



Volume 22, Issue 4

APRIL 2019

## ***Fishing Opener at Minneapolis Veteran's Home May 4***



**R**esidents of the Minneapolis Veteran's Home will be treated to their own Fishing Opener on Saturday, May 4. 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 Veteran's Home and residents will be able to come down to the pond and spend the morning fishing for trout. Volunteers will prepare a "shore lunch" of fresh-caught trout, potatoes and beans and serve it to the veterans.

Many 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. 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.

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 to the home.

If you can bring 10 pounds of boiled potatoes with you, please contact event organizer, Troy Zuelzke at [tzuelzke@yahoo.com](mailto:tzuelzke@yahoo.com) and let him know you can help in that way. Otherwise, he will be boiling potatoes galore the night before.

### **APRIL MEETING AT WAYZATA BREW WORKS**

**T**he chapter's monthly meeting for April will be at a different location. Come to the **Wayzata Brew Works, 294 Grove Lane E, Suite 150, Wayzata.** Luke Ronnestrand will be speaking.





## Build Your Own Custom Muskie Rod

Learn to build a custom muskie rod. A rod-building class for Muskies, Inc. members of the Twin Cities and North Metro chapters, friends and family, is scheduled for Saturday, April 13 starting at 9:30 am.

The class will be led by Gary Wicks from Gary's Custom Rods and will last a good portion of the day. Those of you who were at our Sportsman's Banquet were able to see some of Gary's work.

Three rod packages are available:

- 1 9' XXH graphite blank, cork handle and fore grip, carbide tip top, and other standard components. Can handle rubber nicely. Materials cost \$150.00.
- 2 Extendable Muskie graphite blank. Extends from 6'6" to 8'6" for easy storage. Heavy action with cork handle and fore grip. Carbide tip top and other standard components. All-around nice rod. Materials cost \$150.00.
- 3 6'10" Walleye rod. Medium-light action graphite. Cork handle and fore grip, other standard components. Very nice blank. Materials cost \$100.00.

If you're interested in building a rod, you must register for the session by April 6. Please call Ray Connoy at 763-200-3153 or email him at [rc\\_mscg@hotmail.com](mailto:rc_mscg@hotmail.com) to register.

Call class instructor Gary Wicks at 621-810-6046 or email him at [wrods1234@aol.com](mailto:wrods1234@aol.com) with any technical questions you may have.

Other questions or concerns can be addressed by Ray Connoy. Depending on the number of people who sign up, the class will be held at the VFW in Coon Rapids (North Metro's meeting place) or in Andover off Highway at Gary Wicks shop.



**MUSKIE AWARD TIMES TWO** *The Muskie Award is presented each year to a chapter member who has constantly and unselfishly devoted time and energy over the years to promoting and improving the goals of Muskies, Inc. and the chapter. The Board of Directors voted to present the Muskie Award to two chapter members, Denise Olson and Elaine Randolph, for 2018. You will find both of them at most every chapter event making sure that things go smoothly, having put in countless hours in the planning. In addition Denise makes sure you get your newsletter in a timely manner. Elaine served as chapter secretary last year and had taken over the position of treasurer for the chapter this year. They were each presented beautiful muskie wall plaques at the Sportsman' Banquet.*



## Sportsman's Banquet Enjoyed by All

The chapter's annual Sportsman's Banquet was held Saturday, March 30 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club. Attendees spent the evening talking muskies while moving around the room dropping raffle tickets into buckets, bidding on Silent Auction items, or participating in games and additional raffles.

Over \$10,000 in amazing prizes were given out during the evening. Winners of games and raffles went home with new rods, reels, tackle boxes, rain suits, Canadian and US resort stays, as well as coolers, art, wall sculptures, and a multitude of new lures.

The most important part of the whole evening is the support for the muskie fishery and the building of relationships between members.

A special thanks goes out to all the resorts, guides, manufacturers, and lure makers for their support of our chapter and this event. They are consistently there with support for our efforts.

Thanks also to the volunteers who came early to set up, the multitude of people who helped out during the evening and committee of Elaine Randolph, Eric Schultz, Shawn Kellett, and Denise Olson who made the evening a success.

## FISHING FOR LIFE

The Twin Cities chapter has partnered with Fishing for Life for several years. Fishing for Life has a number of programs working with metro-area youth promoting fishing and outdoor activities. They also have programs directed toward veterans.

Chapter members Terry Schar (right), chapter Youth Chair, and Eric Schultz (left) presented a check for \$5,500 to Tom Goodrich (center), founder and director of Fishing for Life at the MN Muskie Expo.

The funds will go toward Fishing for Life events getting metro-area youth involved in fishing. The chapter believes that Fishing for Life can involve more kids in fishing with their organization than we ever could on our own.

Fishing for Life's 15th annual Get Hooked Gala will be held April 6 from 4-9 pm at the Courtyards of Andover. Register at their website: [fishingforlife.org](http://fishingforlife.org) if you want to attend.

Our next event with Fishing for Life will be the Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration on June 13. Kids and families of veterans will be taken out for a morning of fishing on Lake Minnetonka and treated to a fish fry meal after. If you can volunteer to take out a family or group of veterans, please contact Tom Goodrich at [tom@fishingforlife.org](mailto:tom@fishingforlife.org).



## Spring Fever!

With April comes thoughts of open water. Each of the retail stores that we count as sponsors is having a spring event this month. Don't miss it!

### **Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle Open House – April 6**

The 12th Annual Spring Open House at Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle is from 10-7pm. Load up on custom tackle, rods, reels, and custom color lures at 10-50% off. Free prize drawings for an 8'11" Elk River rods, a \$150 Blue Ribbon gift card and a half-day guide trip will be held throughout the day. Blue Ribbon pro staff, tackle manufacturers and fishing guides including host Josh Stevenson of Mighty Musky Guide Service and owner of Blue Ribbon will be on hand. And, bring your appetite. Jethro's Big Guys BBQ from Hudson, WI will be there from 11-4 pm with their famous BBQ sandwiches.

### **Thorne Bros. Annual Spring Sale – April 12-14**

Come for the best deals of the year. Saturday will feature a tent with factory reps and pro-staff members from across the industry. Friday and Saturday Shimano factory reps will be available to clean and lube one reel per customer. Musky Mayhem will be building custom bucktails on Saturday. Also scheduled for Saturday are free seminars – Jim Lindner at 11 am and Simms Guide Panel: Ty Sennett, John Hoyer, Luke Ronnestrand, Ryan McMahon, Dan Altmann, and Matt Seifert at 2 pm. A trout pond will be set up for the kids. Cheese curds and other fair-style food will be available.

### **Joe's Sporting Goods Fish Fest – April 22-28**

Kick off the 2019 fishing season with great deals, free seminars, and daily drawings all week long! Save 20% on rods, reels, lures and tackle all week and up to 50% off close-outs and rep samples. In store specials on the 27th and 28th.

*On the Water*

## Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge 2019

Represent the Twin Cities Chapter at the 2019 Gil Hamm Memorial Chapter Challenge this year. Teams from Muskies, Inc. chapters throughout the country will be gathering at Red Wing Lodge, Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods in August for the Chapter Challenge.

The Challenge is officially Wednesday-Friday, August 21-23, but most participants come for the entire week to pre-fish. There is a rules meeting on Tuesday. Lodging is already reserved for the week. Participants pay for their own lodging and share the costs of food. Wednesday and Thursday the host chapter will provide dinner 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.

## Youth Chairperson

The chapter is looking for a person to take over for Terry Schar as our Youth Chairperson. Terry has retired and will be moving out of state. The most time-consuming part of the job is to coordinate and host a one-day fishing event in June to qualify two teams for the state High School tournament. Terry will still be here in June and will help the new volunteer with the youth program. The chair also welcomes and hands out lures to youths at our monthly meetings. Contact Terry at [twschar@yahoo.com](mailto:twschar@yahoo.com) or 612-865-4200 if you can take over for him.



## Join Fellow Muskies, Inc. Anglers for Red Wing Lodge Outing

**D**o you need more opportunity or more baits, more opportunity or more tools for catching that big muskie? Big fish opportunity is awaiting you at Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods, Canada. The resource and the big fish culture that has developed over the years at Red Wing can be captured in good part with the following single stat: 15,000 muskie releases!

Package up big fish opportunity with a reservation for the annual August Muskies, 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 and our two local Muskies, Inc. chapters. The annual trip to Red Wing is a great choice for either that first Canadian trip or for the veteran's extra trip.

Dates for this year's outing: August 10-17, 2019. Save your surprises for muskie action, you don't need them at

base camp. Red Wing Lodge offers a resort base that has been family owned and operated for 50 years, is clean and comfortable, where everything works. The Bartlett family has hosted Muskies, Inc. outings for years with personal and friendly service, so they understand what muskie people need and like.

Thirteen times Chapter Challenge headquarters, and chosen again for this August of 2019. 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](http://www.redwinglodge.net)

Cost per person in housekeeping cabins remains at \$350 (US Funds) for 2019, just \$50 per day for big-time Canadian muskie fishing.

Included in the full value of the 2019 Muskies, Inc. trip:

- Free dockage (\$72 value)
- Free dinner one night, courtesy of the Bartletts

- One free trip, given away in drawing, courtesy of the Bartletts
- Free wireless internet service throughout the resort
- Free daily bag of ice; door prizes

Reservations require a \$50 non-refundable deposit, made out to Red Wing Lodge. Deposits officially confirm reservation holds. First come, first served. Early deposits are appreciated by the Bartletts as these funds are used to purchase materials for cabin improvements, most of which can only be made over the winter.

Don't just wish. Make it happen. Any questions or suggestions for improving the outing, please contact:

John van Ingen, (651) 336-3622,  
[maxjo@mac.com](mailto:maxjo@mac.com)

or

John Genosky, (651) 329-4898,  
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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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# George's Tackle Box

This year at George's Tackle Box at the Minnesota Muskie Expo 380 lures were created by kids at the always-busy booth. Many thanks to Dave and Linda Knutson who ran the booth. They want to be sure to thank the 33 volunteers who helped the kids make bucktails as well as paint other lures and bulldawgs. A number were high school kids and North Metro chapter members.

Paul\* & Holly\* Baranek • Doug Backlund • Lane Uheraa • Brent & Beth Fox • Terry Schar • Paul Hartman • Kimberly Hartman • Reegan Werner\* • Steve\* & Katie\* Bates • Will Kilber\* • Logan Luko\* • Jordan Loranger • Ashley Jensen\* Adam Glickman • Will Tentis\*

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friends of the Twin Cities  
Chapter of Muskies, Inc.

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

# next meeting

**APRIL 9**

**Speaker:**

**LUKE RONNESTRAND**

**NOTE DIFFERENT  
MEETING LOCATION:**

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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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Lodge – Lake of the Woods  
Temple Fork Outfitters  
Third Street Brewery  
Thorne Bros  
Timber Trails Resort – Boy Lake  
Trappers Landing Lodge – Leech  
Lake  
Trophy Technology  
Wades Custom Tackle  
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 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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