

On the Water



2017 Sportsman's Banquet



Over 130 attendees enjoyed a fun evening at the Sportsman's Banquet on January 21. More inside.

Stocking and Rearing Update

from John Newman, Stocking and Rearing Chair

Hi everyone. Just wanted to give an update on what we have been doing in the area of stocking and rearing during the past year of 2016. We started the year with a \$2,000 donation to the Waterville Hatchery for aerators so they could over-winter a thousand muskies. The DNR harvested those fish last spring and decided to stock them into White Bear Lake and Bald Eagle Lake, each getting 500 of the bigger muskies.

We were then able to help out at the East Metro Hatchery by purchasing a new condensate tank for their boiler system for a cost of \$8,000. Also at that time we gave the DNR \$2,000 for energy costs so that the small muskie fry could be kept in the hatchery for a longer period time, ensuring a better survival rate when they were stocked into rearing ponds.

Our next project was to help DNR's Joel Steris with his St. Croix River study tracking muskies that have been implanted with transmitters. We were able to purchase a pair of fish anesthetizing gloves so that chemicals would not have to be used while sedating the muskies for the implantation of transmitters. Cost of these gloves was \$1,700.

We weren't done yet. We also donated \$8,200 for cleaning a pond at the East Metro Hatchery so that the DNR could introduce more kids to the sport of fishing.

As you can see, our chapter was active in enhancing the development of our local muskie fishery. Close to \$22,000 was spent. With \$9,000 coming from grants from the Hugh C. Becker Foundation. I would like to thank our Board of Directors for backing all these projects and also all the volunteers who helped throughout the year on our various fundraisers. I know these dollars DON'T COME EASY.

Keep up the good work.

"Winter Picnic" and Chapter Awards Program

Our February meeting will be the annual "Winter Picnic" and chapter Awards Program. The evening will start around 6:30 pm with a meal of BBQ sandwiches with all the accompaniments.

Following dinner, plaques will be presented to the top winners of this year's Member's Only Contest. The recipient of the chapter's Muskie Award will be also be revealed. The Muskie Award is presented each year 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.

We will also be choosing the winner of this year's Muskie Tale. So, come hear all the great stories!!

While all this is going on, several members will be assembling bucktails to use for the youth program.

Join us February 14 at the Knights of Columbus in Bloomington at 6:30 pm. Feel free to bring your significant others and families to our event, it should be a great time!

From Our President,
SHAWN KELLETT

Greetings muskie nuts!

Well it looks like the anti-muskie crowd from Pelican Lake is still trying to put an end to the Minnesota muskie program in the legislature. So far there haven't been any bills introduced, but it wouldn't surprise me if they don't try to get Senator Ingebritsen from Alexandria to put something in the Senate Finance committee.

This constant threat is why we need as many people as possible to become members of the MMPA (Minnesota Muskie Pike Association) and support the MMPA Education Fund which help us directly combat ant-muskie factions. I don't want to sound like a chicken little, but if one of these bills sneak through it would be more detrimental then anything we've faced as an organization.

Thank you to everyone who attended the banquet this year! We had a tough time finding an available date, but there was still a great turnout and fun was had by all. The pink hats when around the room several times with Mr. Rouse finding it on his head more than once. If you didn't make it this year, make a point to come out in 2018.

Remember to talk to new members and make them feel welcome. Many years ago it was common to have well over 100 people at our meetings. Our attendance has seen a drop and I can't help but think that has something to do with people not making personal connections. You never know – that new guy sitting alone at a table by you could end up being your next fishing partner – so go and say "hi". I've never had a newbie bite me yet so I think you'll be OK.

That's all for now. See you at this month's meeting!

Assemble Bucktails for Your Program

For the past several years, our chapter has made bucktails for distribution to youths. We are looking for some volunteers to help assemble about 40 bucktails starting at 6 pm before general meeting on February 14.

We already have hooks attached to wires and flashabou coils tied. If we create an assembly line, we will have them done in less than an hour.

We need about 6 or 7 people for the following tasks: 1 to put the weight on the wire; 1 to put the coil on; 1 or 2 to put the beads on; 1 or 2 to put the blades and clevises on; and 1 or 2 to bend the wire into a loop and trim the excess.

All components will be provided. No tools are needed except for the person who is bending the final loop and trimming the wire and the club has purchased a wire bender for this task. If you would be willing to help, please contact Terry Schar at twschar@yahoo.com and let him know what task you want to do.

Thanks for supporting the chapter's Youth Program.

2017 George's Minnesota Muskie Expo is March 10, 11, 12

Don't miss George's Minnesota Muskie Expo March 10-12 at Ganglehoff Center, Concordia University in St. Paul. The Expo was founded over 20 years ago by chapter member 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 Gregg Thomas, Mike Keyes, and Steve Herbeck on Friday; Luke Ronnestrand, Jim Saric, Kevin Cochran, and Tony Grant on Saturday; and a Minnesota Guide Panel, Steve Heiting, and Dustin Carlson/Bob Benson 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 is \$10 per day, a three-day pass is \$17. Expo information can be found online at: mnmuskieexpo.com.

Volunteer at George's Tackle Shop

George's Tackle shop is one of the most-visited areas at the Minnesota Muskie Expo. Kids are able to create their own muskie lure and take it home with them. Linda and Dave Knutson, along with many volunteers, 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.

Sportsman's Banquet Wrap Up



The chapter's annual Sportsman's Banquet was held Saturday, January 21 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club. Attendees spent the evening talking muskies while moving around the room dropping their raffle tickets into buckets, bidding on the Silent Auction items, or participating in games and additional raffles. A tremendous amount of items filled the tables.

The infamous "pink hat" – worn by anyone who was heard whining about prizes, games, whatever – was in circulation again this year. The pink cowboy hat was joined by another "pink hat" worn by anyone who was deemed to be "full of him/herself". Both hats moved around the room for most of the evening.

A new event, the Fishing Hole, made its debut this year. Everyone who participated won something. At the end of the evening, a drawing was held for all participants in the game and the winner went home with the new rod and reel that was used to "fish" with. Other games included heads-and-tails and two-dollar-bill poker.

This year, all proceeds from the 100 square board as well as some of the Silent Auction items went to the MMPA (Minnesota Muskie Pike Alliance). The banquet raised over \$1500 that will go their education fund.

The whole evening moved quickly and people left with over \$10,000 in amazing prizes. The most important part of the whole evening is the support for the muskie fishery and the building of relationships between members.

A special thanks goes out to all the resorts, guides, manufacturers, and lure makers for their support of our chapter and this event. They are consistently there with support for our efforts.

Thanks also to the volunteers who came early to set up, the multitude of people who helped out during the evening and committee of Eric Schultz, Shawn Kellett, and Denise Olson who made the evening a success.

Make Reservations Now for Chapter Outing at Red Wing Lodge

Okay, we all understand the fun of picking up a new "secret weapon" or two. But now consider this different question: Do you need more opportunity or more baits for catching that big muskie? Big fish opportunity is awaiting you at Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods, Canada. Schedule in big fish opportunity with a reservation for the annual August Muskie Inc. Outing to Red Wing Lodge.

This opportunity has been provided for years by the cooperative support of Mike and Anne Bartlett of Red Wing Lodge, North Metro chapter and our chapter. Dates for the outing are August 12-19, 2017.

Red Wing Lodge 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 ten-time Chapter Challenge headquarters. 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

Cost per person in housekeeping cabins remains at \$350 (US Funds) for 2017, just \$50 per day for big-time Canadian muskie fishing. Included

is dockage (\$72 value), launch (both ways, \$25 value), free dinner one night and one free trip - given away in drawing - courtesy of the Bartletts, wireless internet service, 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. First come, first served. To make reservations, or any questions or suggestions for improving the trip, contact: John van Ingen, (651) 336-3622 maxjo@mac.com, 2108 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105 or John Genosky, (651) 329-4898 John@Protacinc.com, 904 81st St., Lino Lakes, MN 55014

— this n' that —

Tell Us Your Tale

It's time to reflect on the past fishing season and start reporting your stories for the chapter's "Muskie Tale" Award. Keep in mind all the things that happened during the season. 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 from fishing. 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. Muskie Tales will be shared at our Chapter Awards program this month. The person with the best tale will have the honor of keeping the chapter "Muskie Tale" for the next year.

Chapter Show Booth

The chapter is looking for a volunteer to take over from Greg Ide who has been in charge of our show booth for many years. Greg would like to retire from taking care of the show booth. The job involves setting up the booth at the Minnesota Muskie Expo and at the Northwest Sports Show and scheduling volunteers during those events. The booth folds down to a compact size and is easy to move. This is not a board position and could be done by anyone who is willing. Occasionally there are additional places that the booth is set up during the year. Greg would help whoever takes over for him. Contact him at 612-331-5034 or gregide@aol.com if you're interested in taking on the chapter show booth.

Currently Greg is looking to schedule volunteers to work during both the Muskie Expo – Friday, March 10 through Sunday, March 12 and the Northwest Sports Show – Thursday, March 23 through Sunday, March 26. There are two shifts each day. If you can help out at the booth during any of those days/evenings, please let Greg know.

ADVERTISE IN ON THE WATER. Classified ads to run in the newsletter may be submitted by Twin Cities Chapter members. Charges are \$5.00 per month per ad. Ads can include a photo of an item for sale. Send ad information to Denise Olson at olsonat3pete@gmail.com.

North Metro Banquet

The North Metro chapter annual banquet is Saturday, February 25, 2017 at the Coon Rapids VFW Post 9625, 1919 Coon Rapids Boulevard. Social hour begins at 3:30 pm and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm with raffle drawings following.

Dinner tickets are \$35 in advance, \$45 after February 11. Dinner/raffle combo packages are available. Muskie Package is \$185, Tiger Package is \$130, and the Pike Package is \$85. Dinner and Package tickets can be purchased online at the North Metro website: www.nmmuskies.com or at the door.

Lure Sale

As you can imagine, a guide can amass great numbers of lures. Terrie DuBe' was no exception. Terri's brother Dave has over 250 of her lures and some

rods for sale. Most of the lures have been used, but there are a number of brand new ones. If you're interested in purchasing some of Terrie's lures, contact Dave at ddube372@gmail.com.

Seeking Part-Time Seasonal Employee

Hannay's Marine, 630 Arthur Street in Minneapolis, is looking for a part-time seasonal employee, possibly a high school student, to start soon with a few hours to learn the ropes and work into more hours during the summer. The most important qualification is knowledge about fishing and boating and to be able to talk to the customers. Compensation based on experience and fishing/boating knowledge. If you, or you know someone, who might be interested, call Joe Hausladen at Hannay's, 612-781-7411.

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**“Winter Picnic” and
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

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Starts at 6:30 pm with BBQ sandwiches and all the accompaniments.

Following dinner plaques presented to top winners
 of 2016 Member’s Only Contest.

Muskie Tale Award Presentation. Come hear all the great stories!!

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- PRESIDENT**
 Shawn Kellett
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 tonkamuskie@gmail.com
- FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**
 Eric Schultz
 651-917-8272
 tcmi.vicepresident@gmail.com
- SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**
 Terry Schar
 612-865-4200
 tcmi.vicepresident2@gmail.com
- TREASURER**
 Andy Wayt
 651-353-6456
 tcmi.treasurer@gmail.com
- SECRETARY**
 Jim Doyle
 952-920-9818
 tcmi.secretary@gmail.com
- REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT**
 Jon Meyers
 952-240-4083
 tcmi.rvp@gmail.com
- MEMBERS ONLY CONTEST**
 Casey Friskney
 715-419-1187
- TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**
 Eric Bakke
 612-202-7169
- STOCKING AND REARING**
 John Newman
 651-699-8676

**BOARD MEMBERS
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- Brad Coyne
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 612-331-5034
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- Jim Kroupa
 952-474-5967
- Doug Malsom
 612-759-3407
- Stu McIntosh
 651-699-9817
- Denise Olson
 612-804-4687
- Elaine Randolph
 612-708-6851
- Steve Smythe
 612-369-8075

www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org

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next meeting

FEBRUARY 14

Winter Picnic and Awards Program

We'll start early at 6:30 for a winter picnic with BBQ sandwiches and all the fixins' to go with. Following the meal, we will honor the winners of the chapter's Members Only contest for the past season. The chapter Muskie award will be presented and we will hopefully hear some great stories and award the Muskie Tale to the best.

Bring the family. It should prove to be a great evening!

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.).



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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.

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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