANT	FISH LENGTH	POINTS	LAKE
1	Dave Nicolai	53, 50, 42.5	67.5	Leech
2	Loren Flom	40, 47, 51.5	60.5	Big
3	Travis Hultgren	41, 47, 41.5	51.5	Leech
4	Sam Karels	40.5, 44, 44	50.5	Big
5	Duane Hill	40, 42, 45	49	Leech
6	Mark Capouch	45.5, 40.5, 40.5	48.5	Cass
7	Robert Bowman	40.5, 42, 40	44.5	Big
8	Mike Crawford	51, 44	43	Bemidji
9	Nathan Schletz	48.5, 44	40.5	Cass
10	Doug Ackley	50.5, 40.5	39	Big
11	Joe Black	46.5, 43	37.5	Wabedo
12	Mike Lundberg	40.5, 49	37.5	Leech

JUNIOR DIVISION

1	Steve Smith	40.5, 41	29.5	Big
2	Rick Flom	42	19	Big
3	Bryce Bonham	43	17	Leech
4	Mark Smith	40	14	Big

NORTHERN DIVISION

1	Brad Knutson	39	13	Cass
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— this 'n that —

VERMILION DAM LODGE

There are still openings for this chapter outing. Join other chapter members for an outing on Lake Vermilion October 13-15 at Vermilion Dam Lodge. Contact Joe DeMars (612-861-8930).

INPUT SOLICITED BY DNR

The Minnesota DNR is seeking input on a plan to stock muskies in Gull Lake. There will be public input meetings on October 6 at DNR headquarters, 500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul from 8 am to 4:30 pm, and at the Central Lakes College cafeteria in Brainerd. The Gull Lake proposal was developed from input from the Brainerd Lakes MI chapter. Help them out by attending one of the meetings if you can. Or, mail comments through October 16 to DNR Area Fisheries Headquarters, 1601 Minnesota Drive, Brainerd, MN 56401. Or, you can email your support of the

plan to tim.bastrup@dnr.state.mn.us. Do your part to support the Brainerd Lakes Chapter.

MUSKIE TALE

Submit your "unusual fish" stories – you know – the one about the one that got away... the story about how you all went into the water... whatever. Contact Greg Ide, 612-331-5034, with your "Muskie Tale". The person with the best story this year will be awarded the Muskie Tale Award at the chapter Winter Picnic in February.

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS

Upload your photos onto the chapter web site, www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org and share them with everyone. There are links on how to do this on the first page. You can email the pages to your friends and family. New or even old photos can be shared this way.



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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

OCTOBER 10

**SPEAKER:
JASON SUMMERS**

Jason is one of Minnesota's top tournament anglers who uses unique tactics to boat heavily-pressured fish.

Muskies Inc. Twin Cities Chapter General Meetings are held at 7:00 pm the second Tuesday of every month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1114 West 79th Street, Bloomington, MN (just off I-494 & Lyndale Ave.).



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