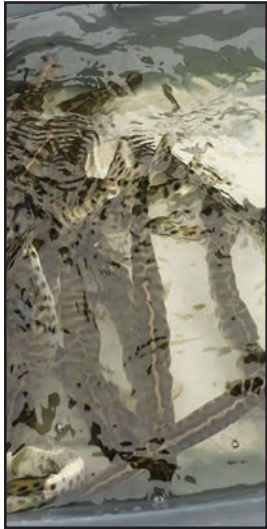


Volume 22, Issue 11

NOVEMBER 2019

Muskies Get a New Home in Minnetonka and Waconia



Last winter, after looking over the long-term Metro Muskie stocking levels, consulting with the MN DNR, and considering where much of the Metro Muskie fishing effort is expended, the board saw a need to ensure that the DNR meet target stocking levels for Minnetonka in particular. DNR target quota for stocking Minnetonka had been met only 3 times since 2004.

We understand how important a resource Minnetonka is because it can support far more anglers than any other single lake and many other Metro waters put together. For example, in the recent metro-wide George Wahl Muskie tournament it was estimated that nearly 66% of 150 anglers fished Minnetonka. From looking over the stocking history, it seemed that Minnetonka in particular had been left short of target many times, likely due to the large number of fish required to meet that target, especially when fingerlings are scarce.

This was a major financial decision for the chapter. It is the largest single stocking effort in our history at 2,925 fish to meet the MN DNR target for Minnetonka. The board made the decision to go forward and solicited financial contributions from other interested parties. We received greatly appreciated donations from a Hugh C. Becker Foundation grant of \$9,000, a \$2,000 contribution from the North Metro Chapter of Muskies, Inc., and personal donations totaling \$1,150 from North Metro members Nate Anderson, the John and Lea Genosky family, Dan Mruz, Nick Poppler, and Steve Wernersback. The Twin Cities chapter supported with the final \$33,802 for the fish.

Rearing and then stocking fish is never a guaranteed process. Mother Nature can intervene at any time producing small or far fewer fish than planned for a wide variety of reasons. In March, the chapter contracted with the Minnesota Muskie Farm near

Alexandria, Minnesota for fish to meet DNR target quota for Leech Lake Muskie fingerlings in the fall.

Several other support efforts from our stocking and rearing funds in recent years also came into play this season. The Twin Cities chapter Stocking and Rearing Committee headed by John Newman along with additional Hugh C. Becker grant money have funded MN DNR needs for: spring water heating system improvements at the St. Paul hatchery to maximize early growth, automated pellet feeders for raising fry in the hatchery, minnow rearing improvements in stock ponds for critical live food, and minnow purchases when needed as fingerling food.

We have also funded purchases of a recent discovery of a far better pellet food for Muskie fry both in the hatchery and at the fish farm. Both the MN DNR and the Minnesota Muskie Farm

STOCKING continued inside

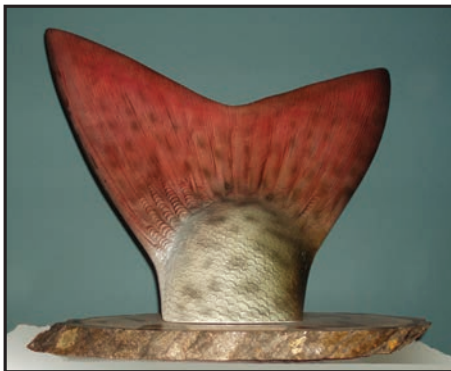
From Our President, JIM DOYLE

Last chance for fall Trophies! Get out a few last days of the season if you can for a shot at your fish of a lifetime. We all hope you have had a successful 2019 Muskie season.

Awards for chapter members logging fish and participating in the summer league are coming soon this off season!

A reminder that our chapter's annual Sportsman's Banquet is coming up January 18. Don't forget to save the date.

Finally, we are at long last very happy to say we have completed stocking of 2,873 Muskies into Lake Minnetonka and Lake Waconia.



A Muskie Tale

Keep in mind events that might make a good "Muskie Tale" for this season. Not necessarily a "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.

STOCKING continued from page 1

commented how well the fish grew this year using the new food. We hope that we had a little something to do with that.

All of these funds and effort culminated in a late October outing as a large group of Twin Cities and North Metro members worked together with the Minnesota Muskie Farm to stock the fish per the MN DNR permits.

The Mn DNR had stocked 510 fish in Minnetonka just prior to our first delivery, so we were able to put 510 in Waconia and the remainder in Minnetonka to hit plan targets for both lakes.

Twin Cities board members Dale Mueller and Alex Worobel were instrumental in getting the stocking operation plans in order and in motion. Dale recruited boats for stocking from Shawn Kellett, recent meeting speaker Ben Olsen, Jeff and Ben Nelson, Tim Connoy, the Eric Hansen family, Nolen Ryba, Dan Mruz, Wayne Klemz, and Ryan and Derek Boomer.



The fingerlings were transported in live wells and tubs to several locations on Minnetonka to spread fish evenly across the lake. Boats stocked Waconia in several locations as well.

Greatly appreciated by all on Sunday were the efforts of Jackie Doyle, the current "first lady" of the Twin Cities Chapter, who delivered fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies for all the stocking participants.

Everyone in the Twin Cities Chapter and North Metro chapters can be extremely proud of this effort to ensure quality fishing on both Minnetonka and Waconia in the future.

Summer Fishing League

The Chapter Summer Fishing League has always been an opportunity to participate and enjoy a little friendly rivalry with fellow chapter members on lakes throughout the metro area. Jon Best, who introduced a new league format and ran the chapter league for our chapter last year, started his own league following the same format for 2019. Because we had no time to find a person to run a league strictly for our chapter, we asked our members who want to participate in a league this summer to join Jon's Metro League.

The 2019 Metro League concluded with a bang, with many fish registered in the final weeks. This included a 51 inch beast that helped Jim Harmon take the top spot in league as well as win the George Wahl tournament. The top three finishes were within a couple points of each other. Needless to say, we're very excited to see what 2020 will bring.

The award ceremony for the Metro League will be held at Wayzata Brew Works on November 25 at 7pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend and talk about their season. There will be a lot of raffle prizes for any / all league contestants, so even if you didn't place you are encouraged to come! In addition, changes to the Metro League for 2020 will be discussed.

TOP 3 SUMMER LEAGUE FINISHERS

	NAME	POINTS	FISH REGISTERED
1st	Jim Harmon	67	(51, 41, 40)
2nd	Ben Tollefson	66	(41, 40, 36, 34, 31)
3rd	Matt McDonald	65	(43, 41, 38)

Chapter Members Only Contest

from Members Only Chair, Mike Darley

The days are getting short, and we've had consistently cold weather. Some of our small ponds and streams locally are starting to get their first ice. This all makes me wonder, how much time do we have left to chase muskies? Per the registered fish log, we are seeing water temps as low as 44 degrees two weeks ago, and as high as 51 last week. Time to flip your line on your reels to get the 'waxy' side closest to the bait, to help keep ice from forming on your line.

As expected, one of the bigger trends this October has fish being caught on sucker minnows. We've had 11 of 31 fish registered in October on live bait. One heck of a trolling trip north of the border by Cindy Hegdahl and Mark Frederick registered 20 muskies over the course of 10 days.

Our Lunker of the Month contest has some excitement this fall. We had a fish by Chapter president, Jim Doyle, get registered for September at 54 inches to beat out Nolen Ryba's 50-incher as the September Lunker of the Month. We don't have a clear Lunker of the Month yet for October as we have a four-way tie at 47 inches. Derek Boomer caught two 47-inch muskies on back-to-back days, while Alex Hamm and John Harazin each boated one later in the month. Derek's fish was caught first, putting him ahead of the others.

In our standings, we have new leaders in three of five categories. Cindy Hegdahl and her hot streak put her into a commanding lead in the Women's Masters division. In our Men's Masters division, Mark Fredrick has jumped just ahead of Brent Hirsch by 15 points. Lastly, in our Men's division, 2018 runner up Nolen Ryba has just jumped to a 10-point lead where it looks like it is between Nolen and Ethan Stout.

All the standings were used with data from November 1st. If you still have fishing left to do this year, be safe and good luck. Finally, I will be starting to collect fish pictures to put together our end of the year slides. If you have pictures that you can send to me in advance of me reaching out, please send them to me at Michael.Darley@LibertyMutual.com with subject 'Muskies'.

Nominate Someone for Chapter Muskie Award

The Muskie Award is presented each year to a deserving chapter member who has constantly and unselfishly devoted time and energy over the years to promoting and improving the goals of Muskies, Inc.

The first Muskie Award was presented to Muskies, Inc. founder, Gil Hamm in 1974. At that time, our national umbrella had not yet been formed and the award recipient was chosen from among all Muskies,

Inc. members, regardless of chapter affiliation. Once there were a number of chapters, it became too difficult to choose a recipient from the entire organization and the Muskie Award was dropped in 1980. The Twin Cities chapter made the decision to continue the award for our chapter.

Submit nomination of an individual for the Muskie Award in writing. Include the reasons you are nominating that person or a history of the person's

involvement with the Twin Cities Chapter over the years.

Nominations must be in by December 31. Send to Jim Kroupa at 6311 Steller Circle, Excelsior, MN 55331. Or email it to Jim at kroupaandsusan@gmail.com. Call Jim at 952-474-5967 if you have questions.

The Board of Directors will vote on the nominees and the award will be presented the award at our annual Sportsman's Banquet in January.

JUNIORS DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Isaiah Chrissis	18	2	39.5

WOMEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Lauren Stout	24	1	49.5
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WOMEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Cindy Hegdahl	193	15	46
2ND	Linda Knutson	12	1	38

MEN'S DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Nolen Ryba	244	14	52.88
2ND	Ethan Stout	234	16	48
3RD	Derek Boomer	106	9	47
4TH	Mike Darley	104	9	44.5
5TH	John Harazin	77	5	47
6TH	Joshua Hawke	66	5	51.5
7TH	Brent Lenke	58	2	57.25
8TH	Craig Johnson	53	4	48
9TH	Ryan Boomer	51	4	42
10TH	Philip Groth	49	3	46

MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Mark Fredrick	126	8	46
2ND	Brent Hirsch	111	9	47
3RD	Brian Hanson	87	5	46

HYBRID DIVISION

1ST	Luke Manthey	33	3	39
2ND	Craig Johnson	31	3	37.5
3RD	Nathan Ryskiewicz	10	1	36

LUNKER OF THE MONTH

JUNE - Brent Lenke - 6/1 - 57.5" - Mille Lacs

JULY - Colin Hulke - 7/24 - 52.75" - Minnetonka

AUGUST - Nolen Ryba - 8/8 - 52.88" - Minnetonka

SEPTEMBER - Jim Doyle - 9/7 - 54" - Winnibigoshish

OCTOBER (unofficial) - Derek Boomer - 10/15 - 47" - Bald Eagle

Sportsman's Banquet is January 18

The Twin Cities Sportsman's Banquet, our chapter's annual fundraising event, is scheduled for Saturday, January 18 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington. The banquet features over \$20,000 in prizes including stays at Canadian and US resorts, rods, reels, electronics, guns, and loads of tackle, storage and other outdoor gear.

The banquet offers opportunities to give back to your chapter. The committee would welcome a couple more people to help in the planning. As always an event of this size requires a multitude of people to pull it off on the evening of the event. Volunteer to help with check-in or man one of the prize tables or games. Please contact Denise Olson or Elaine Randolph or email tcmi.sponsor2@gmail.com.

Join the Chapter Board of Directors

We need people who are interested and willing to participate in the chapter and its future to step up and join the Board of Directors. Nominations will be accepted at the November meeting. Board members will be elected at the December meeting to each serve a two-year term starting in January.

If you want to be more involved and have a say in what the chapter does on a day-to-day basis or how the chapter uses its funds, if you would like to influence how the chapter deals with Muskies, Inc. National, the DNR, or other muskie clubs, become a board member. All it takes is a few hours a month. The Board meets the first Tuesday of each month and most meetings last around 2 hours.



Brandon Frake caught the biggest muskie, a 49.5 incher from Lake Minnetonka, at Fishing for Life's 2019 Musky Mayhem event. Lam Chu, left, was his boat partner.

Muskie Mayhem

Twenty-five hearty soldiers/veterans and a number of volunteer guides gathered on a cold morning at the Long Lake Fire Station October 30 for a day of muskie fishing hosted by Fishing for Life. Anglers and guides were treated to breakfast by the firemen before they headed out to fish.

Brandon Frake who was fishing with veteran Lam Chu and guided by Brad Patterson caught the big fish of the day, a 49.5-inch muskie. Fishing for Life host many events throughout the year for kids, families and veterans. Thank you to our chapter members who volunteered to guide the soldiers.

Help out Your Chapter

This chapter of Muskies, Inc. doesn't just happen. Everything the chapter does – stocking efforts, members only contest, our two fishing tournaments, the winter banquet, the summer picnic, Vet's home and Capable Partners in the spring, outings, our meetings with guest speakers... None of those things happen without a person (or people) behind them. So, in order to keep our events and activities, the chapter is asking for a little help from its members. We are seeking someone to take over as Youth Chairperson and also someone to serve as editor of the *On the Water* newsletter.

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. The Youth Chair is a board position. In addition to planning the High School qualifier, the Youth Chair attends the chapter Board of Directors meetings the first Tuesday of each month. The chair also welcomes and hands out lures to youths at our monthly meetings.

The newsletter editor is responsible for content, producing the newsletter, emailing it to the majority of subscribers, and uploading current copy to website on or about the first of each month. Copies for about 70 *On the Water* print subscribers need to be printed, folded, tabbed, stamped and mailed. The editor is reimbursed for supplies at \$1 per sheet. Current electronic files for *On the Water* are created using the Adobe InDesign program. All files will be turned over.

If you're interested in taking over either position contact Jim Doyle at doyle_jim@hotmail.com or 952-920-9818.

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Our Youth Chairperson, will
use the donated lures, rods,
reels for youth activities
throughout the year.

next meeting

NOVEMBER 12

Speaker: John Hoyer

Ever wish you could quit your day job and live off your fishing tournament winnings? John Hoyer has done just that. He won the PMTT Mega on Vermilion in 2018 and the Minnetonka PMTT this year. John was the top finisher in the 2019 National Walleye Tour Championship on Devils Lake in North Dakota with a payout of over \$97,000!!!!. He will describe how side-imaging and other new technology has allowed him to achieve so much success. John has over 20,000 Instagram followers, you can follow John on Facebook, or visit his website, hoyerfishing.com.

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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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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