

On the Water



Volume 23, Issue 7

JULY 2020



Robert and John are two of the kids who participated in the Fishing for Life Day Camp the week of June 15. It wasn't a muskie, but this 34-inch northern is the biggest fish John has ever caught, and the big fish of the day.

Fishing Day Camps Target Muskies and Pike for One of the Days

Fishing for Life, the Twin Cities chapter in youth events, has several fishing Day Camps for kids on the schedule this summer. They teach the kids about fishing and target muskies and pike for one day of the camp. Cody Klaus, Craig Jermasek, and Keegan McIntosh from the Twin cities chapter helped out at the camp during the first week to teach the kids about muskies. The kids were there from 9am-3pm. 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. After their lunch everyone fished for the rest of the day.

Each of the guides took out two kids on Lake Independence to let them practice the skills they learned that morning. Even though conditions were tough, Keegan's boat managed to find a muskie willing to follow to the boat, and Craig's boat was able to catch and release a 34-inch northern, the kid's new personal best!

All the kids – John (who caught the northern), Robert (the other student in the picture), Henry (the one who had a follow), Max, Seth, and Scarlett – had a blast. To top it all off, chapter member Tom Keith tied several bucktails for each student to be able to fish with and then take home.

The Tournament Must Go On

Save the Dates – September 11, 12, 13, 2020

Please save the dates and pass the word to your fellow muskie anglers the 2020 Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament is happening this year!!!! The Tournament Committee is busy planning this year's event. The tournament will be held on the same 25 lakes and rivers across Bemidji, Cass Lake, Walker, and Longville region as last year's event.

There will be changes required to meet Minnesota DNR and MDH guidelines for COVID-19 safety. A few of those changes are no Friday or Saturday feed dinners, and the Awards on Sunday will be different. Contestants will be encouraged to register online through the chapter's website after August 1. Once you have registered, you will be asked to download a mobile Tournament App that will be used to register fish during the tournament, eliminating the need for in-person registrations and travel.

The Grand prize cash award and top contest prizes will be same as last year. Because of no meals being offered, the entry fees have been reduced to \$80 Adults/\$30 Juniors/\$150 Family for this year.

Please make plans to join the chapter for this year's tournament.

For more information contact Peter Janik, Tournament Director at tcmi.fstourneydirector@gmail.com.

From Our President, **JIM DOYLE**

Greetings amid fishing season! At last we can all get out and go after the fish we have been waiting for. From the looks of things everyone seems to be out on the lakes, so fishing in traffic this summer is pretty much par for the course.

Great news on our efforts to maximize Muskie stocking with the challenge of no MN DNR egg take in the spring. The fish the Minnesota Muskie farm over-wintered have made the move to the DNR hatchery in Waterville for the summer feeding season. They had been eating well, were already 12+ inches, and will continue to grow the remainder of the season. Minnow supply seems in order for them so now all they need to do is grow!

We continue to receive tremendous support in this effort with funds coming from at least 4 MI chapters, North Metro, guide Ryan McMahon and significant funding from individual contributors through our chapter "donate" for stocking button on the web site. This greatly appreciated support will help the DNR get fish in waters that are important to a tremendous number of anglers.

Many of the chapter activities continue to be delayed, but some of our youth activities are still going. Fishing For Life has had some multi-day youth outings that now include a day of going for bigger fish. We are supporting a segment that teaches casting and fishing with larger tackle and a few hours on the water fishing for Pike and Muskies.

Good luck to all as the season gets into full swing this year!

Hugh C. Becker Grants Totaling \$20,000 for Leech Lake and Wabedo Lake Conservation Projects

The Northern Waters Land Trust is pleased to announce a grant of \$10,000 from the Hugh C. Becker Committee of the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc. to support the conservation of land around Miller Bay, a primary spawning ground for muskies on Leech Lake. Fisheries research shows that healthy watersheds with intact forests are fundamental to good fish habitat and that conservation easements on sensitive shoreland and private forests are an effective approach to protecting water quality. The Miller Bay Project is an important step to protect this critical habitat and is a partnership of Northern Waters Land Trust, the Leech Lake Association and MN DNR.



Donors interested in supporting the matching funds needed to complete the Miller Bay project can contact Northern Waters Land Trust. The Northern Waters Land Trust operates in the counties of Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, and Aitkin working with conservation-minded volunteers, landowners, lake associations, local, state, federal and tribal agencies, and other conservation organizations.

The Hugh C. Becker Committee has also granted \$10,000 in support for the Wabedo, Little Boy, Cooper, Rice Lake Association to conserve land near critical muskie habitat on Wabedo Lake.

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.

Every Little Bit Helps

More people have been donating to help with the purchase of muskies to be able to have some stocking in the fall. We have received amounts from \$15, the cost of one fish, up to \$600 for the project. We want to thank them for the contributions received in June.

Joe Badalucco
Amy Buker
Paul Dickson
Roger Ecklund
Robert Gardner
James Harmon
Greg Kappes

Jonathan Kraft
Jason Lenz
Robert Mann
Mark Nevermann
Eric Nevermann
Eric Olson
Juris Ozols

James Portesan
Jeffrey Potts
Mike Riha
John Santer
Nelsen Smith
Kristyn Stephens
Brian Swancutt



Andrew Scholten, fisheries specialist at the Waterville hatchery was kind enough to get us some photos of the transfer. You can see some being stocked into ponds on site and others being measured in the hatchery.

Muskies Transferred to DNR Waterville Hatchery for Stocking in the Fall

As many members are hopefully aware, the DNR was not able to take muskie eggs this year because of the pandemic. The chapter became aware of some muskies that the Minnesota Muskie Farm had wintered over from last year. We offered to help to at least be able to have some stocking in a year that would otherwise have nothing.

We were finally able to agree on a cooperative project where our chapter would purchase the fish and gift them to the state. The DNR would then raise them until the fall, at which time they would be harvested and stocked. There were several things that needed to get done to make this plan a reality. The DNR committed that the Waterville hatchery would be available to rear fish and committed to a plan for utilizing the fish in the fall. The Muskie farm needed to count fish, and Muskies, Inc. needed to come up with the funds to support the purchase the fish so that a transfer of the fish could become a reality.

The transfer of 1,500 fish to the Waterville hatchery was completed last Friday. The fish were transferred in 2 trips. Roughly half were netted by the MN Muskie Farm and transferred earlier in the week. Their pond was then drained to capture the remaining fish for transfer on Friday June 26.

The fish are a healthy 12 inches at this point and expected to grow to the 15-18 inch range by the fall ensuring excellent survival when stocked. Andrew Scholten, fisheries specialist at the Waterville hatchery let us know that the minnow supply to feed them is in good shape to maximize growth.

The plan for the fish is that they are to be pit-tagged this fall to continue to build upon 10-plus years of research of stocking larger fish and how well they survive once stocked into lakes. We will continue to update everyone as this project moves along. Raising fish is not an exact science, never easy and no guarantees. Hopefully things will go well and we will have plenty of fish to stock.

Finally we would like to thank everyone who has supported this effort financially. We continue to receive significant funds from several MI chapters, guides and personal donations through the donate button on the TCMI web site. In a year where fund raising is a challenge, we were fortunate to have a good banquet last winter and with the generous donations from other stakeholders we can handle this effort in tight a fundraising environment.

Red Wing Outing, Lake of the Woods

The annual outing at Red Wing Lodge on Sabaskong Bay, Lake of the Woods is open to members of both metro-area chapters of Muskies, Inc. The trip is scheduled for August 8-15. 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 year 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

Members Only Contest

from Mike Darley, Members Only Contest Chair

We're back! It's feeling especially great to be back on the water this year, and we've been blessed with some good weather with some heavy weekend winds. From my observation, the windy days have kept more boats off the metro lakes and led to much more peaceful fishing.

So far, we have had 24 total fish registered year to date, 22 of those coming in June. 18 of the fish were caught casting, while the last 6 all trolling. It appears that crank baits have boated the most fish year to date totaling 9, followed by bucktails and spinners combining for 8. Many of the fish have been registered in 68-73-degree temperatures and none over 74 degrees.

Our largest fish has come from one of our newer members in Izzy Bogen who boated our club's first 50+ with a 51.5-incher from Mille Lacs! Congratulations. This may have been the first fish I've ever seen her register and can't wait to hear the story. We also have a Junior, Isiah Chrissis, who is off to a strong start with 2 hybrids boated this year. In our Men's Masters division, we have our newest Master Nolan Ryba leading the way with 5 muskies while he took no time to strike first by boating his first fish just 1 hour into the MN Muskie opener! If you recall we had quite a shootout in the Men's division in 2018 between Nolan and Dale Mueller. Dale is also on the board in the Men's Masters division and I look forward to this competition take off again. Lastly, on top of our Men's division is Derek Boomer with 3 fish on the board.

Last month you may have read how to register your fish from your mobile phone. I'll tell you what, I got to test this out a couple times and it was very easy! I'm hoping this tool allows our club to register more fish this year. If you still have a plaque to pick up from last year, please contact me by email at Michael.Darley@LibertyMutual.com or by cell, 715-225-0167 to coordinate a pick up. Heck, we could even meet at a local lake and get some fishing in.

Have a safe and happy Forth of July, and I look forward to seeing more entries come in from these summer months! Good luck on the water.



Izzy Bogen has recorded the biggest fish of any chapter member so far this year – a nice 51.5-inch muskie from Mille Lacs.

JUNIOR DIVISION

	NAME	POINTS	NO. FISH	LONGEST
1ST	Isaiah Chrissis	21	2	38

WOMEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Isabelle Bogen	26	1	51.5
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MEN'S DIVISION

1ST	Derek Boomer	37	3	41
2ND	Mike Darley	35	3	41.5
3RD	Erik Chrissis	23	2	40
4TH	Greg Ide	20	1	46
5TH	Ryan Sailer	16	1	42
6TH	John Harazin	15	1	41

MEN'S MASTERS DIVISION

1ST	Nolen Ryba	90	5	49
2ND	Dale Mueller	13	1	39

HYBRID DIVISION

1ST	Erik Chrissis	23	2	40
1ST	Isaiah Chrissis	21	2	38

LUNKER OF THE MONTH

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

JUNE (unofficial) - Isabelle Bogen - 6/14 - 51.5" - Mille Lacs

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 re-catchability 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 or leave a message for BJ Bauer at 952-826-6771.

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On the Water is published
monthly for members and
friends of the Twin Cities
Chapter of Muskies, Inc.

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next meeting

JULY 7

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. 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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Beaver Baits	Midwest Outdoors	Spiderwire
Bernick's Beverage	Mighty Muskie Guide Service – Josh Stevenson	Spring Bay Resort and Guide Service – Lake Vermilion
Big Tasty	Minneapolis Gun Club	St. Croix Rods
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Michael Brown, Jr.	Musky Bumper	Sunset Cove Resort – Cass Lake
Blue Ribbon Bait & Tackle	Musky Frenzy Lures	Supernatural Big Baits
Broadwater Bay Resort – Woman Lake	Musky Hunter Magazine	Tamarack Island Wilderness Lodge – Lake of the Woods
Carbone's Pizza	Musky Innovations LLC	Temple Fork Outfitters
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Fishing for Life	Outdoor News	Trappers Landing Lodge – Leech Lake
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Gary's Custom Rod & Reel	Pro Musky Guide Service – Josh Borovsky	Wades Custom Tackle
H3O	Red Tail Tackle	Whitefish Bay Camp – Lake of the Woods
Harris Hill Resort – Lake of the Woods	Red Wing Lodge – Lake of the Woods	
Hirsch's Ghosttails	Reed's Family Outdoor Outfitters	
Huddle's Resort – Leech Lake	Rubberhairy Baits	
Joe's Sporting Goods		

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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