



A Muskie Tale

from Vince Trotta

The August evening was perfect for another outing of the Twin Cities Chapter Fishing League. The location of the outing, Minneapolis' Lake Calhoun, provided a metropolitan backdrop for an activity that has its roots in primeval times – fishing for muskies. My fishing partner, Juris Ozols, and I had great aspirations for a successful evening.

Once we settled in from sightseeing and photographing our unique surroundings, we began to move around the perimeter of the lake, casting in the most likely muskie habitat. As we came to an eastside collection of boats moored to anchored floatation barrels, I said to Juris, "This is the place." Acknowledging that this was about the fifth time I had said that, Juris proceeded to cast near the boats. I did likewise. Then, it happened!

Twenty feet or so from our boat and about two feet from the side of a blue catamaran, a huge turtle appeared in hot pursuit of my treasured, out-of-production, perch-painted Swim Whizz. As the turtle was gaining on my lure, I cranked harder and removed the lure from the water to protect it. In the few seconds of action, my mind conjured up the conclusion that this was not a turtle, but rather, a giant snake. I quickly returned from the tropics and called to Juris that a large turtle was on its way to the boat. My noises already had Juris' attention. As he dropped his rod and struggled for his camera, Juris ordered me to get the lure back into the water, exclaiming, "It's a fish!" My Swim Whizz remained in the boat, Juris started raising his camera, and the tiger muskie swam under the boat, directly below me, never to return.

In 36 years of muskie follows, I had never seen anything like this breast-stroking tiger. Later, we came across Matt Olson and his fishing partner, Mike McGrath. They told me that, indeed, such behavior is not uncommon for tiger muskies.

I've accepted Matt's and Mike's expert information that tiger muskies, sometimes swim with their heads and the front of their bodies out of the water. However, that snake was really a frightening delusion – in the 50 inch range.

Take the time to jot down a Muskie Tale. Vince's story was runner-up for the 2008 season. You know, a funny or unusual story. We're looking for hard luck or entertaining tales. Who caught the world record that got away. Who fell out of a boat this year?? Whose boat sank in the middle of Lake of the Woods?? Who boated something that wasn't a fish?? Something along those lines. We all, no matter what our fishing skills, have a story to tell.

Send your muskie tale, to last year's winner, Matt Olson. E-mail it to olson@3pete.com, or mail to 7438 Park Ave. S., Richfield, MN 55423. Call Matt at 612-423-2404 if you have any questions. The 2009 winner will be announced at the Winter Banquet.

Board Elections Held at December Meeting

Take part in making decisions that affect you as a member of this chapter. Become a board member if you want to be more involved and have a say in what the chapter does on a day-to-day basis; if you like to help plan events, or have a say in how they are planned; if you want to be able to have a say in how the chapter uses its funds; or if you would like to influence how the chapter deals with Muskies Inc. International, the DNR, or other muskie clubs.

The board needs people who are interested and willing to participate in making decisions for the chapter and its future. If you're interested in becoming a member of the board, please contact Jim Kroupa (952-474-5967 or jkroupa@ties2.net).

Elections will be held at the December meeting. Board members take office for two-year terms beginning in January. Nominated at the last meeting for re-election for another 2-year term are: Brad Coyne, Scott Crawford, Dianne Dahl, Terry Hanson, Paul Hartman, Greg Ide, Shawn Kellett, Jim Kroupa, Mike McGrath, Stu McIntosh, Joe Mellott, and Eric Schultz. Also nominated were Jeff Reddig and Denise Olson.

The chapter thanks board members whose terms are up and are not seeking re-election Vince Trotta, Matt Olson, Pete Randall, and Bob Culbertson.

From Our President

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving. As I write this the lakes should be a few weeks from freezing and the end of the muskie fishing season. I have just returned from successful deer hunting. I did better than my muskie hunting this year.

I returned to find out that one of our board members, Mark Meritt, died of an aneurism at age 39. I had just been talking to him and he said he had his best muskie success ever this last year. If you knew Mark, you know he was a very, very good muskie fisherman. He was on Tonka the day before he died and caught a big one. If you go to the Chicago Muskie show you can see Mark in a video he made of fly fishing for muskies. Things can happen so fast. Be thankful, hug people close to you, and go fishing more. The muskie world is going to be missing Mark.

We have been netting ponds trying to finish this year's stocking program. The Kost pond that members of our chapter helped net had a few dozen really big fish. They are going to a fish aquarium to educate the public on what muskies are like. This pond was managed and financed by Paul Hartman, Frankie Dusenka and our chapter. Labor was supplied by volunteers from our chapter, the muskie guides association, and other chapters and interested individuals. It was disappointing to get so few, but we all will keep trying. Some of our other ponds haven't turned out so well either. Aquaculture is challenging, so we are buying as many fish as we can to meet our stocking goals. We have bought \$1,500+ worth of tags for the DNR to use in muskie studies; and we and other Muskies Inc. chapters are buying \$9,000 worth of feeders for the state muskie hatchery in Waterville.

The year's end holidays are approaching. If you are getting presents for your muskie friends, support the businesses that support us. They are listed in this newsletter. At our December meeting, we will have tournament T-shirts along with other club stuff for sale and to order. Consider these for your gifts.

We also have a club fundraiser for Tom Gander at the December meeting. I have been blown away by the generosity of club members donating their muskie baits and equipment to be sold at the December meeting. We have hundreds of baits. Some used, but many new and in wrappers. We have items for making buck tails and other lures. We have jigs and hooks. We have bass and saltwater stuff. You will be impressed. Bring money. There will be things you will want. Get yourself a present or something to give to someone else.

Also bring nominations for the Muskie Award and bring stories for the Muskie Tale Award. Get your nominations for the board in. Nominate yourself. We will have elections that evening.

Stay safe and healthy and I'll see you December 8th.

Jim Kroupa

Winter Banquet

Mark your calendars and save the date of February 20 for the chapter's 2010 Twin Cities Sportsman's Banquet. The banquet will be held at Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington. Our feature speaker will be Larry Dahlberg. Last year there was over \$16,000 in high quality prizes including St. Croix rods, Gary's custom rods, Shimano reels, Lakewood boxes, shotguns, ice fishing gear and much much more. The event raised over \$10,000 that was utilized for stocking and rearing. Last year we sold out to a crowd of 200 so don't wait to get your tickets this year. Tickets will go on sale through our web site the first week of January. You may also purchase tickets in person at the January general membership meeting at the Knights of Columbus in Bloomington.

If you are planning to attend we need your help. Please consider volunteering to help with check-in or man one of our many prize tables. We are also looking for kids to be runners for prizes. If you can volunteer please contact Joe Mellott, Troy Zuelzke or Jody Dahms or send an email to banquet@twincitiesmuskiesinc.org.

Don't forget to invite a friend. This is a fun night out whether you are "into" muskie fishing or not.

Nominations for Muskie Award

The Muskie Award is presented each year at our Winter Banquet to a deserving chapter member who has constantly and unselfishly devoted time and energy over the years to promoting and improving the goals of Muskies, Inc. Nominations of an individual for the Muskie Award must be submitted in writing. Include a history of the person's involvement with the Twin Cities Chapter over the years. Send your nominations to Jim Kroupa at 6311 Steller Circle, Excelsior, MN 55331. Or email them to jkroupa@ties2.net. Call Jim at 952-474-5967 if you have questions. Nominations must be in by January 31. The winner will be selected by secret ballot at the February Board meeting.

Cabin Fever Clinic Scheduled for January

Pre-register for the Musky Road Rules Cabin Fever Clinic with Brad Coyne and our chapter will receive \$15 for each registration. The Cabin Fever Clinic is scheduled for Saturday, January 30 from 10 am to at the Hilton Garden Inn in Maple Grove. The clinic is structured to provide anglers with knowledge that they can apply to the up coming season. The event will consist of seminars by Gregg Thomas and Tony Grant along with local anglers that can provide knowledge on the local waters. There is also a "New Product Showcase" displaying new tackle and equipment. Each product will be

highlighted and demonstrated at poolside. The combination of multi media seminars, new product showcases and Q&A sessions prove well worth the \$50 admission price. People who attended the clinic last year found the event to be extremely informative and worthwhile.

Local anglers that may be scheduled at the event include Luke Ronnestrand, Paul Hartman, Jim Murphy, Jason Hammernick or others. Everyone who pre-registers will receive a free lure. See Brad Coyne at the meetings or call him at 763-412-6697 to pre-register and earn our chapter an additional \$15.

Members Only Contest

from Eric Bakke, Members Only Contest Chair

And down the home stretch we go! The season is ending on December 1st and the weather may be so nice that the water will remain open past the season! Hopefully all of you have a collection of memories from the season to hold you over this winter, I know I do. Remember that you have to register all fish within 30 days of the fish being caught. That means that all of the results of the Members Only Contest will be official January 1st.

Numbers of fish caught so far this year by our members who register are up. We are over 540 registered fish, up from the 465 in 2008 and 463 in 2007. Always an exciting thing to see more fish caught!

Here is where we stand.

JUNIORS DIVISION:

- 1ST Evan Nicolai - 93 points - 7 fish - 48" longest
- 2ND Zachary Weyland - 89 points - 5 fish - 47" longest

WOMENS DIVISION:

- 1ST Carole K Janik - 118 points - 7 fish - 50" longest
- 2ND Linda Knutson - 113 points - 6 fish - 50" longest
- 3RD Barbara Zappa - 15 points - 2 fish - 37" longest

WOMENS MASTERS:

- 1ST Cindy Hegdahl - 230 points - 17 fish - 53.5" longest

MENS DIVISION:

- 1ST Dean A Roll - 872 points - 47 fish - 54" longest
- 2ND John C Newman Jr - 449 points - 34 fish - 48.5" longest
- 3RD Bob Culbertson - 408 points - 35 fish - 49" longest
- 4TH Pat McAllister - 322 points - 18 fish - 49" longest
- 5TH Peter R Janik - 275 points - 15 fish - 53" longest
- 6TH Brent Hirsch - 267 points - 19 fish - 48.5" longest
- 7TH Mark Fredrick - 245 points - 20 fish - 47" longest
- 8TH Eric Bakke - 223 points - 14 fish - 50" longest
- 9TH David Nicolai - 211 points - 17 fish - 46" longest
- 10TH Jack Hilbert - 188 points - 14 fish - 48.5" longest

MENS HYBRID DIVISION:

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

- 1ST John C Newman Jr - 2 fish - 41" longest
- 2ND Eric Bakke - 2 fish - 40" longest
- 3RD John Huss - 2 fish - 42.5" longest

MENS MASTERS DIVISION:

- 1ST Kris Astorp - 1242 points - 71 fish - 53" longest
- 2ND Phil Groth - 324 points - 21 fish - 48.5" longest
- 3RD Tony Sommerfeld - 291 points - 10 fish - 51" longest

- 4TH David Gustafson - 208 points - 12 fish - 53" longest

- 5TH Brian Hanson - 55 points - 3 fish - 46" longest

MENS MASTERS HYBRID DIVISION:

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

- 1ST Kris Astorp - 4 fish - 40" longest

LUNKER OF THE MONTH:

MAY - Official - Travis Hultgren -

46.5" - May 28 - St. Croix River

JUNE - Official - David Gustafson -

53" - June 13 - Lake Waconia

JULY - Official - Dean A. Roll - 54" -

July 11 - Vermilion

AUGUST - Official - Cindy Hegdahl -

53.5" - August 23 - Plantagenet

SEPTEMBER - Official - Ryan Buboltz -

54" - September 18 - Minnetonka

OCTOBER - Unofficial - Glenn

Bergman - 53" - October 3rd -

Vermilion

NOVEMBER - Unofficial - Tony

Sommerfeld - 51" - November 11

- Minnetonka

Be sure to check your registered fish on the International webpage under the Members Only Section. You can create a Lunge Log of just your fish by entering your Member Number and creating an Excel sheet. It is a great way to relive those fish of the last season and to make sure that the totals are accurate. If there are any mistakes, be sure to let me know. Thanks to everyone for participating. Next month we'll have the Division winners in hand!

this 'n that

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING

Don't forget about "muskie stuff" for those on your gift list this holiday season.

- At the December meeting we will have lure packages for sale/auction. Wouldn't that newbie muskie fisherman appreciate something to add to his arsenal?
- Give a guided Leech Lake trip for next season.
- How about muskie apparel? Eric Schultz has hat, shirt and jacket samples and numerous catalogs of items that can be ordered with the Muskies Inc. or our chapter badge embroidered.
- Tournament t-shirts are available for only \$10 at meetings. We have a few Frank Schneider Tournament shirts in 2XL and 3XL and Inaugural George Wahl Tournament t-shirts in every size from M to 3XL.
- Give a Muskies Inc membership to your favorite muskie angler.
- Patronize local retail stores that sponsor our many fundraisers: Thorne Bros., Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle and Joe's Sporting Goods.

FUNDRAISERS FOR CHAPTER MEMBERS

Our December meeting will include a sale/auction of lures with proceeds going to Tom and Jeri Glander to help with medical expenses after Tom recently suffered a stroke.

See Russ Peterson at meetings or call him at 612-618-0391 to schedule a Leech Lake guided trip with Terrie Dubé next season. Terrie is offering full-day guide trips for two at \$250 (usual rate is \$375). The "pay now, fish later" concept will help her with eye surgery not covered by any insurance.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The tournament committee is looking for new members. The committee plans and executes two tournaments each year. The Frank Schneider Tournament is held in the Bemidji-Cass Lake-Leech Lake-Longville area the weekend after Labor Day and provides the funds to keep our chapter running each year. The George Wahl Tournament will be the first Saturday in October and 100% of the proceeds go to stocking and rearing in the metro area. The committee meets at 7:00 pm the last Tuesday of the

month at the Knights of Columbus Hall. If you want to help organize these events, contact Denise Olson 612-866-4730 or olson@3pete.com.

CHAPTER CHALLENGE

The 2010 Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge will be held at Lake Vermilion August 25-27 and is hosted by the 2009 Challenge winners, Star of the North chapter, along with the Brainerd Lakes chapter. Cabins are being held for the week of August 21-28 at Vermilion Dam Lodge. Our chapter would like to field three 6-man teams. Contact Matt Olson at 612-423-2404 to represent us at this gathering of chapters from all over the country.

THORNE BROS. MOVED

Thorne Bros. has moved to a new, larger facility at 10091 Central Avenue NE, about 4-1/2 miles north of their old store. The new location offers better retail space with no shared parking. Stop by and check it out.

MUSKIE EXPO

George's Minnesota Muskie Expo will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 9, 10 & 11, 2010 at Concordia University's Ganglehoff Center in St. Paul. Mark your calendars and plan on attending.



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www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org

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Contact: Graphic Works
612-866-4730 • olson@3pete.com

Thank Our Sponsors

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

DECEMBER 8
SPEAKER:
DR. LOREN MILLER

Dr. Loren Miller is a University of Minnesota researcher who has genetically fingerprinted more Minnesota muskies than anyone. Dr. Miller will present new information about changes to the muskie population of lakes by introduction of Shoepak, Leech, Iowa and Wisconsin strains.

Elections of chapter board members will be held.

Don't forget: sale/auction of lures for Tom & Jeri Glander.

Bring your appetites as we'll have some good and snacks.

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.).



MUSKIES INC.
7125 17th Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423

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