

On the Water



Volume 16, Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2013

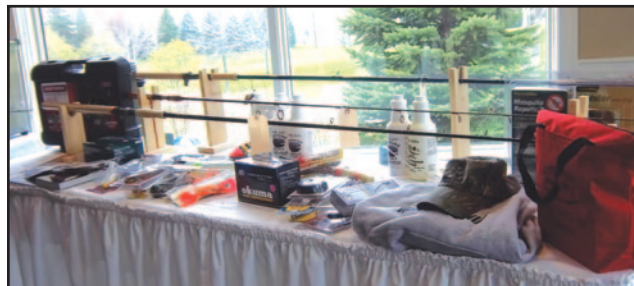
Don't Miss a Fun Night the Twin Cities Sportsman's Banquet

Our chapter's winter fundraising event, the annual Twin Cities Sportsman's Banquet, will be held Saturday, March 9 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington. Last year's banquet, with over \$20,000 in prizes, resulted in record profits that were used to help achieve our stocking and rearing goals as well as fund several other chapter functions. We hope to have as successful an event again this year.

The Sponsor and Banquet Committees are hard at work procuring items for the raffle tables, silent and live auctions, 100-square board, heads and tails game, mystery table and bucket raffles. The themed raffle tables will have a value of more than \$1,000 each.

If you join us for the banquet, you might win a day of fishing with Al and Ron Lindner, a trip to a local lake with a noted guide, an authenticated Chris Carter autographed Vikings helmet, a stay at a resort on a premier US or Canadian muskie lake, a new rod, reel tackle box or gun, a custom painted one-of-a-kind lure, a print for your walls, or one of many lures, tackle, storage or other outdoor gear.

Bonus packages that can save you up to \$70 are available again this year. A Platinum Bonus package, a \$225 value for only \$155, includes dinner and \$190 in Muskie Bucks. A Gold Bonus package, a \$125 value for only



Scenes from the 2012 Sportsman's Banquet. Come join us at this year's Banquet on March 9. There will be lots of items like the ones here. Doors open at 5:00 pm to allow lots of time to mingle and get in on the various raffles and silent auction.

\$105, includes dinner and \$90 in Muskie Bucks. Muskie Bucks are used to purchase tickets for the raffles and various events throughout the evening. Dinner only is \$35.

If you purchase one of the Bonus packages before February 15, you will qualify for early-bird drawings. Purchase of a Platinum Bonus qualifies you for drawings for a St. Croix muskie

rod and a Shimano reel. Purchase of a Gold Bonus qualifies you for the drawing for the Shimano reel.

If you know or frequent places that may be willing to donate items like gift cards, free services, goods or other items contact Eric Bakke at bakke193@umn.edu or 612-202-7169. Examples include restaurants, service stations, car dealers, health and beauty shops, sporting goods stores or you name it.

Lots of volunteers will be needed the night of the banquet to serve as "runners", to help with the raffle tables, and to make sure things go smoothly. Please contact Lowell Kruger at lkruger1@comcast.net or 612-644-8994 if you are willing to put in a little time helping the night of the event.

Seating is limited and will go fast, so get your orders in as soon as possible. Use the order form in this newsletter and mail in your reservations. Or make your reservations and purchase a Bonus package on-line at www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org.

Go to the Banquet tab, click on "Make your reservations now" and follow the prompts.

And don't forget to invite your friends. This is a fun night out whether a person is "into" muskie fishing or not. We hope to see all of you there. Remember, money raised at the banquet will help benefit that muskies and muskie fishing that we all enjoy.

From Our President

We had a great turn out for the January general meeting. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear Larry Dahlberg and his latest thoughts on creating soft-bodied plastic baits. Larry is on the leading edge of new thinking in muskie fishing and that feeds into the numbers of creative lure makers we have in our chapter. Our members bring their problem solving skills from the shop to the boat and back to the shop. This chapter is loaded with exceptional thinkers and tinkerers and they help create the strong dynamic that runs through our chapter.

A special thanks to Bob Turgeon, Al Larson, Ron Sanders and Robbie Chance. They made 56 bucktails during the meeting that we will give to military kids on Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration Day in June. Thanks also to Hedron Industries for the donation of the flashabou and the Hugh C. Becker Foundation for the grant that purchased the other materials for the lures. The generosity of our members is truly outstanding!

Remember that at the general meetings in April and May we will have collection nights for bass rods, reels, and lures. Fishing for Life will repair/rebuild rods, reels, and lures in time to give to kids at the Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration Day and our other youth activities.

Banquet Chair Lowell Kruger and his committee are doing an outstanding job of getting ready for the Sportman's Banquet on March 9th. Make your reservations early as there is a limit to the number of spaces for dinner and no tickets will be sold at the door. It will be an excellent evening with many activities and an impressive list of prizes. The most important fact is that the money raised at the banquet goes into our chapter's projects such as stocking muskies. We will be stocking Independence, Waconia, and Minnetonka this year and will be working with the DNR to try and expand our stocking to other lakes.

This month's general meeting is our mid-winter picnic and chapter Awards Program. The picnic starts at 6:30 p.m. Members Only Contest Chair Eric Bakke makes this a fun and interesting evening.

I attended a Meet and Greet of legislators this past week, where a number of advocates for outdoors-related groups were able to interact with each other and a number of legislators. As Frank Schneider clearly knew, we can no longer say we just want to fish and not be involved. We all must politically advocate for our resource to insure that it will be there for us and future generations.

Tom Keith

Looking for Lure Painters

If you are a beginning lure painter, or even an experienced one looking for lures for practicing, there is an option that might interest you. The chapter was given a number of lures for the youth program. Many have battle scars and hook rash.

We can send you as many as you would be willing to paint. There are no limitations as to the color schemes you could use. A simple black paint job and clear poly would be great. But, if you want to call up the 60s and paint them psychedelic colors, that would also be fine.

Tom Keith will get the lures to you and pick them up. They will have all split rings and hooks removed, so all of your time is creative time. All of the lures will go to kids in our youth programs. We even could provide some resources for your costs for the paint and poly.

If you're interested or just curious, please contact Tom at tomk@usiwireless.com

Represent the Chapter at the Chapter Challenge

Teams from Muskies Inc. chapters throughout the country will be gathering at Lake Vermilion the week of September 14-21 for the 2013 Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge. We would like to send two 6-man teams to the Challenge.

We already have 8 people who have volunteered to be on one of the teams, but we need 4 more to complete the second team. If you know Vermilion that would be helpful, but any chapter member can join one of the teams.

The Challenge is being hosted this year by the Chicagoland chapter, the 2012 Challenge winners. The Challenge is officially Wednesday-Friday September 18-20, but most of the participants come for the entire week to get a little pre-fishing in. We will be staying at either tournament headquarters, Spring Bay Resort, or at Vermilion Dam Lodge. Depending on where we make our reservations, the cost, based on full cabins, will be \$125 per person for the three days of the tournament or \$239-250 from Saturday to Saturday.

Please contact John Newman at 651-592-9257 or john.newman47@gmail.com if you're interested in representing our chapter and joining the 8 others already committed to fishing for our chapter.



This November 56-incher caught by Chris Corliss was the biggest fish of the season turned in during the 2012 season for our chapter's Members Only Contest.

56-incher is Chapter's 2012 Lunker of the Month Winner

Chris Corliss finished off the 2012 season with a trip in November to Lake Vermilion. Spending time in the cold weather paid off for him when he caught a beautiful 56-inch muskie. This fish is the biggest turned by chapter members for our chapter's Members Only Contest. Members Only Contest Chair, Eric Bakke will present Chris a replica of the fish by Lax Reproductions at the annual Sportsman's Banquet on March 9. Be sure to come to the banquet to see the replica of this big beauty.

This is Chris' story about catching the fish:

This beauty capped off a long, cold, difficult week of fishing in northern Minnesota. Fishing had been extremely slow for most of the trip and on this particular day we had no sense that things would change. Even though it was below freezing we welcomed the wind picking up and the clouds and snow that followed it, hoping that any kind of change would get the fish going. Fortunately it did because I don't think we could have braved the elements much longer not seeing any fish.

As for catching this fish, there is a particular rock I am always flirting with and on this retrieve I had thought I hooked it. The reflexes kicked in and I set the hooks anyway. My rod just stuck there, no movement at all and for a few short moments I was thinking to myself one of these days that rock is going to give me a heart attack! That's when I felt the head shakes. The fish quickly came to the surface letting us know how big it was. As soon as I got it to go back deep, it made a run at the boat and kept on going. I quickly swung my rod down and around the trolling motor and shortly after had this 56-inch beast in the net. It took every ounce of strength I had to get the fish in the boat and held up for the picture. After I got it back in the water I sat there with a smile on my face and I wasn't cold the rest of the day.

Be sure to come to the general meeting on February 12 where we will honor the rest of the winners of our chapter's Members Only Contest. The evening will start off early at 6:30 with a "winter picnic". Following the dinner, the top anglers of our chapter for the year will be honored. Be prepared to hear some good stories about the big ones. We will also be presenting the Muskie Tale Award to a deserving person with the best "muskie tale" of the season. We hope to see all our members there.

Take Home the "Muskie Tale"



Tim Hoene, winner of last year's Muskie Tale Award has been keeping the Muskie Tale to give to the person who has the best tale this year.

The person with the best "tale" from last season will have the honor of keeping the "Muskie Tale" Award for a year. Each year the Muskie Tale is awarded to the person who has the best story that happened during the fishing season. 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.

Last year's winner of the Muskie Tale Award, Tim Hoene, will pick the winner. So far, Tim has no stories to review. Surely, someone must have a story about something funny or interesting event that happened during the season.

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.



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Address: _____

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Platinum Bonus Package QTY _____ \$ _____
\$155 (\$225 value)

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If purchased before February 15, will be entered in Early-Bird drawings for a Shimano reel and a St. Croix rod.

Gold Bonus Package QTY _____ \$ _____
\$105 (\$125 value)

Includes dinner and \$90 in raffle tickets
If purchased before February 15, will be entered in Early-Bird drawing for a Shimano reel.

Dinner Reservation Only (\$35 ea.) _____ \$ _____

I cannot attend but would like to make a donation _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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Red Wing Lodge Outing

The annual Muskie Inc. North Metro/Twin Cities chapter trip to Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods, is scheduled for August 10-17, 2013. Red Wing Lodge offers a resort base that is family owned and operated with personal and friendly service who understand what muskie people need and like. Cost per person in housekeeping cabins will be \$325 (US Funds) for 2013 when the cabin is filled, which breaks down to just \$46.43 per day for big-time Canadian muskie fishing. Reservations require a \$50 non-refundable deposit, made out to Red Wing Lodge. Deposits officially confirm reservation holds. First come, first served.

To make reservations, or any questions or suggestions for improving the trip, contact:
 John van Ingen (651) 699-5172 maxjo@mac.com or
 Pat Miller (651) 429-1629 donnagmiller@comcast.net.



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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

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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

FEBRUARY 12

WINTER PICNIC AWARDS PROGRAM

Early Start at 6:30 pm

Come to have a good time and be prepared to hear muskie stories about the big ones caught this year, and maybe about some that were not caught. Enjoy a "Winter Picnic" dinner followed by the awards program to honor the chapter's Members Only Contest winners. The "Muskie Tale" award will be presented to some deserving story-teller. We will begin serving at 6:30 p.m.

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



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.).

Thanks to the Sponsors Who Donate to the Twin Cities Chapter

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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