



On the Water

Volume 11, Issue 12

DECEMBER 2008

George Wahl Will Be Missed

It is with deep regret that we acknowledge the passing of George Wahl on November 19th after a courageous battle with cancer. He will be missed by many people in the muskie community and elsewhere.



George was long-time Muskies Inc. member and a fixture in our chapter for many years. A Muskies Inc. Hall of Fame member, chapter president, and tournament director, George designed and manufactured the Eagle Tail bucktail and was founder of the Minnesota Muskie Expo.

In recent months George was able to take one last trip to his favorite spot on Lake of the Woods. Didn't catch a muskie, but got a nice 41" northern. During that trip he was interviewed by *Muskie* magazine. We will have portions of that interview in next month's newsletter.

Opt In to Receive Printed Edition of Newsletter

This will be the last newsletter printed and mailed to chapter members unless they have opted to continue receiving the printed version. With the costs of printing and postage rising, the board is requesting that members who regularly use email consider receiving the electronic version of the newsletter. It is emailed usually earlier than the printed version is sent to the post office and it is in full color.

Cards were sent to all members currently receiving the newsletter last month. A significant number of cards have been returned, but at this time there are about 225 members who have not responded. For them, this is the last issue of the newsletter they will receive. Remember to send in your cards or send you email address to continue receiving the newsletter.

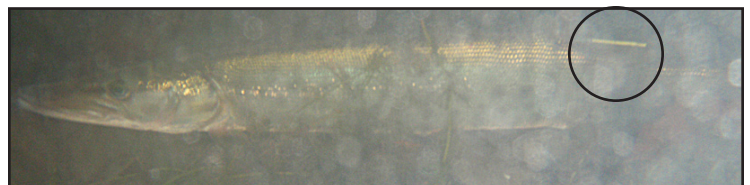
Chapter Elections To Be Held

Elections of new board members will be held at the December meeting. Nominations were accepted at the November meeting for board members to take office for two-year terms beginning in January. Nominated were George Selcke, Joe Mellott, Troy Zuelzke, Greg Kappes, Jack Hilbert, Eric Bakke, Jim Doyle, Tony Sommerfeld, and John Newman.

There is still time to take more nominations. Anyone who would like to have a say on how the chapter conducts its business, what events to participate in, where the chapter chooses to spend its money, should consider putting their name up for nomination. Once the board members have been chosen at the December meeting, chapter members will then elect the board officers (president, vice president, etc.) from among the board members.

Members of our chapter and the Minnesota DNR recently stocked muskie fingerlings and yearlings into several metro area lakes. Every fish was tagged with a floy tag and a pit tag to be used in studies in the years to come. The money to stock these fish came from the Hugh C. Becker fund and the Twin Cities Chapter fundraisers. So far, Minnetonka has been stocked with 35 yearlings and 300 fingerlings, White Bear Lake has received 287 12-15-inch fingerlings, and Bald Eagle Lake received 69 fingerlings and 183 yearlings. More stocking information in the President's letter.

Below: The yellow floy tag can be seen on one of the newly-stocked muskies.



From Our President SHAWN KELLETT

The Twin Cities Chapter has been busy working with the DNR to do some research on the metro fishery. With money from the Hugh C. Becker Foundation combined with our chapter's fundraising efforts, we have purchased muskies that the DNR has tagged for the study. Currently we have stocked yearlings in Bald Eagle (DNR supplied 400 fingerlings as well), 12"-15" fingerlings in White Bear Lake, and both yearlings and fingerlings in Minnetonka. We would like to obtain more fish for this study, but our suppliers have been less reliable than we had hoped for in combination with an early freeze-up. This project will take a few years to complete.

Each fish has been tagged with a floy tag (yellow external) and a pit tag (internal RF). Each of the floy tags has a number on it and when that fish is caught, the data can be entered into the database on the DNR's website. We are hoping to obtain data in the areas of which size fish survives better and in what ratio. We also want to get some population estimates as well as get some look at the effects of angler mortality. In the upcoming years we will be reintroducing the angler diary program to further assist in the information-gathering process. Stay tuned for further details on this project.

Please write down the date of February 21st. This is the date of the Twin Cities Chapter Winter Banquet. We have secured the Minnesota Valley Country Club as a venue for this event where we anticipate a sellout of 200 people. We anticipate a sellout because we're going to have a special speaker for this event. We have convinced Jim Lindner to speak at this event so be sure to get your tickets early. We are also increasing the number of prizes this year over last year's event. We already have two to three times more prizes and we're adding to it every day. We are still in need of helpers for this event so if you would like to donate some of your time (or product) please contact myself or Joe Mellott.

December is also the month where we have nominations to the board and for the executive positions. We are in need of a few good men and women to assist in the duties of running the chapter. No experience is necessary. The only thing you need is a good attitude and a willingness to learn. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month for an hour or two and then socialize afterwards. If you have any questions please contact me anytime.

Stay warm!!!!

Muskie Expo Makes Changes for 2009

The 15th annual Minnesota Muskie Expo – renamed George's Minnesota Muskie Expo – will have many great changes this year. The show's founder, George Wahl, chose to bring in Paul Hartman to help with organizing the 2009 show.

The show has moved from Blaine to Concordia University's Gangelhoff Center in St. Paul. The new facility is a larger, neater space with better lighting and sound. The Gangelhoff Center is 2 blocks off Interstate 94, dead center between Minneapolis and St. Paul downtowns, and convenient for out of town attendees and exhibitors as well. The 2009 Expo will be held April 3, 4, and 5th in place of the usual March dates.

The show content will remain a pure muskie theme but the move to Concordia has created space for additional vendors. The show features a long list of the

world's top muskie anglers sharing secrets of success in seminars, retailers offering great sale prices, guides and resorts. This is also the place to connect with the factory reps from the industry giants with questions and suggestions.

The unique aspect of the Expo is buying direct from the lure manufacturers, getting low prices, custom colors and the newest prototype baits. Lure companies comprise over 50% of Expo exhibitors. Their strong presence is because it's a cottage industry with 80% of the lures being made right here in the Midwest.

Minnesota has 150,000 muskie anglers but a recent MN DNR survey showed 50% of the state's 1.2 million anglers are interested in pursuing muskies.

Expo information including seminar times, show hours, directions, and special attractions can be found online at www.minnesotamuskieexpo.com.

Tell Us A Tale

Tell us a tale about something that happened this year while fishing. We're looking for hard luck or entertaining stories. You know, about the world record that got away. Or, about your boat sinking in the middle of Lake of the Woods. Or, the black flies and mosquitoes that nearly ate you when you got lost. We all – no matter what our fishing skills – have a story to tell.

The "Muskie Tale" Award will be presented to the club member who shares the best tale (story). Send your tales to last year's recipient of this award, Jim Kroupa at 6311 Steller Circle, Excelsior, MN 55331. If you want to email, please send to him at jkroupa@ties2.net.

Members Only Contest

from Pete Randall, Contest Chair

With the season coming to an end, make sure you get all of your releases registered before its to late. All fish must be registered by the end of 2008. Need to enter that one last fish into the Members Only Contest? Go to www.muskiesinc.org, "Fish Submission," or you can download blank forms at the web site also.

JUNIORS DIVISION:

- 1ST:** Evan Nicolai - 87 points - 7 fish - 44" longest
2ND: J.T. Doebler - 27 points - 2 fish - 43" longest
3RD: Zachary Weyland - 15 points - 1 fish - 41"

JUNIORS HYBRID DIVISION: (points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

- 1ST:** Zachary Weyland - 1 fish - 41"

WOMENS DIVISION:

- 1ST:** Carole K Janik - 77 points - 6 fish - 41" longest
2ND: Christine L Rein - 29 points - 2 fish - 51" longest
3RD: Barbara Dull - 16 points - 2 fish - 51" longest

WOMENS MASTERS:

- 1ST:** Cindy Hegdahl - 207 points - 15 fish - 47.5" longest
2ND: Linda Knutson - 124 points - 10 fish - 47" longest

MENS DIVISION:

- 1ST:** Phil Groth - 453 points - 31 fish - 47.5" longest
2ND: Bob Culbertson - 243 points - 20 fish - 45" longest
3RD: Jeremy M. Knutson - 225 points - 14 fish - 46.5" longest
4TH: Bryan Walsh - 204 points - 11 fish - 51" longest
5TH: Peter R Janik - 194 points - 12 fish - 52" longest
6TH: Corey DeZeeuw - 188 points - 12 fish - 47" longest
7TH: Travis Hultgren - 172 points - 12 fish - 49.5" longest



Dean Roll posted this photo of a nice 51-incher he caught on Minnetonka this summer on the chapter website: www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org. Using the website is an easy to share all your fish photos.

- 8TH:** Jeff Peterson - 160 points - 9 fish - 49" longest
9TH: John Huss - 157 points - 12 fish - 48.5" longest
10TH: Jack Hilbert - 151 points - 9 fish - 50.5" longest

MENS HYBRID DIVISION: (points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

- 1ST:** Corey DeZeeuw - 2 fish - 43" longest
2ND: Greg Pirritano - 1 fish - 40"
3RD: Matt Murtha - 1 fish - 34"

MENS MASTERS:

- 1ST:** Kris Astorp - 1011 points - 60 fish - 52.5" longest
2ND: Dean A Roll - 670 points - 37 fish - 52.5" longest
3RD: Tony Sommerfeld - 214 points - 13 fish - 48" longest
4TH: Mark Fredrick - 211 points - 15 fish - 45.5" longest
5TH: David Gustafson - 184 points - 12 fish - 50" longest

MENS MASTERS HYBRID DIVISION: (points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

- 1ST:** Kris Astorp - 4 fish - 38" longest

LUNKER OF THE MONTH:

- JUNE:** official - Brandon Bunney - 51" - June 14th - Rush
JULY: official - Kris Astorp - 52.5" - July 17th - Vermilion
Dean A. Roll - 52.5" - July 27th - Vermilion

AUGUST: official - Josh Borovsky - 56" - Aug. 1st - Vermilion

SEPTEMBER: official - Dean A. Roll - 52" - Sept. 13th - Miltona

OCTOBER: unofficial - Peter J. Janik - 52" - Oct. 7th - Waconia
Steve Hedensten - 52" - Oct. 24th - West Battle

NOVEMBER: unofficial - Brian Hanson - 51" - Nov. 14th - Vermilion

Here's something new, Minnetonka and Mille Lacs have not put a 50+" fish on the Lunker of the Month board YET!! Has the "Lunker of the Year" already been released?

And at this point, NO you will not see me ON THE WATER...

KID'S FISHING CONTEST

Remember to send in your child's record of fish caught this season to the Kid's Fishing Contest. Every child under 12 who catches almost any species of any size will be recognized at the chapter awards in February. One entry for each child with all season's fish should be sent to Shawn Kellett, 414 Division St., Excelsior, MN 55331. Entries must be received before January 10.

this 'n that

IN MEMORY OF MARY VILLNOW

A Memorial Bench honoring Muskies Inc. member Mary Villnow was recently installed at a popular White Bear Lake shore fishing spot. Mary's bench is located along the north side of the bridge to Manitou Island. Park at Matoska Park, walk towards the island, and take the gravel path on the left side of the road. This bench was a needed addition to the fishing spot and will be enjoyed by many anglers.

Mary, who lost a courageous battle against cancer, was an avid muskie angler and White Bear Lake was one of her favorite spots. She was a great supporter of Muskies Inc. Her husband, Paul, is a Twin Cities Chapter member – Mary insisted on being a North Metro Chapter member so they would support both metro area chapters. Next time you're at White Bear Lake look for Mary's bench and

think of all her efforts on behalf of the muskie fishery.

SPONSOR PROGRAM

You will see a number of ads in this and upcoming issues of *On the Water*. As part of the board's sponsor program, we will be including sponsor ads in the newsletter several times a year.

The chapter's sponsors donate products, gift certificates, trips, and resort stays for our tournament, rearing fund raffle, and welcome table.

Without them, we would not be able to hold the fundraisers that help our chapter functions.

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. And if you're in the stores, please tell them thank you from our chapter.

YOUTH CHAIR NEEDED

The chapter is seeking an individual to chair our youth activities. The youth chair heads the chapter's Kid's Fishing Contest and works with other organizations with kid's fishing seminars, tournaments and other projects such as refurbishing rods and reels to give to deserving kids. It is not a requirement for the Youth Chair to be a member of the Board. Contact Shawn Kellett at 952-380-1218 if you're interested in helping promote youth activities for our chapter.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The tournament committee meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Bloomington to plan the annual Frank Schneider Jr. Memorial Tournament. Committee participants don't have to be Board members, just interested in helping. Call Denise Olson at 612-866-4730 if interested.

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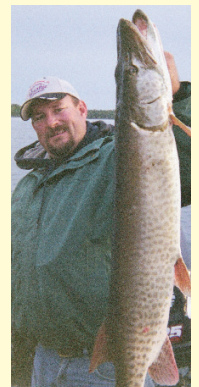
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Please make every effort to support these sponsors so they have an incentive to keep on supporting us. Without them this chapter could not do what it does for the resource and its members.

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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meeting

DECEMBER 11

**SPEAKER:
ROB MANTHEI**

Rob Manthei has fished for muskies for nearly 20 years. He has been avidly chasing muskies seriously since he was about 17. Rob has fished the waters of Vilas, Onieda, and Iron counties all his life and is a guide from the area. He is a contributor to Esox Angler and is a strong believer in catch and release. Come learn tips about locations and techniques, boat control and Eagle Lake, Ontario.

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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