

# On the Water



Volume 23, Issue 8

AUGUST 2020

## Register Now for the 2020 Frank Schneider, Jr Memorial Tournament



Aaron Peterson caught one of the largest fish ever registered in tournament history with his 55.5-inch Bemidji Beast! His fish qualified him for the free Lax Replica to be presented during next year's tournament. Aaron also registered an extremely healthy 49.25-incher and took home second place in the tournament.

### Grab your masks! Get out of the house! And join us to fish the tournament!

The chapter is proud and excited to host the 53rd Annual Tournament providing a positive outdoor event and experience for muskie anglers in the midst of the COVID pandemic. This premier, one-of-a-kind event takes place on 20+ legendary Minnesota muskie waters across the Bemidji, Cass Lake, Walker, Longville region. These fishable lakes have a history of producing numbers of monster muskies. Last year's event produced an impressive number of 14 fish eclipsing the 4-foot mark, the largest fish a massive 55.5-incher.

Want more to get excited about? We have a great list of prizes and bonuses. Rod and reel packages, sponsored by Pure Fishing, will be awarded to the top 10 anglers and 3 juniors! The top 3 lady anglers, person catching the longest muskie while fly fishing, and all anglers catching a 50-inch or longer muskie will win bonus prizes! The contestant catching the largest muskie 53 inches or longer will be awarded a Lax Reproduction replica of the fish! And, the Grand Prize drawing will be an equal 3-way split of \$15,000 cash, based on an anticipated field of 500 participants!!

**SCHNEIDER MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT** continued from page 1

## Participate in Chapter Raffle

In conjunction with the Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament, the Twin Cities chapter is holding a raffle. **You do not have to be entered in the tournament to buy raffle tickets.** YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

Raffle prizes include:

- 1 Week Stay at Spring Bay Resort, Lake Vermilion
- Simms Challenger Bib/Jacket Raingear
- Abu Garcia Revo Toro Beast Reel
- \$300 Gift Card from Reed's Family Outdoor Outfitters
- \$300 Gift Card from Thorne Bros.
- Supernatural Big Baits Custom 12-inch Headlock
- Supernatural Big Baits Custom 10-inch Matlock
- Joe Peterson Trueglide One-Of-A-Kind Custom
- 2-Lure Package from Big Tasty Lures
- Apex Predator Baits Custom Apostle
- Truegrip Ergonomic Rod Handle

Anyone 18 or over can purchase a raffle ticket at \$20 each at our website, [www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org). There is no limit to the number of tickets you can buy.

The drawing will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2020 as part of the Frank Schneider Tournament Awards Program at the Northern Lights Casino.

## *From Our President, JIM DOYLE*

*Hello all. I hope you have gotten some fishing in amidst the record boating traffic across the state. Hopefully, with the hot weather we are hitting the cooler northern lakes, even if we can't yet get to Canada.*

*Despite all the challenges this season we have managed to get some fish growing for the lakes, and our new youth committee has had great success! Jeff Nelson and Cody Klaus took over youth activities this year and have managed to lead the only High School Tourney qualifier in the state! With little notice Jeff was able to pull together a socially-distanced tournament and we are sending 3 teams to the state tournament.*

*Cody was instrumental in our new venture of adding a third day to Fishing For Life's youth metro fishing clinics. The kids do 3 days of learning and fishing, first for panfish, then bass, and on day 3 pike and muskies. There were 3 of these outings in June this season and we have managed to put more kids on muskies this year than likely ever before. Lots of fish seen, some caught, and some really nice pike. Way to go Jeff, Cody and Fishing for Life!*

*Don't forget to sign up for the chapter's still-scheduled, but socially-distanced, Frank Schneider Memorial Tournament. You may have just received your registration in the mail, so don't forget and be mindful that we will have to do things a bit different this year.*

*You can only register through August 31. Register online at the chapter website and in-person at Thorne Bros. in Blaine, Reed's Outdoor Family Outfitters in Walker and the One Stop in Longville.*



### **Eric Schultz Wins Lake Superior Chapter St. Louis River Shootout**

**E**ric Schultz and partner Duff Thury were one of 14 teams who participated in the Lake Superior Chapter's St. Louis River Shootout on July 18. Here's Eric's recap of the event:

On the morning of July 18, 2020 14 teams gathered to participate in the St. Louis River Shootout Muskie Tournament, hosted by the Lake Superior Chapter of Muskies, Inc. This fundraising tournament is that chapter's major project of the year, and they use the funds raised for the rearing and stocking efforts around Duluth, MN.

Conditions on the river were tough. It was just hours after a major thunderstorm had moved through the area. Water temperatures were in the upper 70s. We tried to get to the best spots first, knowing that water temps would climb during the day and would likely shorten the window for healthy releases. With Duff Thury as my tournament partner, we worked our plan to cast for part of the morning, then to troll.

After 4 hours casting, we had only one hit – but with a head shake, the fish was gone. We all know that feeling of heartbreak! We then started trolling. With Duff, the lure to use “must be” a Supernatural Big Bait. With the dirty water, I chose a bright-colored 12-inch Mattlock. About 20 minutes after we started trolling, with only 13 feet of line out, we heard the sound we all love – the clicker going off. Fish on! It was a 50½-inch beast, my personal best, during a tournament!

We continued trolling in the same part of the river but saw no more action for the rest of the day. I kept wondering if my one fish was enough, or would I need another to lock in the win? You never know until the end. After a HOT afternoon, we headed back to check in and wait. The results – there were three fish caught in the tournament, and one of those was too small to qualify (under 40 inches).

My personal best turned out to be the winning fish!

# Support Your Local Fishery: 100% of Funds from the George Wahl Memorial Tournament Go to Metro-area Muskies

Our chapter's second fundraising tournament, the 13th annual George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament will be held on September 26 on 12 lakes in the metro area. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the 9th annual George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament will be put back into the local metro-area muskie fishery.

Funds raised at the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament have enabled the Twin Cities chapter to purchase and stock well over 12,500 muskie fingerlings in White Bear Lake, Bald Eagle Lake, Lake Independence, Lake Waconia, Lake Minnetonka, and the St. Croix River over the past several years. The chapter has also been able

to provide funds to the Minnesota DNR to purchase equipment for their hatcheries and by providing pit and floy tags for their studies on stocking muskies.

First place in the tournament is \$1000 cash. Second and third places will also win cash. Prizes, including Thorne Bros. Gift Certificates are awarded through 5th place. Every person who registers a muskie during the tournament is entered into a drawing for the Grand Prize – a week stay at Whitefish Bay Camp on Lake of the Woods and \$500.

Tournament hours are from 7 am to 6 pm. Entry for the tournament is \$50, a small price to pay to ensure that the quality of our local fishery will continue

for years to come. Registration will open September 1. You can register on line at our chapter website, [www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org) or in-person at Thorne Bros. in Blaine.

The George Wahl Memorial Tournament was conceived as a way to honor George, a long-time chapter member, an avid muskie angler and creator of the Eagle Tail – one of the most popular muskie baits for many years. We wanted to have a friendly competition for metro-area muskie anglers.

If you've ever fished for muskies in a metro-area lake, do your part for this fishery. Make plans to participate in the George Wahl Memorial Muskie Tournament September 26.

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## SCHNEIDER MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT continued from page 1

Register through August 31 at the chapter's website, [www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org), or in person at Thorne Bros. in Blaine, One Stop in Longville, and Reed's Family Outdoor Outfitters in Walker. All tournament registration closes August 31. There will be no registration at any location on Thursday, September 10.

When registering you will notice that the entry fees have been reduced for this year! Entry fee is \$80 for adults, \$40 for juniors and \$150 for a family package - husband, wife/ significant other, and up to 2 juniors or one adult and up to 3 juniors.

The tournament is one of the chapter's major fundraisers. Participants should feel good about having a portion of their tournament entry fee going to support stocking, conservation, and community events sponsored by the chapter.

New this year is the introduction of the Lake Labs mobile app for fish registration, improving the overall tournament experience. Contestants will be required to create an account and download the app to their smart phones before the start of the event.

Notable changes for this year brought about as a result of MN DNR and MN Department of Health requirements and guidelines for safe COVID outdoor events are as follows:

- Past tournament packet pick-up will be replaced by self-serve ID badge/fishing zone distribution kiosks setup Thursday, September 10 at select locations. A printable ID and email-submitted boat inspection option will also be available.

- Tournament apparel can only be pre-ordered at the time of registration. Pickup available only at Northern Lights Casino Hotel Lobby on Thursday and limited hours on Friday and Sunday.
- To eliminate large gatherings there will be no Friday/Saturday feeds, or Sunday meal.
- The awards presentation will follow a virtual format broadcast via social media limited to only the top adult and junior finishers, and bonus recipients.
- The Grand Prize drawing will be held prior to the awards presentations. All contestants who registered a 40-inch or longer muskie, must be present in the Northern Lights Casino parking lot in their cars, reachable by cellphone, to win.

A full explanation of rules and event proceedings will be mailed to participants before the event.

Hope to see you all there!!!

Please contact Tournament Director, Peter Janik, at [tcmi.fstourneydirector@gmail.com](mailto:tcmi.fstourneydirector@gmail.com) or 952-649-9576 for more information.

**Special note: We regret to inform you that Woman, Girl, and Child lakes are not fishing options for the tournament this year. The lakes are being removed from the designated tournament waters in Zone 4 as requested by the MN DNR due to the recently discovered zebra mussel infestation. No tournament fishing will allowed on these lakes!!!**

# Twin Cities Chapter Qualifier for High School Muskie Tournament



*Elli Borovsky and fishing partner Deacon Kirvan holding Elli's 43.25-inch Minnetonka muskie, the longest fish from the qualifier.*

In “normal” years, each Muskies, Inc. chapter statewide would hold a qualifier for the state High School Muskie Tournament final. This year, because of COVID-19 restrictions, Twin Cities was the only chapter to hold a qualifier. Fifteen students participated in the 10-day virtual tournament. Each team was allowed to fish any two of the ten days on the metro body of water of their choice. The kids fished with another youth partner or three who couldn't find a partner fished with a parent.

The format of ten days spanning two weekends, afforded more kids the opportunity to fish than a one-day, in-person tournament. In addition, the using the FishDonkey app allowed kids to enter both pike and muskies. A total of 5 muskies and 13 pike were caught. Anglers were able to shoot for both largest fish, and longest stringer of 5 pike or 5 muskies.

Josh Borovsky said the kids in his boat were very excited to try to win the pike stringer, and they did exactly that – besides catching the biggest muskie.

This tournament was mostly dominated by girls with Elli Borovsky catching the biggest muskie at 43.5 inches, and Morgan Jones catching 3 muskies!

Three teams qualified for the state tournament August 14 on Lake Vermilion. Elli Borovsky and Deacon Kirvan from

Prior Lake and Maple Grove High Schools won first place with two muskies and five pike including the longest fish in the tournament, a 43.25-incher from Minnetonka. They also had the longest pike stringer for a team with 108.75 inches.

Morgan Jones and Sam Wallace from Bloomington Jefferson High School placed second with three muskies, 37, 24, and 21.75 inches, and 4 pike. Morgan had the longest stringer of muskies at 82.75 inches and also the longest stringer of pike for an individual with 104 inches, including the longest pike of the tournament, a 34-incher.

Third place was won by Pierre Belisle and Morgan Biederman from Stillwater High School with three pike.

In all, 10 rod and reel combos were given out, and 9 Thorne Bros. gift cards were handed out along with some other great gifts like Le Lure topwaters, Rtic tumblers (with TC Muskies, Inc. bumper sticker adhered), 2 custom-made bucktails for each participant made by our very own Tom Keith, and a few DVDs for each participant. Much of the feedback was very positive.

Congratulations to the three teams and we wish them well at the High School Muskie Tournament final in August on Lake Vermilion.



*Morgan Jones with a 24-inch muskie, one of her three muskies caught during the 10-day tournament.*



*Morgan Biederman holding his 25.5-inch pike.*



*Sam Wallace with the longest pike caught during the tournament, a 34-incher.*

## Members Only Contest

from Mike Darley, Members Only Contest Chair

July has been a story of where to find cool water! It seems most temperatures have been over 80 degrees here in the metro area, and I even registered 86 degrees on a Western Wisconsin lake in my only July muskie outing.

So far, we have had 37 total fish registered year-to-date, 22 of those coming in June, and 7 in July so far. Most of the fish caught in July have come via a bucktail. All of the July fish were registered in water temps from 77-79 degrees, despite the warm surface temperatures.

We had quite the battle for the June Lunker of the month with Izzy Bogen's 51.5-incher that was featured in last month's article, edged out by John Harazin registering a 52-inch muskie off a glide bait. John's big fish presence has put him into second place in the Men's division with 63 points.

Isaiah Chrissis took the lead from his dad, Erik in the hybrid division registering his third tiger of the summer and is the only Junior on the board.

In the Men's division, Ethan Stout caught fire late July and has put himself in a distant first place among the rest of the field.

July gave us our first Women's Masters division fish with none other than Cindy Hegdahl getting her first fish of the summer. In the Men's Master's division, Nolen Ryba has been efficient with his time, registering 6 fish, all in the 40-49-inch range.

Hoping for a little bit of a cool off, and a strong August of fishing. Keep registering those fish, and good luck until next month!

### JUNIOR DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Isaiah Chrissis	26	3	38

### WOMEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Isabelle Bogen	26	1	51.5
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### WOMEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Cindy Hegdahl	6	1	32
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### MEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Ethan Stout	109	8	45.75
2ND	John Harazin	63	3	52
3RD	Derek Boomer	37	3	41
4TH	Mike Darley	35	3	41.5
5TH	Erik Chrissis	32	2	40
6TH	Greg Ide	20	1	46
7TH	Ryan Sailer	16	1	42
8TH	Jeff Nelson	14	1	40
9TH	Eric Schmidt	9	1	35.25

### MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Nolen Ryba	90	6	49
2ND	Dale Mueller	30	2	42.5
3RD	Mark Fredrick	7	1	33

### HYBRID DIVISION

1ST	Isaiah Chrissis	26	3	38
2ND	Erik Chrissis	23	2	40

### LUNKER OF THE MONTH

MAY - Greg Ide - 5/30 - 46" - St. Louis River

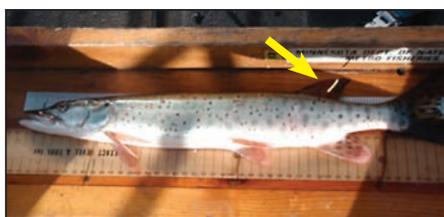
JUNE - John Harazin - 6/28 - 52" - Metro

JULY (unofficial) - Ethan Stout - 7/27 - 45.75" - Waconia

## Look for Tagged Muskies in White Bear, Bald Eagle and Tonka

Muskies stocked in Lake Minnetonka, Bald Eagle Lake and White Bear Lake for several years are part of a multi-year DNR study on stocking. All muskies stocked in those lakes have a small yellow tag near the dorsal fin. When fishing those lakes, you should be looking for fish that have the yellow tags. By this time, the tags may be covered with algae and other material, so look closely.

If you see a yellow tag on any muskie, the DNR needs data from you to complete the study. DO NOT REMOVE THE YELLOW TAG. It is important that they get data on the recatchability of fish. They will need the



number on the yellow tag, the name of the lake, and the length of the fish. They would also appreciate your name and phone number in case they need to follow-up. You can go online to the DNR tag reporting website page [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/tagged\\_fish\\_reporting/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/tagged_fish_reporting/index.html) or leave a message for BJ Bauer at 952-826-6771.

## A Muskie Tale for Another Year

As you're out fishing this season, keep in mind events that happen that might make a good "Muskie Tale". 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; or you found something interesting on the end of your line. We've already heard a few contenders.

Take home the Muskie Tale. Share your story with us by emailing your "tale" to Denise Olson at [olsonat3pete@gmail.com](mailto:olsonat3pete@gmail.com).

## 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 at [olsonat3pete@gmail.com](mailto:olsonat3pete@gmail.com) or 612-804-4687 for more information.

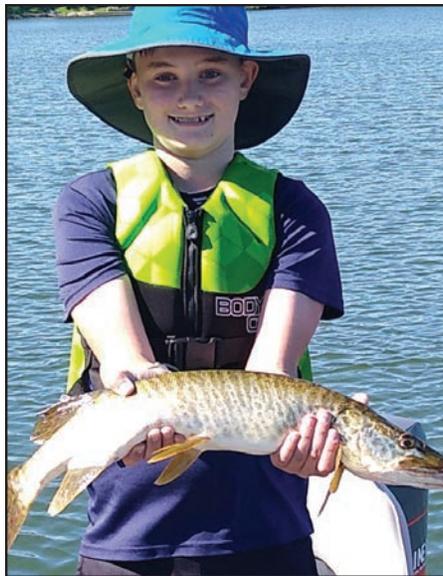
## Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge

Represent the Twin Cities Chapter at the 2020 Gil Hamm Memorial Chapter Challenge. Teams from chapters throughout Region 1 of Muskies, Inc. will be gathering in northern Minnesota for the 3-day event.

The Challenge is September 8-10, with a rules meeting Monday evening. Participants pay for their own lodging and share the costs of food. Tuesday and Wednesday host chapter, Bemidji-Cass Lake, will provide dinner and on Thursday lunch is served at the Awards program.

Alex Worobel is heading up our Challenge teams this year. Contact him at [docworobel@gmail.com](mailto:docworobel@gmail.com) or 651-491-1466 if you're interested in representing our chapter at this event.

## Fishing Day Camps Target Muskies



Despite COVID-19 completely changing everyone's summer plans, a few members of the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc. were still able to connect with Fishing For Life, the Twin Cities chapter partner in youth events, and get out and teach a few of their students about muskies. Fishing for Life scheduled three fishing Day Camps for kids this summer.

The Day Camps taught kids about fishing and targeted muskies and pike each Wednesday. For the first hour, Cody talked to them about muskies (where to find them, what they eat, how to catch them, how to release them, etc.) For the second hour, they

practiced using a bait caster (only one or two of them knew how) and figure-eighting. Each student received their own bucktail, hand-tied by TCMI member Tom Keith. After their lunch everyone fished for the rest of the day.

Although this only lasted for three weeks, a total of 18 students got to experience the muskie days, there is quite a bit of chatter going on about muskies among the students in Fishing For Life right now. Cody has stayed on helping them this summer. Almost all the students he has had in his boat ask to fish for muskies.

The future of musky fishing is looking bright!

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# next meeting

**AUGUST 11**

**NO MEETING SCHEDULED**

*We hope you are out fishing this month!! As you are, keep in mind events that might make a good Muskie Tale!!*



**MUSKIES, INC.**  
7125 17th Avenue South  
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***Return Service Requested***

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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.).*

## **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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