



# On the Water

Volume 11, Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2008

## Minnesota DNR Releases Long-Range Muskie-Northern Management Plan

The Department of Natural Resources recently announced the finalization and adoption of its Long Range Plan for Muskellunge and Large Northern Pike through 2020. The plan sets the stage for working with stakeholders to improve angling opportunities in Minnesota.

Managing recreational fisheries is an evolving and dynamic process, based on the best available science, and public perceptions and desires. Finding the right balance among public interests is part of that challenge. While the plan lays out some broad goals and directions, there is much work yet to do, including continued monitoring and evaluation of our fisheries, communicating with interested stakeholders, and seeking public input for future management actions. As the DNR moves ahead to implement the strategies and actions in long range plan, they are firmly committed to involve the public in the decision making process.

With the plan complete, the DNR decided to move ahead with the proposal to stock muskellunge in Pokegama Lake but not Gull Lake; they will instead look for other opportunities in the Brainerd area. It is anticipated that stocking will take place in Pokegama this fall. While both lakes have the physical and biological characteristics to support a "trophy" muskellunge fishery, there was significant strong public opposition to the Gull Lake proposal.

If you want to see the entire long range plan, a pdf copy of the report is available to download on our chapter website [www.twincitiesmuskieninc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskieninc.org).

## Rearing Fund Raffle Ends This Month

We have a great muskie fishery in the metro area and the pressure on the resource continues to grow. Help ensure that the resource stays viable for years to come. Every dollar raised by our chapter's raffle is dedicated to the muskie resource. YOU are the beneficiaries of the stocking. ALL OF US need to sell the tickets we were issued.

Each \$20 book of raffle tickets sold will stock one 20" fish. Plans are to stock as many fish as possible into White Bear Lake, Lake Minnetonka, possibly Lake Waconia and possible new lakes. Last year muskies that averaged 28" were stocked in White Bear Lake and Lake Minnetonka.

The raffle drawing will be held during the September meeting. First place raffle prize is a boat-motor-trailer package – a 17-foot Triton Frontier-T and trailer powered by a 60 hp Mercury. Second place prize is a \$300 shopping spree at Thorne Bros. Custom Rod & Tackle, third prize is a \$200 shopping spree at Blue Ribbon Tackle, and fourth prize is a Benelli Super Nova Shotgun from Joe's Sporting Goods. The drawing will be held at the September general meeting.

*continued next page*



## "I've Been Thinking..."

Friends and family of George Wahl, long-time Muskies Inc. member and a fixture in our chapter, gathered Wednesday, August 20 at Mystic Lake Casino to honor him and show appreciation for all he's done for the Twin Cities chapter.

Paul Hartman introduced George and then the friends who came to share their "George" stories. Many who shared a story or two told of getting a phone call from George starting with "I've been thinking..."

Out of that "thinking" came the chapter's annual winter picnic the MN Muskie Expo among other things. Many years ago George asked the chapter to borrow \$800 for a downpayment on renting the Blaine Sports Center for the first Expo. Over the years George has paid back that loan and given an additional \$70,000 to the chapter from the Expo. George has also served as chapter president, tournament director and long-time board member.

Josh Roundsley from Thorne Bros.

*continued next page*

## **Muskie Mania 2008, Frank Schneider, Jr. Memorial Tournament, September 5, 6, 7**

The weekend after Labor Day marks the chapter's 41st annual Frank Schneider Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament held in the Bemidji-Cass Lake-Walker-Longville area of northern Minnesota.

You don't have to be a professional muskie fisherperson or part of a team to participate. Everyone who enters a 40" or longer muskie (40" minimum) will have their name put in a drawing for the grand prize – a \$30,000 certificate to be applied up to two vehicles of your choice from Lupient Buick Pontiac GMC.

Ron Schara of TV's Minnesota Bound and WCCO radio will be the MC and celebrity host for the event. Ron will give short presentation at the Friday and Saturday Feeds at Canal House Restaurant at Stony Point Resort and Moondance Fairgrounds east of Walker on Highway 200

The three evening Feeds at Stony Point Resort, Moondance and Anchorage Inn on Lake Inguadona will tournament results and pictures, silent auction, and lots of camaraderie. Meal tickets are available on site for non-contestants, so bring your whole family.

Moondance Fairgrounds will be the site of the Sunday Awards and Feed for contestants and guests. There is ample parking for vehicles and boats. Their famous Moondance Bloody Mary Bar will open at 10:00 on Sunday.

Moondance Fairgrounds will serve as headquarters all three days of the tournament. If you wish to camp at the fairgrounds during the tournament should contact them at 877-666-6526 to reserve a camping spot.

The tournament will feature a raffle with a limited number - only 1500 - of tickets printed. Raffle tickets will be sold at the tournament only, with the drawing held at the Sunday Awards. Top raffle prize is a week-long trip including airfare to Wigwam Golf Resort and Spa in Arizona. Other prizes gift certificates up to \$500, medallion edition print, custom rod and reel combos, and a guided fishing trip with a top pro.

If you haven't already registered for the tournament you may do so through Labor Day at the website [www.muskiemania.org](http://www.muskiemania.org). Or, register on Thursday, September 4 at Reed's Family Outdoor Outfitters in Walker and One Stop in Longville until 9:00 pm.

The Frank Schneider, Jr. Memorial tournament is is our chapter's biggest fundraising event. Money raised by the tournament pays for all the chapter's operating funds: speakers at monthly meetings, food at chapter events such as the August picnic and Capable Partners outing, donations to organizations such as the Kids Fish-A-Thon, funding other muskie-related projects, and the printing and mailing of your monthly newsletter.

## **REARING FUND RAFFLE** *continued*

So far, not enough tickets have been turned in to pay for the first prize boat. There are over 10,000 tickets still outstanding. If everyone who still has raffle tickets in their possession, turned in the money for them – either sell them or buy them yourself – we will be able to pay for the boat and raffle expenses, and be able to stock those muskies.

All raffle tickets must be turned in by the September 9th general meeting. Whether you have sold your tickets or not, they **MUST** be turned in.

Top sellers of raffle tickets will receive incentive prizes including trips and a limited edition print.

You may mail back your checks and ticket stubs or return them at the September meeting. The State of Minnesota requires that any unsold raffle tickets be turned back in.

If you have any questions, please call Matt Olson at 612-423-2404.

## **“OPT IN” TO RECEIVE NEWS-LETTER BY MAIL**

Printing and mailing this newsletter is the biggest expense that our chapter has. Soon, if you want to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, you will have to “opt in” for that option. Watch you mail for an “opt in” post card. Please return the post card if you want to still receive the printed version or to let us know your email. Or, if you want to take advantage of the email version now, please send your email address to:

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## GEORGE WAHL *continued*

and Jeff Arnold from Reed's in Walker honored George with a custom-built Thorne Bros rod and a new Shimano reel.

Video was taken at the event and Juris Ozols will have them available soon. Contact Juris if you want a copy at grumpy@minn.net. He says the payment will be to buy him a beer.



*Top: Just a few faces in the crowd that came to honor and share stories about George Wahl. Left: Josh Roundsley presented George with a custom-made Thorne Bros rod and a new Shimano reel from Jeff Arnold. Right: Friend John Olson, George and George's wife Marlene listening to Paul Hartman tell about visiting the Eagle Tail factory for the first time.*



## CHAPTER LEAGUE STANDINGS

	LAKE INDEP.	FOREST LAKE	LAKE MTKA	LAKE MTKA	CALHOUN HARRIET	PTS.
Eric Schultz	0	5	26	5	5	41
Matt Olson	5	11	5	5	5	31
Tom Batina	5	5	5	5	5	25
Greg Batina	5	5	5	5	5	25
Greg Kappes	5	8	5	5	0	23
Jim Coyle	0	0	16	5	0	21
Jody Dahms	5	5	5	5	0	20
Vince Trotta	5	5	5	0	5	20
Troy Zuelzke	0	0	19	0	0	19
Juris Ozuls	5	0	5	0	5	15
Mike McGrath	0	0	5	5	5	15
Adam Salo	5	0	5	0	0	10
Dave Priem	0	0	5	5	0	10
Roger Ecklund	0	0	5	5	0	10
Shawn Kellett	0	0	5	5	0	10
Peter Randall	0	0	5	0	5	10
Greg Ide	0	0	8	0	0	8
Brad Coyne	0	0	8	0	0	8
Matt Murtha	0	5	0	0	0	5
John Newman	0	0	5	0	0	5
Jim Kroupa	0	0	5	0	0	5
Ron Sanders	0	0	5	0	0	5
Kevin Dickenson	0	0	5	0	0	5
Robert Kent	0	0	0	5	0	5
Ben Fitzel	0	0	0	0	5	5

## Chapter Fishing League

More people are joining the chapter's summer league fishing outings. The most recent were on Lake Minnetonka and Lake Calhoun/Harriet. Upcoming September 20-21 outing is on Mille Lacs.

If you would like to join that outing please let Jody Dahms know. He needs to get a game plan for those attending, such as times, lodging, and locations. Contact him at jdahms@aquali.com or 952-356-6047.

After September, only one outing is planned for Saturday, October 11, from 10 am to 4 pm on Lake Minnetonka at Gray's Bay Landing.

## Members Only Contest

from Pete Randall, Contest Chair

**T**ournament time is here! If you need to start climbing the standings board, fishing for 3 days and a total of 29 hours just might do the trick.

The women are done sun tanning and are starting to register fish. Brandon Bunney has two fish with an average of 51". Not bad!!

If you don't know by now, Vermilion is the hot lake pushing out 50" fish left and right. I can't wait to see what happens this fall up on Vermilion.

Remember you have three options for entering in your fish to the Members Only Contest: Muskies Inc. web site, muskiesinc.org – "Fish Submission;" you can download blank forms at the web site or our chapter website [www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.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](mailto: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 - 28 points - 3 fish - 38" longest release  
**2ND:** J.T. Doebler - 27 points - 2 fish - 43" longest release  
**3RD:** Thomas Batina - 8 points - 1 fish - 34"

### WOMENS DIVISION:

- 1ST:** Carole K Janik - 77 points - 6 fish - 41" longest  
**2ND:** Barbara Dull - 6 points - 1 fish - 32" longest

### WOMENS MASTERS:

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

### MENS DIVISION:

- 1ST:** Phil Groth - 180 points - 11 fish - 47.5" longest  
**2ND:** Bob Culbertson - 149 points - 12 fish - 44" longest  
**3RD:** Chad Hagel - 126 points - 6 fish - 49.5" longest  
**4TH:** Corey DeZeeuw - 81 points - 6 fish - 47" longest  
**5TH:** John Huss - 67 points - 5 fish - 42.5" longest  
**6TH:** John C Newman Jr - 61 points - 5 fish - 40" longest  
**7TH:** Eric Schultz - 42 points - 2 fish - 47" longest  
**7TH:** Sean P Rein - 42 points - 3 fish - 47" longest  
**8TH:** Chris Gardner - 37 points - 3 fish - 45" longest  
**9TH:** Brandon Bunney - 36 points - 2 fish - 51" longest  
**10TH:** Dave Knutson - 36 points - 2 fish - 49.5" longest

### MENS MASTERS:

- 1ST:** Kris Astorp - 462 points - 30 fish - 52.5" longest  
**2ND:** Dean A Roll - 136 points - 8 fish - 52.5" longest  
**3RD:** Tony Sommerfeld - 28 points - 2 fish - 48" longest

### LUNKER OF THE MONTH:

- MAY:** official - no entry greater than 45"  
**JUNE:** official - Timothy L. Walsh - 50" June 7th - Independence  
**JULY:** unofficial - Kris Astrop - 52.5" - July 17th - Vermilion  
Dean A. Roll - 52.5" - July 27th - Vermilion  
**AUGUST:** unofficial - Josh Borovsky - 56" - Aug. 1st - Vermilion  
Congratulations to all whom are catching fish! I know it's been a slow year for most but the numbers have been picking up. The chapter outings are winding down so if you have not made it out yet, we will SEE YOU ON THE WATER...

## Mary Villnow Award

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## August Picnic

The August meeting was held at Minnehaha park in south Minneapolis. Attendees enjoyed brats and burgers provided by the club and lots and lots of “pot luck” side dishes and desserts. The club has been celebrating summer with its annual picnic for over 10 years.



*Clockwise, starting lower left: George Wahl and Patti Slack, Beth and Brent Fox, Paul and Gracie Hartman, the pavilion at Minnehaha Falls park, Alison Kellett.*




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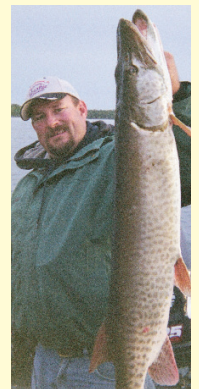
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*A big thank you to all the manufacturers, retailers and resorts that have helped the Twin Cities chapter in the past year by donating merchandise and trips used for incentives and prizes for our fundraising events as well as the prizes for the Winter 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 SEPTEMBER 9

*Come to see who wins the new Triton boat/motor/trailer package that is first prize in the rearing fund raffle. While the raffle tickets are being turned in and tabulated, two short presentations will be given.*

### CHAPTER FISHING LEAGUE UPCOMING DATES:

*SATURDAY-SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 20-21  
Lake Mille Lacs*

*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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