

# On the Water



Volume 18, Issue 11

NOVEMBER 2015

## Summer Fishing League Final Event Held on October 25

from Greg Kappes, League Chair

The chapter's Summer Fishing League final event was on Sunday, October 25 on Eagle Lake. Gavin Smythe, fishing with his dad, Steve, caught the only fish that day – a nice 45-1/4 inches. That fish puts Gavin in second place in the league, dropping his dad into third place.

It was a fun year for the league. Five fish were caught with stories of just as many being lost after being hooked. And, of course, some more near misses. But that's muskie fishing as I know it.

Overall turnout was about the same as it was last year. However, there were some new anglers to join this year. Some anglers fished most every event and there will be a drawing for a fishing rod as a reward for participation. Anglers got their name entered in the drawing one time for every event they participated in.

Participants could also choose to participate for cash prizes with a \$50 contribution to the chapter Stocking and Rearing fund.

### 2015 Summer Fishing League Final Standings

Matt Olson	49, 42	39 points	\$170
Gavin Smythe	45	19 points	
Steve Smythe	38	12 points	\$100

Gavin finished second in overall standings but did not make a \$50 donation so he is not eligible for cash prizes.



Gavin Smythe boated this nice 45-1/4-inch muskie to take second place in the chapter's Summer Fishing League.

There was no third place payout this year as no one qualified and that money will carry over to prize pool for next year. There was a total of \$400 in donations of which of which \$80 will go to stocking and rearing.

I am hoping to grow participation next year and have had a couple of people say they are planning to fish the league next year. Please consider joining us next year as we are a fishing club.

## Nominations for Board Members

Nominations for members of the chapter's Board of Directors will be taken at the November meeting. Board members will be elected at the December meeting and serve a two-year term starting in January.

The chapter Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus. 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 chapter and its future.

If you want to be more involved and have a say in what the chapter does on a day-to-day basis, become a board member. If you like to help plan events, or have a say in how they are planned, become a board member. If you want to be able to have a say in how the chapter uses its funds, become

a board member. If you would like to influence how the chapter deals with Muskies Inc. National, the DNR, or other muskie clubs, become a board member.

Eric Schultz (651-917-8272 or [tcmi.president@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.president@gmail.com) or [eschultz33@comcast.net](mailto:eschultz33@comcast.net)), or a current board member if you're interested in becoming a member of the Board.

## From Our President

*WOW! What a turnout! On October 29 a hearing was held in Fergus Falls MN to discuss a variety muskie issues. A few hundred showed up. We chartered a bus, and Muskies Inc members and others headed north to join other muskie supporters from ALL over. Emotions were high on both sides (but people were well behaved). Discussions covered new lakes proposed and continued stocking of an existing lake in the area.*

*Pro-muskie supporters outnumbered anti-supporters by about 80-85% to 15-20%. I think we made a good and positive impression. More to come on that.*

*Now that we are in November, last days of the 2015 Muskie season, we enter our election season. There are board positions opening up, so DO consider joining us in governing our chapter.*

*Till next time,*

*ERIC SCHULTZ*

## New Muskie Lakes Public Input and Pelican Lake Stocking Controversy

Two meetings related to the future of muskie angling in the state of Minnesota were held in Fergus Falls on October 29, 2015. The first was a closed door meeting arranged by State Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen between the Pelican Lake Association and the DNR regarding the future of stocking muskies in Pelican Lake and moratorium of current stocking. The second meeting was for public input on the proposed two new muskie lakes for Ottertail County moderated by Senator Ingebrigtsen. The details of the first meeting were not disclosed to the public but the second meeting, by attendance, showed overwhelming support for new and continued stocking of muskie in Ottertail County. Supporters in favor of the two new lakes and continued stocking in Pelican Lake clearly outnumbered those opposed to the introduction of new lakes and suspension of stocking in Pelican Lake. Supporters included strong representation from five Minnesota Muskies, Inc chapters in a great show of solidarity.

The public input meeting started with a presentation by the DNR on its Long Range Muskellunge Management Plan and the process by which it determines which lakes are proposed for new muskie stocking. The main steps in this process were gathering stake holder input from the local Dark House Associations, Muskies, Inc. chapters, and lake associations was explained by the regional DNR fisheries manager and biologist. After the presentation the meeting was opened to input and questions by the public. The never ending question of "do muskies eat all the wall-eye in the lakes?" was answered clearly by the DNR that they do not and cited numerous sets of data collected from field studies to back that up. The DNR also explained that the management program takes a very conservative low density approach to stocking, stocking 1 fish per acre so that a natural health balance between all fish in the lake is established and maintained.

The show of support by Muskies, Inc on this issue was truly great but we cannot let down our guard please write/call your state representatives, attend other public input meetings, and go to the DNR's website for muskie management input [www.mndnr.gov/muskie](http://www.mndnr.gov/muskie) to express your support for new and continued stocking. As always, be respectful with your input.

## Watch for Muskies With a Yellow Tag!

The Twin Cities chapter, the North Metro chapter, and the MN DNR have collaborated on a multi-year stocking program of Lake Minnetonka, Bald Eagle Lake and White Bear Lake, leading to some longer-term data collection. The purpose is to determine if it is more effective and efficient to stock yearling muskies or fingerling muskies. From 2008-2012 a total of 5,896 fingerlings and 1,664 yearlings were stocked in those lakes. All stocked fish have a small yellow tag near the dorsal fin.



When fishing those three lakes, you should be looking for fish in 18-45 inch range to have the yellow tags. If you see a yellow tag on any muskie, the DNR really needs data from you. Specifically, they need the number on the yellow tag and the length of the fish. They would also appreciate your name and phone number in case they

need to follow-up. **DO NOT REMOVE THE YELLOW TAG.** It is important that they get data on the re-catchability of fish. You can go online to the DNR tag reporting website page [www.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/tagged\\_fish\\_reporting/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/tagged_fish_reporting/index.html) or leave a message for BJ Bauer at 952-826-6771.

# Members Only Contest

Eric Bakke, Members Only Contest Chair

Fall is here. Fall is here! Water temps are dropping and the biggest fish of the year are putting on the feed bag, getting ready for the hard-water season. One month until the end of the Muskie season in Minnesota.

Is your boat put away or are you ready to get bundled up and get out there for a chance at a giant? Me, personally, I will have my boat on the water until the ice shows up to keep me off. I look forward to the month of November for multiple reasons, but big fish and no other fisher people out there is very appealing to me!

I hope you all get a chance to get out at least one more time. But if you do, be sure to be safe and be smart. No fish is worth your life, no matter how big it is.

Great to see so many good results so far. If there are any discrepancies in the numbers please let me know, I will adjust accordingly. Sometimes with the online submission things don't always go into the computer like you wanted them to.

Hope to see some big fish registered this month! Here are the current standings:

## JUNIOR DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Paige Sommerfeld	21	1	47"

## WOMEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Heather Woods	17	1	43"
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## WOMEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Cindy Hegdahl	100	7	50.25"
2ND	Linda Knutson	39	3	48"

## MEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Eric Bakke	264	18	48"
2ND	Gary Woods III	252	16	54"
3RD	Alexander McLean	189	11	52"
4TH	John C Newman Jr	177	14	51"
5TH	Erik Chrissis	148	12	49"
6TH	Peter Janik	125	9	49"
7TH	Phil Groth	123	8	45.5"
8TH	Matt McDonald	122	7	50"
9TH	Pat McAllister	92	5	51"
10TH	Tom Kenefick	74	5	48"

## MEN'S HYBRID DIVISION

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST	Alexander McLean	14	1	40"
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## MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Marko Brinatte	443	24	55.5"
2ND	Brent Hirsch	205	17	46.5"
3RD	David Gustafson	190	11	55"

## LUNKER OF THE MONTH

MAY - Official - Alexander McLean - 47" - 5/24/2015 - St. Croix River, WI

JUNE - Official - David Gustafson - 55" - 6/7/2015 - Lake Minnetonka, MN

JULY - Official - Marko Brinatte - 55.5" - 7/5/2015 - Lake Minnetonka, MN

AUGUST - Official - Gary Woods III - 54" - 8/5/2015 - Lake Minnetonka, MN

SEPTEMBER - Unofficial - Mark Frederick - 52.5" - 9/16/2015 - Lake Bemidji, MN

OCTOBER - Unofficial - John C. Newman, Jr. - 47" - 10/16/2015 - Leech Lake, MN

Let me know if there are any changes that need to be made with any duplicate fish or incorrect information in your submissions. Thanks again to everyone for your participation.

See you On the Water!

## Share Your "Muskie Tale"

Tell us your "Muskie Tale". We're looking for stories that are something a little out of the ordinary. Think back on this year about something that happened while fishing, or thinking about fishing, or on the way to fishing, or coming home from fishing... well, you get the idea. Take the time to jot down a Muskie Tale. You know, a funny or unusual story. Who fell out of a boat this year?? Whose boat sank?? Who boated something that wasn't a fish?? Who saved 100 muskies?? Who had double trebles in their legs?? What other mishap might have happened?? Something along those lines. We're not necessarily looking for the "big fish" story. We hear enough of those.

If you were at the George Wahl Tournament awards program, you heard a couple of good contenders.

Share with us by emailing your "tale" to Denise Olson at [olson@3pete.com](mailto:olson@3pete.com). The person with the best tale will have the honor of keeping the chapter Muskie Tale Award for a year.

## Facebook Trivia Contest

Be sure to check out our monthly trivia question on the Twin Cities Muskies Inc. Facebook page. Every month there will be a new question posted. All the answers can be found by searching through the Muskies Inc. website and lunge log! Be sure to submit your answers to [tcmi.fbcontest@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.fbcontest@gmail.com) in order to be put in the drawing for our monthly give away! our Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Twin-Cities-Muskies-Inc-121519154541005/?ref=hl>



Good luck!



## Book Early, Enjoy Planning All Through the Hard Water Time

Soon muskie water turns hard. Equipment gets shuffled and stored. This past season's memories are retrieved, the fun is relived, extended. Yet easily overlooked is that big-time muskie trips extend fun on the front side as well: the planning, the map checking, the selecting of new "secret weapons." Those front-side activities enhance the "chess game" **part of the sport. Book now and enjoy the fun of specific planning and its detailed muskie talk all through the hard water time.**

The annual Muskies Inc. Trip to Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods, is a great choice for either that first Canadian trip or for the veteran's extra trip. The convenience of a drive-in camp with the privacy you would expect on an island.

Dates for coming season: **August 6-13, 2016.** 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 50 years, is clean and comfortable, where everything works. 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 is a nine-time Chapter Challenge headquarters, in '83, '86, '93, '97, '03, '04, '11, '12 and again in 2014. Check out the muskie information, including the Red Wing Lodge Hall of Fame, as well as the first live cam in Morson, at [www.redwinglodge.net](http://www.redwinglodge.net)

Cost per person in housekeeping cabins remains at \$350 (US Funds) for 2016, just \$50.00 per day for big-time Canadian muskie fishing.

Included in the full value of the 2016 Muskie Inc. trip:

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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, these funds are used to purchase materials for cabin improvements, most of which can only be made over the winter.

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 John Genosky, (651) 329-4898, [John@Protacinc.com](mailto:John@Protacinc.com), 904 81st St., Lino Lakes, MN 55014

For answers to detailed questions regarding the Lodge, e.g., about the cabins, please call Mike and Anne Bartlett toll free at 1-888-488-5601.

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# next meeting

NOVEMBER 10

JIM MURPHY

*Leech Lake guide Jim Murphy has fished muskies as far south as Cave Run, and lots of Canadian fishing too. Jim spices up the fishing with anecdotes from his career as a Narc with the Minneapolis Police Vice Squad.*



**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.).

## **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.*

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