

On the Water



Volume 17, Issue 1

JANUARY 2014

Xen Stoner Elected to Hall of Fame

We have been recently informed that long-time chapter member Xen Stoner has been selected for induction to the Muskies Inc. Hall of Fame. Most of you probably don't know Xen. His active Muskies Inc. participation was during the 1970s and early 1980s. He currently is in his eighties and resides in Iowa. Xen is in that rare category of "old timers" of the Twin Cities chapter and was truly one of the Muskies Inc. pioneers.

Xen was a tireless promoter of the principles of Muskies, Inc. Not only was he involved with all aspects of chapter activities, he brought his family into the fold. Their enthusiasm was infectious: both his wife, Barb, and his son, Mike, suffered from an extreme form of rheumatoid arthritis, but that did not stop them from successful participation in catching muskies – especially catch and release. They were an early example to the entire chapter at the time. As fishermen, Xen and his family shared their information and opened eyes to fishing for muskies not only on Leech Lake but also on Lake of the Woods, Lake Bemidji, and the Winnipeg River.

Xen also brought his business acumen to the organization. His fundraising idea to have Les Kouba produce the "Live Log" print was a huge financial success just when Muskies Inc. needed funds. His record-keeping knowledge brought organization to the group's by-laws, hatchery and rearing activities, and a working relationship with the Minnesota DNR. Xen was also a contributor to the Muskies Inc. magazine.

Congratulations to Xen and his contributions to helping form Muskies Inc. into the organization that it currently is.

Board Members and Officers Elected

At the December meeting the chapter elected Board of Directors members and chapter officers. Board of Directors members are elected to serve two year terms. Re-elected to serve in 2014 / 2015 on the Board of Directors were Eric Bakke, Dave Christenson, Brad Coyne, Dianne Dahl, Corey Dezeeuw, Greg Ide, Tom Keith, Shawn Kellett, Jim Kroupa, Lowell Kruger, Doug Malsom, Stu McIntosh, Jon Meyers and George Selcke. New board members Terry Schar and Andy Wayt have been elected to their first two-year term on the board.

Officers are elected for one year terms and must be members of the Board of Directors. The following officers were elected: Tom Keith, President; Eric Bakke, First Vice-President; Shawn Kellett, Second Vice-President; Jim Doyle, Secretary; Diane Dahl, Treasurer; and Jon Meyers, Regional Vice-President.

We thank these board members for their commitment to our organization. We also thank outgoing board member Brent Geyen for his years of service on the board.

Sportsman's Banquet March 8

The annual Twin Cities Sportsman's Banquet, our chapter's winter fundraising event, will be held Saturday, March 8 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington. The banquet, with over \$20,000 in prizes, helps fund our chapter's stocking and rearing goals as well as fund several other chapter functions.

Prizes this year will again include resort stays on premier muskie lakes, fishing trips with renowned muskie guides, guns, custom rods, reels, tackle boxes, custom painted one-of-a-kind lures, art prints, plus loads of tackle, storage and other outdoor gear. The themed raffle tables format with each table valued at more than \$1,000 each, plus cash raffles, games and a "mystery" raffle will again be found at this year's event.

Dinner and raffle ticket packages that will save you up to \$70 are available again this year. If you purchase a package before February 15, you will qualify for the early-bird drawing for St. Croix Legend muskie rod and a Shimano Calcutta reel. 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. Purchase on-line after January 15 with a credit card or PayPal at our chapter website www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org.

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 you there.

From Our President

We had a great turnout for the Swap Meet at the December meeting. People brought lures and equipment that provided the buyers with many options. What we could have used, were more buyers. Put the December 2014 meeting on your calendar for the next swap meet.

Our chapter elections were also held at the meeting. We are fortunate that we have people willing to step up and run for either a position as an officer or for membership on the Board of Directors.

Rick Stawski came from the St. Cloud chapter and talked about the fire that destroyed the home of Jason Hamernick and his family. He and others brought things to sell at the swap meet to help with the family's transitional expenses.

If you are thinking about fishing the Chapter Challenge in August 2014, we will have information in the next newsletter. Decisions and deposits need to be made in a timely manner to reserve lodging on Lake of the Woods.

Dan Mruz, president of the North Metro chapter and I will be meeting with the DNR in January. We want to find their plans for 2014 and into the future. We also need to find out how we can be supportive of their plans to improve muskie fishing.

The muskie fishing learning experience I had in the early 1970s cannot be replicated by people today. Peace and quiet and fish that were fairly unpressured in northern Wisconsin made for a great learning experience. Today, with 100,000+ muskie anglers in Minnesota, we have to look far enough into the future, realizing that future may not include us, to protect and grow the resource. Just like planting trees, you plant for the future and not the present. Your Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc will continue with its leadership role for you and throughout the State.

TOM KEITH

Print Your Own Member ID Cards

Starting this month a new member ID card process will be implemented. Members will be able to print and retain their Muskies Inc. ID cards at any time from the muskiesinc.org website.

Log in using the Member Login button on the left. Once you have logged in, click on the profile update button. In the upper right corner of the profile, there is a link that you can click and print your card. For family members the family head can print the IDs for the entire family.

Members who do not have access to computers or are unable to print their own ID cards should contact the MI Secretary to have them produced and mailed to them. This new process will save the organization dollars in monthly expenditures for the imprinting and managing of ID cards over the current method.

Muskie Award Nominations

The Muskie Award is presented each year at the chapter's 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 and the award has continued ever since.

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 kroupaandsusan@gmail.com. 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.

Red Wing Lodge Chapter Outing

The chapter's annual outing to Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods will be the week of August 9-16. This is a joint venture with the North Metro chapter. It is a week that is thoroughly enjoyed by all who have participated over the years. Cost per person in housekeeping cabins is \$325 (US Funds) for 2013, which breaks down to just \$46.43 per day for Canadian muskie fishing. Reservations require a \$50 non-refundable deposit, made out to Red Wing Lodge. Contact John van Ingen (maxjo@mac.com, 651-699-5172) or Pat Miller (donnagmiller@comcast.net, 651-429-1629) to make your reservation.

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.



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**SPEAKER:
MATT SEIFERT**

Guide Matt Seifert was featured in the Minneapolis StarTribune article August 17, 2013 "Muskie times two", a tale of two muskies netted simultaneously. Matt guides on Vermilion, St. Croix and other Minnesota waters.

You can read about Matt's trophy tale at: <http://www.startribune.com/sports/outdoors/218608711.html>

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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Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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<i>If purchased before February 15, will be entered in Early-Bird drawings for a Shimano Calcutta reel and a St. Croix Legend rod.</i>	_____ \$ _____
GOLD BONUS PACKAGE – \$105 (\$125 value) Includes dinner and \$90 in raffle tickets	
<i>If purchased before February 15, will be entered in Early-Bird drawing for a Shimano Calcutta reel.</i>	_____ \$ _____
Dinner Reservation Only (\$35 ea.)	_____ \$ _____
I cannot attend but would like to make a donation	_____ \$ _____
Total	\$ _____

DINNER, RAFFLE TICKETS OR PACKAGES WILL NOT BE MAILED AND CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE DOOR.

MAIL COMPLETED FORM WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO MUSKIES INC. TO: Elaine Randolph, 1039 Wedgewood Lane N, Eagan, MN 55123

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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