

# On the Water



Volume 21, Issue 7

JULY 2018

## Capable Partners Outing on Minnetonka

from Paul Hartman, Capable Partners Outing Coordinator



Members of the Capable Partners organization went muskie fishing with chapter members.

On June 10 the Twin Cities chapter hosted a guided fishing outing on Lake Minnetonka for members of Capable Partners. This is the 26th year that the chapter has put on this event. There were 15 guide boats that brought 25 participants from Capable Partners out for a morning of hot fishing action.

Capable Partners is an organization based in the Twin Cities that helps get physically-challenged members out into the great outdoors. They run guided fishing outings throughout the year and also offer some high-quality hunts for waterfowl, pheasant, turkey and deer all around the state. Over the course of the last 30 years this group has grown to include more than 300 members participating in these exciting opportunities.

The Minnetonka fishing outing started at 6:30 am with dark skies and a strong east wind. While it was a bit chilly on the water, it was nice to see the weather keep most of the other recreational users off the water. The falling barometer also led to plenty of fishing activity as well.

In all, three Muskies were caught – 37, 40 and 42 inches. All three were caught trolling medium size crank baits over the deep water basins of the main lake. Two were fish tagged for the DNR study on Minnetonka, White Bear and Bald Eagle. The 37-inch muskie was stocked on November 18, 2008 at 15.2 inches. The 40-inch muskie was stocked the same day at and was 14.9 inches.

This was also our best fishing year for other species with countless big bass and pike being reported as well as a few live wells full of dandy panfish showing up at the outing's conclusion.

As always, the grand finale was a delicious lunch provided by the chapter. Volunteers brought an assortment of salads, pastas and sweet treats that were served along with steaks and pork tenderloin. Tom Lund has served as the event's grill master chef for every single one of the last 26 years. I want to offer a heartfelt "thank you" to Tom and all the guides and volunteers for making this extraordinary event such a success again this year. Many of the Capable Partners members have said this is the highlight of their summer and I know that is certainly ranks among my favorite events every year as well.



Conclusion of the Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration was a "Fish-Off" where kids had 5 minutes to catch as many fish as they could. Shawn Kellett helped his "partner" with releasing a sunny. Winner caught 8 fish in the allotted 5 minutes.

## Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration

The 10th annual Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration was held the Army's 114th birthday, June 14 at Lord Fletcher's on Lake Minnetonka. The day started out with a posting of the colors ceremony. Following the induction of eight new recruits into the Army, around 200 kids and adults with connections to the military enjoyed a morning of multi-species fishing with volunteer guides. After fishing an awards program was held and a fish fry was enjoyed by all.

This event is a collaborative effort with Fishing for Life and our chapter. We want to thank the members of our chapter who volunteered to serve as guides or help staff the event.

## *From Our President,* **JIM DOYLE**

*Hopefully everyone is off to a great season start. Waters have warmed and some really nice fish have been caught and reported by chapter members already.*

*June was full of chapter activities. The regional qualifier and state High School tournaments are in the books and a team from the Chapter 1 qualifier team from Lakeville came out on top! The Capable Partners outing and the Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration with Fishing for Life were also great events.*

*The new on-line Twin Cities chapter Summer Fishing League is also going strong! League participation is up over 400% this year with week long participation windows for individuals and some group events, plus on-line results and chat on the web site. There are multiple lakes to choose from for each week's 5 hour fishing session. Best of all, you can still sign up for the league and get in the game for prizes!*

*Have a great 2018 season!*

## **July On-the-Water Meeting**

This summer, the chapter has planned "on-the-water" nights for June and July at Lake Minnetonka and we'll have our annual family picnic in August.

In June, only seven people showed up at the American Legion at end of the evening for the planned get-together. For the Tuesday, July 10 get-together we're trying something different. Lake Minnetonka is again the site, but we're going to meet before fishing instead of after. We'll be at Surfside Park in Mound from 5 to 7 with a quick, easy meal. Come out, grab a bite to eat, and see how fellow chapter members are doing before you head out fishing.

## **Mini Challenge Again Won by North Metro Chapter**

The annual "Mini-Challenge" between the Twin Cities chapter and the North Metro chapter on angler's choice of White Bear Lake or Bald Eagle Lake was June 19. A little over 20 people participated and once again the Twin Cities chapter was outnumbered by at least 2 to 1. A few of our members were able to pair up with North Metro chapter members for true dual competition.

And... once again Twin Cities chapter members failed to catch any fish. Only one fish was caught during the evening. Dominic Schneider, a new member of North Metro chapter turned in a 44.5-inch muskie from LAKE????.

After the "Mini-Challenge" the group met at Rudy's Redeye Grill for beers and hors d'oeuvres. Of course, the losers, that Twin Cities chapter, picked up the tab. That is part of the event – losers treat the winners.

Bottom line? Everybody enjoyed the competition and the camaraderie. It would be our hope that more people from the chapter would start showing up so we have a better chance to win.

Maybe next year.

## **Stocking and Projects Report**

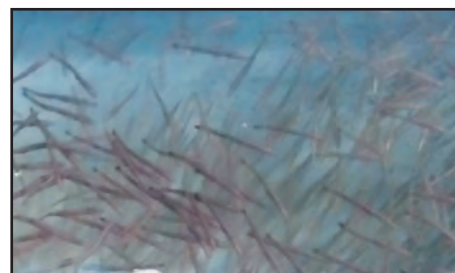
*from John Newman, Stocking and Projects Chair*

Chapter president Jim Doyle and I visited the MN DNR's East Metro Hatchery last week to take a look at the new crop of muskies. This year's egg take went pretty well and the hatch percentage was good.

The fry have grown to around one inch in length are now on dry feed. They will continue to grow the fry until they are approximately one and three quarters to 2 inches in length. The fry will then be taken from the hatchery and put in to rearing ponds until fall.

Interestingly the hatchery is testing a new type of fish food made with Krill, squid and potato meal in some of the fry tanks. The little guys were obviously larger than those in the other tanks.

We also met with TJ Debates, East Metro Fisheries Area Supervisor, and presented him with a check for \$2,500 to be used for the purchase of equipment and accessories for the hatchery. One half of these dollars came from a Hugh C. Becker foundation grant and one half were matching dollars from the Twin Cities chapter.



**50,000 fry are being raised at the MN DNR's East Metro Hatchery. Hopefully your trophy is swimming among them.**



# Twin Cities Chapter Members Only Contest

from Casey Friskney, Chapter Members Only Contest Chair

Here we go – one month down in the 2018 Minnesota Muskie season! While we’re at about 75% as many fish logged as this time last year, the quality of fish registered seems to be on high. As of June 29 we have a bit over 30 fish registered – nine of them breaking the 4-foot mark, and two Lunker of the Month and strong Lunker of the Year candidates (plural) coming in from opening weekend. I see a lot of the usual suspects returning to the charts (Tollefson, myself, Boomer, “Tiger” Manthey, Ryba) as well as some new names; hopefully more and more join the standings as the season progresses!

As far as what is working, it seems just about everything has produced on some level with no giant trends to be observed. Spinners, bucktails, cranks, and various rubber baits caught the majority of the logged fish over the last month. That doesn’t help eliminate too many lures for planning your next trip to the local tackle shop. I will say that if history repeats itself, I expect to see a few large fish pop in the metro and greater Minnesota lakes by means of open-water trolling. I also expect that with the warmer weather the summer prime (bucktail season) trends should be coming quick.

In the standings we have a heated field in the Men’s Division with Dave Niewolny coming off a hot trip to Ontario and sitting in first with 6 fish (77pts). Seven of the top 10 Men’s Division contestants registered fish over 4 feet in June and Terry Schar’s 47.5-incher would have made it 8 of 10. Notables from those standings are Brent Lenke’s 54.5-inch Mille Lacs giant bumping Chris Dahl’s Tonka 54-incher for June’s Lunker of the Month and the Lunker of the Year candidate. Ben Tollefson registered the first fish of the new Twin Cities Chapter Summer League starting strong with a 53-inch #WWBTD. Lastly the Metro Tournament saw local legend of the White Bear/Bald Eagle area Todd Lindberg win with a 48-incher as well as the “Tiger King” title going to chapter member Josh Hawke with a 37.5-incher.

That’s all for now, Mike Darley will likely be running the show from here on out so look forward to that. Good luck to all over the next month, log your fish, and have a great 4th of July!

I’ll see you on the water!



**Brent Lenke unofficially holds Lunker of the Year title with this 54.5-inch Mille Lacs muskie. Brent also got a 51-incher on the same day.**

## MEN’S DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Dave Niewolny	77	6	44"
2ND	Matt McDonald	71	5	50"
3RD	Brent Lenke	54	2	54.5"
4TH	Dale D Mueller	41	2	53.5"
5TH	Terry Schar	33	2	47.25"
6TH	Derek Boomer	32	2	42.5"
7TH	Casey Friskney	29	2	42.5"
8TH	Chris Dahl	28	1	54"
9TH	Ben Tollefson	27	1	53"
10TH	Nolen Ryba	24	1	49.5"

## MEN’S HYBRID DIVISION

1ST	Joshua Hawke	12	1	37.5"
2ND	Luke Manthey	9	2	31"

## LUNKER OF THE MONTH

MAY - Casey Friskney - 5/26 - 38" - Bone Lake (WI)

JUNE - (unofficial) - Brent Lenke - 6/2 - 54.5" - Mille Lacs

# White Bear, Bald Eagle and Minnetonka Tagged Muskies

Muskies stocked in Lake Minnetonka, Bald Eagle Lake and White Bear Lake for several years are part of a multi-year DNR study on stocking. All muskies stocked in those lakes have a small yellow tag near the dorsal fin. When fishing those lakes, you should be looking for fish that 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. They will need 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](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/tagged_fish_reporting/index.html) or leave a message for BJ Bauer at 952-826-6771.

# Minnesota State High School Muskie Fishing Tournament

from Terry Schar, Youth Chairperson

The 2018 State High School Muskie Tournament was held June 22 on Lake Vermilion. Each of the Muskies, Inc. chapters throughout the state held qualifying events earlier in the month. Top teams from each qualifier competed in the final championship event June 22 on Lake Vermilion.

## Chapter 1 Qualifier

The 2018 Twin Cities Chapter Qualifier was held June 8 on Lake Waconia. Ten teams from seven area Schools hit the water at 5:30 am to pit their skills and fishing savvy against each other in an attempt to qualify for one of the three opportunities to participate in the State Championship. A light drizzle with light wind from the northwest made the tournament look promising.

When the ending time rolled around at 1 pm, seven of the teams had registered two muskies and seven pike. The first place team of Josh Ask and Owen Werner from Farmington boated a 26.5-inch muskie at 10:20 am. The team also boated the second-best pike. Second place went to the Lakeville team of Ethan Pudil and Hayden Jensen with a 25.5-inch muskie caught at 7:50 am. With a final hour catch of a 28.5-inch pike at 12:10 pm, Bloomington Jefferson team of Julia Jones and Mike Evans slid into third place.

The remaining pike ranging from 20 to 26.25 inches were caught by teams from Rosemont (2 fish), New Prague (2 fish), and Rosemont/Lakeville (1 fish).

Representative James Nash from District 47A, which includes Waconia, stopped by to talk to the youths and adults just prior to the awards and lunch. All participants received a muskie rod plus a Chapter-1-made spinner. The top three teams also received additional top brand muskie baits for their trip to Lake Vermilion.



*Eighteen 2-man teams from 13 high schools participated in the 9th Annual Minnesota State High School Tournament June 22 on Lake Vermilion.*



*Owen Werner from the Farmington team boated the biggest muskie of the day at the Twin Cities chapter qualifier for the Minnesota High School Muskie Tournament.*



*Ethan Pudil boated a 42.5 and this 46.5 inch muskie on back-to-back casts to put the Lakeville team in first place in the High School Championship tournament.*

## State High School Championship

Mike Riha from the North Metro chapter headed up another great championship with the help of the Vermilion Bay Lodge. Nineteen teams from around the state participated in the 9th annual Minnesota State High School Championship on Lake Vermilion held June 22. In addition to the Chapter 1 teams from Farmington, Lakeville and Bloomington Jefferson, the tournament included teams from Parkers Prairie, Owatonna (2), Bemidji (2), Lake Superior, White Bear Lake, Zimmerman (2), Forest Lake (3), Pequot Lakes (2), Sauk Rapids, and Centennial.

As usual, the bigger muskies were relating to the open-water ciscos. As tough as this bite can be, the teams boated three muskies. First place went to the Lakeville team of Ethan Pudil

and Hayden Jensen. Ethan boated a 42.5-inch muskie and a 46.5-inch muskie on back-to-back casts just before 8 am. The Pequot Lakes team of Christopher Baumann and Keaton Brill placed second with a 42-inch muskie. Third place went to Conner Duckson and Isaiah Zak from Forest Lake with a 31.5-inch pike.

George Selke was present to tell the youths about Hugh C. Becker and the HCB Foundation, main sponsor of the Minnesota High School Tournament. George also presented plaques and prizes to winning teams. The top three teams received new rods and all participants received a box with muskie tackle.

It makes me proud to see these youths take an interest in this great sport and become the next generation of muskie fisherman. If you see them, be sure to congratulate them on a job well done.



# Join the Updated Chapter Summer Fishing League

The Chapter Summer Fishing League is an opportunity to participate and enjoy a little friendly rivalry with fellow members on lakes throughout the metro area. The league runs all summer (except July 15-August 15) with different lakes each week. We've tried to have a variety of options for each week. Fishing times are not limited to outings on a specific day and time. League anglers can pick the best time for them each week to fish.

Each week when fishing for the league, you check in at the boat ramp using your smart phone. Once you've checked in, you'll have 5 hours to fish. When you catch a fish, snap a couple of pictures and send them in using your phone.

We are excited that over 40 people have signed up to participate in the chapter summer league so far. There's two more weeks of fishing before the summer break. This week's lake options are Rush Lake, Sugar Lake, Crystal Lake (Dakota County), and Lake Johanna. Next week your choices are White Bear Lake, Lake Minnetonka, Lake Owasso, and Orchard Lake.

If you haven't signed up for the Summer League yet, do it now. Register at [www.fishingclash.com](http://www.fishingclash.com) with a user name and password of your choice. Once registered at the site, click on the chapter's Summer League and click the "Enter with \$0" button. You will be asked for an ID. This is your Muskies, Inc. member number.

A drawing will be held at the end of the season for prizes including a custom rod from Joe Oprosko. For every week you fish, you will get a ticket in the drawing. So the more time you put in, the more chances you will have in the drawing.

Points will also be given each time anglers fish. Each fish registered will earn points following the Muskies, Inc. Members Only system. At the end of the season prizes will be awarded for the most points earned, the longest fish, and the longest tiger. And the person who has earned the most points will keep the Summer League traveling trophy until next year's season.

If you have friends who aren't chapter members who want to fish the league they can join. Muskies, Inc. members who are not Twin Cities chapter members can participate for \$10. Anglers who are not Muskies, Inc. members can participate for \$35. We will give them a web-only membership in the Twin Cities chapter. If they want full membership they can upgrade for an additional \$10.

We've also included some group outings throughout the summer. Our July monthly meeting is another on-the-water event. We'll be gathering at Surfside Park in Mound between 5-7 with a quick, easy meal. You don't have to participate in the group outing to get points for that week, but if you want to see the group, come out on Tuesday, July 10.

Jon Best will be heading up the league this year. If you have questions, please contact him at [tcmi.fishingleague@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.fishingleague@gmail.com).



*Ben Tollefson started off the chapter's Summer League in a big way with this 53-inch Lake Independence fish the first week of league fishing. "My bait stopped so firmly that I thought I'd snagged it on a rock," Ben explained. "She released strong and I marked a waypoint so I can come back when she's 54!"*

## Twin Cities Chapter Summer League Standings

League standings are always available at [www.fishingclash.com](http://www.fishingclash.com). Follow the league on Facebook.

Jim Harmon	49 Points
June 12 - 40 inches (14), June 19 - 41 inches (15)	
Ben Tollefson	47 Points
June 6 - 53 inches (27)	
Jesse Amundson	34 Points
June 12 - 45 inches (19)	
Casey Friskney, Nolen Ryba, Jeff Borchardt, Ernie Heifort, Tim Norris	20 Points
Shawn Kellett	18 Points
June 12 - 39 inches (13)	
Brandon Kassick, Nate Seeger, Jon Best, Craig Centofanti, Tom Barten, Luke Manthey	15 Points

# — this n' that —

## **Todd Cleveland**

Many of you know Todd Cleveland, creator of Phantom lures. Todd lost the battle with a brain tumor and tumor in his lung on June 28. A visitation will be held Friday, July 13 from 5-8 pm at Thurston-DeShaw Funeral Home, 13817 Jay Street, Andover, MN. A Memorial Service will be Saturday, July 14 at 11 am with visitation one hour prior at the funeral home. Memorials are preferred in lieu of flowers. Todd's family has incurred huge medical expenses since he was diagnosed with the tumors 3 months ago. They have started a GoFundMe page for him. If you would like to contribute, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/todd-cleveland-fund>

## **Muskie Tale**

As you go out chasing muskies this year, keep in mind events that happen that might make a good "Muskie Tale". We're not necessarily looking for the "big fish" story, but stories that are something a little out of the ordinary – what happened while fishing; on the way to fishing; on the way back. Maybe you found something interesting on the end of your line or some kind of mishap happened. Share your story by emailing your "tale" to Denise Olson at [olsonat3pete@gmail.com](mailto:olsonat3pete@gmail.com).



## **Minnesota Muskies, Inc. Tournament Trail**

Join other Muskies, Inc. anglers participating in the Minnesota Muskies, Inc. Tournament Trail. M.I.T.T. anglers must participate in a minimum of three of the six tournaments held by Minnesota Muskies, Inc. chapters throughout the season. Points are accumulated during the season and the winner will take home a \$500 prize.

It costs nothing to sign up. It's a way to encourage participation in the Muskies, Inc. chapters events. Go to [www.muskiesinctournamentrail.com](http://www.muskiesinctournamentrail.com).

Two of the qualifying tournaments were held in June – The Bemidji/Cass Lake Tournament and the North Metro June Jam Tournament. There are 4 qualifying tournaments remaining during this season:

- ST. LOUIS RIVER SHOOTOUT  
August 11, 2018 [www.lakesuperiormuskies.com](http://www.lakesuperiormuskies.com)
- FRANK SCHNEIDER MEMORIAL MUSKIE TOURNAMENT  
September 7-8-9, 2018 [www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org)
- GEORGE WAHL MEMORIAL MUSKIE TOURNAMENT  
September 29, 2018 [www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org)
- BRAINERD LAKES MUSKIE SHOOTOUT  
October 13-14, 2018 [www.muskieshootout.com](http://www.muskieshootout.com)

Who knows, you might win that \$500!

## **Chapter Challenge**

Teams from Muskies, Inc. chapters throughout the country will be gathering at Red Wing Lodge, Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods August 25-31 for the 2018 Gil Hamm Memorial Chapter Challenge. Our chapter has registered for two teams of 6 people each. The group needs more anglers to fill out the teams. The Challenge is officially Wednesday-Friday, August 29-31, but most participants come for the entire week to pre-fish.

Lodging is reserved for our teams. Participants pay for their own lodging and share the costs of food. Wednesday and Thursday dinner is provided and on Friday lunch is served at the Awards program.

Stu McIntosh is heading up our Challenge teams this year. Contact him at [smcintosh@horwitzinc.com](mailto:smcintosh@horwitzinc.com) or 612-499-7328 if you're interested in representing our chapter at this event.

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**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](mailto:olsonat3pete@gmail.com).



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### Red Wing Lodge Outing

Join members of our chapter and North Metro August 11-18 for the annual August Muskies, Inc. Outing at Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods.

Cost per person in housekeeping cabins remains at \$350. To make reservations contact: John van Ingen, (651) 336-3622 maxjo@mac.com, or John Genosky, (651) 329-4898 John@Protacinc.com.

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# next meeting

JULY 10

## On-the-Water: LAKE MINNETONKA

Spend the afternoon/evening fishing on Lake Minnetonka. We'll be at Surfside Park in Mound between 5 and 7 with a quick, easy meal. Come out, grab a bite to eat, and see how fellow anglers are doing before heading back out fishing. If you're signed up for the chapter's Summer Fishing League, use the time to earn league points. Surfside Park is one of the league check-in points.

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*Muskies Inc. Twin Cities chapter meetings (except summer) 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  
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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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T-Tails Custom Bucktails  
Tamarack Island Wilderness  
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Third Street Brewhouse  
Thorne Bros  
Timber Trails Resort – Boy Lake  
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Wades Custom Tackle  
Whitefish Bay Camp – Lake of  
the Woods



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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 incentives and prizes for our fund raising 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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