

On the Water



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Pictured left to right are tournament winners Matt Green and Andrew Barkley from St. Anthony Village High School, tournament director Tom Keith, and tournament runners-up Lee Skajewski and Nick Retka representing Little Falls High School.

State High School Muskie Tournament

by Tom Keith

Last winter I spoke to the Minnesota Muskie Alliance about developing a state-wide muskie tournament for high school students. I feel very strongly that we need to expand the base of our organization if we expect quality muskie fishing to continue. Each state is feeling political and economic pressures that will only be offset by a strong, effective grass-roots effort such as Muskies Inc.

Each Minnesota Muskies Inc. chapter was contacted about this project and the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals sent an email to all high school principals in the state. Each principal had the opportunity to select (by whatever means they chose) a two-student team to represent their school in a regional contest.

Each chapter was given great latitude on how they ran their regional tournament. Ultimately two chapters (Brainerd Lakes and Twin Cities) ran a tournament this pilot year. Each chapter gave the two students in the winning team a year's Muskies Inc. membership in their chapter.

Those winning teams competed in the first-ever State High School Muskie Tournament on Monday, August 16 on Lake Minnetonka. They represented themselves, their families, their communities, and muskie fishing at the highest level. The winning team was Matt Green and Andrew Barkley from St. Anthony Village High School. Nick Retka and Lee Skajewski from Little Falls High School were the runners up. Both teams are hoping to be able to participate again in an expanded format next year.

A special thanks to Jim Kroupa, past President of the Twin Cities Chapter for his help as a judge and putting together a gift bag for each team. If you have any questions, you can contact tomk@usiwireless.com.

Catch a Muskie – Win a New Boat!

Anyone who registers a muskie in the Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament (40" minimum) will be entered in the drawing for the grand prize, a Skeeter SX190 with a Yamaha 150.

It's not too late to register for the tournament being held September 10, 11 & 12 on 21 lakes in northern Minnesota. Entries are available through September 3 at Thorne Bros. in Blaine, Joe's in St. Paul, Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle in Oakdale, Reed's Family Outdoor Outfitters in Walker, and One Stop in Longville. Or, enter on-line at the chapter website www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org through Labor Day. Tournament entry is \$95, \$30 for juniors and \$175 for a family package.

This is not a big-time team event. Each participant has equal chance to make the top ten. Entry includes three days of muskie fishing, feeds Friday and Saturday nights, and an awards program and feed at Moon-dance Fairgrounds hosted by Bill Sherck, from TV's Due North Outdoors and Minnesota Bound on Sunday.

With over \$35,000 in prizes, the Frank Schneider tournament promises to be a great event. There will also be opportunities for everyone to win Canadian and US resort stays, guide trips, custom fishing equipment, and door prizes. Prizes are awarded through 10th place for released muskies with the top three juniors also receiving prizes.

Join us at Muskies Inc.'s oldest fishing contest. Who knows? You could go home with a brand new boat.

George Wahl Tournament To Benefit Metro-Area Fishery

Take a day to go muskie fishing and help improve our metro-area fishery at the same time. 100% of the proceeds raised by the George Wahl tournament will be used for the muskie fishery. Funds provided by the first tournament last year went toward stocking muskies in White Bear Lake and Lake Minnetonka.

The second annual George Wahl Memorial Muskie tournament will be

held Saturday, October 2. Waters included in the tournament are Lake Minnetonka, Lake Waconia, Lake Independence, Eagle Lake, Bald Eagle Lake, Lake Calhoun, Lake Harriet, Lake of the Isles, Cedar Lake, Lake Owasso, White Bear Lake, Forest Lake, and St. Croix.

The grand prize winner will be able to fish one of George's favorite fishing waters – Whitefish Bay on Lake of the Woods. A week-long stay

at Whitefish Bay Camp for 4 people plus \$1000 cash is the grand prize. Every person who enters a muskie is eligible for the grand prize drawing.

Prizes will be awarded through 10th place and to the top-placing juniors. There will be opportunities for everyone to win resort stays, guide trips, a custom Thornes Bros. rod and many other prizes.

A Mary Villnow Memorial cash bonus – created to encourage women muskie anglers of all ages – will be awarded to the top three female anglers. The Fly Angler is giving a \$250 bonus for the biggest muskie caught using a fly.

Tournament entry is \$50 per angler can be purchased at Thorne Bros. in Blaine, Joe's Sporting Goods in St. Paul, Blue Ribbon Bait and Tackle in Oakdale or on line at www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org. Entry includes fishing from 7 am to 4 pm and a feed. Friends and family are invited to the Awards Program and feed at Thorne Bros. Meal tickets can be purchased for a nominal fee.

George passed away in 2008 and the tournament was conceived as a way to honor him, his love of muskies and muskie fishing, his contribution to the muskie fishing industry, his generosity sharing information with others, and his encouragement to muskie anglers.

Fishing in the George Wahl tournament is a fun way to contribute to the muskie fishery that we all use and enjoy. We hope to see all chapter members on October 2.

Raffle Ticket Sales

Anyone who still has raffle tickets must turn them in by September 7. Jody Dahms will be at the Board meeting September 7 to collect all the tickets. Drawing will be held September 12 at the Frank Schneider Tournament.

A Muskie Tale *from Greg Ide*



Brad Coyne loves his lures so much that he locks his tackle box indoors – even when at a remote resort in Canada. But Brad apparently sees rods and reels as replaceable disposables. This was never so evident as when he drove over his rods and reels after an early-November trip to Vermilion. Every one of his rods and reels were destroyed by the wheels of the truck. Was it intentional? Brad went to Vermilion for a week and never went fishing. He spent a whole week hunting. On return, he drove over the rods. Coincidence? I don't think so!!

Share your own "Muskie Tale" – a story about something that happened while fishing, on the way to fishing or on the way back from fishing; finding something interesting on the end of your line; having trouble staying in the boat; some kind of mishap that happened while you were fishing. We hear lots of big fish stories, we want to hear something unusual.

Send your "tale" to last year's winner, Dave Rouse. E-mail it to olson@3pete.com, or mail to 1089 Stryker Ave., West St. Paul, MN 55118. Please submit by January. The person with the best tale will have the honor of keeping the Muskie Tale Award for a year, and choosing the next winner.

Waterville Hatchery Increases Fry Raising Production Thanks to Muskies Inc.

John Newman, Rearing Fund Chair

Last year when I went to pick up the muskie fingerlings for our rearing ponds at the DNR hatchery in Waterville, MN, I was able to take a tour of the facility and learn about the process for growing the fry to fingerlings. Fisheries Specialist Bruce Pittman told how they had developed a very successful system for raising the fry on dry feed.

At that time the hatchery had only two raceways with the special feeders. Bruce explained that it wasn't in their budget for more of the feeders. He also said that more feeders would be a grate help in both increasing muskie fingerling production and in saving them time.

The Twin Cities chapter board of directors unanimously voted to purchase 6 new feeders for the Waterville hatchery but found out that the cost was approximately \$10,000. Then, up steps Jim Kroupa. He contacted all the Muskies Inc. chapters statewide and explained the situation. Since the Waterville hatchery raises muskies for use throughout the state, the feeders will benefit all the chapters. Jim's efforts were definately rewarded as each Minnesota chapter stepped up with some funding. Thanks to: Fargo-Moorhead, St. Cloud, Southern Crossroads, Lake Superior, Star of the North, Arrowhead, Vikingland, North Metro, Bemidji/Cass Lake, Brainerd Lakes and the Twin Cities chapters.

With the chapter's contribution, all but \$1500 of the necessary funds was covered. The remainder was allocated by a grant from the Hugh C. Becker Foundation.

The new feeders were delivered to the Waterville hatchery prior to the season for raising this year's crop. They are up and operational producing fingerlings to enhance our fishery.

Thanks to everyone who worked on the project and contributed the necessary funds. Special thanks to Jim Kroupa for bringing us all together.



Members Only Contest

Eric Bakke, Members Only Chair

August is already an image in the rearview mirror and so is the summer. Man, did that fly by. August has continued with the bumper to bumper rush hour storm fronts moving through the entire state for most of it. We, too, got the mugginess that we lacked last year, sending a few of us reading through our notes of fish past on how to fish this hot humid stage again.

For a few August has been good, for me not so good. No fish registered, humbling to say the least. Here are the standings: We have some movement in the standings for the Men's Master and Men's divisions and we finally have entries in every division so far. It's still early in the year, so get out there and get your name on the board.

JUNIORS DIVISION:

1ST Gregory Batina - 27 points - 2 fish - 40" longest
2ND Thomas Batina - 17 points - 1 fish - 43"

WOMENS DIVISION:

1ST Carole Janik - 46 points -
2 fish - 51" longest

WOMENS MASTERS:

1ST Linda Knutson - 65 points - 5 fish - 46" longest
2ND Cindy Hegdahl - 12 points - 1 fish - 38"

MENS DIVISION:

1ST Marko Brinatte - 226 points - 14 fish - 47" longest
2ND Jack Hilbert - 161 points - 11 fish - 47" longest
3RD Pat McAllister - 144 points - 6 fish - 53" longest
4TH Eric Bakke - 132 points - 11 fish - 44.5" longest
5TH Matt Olson - 126 points - 10 fish - 46.5" longest
6TH Brent Hirsch - 126 points - 8 fish - 55" longest
7TH John Huss - 117 points - 7 fish - 48" longest
8TH Peter Janik - 106 points - 7 fish - 46.5" longest
9TH Chad Hagel - 102 points - 7 fish - 47" longest
10TH Dave Knutson - 94 points - 5 fish - 46" longest

MENS HYBRID DIVISION:

(points tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST Dave Weyland - 1 fish - 43.5"
2ND Nathan Kjellman - 1 fish - 39"
3RD Corey DeZeeuw - 1 fish - 38.5"

MENS MASTERS DIVISION:

1ST Kris Astorp - 464 points - 26 fish - 50.5" longest
2ND Dean Roll - 405 points - 24 fish - 48" longest
3RD Phil Groth - 104 points - 9 fish - 48.5" longest

MENS MASTERS HYBRID DIVISION: (points tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST Kurt Hostager - 3 fish - 46" longest

LUNKER OF THE MONTH:

APRIL - official - James Beheba - 47" - April 24 - Clear Lake, IA

MAY - no fish over 46"

JUNE - official - Pat McAllister - 52" - June 18 - Rush Lake

JULY - unofficial - Brent Hirsch - 55" - July 28 - Lake Vermilion

AUGUST - unofficial - Kris Astorp - 49" - August 9 - Lake Vermilion

By the time you read this the Gill Hamm Chapter Challenge will be all done and the trophies will be all handed out. We have three teams (18 people) that made the trek to Lake Vermilion for the event. I highly encourage all of you to participate in this event at least once.

This is my first one and so far everything but the fishing has been good. It is a great time, meeting great people, doing the one thing we love most. Muskie Fish!

See you On the Water!



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Chapter Fishing League

Roger Ecklund has taken over the lead of the chapter fishing league with a 47-incher caught at 9:30 pm on a bucktail at the August 24 outing on Minnetonka at the August 24th outing. There are only two more outings remaining for the season. Hope you can make it to them.

	FOREST LAKE 6 JUN	INDEP 23 JUN	MTKA 13 JUL	MTKA 28 JUL	MTKA 24 AUG	TOTAL PTS
Roger Ecklund	5	5	0	0	26	36
Greg Kappes	24.5	5	0	0	0	29.5
David Bond	5	5	5	5	5	25
Matt Murtha	5	5	5	5	5	25
Chris Meyer	5	5	0	5	5	20
Jody Dahms	5	0	0	5	8	18
Eric Schultz	5	5	5	0	0	15
Tom Batina	5	0	0	5	5	15
Greg Batina	5	0	0	5	5	15
Samantha Meyer	0	0	0	5	5	10
Jim Kroupa	0	5	5	0	0	10

	FOREST LAKE 6 JUN	INDEP 23 JUN	MTKA 13 JUL	MTKA 28 JUL	MTKA 24 AUG	TOTAL PTS
Derek Walton	0	0	0	0	8	8
Karen Larson	0	0	0	0	5	5
Dustin Host	0	0	0	0	5	5
Brian Olson	5	0	0	0	0	5
Bailey Meyer	0	0	0	5	0	5
Brycen Dahms	0	0	0	5	0	5
David Mitchell	0	5	0	0	0	5
Eric Bakke	0	0	0	5	0	5
Troy Zuelzke	0	0	0	5	0	5
Greg Ide	0	0	5	0	0	5
Peter Janik	0	0	5	0	0	5
John Newman	0	0	5	0	0	5
David Gustafson	0	0	5	0	0	5
Adam Salo	0	0	0	5	0	5
Shawn Kellett	0	0	5	0	0	5
George Selcke	0	0	5	0	0	5
Brent Fox	0	0	5	0	0	5
Dave Rouse	0	0	5	0	0	5


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calendar of events

SEPTEMBER

- 8 Fishing League: Lake Waconia, 6-10 pm
- 10-12 Frank Schneider, Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament, Leech-Bemidji-Cass-Winnibigoshish-Longville area
- 14 General Meeting – Speaker Lee Tauchen

OCTOBER

- 2 George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament, metro-area lakes
- 9-10 Fishing League: Lake Minnetonka, Gray's Bay Landing, times to be determined
- 12 General Meeting

Red Wing Lodge Outing in the Books

Twenty-six fishermen from both the Twin Cities and North Metro chapters again enjoyed the Bartlett family hospitality, including Betty's delicious homemade pie, at Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods the week of August 14-21.

Mother nature surprised the anglers with a tough start by hammering with high winds and plunging temperatures. Winds gusting at 20-40 mph Saturday through Monday kept many in their cabins for most of the first 3 days and severely restricted the range and choice of spots for even the most adventurous. Temperatures were down in the 40s at night and did not reach 70 until Friday, the last day.

In spite of the challenge, Muskies Inc. anglers responded by catching and releasing 68 muskies with a 38.48" average size, including 27 fish over 40". Shane Kadrlík took the Big Fish honors with a 48" muskie and will have his name engraved on the Big Fish plaque. Stories and jokes over the first 3 days were enjoyed by all, but the stats on these were not officially recorded.

Keep an eye out for a detailed fall invitation that will officially begin the sign-up period for the 2011 Red Wing Lodge outing.

If you have any questions or suggestions for improving the trip, contact: John van Ingen, 651-699-5172, maxjo@mac.com or Pat Miller, 651-429-1629.

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 Muskies, 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.

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tc chapter contacts

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First Vice President

Eric Bakke
612-202-7169

Second Vice President

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Treasurer

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Secretary

George Selcke
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Regional Vice President

Eric Schultz
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Members Only Contest

Eric Bakke
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Tournament Director

Denise Olson
612-866-4730

Webmaster

Mike McGrath
612-743-9188

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Brad Coyne
763-412-6697

Scott Crawford
952-933-6670

Jody Dahms
952-997-6148

Jim Doyle
952-920-9818

Terry Hanson
612-221-1818

Greg Ide
612-331-5034

Tom Keith
612-925-1109

Stu McIntosh
651-699-9817

Jim Kroupa
952-474-5967

Joe Mellott
952-226-4880

John Newman
651-699-8676

Jeff Redig
651-402-5994

Tony Sommerfeld
952-215-8114

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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, remember 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're looking for a muskie trip, keep the sponsoring resorts in mind.

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next meeting

SEPTEMBER 14

SPEAKER: LEE TAUCHEN

Last year, Lee Tauchen's guide boat had 53, 49, 48 and 47.5 inch Frank Schneider Tournament muskies – the largest and most of any boat. Lee says "40 is the new 30", and will show top techniques for targeting fish over 40 pounds. Lee also manufactures the Lee Lure line of durable topwater baits.



MUSKIES INC.

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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.).