

On the Water



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OCTOBER 2017

Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament Wrap Up

from Eric Bakke, Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament chair

The historic 50th Annual Frank Schneider, Jr. Memorial Muskie Tournament is officially in the books. Those of you who made it to the event witnessed history in the making.

This year marked the first time in several years that we have implemented a mandatory bump board picture to guarantee that everyone in the grand prize drawing earned their way in with no questions asked.

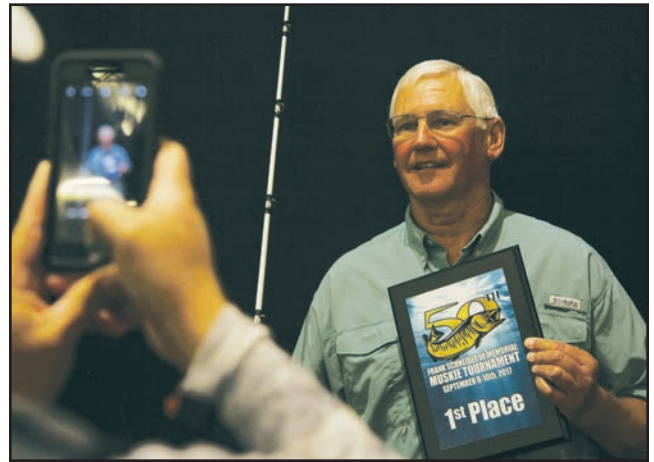
We are proud to say this experiment was a whopping success and we had ZERO issues with people not doing the correct thing to qualify their fish under the new rules. The implementation of this rule was not easy, but will be an example for all future muskie tournaments of how a rule like this can put everyone in a positive position and validate the results of any event.

The limited edition bump boards looked really sharp and we now have over 150 Muskies, Inc. logos in boats across this state and country for years to come.

First off, I would like to thank everyone who had a part in putting this event on. We had a committed group of individuals that put a great effort forth to make this historic event happen. This is our chapter's longest-running fundraising event and it takes a village to put something like this on. Your efforts were all greatly appreciated!

Secondly, I would like to thank the participants. You truly are the lifeblood of the Frank Schneider tournament and without you none of this would be possible. This year we had 487 people enjoy a weekend of great food, camaraderie, and most importantly muskies!

Schneider Tournament continued on page 6



Top: Mike Madden registered the biggest fish during the Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament September 8-9-10. His 54.25-incher came from Lake Bemidji on Saturday.

Middle: Chapter Board member Alex Worobel took first place in the Schneider tournament with three muskies (46.5, 48, 43) from Big Lake. Alex has fished in this tournament off and on for many years, but had never caught a fish during the tournament. He made up for it big-time with one muskie caught each day of the event.

Bottom: Tony Brion's name was drawn for the \$15,000 Grand Prize. Each angler registering a muskie had their name in the Grand Prize drawing. Tony caught a 45.75-inch fish to qualify for the drawing.

Last Outing for Chapter Summer Fishing League October 8

The most recent outing for our chapter's Summer Fishing league included all the lakes that were part of the George Wahl Memorial Tournament. Greg Kappes caught a 41.5-inch muskie on Lake Harriet putting him in the lead with 38.5 points. Nathan Ryskiewicz is in second place, the only other league participant to register a fish.

Greg also caught a 38-inch muskie during the George Wahl tournament. Alas, Greg was following the Jon Meyer fishing league rule of behavior and didn't take a picture of the fish on a bump board. So..... only 10 league points were awarded as the measurement could not be verified.

There will be one last chance to catch the leaders in the Summer Fishing League. The last league outing is October 8 on Lake Independence from 7 am to 1 pm. The fishing league is an opportunity to fish with chapter members and to showcase your skills or learn from others.

If you catch a fish 36-inches or longer, be sure to submit your bump board picture by email to tcmi.fishingleague@gmail.com to count as a league fish. 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.



Greg Kappes moved into the lead in the chapter's Summer Fishing League with this 41.5 inch muskie from Lake Harriet caught at the most recent league outing. The fish also earned him 7th place in the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament.

For complete rules visit the chapter website at www.TwinCitiesMuskieInc.org and click on Summer League. If you have questions, contact tcmi.FishingLeague@gmail.com.

Be a Part of Helping to Stock Muskies

The Minnesota Muskie Expo was able to team up with Frankie's Live Bait and Marine this year to secure a pond in which to rear muskies. The pond, which is near Stacy, was originally built for raising walleyes. It has a sand bottom which simplifies the harvest process. In June the Minnesota DNR provided 5,000 nearly 1 inch long fry for the pond.

These fish grew throughout the summer foraging on the minnows that existed in the pond. Starting in late August large quantities of fathead minnows were purchased and were stocked in the pond to help the muskie fingerlings achieve their maximum growth potential.

Many volunteers will be needed to help with getting these muskies from the pond for stocking. It has been nearly ten years since Muskies, Inc. has been involved with being able to help harvest muskies that were raised in an outdoor pond. The last time we were involved in netting muskies, the muskies had over-wintered in that pond and were two year olds around two feet

long. Muskies in this pond will be in the 10-12-inch size. They are scheduled to be stocked in White Bear Lake and Bald Eagle Lake.

This is a terrific opportunity to be a part of what many of us joined Muskies, Inc. to do. Harvest of this pond is tentatively scheduled for early November. If you are available to help with the pond harvest please contact Paul Hartman at 651-269-2144.



The last time our chapter was involved in harvesting muskies was nearly ten years ago. The pictures here are from that and previous harvests. A huge net was stretched around the perimeter of the pond and pulled toward one end forcing the muskies into a smaller and smaller area of the pond.



Once corralled in the net, the muskies were put into holding areas where they could be caught and transferred to the transport truck.



The last time we were involved in netting a pond, the muskies had over-wintered in the pond and were twice as big as the muskies that will be harvested this year.



Joe Tuma, with two Forest Lake muskies - 47.5 and 40.5 inches, won the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament held September 23.



Paul Kramer registered the biggest fish, a 48.76-incher from White Bear Lake.

George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament Raises Funds for Metro Area Muskie Fishery

A warm day of nearly 90 degrees greeted the 150+ anglers who participated in the 9th Annual George Wahl Memorial Tournament. Eleven muskies were registered by 10 anglers. The majority of fish were caught before 10 am and the final three fish were called in just before the 5:30 pm end of the tournament.

Prizes were awarded to the top five anglers in the tournament. Each winner received an Eagle Tail lure (George Wahl was the inventor of the Eagle Tail), \$50 Thorne Bros. gift card, a commemorative Sinister lure created by Todd Cleveland, and a plaque.

Joe Tuma, the 2015 and 2016 winner of the tournament, repeated his first place win again with two muskies - 47.5 and 40.5 inches - from Forest Lake. In addition to the other prizes, Joe was presented with a \$1000 check.

Second place winner was Paul Kramer who registered a 48.75-incher from White Bear Lake, the longest fish registered for the day. Paul received a \$500 check. Sadie Maas, with a 47.5-inch muskie from Minnetonka that was caught just a few minutes before the tournament ended, finished in third place. She received a \$250 check for third place and was also awarded the Mary Villnow Ladies Bonus.

The day ended with a feed at Thorne Bros. The Awards program culminated with the Grand Prize drawing. Every person who registered a muskie was entered in the drawing. Winner of a trip for 4 to Whitefish Bay Camp on Lake of the Woods and \$500 was Mike Johnson.

The muskie anglers who spent the day fishing contributed a little something toward our metro-area muskie fishery by participating in the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament. One hundred percent of the proceeds will be put back into the local metro-area muskie fishery.

Funds raised at the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament have enabled the Twin Cities chapter to purchase



Sadie Maas took third place in the tournament with this 47.5-inch muskie from Lake Minnetonka. The fish was her personal best.

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 to provide pit and floy tags for their studies on stocking. Thanks to all the anglers for helping preserve our great metro-area muskie fishing.

PLACE	NAME	LENGTH	LAKE
1	Joe Tuma	47.5, 40.5	Forest Lake
2	Paul Kramer	48.75	White Bear Lake
3	Sadie Maas	47.5	Lake Minnetonka
4	Dan Klepsa	44.5	Lake Harriet
5	Shawn Johnson	43	Lake Harriet
6	Mike Johnson	42	Lake Minnetonka
7	Greg Kappes	41.5	Lake Harriet
8	Erik Jorgenson	41.5	Forest Lake
9	Dawson Johnson	40.5	Lake Harriet
10	Brandon Guimont	40	White Bear Lake

Twin Cities Chapter Members Only Contest

from Members Only Contest Chair, Casey Friskney

We presently sit four months down and two to go in our 2017 MN Muskie Season. Having finished up the Frank Schneider and George Wahl tournaments and what likely will be the most “agreeable” month (September) of our season, we move forward into the trying times of fall fishing. To me the October and November can be anyone’s guess as to what will work and when. October is a month of change, the days get shorter, docks get pulled, water cools down, and hopefully the bigger fish start putting on the feedbags! I’ve known October to be the month when it’s time to start throwing “Pounder” size rubber or to start soaking suckers, but truthfully it’s anyone’s guess what the weather and the fish will dictate what to throw for success. Fish hard and fish often!

Noteworthy action on the Members Only Contest Board:

We have our first official Women’s Division entrant of the season!

Kimberly Hartman put her first registered fish (34.5") topside in early September and ended her month in a big way with a 44.5" Tiger! It has yet to be confirmed that the fish was indeed a hybrid, sometimes the registration system glitches, but if it proves to be true Kimberly will tie yours truly for the largest Tiger registered by the chapter, and I believe will be in the top ten for Tigers registered by members nationally.

Men’s Division Rankings

Nick Eddy (292 Points/17 Fish) and Nolan Ryba (277 Points /16 Fish) are pretty much running away with the Men’s Division. Pending some massive hot streak, they are pretty much playing for 1st and 2nd while yours truly battles to maintain 3rd place (138 Points/10 Fish) with the remainder of the top 15 guys well within range to take my spot.

Tom Keith is a pretty “fly” guy

As the title implies, Mr. Keith managed to fool a late 38-incher on the fly which happens to be the first muskie registered via fly fishing methods this year.

Brent Hirsch adds an exclamation point to his mastery of the Mens Master’s Division

It took him 21 fish to do it but Brent, who has a commanding lead of the Mens Master’s Division, finally broke the 50-inch mark on the season with a 53.75" metro giant. This is the second largest fish and 4th 53+ inch fish registered this season by our chapter.

Congrats to all who’ve boated fish so far, keep catching, keep registering, and I’ll see you on the water!

Current standings:

JUNIOR DIVISION

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

WOMEN’S DIVISION

1ST	Kimberly Hartman	28	2	44.5"
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WOMEN’S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Cindy Hegdahl	72	4	53"
2ND	Linda Knutson	35	2	47"
2ND	Tera Castillo	5	1	31"

MEN’S DIVISION

1ST	Nick Eddy	292	17	49"
2ND	Nolen Ryba	277	16	53.25"
3RD	Casey Friskney	138	10	52.5"
4TH	Dave Gustafson	130	8	43"
5TH	Tom Batina	111	9	48.5"
6TH	Nathan Ryskiewicz	103	8	45.25"
6TH	Patrick Thiry	103	5	50.5"
8TH	Matt McDonald	87	5	49.25"
9TH	Phil Groth	81	6	42"
10TH	Josh Lunde	80	8	44"

MEN’S HYBRID DIVISION

(points already tabulated with pure-strain releases)

1ST	Josh Lunde	38	5	35.5"
2ND	Luke Manthey	30	3	38.5"
2ND	Casey Friskney	19	7	44.5"

MEN’S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Brent Hirsch	292	21	53.75"
2ND	Eric Bakke	102	6	47"
2ND	Alexander McLean	26	2	41.5"

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 - Official - Nolen Ryba - 6/21 - Lake Minnetonka - 50.5"

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

AUGUST - Official - Nolen Ryba - 8/6 - Lake Minnetonka - 53.25"

SEPTEMBER - Unofficial - Brent Hirsch - 9/27 - Lake Waconia - 53.75"



Left: One of the four northern pikes caught during the outing with Capable Partners went home to be dinner. Right: Rod Guthrie, Capable Partners organizer of this event, on the boat ready to go catch a muskie.



After a morning of fishing, Capable Partners anglers, guides, and chapter volunteers enjoyed a delicious meal.

Capable Partners Outing Held on September 24

An outing with members of Capable Partners organization, originally scheduled in June, was held Sunday, September 24. Capable Partners is an organization that provides outdoor outings and adventures for physically challenged individuals. Our group has been hosting a muskie-fishing outing for the Capable Partners for nearly 30 years.

Fifteen Capable Partners joined members of our chapter at Surfside Park in Mound on Cook's Bay, Lake Minnetonka for a fine day of fishing. Some muskies were seen, but none were boated. However, four northern pikes were caught.

Following the morning of fishing, a delicious lunch was grilled up and enjoyed by all. Thank you to the eight chapter members who brought their boats and served as guides to the Capable Partners, to all those who came to cook and serve the food and especially to Paul Hartman who has organized this event since it started.



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. We heard a good story at the George Wahl tournament that would be perfect to submit as a muskie tale. We also understand that someone caught a something that flies during the Chapter Challenge. We're hoping to hear both those stories again as Muskie Tales at our banquet.

Share with us by emailing your "tale" to Denise Olson at 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.

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.

Schneider Tournament *continued from page 1*

There were 91 muskies caught and registered by 75 people, with one northern registered as well. This was a big fish event, we had 10 fish over 50 inches registered in our event this year! We had 12 people double up and 2 people tripled up to take the top two spots.

Prizes were awarded through 10th place. All the winners received an Abu Garcia rod, Revo reel and Spiderwire line courtesy of Pure Fishing. Alex Worobel, of Stacy, MN, caught his three fish on Big Lake to take first place. In addition to the rod, reel and line, Alex won a week stay at Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods. Chance Hinrichs took the Junior Division with a 42.5-incher. In addition to the rod, reel and line, Chance won a stay at Pine Beach Resort and Campground on Lake Garfield. Diane Nguyen, of Elk River, MN, earned the top Women's Bonus prize with a chunky 46-incher from Leech Lake. Big fish and replica went to Mike Madden of Bemidji, MN with a 54.25-inch muskie on Lake Bemidji. Bonus awards from Abu Garcia were also presented to the top three fish caught using an Abu Garcia reel.

Of the 75 people who got their names in the drawing for the Grand Prize, Tony Brion, of Monticello, MN,

was the one at the end of the day standing on stage with a big check over his head for \$15,000.

This year we saw a lot of great successes come out of the 2017 Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament that we hope to build on moving forward:

- Implementation of our chapters first mobile friendly payment system.
- Our chapter's first Facebook marketing campaign to spread the word of our event and brand.
- Implementation of the new bump board policy.
- We brought back the Live Leaderboard and had nothing but positive reviews of this addition. Many have said it created a sense of connection to the event that they had never experienced before.
- Our tournament has again received statewide praise for our progressive stance on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) awareness and prevention.
- We awarded another junior contestant, present at our

Sunday Awards Ceremony, a MN Lifetime Fishing License.

- We presented a Lax Reproductions replica to Kyle Bissen, last year's winner of the biggest fish award with a 53-inch muskie. We will be giving Mike Madden, this year's winner of the big fish with a 54.25-incher, a replica of his catch at next year's ceremony.
- \$3,500 donation given directly to the MN DNR to go directly to the local muskie fishery.

If you happened to miss this year's event, we encourage you to join us next year to experience what a great weekend of fishing and competition can do for your soul! We promise to keep using technology where we can to improve our contestant's experience, while preserving the historic ideals of this event to represent our chapter the best we can while making this the premier tournament it deserves to be! Next year's event will be from September 7, 8 and 9, so mark your calendars and sign up early. We hope to see everyone there!

Minnetonka, White Bear and Bald Eagle Anglers: 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 24-45 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 recatchability 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 or leave a message for BJ Bauer at 952-826-6771.

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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 952-933-1734
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

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Contact: Graphic Works olsonat3pete@gmail.com 612-804-4687

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next meeting

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Speaker: Bob Turgeon

You probably know Bob as the author of "Turgeon's Tech Tips" in *Musky Hunter*. Modified lures and modified techniques are the norm with Bob. Bob's home lake is Minnetonka, but he travels the muskie range, with Canadian fishing a favorite. When you fish as much as Bob, you meet the freaks like last month's pig of a pike, and last year's pair of 54s, one caught while trolling a topwater. Come learn what Bob's up to now.

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.).



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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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