

Don't Forget George's Minnesota Muskie Expo April 3, 4, 5 in St. Paul

Make plans now to attend the 15th annual Minnesota Muskie Expo. The Expo was founded by George Wahl, inventor and manufacturer of the Eagle Tail. The Expo has been renamed George's Minnesota Muskie Expo in honor of its founder.

The three-day event is strictly dedicated to muskies and muskie fishing featuring some of the world's top muskie anglers sharing secrets of success in seminars, retailers offering great sale prices, guides and resorts. The show will take place at the Ganglehoff Center on St. Paul's Concordia University campus. The new venue allows for more exhibitors than in the past as well as being conveniently located between the downtown of Minneapolis and St. Paul just off Interstate 94.

The Expo is the place to connect with the factory reps from industry giants with questions and suggestions. The unique aspect of the Expo is being able to buy direct from lure manufacturers, getting low prices, custom colors and the newest prototype baits. New this year, Larry Dahlberg will hold special demonstrations on making your own lures.

There will be a large "Kids Midway" area with games and prizes for kids sponsored by Edina Realty, with all proceeds going to Hospitality House and Teen Challenge. Kids will be able to make their own lures and take home \$30 worth of baits.

All three days will feature seminars by muskie pros Bob Mehsikomer, Rob Kimm, Steve Worrall, Dan Craven, Jim Saric, Russ Smith, Brad Hoppe, Larry Dahlberg, Luke Ronnestrand and Erik Jacobson.

The Expo is open from 2 to 9 pm Friday, from 10 am to 7 pm on Saturday, and on Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm.

Kids 12 and under are free, so bring the whole family. Adult entry for the Expo is \$10, a three-day pass is \$17.

Expo information can be found online at: minnesotamuskieexpo.com.

In past years there has been a "Lure Swap" on Saturday evening of the Expo. This year will be no exception. The "Lure Swap" is sponsored by Baker Bay Resort (www.bakerbay.com) and is not part of the Expo. Show up at O'Gara's Shamrock Room at Snelling and Selby (6 blocks from the Expo) between 7 and 10 pm. At 10 pm Doug Otto and the Getaways will entertain with blues/country rock. O'Gara's has a full food and beverage menu.

Hugh C. Becker Foundation Grant Awards Announced

The Hugh C. Becker Grant Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of grants for 2009. The Hugh C. Becker Foundation is administered by a 5-person committee, headed by chairman George Selcke, whose responsibility it is to evaluate grant requests and determine what projects will be the recipients of the grants.

According to Hugh Becker's wishes, grant money can be used for: projects or activities that will aid in muskie propagation, stocking (either raised or purchased) muskies for public use in designated waters, habitat protection and improvement, research by qualified personnel, or expansion of the current muskie range with special consideration given to the Missouri river system in North and South Dakota.

In order of funding dates, with amounts granted this year, 2009 grant recipients are:

Identification and Protection of Critical Muskellunge Spawning and Nursery Habitat. This project is to be conducted on six (6) Northern Wisconsin lakes by the Wisconsin DNR, Bureau of Fisheries Management headed by Paul Cunningham in Madison, WI.

March, 2009... \$ 7,000.00

Fishing for Life Youth Fishing Program. In conjunction with the Twin Cities Chapter #1 of Muskies, Inc., this organization will be conducting four (4) main events targeted at promoting fishing among Minnesota youth. The events include the Fish Fair (February);

From Our President

Top of the morning to you! I am writing this on St. Patrick's Day. We are almost over the sport show season. In January the club had its booth set up with Frankie's Marine at the St. Paul show. Thanks, Frankie. We sent a club contingent to the Chicago show. We were at Fish Fair in February and had our booth up again in March at the Northwest Sport Show. Coming up we will be at our favorite – George's Minnesota Muskie Expo on April 3-5. Stop by and visit. Thorne Bros. is having a mini-show April 17-19 that many of us will attend. As you see we are flying the colors. I am proud of what we and Muskies Inc. does and these shows give us a chance to spread the word.

Greg Kappes mentioned at our last meeting that we are planning an ambitious stocking, rearing and research effort this year. This includes tagging fish to study their growth and survival. George Selcke has us deeply involved in youth projects this coming year. Our club is planning on hosting two muskie tournaments this year – the annual tournament up north and a new one in October in the Twin Cities metro area. Club trips are being planned. We will be in the Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge this year and have a summer fishing league planned. The Vet's Home Opener and the Capable Partners events are on track. Get these events on your calendar and participate in them. You could even help run them.

Our club has a lot on its agenda. Are you getting what you want out of the club? Are we going in the direction you would like us to go? Do you want to be involved more? It is easy. All board members are listed in this newsletter. Talk to them. Call them. E-mail them. Just let any one of us know your thoughts.

See you at the meetings and shows, Jim Kroupa

Muskie Tale Awarded to Matt Olson

The Muskie Tale Award is presented to a chapter member each year who has a muskie story to share. Not about the big catch of the season, but perhaps about a mishap that happened while fishing, the one that got away, or maybe a fishing-related adventure. This season, keep the Muskie Tale Award in mind while you're fishing. Here is Matt's story:

It was a great day for fishing and Matt Olson was out on Leech Lake trolling a shad rap for walleyes. He got a hit and started to reel it in. As the bait got close to the boat, he could see it clearly. No fish, but still felt like a fish on. At first, he thought he had snagged his fishing buddy's line. But, that line was in. As the bait got to the boat, Matt reached down and found some line tangled in his lure. He reached in the water, grabbed the line and started pulling it off. But there was still weight on that line. After bringing it in hand-over-hand, he soon had a pile of 80 or so yards of line in the bottom of his boat. Unbelievably, at the end of the line was a 40" or so muskie with a shad rap in his mouth. As Matt released the fish, he was rewarded with a nice gash on his finger, courtesy of the ungrateful muskie. So the muskie was freed up to live his life and Matt had a bandage on his hand for a while to remind him of finding and releasing someone else's catch.

Rod-Building Class

Learn how to build your own custom, high-quality, muskie fishing rod. The chapter and Gary's Custom Rod and Reel have a class scheduled for April 11, 9:30 - 3:00 pm at the Lakeville Gander Mountain store.

Completed fishing rods will be monogrammed with your name and taken to Gary's Custom Rod and Reel shop in Anoka for gluing. Finished rods will be available at the next general meeting.

There are two kits to choose from: 7'6" Musky Rod Kit for \$107 and a 8'6" Musky Rod Kit for \$144. All rods use only the highest quality components:

There are only be 20 openings for the class. If you want to join, please contact Jody Dahms at 952-356-6047. Payment for the kit will be due at time of signing up.

Minnesota Vet's Home Opener Set for May 2

The Twin Cities chapter, along with VFW post 6099, has held a "fishing opener" at the Minnesota Veterans Home for years. It is an event that the residents look forward to all year. A trout pond will be set up at the Home that day and residents, hopefully, will catch some trout for a "shore lunch" served to all.

Volunteers will be needed to help the residents while they fish as well as with the cooking, cleaning and generally making this a fun event. A big help would be to bring 10 pounds of boiled potatoes to use for the meal. Otherwise organizer Terry Hagstrom will be boiling massive amounts of potatoes the night before.

Be at the Veterans Home by Minnehaha Falls around 7 am (many residents are lined up waiting early in the day). If you have questions or if you can bring potatoes, call Terry at 612-747-6509 or 651-462-3669.

GRANTS *continued from page 1*
Northwest Sports Show (March); Muskie Expo (April); and the Lake Minnetonka Marathon Man (August).
March, 2009... \$ 3,500.00

Lake Mille Lacs, Minnesota, Muskellunge Tagging Program. This is a continuation of the project started in 2006 for the purposes of identifying the genetic make-up and natural reproduction of Muskellunge in this lake. The project will be conducted by the Aitkin Area Fisheries of the MN DNR, and incorporates the findings of the Loren Miller Research project of 2008. This is supported by the Brainerd Lakes Chapter of MI.

April, 2009... \$ 3,500.00

Leech Lake, Minnesota, Muskie Population Assessment. This project is to be conducted by the Walker Area Fisheries of the Minnesota DNR for purposes of quantifying the adult Muskellunge population using a mark-recapture experimental approach. This is supported by the Brainerd Lakes Chapter of MI.

April, 2009... \$ 1,300.00

North Metro Chapter of Muskies, Inc. This project is to provide equipment, specifically updated microscopes, to half the Minnesota Area Fisheries offices in need of this equipment.

April, 2009... \$ 2,200.00

Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation. Partial funding for the acquisition of the Lantern Bay shoreline/land area of Woman Lake. This undertaking is to purchase critical habitat, as identified by the Minnesota DNR, from shoreline development that would negatively impact the Woman Lake fisheries that inhabit this sensitive shoreline.

May, 2009... \$ 5,000.00

Brainerd Lakes Chapter of Muskies, Inc. Endowment Fund. The Foundation is partially granting to the endowment/scholarship fund at Central Lakes College in Brainerd, MN. The program is for two (2) scholarships awarded one each to a second year student in the Natural Resource and Natural Resource Law Enforcement programs.

May, 2009... \$ 1,000.00

Collaborative Field Research Project on Catch and Release of Muskellunge. This is a joint project by Carlton University in Ottawa, Ontario (Canada), the University of Illinois, and Muskies

Canada to determine the effects of stress and mortality associated with catch-and-release angling for muskies.

May, 2009... \$ 10,000.00

Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc. Equipment and materials for stocking purposes. This grant is for procuring, upgrading, and maintaining equipment related to the raising and stocking of Muskellunge in Minnesota.

June, 2009... \$ 2,000.00

Fargo-Moorhead Chapter of Muskies, Inc., Many Point, Minnesota Stocking Program. This grant is to assist the Chapter's committed funding to the Minnesota DNR for the continuation of stocking this new water with Muskellunge. This program began in 2005 for a five-year stocking commitment.

September, 2009... \$ 5,000.00

First Wisconsin Chapter of Muskies, Inc., Lake Wissota Stocking Program. This grant is to assist the Chapter in their continued efforts to stock the Leech Lake strain of Muskellunge in Lake Wissota.

October, 2009... \$ 4,000.00

Southern Crossroads Chapter of Muskies, Inc., French Lake Stocking Program. This grant is to assist the Chapter, with the cooperation and approval of the Minnesota DNR, in purchasing and stocking adult Muskellunge in French Lake.

October, 2009... \$ 3,400.00

Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc., Lake Minnetonka Stocking Program. This grant is to assist the Chapter, with the cooperation and approval of the Minnesota DNR, in purchasing, stocking, and tagging fingerlings and yearling muskies in Lake Minnetonka to determine angler recapture rates in highly pressured waters.

November, 2009... \$ 5,000.00

Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc., White Bear Lake Stocking Program. This grant is to assist the Chapter, with the cooperation and approval of the Minnesota DNR, in purchasing, stocking and tagging fingerlings and yearling muskies in White Bear Lake to determine angler recapture rates in highly pressured waters. This tagging program will be in honor of, and for future reference, be named the George Wahl Memorial Program.

November, 2009... \$ 7,200.00

Summer Trips

WINNIPEG RIVER, MINAKI, ONTARIO

JULY 11-18

The trip will again be headquartered at Paradise Cove Resort. The Winnipeg River offers world class fishing with great opportunities for 50+-inch fish. The cost is \$297.50 per person with 4 or 5 per cabin. A \$50 deposit required by May 15. If you would like to experience some great muskie fishing, contact George Selcke at 952-933-2608 soon as there are only 10 spots remaining.

ANDY MEYER'S LODGE – EAGLE LAKE, ONTARIO

AUGUST 9-15

Eagle Lake is a terrific muskie and walleye fishery. The week includes housekeeping cabin, use of boats with gas, guide trip, marked maps and seminars. There is access to five remote lakes and if you want, fly-in trips can be arranged. The trip will be discounted to approximately \$550 per person – add \$200 if you want to include evening meals. There are 12 spots available. A \$100 deposit needs to be paid as soon as possible to reserve the spot. Contact Troy Zuelzke by phone at 952-955-3890 or email at tzuelzke@yahoo.com.

RED WING LODGE – LAKE OF THE WOODS

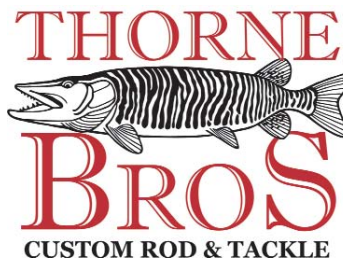
AUGUST 15-22

The trip to Red Wing Lodge is a joint endeavor with the North Metro chapter. Included is housekeeping cabin, free dockage, free launch, a daily bag of ice. The Bartletts will host a free dinner one evening during the week and will also give door prizes and have a drawing for one free trip. Cost will be \$250 per person with a \$50 deposit. To make your reservations, contact North Metro members John Van Ingen at 651-699-5172 or Pat Miller at 651-429-1629.

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Classified ads may be submitted by Twin Cities Chapter members. Charges are \$5.00 per month per ad. Send ad information and check made out to Muskie, Inc. by the 15th of each month for insertion into the following month's publication to: Graphic Works, 7125 17th Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423.

Capture The Moments



Minnesota Memories

Juris Ozols
grumpy@minn.net
612-747-0178

tc chapter contacts

OFFICERS

President

Jim Kroupa
952-474-5967

First Vice President

Greg Kappes
952-470-2260

Second Vice President

Troy Zuelzke
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Jody Dahms
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Greg Ide
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Shawn Kellett
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Mark Meritt
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John Newman
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Matt Olson
612-423-2404

Tony Sommerfeld
952-215-8114

Vince Trotta
612-688-7216

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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 Banquet and the welcome table at each meeting.

Please make an effort to support our 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

APRIL 14

**SPEAKER:
LARRY RAMSELL**

Back by popular demand will be muskie historian Larry Ramsell. Larry witnessed the largest fish caught by a chapter member in 2007. He fishes around the world and is going to talk about spring fishing and much more!

ALSO:

Dick Danz will be back with the reels he took last meeting to repair. If you have reels needing repair, bring them to the meeting and make arrangements with Dick.



MUSKIES INC.

7125 17th Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423

Return Service Requested

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.).