

On the Water



Support Your Local Fishery: Participate in the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament on September 23

If you've ever fished for muskies in a metro-area lake, do your part for this fishery. Make plans to participate in the 9th annual George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament on September 23. The price of your entry to participate in the tournament guarantees funds to be able to stock at least one muskie in a metro-area lake. 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 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.

Tournament anglers have their choice of 12 metro-area lakes: Minnetonka, Independence, Waconia, Eagle (Hennepin County), White Bear, Bald Eagle, Forest, Harriet, Calhoun, Lake of the Isles, Cedar and the St. Croix River. Tournament hours are from 7 am to 5:30 pm.

First place 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 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 prizes.

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. You can register through September 18 on the chapter website: www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org, or in-person through Friday, September 22, at Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle in Oakdale, Joe's Sporting Goods in St. Paul and Thorne Bros. in Blaine.

New this year: Because this tournament is one of the qualifying events for the Minnesota Muskies, Inc. Tournament Trail, anglers must take TWO photos of their fish – one holding the fish and one of the fish on a bump-board. If you need a bump board for your boat, you can order one at the less-than-retail cost of \$60 if you register for the tournament online before September 18. Bump boards and tournament packets will be delivered to Blue Ribbon, Joe's or Thorne's on the 19th for you to pick up.

If you plan on fishing Lake Minnetonka, please note that the Professional Musky Tournament Trail (PMTT) will be holding a tournament on Minnetonka that day also.

We hope to see everyone doing their part for the local muskie fishery by participating in the George Wahl Tournament on September 23.

Capable Partners Outing Rescheduled

The 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.

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. The "Muskie Tail" Award will be presented to the best story shared at our Chapter Awards program at the end of the season.

Summer Fishing League

from Greg Kappes, Summer Fishing League Chair

Only three more chances to participate in the chapter's Summer Fishing League. The fishing league is an opportunity to fish with chapter members and to showcase your skills or learn from others. Points are awarded throughout the season for muskies registered in league events.

If you are planning on participating in the George Wahl Tournament on September 23, remember that it will also be one of the Summer League events. All of the lakes in the tournament can be counted for the league. 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.

So far, only two muskies have been registered. Nathan Rskiewicz caught the biggest league fish, a 41-incher from Minnetonka at the first league event of the year. He is leading the league with 15 points. The only other fish registered in the league is a 39-inch muskie from Bryant Lake, caught by yours truly and earning 13 points for second place.

For rules and/or to make your donation visit the chapter website at www.TwinCitiesMuskieInc.org and click on Summer League. If you have questions, contact me at tcmi.FishingLeague@gmail.com.

Summer Fishing League Schedule

Sunday, September 17

Forest Lake, 6 am to noon

Saturday, September 23

George Wahl Tournament

Sunday, October 8

Lake Independence, 7 am to 1 pm

50th Annual Frank Schneider Tournament

from Eric Bakke, Tournament Director

Don't miss the Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament, September 8, 9, and 10, in northern Minnesota on over 20 lakes from Bemidji to Longville. This is the 50th year our chapter has held this event. 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.

The Schneider tournament offers participants 28 hours of fishing over a three-day period to catch and register a muskie over 40 inches. At the end of tournament hours Friday and Saturday, there will be five registration stations across the tournament area for anglers to register their fish. Participants can enjoy a meal, enter a raffle for great prizes, and talk to other anglers 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 completion of the tournament on Sunday will be the Celebration and Awards program at the Northern Lights Casino and Events Center. This event brings participants all together and really provides everyone with a great time to reflect on the three days. Before the program begins there will be a hot meal, different vendors and sponsors available to chat with, as well as raffles to enter. We will be awarding various prizes, getting the fish stories from all of the winners, and drawing the name of the lucky winner of the \$15,000 grand prize.

Registration is open through Thursday, September 7, though after Labor Day (September 4) pick up locations become limited and the entry fee goes up. Everyone entered by Labor Day will be entered into an early bird drawing for an Abu Garcia rod and reel package.



It's not too late to register for the tournament. Register through Labor Day at Reed's in Walker and One Stop in Longville. Or register online. We have made our registration site mobile friendly, so you can sign up for our event right from your phone. Find the registration site on our website, www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org 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 the as many traditions as we can. This year we have made a few changes to the rules that address some of those advances. Be sure to read the rules when you register to find out the differences.

One change to our event in particular is that participants must have a picture of their fish on a commercially-made bump board to register their fish. For those who don't have a board, we are selling commemorative 50th Annual Frank Schneider boards for less than retail price, so don't miss out!

The Frank Schneider tournament is the chapter's main fundraiser, providing funds for stocking efforts and all our chapter's other activities. Over the years participation in the Frank Schneider tournament 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 year ago and come celebrate the tradition!

Please contact me at tcmi.fstourneydirector@gmail.com or 612-202-7169 for more information or to volunteer.

Hope to see you there!

Twin Cities Chapter Members Only Contest

from Members Only Contest Chair, Casey Friskney

Here we go, halfway through our Minnesota Muskie season, and what many regard as the best overall fishing month (September) coming up next! We should be through the summer peak and 80 degree water temps, and with the days getting shorter, the water cooling down, and with hints of Fall starting to sprinkle in, we should get into some of the best muskie fishing of the year!

Moving on to the notable points from the August 2017 scoreboard:

-The Metro is awesome

Looking back and comparing this August to that of 2016 it is interesting to see just how great of a fishery the metro lakes can be. Last year my two part observation for August success was "Step 1) Go North, Step 2) Throw Bucktails". Things are a bit different this year. The North (Ontario, Northern Minnesota, and Wisconsin) is still hot, but this year the metro kept pace (17 to 20), yielded the top two fish of the month (Nolan Ryba's 53.25" and 50"), and had nearly a 43 inch average length (opposed to The North's 36.575")! Round of applause to all efforts put into Metro Muskie Fishery stocking and the wonders of Catch and Release!!

-Bucktails and Topwater Season is upon us!

It's that time of the year, unless you're having massive amounts of success on something else and just not telling me about it, I strongly recommend having at least one bucktail/topwater lure going in the boat at all times.

-Nolen Ryba hits Tonka

Nolen Ryba is off to another solid season, he's logged three 50+-inch fish, is looking to win his second Lunker of the Month award, and currently sits in second place (behind the very versatile Nick Eddy) in the Men's Division. He's accomplished all this by consistently finding good fish month after month on Minnetonka.

-Rise of the Men's Masters

Brent Hirsch and Eric Bakke are back to business in the Master's Division. Brent had a strong second half of July and first half of August utilizing a trip or two north, his Ghost Tails, a jerk bait, and whatever a Westin Platypus is (!) to launch himself into a commanding lead of first place with 204 points. Meanwhile, Bakke utilizing Kramer Bros bucktails, his Top Raider, and the glory of Canada, sits in second place with 102 points, but all he needs to be within striking distance of the lead is some September fish and a strong trolling season.

Congrats to all who've boated fish so far, keep catching, keep registering, and I'll check back in after the Frank Schneider and George Wahl tournaments.

-Casey



Tim Hoene has turned the biggest fish in our chapter's Members Only Contest this year with this 54-incher from Minnetonka.

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	Linda Knutson	35	2	47"
2ND	Tera Castillo	5	1	31"

MEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Nick Eddy	250	15	47"
2ND	Nolen Ryba	173	9	53.25"
3RD	Dave Gustafson	130	8	43"
4TH	Casey Friskney	126	8	52.5"
5TH	Tom Batina	111	9	48.5"
6TH	Patrick Thiry	103	5	50.5"
7TH	Nathan Ryskiewicz	94	7	45.25"
8TH	Matt McDonald	87	5	49.25"
9TH	Josh Lunde	80	8	44"
10TH	John Newman	68	6	42"

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	204	14	48.5"
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 - Unofficial - Tim Hoene - 7/9 - Lake Minnetonka - 54"

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

**Look for the
Yellow Tag**



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 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 or leave a message for BJ Bauer at 952-826-6771.

Fishing Events Benefit Veterans

Two separate events are scheduled the weekend of September 16-17 on Lake Minnetonka that will benefit members of the armed services – a muskie fishing tournament on Saturday and on Sunday, a day of fishing and camaraderie.

Muskie Tournament to Benefit Healing Patriots

Memories Made Guide Service of Apple Valley, MN will host a muskie fishing tournament on Lake Minnetonka, Saturday, September 16. The tournament will benefit Healing Patriots, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving injured veterans and first responders with outdoor therapeutic activities to help our nation's heroes build camaraderie. Healing Patriots also provides assistance in education and employment opportunities, along with providing veterans assistance in making connections for care at Veterans Affairs medical facilities.

The tournament is an individual muskie angler event with cash payouts (based on number of anglers), followed by a reception at American Legion Post 398 in Mound, MN. Tournament entry fee is \$100 per angler. For more information regarding the tournament and entry forms, please contact Mike Ferrell (Memories Made Guide Service Owner/Operator and Healing Patriots Pro-Staff) at 952-992-0083 or email at mikef@healingpatriots.org

Take a Vet Fishing's Day of Giving Back

Take a Vet Fishing was created to show our brave service men and women returning from overseas our appreciation. Reaching out and offering a "Thank You" with a hand shake, is the very least we can do. Take a Vet Fishing not only shows these heroes their gratitude and shakes their hand, they hand them a fishing rod and ease their minds back into civilization.

The 2017 Day of Giving Back is scheduled for September 17 on Lake Minnetonka at Lord Fletcher's Old Lodge starting at 6 am. Fishing is from 7 to 11 and a meal and Veterans Memorial Party will follow. If you can help out by taking one of the veterans out fishing, please sign up on their website: www.takeavetfishing.org. Click on the far right-hand tab TAVF Events.

Red Wing Lodge 2017 Outing

During the annual outing August 12-19, 30 anglers from the North Metro and Twin Cities chapters once again enjoyed the hospitality at Red Wing Lodge. The Bartlett family went all-out preparing for and hosting Muskies, Inc. anglers, again exhibiting the fun and solid service with which the family has built and maintained its strong reputation in the business.

During the outing, 59 muskies were caught and released. 27 of the muskies were 40 inches or larger, with 12 muskies coming in at 46 inches or above. Nathan Anderson took big fish honors with a 49.25" muskie. Nathan will have his name engraved on the Big Fish plaque. Other releasers of big fish are: Mark McHugh (48.5", 47.5" and two more at 47"), John Genosky (48.25"), C.J. McHugh (47.75"), Linda Knutson (47"), Dusty Cochran (47"), Turk Guderjan (46.5"), Pat Miller (46"), and Mark Keuther (46").

As always, stories, jokes and good-natured ribbing were enjoyed by all. The stats on these remain not part of any official record, but memories remain with us and bring on smiles all year long.

Join in the fun for next year. Dates for the 2018 outing will be August 11-18. Don't just wish, make it happen.

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next meeting

SEPTEMBER 12

Speaker: Parker Butler

When Parker's name was drawn to win the \$15,000 Grand Prize at the 2016 Frank Schneider Tournament, few people knew we had a professional onstage. Parker is on the pro staff of several companies including Shimano. One of his companies has been #1 on Amazon Hunting the last two years with a revolutionary line of hunting products. Parker's new venture is the line of Tundra Tackle lighted fishing lures and lure attachments. Parker mainly fishes muskies in central Minnesota, but his favorite spot is the west side of Eagle Lake in Canada.

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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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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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.

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