

# On the Water



Volume 20, Issue 8

AUGUST 2017

## 50th Annual Frank Schneider Memorial Muskies Tournament

from Eric Bakke, Frank Schneider Memorial Muskies Tournament Director



Biggest fish in the 2016 Frank Schneider Jr. Memorial Muskies tournament was this 53-incher caught by Kyle Bissen on Leech Lake. As biggest fish winner, Kyle will be presented a replica of his fish courtesy of the Twin Cities chapter and Lax Replicas.



Winner of the Grand Prize drawing at the 2016 tournament was Parker Butler who registered a 43.5 inch muskie to be in the drawing. Every angler who registered a muskie in the tournament was automatically entered in the Grand Prize drawing.

The Twin Cities chapter of Muskies, Inc. is proud to announce that we will be hosting the Frank Schneider Memorial Muskies Tournament this year for the 50th time, September 8, 9, and 10, in northern Minnesota on over 20 lakes from Bemidji to Longville. Started by Gil Hamm in 1967 as a competitive chapter get-together, our chapter's flagship event has kept the get-together feel while turning into an event that rivals all others in the world of muskies. Our event is held on more lakes, for more hours, with more participants competing for the largest guaranteed cash prize, when compared to all other muskie tournaments throughout the country. Not too bad for a small special interest fishing group from the Twin Cities.

Our event spans a three-day period, with 28 hours of fishing available to catch and register a muskie over 40 inches. At the end of tournament hours Friday and Saturday, there will be five registration stations spread across the tournament area for our participants to register their fish. At these registration stations, participants will have opportunity to use a \$10 voucher for food and/or beverage, enter raffles for great prizes, and talk to other participants about what was going on out on the water. All three things in themselves worthy of a stop after a long day on the water, whether you are fortunate enough to register a fish or not.

After the completion of our tournament hours Sunday, we will be hosting the Celebration and Awards

ceremony at the Northern Lights Casino and Events Center. This event brings us all together and really provides everyone with a great time to reflect on what was happening on the water. We will have a meal for all participants hot and ready to eat when you arrive and will have different vendors and sponsors available to chat with, as well as raffles to enter before the program begins. Our program emcee, Bill Sherck, will be awarding various prizes, getting the fish stories from all of the winners, and drawing the winner of the \$15,000 grand prize.

Registration for the event will be open by the time you read this and it will go until the day before, though

**SCHNEIDER TOURNAMENT**  
*continued on page 6*

*From Our President,  
SHAWN KELLETT*

*Greetings Muskie Nuts!*

*I'm hoping that everyone's season is going well! Just a few quick announcements this month.*

*Be on the lookout for the 50th Anniversary Frank Schneider Memorial Tournament September 8, 9 and 10. The Tournament committee has been working long hours to make sure this will be the best one yet, be sure to get there!*

*The George Wahl Memorial Tournament is coming up September 23. 100% of the funds raised by this event will go back to the metro-area muskie fishery.*

*There was an alleged muskie attack on Island Lake Resevior a few weeks ago. I have to say, most of the time the media gets it right on muskie related topics, but I think they missed huge on this one. The poor girl's foot was mangled and has wounds consistent with canine teeth. As we all know, muskies don't have canines, but otters do and there is historical precedence of them attacking people. Check out the MMPA and TCMI Facebook pages for images you can share with other people who may not have the same level of fisheries knowledge.*

*Have a safe season and we'll see you at the tournaments!*



**J**oin other Muskies, Inc. anglers participating in the The Minnesota Muskies Inc. Tournament Trail. M.I.T.T. anglers must participate in a minimum of three tournaments held by Minnesota Muskies, Inc. chapters throughout the season. Points are accumulated during the season and the winner will take home a \$500 prize.

It's not too late to sign up. There are three qualifying tournaments remaining on the schedule. Two of them are held by our chapter – the Frank Schneider Memorial tournament on September 8, 9 and 10 and the George Wahl Memorial tournament on September 23. The last tournament on the schedule is the Brainerd chapter's Muskie Shootout October 14-15 on Leech Lake.

It costs nothing to sign up. Go to [www.muskiesinctournamenttrail.com](http://www.muskiesinctournamenttrail.com). Who knows you might win that \$500!

## Summer Fishing League

*from Greg Kappes, Summer Fishing League Chair*

**T**he fishing league is an opportunity to fish with chapter members and to showcase your skills or learn from others. Points are awarded for fish caught and are accumulative throughout the season.

So far, only one muskie has been caught. Congratulations to Nathan Rskiewicz who caught a 41-inch muskie on Minnetonka at the first league event of the year. He is leading the league with 15 points. The league is still wide open as there are 6 events upcoming.

When you participate in one of the league events email me at [tcmi.fishingleague@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.fishingleague@gmail.com) to get credit for participating. I don't always get to see every person out on the lake. If you catch a muskie, remember to take a picture of the fish on a bump board and submit by email to [tcmi.fishingleague@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.fishingleague@gmail.com). If the length cannot be clearly viewed in the photo, the fish will be ruled to be 36 inches and 10 points will be awarded.

League participants can choose to compete for cash prizes that are awarded to the top finishers, but it is not a requirement to fish in any league event. If you choose to participate for the cash prizes, you must make a \$50 donation to the Twin Cities chapter stocking fund before fishing to qualify.

For rules and/or to make your donation visit the chapter website at [www.TwinCitiesMuskiesInc.org](http://www.TwinCitiesMuskiesInc.org) and click on Summer League. If you have questions, contact me at [tcmi.FishingLeague@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.FishingLeague@gmail.com).

### Summer Fishing League Schedule

DAY	DATE	LAKE	TIME
Thursday	August 10	Minnetonka	5:00 to 9:30 pm
Sunday	August 20	Bryant	6:00 am to noon
Thursday	August 31	White Bear	5:00 to 9:00 pm
Sunday	September 17	Forest	6:00 am to noon
Saturday	September 23	George Wahl Tournament	
Sunday	October 8	Independence	7:00 am to 1:00 pm

## Capable Partners Outing Rescheduled

**T**he outing with members of Capable Partners organization scheduled in June had to be canceled due to bad weather. The outing has been rescheduled for September 24 at Surfside Park in Mound on Cook's Bay, Lake Minnetonka. Fishing will go from 7 to noon followed by lunch. If you would like to volunteer to take out the one of the physically-challenged Capable Partners please contact Paul Hartman at 651-269-2144.

## Camp Fish in Walker, MN to Re-open

Back in the 1980s Camp Fish, in Walker, MN, was a thriving enterprise with the goals of sharing fishing with future generations and expanding the knowledge of those anglers wanting to improve their skills. Unfortunately, in 1991 Camp Fish closed. Many of the staff and campers have long dreamt of “what could be” if Camp Fish were to reopen. Last year, Troy Lindner and several of the alumni staff members started looking at what it would take to reboot Camp Fish for the modern day.

Well, dream no longer, Camp Fish is rising again like the Phoenix from the ashes. After months of planning, Camp Fish is proud to announce the official re-launch! Camp Fish will be holding its first session in over 25 years. An adult/child session will be held August 6-9 at the original Camp Fish grounds on the shores of Long Lake. This first session, it is open any adult/child (mom and daughter, grandparent and grandson, uncle and nephew, aunt and niece, etc.).

After this summer, the camp will be looking at finding a location to expand and hold additional kids fishing sessions for 2018.

In addition to the traditional camp session, Camp Fish is expanding into new events. This fall they will be holding the first Fishing Careers Workshop at Cragen's Resort in the Brainard area on October 28. This event will include people who have successfully made a living in the fishing industry – some of the presenters include: Al and Troy Lindner, Seth Fieder, Tom Nuestrom, Bill Lindner, Mark Fisher and many more. Each will be sharing what it takes to make a living in their niche of the fishing industry and possibly expose you to new career options you've never



During the 1980s several “Muskie, Inc. weeks” were held over the years with kids from Muskie, Inc. families attending.

thought of. For additional information on any of the Camp programs contact them at [www.mycampfish.com](http://www.mycampfish.com) on Facebook: Mycampfish or call 800-378-5095. Space is limited and filling fast.

During the time it was open, Muskie, Inc. and Camp Fish had a very close relationship. Going forward Camp Fish would love to see the close relationship of the past return.

## Look for the 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 30-48 inch

range to have the yellow tags. By this time, the tags may be covered with algae and other material, so look closely.

If you see a yellow tag on any muskie, the DNR needs data from you to complete the study. **DO NOT REMOVE THE YELLOW TAG.** It is important that they get data on the re-catchability of fish. Data requested for this study includes the number on the yellow tag, the name of the lake, and the length of the fish. They would also appreciate your name and phone number in case they need to follow-up. You can go online to the DNR tag reporting website page [http://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.

## Muskie Tales

As you are out muskie fishing this season, keep in mind events that happen that might make a good “Muskie Tale”. We're not necessarily looking for the “big fish” story. 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. Maybe some kind of mishap happened while you were out fishing; or you found something interesting on the end of your line.

Share with us by emailing your “tale” to Denise Olson at [olsonat3pete@gmail.com](mailto:olsonat3pete@gmail.com). The “Muskie Tail” Award will be presented to the best story shared at our Chapter Awards program at the end of the season.

## Support Your Local Fishery: 100% of Funds from the George Wahl Memorial Tournament Go to Metro-area Muskies



For the second year in a row, Joe Tuma won the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament fishing Forest Lake. In 2016 he registered two fish, a 44-incher and this 45.5 inch muskie.



Dustan Forschen had the longest muskies in the 2016 George Wahl tournament, this 48.5-incher caught on White Bear Lake. A requirement of event is to have the day's newspaper showing in the photo of the fish.

### Chapter Challenge

Due to some health issues, one of the teams from our group was recently forced to drop out. The chapter needs to fill those two spots. The Gil Hamm Memorial Chapter Challenge is being held the week of August 21-25 at Red Wing Lodge, Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods.

Teams from Muskies, Inc. chapters throughout the country will be at the 2017 Chapter Challenge. The Challenge is officially Wednesday-Friday, August 23-25, but most participants come for the entire week to pre-fish.

Lodging is reserved for our teams for the week. Participants pay for their own lodging and share the costs of food. Wednesday and Thursday dinner is provided and on Friday lunch is served at the Awards program.

Stu McIntosh is heading up our Challenge teams this year. Contact him at [smcintosh@horwitzinc.com](mailto:smcintosh@horwitzinc.com) or 612-499-7328 if you're interested in representing our chapter and can fill one of the two openings at this event.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the 9th annual George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament will be put back into the local metro-area muskie fishery. The one-day event, scheduled for September 23, is held on 12 metro-area lakes.

Funds raised at the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament have enabled the Twin Cities chapter to purchase and stock close to 10,000 muskie fingerlings in White Bear Lake, Bald Eagle Lake, Lake Independence, Lake Waconia, Lake Minnetonka, and the St. Croix River over the past several years. The chapter has also been able to provide funds to the Minnesota DNR to purchase equipment for their hatcheries and by providing pit and floy tags for their studies on stocking muskies.

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

First place in the tournament is \$1000 cash. Second and third places will also win cash. Prizes, including Thorne Bros. Gift Certificates and a commemorative Sinister lure are

awarded through 5th place. Every person who registers a muskie during the tournament is entered into a drawing for the Grand Prize – a trip for 4 to Whitefish Bay Camp on Lake of the Woods and \$500.

Tournament hours are from 7 am to 6 pm. Tournament headquarters and the Awards program will be at Thorne Bros. in Blaine. A meal will be served prior to the program. There will be raffles and other opportunities to win items to take home.

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. Registration will open mid-August.

New this year, the tournament is one of the qualifying events for the Minnesota Muskies, Inc. Tournament Trail. Anglers who participate in the M.I.T.T. must register for the tournament trail and fish in three out of five qualifying tournaments held by Muskies, Inc chapters throughout the state. Winner of the M.I.T.T. will receive \$500.

If you've ever fished for muskies in a metro-area lake, do your part for this fishery. Make plans to participate in the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament September 23.

# Twin Cities Chapter Members Only Contest

from Members Only Contest Chair, Casey Friskney

With two months down in our Minnesota muskie season and the onset of "Summer Peak" we have had a lot of development across our Members Only Contest board for the month of July. Blade baits (spinners and bucktails) made up about half of the fish caught over the last month, followed closely by casting and trolling crankbaits, and then rubber, jerks, and topwater round out the bottom but most recent producing lures. As we move into August I expect the blade bait trend to continue and I expect to see more and more topwater lures start to produce, especially if a night-bite pattern emerges. Additionally, with water temps approaching that 80 degree mark I expect we'll see a lot of anglers turn their attention to the waters of northern Minnesota and Canada. With that all said, here are a few notables from our Members Only Contest:

-The youngest generation of Knutsons have steaked their claim to the Junior Division. Both Finn and Adelle Knutson boated a tiger muskie each and now comprise the entirety of the juniors on the board. I expect to see their parents and grandparents show up sooner or later...

-Cindy Hegdahl, a usual on the board, has started her haunt of the Bemidji area muskies. She's now surpassed Tera Castillo as the Women's Masters Leader with 3 fish including a 53-incher.

-The highly contested Men's Division is starting to take off. Over half of the contestants have 5 or more fish and a 4-footer to their name.

-Patrick Thiry had a great last month, registering 5 fish including a 50.5-incher, and leaping up into 2nd place overall.

-Tim Hoene Headlock'd a 54-incher early in the month, putting him in securing him the "Lunker of the Month" for July (unofficially), and also putting him in the lead to take home the "Biggest Fish" replica for the year. Congratulations Tim on the great fish! Send pictures!!

Current standings:

## JUNIOR DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Finn Knutson	9	1	35"
2ND	Adelei Knutson	4	1	30"

## WOMEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Cindy Hegdahl	52	3	53"
2ND	Tera Castillo	5	1	31"

## MEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Dave Gustafson	112	7	43"
2ND	Patrick Thiry	103	5	50.5"
3RD	Casey Friskney	96	6	52.5"
4TH	Nathan Ryskiewicz	90	6	45.25"
5TH	Nolen Ryba	85	5	50.5"
6TH	Josh Lunde	80	8	44"
7TH	Nick Eddy	62	4	43.5"
8TH	John Newman	60	5	42"
8TH	Tom Batina	60	5	48.5"
10TH	John Harazin	58	4	44.25"

## MEN'S HYBRID DIVISION

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST	Josh Lunde	38	5	35.5"
2ND	Luke Manthey	23	2	38.5"
2ND	Casey Friskney	19	7	44.5"

## MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Alexander McLean	26	2	41.5"
2ND	Brent Hirsch	15	1	41"

## LUNKER OF THE MONTH

APRIL - Official - John Newman - 4/29 - Clear Lake, IA - 42"

MAY - Official - John Harazin - 5/21 - Clear Lake, IA - 41"

JUNE - Unofficial - Nolen Ryba - 6/21 - Lake Minnetonka - 50.5"

JULY - Unofficial - Tim Hoene - 7/9 - Lake Minnetonka - 54"

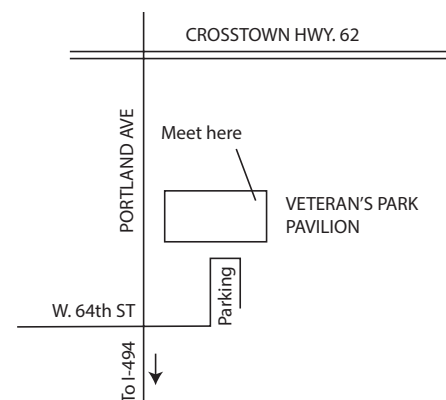
I'll see you on the water! - Casey

## Give Feedback on Vermilion Stocking

Through August 16 the DNR is asking for comments from the public on their newly released draft of the official Lake Vermilion management plan. The draft includes a muskie stocking plan to stock 4,000 fingerlings every other year, which is at the same rate that they have been stocking since 2003. When they began stocking Lake Vermilion, the rate was almost 12,000 fingerlings every other year. Stocking at the lower rate has led to a significant decline in catch rates.

We have the opportunity to voice our support for an increase in stocking and/or our disapproval with the new plan. To view the complete plan or to participate in the public input process regarding the new management plan for Lake Vermilion go to <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakevermillion/management.html>. Click on the fish management link and take the survey and add your comments.

## Getting to August Picnic at Veterans Park



## SCHNEIDER TOURNAMENT

*continued from page 1*

after Labor Day, September 4 your pick up locations become limited. Again this year you will want to make every effort to sign up ahead of time! Two major advantages for doing so are an early bird drawing for an Abu Garcia rod and reel package and a cheaper entry fee. Everyone entered by Labor Day, will be entered into that drawing no matter your method of registering. You can register three different ways: online, in-person, or by mail. You can register in person through September 1 at Blue Ribbon (Oakdale), Joe's Sporting Goods and Thorne Bros. in the Twin Cities, or through Labor Day at Reed's in Walker and One Stop in Longville. For mail in options please visit our website to print out an entry form and mail it in to the address on the form. The third way is to use our new and improved online registration. We have made our registration site mobile friendly, so you can sign up for our event right

from your phone. You can find the registration site on our website or on our facebook page.

We work hard every year to make sure that we are growing this tournament with the changing times and technologies, while keeping as many traditions as we can. This year we will be making a few changes to the rules that address a few of those advances. Be sure to read the instructions when you register to find out the differences. One change to our event in particular has been a long time coming. All participants must have a picture of their fish on a commercially made bump board to register their fish. For those of you that don't have a board we will be selling commemorative 50th Annual Frank Schneider boards for less than retail price, so don't miss out!

Finally, our chapter has been holding tournaments like this as a way to support all our stocking and other activities since its inception. The Frank Schneider tournament is the one of the chapter's main fundraisers, providing

funds for stocking efforts and all our chapter's other activities. Without the tournament our chapter would not be able to give door prizes at each meeting, to have a meal at our annual August picnic or the February awards, to take the Capable Partners on an outing, or to co-partner with Fishing for Life at the Armed Forces Family Fishing Day. All of those activities are possible because of the money raised at this tournament and our other fundraising activities. Over the year's participation from our own members has dropped off even though they are the main beneficiary of the event. This is the year to change that. Call up that old boat partner that you fished this event with years ago and come celebrate the tradition!

Please contact Tournament Director, Eric Bakke, at [tcmi.fstourneydirector@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.fstourneydirector@gmail.com) or 612-202-7169 for more information or to volunteer.

Hope to see you there!  
Eric



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# next meeting

## AUGUST 8 Annual Picnic

The chapter's August meeting, our annual summer picnic, will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Park pavilion in Richfield. The chapter will provide brats, burgers, buns, beverages and plates and silverware. We ask that everyone please bring a side dish or dessert dish to share. We'll be starting around 6:00 pm.

Veteran's Park has free parking at the pavilion and more parking at the adjacent ice arena/pool. There are hiking trails and a miniature golf course for the kids. So, plan on seeing us there and bring the whole family.

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*Muskies Inc. Twin Cities chapter 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.*

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the Woods



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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 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.

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