

On the Water



Volume 22, Issue 5

MAY 2019

Fishing Opener at Minneapolis Veteran's Home May 4

Residents 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.

Everyone who can should take some time Saturday morning and come out for this event. 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 make this event happen. We need people to help residents with the fishing, clean fish, cook and serve 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.

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

Minnesota State High School Muskie Tournament Qualifier

Area high school students in grades 8-12 during the 2018-2019 school year are invited to participate in this year's Twin Cities chapter qualifier for the Minnesota High School Muskie Tournament. The qualifier will be held June 7 on Lake Waconia. Fishing hours are 5:30 am (sun up) to 1:00 pm.

The top two teams from this qualifier will move on to participate in the state High School Muskie Tournament being held Friday, June 21 on Lake Vermilion.

Deadline for registration for the qualifier is May 17. Tournament participants must fill out a registration and have it signed by their parent/guardian.

Teams participating in the qualifier need to have their own boat, but have the option of having an adult drive the boat during the tournament. The adult must not guide or offer any fishing advice.

Each high school may register an unlimited number of

teams (2 students per team). If you know of an area student who is interested in participating in the High School Muskie Tournament, have the student check with their high school principal or administrative office for additional information.

If the high school does not have the tournament information, students should contact Terry Schar, current chapter youth chair at 612-865-4200 or twschar@yahoo.com.

This is the tenth consecutive year that the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc. will host one of the regional qualifying events for the High School Muskie Tournament. Each Muskies, Inc. chapter in Minnesota is hosting a regional event to advance two teams to the State Tournament.

If anyone is interested in helping at the qualifier on June 7, please contact Terry. This is Terry's last year running the chapter's qualifier. We would really like someone who is interested in taking over for him to come help this year and learn more about it.

Metro Muskie Tournament is Saturday, June 8

Don't miss the Metro Muskie Tournament on Saturday, June 8. 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 7. 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.

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 14-August 17) with different lakes each week. We've tried to have a variety of east and west metro options as well as smaller city lakes for each week. Participants can choose any time during the week for league fishing.

We will again follow the format with using a smart phone to check in and register fish caught. The first week of league is June 2-8 with Bald Eagle and Independence as lake choices. If you're participating in the Metro Muskie Tournament and will be on either of those lakes, sign in for the league fishing at the same time. Complete league schedule will be in next month's issue.

Become More Involved with Your Chapter

The month of June brings not only the opening of the muskie season in Minnesota, but also chapter events and opportunities to volunteer. In June we have an outing on Minnetonka with members of the Capable Partners organization and also an event with Fishing for Life, also on Minnetonka, for kids and families of veterans. For both June events we need volunteers with boats to take people out fishing. In addition to fishing, volunteer workers are needed to help with event organization. Please consider making time to help out. More detailed information about these events will be in next month's issue.

Capable Partners Outing

The chapter's annual outing with members of the Capable Partners organization will be Sunday, June 9 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 11th annual Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration will take place on Thursday, June 13 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 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 kids and/or families out fishing. 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 612-865-4200.

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 or 612-499-7328 if you're interested in representing our chapter at this event.

A Muskie Tale

The Muskie Tale Award is presented every year to the person who has the best “tale” from the previous season. At our Winter Picnic on February 12, we got to hear several great “muskie tales”. This is the Muskie Tale submitted by Paul Hartman:

For those of you that have never had the privilege of sharing the boat with Jim Kroupa, I will assure you he is a beast! Countless times I have seen him battle and win, incredibly hard and fast fought battles against epic proportioned shark, tarpon, amberjack, king fish and even the powerful goliath grouper! You would never want to enter a gun fight against Jim either, if how fast he draws the net into action is any indicator. At the slightest hint of a hook-set, he is poised and ready with the net, waiting to assist.

I have fished with Jim on many a muskie fishing adventure. Our most recent was last October on Leech Lake as part of an outing put together by George Selke and including the Knutsons. Every time I set the hook on a muskie that weekend, Jim was there in a blink of an eye, with the net in hand and ready to go. I would tell him to stow the net and I would just hand-land it. Even after several fish, Jim was as quick as the first to be ready to do his part in winning the victory over our toothy adversary.

Sunday we woke up to heavy northwest winds sending waves crashing onto the beach in front of our cabin at Trappers Landing Resort. We decided to start the morning taking a ride straight into the huge waters, looking for a calmer place to fish on the opposite side of the lake in Portage Bay and chose to alternate between fishing reed beds and shorelines with hardly a sniff from an active fish. By noon we had the lake to ourselves with all the Vikings fans long gone. Then at 3 o'clock we finally got “the bite”. I saw this massive head pop up behind my Pollywog and suck it under the surface before heading back under the boat lift where it had been hiding. When I pulled, it started wallowing on the surface and I knew it was a 50-inch class fish.

Instantly Jim was heading for the net and I quickly told him we didn't need it – unless I yelled for it. I usually don't carry a net in my boat, preferring to hand land the smaller fish and worrying the legendary ones could be lost to mishaps during the netting process. Once the fish finished its surface thrashing shenanigans, the battle quickly changed to a tug-of-war with the fish bulldogging circles around the boat, keeping my 20-year-old Abu Garcia 13-foot rod completely doubled over. After three minutes of walking in circles around the boat, the fish finally came to the surface... And I screamed, “Jim get the net”!

With Jim's typical blinding speed the net was in the water like a heat-seeking missile coming at the fish. I started leading the fish his direction but I assume somehow adrenaline skewed depth perception (as I am



at least 60% certain that Jim wasn't intentionally trying to knock this fish off my line) and Jim hoisted the net the second the fishes nose reached the outside edge of the hoop. Instantly we had a massive fish unhappy that it was getting flogged in the face by a net, so it resumed thrashing trying to shake free. I dropped the rod and sprinted to Jim where I daintily coaxed the net handle from his hands and begin the process of shaking the net inside out in the opposite direction, trying to get the fish to twist its entire body around and cooperate by hopping in the net for me. After about 30 seconds of me chanting “words of encouragement” to the fish, it was able to oblige and climb completely in the net.

I instantly bear hugged Jim and took back half of my swearwords... and then proceeded to have him snap three quick pictures before a measurement. I was suspicious of the pictures Jim was taking as he was standing about 2 feet away from me and the fish was 55 inches long. He assured me the shots were great. To his credit they were pretty epic with the entire head of the fish and some of my head in the pictures along with nearly half fish's body. Before I put the fish back I had Jim snap two more quick pictures... from halfway across the boat, which also turned out quite nice. As the fish swam away, I started apologizing to Jim for the craziness that had just ensued. I was secretly trying to establish what was intentional and what was the unbridled excitement that's all part of this crazy sport we call Muskie fishing!

Youth Chairperson Needed

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 Youth Chairperson job is to coordinate and host the Twin Cities chapter's qualifying one-day fishing event in June for the state High School tournament.

Terry will still be here for this event in June this year and will help the new volunteer with the youth program. Now is the time for a new person to step up so he/she can learn from Terry how the event works. Please consider taking a little of your time to help/learn about the high school qualifier and the other aspects of the job.

The chair also welcomes and hands out lures to youths at our monthly meetings. Contact Terry at twoschar@yahoo.com or 612-865-4200 if you can take over for him.

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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Join Fellow Muskies, Inc. Anglers for Red Wing Lodge Outing August 10-17

Do 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

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:

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Clean Out Your Tackle Box

Take time this month to go through your lures, rods, reels and other fishing equipment. We will have a donation box at our meeting for new or gently-used items. Our Youth Chairperson, will use the donated lures, rods, reels for youth activities throughout the year.

tc chapter contacts

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Jim Doyle
952-920-9818
tcmi.president@gmail.com
doyle_jim@hotmail.com

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Casey Friskney
715-419-1187
tcmi.vicepresident@gmail.com

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Kroupa
952-474-5967
tcmi.vicepresident2@gmail.com

TREASURER

Elaine Randolph
612-708-6851
tcmi.treasurer@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Tom Keith
612-925-1109
tcmi.secretary@gmail.com

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Jon Meyers
952-240-4083
tcmi.rvp@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

MEMBERS ONLY CONTEST

Mike Darley
715-225-0167

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Casey Friskney
715-419-1187

STOCKING AND PROJECTS

John Newman
651-699-8676

YOUTH/HS TOURNAMENT

Terry Schar
612-865-4200

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Eric Bakke
612-202-7169

Greg Ide
612-331-5034

Pete Kemmer
952-933-1734

Shawn Kellett
612-201-0209

Doug Malsom
612-759-3407

Stu McIntosh
651-699-9817

Dale Mueller
414-429-2448

Denise Olson
612-804-4687

Nolen Ryba
952-200-1657

Eric Schultz
651-353-3769

Chris Smythe
612-281-9981

Steve Smythe
612-369-8075

Alex Worobel
651-491-1466

www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org

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

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Iowa Muskie Fishing

Did you know the Iowa State Record muskie is over 50 pounds? PMTT partners Tracy Crail and Pete Hildreth, two-time Iowa Muskie Trail team of the year and 2nd place in a PMTT Leech Lake event, will share information about muskie fishing in Iowa. Seminar will feature seasonal tips for fishing Clear Lake, the nearest Iowa lake to the Metro. They operate the Iowa Muskie Guide Service, and Pete works for the Iowa DNR. A great evening learning about muskie fishing in Iowa.

We will also hear about two new apps, Lake Labs and Rip-A-Lip University.

EVERY YOUTH MEMBER AT THE MEETING WILL RECEIVE A NEW LURE.

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.).



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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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