

# On the Water



Volume 12, Issue 6

JUNE 2009

## Chapter Summer Fishing League

Our Chapter Fishing League is getting underway. The league is a way to get members out on the water fishing instead of just talking about it. It is intended as a fun outing with other chapter members. The league is a great way to meet other muskie fishermen, make friendships, and learn more about muskie fishing. If you don't have a boat, we'll match you up.

Sunday, June 7	Forrest Lake	6 am – 12 pm
Wednesday, June 17	Lake Independence	6 – 10 pm
Wednesday, July 8	Lake Minnetonka, Gray's Bay Landing	6 – 10 pm
Wednesday, July 29	Lake Minnetonka, Gray's Bay Landing	6 – 10 pm
Saturday, August 15	Lake Harriet/Lake Calhoun	6 am – 12 pm
Wednesday, September 2	Lake Waconia	6 – 10 pm
Saturday, September 19	Lake Minnetonka, Gray's Bay Landing	6 am – 12 pm
Sat/Sun October 10-11	Lake Mille Lacs	Times TBD

Please note that dates and lake locations are subject to change.

This year there will be a voluntary fee of \$3 to take part in the league. Money collected will be used to purchase a traveling trophy for the winner of the league. This will be due at the first outing that you attend for the season.

Scoring is the same as the Member's Only contest: 4 points for a 30" muskie and 1 point for each inch over 30". 5 points will be awarded per event fished, weekend events count 5 points per day. 3 points will be awarded to each boat partner of a successful catch during the league.

Note that cancellations of the outings may occur due to weather conditions or if lake water temps reach 80°.

Contact Jody Dahms at 952-356-6047 or at [jdahms@aquali.com](mailto:jdahms@aquali.com) if you are interested in taking part in the events and for event changes.



## Capable Partners Outing is June 14

Don't miss the chapter's annual outing with Capable Partners on June 14 at Lake Independence - Baker Park Reserve. We will be fishing from 6:30 am to "shore lunch" time with physically challenged members of Capable Partners. 15 volunteers with boats are needed. About one-half of participants will need space for wheelchairs, but any size boat can be matched with one of the Capable Partners. After the Shore lunch, you can continue fishing for the day. Organizer Paul Hartman will gladly go over lure selection or "hot spots".

Share your time with a fellow outdoorsman who loves the pursuit of muskies. Paul has been doing this for 13 years and this will be his last year. We need someone who will work with him now and take over the event for next year. It's a one-day event that takes a some coordination, but not a huge commitment. It would be a shame for us not to do this again. Please call Paul Hartman at 763-786-6031 if you can bring your boat, you want to help with the lunch, or you will be willing to take over this event for next year.

## Family Night/Swap Meet in June

Family night will be our June 9 meeting. There will be something for everyone and we encourage you to bring the family. Our youth partner Fishing For Life will have games and other events for kids. For the adults, we are bringing back the swap meet.

At some of our more recent swap meets, there was not a lot of stuff to swap/sell and they were cancelled. Last meeting members voted to bring back the swap meet. In order for this to work, everyone will have to bring items to swap/sell. Go through your tackle boxes and that stuff in the basement or garage and BRING IT TO THE NEXT MEETING.

We're starting an hour early - at 6 pm - so the younger kids can get home and in bed at a reasonable time. In order to have more room for games and swap tables, we'll be meeting in the street-level "bingo" room of the KC hall. Food will be available.

# *From Our President*

*By the time you are reading this column the Muskie Opener will almost be upon us. Are you ready?*

*I just got back from walleye opener and my boat worked. This is a good thing. However, the weather was terrible. All things will be better when we can chase muskies. I have new map chips to try and all the lures I bought and didn't really need over the winter. I am set.*

*The club is going strong. Our Vet's Home Opener was a great success. Our last event of the spring and early summer is when we host the Capable Partners on June 14. We still need some volunteers to take some people out. The June meeting will consist of a swap meet and kids night. Bring stuff to trade and sell and bring some*

*kids to participate in the games. We start at 6 and will have some food for the kids.*

*As president, my mission is to facilitate the implementation of the club goals. As a new leader I needed affirmation of some of these goals. We spend a great deal of our time and money on our stocking and rearing goals. Much of our fundraising efforts go towards stocking. A great deal of our time is devoted to supplying labor and lobbying to achieve these goals. Do we want to continue in this direction? I put the question to our board in May. Here were the choices we debated.*

*1. Get out of stocking and rearing altogether. 2. Stock by just buying fish from various sources and supplying volunteer labor when asked. 3. Continue*

*in our present direction.*

*Choice number three was decided upon by the board majority. Here is what it includes. The club will purchase fish from suppliers, both private and otherwise. Because that supply of fish is somewhat unreliable, we will continue to try and raise our own fish for stocking. We will form partnerships to implement these goals. Our partners will include the Hugh Becker Foundation, the MMA, Paul Hartman Enterprises, Frankies, and the DNR as well as others. As your club continues in stocking efforts we will continue to need everyone to help when asked. Support our projects and fundraising activities.*

*I'll see you at our meetings and soon on the water, Jim Kroupa*

## **Members Only Contest**

**T**hese are the rules and regulations for the Members Only Contest at the International level and for our chapter. Our chapter has put in place some small rules that are explained below on when you move to the Master's Divisions at the International level and for our chapter. Also explained are rules on points given per release:

1. If you win the Men's Division, you will move to the Master's Division for two years. If within those two years you do not catch a total of 250 fish all time, meaning since the first day you ever started registering fish, you will move back to the Men's Division. Once you release 250 fish, you will then automatically move to the Master's Division the next year and stay there for good.

2. If you win the Women's Division, you will move to the Master's Division for two years. If within those two years you do not catch a total of 100 fish all time, meaning since the first day you ever started registering fish, you will move back to the Women's Division. Once you release 100 fish, you will then automatically move to the Master's Division the next year and stay there for good.

So there is no confusion, you maybe in the Men's or Women's Division at the International level but also be in the respected Master's Division within our chapter. The

International only looks at total fish registered all times, not in just one particular season.

3. Men with less than 250 releases and Women with less than 100 releases before January 1st of a calendar year will remain in that Division for the next fishing season. Meaning if you reach the benchmark set at the International level during the year, you will remain in the respected Division until the next year or season.

4. If you are in the Junior's Division and turn 18 years old prior to January 1st, the next fishing season you will register fish in the Men's or Women's Division.

5. Release points are based on 4 points for each release and 1 point for each inch over 30 inches. Any measurement of 1/2" or longer will be rounded up. Any fraction of less than 1/2" will be dropped.

6. All entries must be mailed to their chapter contact chair and postmarked or entered in directly on the web site within 30 days of the date of release. All fish registered or post marked after 30 days, will not qualify and will not count.

If you have any questions or concern about the rules , please contact Pete Randall.

**Members Only Chair, Pete Randall, is currently working a university degree program and is unable to keep up as Members Only Chair. We are looking for someone to head up our Members Only Contest. This can be anyone, and does not have to be a board member. Pete will help train the new person.**

## Minnesota Veteran's Home Fishing "Opener"

The Twin Cities chapter held a "fishing opener" at the Minnesota Veterans Home on Saturday, May 2. A trout pond was set up at the Home and residents spent the day catching trout. Many came out early in the day so they wouldn't miss anything. Each resident who was lucky enough to catch a fish got his/her picture taken to remember the event.

A delicious "shore lunch" of the fresh trout, fried potatoes, beans, rolls and cookies was served to everyone involved. Thank you to all the Muskies Inc. members who helped the residents, cleaned fish, and cooked the fish and potatoes; to Terry Hagstrom who organized the event; and to VFW Post 6099 and others who provide funding for this event.



# Spring Muskie Programs of the Minnesota DNR

from Juris Ozols



**B.J. Bauer from the Minnesota DNR pulling up a trap net on Lake Rebecca.**



**John Newman helps out as B.J. Bauer of the Minnesota DNR gets ready to take a muskie out of the holding tank to strip eggs.**

Support for muskie management efforts of the Department of Natural Resources is one of the continuing activities of Muskies Inc. This spring I got to see our Minnesota DNR in action on the water, and record some of their work.

You may recall that Mike Habrat and Doug Schultz from the MN DNR spoke at our April meeting about their plans for Muskie netting this spring on Rebecca and Leech lakes. I arranged to go out with them and do photo shoots.

On April 17 Vince Trotta and I went along with Mike Habrat and B.J. Bauer from the DNR as they netted Muskies for egg stripping on Lake Rebecca, one of the local Muskie brood lakes. I went out on their boat with them and Vince shot pictures from shore. John Newman also was present, waders on, to provide in-the-water help for the DNR,

The entire process is very intriguing. They had set up a dozen trap nets the day before at various points around the shore and we spent several hours checking all of those. A disappointment: although Mike was hoping to get about 20 Muskies, we only got three – two males and one female. But that was the minimum number required and they went ahead with the egg stripping, fertilization, and tagging.

I won't get into the details of that here, as I'm going to interview Mike later and will have a full story on that. Let me just say that it's quite an involved process using all kinds of equipment and technology.

Then, on the day after fishing opener, my buddy Jerry Peters and I followed Doug Schultz and his colleague Andy around on Leech Lake as they netted Muskies for DNA sampling. Muskies Inc. member John Underhill was also in their boat to take pictures and help with handling the fish.

The four nets that had been set up produced seven Muskies ranging in size from 39 to 51 inches and many other

*continued next page*



**Mike Habrat holds the fish as B.J. prepares to collect milt from a male muskie.**



**John Newman releasing the muskie back into Lake Rebecca.**

fish of various species, including at least one Walleye in the upper 20 inch size.

The DNA sampling involves taking 3 to 5 scales from each fish to “fingerprint” it in order to develop data on Muskie population on Leech Lake. As Doug writes in a report, “The benefits of this technique include not having to estimate tag loss or angler non-reporting rates and cost-effectiveness, particularly so because Leech Lake muskie spawning location characteristics and fish behavior are not conducive for effective sampling with standard DNR muskie survey gears.”

Well, we observed Doug and Andy do their work on those seven muskies, and I have some pictures for you here. Funding for processing the samples has been provided by the Hugh Becker Foundation and the Brainerd Lakes Chapter of Muskies Inc.

I did an on-the-water interview with Doug and Andy, and we’ll have a full article on that in an upcoming issue of the *Muskie* magazine.

Both of these were enormously interesting and educational experiences for me, and I appreciate the DNR giving me the opportunities to observe and photograph. Work such as this by our DNR is central to enhancing our muskie fishery and it’s a delight to be able to support and record it.

### **Muskie Tales**

*When you’re fishing this summer remember to tell your funny, interesting, unusual story to Matt Olson. Matt, the winner of the 2008 Muskie Tale Award will be looking for stories for the 2009 Award.*



**Doug Shultz with one of the seven muskies caught in the trap nets set up on Leech Lake.**



**John Underhill releasing the 51-inch Leech Lake muskie that has just been sampled.**

## **this 'n that**

### **BEMIDJI/CASS LAKE CHALLENGE**

The Bemidji/Cass Lake Muskies Inc chapter is holding a tournament Saturday, June 20 on Lake Bemidji, Big Lake, Lake Plantagenet and the Cass Lake Chain. Entry is \$45. They have issued a challenge to all Muskies Inc. chapters. The Chapter Challenge entrance fee is \$50. Proceeds of the Challenge will be donated to Bemidji State University Fisheries/Biology Scholarship Fund in the name of the winning chapter. If you’re interested in representing our chapter in the tournament, call Jim Kroupa at 952-474-5967.

### **2009 GIL HAMM CHAPTER CHALLENGE**

The chapter is looking for members to represent the Twin Cities chapter at the annual Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge on Leech Lake this August. Teams from MI chapters nationwide will gather August 26-28 for the Challenge, hosted by last year’s winner, the Fargo-

Moorhead chapter. Headquarters will be Grand Vu Lodge located on Pine Point. We’re looking for one more team to represent us. Please contact Steve Hedensten 651-757-8653 or 952-953-6544 if you’d like to be part of the team.

### **48" MINIMUM FOR MUSKIES**

In the last days of the session the state legislature voted to increase the minimum length for muskies from 40" to 48". This is a great victory for the muskie fishery in Minnesota. The minimum of 40" was adopted in the 1980s when a 40" muskie was considered a “trophy”. During the recent Dr. Fulton study that surveyed MN muskie anglers that “trophy” now started at 48". It looks like the new regulation will go into effect in 2010, but it could possibly be implemented sooner depending on the commissioner. Thanks to all that added their input to their state Senator and/or Representative.



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## upcoming events

### JUNE

- 7 Chapter Fishing League  
Forrest Lake 6 am – 12 pm
- 9 General Meeting: Family  
Night / Swap Meet
- 14 Capable Partners Outing:  
Lake Independence, 6:30  
am
- 17 Chapter Fishing League:  
Lake Independence, 6 – 10  
pm

### JULY

- 8 Chapter Fishing League:  
Lake Minnetonka, 6 – 10  
pm, Gray's Bay Landing
- 14 General Meeting
- 11-18 Chapter Trip to Minaki –  
contact George Selcke  
952-933-2608
- 29 Chapter Fishing League:  
Lake Minnetonka 6 – 10  
pm Gray's Bay Landing

### AUGUST

- 9-15 Chapter trip to Andy  
Myers Lodge, Eagle Lake,  
Ontario – contact Troy  
Zeulzke 952-955-3890

- 11 General Meeting: Summer  
Picnic, Minnehaha Falls, 6  
pm
- 15 Chapter Fishing League:  
Lake Harriet/Lake  
Calhoun, 6 am - 12 pm
- 15-22 Chapter Trip with North  
Metro, Red Wing Lodge,  
Lake of the Woods –  
contact John Van Ingen  
651-699-5172

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Chapter Fishing League:  
Lake Waconia, 6 – 10 pm
- 11-13 42nd Annual Frank  
Schneider Memorial  
Tournament, Bemidji-Cass-  
Walker-Longville
- 19 Chapter Fishing League:  
Lake Minnetonka, 6 am –  
12 pm, Gray's Bay Landing

### OCTOBER

- 3 George Wahl Memorial  
Stocking Tournament,  
Metro Area Lakes
- 10-11 Chapter Fishing League  
Outing: Lake Mille Lacs,  
Times to be determined



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*Capture The Moments*



**Minnesota Memories**

*Juris Ozols*  
grumpy@minn.net  
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**tc chapter contacts**

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952-474-5967

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952-470-2260

**Second Vice President**

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[www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org)

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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

**JUNE 9**

### **FAMILY NIGHT AND SWAP MEET 6:00 PM**

*There will be games and other events for kids and a swap meet for the adults.*

*Last meeting members voted to have swap meet. Go through your tackle boxes and that stuff in the basement or garage and bring it to swap/sell.*

*The meeting will be in the street-level "bingo" room. Food will be available.*



### **MUSKIES INC.**

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*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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