

On the Water



Volume 17, Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2014



Winter Picnic and Awards Night

Be sure to come to the general meeting on February 12 where we will honor the winners of our chapter's Members Only Contest. The evening will start off early at 6:30 with a "winter picnic" dinner. Following the meal, the top anglers of the year for our chapter will be honored. Be prepared to hear some good stories about the big ones. We will also be presenting the Muskie Tale Award to a deserving person with the best "muskie tale" of the season. We hope to see all our members there.

Don't Miss the Annual Sportsman's Banquet March 8

Our chapter's winter fundraising event, the annual Twin Cities Sportsman's Banquet will be held Saturday, March 8 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington. The banquet, with over \$20,000 in prizes, helps fund our chapter's stocking and rearing goals as well as fund several other chapter functions.

If you join us at the banquet, you could go home with a fishing trip with a noted guide, a resort stay on a premier US or Canadian muskie lake, a new rod, reel, tackle box or gun, a custom painted one-of-a-kind lure, a print for your walls, or one of the many lures, tackle, storage or other outdoor gear.

Raffle tables with each table valued at more than \$1,000 each, plus cash raffles, games and a "mystery" raffle table will again be found at this year's event. Both live and silent auctions are also part of the evening's activities.

In addition to all the raffles, games and auctions, Carol Heath will be honored for the Luncker of the Month with a replica of her winning 54-inch muskie in the chapter's Members Only contest. The chapter's Muskie Award will also be presented.

Dinner and raffle ticket bonus packages that will save you up to \$60 are available again this year. With a \$155 platinum package you get \$180 worth of muskie bucks and dinner – a \$215 value. A \$125 gold package includes \$90 worth of muskie bucks and dinner. The muskie bucks are

used to purchase tickets at the raffle tables and enter some of the games. Dinner only is \$35.

If you purchase one of the bonus packages before February 15, you will qualify for early-bird drawings. Purchase of a platinum bonus qualifies you for drawings for a St. Croix muskie rod and an Abu Garcia NaCl reel. Purchase of a gold bonus qualifies you for the drawing for the reel.

Invitations to the Sportsman's Banquet have been mailed. Seating is limited and will go fast, so make your reservations as soon as possible. Last day to make reservations is March 3. Use the order form from your invitation or in this newsletter and mail it in. Or, purchase on-line with a credit card or PayPal at www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org. Go to the Banquet tab, click on "Make your reservations now" and follow the prompts. You will be also able to pay for banquet reservations at the February meeting.

Events like this don't just happen. It takes a lot of people a lot of volunteer hours to make this work. The night of the banquet we will need 20-30 volunteers to help at the raffle tables and generally make sure things run smoothly. We will have a sign up sheet at the February meeting or contact Tom Keith at 612-000-1109 or tomk@usiwireless.com to volunteer a little of you time that night.

Don't forget to invite your friends. This is a fun night out whether a person is "into" muskie fishing or not.

From Our President

Teams have been firmed up for the 2014 Chapter Challenge at Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods in August. Our chapter will be represented by Terrie Dubé, Greg Perritano, Dave Rouse, Mike Rouse, John Olson, Stu McIntosh, Matt Olson and BJ Olson. They will participate in the Challenge with teams from Muskies Inc. chapters throughout the entire country. We wish our two teams well and hope to hear about a successful event.

Our February meeting will be the Awards Night for the chapter. Plaques for our chapter Members Only contest will be presented and we will get to hear stories of last year's caught fish. Before the meeting, we will have our winter picnic. This is always a great event to meet new people.

The annual Sportman's Banquet is March 8, 2014. This is an exceptional evening of collegiality, raising money for the events of the chapter, and bidding on some of the amazing donations from our chapter's sponsors. This is a very important event as we develop our planning and support the DNR with muskies for stocking. Last year we spent \$14,000 of local money and \$7,700 from the Hugh C. Becker Foundation on muskies that were stocked.

I hope you saw Doug Smith's article in the Star Tribune on the problem with high density/small pike populations in state waters. Retired DNRer Jim Lienthal has done a great longitudinal study of pike lakes. The data clearly shows that excessive small pike burn through a lake's capacity to feed them. He said that his research shows that lakes with high populations of small pike go through the buffer population of perch and then descend on the little natural or stocked walleyes. The result is lakes with poor walleye populations and pike populations that are up to 90% being below 24 inches. The more big pike taken out of a lake leave fewer large predators to feed on the small pike. He has some very interesting suggestions about what must be done to put the populations back into balance. It is a difficult time for management of fish at the DNR. I would urge you to talk to your legislator and ask that they give the responsibilities of fish management back to the DNR.

TOM KEITH

In Memory of Vince Rakow

Long-time chapter member Vince Rakow recently passed away. Vince was extremely active in the early years of our organization and our chapter. While not one of the original thirteen members who started the organization, his Muskies Inc. membership number was 33 – the only remaining number below 400. He was a muskie fisherman his entire life and is remembered by friends and family as an excellent, avid muskie angler. Our chapter received a donation of \$700 from Vince's memorial fund for the stocking program, along with a letter from the family. We are grateful to Vince's family for this generous gift.

Muskies Inc./DNR Meeting

In January, representatives from both the North Metro and Twin Cities chapters of Muskies Inc met with Fisheries Managers from both the East Metro and the West Metro DNR. Discussion centered around the direction of muskie fishing in the metro area and what each group can do to support each other.

Muskies in metro tiger lakes was a discussion point and we found out that the remaining tiger lakes will be stocked every other year. The plan for stocking tigers in 2014 is: 280 – Crystal; 432 – Johanna; 468 – Orchard; 780 – Cedar; and 200 Nokomis.

DNR planned stocking for 2014 of pure strain muskies in the metro area is: 1,000 – Waconia; 1,000 – Independence; 123 – Calhoun; 63 – Cedar; 175 – Harriet; 1,300 – Bald Eagle; 2,300 – Forest; 384 – Owasso; and any surplus in White Bear Lake.

There was good production at the hatcheries for stocking last year, but the cold conditions kept fish sizes down. All 2013 stocking quotas were filled. Hatcheries have been over-wintering fish and it is hoped that will increase the size of the fish we will be able stock. The state-wide goal of the DNR is to stock 30,000 muskies annually.

BJ Bauer from the West Metro Office reported on preliminary data from the 3-year stocking project on White Bear Lake, Bald Eagle, and Minnetonka. Over the three years almost 6,000 fingerlings and approximately 1,600 yearlings were stocked. Stocked fish had an external yellow tag as well as an intertag tag.

The study was implemented to find out if it is more effective to stock larger numbers of fingerlings or smaller numbers of yearlings. The catch rate will help determine the survival rate of the two groups and what is ultimately the most efficient size to stock. The DNR needs feedback from us, as these fish are starting to be caught. What is most important and something we can do is to report the tag number to the DNR of any fish you catch with a yellow external tag. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW THROUGH AND GET THAT DONE.

Our chapter is working on a proposal to purchase 4 scanners that will allow us to get data from fish who have had their external tags come out. The chapter board will be contacting individuals to see if they will be willing to use the scanners.

Attendees thought the meeting went very well and we should continue with a yearly meeting.

Red Wing Lodge Chapter Outing

Be a vital part of an annual outing that combines great fishing on beautiful shield waters with a resort base that is clean and comfortable where everything works, and is owned and run by a family that knows what muskie people need. Join the 2014 North Metro/Twin Cities chapter Red Wing Lodge outing August 9-16. Last summer 18 fishermen enjoyed this trip, open to members of both chapters and their guests.

This annual muskie trip to Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods, is a great choice for that first Canadian trip or for the veteran's extra trip. 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 more than 45 years.

The Bartlett family has hosted Muskie Inc. outings for years with personal and friendly service, so they understand what muskie people need and like. Red Wing Lodge was Chapter Challenge headquarters in '83, '86, '93, '97, '03, '04, '11, '12 and will host again for 2014. Check out the muskie information, including the Red Wing Lodge Hall of Fame, as well as the live cam in Morson, at www.redwinglodge.net

Cost per person in housekeeping cabins will be \$325 (US Funds) for 2014, which breaks down to just \$46.43 per day for big-time Canadian muskie fishing. Included in the full value of the

2014 Muskie Inc. trip:

- Free dockage (\$72 value), free launch (both ways, \$25 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. For example, during last winter the Bartletts completed installing A/C units in all cabins.

To make reservations, or any questions or suggestions for improving the trip, contact:

- John van Ingen, (651) 699-5172, maxjo@mac.com, 2108 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105
- or
- Pat Miller, (651) 429-1629, donnapatmiller@gmail.com, 1645 Ridgewood Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110

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

Print Your Member ID Cards

A new system has been implemented by Muskies Inc. that allows members to print their own Muskies Inc. ID cards at any time from the muskiesinc.org website. This new process will save dollars in monthly expenditures for the imprinting and managing of ID cards over the previous method.

To utilize this new process, log in to the Muskies Inc. website muskiesinc.org using the Member Login button on the left of the home page. Once you have logged in, click on the profile update button. In the upper right corner of the profile, there is a link that you can click and print your card. For family members, the family head can print the IDs for the entire family.

Members who do not have access to computers or are unable to print their own ID cards should contact the MI Secretary to have them produced and mailed to them.



Tell Us Your "Muskie Tale"

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 from fishing; maybe you found something interesting on the end of your line; or some kind of mishap happened while you were out fishing. Share with us by emailing your "tale" to Denise Olson at olson@3pete.com. The person with the best tale will have the honor of keeping the chapter Muskie Tale Award for a year.

9th Annual North Metro Banquet

An all-you-can-eat fish fry dinner will be held by the North Metro chapter on Saturday, February 8 at the Coon Rapids VFW Post 9625. With prizes totalling over \$10,000 it promises to be great fun. Every dinner ticket purchase will get an entry in the Grand Prize raffles for a 50 Inch 1080P LED HDTV and a full-day guide trip with Jason Hamernick during the 2014 season. There will be additional raffles and games of chance as well as kids and adult activities.

Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased at the door. The Coon Rapids VFW is located at 1919 Coon Rapids Boulevard.

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Saturday, March 8, 2014 Doors open at 5:00 pm

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Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PLATINUM BONUS PACKAGE – \$155 (\$215 value) Includes dinner and \$180 in raffle tickets	QTY	_____	\$ _____
<i>If purchased before February 15, will be entered in Early-Bird drawings for a Shimano Calcutta reel and a St. Croix Legend rod.</i>			
GOLD BONUS PACKAGE – \$105 (\$125 value) Includes dinner and \$90 in raffle tickets		_____	\$ _____
<i>If purchased before February 15, will be entered in Early-Bird drawing for a Shimano Calcutta reel.</i>			
Dinner Reservation Only (\$35 ea.)		_____	\$ _____
I cannot attend but would like to make a donation		_____	\$ _____
	Total	_____	\$ _____

DINNER, RAFFLE TICKETS OR PACKAGES WILL NOT BE MAILED AND CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE DOOR.

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next meeting

FEBRUARY 11 WINTER PICNIC AND AWARDS PROGRAM

Early Start at 6:30 pm

Come to have a good time and be prepared to hear muskie stories about the big ones caught this year, and maybe about some that were not caught. Enjoy a "Winter Picnic" dinner followed by the awards program to honor the chapter's Members Only Contest winners. The "Muskie Tale" award will be presented to some deserving story-teller. We will begin serving at 6:30 p.m.

All kids under the age of 18 get a free lure for attending.

Muskies Inc. Twin Cities Chapter General Meetings 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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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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