



Volume 23, Issue 3

MARCH 2020

## Members Only Contest Winners Honored at Winter Picnic

**W**inners of our chapter's Members Only Contest for the 2019 season were recognized at the chapter's February 11 meeting. After the picnic dinner, attendees were treated to stories of the big catches and the winners were presented their plaques.

Following the presentations, several interesting Muskie Tails were told. Rob Laliberte's story of a "slight mishap" that happened during a fall trip to Mille Lacs was voted the winner by those who were in



### LUNKER OF THE YEAR

*Brent Lenke registered 2019's longest fish in our chapter's Members Only Contest. The 57.25-inch muskie was caught June 1st on Lake Mille Lacs. What a way to start off the season!!*

*The fish also earned him Lunker of the Month for July in the Muskies, Inc. National Members Only Contest and Lunge Log.*

*Brent will receive a replica of the fish courtesy of our chapter and Lax Replicas. Congratulations!!*

attendance. Stay tuned. His story will be included in next month's issue of *On the Water*. Many thanks to Members Only Chair, Mike Darley, for a great evening.

## Don't Miss George's Minnesota Muskie Expo March 27-28-29

**T**he 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, a Bait-Making Panel, and Jason and Fischer Smith.

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](http://mnmuskieexpo.com).

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

*It's safe to assume that all are "gearing" up for 2020 in this Banquet and Show season! Get all the latest baits and colors since you can never have enough!*

*In addition to the monthly meetings with guides and gear experts we get outdoor activities rolling soon starting with the Minnesota Veterans Home Opener in early May. It's a fun activity for all with a trout pond on site at the home near Minnehaha park and shore lunch cooked and served on site for about 500 people. It's one of the most memorable events of the year for all involved.*

*Not long after that, of course, are the Muskie season openers for WI and MN along with some early-season fishing outings with Vets and the High School tournament regional qualifier.*

*Hope to see members old and new at the coming events!*

## **Help Kids Build Lures at George's Tackle Shop**

**G**eorge'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.

## **2019 Estimated Volunteer Hours**

*from Elaine Randolph, Treasurer*

**I**f you remember, in last month's *On The Water* there was an article "Calling All Volunteers" that talked about the various chapter activities and how you can get involved. Well, I am working on the federal tax forms for non-profit organization for 2019.

In addition to the usual required financial information, there is a question asking for a brief description of the major programs and/or events held each year. Listing these events is the easy part: Sportsman's Banquet, Northwest Sports Show, MN Muskie Expo, Vets Home Opener, Capable Partners, Armed Forces Family Fishing Celebration, MN High School Qualifier Tournament, Frank Schneider Tournament, George Wahl Tournament, and Muskie Mayhem. The hard part of the question is estimating the number of volunteer man-hours needed to complete each event.

PLEASE, I need your help by March 10. If you haven't already do so, by March 10 report your volunteer man-hours by event to Elaine Randolph at [tcmi.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.treasurer@gmail.com) or call 612-708-6851.



**Chapter President Jim Doyle presents 20 bucktails to Dave Schueck, coordinator for the Minnesota State High School Muskie Tournament. The lures were assembled by Chapter members and will be used as prizes for the State Tournament this August on Lake Vermilion. A special thanks to Muskies Inc for the grant for the youth program of our Chapter. A special thanks to Hedron Industries for their generous donation of Flashabou used in the assembly.**

# Chapter Members Only Contest Final Standings

## JUNIORS DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Olin Knutson	32	2	41.5
2ND	Isaiah Chrissis	18	2	39.5
3RD	Finn Knutson	13	1	39

## WOMEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Cindy Hegdahl	193	15	46
2ND	Kimberly Hartman	48	4	46
3RD	Lauren Stout	24	1	49.5

## MEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Nolen Ryba	244	14	52.88
2ND	Ethan Stout	234	16	48
3RD	Derek Boomer	106	9	47
4TH	Josh Gessler	105	6	50.5
5TH	Mike Darley	104	9	44.5
6TH	John Harazin	94	6	47
7TH	Peter Janik	94	6	44
8TH	Jeremy Knutson	90	6	47.5
9TH	Matt McDonald	85	5	53
10TH	Luke Manthey	67	5	47

## MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Mark Fredrick	126	8	46
2ND	Brian Hanson	115	7	46
3RD	Brent Hirsch	111	9	47

## HYBRID DIVISION

1ST	Luke Manthey	33	3	39
2ND	Craig Johnson	31	3	37.5
3RD	Kimberly Hartman	14	2	36

## LUNKER OF THE MONTH

JUNE - Brent Lenke - 6/1 - 57.25" - Mille Lacs

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

AUGUST - Nolen Ryba - 8/8 - 52.875" - Minnetonka

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

OCTOBER - George Selcke - 10/2 - 51" - Chippewa Flowage

NOVEMBER - Matt McDonald - 11/3 - 53" - Mille Lacs

## MEMBERS ONLY PLAQUES

A number of winners of our chapter's Members Only Contest were not in attendance at the Awards program last meeting. Those who were not there are asked to pick up their plaques at the chapter booth at the Minnesota Muskie Expo, March 27-29. If you can't make the Expo, please contact Members Only Chair, Mike Darley to make arrangements to get your plaque.



**MENS DIVISION:** Nolen Ryba was the winner of the chapter's Mens Division with 14 muskies earning him 244 points. The longest was a 52.875-incher from Minnetonka. Nolen was runner-up in last year's contest. He and Ethan Stout were neck and neck for this year's contest. Nolan will be competing in the chapter's Men's Masters Division next year leaving room for some great results from Ethan.



**WOMENS MASTERS:** Cindy Hegdahl took the chapter's Womens Masters Division again for 2019. Cindy registered 15 muskies, with the longest was 46".



**MENS MASTERS:** Mark Frederick, with 8 muskies, took the chapter's Mens Masters Division for 2019. His longest fish was 46". Mark and partner Cindy Hegdahl live in Bemidji and also spent time on Lake of the Woods this past season.

**MORE PICTURES ON NEXT PAGE**

## More Members Only Contest

**JUNIOR DIVISION WINNERS:** Olin Knutson, top, was the winner of the chapter's 2019 Members Only Contest. Olin entered 2 muskies, the longest was this 41.5-incher. Olin's brother Finn, middle, caught this 39-incher for third place in the Junior Division. The Knutson boys spent a lot of October hunting muskies with their father, Jeremy. Isaiah Chrissis took second place in the Junior Division with 2 muskies. A 39.5-incher was his longest. Isaiah did not send any pictures of his fish.

**HYBRID DIVISION WINNER:** Luke Manthey won the hybrid division with 3 hybrids. His longest was this 39-incher from Orchard Lake.

## Twin Cities Musky School: Up Your Game

Professional muskie guides Ryan McMahon, Pete Rich, and Matt Seifert are presenting the successful Twin Cities Musky School in two sessions on April 7 and April 13 at the Wayzata Brew Works.

Last year the Musky School was held in the north metro area and proved to be extremely popular. Casting, trolling, livebait/suckers, electronics, equipment, pattern fish, fish location, lure presentation, moon timing, figure 8 techniques are among the topics covered during the sessions.

**MUSKIES A TO Z** is the first session on April 7 and will include everything you'll need to know to start muskie fishing. A ton of information on equipment, how-when-where to use certain fish catching techniques, and safe fish handling will be among the many topics covered.

**ADVANCED MUSKIES** is the topic for the April 13 session. The trio will take a deeper dive into the different patterns that put fish in the net across Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Lake of the Woods. Again, a ton of information will be presented.

Sign up to attend one or both sessions. Cost for one session is \$30. If you register for both sessions, cost is \$50. Kids 16 and under are free. To sign up contact Ryan McMahon at rmac82@hotmail.com or call/text 651-206-8767.

Both sessions will start at 6 pm. Wayzata Brew works is located at 294 Grove Lane E in downtown Wayzata.

## Musky Insider

Sign up for *Musky Insider*, a free weekly musky fishing email newsletter from Josh Borovsky and Nick Lindner. 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.

You can subscribe at muskyinsider.com. Follow them on Facebook and Instagram as well. Subscribers will hear from them once-per-week with ONLY the best of the best in the musky world.



Junior Division Winners Olin, top, and Finn Knutson.



Hybrid Division Winner Luke Manthey.

## 2020 Hugh C. Becker Grant Recipients Announced

The Hugh C. Becker Grant Committee of the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc. is pleased to announce the recipients of grants for 2020. The Hugh C. Becker Foundation and Trust were set up after Hugh, one of our chapter's first members, passed away. Provisions stipulate that 25% of the money generated each year be returned to the trust, so that this is a gift to our chapter that should last in perpetuity to be used for the muskie resource.

According to Hugh's wishes, money that the chapter will receive each year can be used for: projects or activities that will aid in muskie propagation, stocking (either raised or purchased) fingerlings for public use in designated waters, habitat protection and improvement, research by qualified personnel, or expansion of the current muskie range with special consideration given to the Missouri river system in North and South Dakota.

With the 2020 grants, the total of grants issued since the beginning of the program in 2008 will be over \$1,655,000.00. The order of funding dates for 2020, with amounts totaling \$1,125,180.00 are:

To support the Maryland DNR with their muskellunge research on the upper Potomac River through the Lewiston Work Center in Thurmont, MD.

**FEBRUARY.....\$3,310.00**

To match funding for the Couderay River Access projects in cooperation with the Village of Couderay and the Wisconsin DNR and Hayward Area Fisheries.

**FEBRUARY.....\$5,000.00**

To purchase a new customized aluminum fish hauling tank and assorted dip nets for use at the New London MN State Fish Hatchery.

**FEBRUARY.....\$8,111.00**

To partially fund the North Metro Chapter #21 of Muskies, Inc. for the purchase of Duluth nets (gill nets) for the use of monitoring invasive carp on the lower St. Croix River by the East Metro Area Fisheries offices of the Minnesota DNR.

**FEBRUARY.....\$2,000.00**

To support the Minnesota High School Muskie Tournament North Metro Sectional, through the North Metro Chapter #21 of Muskies, Inc.

**FEBRUARY.....\$1,500.00**

To fund the St. Cloud Chapter #37 of Muskies, Inc. for their area youth events through Big Brothers/Big Sisters and for leasing Pond 12 for the Minnesota DNR Little Falls fisheries offices to raise muskellunge fingerlings.

**MARCH.....\$1,500.00**

To assist in funding to the Consolidated Musky Club, Inc. for stocking in their Wisconsin River area waters.

**MARCH.....\$4,000.00**

To partially fund the Headwaters Chapter #12 of Muskies, Inc. for the purchase of protective netting at the Art Oemcke Woodruff, WI Fish Hatchery.

**MARCH.....\$4,000.00**

To support the stocking program of the Twelve Apostles Musky Club in their Wisconsin River area waters.

**MARCH.....\$4,000.00**

To match funding by Wisconsin League of Musky Anglers (WILMA) for the purchase of pit-tag readers and tags to continue data collection research in central Wisconsin.

**MARCH.....\$2,500.00**

To partially match funds of the Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin for the purchase of a fully rigged Maxiboom Shock for use by the Central Wisconsin DNR Fisheries team.

**MARCH.....\$5,000.00**

To help support the Shawnee Muskie Hunters Chapter #28 of Muskies, Inc. for purchasing additional research equipment for re-establishing (restoring) a muskie fishery in Lake Shelbyville, IL.

**MARCH.....\$4,000.00**

To support the 2020 veterans program of Musky Mission Complete.

**MARCH.....\$2,000.00**

To support the Spartan Angling (youth) program at the Nashwauk, MN high school.

**MARCH.....\$3,000.00**

To support the Youth Heritage Outdoors' Minnesota State High School Muskie Fishing Championship program for 2020.

**MARCH.....\$4,000.00**

To provide funds to the University of Nebraska (Kearney) for the purchase of research equipment (pit-tags) for the fingerling stocking programs in Merritt Reservoir and Cottonwood Stevenson Lake.

**MARCH.....\$4,000.00**

To match funding to the Shakopee, MN Area Fisheries Offices of the Minnesota DNR for muskie egg-taking operations at Lake Rebecca, MN.

**MARCH.....\$1,300.00**

To provide partial funding to the Illini Muskies Alliance (IMA) for equipment for the Jake Wolff Hatchery run by the Illinois DNR Department of Fisheries.

**MARCH.....\$4,000.00**

To support the "Turning Leaf" biannual youth program by the Between the Lakes Chapter #20 of Muskies, Inc.

**APRIL.....\$3,000.00**

To support the Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail (IMTT) youth scholarship program.

**APRIL.....\$1,000.00**

To partially support the youth programs of the Fox River Valley Chapter #39 of Muskies, Inc.

**APRIL.....\$1,000.00**

To provide live minnow feed at the Linesville, PA Hatchery, through the Three Rivers Chapter #16 of Muskies, Inc.

**APRIL.....\$1,500.00**

To support the muskie youth camps of Fishing For Life (FFL) programs.

**APRIL.....\$4,000.00**

**HUGH C. BECKER GRANTS**

continued on page 6

## HUGH C. BECKER GRANTS

continued from page 5

To assist in supporting the Youth Conservation Alliance (YCA) programs.

**APRIL.....\$4,000.00**

To support the Minnesota High School Muskie Tournament Twin Cities Regional through the Twin Cities Chapter #1 of Muskies, Inc.

**APRIL.....\$2,000.00**

To fund the muskie stocking project for 2020 in Lake Geneva, WI, by the Chicagoland Chapter #3 of Muskies, Inc.

**MAY.....\$2,500.00**

To partially fund muskie stocking in the Fox Chain of Lakes and Long Lake by the Fox River Valley Chapter #39 of Muskies, Inc.

**MAY.....\$3,000.00**

To provide live minnow feed for the Bemidji Area Fisheries ponds through the Bemidji/Cass Lake Chapter #46 of Muskies, Inc.

**MAY.....\$3,000.00**

To provide live minnow feed for fingerlings at the Spirit Lake, IA Hatchery, through the Upper Lakes Great Lakes Chapter #29 of Muskies, Inc.

**MAY.....\$1,960.00**

To fund the muskie stocking in Skinner Lake, IN by the Indiana Musky Club Chapter #49 of Muskies, Inc.

**MAY.....\$2,000.00**

To assist in funding the purchase of critical shoreline habitat on the Wabedo/Little Boy Lake Chain in Minnesota through the Northern Waters Land Trust.

**AT CLOSING (MAY/  
JUNE).....\$10,000.00**

To assist in funding the purchase of the extended area of critical shoreline habitat and adjacent property on Miller Bay of Leech Lake, MN through the Northern Waters Land Trust.

**AT CLOSING (MAY/  
JUNE).....\$10,000.00**

## Time to Think Big Time Fishing Trips

**B**ig 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: **16,000 muskie releases!**

Package up big fish Opportunity with a reservation for the annual August Muskie 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 Muskie Inc. chapters. The annual Muskie Inc. trip to Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods, is a great choice for either that first Canadian trip or for the veteran's extra trip. Red Wing offers the convenience of a drive-in camp with the privacy you would expect on an island.

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](http://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.

To make reservations or if you have 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, [john@protacinc.com](mailto:john@protacinc.com)

For answers to detailed questions regarding the Lodge, e.g., about the cabins, you are invited to call Mike and Anne Bartlett toll free at 1-888-488-5601.

## On the Water Newsletter Editor

**N**ewsletter 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. If you're interested in taking over production of *On the Water*, please contact Denise Olson at [tcmuskiesincnews@gmail.com](mailto:tcmuskiesincnews@gmail.com) or 612-804-4687 for more information.

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## Clean Out Your Tackle Box

We will have a donation box at chapter meetings and our booth at the MN Muskie Expo for new or gently-used items. Our Youth Chairperson, will use the donated lures, rods, reels for youth activities throughout the year. Items that can be donated include lure components and/or bucktails that you've been meaning to re-build, but you'll never get around to it.

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# next meeting

**MARCH 10**

**Speaker:  
MATT RALEY**

*Matt and his partner, Nate Osfar, have been top competitors in the PMTT. Raley and Osfer won Top Gun Team of the year in 2019. The team also nabbed second place in the 2019 Minnetonka PMTT event.*

*Matt is a contributor to Musky Hunter magazine. You can review his 2019 season on page 56 of the Dec/Jan issue.*

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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  
Richfield, MN 55423

***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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LAX Reproductions  
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Midwest Outdoors  
Mighty Muskie Guide Service – Josh Stevenson  
Minneapolis Gun Club  
Minnesota Valley Country Club  
Musky Bumper  
Musky Frenzy Lures  
Musky Hunter Magazine  
Musky Innovations LLC  
Musky Mayhem Tackle  
Musky Safari  
North Star Village – Minaki, Ontario  
One Stop  
Outdoor News  
Pine Beach Resort and Campground  
Pro Musky Guide Service – Josh Borovsky  
Red Tail Tackle  
Red Wing Lodge – Lake of the Woods

Reed's Family Outdoor Outfitters  
Rubberhairy Baits  
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Sébile  
Sheraton Minneapolis West Hotel  
Simms Fishing  
Spiderwire  
Spring Bay Resort and Guide Service – Lake Vermilion  
St. Croix Rods  
Suick  
Sunset Cove Resort – Cass Lake  
Supernatural Big Baits  
Tamarack Island Wilderness Lodge – Lake of the Woods  
Temple Fork Outfitters  
Thorne Bros  
Timber Trails Resort – Boy Lake  
TR Custom Tackle  
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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