

# On the Water



Volume 18, Issue 4

APRIL 2015

## 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 along with several VFW, American Legion, and AmVets Posts have sponsored the fishing opener for over 20 years at the Minnesota Veteran's Home.

A large, well-stocked trout pond will be set up in the yard at the home and residents will be able to come down to the pond and spend the morning fishing for the trout. A "shore lunch" of fresh-caught trout, potatoes and beans is prepared and served to the veterans.

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 come out and get some fishing in. Many of them are lined up waiting bright and early in the morning.

The fishing opener event has been

recognized for being one of the best volunteer events at Veterans Homes all over the country. Everyone who can should take some time Saturday morning and come out.

Volunteers are needed to help residents with the fishing, cleaning the fish, cooking and serving the meal, and generally making this a fun event. Last year we served many hundreds of meals to residents and their families and caregivers. It takes a lot of people to make this happen for the residents.

Volunteers need to be at the Minneapolis Veterans Home around 7 am. The home is near Minnehaha Falls – use park entrance off Minnehaha Parkway at 46th Ave.

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.



## Jim Doyle Honored with Chapter Muskie Award

The 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. Jim Doyle was surprised with the 2014 Muskie Award was at the recent Sportsman's Banquet. He received a muskie wall sculpture to commemorate the occasion.

Jim has served as chapter secretary for the past four years and is the face of our Welcome table at every meeting. He has been on our Board of Directors for many years. Jim is one person who you can count on to be at chapter events helping out in any way he can. We appreciate his commitment to Muskies Inc. and our chapter. Congratulations to Jim for a well-deserved honor.

## From Our President

*It's officially spring everyone! This means that we are moving into high gear. With the Northwest Sportshow and our Sportsman's Banquet behind us, I want to thank everyone who helped to make these two events successful. For our next events, there is George's Minnesota Muskie Expo on April 10-12, we have our largest General Membership meeting of the year on April 14, and the Vets Home Opener on May 2.*

*Put this on your calendar – in 2016 our chapter, along with the North Metro chapter, will co-host the Annual Board Meeting of Muskies Inc., and the 50 year anniversary dinner on March 19, followed by the Hugh C. Becker Muskie Symposium March 20-22. A lot of help will be needed for the planning and execution of these exciting events, so please stay tuned!*

*I also wanted to let you know that our chapter had a part in saving Minnesota's brood stock muskies by funding aerators in Lake Rebecca, where we get most of our Muskie fry eggs. This was done through a Hugh C. Becker Grant, and funding through our chapter, the North Metro Chapter, and the Lake Superior Chapter. It's great that we can pool our resources to ensure that we and future generations can continue to participate in this sport.*

*ERIC SCHULTZ*



**Peter Janik, left, was presented a replica of his 54-1/2 inch Minnetonka muskie that was the "Lunker of the Year" in our chapter's Members Only contest by contest chairman Eric Bakke at the Sportsman's Banquet. The Twin Cities chapter gives a replica each year for the longest fish caught during each season.**

## George's Minnesota Muskie Expo April 10, 11 and 12

**D**on't miss George's Minnesota Muskie Expo April 10-12 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 lure. 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.

A large "Kids Midway" area with games and prizes for kids is provided by Fishing for Life. At George's Tackle Box, kids can make their own lures and take them home.

Seminars this year feature John Hoyer and Matt Siefert, Larry Dahlberg, and Luke Ronnestrand on Friday; Bob Mehsikomer, Rich Reinert, Ben Olsen and Gregg Thomas on Saturday; and Bob Benson and Dustin Carlson, Tony Rizzo 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. Entry to the Expo is the same as it was when the Expo first started. Adult entry for the Expo is \$10, a three-day pass is \$17. Expo information can be found online at: [minnesotamuskieexpo.com](http://minnesotamuskieexpo.com).

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

George's Tackle shop is an area in the 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.

## As Seen at the Sportsman's Banquet



## Red Wing Lodge Outing in August

Join members of our chapter and the North Metro chapter this summer on the annual outing to Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods. Dates: August 8-15, 2015.

This trip is a great choice for that first Canadian trip or for the veteran's extra trip. Red Wing Lodge offers a resort base that has been family owned and operated for more than 50 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.

The cost per person in housekeeping cabins will be \$350 (US Funds) for 2015, just \$50.00 per day for big-time Canadian muskie fishing. Included in the full value of the 2015 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, a free daily bag of ice, and door prizes.

Reservations require a \$50 non-refundable deposit, made out to Red Wing Lodge. Deposits officially confirm reservation holds. They are on a first come, first served basis. To make reservations, or any questions or suggestions for improving the trip, contact:

John van Ingen, (651) 699-5172, maxjo@mac.com, 2108 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105 or

Pat Miller, (651) 429-1629, donnapatmiller@gmail.com, 1645 Ridgewood Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110

For answers to detailed questions regarding the Lodge, e.g., about the cabins, you are invited to call the Bartletts toll free at 1-888-488-5601.

*NOTE: Look for John and/or Pat at most of our chapter meetings with a display board of pictures from past Red Wing Lodge outings and lots of information about the trip.*

## Spring Fever!

A number of spring events will be happening this month at our favorite stores.

### **Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle Fishing Expo – April 18, 9-5 Oakdale Location**

Talk with professional guides, lure makers and tackle distributors. 10-50% off tackle. Featured guests include: Dick “Griz” Grzywinski, Bill Lunn, Rich Reinert, Travis Hultgren, Chad Mitchell-Peterson, and Josh Stevenson.

### **Joe’s Sporting Goods Fish Fest – April 20-25**

Seminars each night at 6 pm Monday through Friday and two seminars on Saturday at 11 am and 1 pm. Mike Keyes is kicking off the seminars Monday, April 20 with a seminar on River Muskies. The Fish Fest Weekend Sale is April 25-26 where all things fishing, camping, clothing and footwear will be on sale. Watch for a flier in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on Sunday, April 19 that will have lots of specials and coupons.

### **Thorne Bros. Annual Spring Sale – April 24-26**

Everything in the store will be on sale. Saturday will feature a tent with factory reps and other displays. Shimano factory reps will be available to clean and lube one reel. A trout pond will be set up for the kids. Saturday seminars: Larry Dahlberg at 11 am, Joe Bucher at 1 pm, with a Muskie Panel at 3 pm. Sunday’s seminar: Jeff Andersen at 1 pm.

## New Proposed Northern Regulations

Our March speaker, Jim Lilienthal, retired from the Minnesota DNR, outlined proposed new northern pike regulations for Minnesota. Jim has analyzed the netting data from over 1000 Minnesota lakes that receive walleye stocking. Data shows that many lakes that receive walleye stocking (372 of the 722 lakes) in North Central and Central Minnesota are plagued with small “hammerhandle” pike populations, and have almost no large pike.

The effectiveness of walleye stocking in these lakes is severely limited as the stocked fish are devoured by the small pike. This happens because the high density small pike population can decimate the yellow perch population and remove nature’s most effective buffer to pike predation on juvenile walleye. Because of their sheer numbers, high-density small pike populations are the greatest threat to recruitment of strong walleye and yellow perch populations. Jim has found that even in the presence of hammerhandle pike, some lakes that have a large perch population can provide a good walleye fishery. An abundance of perch seems to minimize the predation of stocked fish by the small pike.

Lakes in southern Minnesota are generally not plagued by high densities of small pike and, in fact, some stocking of these lakes is done to supplement the pike population. Lakes in Northeastern Minnesota do not generally have a hammerhandle problem, and the fish grow slowly.

The proposal is to have three zones in Minnesota. The biggest change would be in the problem pike area – the North/Central Zone (west of Highway 53 and north of either MN 7, US 12 or MN 55). In this area, the harvest of small pike would be encouraged with a limit of ten pike less than 22 inches long, with a protected slot limit of 22 to 26 inches. Two pike exceeding 26 inches may be included in that limit of 10 pike. In the Southern Zone (the north boundary has yet to be determined) there would be a two-pike limit with a 24 inch minimum size. In the Northeast Zone there would be a two-pike limit with a 30 inch maximum size limit.

Jim also said these high density pike lakes would likely not be considered good candidates for muskie stocking efforts.

Jim mentioned that liberalization of harvest, especially removal of the largest pike, may have a long-term negative effect on lakes like Mille Lacs and their walleye population. The liberalization of pike regulations on Mille Lacs is not based on sound management, but was employed for economic reasons. The Commissioner enacted a one-year expanded bag limit, in hopes that expanded pike and bass harvest would bring anglers to Mille Lacs and provide economic stimulus for the local businesses that now have fewer walleye anglers.

## ————— *this ’n that* —————

### **Summer Fishing League**

Fishing League starts Sunday June 7th on Forest Lake. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three finishers. A \$50 donation to Muskies Inc. is required for you to collect a prize. You must be a member of the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc. to compete. There will be ten events and the schedule will be posted in the May newsletter. Contact Greg Kappes with any questions you may have. TCMI.Fishingleague@gmail, 612-750-4641.

### **Work at George’s Minnesota Muskie Expo**

Our chapter will have a booth at the upcoming Muskie Expo at Concordia University April 10-12. As always, we will need people to help man the booth during expo hours. You’re going to be down there anyway, so volunteer a couple of hours of your time so that others can have time to enjoy the show also. Please contact Brad Coyne at 763-412-6697 and let him know when you can help out.

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# next meeting

**APRIL 14**

## **SPEAKER: BEST OF THE EXPO**

*One of the featured seminar speakers at George's Minnesota Muskie Expo will be coming to our chapter meeting and sharing his expertise with us.*

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.).*



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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 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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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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