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Fishing “Opener” at the Minneapolis Veterans Home Rescheduled

For over 30 years the Twin Cities chapter, with the help from various VFW, American Legion and AmVets posts, have been treating residents of the Minneapolis Veterans Home their own fishing opener.

A large, well-stocked trout pond is set up in the yard at the Veterans Home and residents come down to the pond and spend the morning fishing for trout. Volunteers prepare a “shore lunch” of fresh-caught trout, potatoes and beans and serve it to the veterans and their families. The fishing opener event has been recognized for being one of the best volunteer events at Veterans Homes all over the country.

If you don't attend any other chapter event, this one is well worth it. It's extremely rewarding to see veterans who may never get the chance any other time during the year come out and get some fishing in.

The event has always been scheduled the Saturday before Minnesota fishing opener, which would have been May 2 this year. It has tentatively been rescheduled for August 1.

Red Wing Outing, Lake of the Woods

Big fish opportunity awaits you at Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods. The Bartlett family is busy getting the resort ready for the season. The annual outing at Red Wing Lodge is open to members of both metro area chapters of Muskies, Inc. The trip 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. Cost per person in housekeeping cabins is \$400 (US Funds), just \$57 per day for big-time Canadian muskie fishing. 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, please contact John van Ingen, (651) 336-3622, maxjo@mac.com or John Genosky, (651) 329-4898, john@protacinc.com

Entering Fish in the Lunge Log is Now Mobile-Friendly

Muskies, Inc. has upgraded the national www.muskiesinc.org website adding a new option when entering fish in the Lunge Log.

A new 'Light Weight' Lunge Log entry/reporting system has been implemented as an option. It may be used on a desktop, but has been built to be mobile friendly (tested on both iPhone and Android).

Features found when using the new system include membership renewal reminders, messages, collapsible menu in the upper right hand corner and a quick link to the Lunge Log entry page.

Entering fish information is easier and you have the option to include a photo of your fish.

What's Happening?

The chapter has several upcoming events scheduled for June: Capable Partners outing, Armed Forces Family Celebration, Regional Qualifier for the State High School Muskie Tournament. As of April 1, these events have not been canceled or rescheduled.

Since fishing is an allowed activity, the Metro Muskie Tournament, at this point, is still scheduled for June 13. They are working on a model that will let people register fish remotely and still hold some kind of awards program.

We will keep you informed through our newsletter, website, and Facebook on the status of these events.

From Our President, JIM DOYLE

I sincerely hope everyone is staying safe through the COVID-19 outbreak. This trying time is a test for us all just as we have been hoping to get outside in the spring and hopefully on the water some time soon.

The board and chapter members are working as we can to move events around to avoid missing upcoming activities. For example, the typically early May Vets home opener has been tentatively re-scheduled for later in the summer

in hopes of still having the event. We will do our best to support all our calendar events as conditions allow.

For the time being, many of us have plenty of time to work over our tackle to get it in tip top shape for the season. So, by next winter we should all have very few tales of lost or missed fish due to dull hooks, old line, sub-standard drag operation, etc. We have plenty of time to minimize mistakes later in the season this time around.

Lastly, please keep in mind all the small businesses that we rely on when we go fishing; tackle manufacturers and sellers, small town resorts and restaurants, gas stations, marinas, etc. Continuing to support these businesses from afar, if possible, at this time is critical to them still being in operation when you want them down the road.

Stay safe everyone and we will get through this and get out on the water!

A Muskie Tale: Oooooops!!!

Every year we ask members to keep in mind something that happened during the season that might make a good “Muskie Tale”. A Muskie Tale is not necessarily a big fish story. We all hear enough of those. A Muskie Tale is a story about something a little out of the ordinary – what happened while fishing; on the way to fishing; on the way back from fishing. Maybe a mishap that happened while out fishing; or something interesting found on the end of your line.

Rob Laliberte’s story was voted the best Muskie Tale at our recent Awards Program. Here’s his story:

It started out as a fall trip to the famed Mille Lacs lake to catch a tullibe-spawn-eating monster. It ended up a lesson in seat belt safety and not underestimating and respecting the weather and Mother Nature.

In the early-morning hours my fishing partner and I were heading north on Highway 169 in his truck, towing his boat at 60-plus miles per hour. I have a bad habit of not wearing my seat belt. When we spotted a deer on the right shoulder, I clicked on the seat belt. And, promptly dozed off. Not long after, I was awakened by my fishing partner shouting “Hold on!”

We were fish-tailing uncontrollably on the highway. We had hit a patch of glare ice. We continued to slide at a 180° angle into and then through the ditch on the passenger side. We finally stopped. But only after the truck, and then the boat, found a matching pair of 2-ton boulders guarding a homeowner’s driveway.

Thankfully, there was no personal injury to either my fishing companion or me. Unfortunately, the truck and boat were not so lucky. The rear end of the truck axle bent on impact and the boat was launched from the trailer into the front yard of the homeowner.

As bad as the situation was, it couldn’t have happened at a better location. After waking up from all



the commotion, the property owner helped us get the boat back on the trailer with his 4-wheeler, come-along and tow chains. His wife called a tow truck and contacted the State troopers.

We were not able to fish Mille Lacs that day, but I was able to make it back in time to meet up with a chapter member to fish Lake Harriet. Thanks Greg!!

Please don’t take safety for granted – not only when fishing or traveling to go fishing, but ALL THE TIME. Who knows what would have happened to me if I had not clicked on my seat belt a few miles back? I’m thankful for the opportunity to share this story in hopes it can help prevent or better prepare someone for an unforeseen act of nature.

While you’re out fishing this season. Keep in mind something that might make a good Muskie Tale. Send your “tale” to Denise Olson at olsonat3pete@gmail.com.

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next meeting

APRIL 14

NO MEETING

Our upcoming chapter meetings have been canceled until further notice. We will let you know when the meeting schedule will resume.



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Return Service Requested

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.).

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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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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