



On the Water

Volume 10, Issue 6

JUNE 2007

Fishing Opener at the Minnesota Veterans Home 2007

from Juris Ozols

Year eighteen, and we had lunkers! Size? Well, what do Muskie fishermen know about pounds and inches as applied to trout? But no matter that we never did figure exactly out how big they were. A bunch of the trout in the Vet's Home fishpond were as big as any we've ever had, and they got caught!

And the Vets who fished had a blast. Early on the fish were really biting – the Solunar stuff must have been right – and they caught 'em. I don't think it really mattered about the size. Those old warriors just liked being there, wetting a line and pulling the trout out. And every time a fish was caught, the cheers went up around the pond.

This year event organizer Terry Hagstrom had special hats made up that said "I caught a Big One at the Vets Home Fishing Opener". A nice touch for the lucky anglers. But even the medium and small fish made for a lot a joy for all the Vets that yanked them in.

And then of course those fish turned into lunch for the Vets and volunteers. Carol and Denny Heath along with several other volunteers kept mighty busy filleting up the catch. And for the second year now chef Tom Lund worked his new high tech fish fryers, and the trout filets were absolutely superb. (I think Tom might run the only restaurant in the world that has never had a complaint about the food.)

Around midday the Solunar thing went sour, and the fish quit biting. But our many volunteers manned the nets and the fish kept coming. We never got a count, but there must have been over 500 lunches served.

Many of the regulars were on hand. Shirley Peterson from the Vet's Home scurried around continuously keeping things moving. Our friends from the VFW and American Legion, especially the Mendota Vasatka Goers Post 6690, were there helping out. Their support has made this event possible for almost two decades now. A grand bunch of people.

And we had a big crowd of our own Muskie Inc-ers, regulars and newcomers both, baiting hooks, netting fish, filleting, cutting potatoes and onions, frying, serving the meals, doing all of that.

Some vignettes: Jim Kroupa claiming that stirring beans was a rare art form, with very few people capable of doing it properly. Matt Olson frying up potatoes and, for a change, not setting the pan on fire. Larry Proskin cutting up half a bag of onions and not crying a single tear. Brad Coyne all alone at the pond at the end of the day, fishing pole in hand, trying to get that "last one."

A wonderful day.



Residents from the Minnesota Veterans Home enjoyed fishing for trout in the pond set up for their "fishing opener" on May 5. A number of BIG trout were caught as well as enough to serve lunch of freshly-caught fish.

Capable Partners Outing

Share your love for the pursuit of muskies with a fellow outdoorsmen June 10 on Lake Independence at the Baker Park Reserve. We'll be gathering at 6:30 am and fishing until around 1:00 pm. We need 15 boats to take out physically challenged members of Capable Partners. About one-half of the participants will need space for wheelchairs, but any size boat can be matched with one of the partners. You don't have to be an expert angler or familiar with the lake to participate. Organizer Paul Hartman will gladly go over lure selection and the "hot spots" with anyone. A "shore lunch" will end the day and anyone who wants to continue fishing in the afternoon is welcome. Please call Paul Hartman at 763-786-6031 to sign up.



Muskies Inc. Hall of Famer

Congratulations to Juris Ozols who was named to the Muskies Inc. Hall of Fame at the recent Board Meeting and Banquet. Juris has created the last 100 covers for the *Muskie* magazine as well as putting together the MI calendar since 2003. Juris contributed many photos, articles and much else to the magazine including running the Photo Contest for four years. He is currently the Assistant Editor of the magazine.

Members Only Contest

from Pete Randall, Contest Chair

Muskie season opens June 2! If you want to enter a fish in the members only contest, remember to keep good records of all the information required to register a release. A fish must be entered within 30 days of the day it was caught.

You may register a fish on line at www.muskiesinc.org, just follow the directions. If you need a printed form, I will have a couple at the next meeting. If you need any help or have questions you can reach me at 952-201-5000. Thanks, and we will see you ON The Water!!

Project and Rearing Fund Raffle Update

from John Newman, Raffle Chairperson

Unfortunately, I cannot give an upbeat update. Our ticket sales are not coming in like we had hoped. As of May 20th we still haven't sold enough to pay for the boat and break even on our expenses. We are close (about \$9500), however, we have less than 2 months to achieve our goal to provide funds for stocking. The goal of \$15,000 means we have to sell 13,500 tickets for total sales of \$27,000

The good news is that to date, we have issued 14,000 tickets. Theoretically, if everyone sold these tickets we will end up with a \$16,000 profit.

Our raffle committee is continuing to work hard by displaying the boat in various places as well as placing our ticket boxes throughout the Twin Cities metro area. We are a small committee and can only do so much. That is why it is so important that EVERYONE sells their tickets.

Fishing season is here and many people outside our club are enjoying muskie fishing. Let's try and get these people to help us stock fish and

improve the fishing opportunities for everyone.

We have a great muskie fishery in the Twin Cities metro area, thanks in part to the efforts of our chapter and past raffles. Help stock more muskies. Every \$20 book of tickets you sell will purchase ONE muskie for stocking.

The club has already stocked \$2500 worth of muskies in Minnetonka this spring and we plan to do more stocking throughout the year. We are limited, however, by the dollars that we raise from our stocking raffle. So its up to each of you...

How many fish do you want to stock? I have thousands of tickets still available. Please call me at 651-699-8676 and request more tickets! Together we can reach our goal and maybe even go beyond.

At our June meeting we will have our drawing for the following prizes for those of you that have sold 4 books of tickets: Bull Dog Package, \$20 Axel's Gift Certificate, \$20 Carbone's Gift Certificate, \$50 Great American Marine Certificate, Calico Jack Fishing Shirt, Wolf Trap Lure Package, \$25 Joe

Sensor's Certificate, \$25 Buon Giorno Italia Certificate, DunWright Tackle Package, \$60 Joe's Sporting Goods Certificate, \$60 State Fair Gift Pack.

Don't forget our top 5 seller prizes: 1 Week trip for 4 at Shingwak Resort, Lake of the Woods; 4 Days/3 nights trip for 2 at Birch Villa Resort, Cass Lake; October 11-13 trip for 2 to Vermillion Dam Lodge; \$100 Gift Certificate to Thorne Bros.; \$100 Gift Certificate to Joe's Sporting Goods

Top prize in the raffle is a Triton 176 Liberty with a 90hp Mercury and Triton Trailer. Second place prize is a \$300 shopping spree at Thorne Bros. Custom Rod & Tackle, third prize is a \$150 shopping spree at Joe's Sporting Goods, and fourth prize is a signed, numbered "Live Log" print by Les Kouba (valued at \$1000). The drawing will be held at our July meeting.

Remember, if you are unable to sell your tickets, return them as soon as possible. The state of Minnesota requires us to account for all tickets.

Thanks for your participation.

VET'S HOME OPENER

Top row: Vets who caught a trout got their pictures taken. Below: An event of this size needs many many volunteers to bait hooks, net fish, fillet, cut and fry up potatoes and onions, and serve the meals. Thanks to all!



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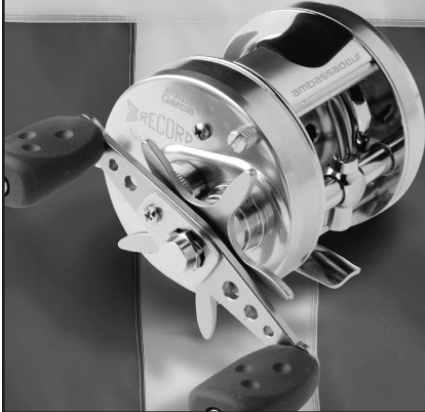
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Each resort here has donated a trip to our chapter. The trips are given as prizes for the top ticket sellers in the Rearing Fund Raffle as well as to the top places in our Muskie Tournament held in September. If you are planning a muskie trip this season, be sure keep these sponsoring resorts in mind. And, if you happen to see the owners, please be sure to thank them.

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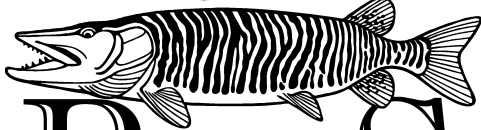
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JUNE 12

**SPEAKER:
JOSH STEVENSON**

Josh, owner of Blue Ribbon Bait in Oakdale, is the current state Tiger muskie record-holder. He will discuss early season muskie tactics on metro area waters as well as targeting tiger muskies.

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 American Boulevard West, Bloomington, MN (just off I-494 & Lyndale Ave.).



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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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