

On the Water



Volume 20, Issue 5

MAY 2017

Don't Miss Fishing "Opener" at the Minneapolis Veteran's Home

Residents of the Minneapolis Veteran's Home will be treated to a Fishing Opener on Saturday, May 6. Our chapter, along with several VFW, American Legion, and AmVets Posts have sponsored the fishing opener for over 20 years at the Minnesota Veteran's Home.



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 it to the veterans.

If you don't attend any other chapter event, this one is well worth it. It's extremely rewarding to see our veterans who may never get the chance any other time during the year come out and get some fishing in. Many of them are lined up waiting bright and early in the morning. The fishing opener event has been recognized for being one of the best volunteer events at Veterans Homes all over the country. 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. Last year we served many hundreds of meals to residents and their families and caregivers.

It takes a lot of people to make this happen for the residents. Volunteers need to be at the Minneapolis Veterans Home around 7 am. The home is near Minnehaha Falls – use park entrance off Minnehaha Parkway at 46th Ave.

Please contact event organizer, Troy Zuelzke at tzuelzke@yahoo.com if you can bring 10 pounds of boiled potatoes with you.



New chapter members Derek Orner and Brady Hawks, left, placed second in the "Spring Tune Up" at Clear Lake, Iowa last weekend. Matt Olson and John Newman, right, were the first place winners in the tournament. The Heartland chapter tournament is a nice way to start the season muskie fishing without having to drive a long distance.

Chapter Members Win

For a number of years several members of the Twin Cities chapter have made the two-hour trek to Clear Lake, Iowa for a one-day tournament hosted by the Heartland chapter of Muskies Inc. This year was no exception. Representatives from our chapter came in first and second place during the April 29 event.

The team of Matt Olson and John Newman won the tournament with 4 muskies, two 42-inchers, a 37- and a 36-incher, all caught by John. They won \$500 for first place and also \$100 for the big fish of the tournament. The team of Derek Orner and Brady Hawks placed second in the tournament with two fish, a 39-incher and a 35-incher, both caught by Brady and earning them \$400. Congratulations to all!



One of John Newman's 42-inch muskies from the Heartland Chapter tournament April 29.

Many Chapter Events in June

The month of June brings not only the opening of the muskie season in Minnesota, but also a number of chapter activities and events. Every event needs volunteers from the chapter to help with fishing and/or event organization. Please consider making time to help out. More detailed information about these events will be in next month's issue.

High School Tournament Qualifier

The Twin Cities chapter qualifier for the state High School Muskie Tournament will be held on Friday, June 9 on Lake Independence – sun-up until noon. Muskies, Inc. chapters throughout the state will each be holding a qualifier event. The top two teams from each qualifier will participate in the State High School Muskie Tournament being held Friday, June 23 on Lake Vermillion.

If anyone is interested in helping at the Twin Cities chapter qualifier, please contact Terry Schar at 612-865-4200 or twschar@yahoo.com. You can also contact Terry at the monthly chapter meeting.

Capable Partners Outing

The chapter's annual outing with members of the Capable Partners organization will be Sunday, June 11 from 6:30 am to around noon on Lake Minnetonka. Capable Partners is a non-profit organization that provides hunting, fishing, and related outdoor opportunities for physically-challenged individuals. Volunteers are needed to take guests out for a morning of fishing. About one-half of participants will need space for wheelchairs, but any size boat can be matched with one of the Capable Partners.

You don't have to go fishing to join in. A "shore lunch" will end the event and help is needed to cook or serve as well. Please contact Paul Hartman at 651-269-2144 to volunteer.

Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration

The 9th annual Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration will take place on Friday, June 16 on Lake Minnetonka. This event is a collaborative effort with Fishing for Life and our chapter. Military kids and adults with connections to the military will enjoy a morning of multi-species fishing from the docks as well as out on Lake Minnetonka.

We are looking for volunteers to take out the kids and families. Worms and larva will be provided to groups who want to fish for panfish. Youngsters under 12 will be accompanied by an adult. Everyone will fish all morning and then be treated to a great meal. Following will be an awards ceremony with trophies and medals for youth participants. The event ends around 1 pm. In the past, there were more guides from the bass organizations than there were from Muskies, Inc. who sponsors the event. So please think about taking a morning to go fishing with these kids and their family members. If you can guide families or want to donate money or lures, please contact Terry Schar at twschar@yahoo.com or twschar@yahoo.com.

Metro Muskie Tournament is Saturday, June 10

Don't miss the Metro Muskie Tournament on Saturday, June 10. The tournament gives you a choice of over 20 metro-area waters to fish. Entries are available at Thorne Bros. or Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle through Friday, June 9. A printable form can be found on the tournament site: metromuskietournament.com. Entry fee is \$35 per person. All muskies caught will qualify for the grand prize, a one week stay at Musky Bay Resort on Crow Lake, Ontario, a Slammer lure package, and an Abu Garcia rod and reel. Prizes are awarded through 10th place with a junior division and a bonus for largest tiger muskie. Contact Paul Hartman at 651-269-2144 if you have questions.

Red Wing Lodge Outing

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



Lots of people showed up for the April "Swap Meet" meeting. It was good to see some new faces as well as the "regulars". Hopefully everyone walked out with a bargain or two.

Livingston Has New Muskie Lures

As of 2017 Livingston Lures, a major player in the bass market, has introduced their Predator Series to address the pike/muskie fishery. Livingston Lures is the first and only company in the fishing industry to develop an intelligent lure for anglers. Livingston Lures feature Electronic Baitfish Technology (EBS) which is embedded on a smart chip in the internal sound chamber of each lure. The EBS Technology emits the natural sounds that baitfish make. The technology is activated when the lure is submerged in water and automatically turns off when out of the water and completely dry.

This is the future of the fishing world! Tie on a new Livingston lure, throw it in the water, and catch fish. Whether it's bass, pike, or muskie, experience the difference. To view/download an electronic catalog of 2017 Livingston Lures, go to <http://bit.ly/LivWeb17Catalog>.

If you want to place an order, get additional information, or have any questions, please contact Dennis Lappen, National Sales Manager at 952-994-5681 (cell/text) or email him at dennislappen@aol.com.

Mini Challenge with North Metro Chapter

The annual "Mini-Challenge" between our chapter and the North Metro chapter on White Bear Lake or Bald Eagle Lake is scheduled for June 23 this year. The Mini-Challenge is also one of the events for our chapter Summer Fishing League. So, come on out and help us win the Challenge and get credit for participating in the chapter summer league. Typically, our July chapter meeting is an "on-the-water" event and for the past several years has been the annual Mini-Challenge. This year we are moving the date from the first Tuesday in July to the last Tuesday in June so that it won't conflict with possible July 4 events and more people can participate.

Fishing hours for the Mini-Challenge are from 5 - 9 pm and you can fish either lake. We would like to see that at least one person in your boat is someone from the North Metro chapter. That way each boat will have at least one person from each chapter. More than 2 people can fish from a boat. Your partner from the other chapter must witness your fish's measurement. The chapter that catches the most fish (points awarded using Muskies, Inc. point system) will win.

All participants are invited for treats after fishing. The losing chapter will treat the other chapter.

Summer Fishing League

from Greg Kappes, Summer Fishing League Chair

The water is warming, fish are spawning, fishing league is coming up. Opening night for the chapter fishing league is June 8 on lake Minnetonka from 5:00 to 9:30 pm. The 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. League participants can choose to compete for cash prizes that are awarded to the top finishers. 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 donation visit www.TwinCitiesMuskiesInc.org and click on Summer League. Come on out and join us. Hope to see you on the water! Contact Greg at tcmi.FishingLeague@gmail.com.

Summer Fishing League Schedule

DAY	DATE	LAKE	TIME
Thursday	June 8	Minnetonka	5:00 to 9:30 pm
Thursday	June 15	Waconia	5:00 to 9:30 pm
Tuesday	June 23	Mini Challenge with North Metro	5:00 to 9:30 pm
Sunday	July 9	Harriet/Calhoun	6:00 am to noon
Sunday	July 30	Rush	6:00 am to noon
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

Speak Up for Stocking on Lake Vermilion

As we learned at our last meeting, when Lake Vermilion began being stocked with muskies in the late 80s, it averaged 5,982.5 muskie fingerlings per year (or 11,965 fingerlings every two years). Stocking at this level – an average of 0.15 muskie fingerlings per surface acre of water per year – continued for an 8-year span from 1987 to 1994. This stocking density of muskies in Lake Vermilion created a world-class muskie fishery with outstanding catch rates and large average sizes. Our Muskies, Inc. Lunge Log attests to this fact.

That was kind of a miracle in and of itself, because some Minnesota lakes receive as many as one fingerling per surface acre of water every other year. If Vermilion got that many fish per surface acre it would get 39,272 every other year and average 19,636 per year! Imagine the number of muskies that would be swimming around with that kind of stocking!

Around 2003, drastic cutbacks began occurring in the number of muskie fingerlings stocked in Vermilion. The average number of fingerlings stocked from 2003 to 2010 averaged just 2001.1 fish per year (4002 fingerlings every two years). This is an average of 0.05 muskie fingerlings per surface acre of water per year. This lower density of muskies stocked in Lake Vermilion over this 8-year span appears to correlate with a significant decline in catch rates representative of those year classes of stocked fish. This is not really a surprise since we went from 47,860 fingerlings being stocked over the first 8-year period (1987-1994) to 16,009 fingerlings being stocked over the second 8-year period (2003-2010).

The Minnesota DNR just released it's new official stocking plan for Vermilion – stock 4,000 fingerlings every

other year. Basically, the “new” plan is to stock at the same density/rate that started creating problems in the first place. Muskie anglers, guides and resort owners on Vermilion are asking everyone to please tell the DNR going from 11,965 fingerlings every two years to 4,000 fingerlings every two years is not acceptable! We know this because they have already been doing this and we have seen the results.

For a short period of time, the public – all of us – have the opportunity to voice or support for an increase in stocking and/or our disapproval with the “new” plan. The DNR will soon have a page on their website for public input regarding the new plan for Lake Vermilion. It was not available at the time of printing, but we will email the link to you as it becomes available. Please participate in the public input process regarding Lake Vermilion.

Even if you don't fish Vermilion, the well-being of this lake affects all of the other muskie fisheries in the state because of its size and the amount of statewide fishing pressure it either absorbs or diverts to other Minnesota waters. Even if Vermilion went back to being stocked with 11,965 fish every two years, it would still be stocked at a much lower density than the majority of the stocked muskie lakes in Minnesota!

Please speak up. This affects all of us!

Save Your “MUSKIE” Magazines

As part of our show booth, the Twin Cities chapter likes to have the “MUSKIE” magazine from national available to show or give to prospective members. At the present time, we have only a few copies of very old issues of the magazine. If you have back issues of “MUSKIE” that you no longer want, please bring them to the meetings. Alex Worobel has volunteered to collect them to have available for the show booth next time we use it at a show.

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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tc chapter contacts

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Shawn Kellett
612-201-0209
tcmi.president@gmail.com
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 AT LARGE

Brad Coyne
763-412-6697

Mike Darley
715-225-0167

Casey Friskney
715-419-1187

Greg Ide
612-331-5034

Pete Kemmer
952-607-0861

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

Gavin Smythe

Steve Smythe
612-369-8075

Alex Worobel
651-491-1466

www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org

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Contact: Graphic Works
olsonat3pete@gmail.com
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next meeting

MAY 9
Speaker:
Ryan McMahon

You've seen local muskie guide Ryan McMahon on Musky Hunter TV. What you didn't see was the three muskies caught on Fat Bastards after taping was finished. In September 2015 Ryan visited our meeting and talked about his success with Lake X lures. Have you seen the demand for Lake X lures since? What does Ryan have up his sleeve now? Come to the May meeting and 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.
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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