

On the Water



Volume 15, Issue 12

DECEMBER 2012



10-inch muskie fingerlings that were tagged with PIT and Floy tags were released in Lake Minnetonka in early November as part of the DNR three-year study on survival rates of stocked muskies.

2012 Stocking Report

from John Newman, Stocking and Rearing Committee Chair

It's been a busy year trying to wrap up stocking for the DNR study on Bald Eagle, White Bear and Minnetonka. This is the last year of a three-year study comparing survival rates of fingerling muskies and yearlings stocked. For the study tagged fingerlings and yearlings were released in all three lakes at a ratio of three fingerlings to each yearling.

Lake Minnetonka had 1,214 fingerlings and 372 yearlings stocked in fall 2009 and 1,200 fingerlings and 88 yearlings stocked in in fall 2011. The two other metro lakes were stocked with the same 3:1 ratio in 2008, 2010, and 2011.

This spring started with 700 ten-inch fingerlings being purchased and put into 2 different west-metro rearing ponds in hopes of providing 400 yearlings to stock in the fall. The ponds were harvested during November and yielded 215 yearling muskies averaging about 18 inches each. One pond proved very good with a 55 percent return and the other came up short yielding only a few fish. So goes fish farming! The fish were tagged with PIT and Floy tags and then stocked in Minnetonka.

Our other setback came when the DNR came up short on many of their quotas for stocking the metro lakes. Originally they were going to supply 1200 fingerlings for Minnetonka but were unable to provide them. Our chapter contacted a trophy game and fish hatchery and were able to purchase the 1200 fingerlings for the study this fall. DNR personnel and several volunteers from our chapter spend three days at the hatchery in Ellendale tagging them with PIT and Floy tags and stocking them in Minnetonka. If you want to see how the tagging process works, go to <http://youtu.be/a5iAAoUpPzY> where Dan Robillard, one of the volunteers, posted a video of the tagging.

STOCKING continued on page 2

Chapter Elections Will be Held in December

Members of the chapter's Board of Directors will be elected at the December meeting. Newly-elected Board members will serve a two-year term starting in January. Up for re-election are: Jim Doyle, Peter Janik, John Newman, Denise Olson, Eric Schultz and Troy Zuelzke.

Consider taking part in making decisions that affect you as a member of this chapter. The Board needs people who are interested and willing to participate in the future of this chapter.

If you want to be more involved and have a say in what the chapter does on a day-to-day basis; if you want to have a say in how events are planned; if you want to be able to have a say in how the chapter uses its funds; if you would like to influence how the chapter deals with the Muskies Inc. International organization, the DNR or other muskie clubs, become a board member.

The chapter Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus.

Contact Tom Keith (612-925-1109 or tomk@usiwireless.com), Eric Schultz (651-917-8272 or eschultz33@comcast.net), or a current board member if you're interested in becoming a member of the Board.

From Our President

You only get so many muskie seasons and another one is finished. Hope you built some great memories and are already thinking about next year. June 1st is only a little over 6 months away!

At our November meeting, our guest speaker was Dennis Lappen. Dennis shared many of his ideas about fall fishing on Lake Minnetonka. He gave ideas and strategies you can use not only during the last weeks of the muskie season, but the rest of the season as well.

I want to acknowledge the Stocking Committee of our chapter. Look for their article in this newsletter. Their work continues to provide a bright future for muskie fishing in the metro area.

Late this winter we will have several collection nights for bass rods, reels, and lures. Fishing for Life has several committees that repair/rebuild them in time to give to kids at the Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration Day in June that is sponsored by our chapter. Even those spin-casting reels you have not used for a decade are accepted. We will again be looking for guides to take military families out for a morning of fishing on Lake Minnetonka. We will keep you updated.

Start cleaning out your tackle boxes early and be thinking about the shows and our upcoming banquet!

Tom Keith

STOCKING *continued from page 1*

I'm happy to report that all stocking has been finalized for the DNR study. Hopefully, data from the three lakes will start coming in soon. I encourage everyone to watch for the tags in the fish we catch from Bald Eagle, White Bear and Minnetonka.

It was an expensive year for the chapter. The Twin Cities chapter spent over \$26,000 on fish and tags for the study and 300 fingerlings that were stocked into Lake Independence this spring.

I would like to thank everyone that donated to our chapter through our various fundraisers: the Sportsman's Banquet, the Frank Schneider Memorial Tournament, and the George Wahl Memorial Tournament, and the amazing members that coordinated those events. I would also like to thank the DNR for their efforts, especially BJ Bauer and Kristin Macaroni who spent many hours working in the ponds and tagging fish.

Without these efforts there wouldn't be as many muskies swimming in our metro-area waters! Thanks again.



Clockwise (from top left): Fingerlings from the Ellendale facility ready to be released into Minnetonka. BJ Bauer (left) and Kristin Macaroni (right) with Stocking Chair John Newman. Fingerlings swimming into their new home. At the Ellendale facility each fingerling was given a Floy tag and PIT tag before being taken to Minnetonka.



Thank You, Dick Chapman

The Twin Cities chapter wants to extend a grateful “Thank You” to Dick Chapman for his generous donation of \$3000 to the chapter. At his request, the money will be used for the Stocking and Rearing fund.

Dick was one of the original 13 members who helped found Muskies Inc. with Gil Hamm. He spent nearly 40 years at WCCO radio, doing mostly news and sports. Dick is retired and currently resides in Florida, but keeps up with Muskies Inc. and this chapter.

Sportsman’s Banquet

Mark your calendars and save the date of March 9 for the chapter’s 2013 Twin Cities Sportsman’s Banquet. It will again be held at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington.

We want to thank Lowell Krueger who has stepped up to organize the event this year. If you want to give him a hand with this event, contact him at lkruger1@comcast.net or 612-644-8994.

Last year there was over \$22,000 in high quality prizes including resort stays, St. Croix rods, Gary’s custom rods, Shimano reels, tackle boxes, shotguns, a few fun high value mystery prizes and much more. We sold out so don’t wait to get your tickets this year. Tickets will go on sale through our web site in mid-January. You may also purchase tickets in person at the general membership meeting in February.

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

It’s a “Muskie Tale”

Tell us your story from this year’s season. It might earn you the chapter’s “Muskie Tale” Award. We’re looking for stories that are something a little out of the ordinary – what happened while fishing; on the way to fishing; on the way back from fishing; maybe you found something interesting on the end of your line; or some kind of mishap happened while you were out fishing. Share with us by emailing your “tale” to Denise Olson at olson@3pete.com. Or mail it to 7125 17th Ave. So., Richfield, MN 55423.

Last year’s winner of the Muskie Tale Award, Tim Hoene, will pick the winner. The person with the best tale will have the honor of keeping the Muskie Tale Award for a year.

“An Experience of a Lifetime”



After a day of fishing are Al Lindner, Carl Phillips, Ron Lindner and Tom Hays.

At last year’s Sportsman’s Banquet chapter member Carl Phillips had the opportunity of a lifetime. During the live auction, he was the highest bidder and won the opportunity to fish with Al Lindner and Ron Lindner.

Carl says, “I had a blast fishing with Al. He is everything he appears to be and more. Just a genuine good guy. Full of knowledge as you would expect but willing to listen and ‘just talk’. This was an experience of a lifetime. Thanks to the chapter for allowing this to happen.”

Seeking Nominations for Chapter’s Muskie Award

The Muskie Award is presented each year at our Sportsman’s 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.

The first Muskie Award was presented to Muskies Inc founder, Gil Hamm in 1974. At that time, our International umbrella had not yet been formed and the award recipient was chosen from among all Muskies Inc members, regardless of chapter affiliation. Once there were a number of chapters, it became too difficult to choose a recipient from the entire organization and the Muskie Award was dropped. The Twin Cities chapter made the decision to continue it for our chapter.

Nominations of an individual for the 2011 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.

Members Only Contest

from Eric Bakke,
Members Only Contest Chair

Well, the muskie season has come and gone. Did you do as much fishing as you hoped to do? I sure hope you were able to because the next 6 and a half months are going to go by like molasses in January! This is always a bittersweet time for us muskie nuts.

The break gives us time to reflect on what we accomplished this last season, but also time to look forward to the season ahead. It is time to do those things that could wait another day or two for when we will have time to do them. Problem for most of us is we will find ourselves sitting here in June and still not have done any of those things that we meant to do on our time off the water. So take some time in the next

week or two and make a list of the things that you would need to fix, clean, or upgrade for next season while it is still fresh in your mind.

Don't wait until you get into the boat for the first time and realize that your trolling motor is still broken and the season starts in two days! Or those two eyelets that came off your favorite rod are still missing and they tell you it takes two weeks to fix them but opener is tomorrow!

Keep that list of things to do laying around where you hang out when you have some time to yourself. Knock a thing or two off that list each month, by the time next season comes around you will be primed and ready to hit the water fishing and not fixing!

We had some good totals of fish caught this season. Unfortunately, I do not have the numbers for you at this time. In life, sometimes upgrading things and moving forward in technolo-

gy can bite you in the ass. This is one of those times.

Muskies Inc. International has upgraded their website and with that came some changes in how we do our business. There is no way to download information from the Lunge Log, as we could with the old site. So that being said, I have no way of getting any of our chapter's information out of the new site and tabulated for you at this time.

I have been talking with the developers and hope to have the results soon and will update them on our chapter's website as soon as I get them. If you haven't been to our new website this would be a great time to head to it and cruise around for a bit. The address is: <http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org>.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the Members Only Contest. We really appreciate your participation and look forward to doing it again next season.

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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

DECEMBER 11

HOLIDAY PARTY/ CHAPTER ELECTIONS

It's a holiday party! Come early at 6 pm. A simple dinner will be served at 6:30. Bring a wrapped gift to exchange. It doesn't have to be muskie-related. Also bring your muskie knowledge. Pool your brain-power with others to answer questions and win a special prize. We'll hold elections for board members and officers for the next year. Loren Miller will give a short 15 minute presentation about his genetic research. Come and enjoy!



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Please consider these resorts and/or guides when you are planning a fishing trip or just a day of fishing in the metro area. 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're in the stores, please tell them thank you from our chapter.

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