

On the Water



Volume 23, Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2020



Muskie Award Presented to Heath Family at Sportsman's Banquet

The Heath family – Carol, Jake and Dennis – were presented the chapter's Muskie Award for 2019. The Muskie Award is presented each year to a person or persons who have contributed over time to the chapter. While work schedules make it difficult for them to attend our Tuesday meetings, the Heath family contribute greatly to the chapter's events that reach out to others. And have been doing so for many years.

The Heaths have been a permanent fixture at the Vet's Home "Opener" practically since its inception over 20 years ago, faithfully spending hours each year cleaning thousands of trout for the Vets to enjoy. And they have become a permanent fixture at the Capable Partners outing in June. Dennis and Jake guiding Capable Partners members all morning, and Carol with the "shore lunch" meal that we serve to the anglers. Capable Partners and MI-ers alike look forward to her taco salad each year.

The Heath family contributes immensely to our chapter events, and the chapter is grateful for their efforts.

Don't miss the chapter's annual "Winter Picnic" and chapter Awards Program on February 11. The evening will start earlier than usual around 6:30 pm with the picnic meal. Following dinner, plaques will be presented to this year's Member's Only Contest top winners. Come hear some great stories about the season, and lunker(s) of the month, as well Muskie Tale contenders. Feel free to bring your families to our event, it should be a great time!

Sportsman's Banquet Enjoyed by All

The chapter's annual Sportsman's Banquet was held Saturday, January 18 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 \$20,000 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 to Shawn Kellett who emceed and kept things running smoothly again this year. Thanks also to the volunteers – Dave and Linda Knutson, Jim and Jackie Doyle, George Selcke, Louise Griffith, Larry Proskin, Tom and Kathy Keith, Carol and Dennis Heath, Patti Slack, Nolen Ryba, Linda Newman, Greg Ide, Dug Molsom, Brad Coyne, Terry Schar, Greg Kappes, Pete Kemmer, Rob Laliberte, Matt Olson, BJ Olson – who came early to set up or helped out during the evening working games, raffle tables, selling raffle tickets, or running prizes. Thanks as well goes to Dale Mueller, John Newman, Greg and Elaine Randolph, and Denise Olson who helped plan the event.

Photos from the Sportsman's Banquet can be found inside.

Don't Miss George's MN Muskie Expo

The annual Minnesota Muskie Expo will be held March 27-29 at Ganglehoff Center, Concordia University in St. Paul. The Expo was founded by chapter member George Wahl, inventor and manufacturer of the Eagle Tail lure. The three-day event is dedicated to muskies and muskie fishing – featuring some of the world's top muskie anglers sharing secrets of success in seminars, retailers offering great prices, as well as guides and resorts. The unique aspect of the Expo is being able to buy direct from lure manufacturers, getting low prices, custom colors and the newest prototype baits. Again this year, if you bring an Abu Garcia or Shimano reel, company reps will be available to help clean or repair one reel per person.

A large “Kids Midway” area with a trout pond, games and prizes for kids is provided by Fishing for Life. At George's Tackle Box, kids can make their own lures and take them home. Seminars at the Simms Seminar Stage this year feature Ryan McMahon and Pete Rich, Mike Keyes and Gregg Thomas on Friday; Luke Ronnestrand, Jim Saric, Josh Borovsky and Doug Wegner on Saturday; and on Sunday a Minnesota Guide Panel, Larry Dahlberg and a Bait-Making Panel.

Expo hours are a little different this year. The Expo is open from 2 to 8:30 pm Friday, from 10 am to 6:30 pm on Saturday, and on Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Kids 12 and under are free, so bring the whole family. Entry to the Expo is the same as it was 25 years ago. Adult entry is \$10 per day, a three-day pass is \$17.

Free parking is available in select Concordia parking lots as well as in nearby lots. See the website for more information. Shuttle service to and from the remote lot at the Central Medical Building at 393 Dunlap Street N, across I-94 from Concordia, will be available during Expo hours.

Expo information can be found online at mnmuskieexpo.com.

Calling All Volunteers... Community, Youth, Fisheries, Tournaments and More!

The Twin Cities Chapter has a rich and proud history related to muskies fishing, conservation, and community involvement. Consider volunteering. The opportunities and rewards are endless.

- **COMMUNITY ACTIVITY?** Helping veterans at the Minnesota Veteran's Home Opener Trout Pond and Feed taking place on May 2 is a great option. The warm grateful happy faces of veterans and their families — the reward.
Or join fellow muskie anglers at our Capable Partners outing in June. The reward — guiding a physically-challenged outdoorsman (or woman) to sometimes their first muskie.
- **YOUTH ACTIVITIES?** The ever-expanding Regional and Minnesota High School Tournament supported by our chapter is a great option. Knowing you helped some enthusiastic girl or boy on their way to enjoying and participating in the outdoors — the reward.
Or put in a few hours at “George's Tackle Box” at the upcoming Minnesota Muskie Expo. Helping kids create their own muskie lures — the reward.
- **FISHERIES ACTIVITY?** Join forces in spring with the DNR on local brood-stock lakes to help collect eggs from large females. The reward — to see and release the reared fish in the fall, stocking the lakes we all love to fish.
- **TOURNAMENT ACTIVITIES?** Help with the traditional and legendary Frank Schneider Jr. Memorial Tournament, the largest the chapter is involved with, taking place across numerous Bemidji, Walker, and Longville area lakes. The reward – the camaraderie of being together with all of the contestant warriors and fishing the tournament, as many volunteers do.
Or get involved with the George Wahl Metro Tournament the proceeds of which all go to help local muskie fishery. The reward — a great day of muskie fishing plus knowing you contributed to the our metro-area fishery we all utilize.
- **WINTER ACTIVITIES?** Spend the evening helping out at the chapter's annual Sportsman's Banquet. Seeing and talking with fellow muskie anglers, playing the games, and maybe taking home some great prizes — the reward.

All of these activities have roles and tasks that the chapter needs help with. Uncertain of the role you want or where you fit? One of the chapter's long-time board membership, seasoned MI volunteers, can help match your skills and talents with the level of commitment you are comfortable with. Talk to one of us at the next monthly meeting or contact us through the list in this newsletter.

Share Your Muskie Tale

One of the highlights of the Winter Picnic and Awards is hearing all the “Muskie Tales” and choosing the winner. The Muskie Tail is presented every year to the person who has the best “tale” from the previous season. 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. Maybe you found something interesting on the end of your line. Maybe something or someone went overboard during a fishing expedition. Write down your tale and bring it to the February meeting and you might be the one to carry home the Muskie Tail – a replica of the tail from world record muskie.

Great Time Had at the Chapter's Annual Sportsman's Banquet



Help Kids Build Lures at George's Tackle Shop

George's Tackle Shop is one of the most-visited areas at the Minnesota Muskie Expo. At the Tackle Shop kids are able to create their own muskie lure(s) and take them home with them. Linda and Dave Knutson, along with many volunteers, have run the Tackle Shop for the past few Expos. It's a busy place and they cannot do it alone. This year they will need more volunteers than ever to make it a successful visit for the kids.

Consider giving a few hours of your time to help the kids put together lures. You don't have to be a "lure maker" yourself. All instruction will be provided.

If you are willing to help out, please contact Dave Knutson at 651-455-9755 or 651-328-4622 or Paul Hartman at 651-269-2144.

On the Water Newsletter Editor

Newsletter editor Denise Olson is looking for someone to take over for her. The person who takes over would be 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. Currently about 70 *On the Water* subscribers receive the newsletter by snail-mail. Those copies need to be printed, folded, tabbed, stamped and mailed.

The newsletter editor does not have to be a board member, but it helps to know what is going on in the chapter. 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 production of *On the Water*, please contact Denise Olson at olsonat3pete@gmail.com or 612-804-4687 for more information.

Musky Insider

If you have attended any of Josh Borovsky's recent seminars, you may remember him mentioning a free weekly musky fishing email newsletter. Josh and Nick Lindner launched a free, weekly newsletter, *Musky Insider*.

They already have over 10,000 subscribers! You can subscribe at muskyinsider.com. Follow them on Facebook and Instagram as well. Their goal is to bring something fresh and new to the musky world. The publication features hardcore tips & tactics, monster musky photos, the latest news & lures/gear you need to know about, and some (hopefully) funny fishin' memes

Subscribers will hear from them once-per-week with ONLY the best of the best in the musky world.

Lures For Youth

As part of our ongoing commitment to live up to the three core values of Muskies Inc: Fisheries, Research, and Youth, the chapter has been making lures and distributing them to youth at our meetings and events we sponsor or co-sponsor for ten years. This year we were awarded a \$500 grant from Muskies, Inc. to continue this practice. We also received a very generous donation from Hedron Industries. The process has been going well and we currently have assembled about 100 bucktails ranging from size 5 blades and 2/0 hooks to size 10 blades with 7/0 hooks.

If you have any components you would be willing to donate, please bring them to a general meeting and drop in the marked box at the table with the door prize drawings. This would include any bucktails you have been meaning to rebuild, but you know you are not going to get to them. Even damaged ones can be deconstructed and then rebuilt with new materials. No donation is too small. Thanks for your support in developing the next generation of people who like to fish for muskies.

How About This for a Valentine's Gift?

Package up Big Fish Opportunity with a reservation for the annual August Muskies, Inc. Outing to Red Wing Lodge, on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods, Canada. Big fish opportunity awaits you. The resource and the big fish culture that has developed over the years at Red Wing Lodge can be captured in good part with the following single stat: 16,000 muskie releases!

Do you need more opportunity or more baits for catching that big muskie? More opportunity or more tools? This big fish 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 8-15, 2020. 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 over 55 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.

Red Wing Lodge has been chosen thirteen times, from 1983 up through last year, as Chapter Challenge headquarters. 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 is \$400 (US Funds), just \$57 per day for big-time Canadian muskie fishing.

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

- 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
- Free dockage (\$72 value)

One change regarding launching boats. Due to liability considerations, there will now on be a charge if Red Wing either puts the boat in the water or takes it out. However, the Red Wing boat ramp remains free to use and the government dock, that some now use, is also free to use.

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.

Any questions or suggestions for improving the outing, please contact:
John van Ingen, (651) 336-3622, maxjo@mac.com or
John Genosky, (651) 329-4898, john@protacinc.com

North Metro Banquet

If you were unable to attend our chapter's banquet, there's another opportunity to take home some great prizes. The North Metro chapter of Muskies, Inc. will be holding their annual All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry Banquet on Saturday, February 22 at the Coon Rapids VFW, 1919 Coon Rapids Blvd NW.

Social hour begins at 3:30 pm and dinner will be served at 5:45 pm with raffle drawings following. Dinner tickets are \$35 in advance, \$45 after February 7. Dinner/raffle combo packages are available. Muskie Package is \$190, Tiger Package is \$135, and the Pike Package is \$90. Dinner and Package tickets can be purchased online at the North Metro website: www.nmmuskies.com or at the door.

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On the Water is published
monthly for members and
friends of the Twin Cities
Chapter of Muskies, Inc.

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Clean Out Your Tackle Box

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

next meeting

FEBRUARY 11

Winter Picnic and Chapter Members Only Contest Awards

STARTING AT 6:30 PM

We will start with a picnic meal followed by the presentation of plaques to this year's Member's Only Contest top winners.

Help choose the winner of the Muskie Tale after listening to all the great stories.

Feel free to bring your significant others and families to our event, it should be a great time!

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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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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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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