

On the Water



Volume 18, Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2015

Minnesota Veterans Home Residents Receive Pictures

For 27 years the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc has had a special relationship with the Minneapolis Veterans Home. The first Saturday in May, our chapter provides a fishing and lunch experience for the residents and their families.

This year, at Board member Doug Malsom's suggestion, we took a picture of each resident who came out to the fish pond to fish or enjoy the shore lunch. Doug had the pictures printed and was able to get a donation of frames from Michaels. A group from the Board stained the frames and at the June general meeting, a number of chapter members put the pictures in the frames.

Doug and three other veterans from the Board went to the Veterans Home and delivered the photos. All the residents have received their pictures and they are enjoying them.



Chapter board member Doug Malsom, Navy veteran, presented the picture taken at the Minnesota Veterans Home "Fishing Opener" to one of the residents. Other chapter military veterans who accompanied him were (left to right) George Selcke, Marines; Tom Keith, Air Force; and John Newman, Army.

Metro-area Muskies Benefit from George Wahl Tournament

The George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament is unique in that every penny made by the event goes toward the metro-area muskie fishery. The tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 26 on 12 metro-area lakes: Minnetonka, Independence, Waconia, Eagle Lake (Henn. Cty.) White Bear, Bald Eagle, Forest, St. Croix (downstream of the Hwy 64 bridge in Stillwater to the Hwy 10 bridge in Prescott), Harriet, Calhoun, Cedar and Lake of the Isles.

The tournament was conceived as a way to honor George Wahl, long-time chapter member, an avid muskie angler and inventor of the Eagle Tail – one of the most popular muskie baits ever. We wanted to have a friendly competition for metro-area muskie anglers.

The George Wahl tournament follows the Catch-Photo-Release format. When you catch a fish, take a photo - being sure to include Saturday's paper somewhere in the photo - and release it safely. Then, call in the information to tournament headquarters. Photo of the fish must be downloaded to complete the process. Tournament hours are from 7 am to 6 pm.

Tournament headquarters and the Awards program will be at Thorne Bros. A pork chop banquet for all contestants will be held prior to the program. There will be raffles and other opportunities to win items to take home.

Tournament standings are figured on a point system. Prizes, including a Thorne Bros. Gift Certificate and a commemorative Phantom are awarded

through 10th place. The first 5 places also win \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200, \$100. Grand Prize is a trip for 4 to Whitefish Bay Camp on Lake of the Woods and \$1000. Every person who registers a muskie is eligible for the drawing.

Register for the George Wahl tournament in person at Joe's, Blue Ribbon (both locations) and Thorne's through Friday, September 25. You can also register on line at our chapter website: www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org through September 20. Entry for the tournament is \$50, a small price to pay to ensure that the quality of our local fishery will continue for years to come. If you've ever fished for muskies in a metro-area lake, do your part for this fishery. Register for the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament.



August Picnic

The chapter meeting for August was the annual picnic held this year at Veterans Memorial Park in Richfield. A great meal and a great time was had by all who attended.

Members Only Contest

Eric Bakke, Members Only Contest Chair

Think our stocking efforts haven't been working? Seven of the top 10 biggest fish caught by our chapter members have come out of Lake Minnetonka! Get out on that lake and go fishing. You have a real chance at a giant. Half way through the season and we have exactly 127 fish registered so far from our chapter – 14 of them are over 50 inches! We are still looking for our first Junior entry, so grab your child and get on the water!

With this recent cold snap coming through, making it feel like fall already, gets me excited for the last half of the season. The beautiful thing about Minnesota lakes after Labor Day are the lack of boat traffic once school starts. No better time than the present to get out there.

Standings so far:

WOMEN'S DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Heather Woods	17	1	43"

WOMEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Cindy Hegdahl	60	4	50.25"
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MEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Gary Woods III	215	13	54"
2ND	Alexander McLean	165	10	47"
3RD	Eric Bakke	156	11	48"
4TH	Erik Chrissis	126	10	49"
5TH	John C Newman Jr	101	7	51"
6TH	Matt McDonald	84	4	50"
7TH	Tom Kenefick	68	4	48"
8TH	Chad Hagel	58	3	46"
9TH	Tom Keith	44	2	48.5"
10TH	Gerald Guderjan	33	3	42"

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

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Marko Brinatte	258	13	55.5"
2ND	Brent Hirsch	144	13	46.5"
3RD	Mark Fredrick	91	7	43"

LUNKER OF THE MONTH

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

JUNE - Unofficial - Brent Fox - 56" - 6/13/2015 - Lake Minnetonka, MN

JULY - Unofficial - Marko Brinette - 55.5" - 7/5/2015 - Lake Minnetonka, MN

August - Unofficial - Gary Woods III - 54" - 8/5/2015 - Lake Minnetonka, MN

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. 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!

Look for the Yellow Tag!

When fishing Lake Minnetonka, Bald Eagle Lake and White Bear Lake, you should be looking for fish in 18-45 inch range that have a small yellow tag near the dorsal fin. These fish are part of a DNR study.

If you see a yellow tag on any muskie, the DNR needs you to report that to them. Record the number on the yellow tag and the length of the fish. **DO NOT REMOVE THE YELLOW TAG.** It is important that they get data on the re-catchability of fish. Go online to the DNR tag reporting website page http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/tagged_fish_reporting/index.html or leave a message for BJ Bauer at 952-826-6771.



Twenty eight people enjoyed the hospitality of the Bartlett family for a week at Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods.

Annual Joint Red Wing Lodge Trip

For years, the Twin Cities and North Metro chapters have held a joint outing at Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods. Red Wing is on Sabaskong Bay and from there you have direct access to thousands of acres of water and hundreds of islands.

Pat Miller and John van Ingen from the North Metro chapter have been the organizers for a number of years. John and Pat are familiar faces, attending many of our meetings and answering questions about the Red Wing trip.

This year 28 people participated in 14 boats. It is a fun atmosphere where you can focus on muskie fishing and with the amount of available fishable water, you can always find a spot to be by yourself.

This year total of 87 muskies were caught. The average size was 37.3 inches. It was a different experience for every boat, as each boat did not average 6.2 fish. Some people struggled to find fish, others caught a large number of 30ish fish, and others found some big ones. By the end of the week, everyone had follows from monster fish. There were 11 fish recorded at 47 inches or larger. Tom Kenefick and Tom Keith from our chapter, accounted for 4 of those 11 fish. In fact, Tom Keith caught the large fish of the week, a very well-fed 48.5 incher. That team landed four fish that averaged 47.7 inches.



Talk all week was about the weight of the fish. They were big for their length and hard to handle. Some hit on the first couple of cranks and others hit at the boat during the figure eight. With the limited visibility in some parts of the lake, the fish would just appear and you better be ready.

What makes Muskies Inc unique is the care and concern we all have for the safe handling and release of our fish. The picture above is Tom Kenefick's 48 inch fish safely released and going back to the depths.

Talk to John about the Red Wing trip at our meetings. This was Pat's last time for organizing the trip with John. We would like to thank him for all he has done and how he works to improve the collegiality between chapters. John will be organizing the 2016 trip and could use your support and timely responses.

Don't Miss Out on \$15,000 Prize

The 48th annual Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 11, 12 and 13 on 20 lakes in the Bemidji-Cass Lake-Walker-Longville area of northern Minnesota. Grand Prize for the tournament this year is \$15,000 cash. Anyone who registers a muskie (40 inch minimum) will have their name entered in the grand prize drawing.

There will be opportunities for everyone to win Canadian and US resort stays, rods, reels, tackle boxes, and a multitude of other items with raffles at the feeds each night as well as at the Awards program on Sunday. Prizes are awarded through tenth place and for three places for juniors based on a point system similar to the Members Only contest.

This tournament is considered more of a fishing get-together for many of the participants. Most of the people who fish in this event never participate in another tournament. They have made a tradition of getting together with friends or family each year.

Entry in the Frank Schneider tournament is \$95 for adults (\$100 after Labor Day), \$30 for juniors and \$175 for a family package. Enter on line at: twinsitiemuskieinc.org through Labor Day. You can also register on Thursday, September 10 at Reed's in Walker until 5:30 pm and Northern Lights Casino Hotel from 6-10 pm or One Stop in Longville until 10 pm.

A requirements of the tournament this year is that every boat must be inspected for Aquatic Invasive Species before entering any of the tournament lakes. It will benefit you to pre-register and not wait until Thursday.

We hope to see you there!

Chapter Summer Fishing League

from Greg Kappes, League Chair

Lots of fish have been seen during Fishing League outings – some missed opportunities and some lost fish. Matt Olson is still leading the chapter's Summer Fishing League with two fish - a 42- and 49-incher - caught at the Lake Calhoun/Lake Harriet outing. Steve Smythe is in second place with a 38-incher caught at the Mini-Challenge.

Chapter league information is posted on Muskies First under the club forum. This can be a useful tool to post info such as partner needed or looking to fish with some one, or any other info you feel needed to share. So check it

out, maybe this can improve or league through better communication.

The Summer Fishing League is a way to get more members out fishing and to enjoy each other's company. Everyone who fishes in the league will be entered in a drawing for a rod donated by DH Custom Rods. For every event you fish you will get a ticket in the drawing. If you fish all ten events, you will earn ten chances. If you only fish seven events, you will only get seven tickets in the drawing.

You can also choose to participate for cash prizes. The cash prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers who have signed up to be eligible for them.

A \$50 donation for the season to the chapter stocking and rearing fund is required to be eligible to receive one of the cash prizes.

Muskies must be caught during the posted hours to be entered. Submit a picture of the fish on a board and a picture of you holding the fish by email to tcmi.FishingLeague@gmail.com.

Only fish over 36 inches will earn points. Fish are measured to the nearest half inch and must be over for credit. Scoring is the standard Muskies Inc. method, a 36 inch fish is 10 points, a 38 inch fish would be 12 points and a 42-1/2 inch fish would be 16-1/2 points. Points are accumulated throughout the season.

Please let me know by email at tcmi.FishingLeague@gmail.com when you participate in any of the upcoming events so you are entered in the drawing for the rod.

If you have questions please email me or call me at 612-750-4641.

2015 Chapter Summer Fishing League Upcoming Outings

DATE	DAY	LAKE	TIME
September 17	Thursday	Lake Minnetonka	5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
September 26	Saturday	George Wahl Tournament (must be entered in the tournament - fish any lake in tournament)	
October 11	Sunday	Eagle Lake	7:00 am - 12:00 pm

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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.).

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.

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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.

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