

# On the Water



Volume 23, Issue 5

MAY 2020

## Stocking Update for 2020

Some members may be aware, the Minnesota DNR was unable to collect eggs for raising fish to stock this year. This is true for all species of fish including muskies. The DNR has just informed us of their contingency plan. The good news is that there are some muskies to be utilized this year. The DNR is looking to purchase 2,000 fish carried over the winter from the Mn Muskie farm and grow them in the MN DNR's Waterville hatchery to stock at roughly 15" long this fall for part of their efforts. The MN DNR themselves wintered over some fish in their own ponds that will be fed for another year for additional stocking state wide. We intend to support DNR efforts to utilize these fish in whatever way they can, the Twin Cities Chapter and others have funds planned to purchase minnows to help feed them over the summer as well.

Fortunately last year's muskie production was about the best the DNR has ever had. Roughly 2/3rds of the muskie lakes due to be stocked in 2020 were stocked ahead of schedule last year. Looking at the stocking data, with all the additional stocking last year, the total fingerling need for fish around the state is 11,700 fish to keep completely on plan. Almost the entire metro area was stocked ahead for this year. Only Harriett and Cedar in Minneapolis are short of target for 2020 and they only need 148 fish between them per the plan.

Another thing to consider in stocking with larger fish – the larger the fish are when stocked, the better survival chances they have in the lakes. If we can help grow the available fish for a second season as large as possible, they have a much better chance of survival and can be stocked at a lower density to get the same number of adult fish in the end. The DNR estimates that second-year fish in the 15-inch range are equivalent to planting 4 fingerlings. The DNR also plan is to pit tag many of these fish to continue work we have cooperated and supported the DNR on for the last 10 years looking at stocking size and recruitment as adult fish to improve the efficiency and success of stocking. We are hopeful that we can help the DNR get as many fish as possible as large as possible by next fall for stocking to keep things on plan for the year.

## Employment Opportunities

Chapter member Dennis Lappen is reaching out to club members who may be laid off or are looking for another career job. One of his businesses is placing candidates into a job that meets their goals and monetary needs. Despite the pandemic, companies are hiring not only for future needs but also immediate employment.

Dennis has a multitude of opportunities that may work for people looking for employment. If you are looking for a job, to contact Dennis Lappen at 952-994-5681 or [dennislappen@aol.com](mailto:dennislappen@aol.com).

## June Events

The chapter typically has several events scheduled for the month of June. Because of the unique circumstances we find ourselves in this year, most of the scheduled events have been canceled or postponed. Our outing with the Capable Partners organization scheduled for June 14 has been canceled.

The Armed Forces Family Fun Celebration on June 14 hosted by Fishing for Life is still on the schedule. They are waiting until May 18 for the Governor's next steps to determine if it can happen with the usual fish fry and weigh in. If that cannot happen, they still want to honor veterans, soldiers and their families. Plan "B" would be to move forward with a day of fishing for those who sign up. Either way, our chapter is being asked to provide guides for the event. Please let either Denise Olson or Jim Doyle if you are willing to guide soldiers and/or their families.

No decision has been made for our chapter's regional qualifier for the State High School Muskie Tournament. The final on Lake Vermilion has been currently rescheduled to August 14. Tournament director Dave Schueck, at this point, expects regional qualifiers to either be canceled or be rescheduled to July.

The Metro Muskie Tournament that was scheduled for June 13 has been canceled. Currently stay-at-home regulations prohibit fishing tournaments. When asked, the DNR did not see that order changing with the Governor's May 18 updates and the tournament was canceled.

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

*I hope everyone is staying safe during this extremely challenging time. It does appear that fishing has a good chance of being only minimally impacted this summer in the state.*

*Tournaments and group outings are still not that likely, but as we all know by now, things can change quickly.*

*The board and activities leaders continue to change schedules as time goes by. We are still hopeful of being able to support many of our events later this summer.*

*Stay safe and stay busy repairing tackle and lures!*

## **Red Wing Outing, Lake of the Woods**

**Y**es, you can still be part of the August 8-15 Muskies, Inc. trip to Red Wing Lodge, on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods. 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. Red Wing Lodge offers a resort that has been owned and operated by the Bartlett family for over 55 years. They understand what muskie people need and like. This muskie camp is a big time player: big floating docks, a serious backup generator, air conditioning in all cabins, and special discounts for services for Muskies, Inc. guests.

It is in the context of outstanding service that Red Wing prepares in this spring of the coronavirus for our August outing. On the water, we are liberated in a number of good ways. As Anne Bartlett puts it, "There is no virus out on Burrow, Obabikon and Miles Bays." Also, with the size of rods and baits, as well as the size of fish we hunt, catch and net, distancing in our boats is required for multiple safety reasons. In camp, the cabins are nicely spaced with sufficient windows for excellent ventilation. All fishermen will be asked to bring their own facemasks, hand cleaner, and gloves. Gatherings to share fishing success can be nicely spaced outside of the cabins.

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

## **Virtual Banquet**

**F**ishing for Life, our partner for youth activities, holds an annual fundraising banquet in April to help fund their activities including refurbishing rods, reels and other fishing equipment to distribute to kids as well as holding many fishing events for kids. As with every organization these days, they had to cancel the banquet.

They are holding a virtual banquet May 10-17. Items they had received to use at the scheduled banquet are available to bid on at <https://givergy.us/FFLVirtualBanquet/>. You can buy a "virtual table" or individual ticket to attend the banquet and those who do will be entered in special drawings. You don't have to buy a ticket to be able to bid on any of the items, but you will have to register at the site. All bids must be in before 7 pm on May 17.

They will have videos and drawings the week leading up to the event and during the week of the event. So, please register and check in often on our Facebook page and Website.

Find out more about Fishing for Life at [www.fishingforlife.org](http://www.fishingforlife.org).



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# next meeting

MAY 12

## JOSH BOROVSKY VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

*Josh recently launched Virtual Musky University, which has already provided students with six sessions of muskie related courses on three different topics. He will share some highlights from these sessions with chapter members in a virtual meeting at 7 pm. If you need a link to our virtual meeting, please email [tcmuskiesincnews@gmail.com](mailto:tcmuskiesincnews@gmail.com)*

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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.).*



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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.

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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