

# On the Water



Volume 17, Issue 4

APRIL 2014



## Sportsman's Banquet

The chapter's annual Sportsman's Banquet was held March 8 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club. First and foremost the banquet is about the fish, but it is so much more than that. There is a terrific sense of collegiality in the room, as we talk and compare notes with over 170 like-minded individuals. Even though muskie fishing can be a solitary experience, the banquet allows you to talk to and meet some new people. We will continue to be a strong organization as our members expand their relationships within our chapter.

Going into winter I was concerned that we did not have a committee for the planning and implementation of the banquet. However, our chapter did what it does best and members stepped up to help. Eric Bakke, Shawn Kellett, Jon Meyers, Corey DeZeeuw, and Denise Olson helped sort our tables and categorized donations. This was a tremendous help leading up to the event, but it still took a number of people almost five hours to have the banquet room in place by the five o'clock opening.

After checking in at the door, attendees were able to redeem their muskie bucks for raffle tickets from John Newman and Doug Malsom, and move throughout the room putting tickets in buckets at the raffle tables, bidding on the silent auction items, or participating in games and additional raffles at the gun table, rod table and a wheelbarrow full of ale. There was a tremendous amount to items on the tables.

The first event drawn was the 100 square board. George Selcke did a great job of handling this event. The board quickly filled and names were drawn for a rod, reel, tackle and a week's resort stay.

Shawn Kellett was our MC for the evening and did a great job of moving the evening forward. Again this year, attendees were subjected to the infamous pink hat that moved around the room worn by the person(s) caught whining about the games, prizes, or whatever.

*continued on page 6*

## Veteran's Home Fishing Opener

Residents of the Minneapolis Veteran's Home will be treated to a Fishing Opener on Saturday, May 3. Our chapter annually co-sponsors this event with several VFW, American Legion, and AmVets Posts.

A large, well-stocked trout pond will be set up and residents of the home can come down to the pond and spend the morning fishing for the trout. Volunteers help residents catch the fish, clean them, and prepare and serve a "shore lunch" of fresh-caught trout, potatoes and beans to the veterans.

Everyone who can should take some time Saturday morning and help out. If you don't attend any other chapter event, this one is well worth it. It's extremely rewarding to see our veterans who may never get the chance any other time during the year to come out and get some fishing in. Many of the residents are lined up waiting bright and early in the morning. This is one of the best volunteer events at Veterans Homes all over the country and has been recognized as such.

Volunteers – and many are needed – will help with the fishing, cooking, cleaning fish and generally making this a fun event. Be at the Veterans Home (near Minnehaha Falls, use park entrance off the Parkway at 46th Ave.) around 7 am.

If you can bring 10 pounds of boiled potatoes with you, please contact the event organizer, Troy Zuelzke at [tzuelzke@yahoo.com](mailto:tzuelzke@yahoo.com) and let him know you can help in that way. Otherwise, he will be boiling potatoes galore the night before.

## *From Our President*

*The first big event of the year was our Sportsman's Banquet on March 8. The banquet is an important fundraiser for us as we continue with our commitment to Fisheries, Youth, and Research. Many people stepped up and helped with the planning and work. We had a full house and many people won outstanding prizes. MC Shawn Kellett did his usual outstanding job at the microphone. Something that was very exciting for us was having 16 new members sign up for Muskies Inc. at the banquet. We welcome them to our chapter!*

*Greg Ide sets up our booths and organizes the staffing for the Northwest Sports Show, the upcoming MN Muskie Expo and other upcoming fishing shows. We try to maintain a strong presence and answer questions for the public at these events.*

*We will host our annual fishing opener for residents of the Minneapolis Veterans Home on May 3. We have a long-term relationship with veterans at the home, with 27 consecutive years of recognizing their service through this event.*

*The results of the 2014 Hugh C. Becker Foundation grants were announced last month. The gift left by Mr. Becker is having positive results expanding and improving the three basic tenets of Muskies Inc – Fisheries, Youth, and Research – in the United States and Canada through the grants.*

*As you go through your muskie season, I urge you to patronize the resorts, guides, vendors, and businesses that sponsor our chapter. They generously give support to muskie fishing and our chapter. You will find their names at the end of each and every newsletter.*

*Joe Peterson, the creative force behind Trueglide Lures gave a great presentation at the March 11 meeting. He talked about how to organize the limited amount of time we all have on the water. It is effective for Joe who catches very large fish on the pressured lakes of the metro area. It is something we all need to think about.*

*Thanks to Al Larson, Matt Olson, Greg Kappes, and Doug Malsom for their help in building bucktails that we will give to kids as part of the Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration.*

*I would also like to thank Jim Kroupa for his leadership with the Awards Committee.*

*TOM KEITH*



**2013 Muskie Award recipient, Tom Keith, left, was presented a beautiful wall plaque by Eric Schultz to commemorate the event at the annual Sportsman's Banquet.**

### **Tom Keith Honored with Chapter Muskie Award**

**T**he chapter Muskie Award is presented each year to a chapter member who has given of their time and talents. The first recipient in 1974 was Muskies Inc. founder, Gil Hamm. The 2013 Muskie Award was presented to chapter president Tom Keith at the Sportsman's Banquet on March 8.

Compared to some Tom has not been active in the chapter that long. He makes up for that with commitment and intensity. Right after he joined our chapter, he jumped right in as a youth chairman. He continued our established youth events and improved on them. Tom introduced the concept of giving lures to youth at our meetings. The Minnesota State High School Muskie Tournament is also a product of Tom's vision and hard work. It is growing every year and thriving. He has been involved with the Minnesota Muskie and Pike Alliance. His latest efforts have been to improve communications with the Muskies Inc. National organization. Tom is currently in his third term as chapter president. He has served well in that position, keeping us focused, proving leadership, and serving as the face and voice of our chapter. Congratulations to Tom for a well-deserved honor.

### **Volunteer at George's Tackle Shop**

**G**eorge's Tackle shop is an area in the Minnesota Muskie Expo where kids are able to create their own muskie lure and take it home with them.

Linda, Dave and Jeremy Knutson have manned this for the past few Expos. It's a busy place and they cannot do it alone. If you would be willing to help the kids put together their lures (all instruction provided to you), please contact Paul Hartman at 651-269-2144 or Dave Knutson at 651-455-9755 or 651-328-4622.

## Lunker of the Month Replica Presented to Carol Heath



A 54-inch muskie from Lake Mille Lacs was the longest fish registered in our chapter's Member's Only Contest this season. Carol Heath was presented a replica of her winning fish at the Sportsman's Banquet on March 8. The replica is provided courtesy of Lax Reproductions and the chapter to the Lunker of the Month winner each year.

## Minnesota Muskie Expo

Don't miss George's Minnesota Muskie Expo April 4, 5 and 6 at Ganglehoff Center, Concordia University in St. Paul. The Expo was founded nearly 20 years ago by George Wahl, inventor and manufacturer of the Eagle Tail. The three-day event is dedicated to muskies and muskie fishing – featuring some of the world's top muskie anglers sharing secrets of success in seminars, retailers offering great sale prices, as well as guides and resorts.

The unique aspect of the Expo is being able to buy direct from lure manufacturers, getting low prices, custom colors and the newest prototype baits. Again this year, if you bring an Abu Garcia or Shimano reel, company reps will be available to help clean or repair one reel per person.

Fishing For Life will sponsor a large "Kids Midway" area with games and prizes for kids. At George's Tackle Box kids can make their own lures and take home \$30 worth of baits.

Seminars this year feature Josh Borovsky, Larry Dahlberg and Luke Ronnestrand on Friday, Bob Mehsikomer, Rich Reinert, Steve Worrall and Gregg Thomas on Saturday and Joe Peterson & Duff Thury, Bob Benson & Dustin Carlson, and Mike Keyes on Sunday.

The Expo is open from 2 to 9 pm Friday, from 10 am to 7 pm on Saturday, and on Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Kids 12 and under are free, so bring the whole family. Adult entry for the Expo is \$10, a three-day pass is \$17. Expo information can be found at: [www.minnesotamuskieexpo.com](http://www.minnesotamuskieexpo.com).

## Blue Ribbon Fishing Expo April 19

Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle's seventh annual Fishing Expo will take place on Saturday, April 19 from 9 am to 5 pm. Featured guests Dick "The Griz" Gryzwinski, "Grampa" Joe Carlson, PMTT Top Gun Chad Mitchell-Peterson, walleye guide Greg Rudisill, George Wahl tournament winner Travis Hultgren, as well as muskie guide Josh Stevenson, owner of Blue Ribbon. On display will be Skeeter boats from Grampa Joe's Marine. Reps from fishing tackle manufacturers will be on hand. Discounts up to 50% can be found on fishing tackle. Attendees will be able to register for a \$100 Blue Ribbon gift card to be given away. For more information call 651-777-2421.

## Thorne Bros. Spring Sale April 25-27

Everything in the store will be on sale at the Thorne Bros. Annual 3-Day Spring Sale on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 25 - 27. A vendor tent will be located on the property with some of the biggest names and brands in fishing. Factory reps will be on hand, including Shimano techs who will clean and lube one reel per person. Kids will be able to try their hand fishing at the free trout pond that will be set up. Frankies Marine will have Ranger boats on display. For more information call the store at 763-572-3782.

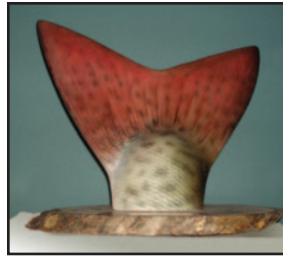
## Pay it Forward with Your Fishing Gear

Do you have used muskie rods/reels, tackle, or other gear that you are not going to use? Bring it to George's Minnesota Muskie Expo and exchange it at the *Fishing for Life* trout pond for a \$5 coupon good at Thorne Brothers.

*Fishing for Life* will collect the equipment, rehab it, and give it to the kids fishing in the Minnesota High School Muskie Tournament this year. These students will be asked to pay it forward when they return home after the tournament and give it to a younger boy or girl in their area, who has the interest but needs some equipment. This will get this equipment into the hands of kids with needs throughout the state.

*Special thanks go out to all of the Sportsman's Banquet sponsors. Without them, there would not be a banquet, so please consider them in the future when buying equipment and boats, and plan your vacation to include resort stays or guide trips with them.*

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## ***It's a Muskie Tale!***

The chapter Muskie Tale is awarded each year at our Members Only Awards night to the person who has an unusual story from the previous season – what happened while fishing; on the way to fishing; on the way back from fishing; maybe the discovery of something interesting on the end of your line; or some kind of mishap happened while you were out fishing. This year's winner, Chris Williams, will keep the "Muskie Tale" and pass it on next year to the next winner.

Here is his story, "Exposure Therapy".

*For each of the last three years, I have been fortunate to head up to Whitefish Bay in Canada with my friend, Eric Bakke. I practically count down the days to this week every the year. This last summer the bite was a bit slow, so after our first few days, we took a day trip up to Lake Dryberry to see if things were any better. They were. As we headed back to Whitefish Bay for a night of sleep, both of us knew we would be going back.*

*Dryberry is an experience, as much as it is a place to catch trophy fish. To go unprepared would be foolish. It is a huge body of water, and in the four or so times we have made it up there, we have yet to see so much as a hunter's shack as far as shelter goes. We know there are places there, but I don't think that either of us ever wanted to find one. It would take away from the experience. One could go an entire week without seeing another boat. You're more likely to see hieroglyphics than another human. With this in mind, preparation isn't just important, it's crucial.*

*Our last stop in civilization is to fill up both gas tanks in the boat, and we don't leave with less than ten gallons extra. Should we experience engine failure, we even bring a small generator to charge the trolling motor as we go.*

*The next day, after our gas stop and three and a half miles of 'rock crawling' the boat in on the decrepit logging trail, we put the boat in the water. After packing it to the gills with all our stuff, we left the landing. We decided that we would try a couple of spots in the first bay from the landing. After about an hour of this, we decided to head out to the big water.*

*Big problem. The motor had worked flawlessly for the entire week we had been in Canada, but now we can't get her to turn over. After about an hour of using the trolling motor we made it back to the landing. We switched the plugs, sprayed starter fluid into the carburetor, and switched tanks. Nothing. It's then that we decide we have a problem above our level of expertise and we need to do the unthinkable – unload and head back.*

*At Sioux Narrows we decided to drop the boat into the Government Access and try a couple more things. We even got another couple of new plugs and put those in. Nothing we do is working.*

*The marina repair shop located at the access is booked solid for weeks. We need to bring it back to another repair shop on the south end of Whitefish Bay if we are going to salvage any of the remaining days of the trip. So, back to Nestor Falls Marine we went. We pulled in just as they were closing. They said they could fix it in the morning, they open at 8.*

*Throughout the evening we worked on the engine next to the cabin overlooking Whitefish Bay, longing to be out on the water during the full moon that was passing overhead. We were spending this most epic muskie time on the deck of the cabin!*

*In the morning Bakke took the boat to the repair shop. By noon we got a call. Verdict is in – water in the gas. They cleaned out the engine and now she's running fine. We must have pumped some bad gas – the nightmare of anyone who goes to Canada. That, and hitting a rock are the two most common ends to trips. We lost a day and \$160 in repairs to get back on the water. We went back to the cabin and packed our gear to head back to Dryberry. We were not going to be denied.*

*On the way there, I was beside myself and thought that the gas station was responsible for all that we had just gone through. Since we were driving right past it on the way, I had to say my piece and see if we could recover anything from this situation.*

*I remember Bakke telling me that they were not going to do anything about it. He was telling me that they would never accept blame for having bad fuel. He went on to say that they would never cover the cost of the new gas we pumped, and definitely not the repairs. I guess in being a good friend, he was preparing me for a result that I didn't want to hear.*

*I just kept telling him it was worth a shot, and all I wanted to do was try. I got it in my head that I was going to get our money back. He didn't want anything to do with it, so he parked in the lot, and I headed in.*

*After waiting for 10 minutes for the manager to come out, I explained to him what had happened, our costs, and loss of vacation/fishing time. I handed him our receipt for the gas we purchased asking him to at least cover those costs. He looked at me and said, "Well, ya, you have an issue. You pumped diesel fuel, says right here on the receipt."*

*All I could think was that I distinctly remember seeing an unleaded gas label at the pump. Now, I didn't pump the gas, but it was a four pump station, and I know what I remember seeing on the side we parked the vehicle on.*

*So, I walked to the window, looked out and told him, "It says Regular Unleaded right there on the pump." To which he replied, "Ya, but it says Diesel on the handle. Three other people this week have made that same mistake."*

*Looking at him pretty dumfounded I think the only words I could get out were, "You should probably change that, take a marker or something to it because you are really putting people in really bad situations."*

*It wasn't hard explaining to him what a pain it was to go in and come out of Dryberry for what essentially was a one hour fishing trip. He knew. After another 10 minutes of waiting, he came out with \$280 cash to cover everything. Talk about a slump-buster! Who said there aren't any decent people in this world!*

*I thanked him profusely, tucked the wad of cash in my pocket, and walked out of the store. About half way back to the car, I thought it was time to have some fun with Bakke, Mr. Nay-sayer, himself. Putting on my most dejected face, I walked back to the truck and in an angry, frustrated manor said, "Let's just go fishing." Oh did the 'I told you so's' start to fly after that. "I knew you wouldn't get the result that you had hoped for," he said. "I knew they wouldn't give you the money."*

*As we headed north, I told him a slightly skewed story of my back and forth with the manager. After about 20 minutes of driving, he made this fatherly, event conclusory comment, "We should've never stopped there, I knew it would just put you in a worse mood." I couldn't take it anymore. I slammed the cash on the dashboard, and proclaimed, "Well then, how we would have got this back?"*

*If time could take pictures! I'll never forget the red face. It was a face that wanted to celebrate, but had a giant foot in its mouth. Priceless. I remember him just staring at me, it was almost as if he didn't believe me. I think it took a good 10 minutes for him to realize that I wasn't joking about that money sitting on the dash. It might have taken hours for him to get over how bad I got him!*

*We finally made it back up to Dryberry that day. We even got some overcast and a breeze. Bakke ended up getting the last laugh with a 46.5" on his last cast of the trip. It wasn't the biggest he has ever caught, but I assure you, neither one of us have ever worked harder for one. I have had several people tell me how badly I need a mental health evaluation in regards to my love affair with this fish. Cleared or not by a doctor, I can't wait to be turning off the Queens Hwy. 71 for next year's "exposure therapy."*

## **Denise Olson Honored with President's Award**



**Frankie Dusenka, 2001 President's Award Recipient presented the award to Denise Olson at the recent Sportsman's Banquet.**

**T**he President's Award is given by the chapter occasionally to a person who has shown incredible support of our chapter year after year. The first President's Award went to Frankie Dusenka. This year the award went to Denise Olson for her long-term commitment to the chapter. Denise co-chairs the Sponsorship Committee, Chairs the committee for both the Frank Schneider and George Wahl Memorial Tournaments, and is editor of our monthly newsletter. We thank her for her impact on our chapter.

## **Vince Rakow**

**T**he family of Vince Rakow recently donated \$700 to the Twin Cities chapter. Vince, who signed up for Muskies Inc. at the second meeting of the organization, was member number 33. He passed away in November. Part of the letter from his family states, "Muskies Inc. and the many friends he made were very special to Vince. On behalf of his family we would like to thank you for bringing good times and fellowship to his life. We hope and pray that you continue to work with each other to share fishing knowledge, and improve muskie fishing for future generations." Many thanks to Vince and his family.

## Red Wing Lodge, Lake of the Woods Chapter Outing

Be a vital part of an annual outing that combines great fishing on beautiful shield waters with a resort base that is clean and comfortable where everything works, and is owned and run by a family that knows what muskie people need. Join the 2014 North Metro/Twin Cities chapter Red Wing Lodge outing August 9-16. Last summer 18 fishermen enjoyed this trip, open to members of both chapters and their guests.

This annual muskie trip to Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods, is a great choice for that first Canadian trip or for the veteran's extra trip. Save your surprises for muskie action, you don't need them at base camp. Red Wing Lodge offers a resort base that has been family owned and operated for more than 45 years.

The Bartlett family has hosted Muskie Inc. outings for years with personal and friendly service, so they

understand what muskie people need and like. Red Wing Lodge was Chapter Challenge headquarters in '83, '86, '93, '97, '03, '04, '11, '12 and will host again for 2014. Check out the muskie information, including the Red Wing Lodge Hall of Fame, as well as the live cam in Morson, at [www.redwinglodge.net](http://www.redwinglodge.net)

Cost per person in housekeeping cabins will be \$325 (US Funds) for 2014, which breaks down to just \$46.43 per day for big-time Canadian muskie fishing. Included in the full value of the 2014 Muskie Inc. trip:

- Free dockage (\$72 value), free launch (both ways, \$25 value)
  - Free dinner one night, courtesy of the Bartletts
  - One free trip, given away in drawing, courtesy of the Bartletts
  - Free wireless internet service throughout the resort
  - Free daily bag of ice; door prizes
- Reservations require a \$50 non-

refundable deposit, made out to Red Wing Lodge.

Deposits officially confirm reservation holds. First come, first served. Early deposits are appreciated by the Bartletts as these funds are used to purchase materials for cabin improvements, most of which can only be made over the winter. For example, during last winter the Bartletts completed installing A/C units in all cabins.

To make reservations, or any questions or suggestions for improving the trip, contact: John van Ingen, (651) 699-5172, [maxjo@mac.com](mailto:maxjo@mac.com), 2108 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105 or Pat Miller, (651) 429-1629, [donnaopatmiller@gmail.com](mailto:donnaopatmiller@gmail.com), 1645 Ridgewood Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110

For answers to detailed questions regarding the Lodge and/or the cabins, you are invited to call Mike and Anne Bartlett toll free at 1-888-488-5601.

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## Banquet *continued from page 1*

Shawn directed us through the heads-and-tails game, two-dollar-bill poker, drawing for the wheelbarrow of beer, a mystery table and the live auction. With a final call on the silent auction, the raffle tables were called. A new raffle ticket process allowed us to quickly move through the raffle tables and distribute the prizes.

It is always interesting how the luck of the draw works out. One attendee, who had just bought his materials for a rod building class, won three rods that night.

This year 16 new members joined at the banquet. It is outstanding to be able to welcome them into the chapter.

The whole evening moved quickly and people left with over \$20,000 in amazing prizes. The most important part of the whole evening is the support for the muskie fishery and the building of relationships between members.

A special thanks goes out to all the resorts, guides, manufacturers, and lure makers for their support of our chapter and this event. They are consistently there with support for our efforts.

I apologize if I forgot to include anybody's name. So many people stepped up and helped and that is why we have such a great chapter. We do need someone to volunteer to be the Banquet Chair for 2015. If you do it, you will get a lot of help.

Thanks to all attendees and sponsors! Without you, this event would not take place.



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#### Secretary

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# next meeting

APRIL 8

## SPEAKER: SPENCER BERMAN

*Spencer Berman guided on Lake Minnetonka for many years and is now one of the top guides on Lake St. Clair. He is known for his ability to consistently catch fish. Spencer and his fishing partner earned the Professional Muskie Tournament Trail (PMTT) Top Gun Team Award for the 2013 season.*

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

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*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.).*



**MUSKIES INC.**  
7125 17th Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423

**Return Service Requested**

## 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.*

|                                    |  |  |   |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Abu Garcia                         | Horseshoe Bay Resort                         | Service – Matt Seifert                               | Adventures – Corey Allen                              |
| Advon Incorporated                 | Huddle's Resort                              | Musky Mountain Lodge                                 | Sunset Beach Resort and Campground – West Battle Lake |
| Anchorage Inn                      | Joe's Sporting Goods                         | Naze Baits   | Sunset Cove Resort – Cass Lake                        |
| Bernick's Beverage                 | Just Encase                                  | Northern Lights Casino                               | Supernatural Big Baits                                |
| Big Mama Lures                     | KB101  | One Stop   | Tackle Industries                                     |
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