

On the Water



Volume 15, Issue 10

OCTOBER 2012

2012 Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament: Mark Smith Takes First Place with 4 Muskies

For the 45th consecutive year, the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc. has sponsored what is now known as the Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament. The tournament was held September 7-9, 2012 on 21 of the finest muskie waters in northern Minnesota. The Tournament Committee of the Twin Cities Chapter is lead by Denise Olson. She and the committee did an outstanding job of providing a quality experience for over 500 anglers.

The first day started out with promise, but quickly the wind came up and 3-4 foot waves dampened anglers spirits. However, many people prevailed and a number of muskies were caught and released. One fisherman mentioned at the feed on Friday night that he caught his two largest walleyes of the year in that wind. In fact, one of them was caught on a figure eight. The next day and a half of the tournament, people continued to catch muskies. All total, 98 fishermen registered a total of 116 muskies 40 inches or longer. At the Awards Ceremony on Sunday, Bill Sherck again provided MC duties.

First place finisher was Mark Smith from Brainerd, MN. Mark boated 4 muskies from Leech Lake over the three-day tournament, ranging in length from 45 to 48.5 inches. His efforts earned him a week-long trip to Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods, as well as a Fenwick rod, Abu Garcia Revo Toro reel, Sébile bait package and Spiderwire line that every person in the top 10 received. All of the top 10 winners also received a custom plaque



Mark Smith caught and released 4 muskies to win the 45th annual Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament held September 7-9, 2012. On Saturday morning, Mark's camera was so fogged up, he could not take a picture with it. In a show of sportsmanship, another tournament angler stopped by and took a picture for him. When the second angler came to the feed to download the photo, he didn't even know Mark's name, just where he had caught the fish.

with a picture of their fish and a lure that they could swap out with the winning lure. Plaques are made by Rory Potter, president of the Bemidji chapter of Muskies Inc.

Second place winner Todd Blechinger led most of the tournament with 3 fish on Friday and 1 on Saturday from Big Lake. In addition to the rod, reel, bait package and line, he received a week stay at Vermilion Dam Lodge.

Third place winner was Nick Peterson with 3 fish from Big Lake. Nick received a week stay at Sah-Kah-Tay Resort on Cass Lake in addition to the rod, reel, bait package and line. Anglers down to 19th place had either tripled or doubled.

In 20th and 21st place were the two biggest fish of the tournament, 53-inch muskies from Lake Plantagenet, **Tournament** continued on page 3

From Our President, TOM KEITH

Fall fishing is finally here! Kids are in school, docks are coming out, and water temps are finally dropping. It is a great time to be on the water.

The Tournament Committee from our chapter has done an outstanding job with both the Frank Schneider and the George Wahl Tournaments. I hope you had an opportunity to fish one of them. All the proceeds from the George Wahl Tournament go directly into the local fishery, so it is very impor-

tant that it continues to grow.

Local guide, Ryan McMahon was the guest presenter at the September General Meeting. He focused on the Early to Late Fall fishing and addressed each with: How, When, and Where. He provided important local knowledge on several local lakes and people came away from his presentation with a better understanding of fall fishing.

As we approach the fall elections, the most important thing you can

do is to contact your State Representative and Senator and let them know how important they are in the continued growth of muskie fishing. They are the critical decision-makers, who will ultimately decide if the fishery can expand to meet the needs of an ever-increasing population of people, who fish for muskies. Our local fish are very pressured and we need them to fulfill the long-range management program for Esoc.

Keep safe on the water!

Members Only Contest

from Eric Bakke, Members Only Contest Chair

The Fall is here, the Fall is here! Let the water temps start dropping because that is when the big girls start showing up. We have had quite a few big fish caught so far this year, but now is the time to get on the water and chase those big girls as they start to put on the feed bag. Each and every day from now until the end of the season will give you an opportunity to catch bigger and bigger fish.

This is one of my favorite times of the year. Problem is I haven't had much time to fish with work and all. I need to make some time to get out there and so do you. There is nothing better than watching the smoke on the water in the mornings or to watch the moon come over the colorful leaves in the evening. It is about much more than the fish, but that is what keeps us coming back. Here are the standings:

JUNIORS DIVISION:

- 1ST Robert Chance - 36 points - 3 fish - 44.5" longest
- 2ND Simon Black - 28 points - 1 fish - 54"
- 3RD Gregory Batina - 14 points - 1 fish - 39.5"

WOMENS DIVISION:

- 1ST Barbara Zappa - 15 points - 1 fish - 41"

WOMENS MASTERS:

- 1ST Linda Knutson - 42 points - 3 fish - 44" longest
- 2ND Cindy Hegdahl - 28 points - 1 fish - 54"

MENS DIVISION:

- 1ST Brent Hirsch - 174 points - 15 fish - 46" longest
- 2ND Eric Bakke - 144 points - 9 fish - 53" longest
- 3RD Peter Janik - 116 points - 8 fish - 46.5" longest
- 4TH Corey DeZeeuw - 99 points - 6 fish - 49.25" longest

- 5TH Pat Mc Allister - 86 points - 5 fish - 49" longest
- 6TH Tom Batina - 85 points - 5 fish - 48" longest
- 7TH Ryan Buboltz - 82 points - 5 fish - 46" longest
- 8TH Dave Weyland - 77 points - 8 fish - 40" longest
- 9TH George Selcke - 64 points - 4 fish - 51" longest
- 10TH Chad Hagel - 64 points - 5 fish - 42" longest

MENS HYBRID DIVISION:

- (points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)
- 1ST Dave Weyland - 60 points - 7 fish - 40" longest
 - 2nd Jim Kroupa - 19 points - 1 fish - 45"
 - 3rd Corey DeZeeuw - 16 points - 2 fish - 34.5" longest

MENS MASTERS DIVISION:

- 1ST Marko Brinatte - 536 points - 33 fish - 52" longest
- 2ND David Gustafson - 271 points - 16 fish - 47.5" longest
- 3RD Tony Sommerfeld - 97 points - 5 fish - 51.5" longest

MENS MASTERS HYBRID DIVISION:

- (points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)
- 1ST Kurt Hostager - 24 points - 1 fish - 50"

LUNKER OF THE MONTH:

- MARCH - Dwight Geisler - 48" - March 12 - Cave Run, KY
- APRIL - Matt Olson - 45" - April 29 - Clear Lake, IA
- MAY - Tony Sommerfeld - 48" - May 29 - St. Croix River, MN
- JUNE - Cindy Hegdahl - 54" - June 28 - Lake Plantaganet, MN
- JULY - Kurt Hostager (Hybrid) - 50" - July 10 - Lake Elmo, MN
- AUGUST - Simon Black - 54" - August 30 - Lake Vermilion, MN
- SEPTEMBER - Unofficial - Eric Bakke - 53" - September 9 - Lake Plantaganet, MN

If you find yourself behind in the standings, there's still plenty of time to catch up. Get out there and give yourself a chance to have something special happen!

See you On the Water!!



Tim Anderson won the Grand Prize drawing that every contestant who caught a muskies was entered in. He took home a Triton 17-EXP with a 115 hp Mercury motor, MinnKota troller, and Hummingbird electronics.



Sophie Landeville had her dad, Bob, help her pick out a door prize.



Marryn Willberg won the Junior Division with a 45-inch muskie.



Dave Bretschneider caught one of two 53-inchers that came from Lake Plantagenet during the tournament. Dave's fish was registered first and he will receive a replica of the fish from Lax Reproductions.

Tournament continued from page 1

caught by boat partners Dave Bretschneider and Eric Bakke, one on Friday and one on Saturday.

Tim Anderson from Stewartville, MN won the Grand Prize. Tim's name was drawn from a pool of 98 anglers who caught a qualifying muskie of 40 inches or larger. The Grand Prize was a Triton EXP-17 with Mercury 115 hp, MinnKota troller and Hummingbird electronics. Tim registered a 43.5-inch muskie to be eligible. Over \$35,000 in prizes was given away at the tournament.

There is a bright future for muskie fishing. Marryn Willburg from Bagley won the Junior Division. Her 45 inch muskie was the top fish in the Junior Division. In addition to the other prizes, she received a \$250 prize from Just Big Muskies DVDs.

The longest northern was caught and released by 15-year-old Danny Martin, who in addition to the rod, reel, bait package and line, received a week-long stay at Huddles Resort, and would have received Northern beer for a year, except he was underage. The Northern beer for a year was raffled off during the program.

Temple Fork Outfitters has developed a new muskie rod this year. Representative Jim Shulin held a raffle for all the people in the tournament who had not registered a fish. The winner took home one of the new rods.

Every contestant who entered the tournament this year was eligible for a drawing for a \$500 Gift Card for Reed's Family Outdoor Outfitters. The gift card was won by Randy Schock.

People had a great time and are looking forward to next year's tournament.



Prizes were given to the youngest angler and the oldest angler in the tournament. Lily Hartman, pictured with MC, Bill Sherck, was the youngest angler registered. She received a tackle box filled with some lures. Lily was also given one of the new Temple Fork Outfitters muskie rods as a reminder that the young are the future of our sport.

54-incher Caught by 10 year old Simon Black



The August Luncker of the Month was caught by 10-year-old Simon Black. Here is the story of the fish from his father, Joe:

We were on a houseboat on Lake Vermilion the last week of August. We were enjoying beautiful weather and had some muskie action from the first night. We had a couple nice follows and I lost a fish on a topwater. The action slowed down for the next couple days with the west end of the lake a little darker from algae bloom.

On Thursday I was up early and raised one fish. I "saved" a spot and brought my son, Simon, out after breakfast. We were working our way around some rock/reed

islands that looked promising. Simon was switching lures until he settled on a large tinsel Cyco spinnerbait. On the point of one of the small islands he made a short cast and had a small backlash. After took care of the backlash, Simon jerked the lure off the bottom and the beast grabbed the bait. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the fish rise to the surface, thrashing 15 feet from the boat.

I quickly reeled in, grabbed the net and told Simon to walk the fish towards the front of the boat. She made a turn and bulldogged under the boat that required Simon to use all of his 60 lbs to turn the fish up. But he got her moving again and I got the net under her. We were right around the corner from our houseboat beach so we were able to race back and release the fish from the sandy beach. My wife, Karen, was taking more pictures and Simon's brother, Daniel, was able to see the monster. We did a good measurement and the fish was 54 inches!

That tops my best (also from Vermilion) by 1-1/2". Now Simon is tops in our whole family and the rest of the Blacks have some work to do.

— *this 'n that* —

TELL US YOUR "MUSKIE TALE"

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. The person with the best tale will have the honor of keeping the Muskie Tale Award for a year.

FALL SUCKER FISHING

If you use suckers in the fall, please use quick-strike rigs so you can safely

release the fish. A number of businesses are carrying suckers for fall fishing. They can be purchased from:

Thorne Brothers – Fridley – 763-572-3782

Ace Hardware – South Minneapolis – 612-824-8813

Joe's Sporting Goods - St. Paul – 651-209-7800

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**next
meeting**

OCTOBER 9

**GUEST SPEAKER:
TBA**

There are three possible speakers who will be at our general meeting this month. Topics will be metro area fall fishing or Lake Vermilion.



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