



Volume 20, Issue 3

MARCH 2017

Winter Picnic and Awards Program at February Meeting



Some of the winners in our chapter's Members Only Contest for the 2016 season. Plaques were presented at the Winter Picnic Awards program at the February 14 meeting. Back row, left to right are: David Knutson, 9th Place, Men's Division; Nolan Ryba, 2nd Place, Men's Division; Jeremy Knutson, 3rd Place, Men's Division and Lunker of the Month, December; Linda Knutson, 2nd Place, Women's Masters Division; Tera Castillo, 1st Place, Women's Division and Lunker of the Month, July; Alex McLean, 1st Place Men's Division. Front: John Harazin, Lunker of the Month, April; Olin Knutson, 2nd Place, Junior Division; Casey Friskney, 5th Place, Men's Division.



During the season, Jeremy Knutson and his mother, Linda, had a running contest to see who caught the biggest fish. In the end, Linda, with a 49.5-inch muskie had the bigger fish. Jeremy's biggest fish of the season was 45 inches. At the meeting, Jeremy acknowledged that his mother does catch bigger fish than he does - at least in 2016!

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.

From Our President, **SHAWN KELLETT**

It's that time of year again for us to dig into the secret stash of cash we hide from our significant others and bring it to the Muskie Expo! Hopefully everyone will be able to find the deals they're looking for on that "secret bait" for 2017.

While at the Expo, encourage your friends who may not be members of the chapter to sign up again at our show booth. The meeting after the Muskie Expo is always one of our best attended meetings of the year.

Be sure to seek out someone you don't recognize and introduce yourself to make them feel welcome. It's that first impression that shape a person's perception of the organization; an organization that is seeing less and less participation from it's membership.

The board is working on some new ideas to improve the meetings in addition to other things to increase the value to our members. We are also making plans to increase our online presence as well as being proactive in our efforts to paint muskies in a more positive light to those that may be swayed into an anti-muskie position. If anyone has any experience and/or passion for any of these goals, please come see me or another board member and offer your suggestions/ involvement.

As of today, everything on the legislative front is pretty quiet. There have been a few overtures to include some muskie language here or there, but they've been rejected by the powers that be thus far. We will see what gets thrown into the sausage maker at the end of session so stay tuned in case we need to get a grass roots movement going again.

Think spring and we'll see you in a couple weeks!



Above: On behalf of the Twin Cities chapter, Jim Kroupa, right, presented the 2016 Muskie Award at the February Winter Picnic Awards program to Eric Bakke, left. For the past several years, the chapter has presented a beautiful metal wall sculpture to the winner. Right: Eric also received a custom-painted crappie pattern lure courtesy of Supernatural Big Bait.



Eric Bakke Honored with Muskie Award

The Muskie Award is presented by our chapter each year to a member who has given of their time and talents to the chapter and/or Muskies, Inc. The first Muskie Award was presented in 1974 to Muskies, Inc. founder, Gil Hamm. The Twin Cities chapter has continued to present this award ever since. The Muskie Award for 2016 was presented to Eric Bakke at the chapter's Winter Picnic Awards program during the February meeting.

Eric has served our chapter as a member of the Board of Directors since 2009 and has been elected to serve as Vice President since 2010. Eric served as the chapter Members Only Contest chair from when he became a board member until he turned the reins over to Casey Friskney for the 2016 season. Eric was also instrumental in setting up the tracking system for our Sponsorship Committee and was co-chair until this year.

Eric served on the Tournament Committee for several years and in 2015 he volunteered to be tournament director for the Frank Schneider Memorial Tournament. During the years our chapter hosted an outing on the Winnipeg River, Eric headed up the organizing of the event for a number of years. He has worked at our annual Sportsman's Banquet for a number of years, serving as Committee Chair for several of them. And, you can always find Eric helping at chapter activities.

Congratulations to Eric Bakke for all his contributions to this chapter and Muskies, Inc.

Hugh C. Becker Foundation Grants for 2017 Announced

The Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc., and the Hugh C. Becker Grant Committee are pleased to announce the recipients of Hugh C. Becker grants for 2017. The Hugh C. Becker Foundation was established in 2008 after the passing of Hugh Becker according to his final wishes. Since its inception, the foundation has given more than \$1,235,000 in grants. Grants for 2017 totalling \$105,000 in order of funding dates are:

To help fund the Minnesota DNR Fisheries Offices in Duluth with netting equipment.

FEBRUARY \$9,000.00

To provide funds three (3) Minnesota DNR projects in Little Falls and Sauk Rapids through the St. Cloud Chapter #37 of Muskies, Inc.

FEBRUARY \$4,000.00

To continue supporting the cooperative Minnesota and Wisconsin DNRs' telemetry research on the St. Louis River through the Lake Superior Chapter #33 of Muskies, Inc.

FEBRUARY \$5,900.00

To assist the Minnesota Muskie and Pike Alliance (MMPA) in their political lobbying efforts with the Minnesota State Legislature.

FEBRUARY \$6,000.00

To support the Maryland DNR with their muskie research on the upper reaches of the Potomac River through the Thurmont, MD, Fisheries Offices.

MARCH \$3,700.00

For further funding of muskie "pit-tagging" research on the Mantrap Lakes System through the Minnesota DNR Park Rapids, MN Fisheries Office.

MARCH \$1,500.00

To provide the Minnesota DNR NE and NW Regional Fisheries offices with muskie "pit-tagging" equipment through the management of Chris Kavanaugh in Grand Rapids, MN., Fisheries Office.

MARCH \$7,000.00

To fund the Minnesota DNR Waterville Hatchery with new equipment for raising muskies.

MARCH \$9,600.00

To support the muskie "pit-tagging" research on Lake Wissota, WI, through the First Wisconsin Chapter #6 of Muskies, Inc.

APRIL \$1,000.00

To partially fund the Ohio DNR at the Sandusky Fisheries Research Station with their study of spatial ecology of muskellunge in Lake Erie.

APRIL \$5,400.00

To partially fund the Michigan DNR at the Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station with their study of spatial ecology of muskellunge in the St. Clair-Detroit River System-coordination with the Ohio DNR study in Lake Erie (above).

APRIL \$5,400.00

To provide materials for the project to cover three ponds at the Spooner, Wisconsin Fish Hatchery through the Hayward Lakes Chapter #13 of Muskies, Inc.

APRIL \$4,500.00

To provide partial funding of the FIN (youth) Program in St. Paul, MN through the Twin Cities Chapter #1 of Muskies, Inc.

MAY \$500.00

To support the Youth Conservation Alliance (YCA) for their programs at Hayward, WI.

MAY \$7,500.00

To support the Minnesota State High School Muskie-Fishing program through the North Metro Chapter #21 of Muskies, Inc.

MAY \$2,000.00

To match funding of the Minnesota State High School Muskie-Fishing program through the Twin Cities Chapter #1 of Muskies, Inc.

MAY \$2,000.00

To provide funding for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters and Family Fun Festival programs by the St. Cloud Chapter #37 of Muskies, Inc..

MAY \$2,000.00

To fund four(4) Metro Day Camps through The Fishing for Life (FFL) programs in the Twin Cities of Minnesota.

MAY \$3,500.00

To assist in funding muskie forage to the Minnesota DNR New London, MN Fish Hatchery during the critical summer raising.

JUNE \$5,000.00

To assist in funding muskie forage to the Michigan DNR Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery for the 2017 season through the Michigan Muskie Alliance Chapter #47 of Muskies, Inc.

JUNE \$2,000.00

To assist the stocking efforts of the Green Bay Chapter #4 of Muskies, Inc.

AUGUST \$1,500.00

To continue the funding to Muskies Canada in their restoration of muskellunge project at Lake Simcoe.

AUGUST \$5,000.00

To assist the stocking efforts of Bill's Musky Club in central Wisconsin.

AUGUST \$6,000.00

To help fund stocking muskies through the 12 Apostles Musky Club of Wisconsin.

AUGUST \$2,500.00

To help fund stocking muskies through the Consolidated Musky Club of Wisconsin.

AUGUST \$2,500.00

Sportsman's Banquet Successful Fundraiser for Chapter Projects

The chapter's Sportsman's Banquet, held January 21, successfully raised over \$13,000 for our chapter. Of that, a little over \$2000 was donated to the Minnesota Muskie Pike Alliance. The remaining \$11,000+ will be used by the chapter for ongoing expenses and a portion will be diverted to stocking and projects.

An event as big as the Sportsman's Banquet doesn't happen without donations and support from many organizations as well as the chapter members who volunteer at the event.

We want to thank our sponsors who helped provide banquet prizes:

Abu Garcia	Musky Innovations LLC
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Todd Cleveland	Savage Gear
Crave	Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel
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Frankie's Live Bait & Marine	Spiderwire
Gary's Custom Rod & Reel	Spring Bay Resort and Guide Service – Lake Vermilion
Grandma/Spanky Lures	St. Croix Rods
H30	Suick
Hirsch's Ghosttails	Sunset Cove Resort – Cass Lake
Joe's Sporting Goods	Supernatural Big Baits
Just Encase	T-Tails Custom Bucktails
Shawn Kellett	Temple Fork Outfitters
Leech Lake Custom Baits	Third Street Brewhouse
Man Cave Bait Co.	Thorne Bros
Midwest Lake Management	Trappers Landing Lodge – Leech Lake
Mighty Muskie Guide Service – Josh Stevenson	Wades Custom Tackle
Minneapolis Gun Club	Wellman Sports Marketing
Minnesota Valley Country Club	
Musky Frenzy Lures	

It's Tera's Muskie Tale!

Those attending the Awards program at the February meeting were entertained by several "Muskie Tale" stories. Tera Castillo's tale about her 54-inch muskie from Lake Minnetonka was voted the winner. Tera will keep the traveling award, a replica of the tale of world's record muskie, for the year.

Here's Tera's "tale":

For anyone who's interested in the story of this breathtaking fish, it was 20 minutes into fishing with Alex McLean and Dwayne Miller. I reeled my lure in to pull a big pile of weeds off (grr right?). I recast and tugged on my 12" Headlock as it seemed to have a hook caught on its side... Suddenly, I'm losing line full speed, darting away from the boat. I realize my 8+-year-old reel's drag has just bottomed out on me! (A hand-me-down reel from my boyfriend, no doubt). I thumb the line instead and begin to crank my bait in, "I don't think shes on anymore". I'm finally regaining line when I feel the weight of an absolute tank at the end of my line. There are 3-foot rollers and 4th of July joyriders all around me. The boat



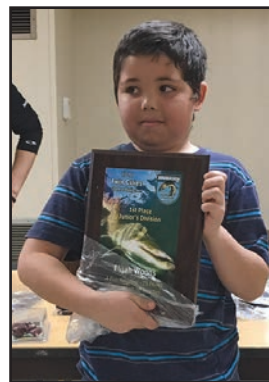
is wobbling like crazy and I now have a popped blister on my finger from the line, when the fish begins to dive straight down like a torpedo 4-5 times. Slack line again, my heart sinks (is she coming up or is she off??). Then I see her, clear as day, thrashing above the water. I panic as I see she's barely hanging on by one barb!! She sees the net, she wants nothing to do with it. "Hold on shes not ready yet", back and forth we exchanged line until finally she was safely in the net!! (exhale breath)... There was nothing easy about this fish – my best fight, the hardest to land, and she almost got away! Truly a show fish, not a scar on her. I dont know when she was last caught, if ever. And to top it off, I'd seen this girl every day for 2 weeks in the same spot, strutting along the boat, toying with us! My friend named her "beauty and the beast" because that's exactly what she was, a beautiful beast, safely released to make another angler very happy one day.

Chapter 2016 Members Only Contest Winners

Winners of the chapter's Members Only Contest were honored at our Winter Picnic on February 14. Here are some of the fish that earned first place in their divisions.

JUNIOR DIVISION

We had two entries in the Junior Division this year. Elijah Woods won the Junior Division with a 50.5-inch muskie caught in July on Minnetonka while he was fishing with his family (that's his brother Isaiah in the picture with him). Our second entrant was Olin Knutson who caught his 36-inch muskie on Bald Eagle in September while fishing with his dad, Jeremy.



MEN'S DIVISION

Alex McLean was the winner of the Men's Division with 15 muskies registered this year. His longest was a 47.5-inch caught during an October trip to Lake Miltona. His first place finish in the division will send him to be fishing in the Men's Master's Division next year.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Sole entrant in the Women's Division for 2016 was Tera Castillo who registered six muskies. Her biggest fish was a 54-inch from Minnetonka. Read the 2016 Muskie Tale to learn about her fish. Like Alex, Tera will be fishing in the Master's Division next year.



LUNKER OF THE YEAR

Josh Borovsky registered the longest fish caught by a chapter member this year – a 56.5-inch from Lake Vermilion caught early in the season. The longest fish of the year is presented a replica of the fish by the chapter. However, Josh won Lunker of the Year in 2008 with a 56-inch muskie, also from Vermilion. Rules stipulate that a person may only receive a replica once in 20 years, so the replica this year will go to Paul Hartman, who caught and released a 56-inch muskie on Mille Lacs in November.

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.

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 tent-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

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.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Vet's Home Fishing Opener

SATURDAY, MAY 6

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Don't miss the Fishing Opener at the Minneapolis Veteran's Home hosted by our chapter and several VFW and American Legion posts. 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. Volunteers will prepare a "shore lunch" of fresh-caught trout, potatoes and beans and serve to the veterans.

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.

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tc chapter contacts

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next meeting

MARCH 14

Guide Panel

**Luke Ronnestrand,
Matt Seifert, Bob Benson**

The Minnesota DNR created the finest muskie fishery in the country. Diminished stocking of our legacy lakes, invasive species, delayed mortality and other factors are damaging this fishery. What can you do to have a successful season? What can we do to restore this fishery? Come hear Luke, Matt and Bob to find out.

EVERY NEW MEMBER ATTENDING THE MEETING WILL RECEIVE A WELCOME GIFT.

EVERY YOUTH MEMBER AT THE MEETING WILL RECEIVE A NEW LURE.

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.

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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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Huddle's Resort – Leech Lake
Joe's Sporting Goods
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Musky Mercenary Guide Service – Matt Seifert
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Pine Sunset Resort
Pro Musky Guide Service – Josh Borovsky
Red Wing Lodge – Lake of the Woods

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Sah-Kah-Tay Resort – Cass Lake
Savage Gear
Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel
Sportsman's Connection
Spiderwire
Spring Bay Resort and Guide Service – Lake Vermilion
St. Croix Rods
Suick
Sunset Cove Resort – Cass Lake
Sunset Lodge – Lake of the Woods
Supernatural Big Baits
T-Tails Custom Bucktails
Tamarack Island Wilderness Lodge – Lake of the Woods
Temple Fork Outfitters
Third Street Brewhouse
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Timber Trails Resort – Boy Lake
Trappers Landing Lodge – Leech Lake
Wades Custom Tackle
Wellman Sports Marketing
Whitefish Bay Camp – Lake of the Woods

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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