

# On the Water



Volume 15, Issue 1

JANUARY 2012

## Two 55-inchers for Lunker of the Month

**T**wo 55-inchers have been turned in for Lunker of the Month this year. Chris Weglinski caught the second muskie in November. He shares the story of his fish.

*I was fishing with friends all week on Mille Lacs. We had only caught a 46" and missed a large fish on one particular spot. The day before we had been forced to go to the other side of the lake due to high west winds. After not seeing a fish for over 4 hours, I asked my buddy if he had any ideas. His suggestion was to go back where we had all the action earlier and fish that spot the next day no matter how windy it was.*

*The next day we got out pretty early. The forecast was for high winds, but at the time it was not very windy. We got on our spot, but after an hour the wind picked up and we were struggling to stand up. Just as we were about to finish the spot I threw out a bomb cast and felt my pounder stop. I set the hook on what I assumed was a rock and waited to feel for a head shake. After a few seconds I felt movement and knew I was not snagged. The fish stayed down for a long time. I got her to the boat and slid her in the net. She measured 51"x24".*

*After a few pictures we released her and decided to double back to see if anything else could be on this spot. Twenty minutes or so later the wind started getting crazy. We could barely stand. Once I finally got comfortable enough to start casting, I threw my mangled pounder out. Again I felt an imme-*



**Chris Weglinski caught one of two 55-inchers turned in for Lunker of the Month. Chris' fish came from Mille Lacs in November. Corey DeZeeuw turned in the other 55-incher in September from Lake Waconia.**

*diately thump and set the hook. This fish acted the same as the earlier one. She stayed down and barely moved. After a minute or so she went right in the net. When I lifted this one out of the net I knew she was special. We measured her at 55" with a 27.5" girth. After releasing her we stupidly tried to keep fishing. After a couple of casts common sense finally kicked in and we called it a day and went to Buzzy's.*

## New Board Members and Officers Elected

**E**lections for our chapter's Officers and Board of Directors were held at our December meeting. Tom Keith has been elected to serve as our President for the upcoming year. Eric Bakke and Shawn Kellett will again serve as 1st and 2nd Vice President. Dianne Dahl will again serve as treasurer. Jim Doyle will serve as Secretary for 2012. Elected to a two-year term starting in January are Brad Coyne, Dianne Dahl, Corey DeZeeuw, Greg Ide, Stu McIntosh, Tom Keith, Shawn Kellett, Jim Kroupa, Lowell Kruger, Denise Olson and Eric Schultz.

## Muskie Award Nominations

**T**he Muskie Award is presented each year at the 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." Nominations 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.

## From Our President: TOM KEITH

Elections were held at the General Meeting in December. Thanks to past President Troy Zuelzke for his leadership and service to the Chapter the past two years. I am glad that he is willing to continue to share his skills and serve on the Board of Directors.

People say that it is harder to find a good Secretary than President, so I am pleased that Jim Doyle has agreed to be Secretary. Thanks to departing Board members Scott Crawford, Jody Dahms, Terry Hanson, Mike McGrath, Joe Mellot, and Jeff Reddig. We have appreciated their service to our Chapter. Lowell Kruger and Corey Dezeeuw were also elected to the Board that night. We look forward to the skills and ideas that newly-elected members, Lowell Kruger and Corey Dezeeuw will bring to the Board.

A service organization depends on all of its members to keep it vital and growing. People participate at various levels and the important first step

is a membership in the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc. If you know someone, who loves to fish for muskies but doesn't want to attend meetings, get them to take that first step and join.

Membership will be an important focus for us this year. As Chapter #1, we have been there from the beginning and look how this has grown throughout the country. We currently have four openings for membership on the Board of Directors. If you have been thinking about increasing your involvement in the expansion and protection of the resource, but have a lot of questions, please contact me at [tomk@usiwireless.com](mailto:tomk@usiwireless.com).

Thank you for your support. Being the first chapter in Muskies Inc. gives us not only a historical perspective on muskie fishing, but also a responsibility to the future. If you have any thoughts, suggestions, or comments (either good or bad), please send them to me. I am looking forward to serving our muskie fishery.

## Lessons Learned From Many Sources

You can learn a lot from an aquarium. Dave Nicolai's family aquarium first had pike, they would gorge themselves on goldfish, including eating dead ones. Then the aquarium graduated to Tiger Muskies, and the vicious behavior was much like the pike. Then Hannibal, a pure strain muskie, was introduced, and Hannibal ate 4 goldfish every 24 hours, no more – no less. Another Hannibal was introduced – same result, four goldfish every 24 hours and would not eat a dead one.

Jack Burns said muskie fishermen talk too much and Dave is no exception. But Jack had kind words for Dave in this *Outdoor News* article of March 29, 1996 titled "Takes the complete package to boat trophy muskies":

*Last summer I had the pleasure of fishing with several different partners. As usual, some of them taught me a few things and some of them even learned a few things from me.*

*One of the most "different" partners I had last year was a guy named Dave.*

*He fully understands the formula for muskie fishing success. In a nutshell, Dave gets it. And what makes Dave such a good muskie fisherman will work for anyone.*

*The first thing I notice about Dave is his enthusiasm and energy. After summarizing his own fishing career in a few terse phrases "(x)*

*number of muskies caught..." "a few 30 pound class..." "total catch and release..." and a little name dropping "learned from Frank Schneider..." Dave dove headlong into a six-hour marathon of questions.*

*Not questions about my water, specifically (he knew better), but questions about tactics, theory, methods. He had thousands of questions, and he seemed to soak up the answers. Point one: Dave has no ego. Point two: Dave is a sponge for information.*

*I thought that with all the questions and apparent naivete, Dave would not be much on the water. Wrong. Now normally, part-*



*timers –casual muskie anglers – break down trying to keep up with me. Not Dave. Not only did he manage to boat the only fish caught that day, but at the end of a long hot day, when we found a pack of shallow weed-oriented fish who were only interested in lures cranked with blinding speed, Dave still had*

continued on page 4

# Chapter Members Only Contest

from Eric Bakke, Members Only Contest Chair

And there it was... Gone!! Another season in the books. For many of us this was an off year, but the totals are in and they show some good stability in our resource. As a club we caught a total of 460 muskies with a total length of 19,107 inches. That is a 41.5-inch average catch for the season. I did some research and ranked the last 10 years. Here is where this season ranked: Last in total fish caught, 4th in 50" fish caught, 3rd in average fish length. All-in-all not too shabby. It may have been a bad year in terms of catch totals, but when the fish decided to eat the average fish was pretty nice with a pretty good number of big fish caught.

The long off-season is in front of us and there is no better time to use the Lunge Log to get our minds right for next season. If you didn't have the season that you thought you should have had, it's time to do some research to see what worked that you may have missed over the course of this season. Compare your notes to the Log and you can retrace your steps to see if you put yourself in the best positions to run into a few 'Ski's. This is a step in my season that kills a good month of our Frozen Time and before you know it, it will be time to fish again!

Thanks to all of you who participated in the Member's Only Contest this season. The Winner of the Lax Replica for "Big Fish of the Year" goes to Corey DeZeeuw with a 55-incher! He caught his monster two months before Chris Weglinski caught a matching 55-incher. This is the second year in a row that we have had matching 55-inchers taking home "Big Fish of the Year". Since Corey caught his fish first, he is the one who will receive the replica. We will be presenting Corey with his replica at the Sportsman's Banquet on March 31.

Congratulations to all the winners! Here are the final standings:

## JUNIOR DIVISION:

1ST Zach Weyland - 28 points - 3 fish - 41" longest

## JUNIOR HYBRID DIVISION:

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST Zach Weyland - 1 fish - 35"

## WOMENS DIVISION:

1ST Linda Knutson - 38 points - 4 fish - 39" longest

2ND Jody Maronick - 25 points - 1 fish - 50.5"

3RD Sharon Rouse - 23 points - 2 fish - 38" longest

## WOMENS MASTERS DIVISION:

1ST Cindy Hegdahl - 177 points - 16 fish - 48" longest

## MENS DIVISION:

1ST Marko Brinatte - 376 points - 23 fish - 47" longest

2ND Tim Hoene - 348 points - 22 fish - 51" longest

3RD Pat McAllister - 320 points - 17 fish - 51" longest

4TH Jeremy Knutson - 316 points - 17 fish - 50" longest

5TH Eric Bakke - 280 points - 19 fish - 50.5" longest

6TH Peter R Janik - 199 points - 12 fish - 51.5" longest

7TH John Newman Jr - 177 points - 17 fish - 46.5" longest

8TH Corey DeZeeuw - 166 points - 13 fish - 55" longest

9TH Larry Maronick - 145 points - 10 fish - 49" longest

10TH Brent Hirsch - 126 points - 11 fish - 53.5" longest

## MEN'S HYBRID DIVISION:

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST Corey DeZeeuw - 2 fish - 39" longest

## MENS MASTERS DIVISION:

1ST Dean Roll - 1390 points - 85 fish - 51" longest

2ND Kris Astorp - 1076 points - 58 fish - 52" longest

3RD Dave Knutson - 300 points - 18 fish - 47.5" longest

4TH Tony Sommerfeld - 193 points - 11 fish - 51" longest

5TH Gus Gustafson - 160 points - 12 fish - 50" longest

## MEN'S MASTERS HYBRID DIVISION:

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST Kris Astorp - 2 fish - 36" longest

## LUNKER OF THE MONTH

APRIL - Official - no fish over 46"

MAY - Official - no fish over 46"

JUNE - Official - Peter Janik - 51.5" - June 19 - Waconia

JULY - Official - Greg Randolph - 53" - July 10 - Cass

AUGUST - Official - Brent Hirsch - 53.5" - August 10 - Vermillion

SEPTEMBER - Official - Corey DeZeeuw - 55" - September 17 - Waconia

OCTOBER - Official - Kris Astorp - 52" - October 22 - Minnetonka

NOVEMBER - Official - Chris Weglinski - 55" - November 14 - Mille Lacs

We will be having an "Open Mic" Social and the Members Only Contest Awards Program during our February meeting. We will be handing out all the hardware and decide the winner of the Muskie Tale! We are planning on having food and desserts and will share the menu with you in next month's issue of the newsletter. So put February 14th on the calendar now. There should be some good stories and laughs!

See you On the Water!!

## TELL US YOUR "MUSKIE TALE"

Think back over events of this season. Remember 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 your "tale" during our February meeting. If you won't be at the meeting, send your "tale" to last year's winners, Denise Olson and Elaine Randolph. E-mail the story to [e-rand@umn.edu](mailto:e-rand@umn.edu) [olson@3pete.com](mailto:olson@3pete.com). Or mail it to 7125 17th Ave. So., Richfield, MN 55423. The person with the best tale will have the honor of keeping the Muskie Tale Award for a year.

**Nicolai** continued from page 2  
*the energy to crank up those fish.*

*The near "novice" destroyed the old pro. Dave drew follows or strikes from several consecutive fish, while fishing from the back of the boat. I, apparently was too ground down to crank fast enough. Point three: Dave has the physical commitment.*

*The ride home was slightly different than the ride to the lake. The question-a-thon was interrupted by 739 "thank you's" and 487 variations of "did I mention that I had a good time?"*

*On the way home the questions centered on the topic of how to fish Dave's lake-a tough, clear, heavily pressured Minnesota lake. Of course the core question was how to fool the big one.*

*Given the pressure, the lack of shallow cover, the water clarity, and*

*the size of the fish he was after, I suggested slow rolling a walleye pattern Lunker Tandem M & G spinnerbait on the primary and secondary breaklines near the three most prominent points or bars on the lake. I also suggested working deep open water-up to a couple of yards out from the structure. The only lure modification I make is to replace the tandem blades with a single #8 Colorado or fluted Indiana blade-in brass for this clear water. When he dropped me off at home I made him a gift of just that bait.*

*I guess you can see what is coming next. About a month later I got a letter from Dave of all people. "Jack, How's things?... 49-1/2 incher... released... caught her on your M & G spinnerbait... at the edge of a large bar that breaks to deep water... I had drifted on and*

*was casting off... picture enclosed... Thanks" Nice letter.*

*Point Four: Dave puts it all together. ...Dave seems more likely than most to catch that "double nickels" he's after. I sincerely hope he gets it.*

*Most muskie anglers could learn a lot from Dave: No ego, a thirst (more like a craving) for information, a disciplined physical commitment (dues paying, time-on-the-water, grind-it-out dedication... whatever you want to call it) and the ability to put it all together.*

*Want to catch muskies? Be like Dave.*

*Dave, thanks for taking time away from deer hunting to regale us with your stories about George Wahl, Frank Schneider, Jack Burns, Bob Strand, Rusty Lillyquist... and yourself at our November meeting.*

## — this 'n that —

### **SPORTSMAN'S BANQUET**

*Due to some conflicts, our chapter's annual Twin Cities Sportsman's Banquet has been rescheduled. The Banquet will now be held on Saturday, March 31 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington. This year's banquet should be bigger and better than ever so save that date on your calendar. Look for information in upcoming issues of On the Water about early-bird reservations. Please contact Joe Mellott, Troy Zuelzke or Jody Dahms or email banquet@twincitiesmuskiesinc.org if you would like to help.*

### **RED WING OUTING**

*The annual Red Wing Lodge, Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods is scheduled for August 11-18, 2012. This is joint outing with our chapter and North Metro chapter. In 2011, 26 anglers enjoyed this trip. Cost per person in housekeeping cabins remains at \$300 (US Funds). Reservations require a \$50 non-refundable deposit, made out to 'North Metro Muskie Inc.' Deposits officially confirm reservation holds. First come, first served. To make reservations, or to ask any questions contact: John van Ingen - (651) 699-5172 - maxjo@mac.com or Pat Miller - (651) 429-1629 - donnagmiller@comcast.net*

Place a classified ad in On the Water. 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.

## **2012 Muskie Show Schedule**

### **CHICAGO MUSKIE SHOW**

January 13, 14, 15, 2012  
Harper College • Palatine, Illinois

### **MICHIGAN MUSKIE SHOW**

February 5 & 6, 2012  
MB&T Expo Center • Monroe, Michigan

### **MILWAUKEE MUSKIE EXPO**

February 10, 11, 12, 2012  
Wisconsin State Fair Park • West Allis, Wisconsin

### **OHIO MUSKIE SHOW**

February 25, 26, 27, 2012  
The Makoy Center • Hilliard, Ohio

### **WISCONSIN MUSKY EXPO**

March 2, 3, 4, 2012  
Patriot Center • Wausau, Wisconsin

### **GEORGE'S MINNESOTA MUSKIE EXPO**

April 13, 14, 15, 2012  
Concordia College • St. Paul

### **OTHER LOCAL SHOWS**

#### **NORTHWEST SPORTS SHOW**

March 28-April 1  
Minneapolis Convention Center • Minneapolis

#### **ALL CANADA SHOW**

February 17-19, 2012  
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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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Mark Christiansen Guide Service	LAX Reproductions	Okuma	Accessories – Glittertail Muskie Lures
Church Planner Boards	Leech Lake Gaming Division	One Stop	Bob Turgeon's Guide Service
Coot Lures	Mantrap Lodge on Big Mantrap Lake	Palco	True Glide Lures
Custom X Lures	Mighty Muskie Guide Service – Josh Stevenson	Pelican Hills RV – Pelican Lake	Vermilion Dam Lodge
Kevin Cochran's Musky Guide Service	Minnesota Twins	Pine Beach Resort	Paul Villnow
Enduro Guide Service – Paul Schlagel	Minnesota Valley Country Club	Phantom Lures	Wades Custom Tackle
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Frank's Rods	Musky Hunter Magazine	Reed's Family Outdoor Outfitters	

## next meeting

**JANUARY 10**

**SPEAKER:  
MIKE LUNDBERG**

*You've seen Mike Lundberg accepting awards at our Frank Schneider Tournament several times. He also is a member of the winning Chapter Challenge team for the past two years. Mike lives on Deer Lake, has been helping the DNR rehabilitate the genetics of Moose Lake and fishes other local Grand Rapids area lakes. Possibly Mike will reveal his secrets for catching Florida Tarpon with muskie gear.*



### MUSKIES INC.

7125 17th Avenue South  
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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.).*

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