

On the Water



Volume 16, Issue 12

DECEMBER 2013

Stocking and Rearing Wraps Up the Year

from John Newman, Stocking and Rearing Chair

Thanks to everyone who helped to raise dollars for muskies through donations, tournaments, raffles, and our chapter's Sportsman's Banquet. These dollars combined with \$7,700 from the Hugh Becker foundation enabled us to spend \$21,400 on stocking muskies this year.

This spring we were able to put 450 11-inch spring yearlings in Lake Waconia. We also stocked Lake Independence with 250 of the spring yearlings. These fish were paid for with a \$2,000 grant from the Hugh C. Becker Foundation and \$6,400 from our stockings and rearing account.

This fall we were scheduled to stock Minnetonka using a \$5,700 Hugh Becker grant and matching funds from our chapter. However, this fell through as the DNR decided they were going to stock Minnetonka. We explained to the DNR that we had been given the grant and rather than give it back, we would still like to use those dollars to stock fish in another body of water.

I am happy to report that they agreed and came up with the St. Croix River as an option. Their plan was to stock up to 1000 muskies in the river and if we could do that it would help them immensely. We then contacted Oswald fisheries and were able to purchase 1000 muskies for \$13,000 thus utilizing the \$5,700 Becker grant. The chapter of course then picked up the rest of the tab for \$7,300. I think this was a great outcome and it was good that all parties could work together.

As an aside, don't forget to check for tags on the fish you catch on Bald Eagle Lake, White Bear Lake and Lake Minnetonka. The tags will be covered with slime that can be scraped off with a fingernail revealing the numbers. We have had several reported and I will try to let you know more about those statistics at a later date.

I encourage everyone to stay active in the chapter and we will be able to continue these stocking efforts. I wish all muskie fishermen would be as helpful and concerned as our members.

Thanks again. Let's keep stocking.

Swap Meet in December

Take some time as the season ends to go through all your lures, rods, reels and other paraphernalia. Save out all those unused or barely used items and bring them to the swap meet at our December meeting. This is a great opportunity to clear out some space before the spring muskie shows. It might be the day to treat yourself to something new or find a present for someone on your list.

Holiday treats and snacks will be provided.

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: Eric Bakke, Dave Christenson, Brad Coyne, Dianne Dahl, Corey Dezeeuw, Greg Ide, Peter Janik, Tom Keith, Shawn Kellett, Jim Kroupa, Lowell Kruger, Doug Malsom, Stu McIntosh, and Denise Olson.

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@usewireless.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

The season has ended, boats are winterized, and the drags are loose on all rods. There is more work to do than that, so I hope you have a good start on it. With five months of snow and cold weather before the boat comes out again, don't put everything off until spring.

This year, our chapter, along with some support from the Hugh C. Becker Foundation, purchased fish that the DNR stocked in Lake Independence, Lake Waconia, and the St. Croix River. These fish are in the water learning how to survive and thrive. Over the next few years you will be seeing them.

Our chapter has terrific members. They understand that we do not stock for today, but rather the future. Each of us needs to be an Ambassador for our chapter and Muskies Inc. Talk to new people and your legislators about what we are trying to do and how they can help. The more positive you are, the more responsive they will become.

A reminder that if you know a kid who wants to start fishing muskies, but cannot because of the initial expense, we have made up several plastic boxes and put 5 lures and a leader in them. We do not want a lack of resources to exclude a child. Contact me and I will get one of the boxes to you so you can give it to the child. You can explain to them about the different lures and how they can fish for years with that selection.

A significant factor in extending the life of an organization is its membership. Even if you do not want to join the Board at this time, getting just one new member has a positive impact upon the organization. That one person could have the one idea that will change fishing for all of us.

Have a great winter, but please stay involved!

TOM KEITH

Nominate a Chapter Member for the Annual Muskie Award

The Muskie Award is presented each year at our annual 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 national 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 2013 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.

Seeking New Chapter Officer and Committee Chair

The chapter will need a new treasurer after the coming year. Dianne Dahl who has served the chapter well as treasurer for the past 6 years, has informed the Board of Directors that she will resign at the end of the 2014 term. She and the board are asking someone to volunteer for the position. Dianne is responsible for balancing the chapter checkbooks, writing checks, making deposits, and providing information at the end of each year to the MI national organization who files taxes. She is willing to work with the new treasurer for the entire next year so that they can learn what's expected. The treasurer is a board position.

Denise Olson would also like to step down as director of the Frank Schneider Memorial Tournament. The tournament director will work with vendors for printing, mailing, publicity and to procure locations for tournament events. They will work closely with Sponsor Chair Eric Bakke to procure items for door prizes, raffles, and 100 square boards and the Grand Prize. Denise will work with whoever volunteers to head the Frank Schneider tournament during this year and is willing to continue to head up the George Wahl Tournament. Tournament Director is not a board position. The committee meets once a month to plan the tournament.

If you are willing to help out the chapter, please contact Tom Keith at 612-925-1109 or tomk@usiwireless.com.

Sportsman's Banquet Set for March 8

Our chapter's annual spring fundraising event, the Sportsman's Banquet, is scheduled for Saturday, March 8 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington. We need some people to step up into leadership/worker positions for the annual banquet. If you are willing, please contact Tom Keith at 612-925-1109 or tomk@usiwireless.com.

A “Muskie Tale”

from Todd Lindberg

Editor’s Note: Members Only Chair Eric Bakke came across this story from Todd Lindberg of Isanti. He is not one of our members, but still a great “Muskie Tale”.

On October 1, 2008 I took my friend Justin Vetos out for his first ever Muskie fishing trip. After making the usual rounds that morning, we pulled up on a favorite mid-lake hump of mine. We fished in a little pocket of cabbage surrounded by coontail with a sloppy mix of milfoil and junk weed. He was throwing a custom three hook spinner-bait covered in chartreus and white bucktail fur and as we neared the back edge of the hump in 4 feet of water he had a strike and hooked his first Muskie. It was out a distance from the boat, so after a short fight I finally saw the fish and yelled “Monster!” He played it out and in good time we bagged the fish. Justin was pumped! She taped out at just over 51 inches. I snapped a few pictures and he put her right back into the water! Fish of a lifetime for Justin. He was also thrilled because it beat my personal best of 50-3/8 inches caught in the same lake in July of the same year. After the trip he said this muskie fishing thing in pretty easy and decided to retire on top.

On Friday October 4, 2013, I headed out on the same lake and hit a smaller hump with no luck. Then I went to my go-to spot. This time there was a strong northeast wind with gusts up to 20 mph. I hit the cabbage first working out to the windblown tip of the point where the mix of coontail and slop weeds were. I was within a hundred yards of where Justin had caught his fish. I was casting across the tip of the point keeping my blue and silver double Cowgirl above the shallow weeds and as the Cowgirl neared, I saw the beast following it right up to the boat. It turned on my bait as I went into a figure eight. She was HUGE! I lost sight of her but kept my figure eights going as I hoped she wanted to eat. She then suddenly came back and hammered it in the third or fourth figure eight – then the battle began!

She was in 3 to 4 feet of water so I was able to see the whole thing take place. As soon as I hooked her I saw her gills flare open and she started head shaking right next to the boat. She worked her way around the boat making a huge run peeling drag. Luckily she ran just in front of the trolling motor on the bow and not between it and the boat. Now, I’m not super religious, but I was praying to God that she wouldn’t come unhooked. Being by myself and battling the fish, plus the wind, and avoiding the shallow structure I was on, was quite the task. Luckily I got her into the net but only three quarters of the way and backwards because of the wind, with her head just barely in it. When the rear hook caught in the net I couldn’t believe it. I thought I was going to lose her so I grabbed the hoop on the net and got her the rest of the way in!



Above is the fish caught by Justin in 2008. Below is the fish caught by Todd five years later, this October. Note the scar in the center of the fish. Also the dark coloring around the gill near the head.

After I popped one of the front hooks of my Cowgirl out of her mouth, she was free. I put her in my measuring trough for a quick measurement. She was a solid 54 inches! I snapped a few pictures using the timer on my cell phone and back into the water she went. She was released a distance from the structure I was on but I watched this wily veteran swim remaining on the surface right back to where she came from. I was in a hurry to get her back and realized that I didn’t get a girth measurement, but my uncle, had made me a custom trough. If a fish filled it up, it would have a 20 inch girth. This big girl spilled out of it!

It wasn’t until I got home and compared my pictures with Justin’s, did I realize that it was the same fish. And now, the fish that Justin beat my personal best with had now beaten his! My new personal best is 54 inches!

Tell Us Your “Muskie Tale”

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

Members Only Contest

from Eric Bakke, Members Only Contest Chair

And there it was – gone. The 2013 Minnesota muskie season is all finished. For some of us, we are sad to see it go. For others, it marks the end of a rough year. For yours truly the later is true.

I didn't catch a Minnesota muskie since catching my first in 2004. Luckily, I had a 15-day trip to Lake of the Woods (Canadian side) that saved my year. I was able to contact and catch some fish, but for the rest of the year it was a consistent result, a goose egg for all of my time on the water. Though my results may have not been as good as I hoped they would be, there were plenty of people who had much better luck!

Goes to show you, no matter how bad you think it is, there is always someone out there who is catching them. I will put together all of the catch numbers next month once the results become final.

Thanks to all who participated in the chapter's Members Only Contest this season! Here are our current standings:

JUNIOR'S DIVISION

1ST Paige Sommerfeld - 14 points - 1 fish - 40"

WOMEN'S DIVISION

1ST Carol Heath - 28 points - 1 fish - 54"

WOMEN'S MASTERS

1ST Cindy Hegdahl - 99 points - 11 fish - 41" longest
2ND Linda Knutson - 74 points - 5 fish - 46" longest
3RD Libby Hoene - 44 points - 2 fish - 49.87" longest

MEN'S DIVISION

1ST Bob Culbertson - 320 points - 33 fish - 46" longest
2ND Corey DeZeeuw - 309 points - 18 fish - 51" longest
3RD Gary Woods III - 245 points - 16 fish - 47.75" longest
4TH Roger Broadbent - 243 points - 17 fish - 53.5" longest
5TH Peter Janik - 172 points - 11 fish - 49" longest
6TH John Newman Jr - 145 points - 13 fish - 43" longest
7TH Tom Kenefick - 137 points - 10 fish - 42.5" longest
8TH Robert Venturin - 114 points - 7 fish - 51.75" longest
9TH Eric Bakke - 109 points - 7 fish - 46.5" longest
10TH Ben Tollefson - 82 points - 5 fish - 49" longest

MEN'S HYBRID DIVISION

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST Tom Kenefick - 1 fish - 42.5"

MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST Dave Knutson - 298 points - 20 fish - 50.75" longest
2ND Mark Fredrick - 225 points - 17 - 49" longest
3RD Brent Hirsch - 205 points - 15 fish - 52" longest

MEN'S MASTERS HYBRID DIVISION

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST Dave Knutson - 2 fish - 42" longest

LUNKER OF THE MONTH

MAY - Official - Nicholas Day - 43" - May 14 - Lake Michigan

JUNE - Official - Roger Broadbent - 53.5" - June 6 - Lake Minnetonka

JULY - Official - Roger Ecklund - 53.5" - July 15 - Lake X

AUGUST - Official - Libby Hoene - 49.87" - Aug 3 - Lake Minnetonka

SEPTEMBER - Official - Carol Heath - 54" - Sept. 29 - Lake Mille Lacs

OCTOBER - Unofficial - Dave Gustafson - 52" - Oct. 31 - Lake Minnetonka

NOVEMBER - Unofficial - Corey DeZeeuw - 51" - Nov. 1 - Lake Minnetonka

Please let me know if there are any discrepancies in my numbers. We will once again be having our Member's Only Chapter Banquet at our February. I will be ordering the plaques for that event mid-month, so I would like to be contacted if any of the numbers are incorrect before I do so. Hope to see all of you there and as always ... keep a tight line and we will see you On the Water!





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On the Water is published
monthly for members of the
Twin Cities Chapter of
Muskies Inc.

Copy deadline: 15th of each
month

Contact: Graphic Works
612-866-4730 • olson@3pete.com

**next
meeting**
DECEMBER 10
SWAP MEET

Bring your unused or barely used lures, rods or reels to the swap meet at our December meeting. This is a great opportunity to clear out some space before the spring muskie shows. It might be the day to treat yourself to something new or find a present for someone on your list.

Holiday treats and snacks will be provided.

All kids under the age of 18 get a free lure for attending.

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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Thank Our Sponsors

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 prizes at our Banquet and Tournaments as well as at 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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Chaos Tackle	Massage Envy	Sah-Kah-Tay Resort	Bob Turgeon's Guide Service
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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 welcome table at each meeting. You will see ads from our sponsors who have made major donations to our chapter in the newsletter throughout the year. The sponsors with ads here have made major donations to the chapter of products, gift certificates, guide trips, and resort stays for our banquet, tournaments and welcome table. The ads are one of the ways we thank them.

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.

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 muskie resource and its members.

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