



On the Water

Volume 11, Issue 10

OCTOBER 2008



Brent Murawski (right) caught and released the biggest fish in the chapter's 41st annual Frank Schneider Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament. The 55-incher came out of Lake Bemidji and earned Brent a graphite replica of the fish courtesy of LAX Reproductions and the chapter. Brent also registered a 52.5-incher. The two fish combined put him in 8th place. Brent is fairly new to muskie fishing. Prior to hearing about this tournament, he attended a seminar where Jeff Andersen was a speaker. Thinking he could do some muskie fishing and also learn more about it, he asked Jeff to be his partner for the tournament. Jeff also registered two muskies, 53 and 46.5 inches, putting him in 12th place. All-in-all a pretty good fishing experience for someone new to the sport.

Muskie Mania 2008, 41st Annual Frank Schneider, Jr. Memorial Tournament

A record 156 muskies were caught and released in the Twin Cities chapter's 41st annual Frank Schneider, Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament held this past September in the Bemidji, Cass, Walker, Longville area of northern Minnesota. Normally during the 3-day tournament a total 100-110 muskies are caught. This year, on Friday alone, 94 muskies were registered. Fishing started at 7:00 am on Friday and at 7:05 the phones started ringing to register fish.

Nine muskies over 50 inches were registered in the tournament, but it took multiple fish to place in the top ten. In fact, the top 29 anglers in the tournament all had multiple fish registered. Rank is determined by a point system – 10 points for each 40-inch fish caught and released, and additional points for each half-inch over 40.

Anglers fished from 7 am to 7 pm on Friday and Saturday. At the end of each day, they came to one three feeds to eat, enjoy the company of fellow anglers and download photos of the fish caught. Feeds were located at Canal House Restaurant, Stony Point Resort, Cass Lake; Moondance Campgrounds, Walker and Anchorage

continued next page

Raffle Winners Announced

The drawing for our chapter's fundraising raffle was held at the September 9 General Meeting. All proceeds from the annual raffle held by our chapter go to improve the muskie fishery in the metro area. Plans were to stock as many fish as possible into White Bear, Minnetonka, and possibly Waconia or new lakes.

The first place raffle prize – a 17-foot Triton Frontier-T, trailer and 60 hp Mercury combo – was won by Diane and Don Lehn. Doug Strandquist won a \$300 shopping spree at Thorne Bros. Custom Rod & Tackle. A \$200 shopping spree at Blue Ribbon Tackle was won by Matt Murtha. Peter Spangem won the fourth prize, a Benelli Super Nova Shotgun from Joe's Sporting Goods. It does pay to purchase the raffle tickets you were asked to sell. That's how the Lehns got their name in the drawing.

Incentive prizes were given to the top sellers. Pete Randall, who sold over 50 books, was the top seller. Pete will attend the Larry Ramsell Muskie Outing at Vermilion Dam Lodge in October. Dave and Linda Knutson, selling the second-most number of raffle tickets chose to spend a week at Shingwak Resort on Lake of the Woods. Third place seller was Shawn Kellett who won a trip to Birch Villa Resort on Cass Lake. Scott Crawford rounded out the top sellers and received a limited edition print for his efforts.

Final raffle figures are not in yet, but the number of tickets sold did not meet expectations. In the next month

continued on page 4

TOURNAMENT *continued from page 1*

Inn, Longville. The awards were held Sunday at Moondance Campgrounds with Ron Schara, host of KARE-11's "Minnesota Bound", WCCO Radio and award-winning columnist for the Star Tribune, serving as MC.

Mike Lundberg of Deer River earned first place with five muskies – 41.5, 42, 43 and two at 45.5 inches. None were giant-sized, but the points added up. For his efforts Mike took home a plaque, a week-long trip to Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods, a Fenwick rod and Abu Garcia reel, a Beckman net, Cabela's soft-sided tackle box and Ranger life vest awarded to by tournament MC Ron Schara, host of KARE-11's "Minnesota Bound", WCCO Radio and award-winning columnist for the Star Tribune.

Damien Williams with 4 fish (43, 49, 44 and 49 inches) from Big Lake placed second; Mike Shepperd with 4 fish (40.5, 48 and two 43 inchers) caught in Leech Lake placed third; Joel Dehmer also with 4 Leech Lake fish (41.5, 42, 42 and 45) placed fourth; and Kris Astorp with 3 fish (47.5, 43 and 48 inches) from Pike Bay took fifth place. The top five winners each received a plaque, a Fenwick rod and Abu Garcia reel, a Beckman net, Cabela's soft-sided tackle box and Ranger life vest. Trips were courtesy of Spirit of the North, Leech Lake; Finn 'n Feather Resort, Lake Andrusia; Pine Beach Resort on Lake Garfield and Break on the Lake Resort on Cass Lake.

Every person who registered a fish in the tournament was eligible for the grand prize, a \$30,000 certificate to be used for any vehicle from Lupient Buick Pontiac GMC. Aaron Templin won the grand prize drawing. He registered a 49 inch muskie to be eligible for the drawing.

Junior Division winners were awarded a plaque, a trip, a Fenwick rod and Abu Garcia reel, a Beckman net and Cabela's soft-sided tackle box. Nick Ackley took top honors for the juniors with a 49.5 inch muskie from Big Lake. His trip will be to Vermilion Dam Lodge. 10-year-old Kendall Hill, who told the audience he "lost count" after he caught 80 muskies, took second place in the Junior Division with a 41.5 inch fish from Leech Lake. He was awarded a trip to Sah-Kah-Tay Beach Resort on Cass Lake. Evan Nicolai with a 41 inch Leech Lake muskie took third place. He was awarded a trip to Sunset Cove Resort on Cass Lake.

The Mary Villnow Memorial cash awards were presented to the top three women anglers by Mary's husband, Paul Villnow. Mary was an avid muskie fisherperson and Paul created this award to encourage more women to participate in the sport. Patricia Berglund with two muskies (45.5 and 42) from Lake Bemidji got the top honor for women. Libby Hoene with a 52.5 inch fish also from Lake Bemidji received second place honors and Carol Wolto with a 40 inch fish from Cass Lake was awarded third place.

Abu Garcia awards bonus prizes to the top three anglers



Mike Lundberg (right) caught and released 5 muskies earning him first place in the 41st Annual Frank Schneider Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament. Mike has fished this tournament for many years, placing in the top 10 several times. When Ron Schara, MC at the Sunday Awards program, asked Mike how he felt after catching that many fish, Mike replied, "Sore!"



Aaron Templin was chosen by draw to receive the tournament Grand Prize, a \$30,000 certificate to be applied to any vehicle from Lupient Buick Pontiac GMC. He drove home in this GMC Yukon. Aaron got his name in the drawing by registering a 49-inch muskie. Aaron fished the tournament for the first time this year. His fishing partner, Joe Andersen, originally had plans to fish the tournament with his brother Jeff, but Jeff was asked by Brent Murawski to guide him during the tournament. Joe asked his friend Aaron to fish with him instead and Aaron's name was drawn for the Grand Prize. He chose to split the prize with his partner. Joe went home with a pre-owned car from the Lupient dealership.

who caught fish using their reels. Abu Garcia bonuses were given to Brent Murawski, Jeff Andersen and Doug Lykke.

The \$250 FCIS Anglers Choice Bonus Award went to FCIS Team Member, John Schwartz.

New to the tournament this year was the Magic Muskie open to Muskies Inc. members only. The winner must have registered a muskie the same length as that drawn at the awards. The Magic Muskie pot was shared between the angler with the matching length, Al Emilson and one of the sponsors chosen by draw.

A check for \$3,000 was presented to Henry Drews and Harlan Fierstine of the Minnesota DNR. A portion of the tournament proceeds are always given back to the muskie



Tournament MC Ron Schara (shaking hands with MN DNR representative Harlan Fierstine) presented a \$3000 check to Henry Drews, DNR Regional Fisheries Manager (center) from the tournament committee. The money will be used for the muskie fishery in the area of the tournament.

Bob Kubista presented a limited edition print to the oldest fisherman in the tournament who had not received the award before. Bob has been fishing this tournament for many years. He remembers fishing it in the 70s with large family groups – parents, brothers and sisters and their spouses. His grandfather, Walter, introduced him to muskie fishing and this tournament. The award is presented by Bob in honor of his grandfather each year.



The print, "Cartwheeling Muskie" by Stan Finnemore of Longville, MN, was originally commissioned in the 1980s by Muskies, Inc. and prints were sold by the club. A few conservation prints are left and Bob had one framed for this award. The artist signed it with a commemorative message specifically for this year's tournament. Frank Schneider, Jr. was one of the first recipients of this award.

resource. The number of fish caught during the tournament is a testimonial to the excellent fishery in the area. A donation was also made to the Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame in Ron Schara's name.

The annual tournament is how our chapter raises the money we need to operate as a club. Tournament Director Ron Sanders instituted a number of new procedures this year in order to raise more money to fund our chapter in the coming year. He worked tirelessly for all the months leading up to the event. Please give him and the Tournament Committee a big thank you for all their hard work.

Chapter Fishing League

There were a lot of hours logged by the three boats who participated in the league outing on Mille Lacs. However, only one follow and one strike were reported. Doesn't look like Mille Lacs is changing soon at least.

There is one last outing for the chapter league on Minnetonka on October 11. The fishing should be decent out there yet, as long as we don't hit turnover.

If you would like to join that last outing please let Jody Dahms know. Contact him at jdahms@aquali.com or 952-356-6047. The league is a good way for those without boats to get in some fishing as we will find space for you to fish. Anglers without boats, please confirm attendance with Jody to ensure that we arrange boat space for you.

CHAPTER LEAGUE STANDINGS

	LAKE INDEP.	FOREST LAKE	LAKE MTKA	LAKE MTKA.	CAL. HARR.	LAKE WACONIA	MILLE LACS	PTS.
Eric Schultz	0	5	6	5	5	0	10	51
Tom Batina	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	40
Greg Batina	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	40
Matt Olson	5	11	5	5	5	0	0	31
Jody Dahms	5	5	5	5	0	0	10	30
Vince Trotta	5	5	5	0	5	5	0	25
Greg Kappes	5	8	5	5	0	0	0	23
Jim Coyle	0	0	16	5	0	0	0	21
Juris Ozuls	5	0	5	0	5	5	0	20
Adam Salo	5	0	5	0	0	0	10	20
Roger Ecklund	0	0	5	5	0	0	10	20
Troy Zuelzke	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	19
Mike McGrath	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	15
Dave Priem	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	10
Shawn Kellett	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	10
Peter Randall	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	10
Greg Ide	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	8
Brad Coyne	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	8
Matt Murtha	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
John Newman	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Jim Kroupa	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Ron Sanders	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Kevin Dickenson	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Robert Kent	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Ben Fitzel	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Kevin Barr	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5



A blindfolded Dianne Dahl prepares to draw for the four winners of the chapter's annual Rearing Fund Raffle as Raffle Chair Matt Olson looks on. The drawing was held at our September General Meeting.

RAFFLE *continued from page 1*
 we should know how many muskies we will be able to stock through the efforts of the chapter members who did decide to participate in the raffle. At the September meeting it was unclear whether the raffle had brought in enough money to cover raffle expenses – purchasing the first place boat, motor and trailer, and printing and postage. Whether or not you sold your tickets on not, they MUST be turned in. The State of Minnesota requires that any unsold raffle tickets be accounted for. If they are not returned, we jeopardize our ability to get a permit to hold a raffle again next year.

Please mail back your checks and unsold raffle tickets to Matt Olson, 7438 Park Avenue S., Richfield, MN 55423.

If you were one of the people who used a “raffle jar” to sell tickets this year, please return it to Matt. Most of the jars are still out.

With only one-third of the chapter membership participating in the raffle, the committee is open to ideas for next year: a different prize, a different project, ways to gain participation, no project - no stocking, etc. Let them hear from you. Join the raffle committee or call Matt Olson at 612-423-2404.

Members Only Contest

from Pete Randall, Contest Chair

Fall fishing is here! Break out the trolling gear... Just over two months to go before the 2008 season is all over. If you want that plaque for above the fireplace, you better start sharpening your hooks.

Congratulations to the chapter members who placed in the 41st ANNUAL FRANK SCHNEIDER JR. MEMORIAL MUSKIE TOURNAMENT – Evan Nicolai taking 3rd place in the Junior Division with a 41" fish and Kris Astorp taking 5th place overall with a 43", 47.5" and 48" fish in the Release Division.

Looks like the standings over the last month in the men's division has really been shaking up. Travis Hultgren jumped into third place like a muskie fighting from under the boat!!

You have three options for entering your fish in the Members Only Contest: Muskies Inc. web site, www.muskiesinc.org – “Fish Submission;” you can download blank forms at that web site or our chapter website www.twincitesmuskiesinc.org under the members only contest icon; or you can call or send me a letter and I will take care of everything. Mail entries to 6490 158th St. W. Apple Valley, MN 55124 or email me Prandall@charter.net. All entries older than one month from the day the fish was caught will not count.

Please try to fill out all of the information on the form to the best of your ability. Thanks.

JUNIORS DIVISION:

- 1ST: Evan Nicolai - 46 points - 4 fish - 44" longest
- 2ND: J.T. Doebler - 27 points - 2 fish - 43" longest
- 3RD: Thomas Batina - 8 points - 1 fish - 34"

WOMENS DIVISION:

- 1ST: Carole K Janik - 77 points - 6 fish - 41" longest
- 2ND: Christine L Rein - 25 points - 1 fish - 51"

3RD: Barbara Dull - 6 points - 1 fish - 32"

WOMENS MASTERS:

Linda Knutson - 42 points - 3 fish - 41.5" longest

MENS DIVISION:

- 1ST: Phil Groth - 324 points - 21 fish - 47.5" longest
- 2ND: Bob Culbertson - 205 points - 17 fish - 45" longest
- 3RD: Travis Hultgren - 172 points - 12 fish - 49.5" longest
- 4TH: Corey DeZeeuw - 150 points - 10 fish - 47" longest
- 5TH: Bryan Walsh - 137 points - 8 fish - 51" longest
- 6TH: Jeremy M. Knutson - 124 points - 8 fish - 46.5" longest
- 7TH: Chad Hagel - 118 points - 6 fish - 49.5" longest
- 8TH: John Huss - 92 points - 7 fish - 42.5" longest
- 9TH: Brent Hirsch - 73 points - 6 fish - 51" longest
- 10TH: Timothy L. Walsh - 71 points - 4 fish - 50" longest

MENS MASTERS:

- 1ST: Kris Astorp - 706 points - 44 fish - 52.5" longest
- 2ND: Dean A Roll - 396 points - 22 fish - 52.5" longest
- 3RD: David Gustafson - 120 points - 8 fish - 50" longest
- 4TH: Tony Sommerfeld - 74 points - 5 fish - 48" longest
- 5TH: Mark Fredrick - 8 points - 1 fish - 34"

LUNKER OF THE MONTH:

- JUNE: official - Brandon Bunney - 51" - June 14th - Rush
- JULY: official - Kris Astrop - 52.5" - July 17th - Vermilion
 Dean A. Roll - 52.5" - July 27th - Vermilion
- AUGUST: unofficial - Josh Borovsky - 56" - Aug. 1st - Vermilion
- SEPTEMBER: unofficial - Dean A. Roll - 52" - Sept. 13th - Miltona

SEE YOU ON THE WATER...

TOURNAMENT SPONSORS: *The tournament committee want to thank the sponsors who donated merchandise or money for this year's tournament. Without them we would not have the tournament we have. Please thank the sponsors if you have the opportunity and let them know who you are. Keep them in mind when making your fishing plans or purchasing fishing products.*

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this 'n that

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.

YOUTH CHAIR NEEDED

The chapter is in need of a new chair for youth activities. Current chair Brent Fox recently left for a two-year assignment in Japan. We thank Brent for his work the past few years in this capacity. The youth chair heads up 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 (952-380-1218) if you are interested in helping promote youth activities for our chapter.

JOIN THE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Now is the time to consider joining the Board of Directors for our chapter. The board meets the first Tuesday of each month. Take part in making decisions that affect you as a member of this chapter. Contact Shawn Kellett (952-380-1218) if you are interested. Elections will be held at our December meeting.

WINTER BANQUET

Keep in mind that our chapter Winter Banquet will be held in late February.

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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 14

**SPEAKER:
JOHN HOYER**

John is a guide on Minnetonka and spends much time fishing on Leech. He and his partner recently placed 4th overall in the Minnesota Muskie Tournament Trail.

FINAL CHAPTER FISHING LEAGUE:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
Minnetonka Gray's Bay Landing
10 am - 4 pm

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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