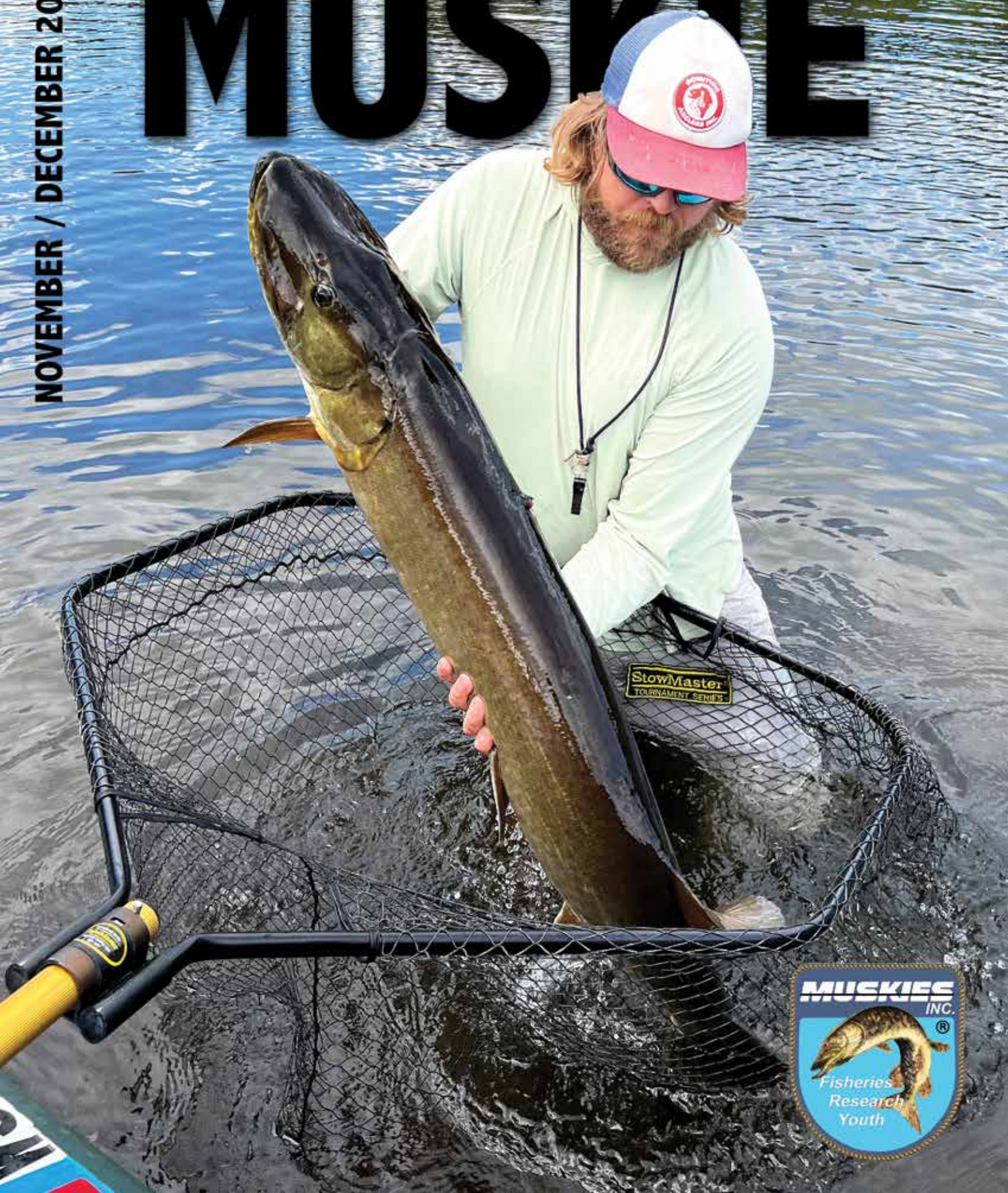


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## ABOUT THE COVER

It's cold out now, so I thought I might tease the membership with this photo harkening back to warmer days. This issue's cover comes courtesy of Gabe Park, an employee of the Musky Fool Fly Fishing Company (a famed muskie-dedicated fly shop in Wisconsin). Gabe reports that this fish came from Vilas County in late August. The fish came out of a cabbage bed in the middle of the afternoon during high skies. Proof that even if you're forced to fish in a cold front, happiness is just a cast away!

You all know I'm a sucker for atypical angles on grip-and-grin photos. Here, the water streaming off the fish gives us the sense that the fish has just been lifted from the net. Gabe's eyes are focused on the fish, which in turn keeps our focus on the muskie, too. It's a clean photo with a clean background, keeping all the attention on the fish itself. Great shot!

- Sean



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Toby Tester ..... 2024

Region 4

\*Walter Krause ..... 2022-2023

Frank A. Walter ..... 2024

Stu Sondgeroth ..... 2025

\* = Senior Regional Representative

MUSKIE is published exclusively for the membership of Muskies, Inc. and subscriptions come with a paid membership. Muskies, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Membership classes and associated annual dues are listed on the form at the bottom of page one. Copies of MUSKIE magazine are available at \$3.00 each from the Muskies, Inc. Member Services. Contributors grant rights for Muskies, Inc. to publish once in MUSKIE Magazine, both the print and online versions, including archives and on the Muskies, Inc. website.

## The President's Message

### Jim Ashton

**Muskies, Inc. President**

***[president@muskiesinc.org](mailto:president@muskiesinc.org)***



We were enjoying the cooler water and lower air temperatures just a few weeks ago. Fishing had picked up as the fish were active, and the fall foliage was on full display. Then we cleaned up the fallen leaves, cut grass for the last time, and here we are in shorter days of daylight, colder temperatures, and lakes icing over. So where does the time go?

At any rate, there is much to do over the winter months. For some, ice fishing will replace the lack of being on the water, casting or trolling but still fishing. Be sure you are on solid ice before taking your hut or vehicle out on the ice. It is a time to attend chapter meetings, share fishing stories, and discuss chapter plans. There will be plenty of fishing/sports shows to attend, so keep checking the internet for events in your area and here in MUSKIE.

During the September Executive Committee Meeting, Muskies, Inc. (MI) administration welcomed Denis Viscek, Chapter 5, to the management team as the new VP-Finance/Treasurer. He has an extensive background in corporation finances. Denis takes over from Jeff Miller, who has moved from the finance position to manage the responsibilities of Corporate Secretary for the board. Both will need to stand for election at the Annual Board Meeting next spring as both were appointed under provisions of the MI Bylaws.

As you read this issue of MUSKIE, please be sure to turn to page 6 for a story regarding Bill Jacobs, Headwaters Chapter 12 President, the 2022 President-to-President Perry A. Smith Award recipient. Bill is another example of MI's outstanding leadership from our chapter managers and member volunteers. For an update on MI budget/finances, please go to the MI website, log on and click on **Members**, click on **Policies**, click **Policies** a second time and see the **2022 Budget** posted under the **F/C Minutes** column. MI administration will continue to post updates to keep the membership informed regarding the organization's financial status. The budgeting process for 2023 is underway. When completed and approved by the Finance Committee and board, it will be posted on the MI website for all to review.

The annual fundraiser is underway with the delivery to the membership of the 2023 Calendar. The calendar seeks donations from members to fund MI operations and support the Gil Hamm Legacy Fund. Our continuing thanks to magazine Editor Amy Keyes and the support of the Communications Committee under the leadership of Steve Worrall.

Chapter board members will receive the audit packets after the beginning of 2023. Reviewing last year's information will help each chapter speed up this process and allow our accountants to process



the necessary chapter tax filings and collect information on tournament prizes paid to members for 990 filings. Filing the tax reports at no cost to the chapters protects chapters from losing their 501 tax-exempt statuses.

If you are thinking of updating your fishing equipment, please visit our advertisers for their products, as they are great supporters of MI. Their advertisements help to offset the costs associated with the production of our magazine and offer excellent quality rods, reels, and other fishing necessities. We thank them for their support.

Looking back, the annual Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge was held August 17-19 at Horseshoe Bay Lodge on Leech Lake in Minnesota. Brainerd Lakes Chapter 24 won the tournament. See page 32 for more information regarding this annual event. This year's tournament was sponsored by Fargo-Moorhead Chapter 2, which won the 2021 event on lakes in the Bemidji, MN area. Congrats to the winners, and thanks to all who participated. We look forward to hearing more about where the 2023 Challenge will be held, planned by the Brainerd Chapter.

It is winter, but we have celebrating to do as Christmas and New Year's provide the opportunity to share time with friends and family in holiday festivities, give thanks for the opportunity to fish the muskie, and look forward to 2023 and a new fishing season. Thanks to all members for their support and participation. Our members make MI the worthwhile organization founded by Gil Hamm in 1966. MI is about to be 67 years old and still going strong. Where does the time go... who knows. Take care, be safe, stay healthy and enjoy life. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you next issue.

- **Jim Ashton,**  
FISH ON!

### 2023 MUSKIE Deadlines

Issue	Deadline Date
January/February	November 20 (2022)
March/April	January 20
May/June	March 20
July/August	May 20
September/October	July 20
November/December	September 20

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*Each issue would not be possible without the help from our volunteers. Thank you Bill Stein, Richard Helm, and Alison Willers for your dedication to MUSKIE.*

# Youth .... spotlight ....

Each participant received a gift bag with three baits, two leaders, and stickers. Prizes included reels, rods, lures, tackle boxes, guided fishing trips, and a net.

Lastly, none of this could have been done without the assistance of our wonderful committee: Steve Soma, Tripp Soma, Paul Twardy, Brett Cook, Doug Burke, and TJ Weisensel.

## Youth Day at Lum Park

Thank you to all that attended and to those that helped to make this event possible!



We held our annual Youth Day at Lum Park in Brainerd on Sunday, July 31, and had a great time! There were 63 kids in attendance, and every kid went home with a prize. Water and outdoor toys were given out, and a bunch of brand new fishing rods. Every kid also got to take home a bag of new tackle and other fishing essentials to add to their tackle boxes.

Kids had the opportunity to visit eight learning stations, where they participated in knot tying, lure making, a craft station, learned about life cycles and food chains, and the kids had minnow races. We were also joined by Katie from the Long Lake Conservation Center in Aitkin County, who taught kids about different aquatic invertebrates in a water ecosystem. The MN DNR was also there teaching kids about fish anatomy. The station that stole the show was the LUNDker Lake, where children participated in a fishing contest, learning how to cast fishing rods, catch fish, and even the heartbreak of when a big one gets off.

A huge round of applause for our Youth Director, Jordan Moss, and his family for putting on this great event. Thank you goes out to Dave Lockwood with the MN DNR and Katie from the Long Lake Conservation

## 2022 Capital City Muskie, Inc. Youth Tournament

We were finally able to host this event after two years of cancellations due to COVID and high water temperatures. We had 49 attendees, a new event record showing these youths' excitement for this event. This year's event was hosted on Lake Monona. Fishing started at 7:00 a.m. and

was completed at noon, with lunch and awards. The weather was overcast with fog as the participants began the day, which eventually gave way to some sun before more clouds rolled in. There were no muskies caught this year, but we had several who could not make it to the net. So, the top winners were judged by the largest pike caught.

**1st Place: Ethan Wiluth with his 32 inch pike**

**2nd Place: Zach Stall with his 25 inch pike**

**3rd Place: Nick Taylor with his 23 inch pike**

Thanks to our incredible partners and sponsors  
for this great event:

Muskies, Inc.	Capital City Muskies, Inc.
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Lakewood Tackle Company	Duffy Kopf
Lee Bartolini	

1st place winner!



2nd place winner!



3rd place winner!



Event attendees showing  
off their winnings.



Youth anglers collected  
samples and learned to  
use a microscope to view  
aquatic life.



Dave Lockwood (MN DNR)  
leading an interactive station  
on fish anatomy with live  
specimens.



Center. We would also like to thank the Pillager Fishing Team for sending some great volunteers to help at our stations. Just like with everything we do, our volunteers from the chapter that helped out before and during the event are much appreciated - without their help, it would be hard to make great events like these possible!

**\*\*If you, or anyone you know, is interested in participating in volunteer opportunities like these, talk to a board member! We'd be happy to have you join us!**

# Conservation ... highlights ...



## Iowa River Muskies

Greg is part of a team that surveys the species, quantity, and overall health of all fish that inhabit our interior river system.

Greg is shown holding two muskies; a 49 inch, 35.5 lb, and a 46 inch (no weight provided), which were sampled out of the Shell Rock River at Green, Iowa, in the fall of 2021 and 2020, respectively. These two fish are believed to have escaped, at some point in their lives, over the Clear Lake, Iowa, outlet during high water conditions.

Since Greg and his team had no way of accessing any potential PIT data on either fish or any other muskies they encountered, this past April, Heartland donated a PIT reader to Greg's team so they could obtain additional data on future muskies they survey.

This is another example of our Heartland Chapter assisting our Fisheries Team with one of our key initiatives, muskie research!

**- Michael Wentworth**



*A 46 inch Shell Rock River muskie believed to have escaped over the dam at Clear Lake, Iowa.*

*Greg Gelwicks from the Iowa DNR River Research Team holds a 49 inch, 35.5 pound muskie from the Shell Rock River.*



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### 2022 Youth Membership Promotion

*Tackle Industries and Vexan will donate a fishing rod to an active Muskies, Inc. Youth member to coincide with each issue of MUSKIE Magazine.*

*The member will be selected at random or a parent can submit on their child's behalf.*

*Just email our VP of Membership, Rick Petzke at [vp-membership@muskiesinc.org](mailto:vp-membership@muskiesinc.org) and tell him WHY you feel your child should be the winner of such an amazing promotion.*

*In order to be selected you need to meet ONE of the following criteria:*

*- ACTIVE Youth Member within your Chapter*

*- ACTIVE Youth Member within your Chapter Events and/or Outings*

*The winner can pick from any TI Musky or Vexan Big Game rod on*

*[www.tackleindustries.com](http://www.tackleindustries.com) or [www.vexan.com](http://www.vexan.com) (USA shipping only).*

*\*We will ask winners to send us a photo holding the rod and a paragraph about why they are*

*a member of Muskies, Inc. (Please send once you receive the rod)*

*TI has also set up a special code on both websites for all members to get a 15% discount.*

*At check-out just enter code: muskiesinc*



# MUSKIE NEWS

## President-to-President Award Perry A. Smith

Since its renewal in 2019, selecting a recipient for the President-to-President Award has given me an overview of how dedicated our chapter presidents are in each region. Nomination forms received, illustrate the time and effort contributed by the nominees to continue the success of individual chapters and Muskies, Inc. (MI). Again this year, selecting a recipient for the award was challenging. Each nominee is worthy of recognition for their selfless donation of time, providing an example for members in all chapters who may be elected as chapter president in the future.

The 2022 President-to-President Perry A. Smith Award recipient is Bill Jacobs, current President of Headwaters Chapter 12, Eagle River, Wisconsin, Region 2. He has served for 20 years as chapter president. Bill's resume begins with serving on the chapter board and becoming the president in 2003. During his current tenure of 19 years, he served as a member of the MI Administration Membership Committee. Bill has been recognized and nominated by his chapter for a lengthy list of accomplishments and involvement. Bill's success is demonstrated in numbers leading his chapter, one of the five largest in MI, which raises more than \$200,000 annually. He can't do it single-handedly and has the involvement and support of the chapter membership. Bill has given his time to various activities, including leading and organizing the Spring Muskie Classic Tournament, the Fall Paul's Pro-Am Muskie Tournament, a spring awards banquet, and summer and fall outings; the list goes on. Bill oversees the Kid's



*Bill Jacobs is this year's recipient of the 2022 President to President Perry A. Smith awardee.*



Build a Rod Day, and he works with the membership in the summer to install concrete pads at several boat launching sites and new deck piers. Bill also oversaw the raffle ticket sales for the Wisconsin Muskie Alliance and involved the membership in supporting Fishing Has No Boundaries and a Wounded Warriors in Action Event. Due to working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), several resolutions were passed regarding muskie fishing. Local organizations have received Bill's attention, including working with the Chamber of Commerce to promote muskie fishing in the Eagle River area, which has contributed more than \$1,000,000 over the past 20 years to the area economy.

Bill's work earned him a nomination and election to the MI Hall of Fame (HOF) in 2019, joining three previous honorees, including Chapter members Jeff Miller, Jim Chamberlin, and Pete Olson. While space in MUSKIE does not allow me to continue listing all Bill has done, this short piece should explain why Bill is the 2022 President-to-President Perry A. Smith awardee. Please join me in congratulating Bill Jacobs for his devotion, dedication, and leadership to his chapter and MI.

**- Jim Ashton, MI President**

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## **Hugh C. Becker Committee 2023 Awards** **Announcement**

**Application Period:** November 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023

**Mailing Instructions:** The **original** and **four** copies (total of 5) should be sent to Hugh C. Becker Committee of Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc., postmarked no later than **January 25, 2023**, c/o George Selcke, 5217 Nolan Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55343-8996 (E-mail application will not be accepted). NEW-include your EIN# (Employee Identification Number).

**Application Requirements:** Requests are not to be more than five (5) legibly typed pages and must include all the following criteria:

- 1) Name and address of the group, and a history of the group's accomplished projects to date, if applicable.
- 2) Demonstrate need - how will this project benefit the Muskellunge program(s) in area, region, or range (Canada included).
- 3) What is the project, and what is the purpose of the project?
- 4) Where is this project taking place?
- 5) What are the duration of this project/start and finish dates?
- 6) What are the cost breakouts? Itemize equipment and labor, and provide quotes.
- 7) Who will be involved: the project team, project manager/coordinator, and applicable means of contact (phone numbers).
- 8) Submit "milestones" dates for progress reports and accountability.
- 9) Can the requesting group match funds from another source? Please list.

### **Other Considerations:**

- Cap on any individual grant/fund will be \$10,000; incrementally within a year or over years unless the Grant Committee decides otherwise on any specific proposal.
- Successful recipients of awards must give the Hugh C. Becker Foundation appropriate credit and acknowledge the financial contribution in any product or any publicity relating to the project.
- The Hugh C. Becker Foundation reserves the right to edit all publications.
- If this project fails to reach its purpose through false reporting, deceit, and/or other unprofessional acts, the requesting group may be responsible for restitution (committee determination).
- **NOTE:** No indirect costs (overhead) will be awarded on research proposals.

### **Addendum:**

Like projects/activities that may qualify per the wishes and conditions of Hugh C. Becker include, but are not limited to:

- Muskie propagation by the Twin Cities Chapter 1, in their own ponds with their own equipment
- Stocking, by either raising muskie fingerlings or purchasing fingerlings/yearlings/adults for public use in designated waters
- Habitat protection and improvement
- Clean water (quality) protection and improvement
- Professional research by qualified personnel (not limited to Minnesota, but must include accountable data)
- Expansion of the present muskellunge range (special consideration for the Missouri River system in North/South Dakota)

The Twin Cities Chapter 1 Committee will consider projects based on their respective merits per the criteria above, and awards will be published in MUSKIE magazine. The principles of Muskies, Inc., Youth, Research and Fisheries are guidelines inclusive in qualifying and evaluating proposals.

\*\*\*\* **NOTE:** Accountability reports (documentation of grant usage), including DNR letters, research papers, publications, University acknowledgments, and any other follow-up information for awards given in a particular year, will be required before any individual or group is given consideration for future grants.

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# Figure-8

**By: Sean Landsman**  
**assistanteditor@muskiesinc.org**



As the season winds down and we head into the show season, something I like to do – and I know many others do the same – is to begin thinking about goals for the next season. This past season for me was so-so as far as numbers. The demands of an 18-month-old means there's not a lot of time to fish, so my season mainly saw 1-3 hour, early morning (before baby woke up) trips to an urban Ottawa fishery. And while I don't anticipate a major increase in the amount of time available to go fishing anytime in the near future, there are some things I'd like to try next year.

The particular fishery I focus on sees "good" (it's all relative!) water clarity of 5-6 feet during the summer. Thick mats of vegetation on the lake bottom actually reduce the available water depth, and on calm, sunny days, fish can be spotted sitting or cruising on the bottom. I experimented this year with sight-fishing under these conditions and had action from fish that grabbed baits but didn't get hooked or that followed and expressed some interest in my presentation. This is a really fun way of trying to target muskies under less-than-ideal conditions, so this off-season I'm going to scheme rigs that might result in a few landed fish next season.

The other thing I'm seriously considering trying next season is barbless hooks. In the recreational angling science community, there's strong evidence that barbless hooks are much better for the fish as they dramatically expedite the unhooking process and thus reduce overall handling times. I must admit, I've been leery of going this route mostly because, quite frankly, muskies are just so darn hard to catch

as it is! Still, as an advocate for good handling practices and someone that has studied and published research on this topic with muskies, I feel it's somewhat my duty to model good handling practices for the broader community. I don't expect to convert a lot of people to this hook style, but I feel compelled to give it a try myself; to see what all the "fuss is about," as they say.

Becker Foundation Grants. Just a reminder to get your Becker Foundation grants in by late January 2023. There are very few muskie-dedicated funding sources (I can only think of one other administered by Muskies Canada), so for those of you with smaller-sized endeavors or those that need to supplement existing funds, this is an excellent fund to consider.

Speaking of research, technological advancements in telemetry tools give the future a bright outlook. We're now seeing tag companies developing tags with 8-10+ year battery lives, allowing researchers to start untangling long-term behaviors, changes to behavior coincident with changes to environmental conditions, and even behavioral changes from juvenile life stages to adult life stages. As an example, a group of Canadian researchers just recently implanted muskies in the Kawartha Lakes' Stony Lake with acoustic transmitters (tags that emit sound that nearby listening stages hear and log to onboard memory cards) that will last about 10 years. The tags measure and transmit data related to activity and internal body temperature (which reflects the surrounding water temps). Their goal is to build high-resolution habitat models to inform muskie management. The future looks exciting!

As always, remember two things: 1) practice catch-and-release, and 2) wear your sunscreen.

– SEAN LANDSMAN, Assistant Editor





# LUNGE LOG

...by: alison willers...

## Closing Out The Year

This will be the last issue of MUSKIE hitting your mailboxes this calendar year, so I would like to start with an important reminder for all of the late-season enthusiasts chasing the final bites of the season. Typically, members have 30 days to enter their fish catches to be eligible for the MOFC. However, that deadline shortens in mid-December as all 2022 entries must be registered by January 10, 2023, for eligibility. Now let's hear about the big fish of fall!

## Youth

The youth of Muskies, Inc. have been putting some big fish in the bag this fall, with 15 of the top 25 fish caught in August and September, and 6 of those fish pushing the tape past 50 inches!

Fischer Smith is shown with his personal best 53 inch monster muskie from the St. Croix River, caught with a Red October tube after both Fischer and his dad Jason raised the fish earlier in the day. Fischer's muskie was the longest release by a Junior for 13 days.

Next to top of the leaderboard was 13-year-old Noah Moss, who broke the 50 inch mark on two consecutive days while on a family vacation. Noah's first muskie came on a cast to a weed line and hit halfway through the retrieve. The fish reacted slowly at first, then put up a fight and surfaced before being netted by Noah's uncle, Dave Eichelberger. That 51.75 muskie was only Noah's third muskie, but the celebrations didn't end there. Just 24 hours later, while fishing the same moon phase,

(Lunge Log text continued on page 10)



FISCHER SMITH



NOAH MOSS

Junior Fry Division as of 10/01/2022							
Rank	Member Name	Chapter	Muskies	Points	City, State	Average Length	Category
1	Ellie Davis	65	43	558	Colorado Springs, CO	39	Juniors Fry
2	Trevor Barber	12	20	243	Eagle River, WI	38	Juniors Fry
3	Devyn Hanson	8	17	150	Verona, WI	35	Juniors Fry
4	Elliot Thompson	16	8	91	Franklin, PA	37	Juniors Fry
5	Marissa Liske	6	7	85	Rosemount, MN	38	Juniors Fry
6	Emmitt Schoss	16	7	81	Pittsburgh, PA	38	Juniors Fry
7	Noah Moss	24	2	54	Aitkin, MN	53	Juniors Fry
8	Cooper Marshall	19	4	52	New Philadelphia, OH	39	Juniors Fry
9	Aubree Boneham	23	5	50	Ravenna, OH	36	Juniors Fry
10	Landyn Valley	4	2	42	Green Bay, WI	47	Juniors Fry

Junior Fingerling Division as of 10/01/2022							
Rank	Member Name	Chapter	Muskies	Points	City, State	Average Length	Category
1	Micheal Schmidt	12	32	391	Eagle River, WI	38	Juniors Fingerling
2	Thomas Lyon	8	18	258	Oregon, WI	40	Juniors Fingerling
3	Charlie Weiss	21	10	208	Stacy, MN	47	Juniors Fingerling
4	Fischer Smith	6	14	158	Chippewa Falls, WI	37	Juniors Fingerling
5	Carson Wilary	32	11	131	Inver Grove Heights, MN	38	Juniors Fingerling
6	William Christ	8	6	74	Oregon, WI	38	Juniors Fingerling
7	Tommy Burr	12	5	58	Eagle River, WI	37	Juniors Fingerling
8	Adison Thompson	16	7	54	Franklin, PA	34	Juniors Fingerling
9	Brady Bilbrey	21	6	49	Wyoming, M	34	Juniors Fingerling
10	Drew Nelson	21	2	44	Lindstrom, MN	48	Juniors Fingerling

Noah and Dave repeated their performance when Noah again hooked into a fish that doubled over his rod. Noah's PB was short-lived, as this new mega-muskie was a 54 inch monster, which now joins the top 20 muskies caught by Juniors since 2000.

Headwaters youth member Trevor Barber is sitting in second place in the fry division, and his latest catch is also on the Junior Top 25 table. Trevor caught his 47.5 inch muskie during Monday night muskie league, and his catch helped his team win first place for the year. Check out his photo on page 20.

## JBO Promo



**JOE BUCHER  
OUTDOORS**

The first 20 Youth Members to enter in their very FIRST muskie, will receive a FREE lure from Joe Bucher Outdoors.

Congratulations to all youth members who entered their first muskie into the Lunge Log this year! Brendan Spencer finishes our list of 20 young anglers who will receive a lure from Joe Bucher Outdoors. Thank you to JBO for sponsoring these anglers and their prizes, and to all adult members who are getting our youth involved in this great sport!

BRENDAN SPENCER



Men's Masters Division as of 10/01/2022						
Rank	Member Name	Chapter	Muskies	Points	City, State	Average Length
1	Jeff M. Hanson	8	97	1,341	Verona, WI	40
2	Bob D. Marshall	19	105	1,270	Bowenston, OH	38
3	David White	9	86	1,208	Moundsville, WV	40
4	Billy Schultz	19	100	1,178	Bolivar, OH	38
5	Elmer W. Heyob Jr.	41	121	1,061	Marysville, OH	35
6	Dan Winter	62	64	839	Merrill, WI	39
7	Steve Ault	41	66	726	Hilliard, OH	37
8	Charles Schauer	12	52	707	Wisconsin Rapids, WI	40
9	Tim McMahon	12	55	650	Hartford, WI	38
10	George Weber	41	49	648	Kettering, OH	39

Men's Division as of 10/01/2022						
Rank	Member Name	Chapter	Muskies	Points	City, State	Average Length
1	Brad P. Nelson	8	53	832	Madison, WI	42
2	Joseph Kieser	39	47	656	Richmond, IL	40
3	Nolen Ryba	1	42	634	Minnetonka, MN	41
4	Jesse Barnhart	16	58	624	Pittsburgh, PA	37
5	Adam Boneham	23	48	596	Ravenna, OH	38
6	George McGrady	16	46	570	Carnegie, PA	38
7	Christian Otto	3	52	542	Park Ridge, IL	36
8	Justin Birch	15	38	540	Bovey, MN	40
9	Mark Weiss	21	24	522	Stacy, MN	48
10	Brian Karau	12	36	521	Mosinee, WI	40

Women's Masters Division as of 10/01/2022						
Rank	Member Name	Chapter	Muskies	Points	City, State	Average Length
1	Katia Rivers	69	24	309	Rochester, NY	39
2	Sonya Anderson	38	23	205	Alexandria, MN	35
3	Lynne M. Dembiec	35	12	183	Hartland, WI	41
4	Vickie Banks	52	10	113	Wellington, KY	37
5	Darlene Kelley	9	6	71	Salem, WV	38
6	Mary N. Arndt	41	5	65	Elmore, OH	39
7	Adison Thompson	16	7	54	Franklin, PA	34
8	Margaret Pauling	41	3	50	Fremont, OH	43
9	Sandy Petrozzi	0	2	36	Wintersville, OH	44
10	Cindy Hegdahl	1	2	31	Bemidji, MN	41

Women's Division as of 10/01/2022						
Rank	Member Name	Chapter	Muskies	Points	City, State	Average Length
1	Lynn Hotchkiss	65	28	320	Spanaway, WA	37
2	Karen McTavish	33	11	208	Duluth, MN	45
3	Lisa Mortimer	0	13	195	Webbwood, ON	41
4	Mary Lou Pertz	32	13	190	Rockton, IL	41
5	Kim Wagner	65	13	147	Roy, UT	37
6	Cindy Karau	12	7	102	Mosinee, WI	40
7	Meri Poppler	21	8	89	White Bear Lake, MN	37
8	Danielle Jance	15	8	88	Iron, MN	37
9	Troylynn Millett	65	7	86	Logan, UT	38
10	Barbara Buchholz	4	3	72	Greenville, WI	50

Fly Division as of 10/01/2022						
Rank	Member Name	Chapter	Muskies	Points	City, State	Average Length
1	Gabe Park	6	7	95	Eau Claire, WI	39
2	Ray Hawk	9	8	76	Spencer, WV	35
3	Rowan Stamm	8	3	58	Verona, WI	45
4	Jennifer Donovan	8	2	30	Madison, WI	41
5	Nicholas Lattanzio	50	2	23	Reading, PA	38
6	Brian D. Phillips	6	1	22	Eau Claire, WI	48
7	Kenny Birdsall	65	2	21	Ogden, UT	37
8	Matt Dixon	64	1	16	Port Matilda, PA	42
9	Will Tolerton	19	1	15	Paris, OH	41
10	Andrew Cimis	52	1	12	Terrace Park, OH	38

Hybrid Division as of 10/01/2022						
Rank	Member Name	Chapter	Muskies	Points	City, State	Average Length
1	Ellie Davis	65	42	539	Colorado Springs, CO	39
2	Lynn Hotchkiss	65	26	282	Spanaway, WA	37
3	Michael Floyd	57	22	227	Auburn, WA	36
4	Mike Crisanti	57	11	195	La Plata, MO	44
5	Brigham Pett	65	13	130	West Bountiful, UT	36
6	Kim Wagner	65	9	106	Roy, UT	38
7	Ryan Elizondo	65	5	89	Bonney Lake, WA	44
8	Troylynn Millett	65	7	86	Logan, UT	38
9	Rusty Welker	49	9	80	Kokomo, IN	35
10	Colin Murphy	21	7	78	Crystal, MN	37



Men's Top 25 as of 10/01/2022						
Rank	Member Name	Chapter	Length	Caught	Lake Name, County, State	Lure
1	Karl Voeck	8	55.25"	7/27/22	Green Bay - Brown, WI	Musky Frenzy Stagger Blade 8/9
2	Dan Marking	15	54.75"	7/26/22	Leech Lake - Cass, MN	M - G Spinner
3	Tim Mc Mahon	12	54.50"	8/5/22	Lake St. Clair - Ontario, ON	Cowgirl/Double Cowgirl
4	Jamie DeGroot	4	54.50"	9/1/22	Green Bay - Brown, WI	Homemade Bucktail
5	Mike Langhammer	39	54.50"	9/9/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Bulldawg
6	Brian Lesetmoe	46	54.25"	6/4/22	Bemidji - Beltrami, MN	Double 10
7	Tim Lautenslager	4	54.25"	9/24/22	Green Bay - Brown, WI	Rapala Crank
8	Chris Smith	8	54.00"	8/9/22	Green Bay - Oconto, WI	Musky Frenzy IC9
9	Spencer Berman	58	54.00"	8/28/22	Lake St. Clair - Macomb, MI	Bull Dawg Jerk
10	Travis Schaich	4	53.75"	7/1/22	St. Lawrence River - Jefferson, NY	Spanky 99
11	Elliot Nutting	1	53.50"	8/6/22	Plantagenet - Hubbard, MN	Musky Frenzy IC9
12	Brad P Nelson	8	53.50"	8/7/22	Lake Of The Woods - Ontario, ON	Dadson Bullet
13	Captain Matt (Catfish) Firestein	8	53.50"	8/10/22	St. Lawrence River - Quebec, QC	Red October Tube
14	Richard K. Wren	39	53.50"	9/10/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Super Model
15	Jarrold Roering	21	53.25"	7/13/22	Plantagenet - Hubbard, MN	Musky Mayhem 7/9 Trigger
16	Luke Armitage	39	53.25"	8/24/22	Eagle Lake - Ontario, ON	Musky Frenzy IC9
17	Tyler Scott	6	53.25"	9/6/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Plastic / Miscellaneous
18	Richard Clark	17	53.00"	6/21/22	Georgian Bay - Ontario, ON	Manta
19	Jace Loge	46	53.00"	7/10/22	Mississippi River - Beltrami, MN	Homemade Bucktail
20	Gregory A. Rubin	35	53.00"	7/27/22	Green Bay - Oconto, WI	Electric Bunny
21	Tyler Scott	6	52.75"	9/6/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Plastic / Miscellaneous
22	Steve Agrimson	1	52.50"	7/7/22	Waconia - Carver, MN	Plastic / Miscellaneous
23	Elliot Nutting	1	52.50"	7/23/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Musky Frenzy Stagger Blade 8/9
24	Chris M. Ciechanowski	4	52.50"	8/7/22	Green Bay - Brown, WI	Blade
25	Brian Rutten	15	52.50"	8/13/22	Leech Lake - Cass, MN	Klack Bait

## Lunker of the Month

Karl Voeck remains the only angler to enter a muskie over 55 inches this season in any division. His 55.25 inch monster muskie from Green Bay was featured in the last issue of MUSKIE and can now be officially named July's Lunker catch. If you look at the Lunge Log history from Green Bay, Karl's muskie ranks as the fourth longest catch from that well-respected fishery.

Men's Master Tim McMahon will receive Lunker of the Month honors for August with his 54.5 inch spotted muskie from Lake St. Clair, ON. Tim has surpassed 600 muskies in his individual lunge log, with ten muskies over 50 inches, but he credits this catch to his guide, Jason Quintano. Tim and Jason placed the muskie on a certified scale and got an official weight of 41.2 pounds.

I would also like to recognize another giant fish, one of two currently tied for LOTM for September and awaiting the 30-day period for entries to be finalized. Jamie DeGroot was also casting on Green Bay when he wrangled his new PB, a massive 54.5 inch muskie, to the net. Jamie shares, *"It was a typical night on Green Bay casting after work. The bite happened just after the sun went down, and it is one I will never forget. It was chaotic, nerve-wracking, and filled with adrenaline. Once the fish hit the net, everything went smoothly. After watching her swim away, we were still amazed at what we had just accomplished. My new casting PB is one I will never forget."*

(Lunge Log text continued on page 12)

TIM MCMAHON



JAMIE DEGROOT

## Men's Division

Fishing his last season in the Men's Division, Brad Nelson is currently sitting in first place and has a new PB to go along with his terrific season. *"It was the second morning of our trip, and I was exploring some islands and reefs I had never fished. I was with my good friend Jeff Lyon, and we had just come around a small boulder point off a small island, and I put a cast into the inside turn of the boulders and island and looked up and saw her coming in fairly hot on my Rad Dog Spinnerbait. I had a good feeling she was going to hit it, so I told Jeff immediately, 'get the net ready'... she came in, and it actually took a bit of coaxing in the 8 to get her to hit it but about the second time around I got her to go. It was a fairly fast fight, and into the net she went. Then, bringing her out of the net, I thought she might go 54 as she had the hugest jaw I have ever held. She beat my previous Canada PB by an inch and swam away strong."*

BRAD NELSON



## Women of Muskies, Inc.

Sonya Anderson and her husband, Earl, have been making trips to Ontario and logging fish since the late 1980s. On her most recent trip to Lake Kishkutena, Sonya netted an impressive 23 fish to propel her to second place in the Women's Masters Division. Sonya states that part of her success lies in her ability to trigger fish in the figure-8. Sonya's passion for fishing is shown in her involvement in "Let's Go Fishing," her

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*— Joe Bucher  
Hall of Fame Angler  
Eagle River, Wisconsin*

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commitment to getting youth on the water, and her hobby. Sonya creates and paints wood carvings of multiple species of fish!

Lynn Hotchkiss is leading the Women's Division with 28 catches this season, with 26 being tiger muskies. You'll find Lynn in second place in the Hybrid Division as well. Taking some time away from their home waters in Washington, Lynn and Ryan Elizondo traveled to Wisconsin, where Lynn made some great memories on the water. *"As anglers, we have challenges and goals to achieve each season. I was able to conquer my goal this year of catching my first true muskie in WI, on topwater nonetheless. I was also rewarded with my first natural tiger on the same trip. I'm looking forward to my next toothy critter adventure!"*

(Lunge Log text continued on page 14)



SONYA ANDERSON

Women's Top 25 as of 10/01/2022						
Rank	Member Name	Chapter	Length	Caught	Lake Name, County, State	Lure
1	Karen Mctavish	33	53.00"	7/3/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Red October Tube
2	Barbara Buchholz	4	51.50"	9/7/22	Lake St. Clair - Ontario, ON	Marvin
3	Barbara Buchholz	4	51.00"	9/6/22	Lake St. Clair - Ontario, ON	Marvin
4	Mary Lou Pertz	32	50.00"	8/16/22	Lake St. Clair - Ontario, ON	Cowgirl/Double Cowgirl
5	Karen Mctavish	33	49.75"	8/26/22	Eagle Lake - Ontario, ON	Red October Tube
6	Karen Mctavish	33	49.50"	8/20/22	Eagle Lake - Ontario, ON	Red October Tube
7	Lisa Mortimer	0	49.25"	7/9/22	Lake Huron - Ontario, ON	Mortimer Kirby
8	Lisa Mortimer	0	49.25"	9/9/22	Lake Huron - Ontario, ON	Mortimer Kirby
9	Cindy Hegdahl	1	48.50"	9/22/22	Big - Beltrami, MN	Homemade Tandem Spin
10	Lauren Stout	1	48.00"	7/3/22	Many Point Lake - Becker, MN	BarFighter
11	Kerry Valley	4	48.00"	7/29/22	Reservoir Pond - Oconto, WI	Lee Lure Water Chopper
12	April Ruffing	41	48.00"	9/8/22	Lake St. Clair - Ontario, ON	Ziggie Crank
13	Mary Lou Pertz	32	47.00"	6/29/22	Lake St. Clair - Ontario, ON	Ziggy
14	Lynne M. Dembiec	35	47.00"	7/22/22	Lake Of The Woods - Ontario, ON	Jake
15	Lisa Mortimer	0	47.00"	8/3/22	Lake Huron - Ontario, ON	Mortimer Kirby
16	Meri Poppler	21	47.00"	9/6/22	Cass - Beltrami, MN	Spanky 8 Ball
17	Barbara Buchholz	4	47.00"	9/7/22	Lake St. Clair - Ontario, ON	Marvin
18	Cindy Karau	12	46.50"	8/8/22	Wabigoon Lake - Ontario, ON	Secrettail
19	Karen Mctavish	33	46.25"	9/21/22	Lac Seul - Ontario, ON	Swimmin' Dawg
20	Lynne M. Dembiec	35	46.00"	7/22/22	Lake Of The Woods - Ontario, ON	Ex-Calibur One Knocker
21	Katrina Farnsworth	6	46.00"	8/13/22	Namekagon - Bayfield, WI	Homemade Bucktail
22	Jennifer Donovan	8	46.00"	9/4/22	Wisconsin River - Portage, WI	Homemade Fly
23	Lynne M. Dembiec	35	45.50"	7/17/22	Lake Of The Woods - Ontario, ON	Jake
24	Sandy Petrozzi	0	45.00"	6/6/22	Chautauqua - Chautauqua, NY	Tuff Shad
25	Caitlin Cummings Bissen	62	45.00"	7/24/22	Pike Chain - Price, WI	Buck Tail

LYNN HOTCHKISS



Handmade Cedar Lures

## Muskie on the Fly

Capital City's Jennifer Donovan was on a river float with her husband Dan when her homemade fly caught the eye of this 46 inch river brute from the Wisconsin River. With this catch, Jenn earns the fifth place spot on the Fly Top 25 table. Jenn and Dan opened Musky Fool Fly Fishing Company and now operate a full shop in Waunakee, WI.

Best wishes to all those late-season anglers pushing through the elements to extend their season and look for that last bite! Stay safe on the water. Along with these end-of-the-year fish to showcase and stories to tell, in our next issue, I look forward to composing a 50 inch breakdown from this year, along with a few more stats from our community of anglers. You can go online and see the most current standings and results at any time or try out your Lunge Log inquiry. I wish you a holiday season full of celebration, relaxation, and joy!

– *Alison Willers*, Lunge Log Editor



JENNIFER DONOVAN

Every muskie release is  
a conservation action!  
Muskie released by  
our members to date:

446,172

Fly Top 25 as of 10/01/2022						
Rank	Member Name	Chapter	Length	Caught	Lake Name, County, State	Lure
1	Rowan Stamm	8	50.00"	6/1/22	Green Bay - Brown, WI	Homemade Fly
2	Rowan Stamm	8	49.50"	6/26/22	Chippewa Flowage - Sawyer, WI	Homemade Fly
3	Gabe Park	6	48.50"	8/7/22	Rest - Vilas, WI	Homemade Fly
4	Brian D. Phillips	6	48.00"	9/12/22	Eau Claire - Eau Claire, WI	Fly
5	Jennifer Donovan	8	46.00"	9/4/22	Wisconsin River - Portage, WI	Homemade Fly
6	Gabe Park	6	44.00"	7/31/22	Wisconsin River - Oneida, WI	Homemade Fly
7	Matt Dixon	64	41.50"	3/19/22	Allegheny River - Venango, PA	Homemade Fly
8	Gabe Park	6	41.50"	9/5/22	Wisconsin - Chippewa, WI	Homemade Fly
9	Will Tolerton	19	41.00"	4/5/22	West Branch Reservoir - Portage, OH	Homemade Fly
10	Kenny Birdsall	65	41.00"	5/13/22	Pineview Reservoir - Weber, UT	Streamer Fly
11	Ray Hawk	9	38.00"	3/3/22	James River - Alleghany, VA	Game Changer
12	Ray Hawk	9	38.00"	3/20/22	Elk River - Braxton, WV	Game Changer
13	Nicholas Lattanzio	50	38.00"	5/26/22	Schuylkill River - Berks, PA	Game Changer
14	Gabe Park	6	38.00"	8/24/22	Flambeau River - Rusk, WI	Homemade Fly
15	John Diez	23	38.00"	9/4/22	Lake Milton - Mahoning, OH	Streamer Fly
16	Gabe Park	6	38.00"	9/10/22	Chippewa Flowage - Sawyer, WI	Homemade Fly
17	Andrew Cimis	52	37.75"	3/6/22	Ohio River - Washington, OH	Homemade Fly
18	Dustin Murphy	8	37.50"	5/11/22	Monona - Dane, WI	Fly
19	Pierre E. Belisle	21	37.50"	7/29/22	Cedar - Polk, WI	Fly
20	Nicholas Lattanzio	50	37.00"	6/29/22	Schuylkill River - Berks, PA	Homemade Fly
21	Ray Hawk	9	36.00"	5/25/22	Little Coal River - Lincoln, WV	Game Changer
22	Ray Hawk	9	36.00"	5/25/22	Little Coal River - Lincoln, WV	Game Changer
23	Gabe Park	6	36.00"	7/26/22	Holcombe Flowage - Chippewa, WI	Homemade Fly
24	Rowan Stamm	8	36.00"	8/25/22	Flambeau River - Sawyer, WI	Homemade Fly
25	Jennifer Donovan	8	36.00"	8/28/22	Madison Chain - Dane, WI	Homemade Fly

Juniors Top 25 as of 10/01/2022						
Rank	Member Name	Chapter	Length	Caught	Lake Name, County, State	Lure
1	Noah Moss	24	54.00"	8/17/22	Plantagenet - Hubbard, MN	Plastic / Miscellaneous
2	Fischer Smith	6	53.00"	8/4/22	St Croix River - St. Croix, WI	Red October Tube
3	Noah Moss	24	51.75"	8/16/22	Plantagenet - Hubbard, MN	Swimmin' Dawg
4	Charlie Weiss	21	51.50"	8/31/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Bondy Bait
5	Drew Nelson	21	50.25"	7/14/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Spanky Fireball
6	Charlie Weiss	21	50.25"	9/4/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Bondy Bait
7	Charlie Weiss	21	50.00"	9/4/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Red October
8	Charlie Weiss	21	49.50"	8/31/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Bondy Bait
9	Micheal Schmidt	12	48.50"	6/6/22	Catfish - Vilas, WI	Homemade Bucktail
10	Carson Wilary	32	48.00"	8/12/22	Lake Of The Woods - Ontario, ON	Poseidon
11	Noah Jacobson	21	48.00"	9/3/22	Lake Of The Woods - Ontario, ON	Stagger Blade
12	Thomas Lyon	8	47.75"	8/7/22	Waubesa - Dane, WI	Kramer Bros
13	Ellie Davis	65	47.50"	7/17/22	Ackley Lake - Judith Basin, MT	Custom Spinner
14	Trevor Barber	12	47.50"	8/15/22	Muskellunge - Vilas, WI	Dinner Bell
15	Lydia Gillispie	76	47.25"	2/13/22	New River - Pulaski, VA	Homemade Swim Bait
16	Charlie Weiss	21	47.00"	7/9/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Red October
17	Ellie Davis	65	46.50"	7/4/22	Pineview Reservoir - Weber, UT	22 Long Crankbait
18	Landyn Valley	4	46.50"	7/23/22	Reservoir Pond - Oconto, WI	Blade
19	Landyn Valley	4	46.50"	7/23/22	Reservoir Pond - Oconto, WI	Blade
20	Marissa Liske	6	46.25"	7/29/22	Holcombe Flowage - Chippewa, WI	Shallow Raider
21	Trevor Barber	12	46.25"	9/7/22	Lake Of The Woods - Ontario, ON	Bucher Shallow Raider
22	Luke Hopkins	28	46.00"	8/14/22	Green Bay - Brown, WI	Lungen Spinner
23	William Christ	8	46.00"	9/4/22	Wisconsin River - Portage, WI	Spanky 8 Ball
24	Charlie Weiss	21	46.00"	9/5/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Bondy Bait
25	Drew Nelson	21	45.75"	7/14/22	Lake Vermilion - St. Louis, MN	Spanky Fireball

Hybrid Top 25 as of 10/01/2022						
Rank	Member Name	Chapter	Length	Caught	Lake Name, County, State	Lure
1	Addie Minchey	65	49.50"	8/1/22	Joe's Valley Reservoir - Emery, UT	Speed Waker
2	Jonathan Davis	65	49.25"	2/5/22	Pineview Reservoir - Weber, UT	Custom Spinner
3	Chuck Spletter	6	49.00"	7/8/22	Lake St. Clair - Wayne, MI	Marvin
4	Jack Pertz	32	48.00"	6/29/22	Lake St. Clair - Ontario, ON	Ziggy
5	Kevin Kelley	9	48.00"	7/7/22	Lake St. Clair - Ontario, ON	Lasso Tail
6	Ellie Davis	65	47.50"	7/17/22	Ackley Lake - Judith Basin, MT	Custom Spinner
7	Ellie Davis	65	46.50"	7/4/22	Pineview Reservoir - Weber, UT	22 Long Crankbait
8	Thomas A Farrell	39	46.25"	7/13/22	Lake St. Clair - Ontario, ON	Homemade Swim Bait
9	Mike Crisanti	57	46.00"	8/25/22	Curler - Ferry, WA	Mepps Musky Marabou
10	Mike Crisanti	57	46.00"	9/7/22	Curler - Ferry, WA	Homemade Bucktail
11	Ryan Elizondo	65	45.75"	6/24/22	Lake Tapps - Pierce, WA	Topwater
12	Todd Schulz	61	45.75"	8/6/22	Gilmore - Oneida, WI	Musky Mayhem 7/9 Trigger
13	Mike Crisanti	57	45.50"	8/28/22	Curler - Ferry, WA	Wiley Crank
14	Bryan J Thompson	37	45.25"	7/15/22	Lake St. Clair - Ontario, ON	Ziggie Crank
15	Ellie Davis	65	45.00"	7/9/22	Pineview Reservoir - Weber, UT	Tuff Shad
16	Blake Millett	65	45.00"	8/7/22	Pineview Reservoir - Weber, UT	Homemade Crank Bait
17	Mike Crisanti	57	45.00"	8/8/22	Merwin - Cowlitz, WA	Homemade Bucktail
18	Ryan Elizondo	65	44.75"	4/3/22	Lake Tapps - Pierce, WA	Plastic - Not Specified
19	Lynn Hotchkiss	65	44.75"	9/6/22	Lake Tapps - Pierce, WA	Homemade Bucktail
20	Michael Floyd	57	44.50"	7/15/22	Mayfield Lake - Lewis, WA	Rapala Jerk
21	Mike Crisanti	57	44.50"	8/12/22	Merwin - Cowlitz, WA	Homemade Bucktail
22	Patrick McMichael	35	44.00"	8/24/22	Canyon - Ontario, ON	Electric Bunny
23	Ryan Elizondo	65	43.75"	5/30/22	Lake Tapps - Pierce, WA	Plastic - Not Specified
24	Ryan Elizondo	65	43.75"	7/3/22	Lake Tapps - Pierce, WA	Topwater
25	Ellie Davis	65	43.75"	7/9/22	Pineview Reservoir - Weber, UT	Baby Depth Raider



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# WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

## STUDY INVESTIGATES DIETS OF MINNESOTA'S MUSKELLUNGE

By: Kamden Glade and Andrew Hafs (Aquatic Biology Program, Department of Biology, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN), and Brian Herwig (Fisheries Research, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Bemidji, MN)

Through the years, Minnesota has increasingly become a destination for dedicated muskie anglers from across the country and worldwide. This is no accident, as the state's waters are managed with Leech Lake strain fish, a 54 inch minimum size limit, and stocking rates designed to provide anglers with the best chance at a fish of a lifetime. Multiple fish well beyond the 54 inch minimum are reported by anglers every year throughout the state, and the state records for both length and weight have been broken within the last three years. However, the fish of 10,000 casts has had a polarizing history in the land of 10,000 lakes.

Despite a body of scientific evidence indicating muskies do not negatively impact resident fish populations in the waters where they are managed, muskie management in Minnesota has faced significant pushback in recent years. This is especially true in lakes with introduced muskie populations, as some individuals wondered if adding another predator might upset the balance within these ecosystems. Most recently, the muskie debate reached the Minnesota legislature in 2018 with a proposed bill to change muskie regulations and stocking practices throughout the state. While the original bill was not passed into law, it did indicate a need for additional research into the role of muskies in fish communities. Specifically, biologists, politicians, and other interested stakeholders wanted data to answer two questions: **(1) what are**

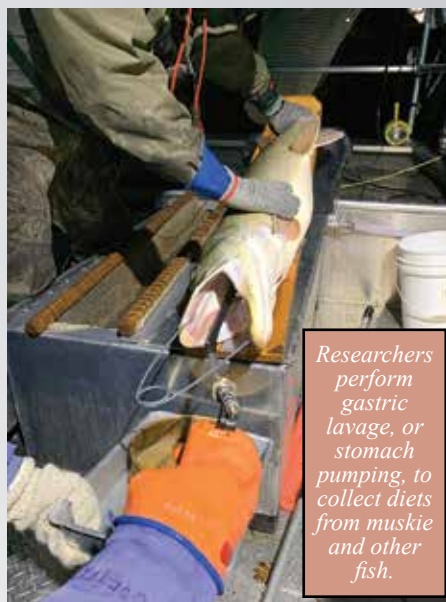
**muskie feeding on in Minnesota lakes? and (2) how do muskie diets compare to other popular sportfish such as walleye, northern pike, and largemouth bass?**

In 2019, we began a multi-year project collecting and analyzing the stomach contents of these four predators and investigating lake food webs through stable isotope analysis (a technique that uses the presence of alternate

forms of elements like Carbon and Nitrogen to identify prey items) with researchers from Bemidji State University, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), and the University of St. Thomas. This project was designed to build upon a previous study conducted by biologists from MN DNR and the University of St. Thomas, which used stable isotope analysis to investigate the food web in Elk Lake, Itasca State Park. The results indicated muskies relied heavily on the abundant cisco population as their prey. Muskie anglers have long believed muskie prey on cisco where they exist, so this may not surprise them. However, documenting the predator-prey relationship has

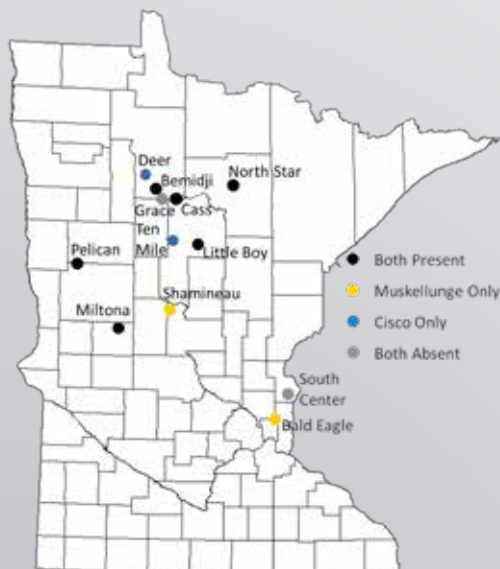
been difficult with the methods used in previous diet studies. The Elk Lake project led to our study design, where lakes with and without cisco were included to investigate if diets differ based on the availability of this prey species. Additionally, lakes without muskie were also included to determine if their presence might

Some of the muskie in this study have had extremely large diets, including one that had eaten 101 other fish, 97 of which were yellow perch.



Researchers perform gastric lavage, or stomach pumping, to collect diets from muskie and other fish.





*Fish diets have been collected from 10 Minnesota lakes since 2019, with lakes split into groups depending on presence or absence of both muskie and cisco. Two additional lakes (Cass and North Star) are slated to be sampled in 2022.*

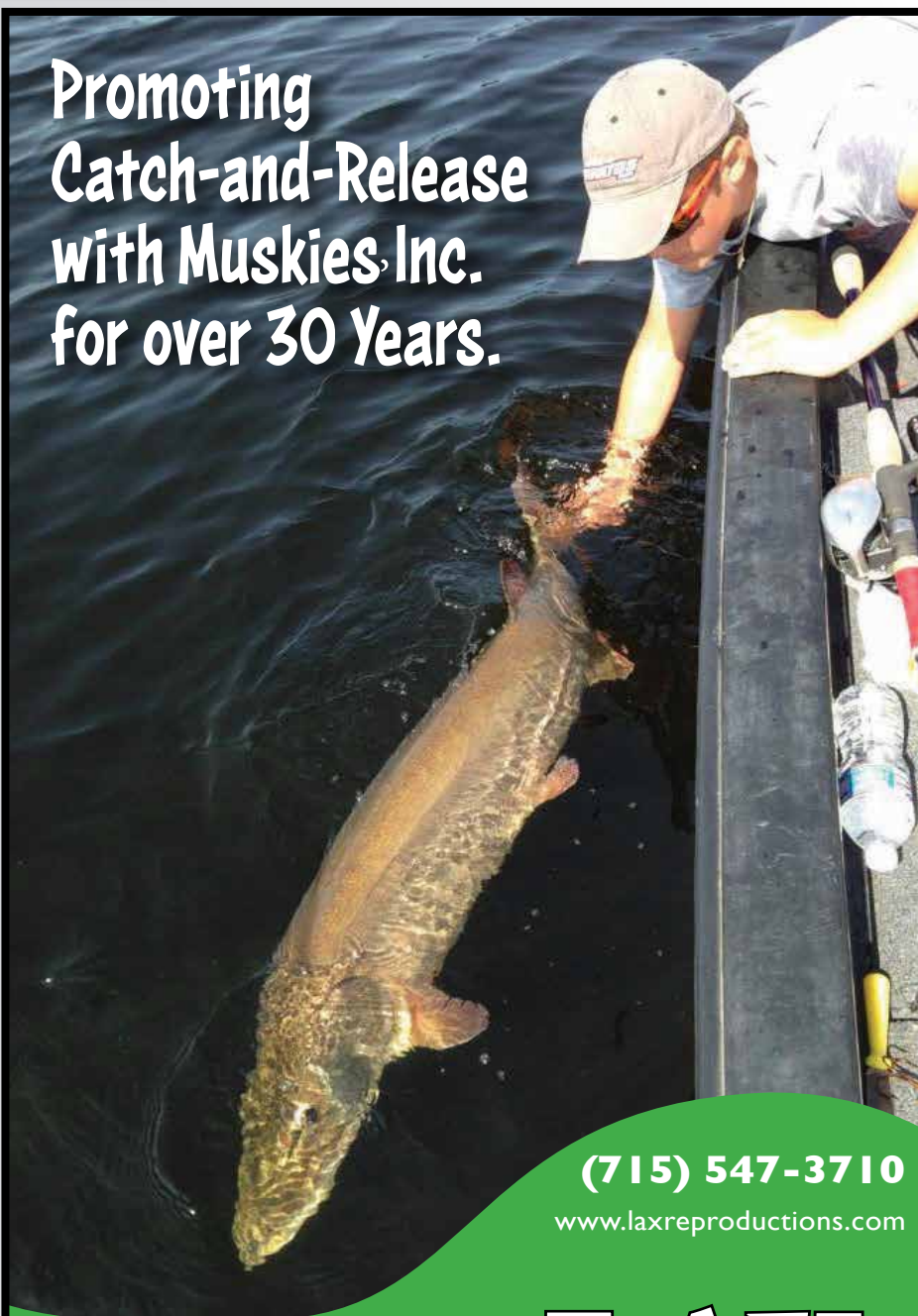
Stomach contents were collected from 122 muskies in the four lakes with cisco and 71 in the two lakes without cisco. Muskies sizes ranged from 11.2 to 54.9 inches, and roughly 50% of stomachs contained at least one prey item. The percentage of muskies with prey was fairly consistent across seasons and fish sizes, and was quite a bit higher than some of the previous diet studies conducted on muskies. One memorable muskie diet contained 101 individual fish—a bluegill, a sucker, two bullheads, and 97 yellow perch! Other diets contained a single large prey item, such as a 24.6 inch northern pike or a 21.4 inch sucker. Still, others have been even more

*(Article continued on page 18)*

impact the diets of walleye, northern pike, and largemouth bass. This resulted in a study design where lakes fell into one of four categories: both muskie and cisco present, muskie only, cisco only, or both (muskie and cisco) absent.

Electrofishing, which uses a generator to produce an electric field that temporarily stuns fish, was conducted at nighttime to collect fish throughout the open water period. A major advantage of this method is that we can release the fish alive after collecting our samples. However, electrofishing for muskies can be challenging because their large bodies can detect electricity farther away than smaller fish. They are powerful enough to avoid the boat if they notice it too soon. To give ourselves better odds at capturing muskies, we use spotlights to locate them in relatively shallow water without the electricity running. We then maneuver the boat directly above the fish before flipping the switch and hope we're quick enough to net them before they recover and escape. Additional fish were captured in MN DNR survey nets and by angling, although our angling attempts were largely unsuccessful! Stomach contents were collected by pumping lake water into a fish's stomach, which causes any recent prey items to be regurgitated and allowed fish to be released following the procedure. Prey items were identified and measured, and equations were used to estimate the weight of each prey item. Finally, an index of relative diet importance was calculated for each predator, while a separate value was calculated to investigate diet overlap among the different predators.

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*Muskies occasionally consume large non-fish prey, such as this goldeneye duck and partially digested muskrat.*

unexpected, such as the three muskies that consumed muskrats or three others that consumed birds (a gull and a duck and a coot, oh my!).

While these surprising diet items were always fun to collect, they were rare and contributed relatively little to our overall diet trends in the study lakes. In lakes with cisco present, yellow perch were the most important prey item for muskies, making up 36% of the diet. Other relatively important prey species in this lake group included suckers (16%) and bullheads (7%). In lakes without cisco, northern pike (20%), sunfish (13%), and bullheads (12%) made up the bulk of muskie diets. Surprisingly, cisco were not a key

component of muskie diets in the four lakes with cisco present, contributing less than 1%. However, this could be due to the limitations of our sampling gears and angling abilities, as almost all our samples came from less than 6 feet of water, coinciding with the depth of water in which electrofishing is most efficient. Finally, while three muskies in cisco lakes did consume walleye, they were not an important diet component at less than 1%. No walleye were detected in muskie diets in lakes without cisco.

Additional stomach contents were collected from 1,043 northern pike, 1,178 walleye, and 1,105 largemouth bass. Interesting prey items recovered from these species (especially largemouth bass) included one duckling, two baby snapping turtles, numerous frogs, and even a bone from a chicken drumstick! Yellow perch, black crappie, and sunfish accounted for over 65% of northern pike diets in all four lake categories. A similar pattern was true for walleye, with yellow perch and sunfish contributing over 64% of their diets across lake groups. While largemouth bass consumed these prey groups as well, they relied much more on crayfish and other invertebrates, which made up over 70% of their diets in most lakes.

An index of diet overlap between each species pair was calculated for each lake. Overlap between muskie and the other species was low in lakes with and without cisco. This is likely due to the wide range of prey that muskies consumed, including prey that was too large for the other species. Largemouth bass diet overlap was also low in lakes where crayfish were important,



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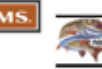
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**5:00 Mike Keyes**  
**7:00 Luke Ronnestrand**

**Saturday**  
**11:00 Gregg**  
**1:00 Jim Saric**  
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*The largest fish of this study was 54.9 inches and was caught twice—first in May 2021 (left) and again in August 2021 (right).*

whereas shared use of sunfish as prey led to higher overlap in lakes without muskie and cisco. Conversely, northern pike and walleye had the highest overlap of any species pair in all lake groups. This is likely due to the importance of yellow perch and sunfish in both species' diets.

Our results indicate muskies in Minnesota lakes consume a broader range of prey species compared to walleye, northern pike, and largemouth bass, which leads to low levels of diet overlap with these predators. While muskie did consume shared prey resources such as yellow perch and sunfish, their ability to exploit large-bodied prey items such as suckers, bullheads, and northern pike gave them a unique niche in the food web and kept overlap levels relatively low. In conjunction with the minimal presence of walleye in their diets, these results are consistent with previous studies showing that muskie can co-exist with other popular fish species.

This project is in its final stages, with diet collections on two additional lakes wrapping up this fall. Stable isotope analysis is also ongoing, which will help us understand longer-term feeding patterns and energy sources on an expanded set of lakes. This technique will give us a better idea of predation on cisco in lakes where they are present, as it is not reliant on capturing fish in shallow water that had recently consumed their prey. Finally, in two of the study lakes, a bioenergetics project

is underway to build on this diet work by estimating how much of each prey species is consumed by each predator population, based on adult population estimates, diet data, and growth rates. These concurrent studies will give biologists much-needed information on aquatic food webs and how predators may interact, providing critical information to help assist in fisheries management decisions. These decisions will be incorporated into management plans for individual lakes throughout the state and the next statewide long-range muskie management plan, all to give anglers a shot at the biggest fish of their life. And, hopefully, it doesn't take them 10,000 casts to catch it. ■■■



*Some of the larger prey items need some extra encouragement to be removed, including this large sucker. We've found that kitchen tongs work well for this!*



*A muskie swims away following diet collection.*

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# MEMBERS *photos*

By: Alison Willers MUSKIE Photo Editor, [pictures@muskiesinc.org](mailto:pictures@muskiesinc.org)

■ Chapter outings are a great way to get youth hooked on fishing!

**Trevor Barber** from the Headwaters Chapter is certainly gaining knowledge and experience fast, with 20 fish logged this year. Read more about Trevor's special catch

in the Lunge Log on page 10!



■ **Jay Aigner** has been a Muskies, Inc. member for 10 years, fishing a multitude of MN and WI lakes. His latest destination was Namekagon Lake, WI, where he caught 4 fish measuring 46, 46, 47, and 48 inches.



■ **Barbara Buchholz** of Chapter 4 had an incredible day of muskie fishing on Lake St. Clair, completing a hat-trick. Her spotted muskies measured 47, 51, and 51.5-inches.



■ In his first season of entering fish in the Lunge Log, **Elliot Nutting** has two fish in the Men's Top 25; a 52.5 inch and 53.5 inch muskie, and has logged fish from 8 different bodies of water in MN.



■ North Metro's **Christopher Franzen** has been finding success on the lakes of Wisconsin. This 41.5 inch muskie is yet another fish to attack a Stagger 8/9 bladed bucktail.

■ St. Cloud youth member **Andrew Dincau** proudly holds the first muskie that he's entered in his Lunge Log, a 39 inch Lobster Lake, MN fish that ate his cowgirl.







■ Chicagoland Muskie Hunter **Bernie Bono** traveled to LOTW for this 46 inch topwater bite at sunset.

- Twin Cities angler **Chris Dahl** was working a Red October Tube on Lake Minnetonka when he got a solid bite from this tiger. Chris also caught a 41 inch pure muskie within the same hour.



- Lifetime member **Tom Maki** headed to Eagle Lake, ON and was greeted by cool, fall weather. Tom caught two fish on the trip, including this 41.5-inch pulled from the rocks.



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# RIVER FISHING RUNDOWN

By: Sam Scott

*The scenic James River under beautiful skies.*

I've been fishing the rivers of Virginia since I was a child, and now run a full-time guide service (Blue Ridge Musky, started in 2016) for smallmouth bass and muskies. I also own and operate Virginia's only brick-and-mortar muskie shop – James River Outfitter. Our fisheries here are unique, and being a southern muskie fishery, they offer almost year-round fishing with long fishable winters and pre-spawn bites that draw anglers in from all across the country! We are fortunate to have one of the nation's top river fishing destinations for muskie and smallmouth bass, and I've spent my entire adult life learning its secrets and sharing my passion with others.

I've learned a thing or two over the years of fishing both my home rivers and lakes across the southeast and hosting hundreds of seasoned muskie anglers who primarily fish northern lakes. One common subject that comes up is how river fishing differs so much from lake fishing for muskies. Also, what types of baits we use, the type of boats we use and how they are set up, and how to handle the shallow rocky rivers. Tactics vary quite a bit, and muskie behavior changes in the rivers. In this MUSKIE issue, I will give you a comprehensive overview of river fishing for southern muskies.

Before we get into the tackle and tactics, let's go over the water crafts commonly used for fishing these shallow, swift rivers. Many of our rivers range in depth, but you will see your deep holes split up by shoals of shallow, fast, moving water. This is where the river drops in elevation and the water moves faster through less depth. The average running depth (amount of water under your boat) while moving through a shoal can be anywhere from 3-4 inches to 3-4 feet. This means your standard V-Hull boats are not going to cut it. Many anglers choose to run inflatable fishing rafts with aluminum frames, hard floors, seats, and leaning braces. These rafts have enough room for the rower and two anglers on either end of the boat. There's usually just enough room for a small cooler, a small bait box

or 5-gallon bucket, and 3-4 rods. Most guys that fish from rafts have to get inventive on fitting all their gear and having room for a large muskie net. But despite the tight quarters, the raft is the shallowest running, lightest option for getting three guys down 5-10 miles of premium shallow water fishing. When the flows get even lower in the dry season, rafts and lightweight drift boats are about the only thing moving out here.

That brings us to the next option for riverboats - the drift boat. Often a fiberglass composite or aluminum, these hulls are designed to be lightweight, easily rowed, and have a very shallow static draft. Meaning that when fully loaded, these boats will float just about as shallow as a raft due to their wide bottoms and lightweight design. Drift boats come in many sizes but generally provide more room than a raft and a better fishing platform for standing up and figure-8ing all day. I personally guided from a 16 foot Stealthcraft drift boat for four years and loved every minute of it.

The next option and probably the most popular option among southern river muskie anglers is the jet boat. These flat bottom hulls are normally made from aluminum and sometimes armored with polyurethane plastics. They are typically outfitted with inboard or outboard jets. An outboard (or inboard) jet is just like a normal boat motor, except instead of a lower unit consisting of a propeller, you have a water pump connected directly to the drive shaft of the motor that sucks water up from under the hull and blasts it out the back at extremely high pressures that propel the boat forward. Jet intakes are not the most efficient drive options, but they are the shallowest running. Typically, you lose about 30% of your motor's capable horsepower when you install a jet intake on it. You will often see outboard jet power ratings displayed with two numbers. The first number is the motor's stock horsepower rating at the prop drive. The second number is the horsepower rating of the jet. Example 60/40, 90/65, 150/105.



With a properly set up jet boat, you can run on plane in four inches of water with a full load of passengers and gear. And you have the added advantage over rafts and drifters of being able to jet up and down the river as often as you need to. This means you can revisit fish that you moved earlier in the day, a productive tool for locating fish and coming back during majors when they are ready to eat. Jet boats are also a lot of fun to operate and help increase your time spent in productive water casting at fish instead of rowing between holes for a large portion of the day. There are many other options for navigating the rivers and hunting muskies. My personal favorite and what I am currently running, is the drift boat/jet boat hybrid or the power drifter. This is a lightweight modified drift boat hull powered by an outboard jet. It has the ability to float shallow or run on plane at 30 mph with a static draft of about 4 inches. This boat bridges the gap and gives you the options you need to fish these shallow rivers and get to the places that the larger boats can't.

In terms of rods, my experience has been that river fishing requires a different approach relative to lake fishing. Instead, we trade the power and casting distance of the popular long 9 and 10-foot rods for the accuracy of shorter 8-foot and 8'6" rods. While the former excel at launching baits in big lakes or really large rivers, our medium and small-sized rivers in the south require shorter casts and more accurate placement of baits. We sometimes even pitch baits at a low angle to get them up under tree limbs into tight spaces near the bank. Accuracy is everything, and that low angle pitch gets your rod tip very low to the water so that the bait's trajectory starts low and angles up slightly. We sometimes need to make these types of casts all day long. The shorter 8-foot and 8'6" rods are just short enough to allow for pitching baits under huge sycamore branches and long enough to facilitate good figure-8s. I pair all my rods with Shimano Tranx HG reels, an 80lb braided main line, and a variety of muskie leaders depending on the bait type we are running.

Many baits we throw in the river are the same common baits used at lakes across the country. And others are better adapted for the moving water. I have learned over the years of fishing both lakes and rivers and talking with anglers from across the country that fish in the rivers are more willing to eat baits with steady forward action rather than the pump or jerk style. I'm always getting wide-eyed looks when demonstrating the "proper" retrieval of a Bull Dawg, pull bait, or Whale Tail. Many anglers from the lakes love to "rip" rubber through weed beds or over bait. But here in the river, a steady retrieve will get more action 90% of the time. We also throw a lot of gliders down here in the

south, almost to the point of obsession. Glide baits just get crushed in the rivers. When targeting those current lines where the slack water or eddies meet with faster-moving water, the gliding action, and subsequent direction change just drive our fish absolutely bonkers. Pretty much every muskie angler here has a favorite glider that they wouldn't trade anything for. Glide baits are also very effective when fishing the many laydowns you will find lining the banks of our rivers. Muskies will get down into these thick branches of a laydown and lie, waiting to ambush a sucker. Using a glider with slow walking action and an ability to keep that bait in the strike zone above that tree for longer periods will very often bring that muskie out and hopefully get a strike.

Similar to other fisheries around the country, we also have an incredible post-spawn blade bite here. This bite starts in early May as our fish come off the spawn and going through the end of June when water temps get too hot to continue fishing for muskie. This is usually everyone's favorite time of the year, with lots of fast-charging muskies and intense boat side figure-8 action. When these muskies get into that aggressive, chase-everything-in-sight mood, we tend to see a lot of action throughout the day. It's not uncommon to have 25-30 follows and five or more fish landed in a day during the post-spawn blade bite so you have to keep in mind that you're often pulling these bucktails against the current of the river as you're cranking them back to the boat.

*(Article continued on page 24)*

*The uses a jet boat to navigate the shallow water of the James River.*



*A giant James River 51.5-incher shows the true trophy potential of this body of water.*





*The author with a jig-caught fish.*



*Jigs work especially well to sight-fish muskies in shallow, clear water.*

So, while double 10s or larger blades may be popular in the lakes, they are not as common here due to the resistance they create working against the powerful currents. We prefer smaller blades like a single or double 8.

In the winter, our rivers hold more water and the flows increase quite a bit. The water turns a beautiful stained green color with 2-3 feet of visibility. This is prime time for big rubber and BIG muskies! When the water is up like this and temps are low, the muskies don't want to fight the current and have to expend precious energy all day, so they find a quiet eddy to hang out in or lie against the banks where there's little to no current. This makes it much easier to locate fish. With the lower visibility combined with the fact that our fish are looking for big meals in the colder water temps, we can take advantage of these conditions and get a lot of action while working big rubber baits up against the banks and in the slack water eddies. Bull Dawgs, Shadzillas, and Medussas are some of the well-known options. However, I tend to throw more small batch custom baits such as the Painter Catfish, Muskie Pursuit Serpents, or Hellbenders. All of which are made by different Muskies, Inc. Chapter 76 members. In fact, we have a ton of anglers down here who make absolutely amazing small batch custom baits that get crushed in these rivers. But, as one would expect, they were, after all, developed here to catch these particular fish.

My favorite bait or style of fishing that I believe is more unique to shallow river systems is sight casting with small jigs. When you think of jigging, most guys think of raising and lowering a Bondy Bait vertically directly below the boat in 20+ feet of water. My jigging style is done with an oversized bass jig, usually with a

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long grub tail or paddle tail. We cast the jig across the strike zone, letting the jig fall to the bottom, and then we "jig" into the strike zone and work the bottom of the river. The strikes usually come when the jig is stationary on the bottom. It's such a productive style of fishing, and I could write a book on this technique alone. The other reason this is a unique tactic is we often do this while sight fishing. I often spot a fish in up to 10 feet of water and as shallow as 2 feet. With that same jig, we make an accurate cast PAST the strike zone of that fish and work it down to them using the current and retrieval speed to land that jig on the bottom of the river just ahead of the muskie where it can easily see the bait. After your jig is in position, a few small shakes or bumps and you've got a front row seat to a muskie slurping your bait off the bottom of the river. This may be the most entertaining way of catching muskies, and some days we are getting three and four fish. It's a technique I've worked on hard over the years, and most guys who experience it with me will tell you the same thing: it's their favorite way of targeting muskie.

There are also dangers of river fishing. Rivers fluctuate in flow based on rainfall, runoff, and dam releases. Any of these can sneak up on you and cause trouble if you're not careful. So do your research before fishing a river, especially if it is a river you're unfamiliar with. Check the USGS gauge readings and weather forecasts for the time you plan to be out on the water plus 12 hours. Make sure you're familiar with the area river accesses,

and always tell a friend who's familiar with the river where you plan to fish on a given day. Over the years of fishing these rivers, I've witnessed more than a few hairy situations that could have been avoided with more preparation and planning.

To finish it up, I wanted to share a little information on our river fisheries here in Virginia that host populations of muskie. The big three here are the New River, the James River, and the Shenandoah River. We are still stocking the Shenandoah, but the James and New Rivers have self-sustaining populations that haven't needed supplemental stockings in almost ten years. Our local Muskies, Inc. Chapter, 76, Tooth Tamers, raises money each year to help grow fingerlings to be stocked in the Shenandoah. That river is coming along very nicely with recent shocking surveys showing off some huge females! So, if you're ever in Virginia, definitely try to plan a trip to one of these fisheries and experience the beautiful and unique river muskies here in the Blue Ridge Mountains! ■■■■

*Sam Scott lives in the mountains of Virginia operating his guide service, Blue Ridge Musky, and muskie shop, James River Outfitter. Sam enjoys taking anglers out on the rivers and lakes in Virginia and sharing his passion of hunting muskies with them. You can learn more about Sam's outfit here, [www.BlueRidgeMusky.com](http://www.BlueRidgeMusky.com).*



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# Chapter News & Views

## Regional News

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS, CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES, AND ALL MEMBERS

- Jeff Micholic, VP Internal Affairs

Hello Muskies, Inc. members,

Hoping your fall season has brought you and your chapter continued success on the water. The memories of catching muskies across the country can last a lifetime for many and should be shared with our community of anglers. Many reports of youth, veteran, and chapter events have graced the issues of MUSKIE this season. Please send us your story for all to read and enjoy. Our muskie brotherhood knows this precious experience of the "catch" that most anglers never realize or even witness. Please help us to grow our common passion every chance you get!

As we approach November, please be advised that your region will conduct its annual meetings. These meetings allow Chapter Representatives an opportunity to "voice and vote" for important agenda items and local issues that concern them. Please take the opportunity to become part of the process. All of our officers, representatives, and members are volunteers in our great organization. Only a small portion of the work is subcontracted out. Participation in your local chapter, regional meetings, and national leadership level is vital to preserving our founding principles and governance. If you are already a volunteer, thank you for your service. If you have never been able to volunteer, take a leap of faith and get involved. You'll never regret it!

Our regional meetings have already been scheduled around the country. Most will be phone meetings, but Region 4 will hold an in-person meeting this year. Here is a list of the dates that the meetings take place:

Region 1: November 7 (contact John Sadusky for details)

Region 2: November 15 (contact Joel De Boer for details)

Region 3: November 21 (contact Bob Sisson for details)

Region 4: November 5 @ 8:30 a.m., Springfield, IL (contact Walter Krause for details)

\*Phone numbers and emails of the Senior Regionals Representatives can be found on the website.

Also, please take time in this season of Thanksgiving to be thankful for the great gifts of family, friends, and volunteers. Thank you for your continued efforts to make Muskies, Inc. an organization of universal respect in the fishing community.



## ATTENTION CHAPTER CONTACTS:

Please make sure your chapter's information is correct on this page AND on the MI website. Whenever you update chapter information on the website, please send an email to the Editor so we can keep this page current. Thanks!

## No. Chapter - President Name: Contact Information

- 01..... **Twin Cities** - Jim Doyle: 952-920-9818 // tcmi.president@gmail.com
- 02..... **Fargo-Moorhead** - Rick Eagleson: 701-237-4801 // (contact via phone)
- 03..... **Chicagoland Muskie Hunters** - Frank Loye: 312-446-0979 // muskyfrank@hotmail.com
- 04..... **Titletown/Packerland** - Kyle Hunsader: 920-819-6575 // Hunsaderkyle@yahoo.com
- 05..... **Pomme De Terre** - George Donner: 816-678-1623 // george@missourimuskies.org
- 06..... **First Wisconsin** - Josh Rabska: 715-210-1561 // info@firstwimuskiesinc.org
- 07..... **South Side Muskie Hawks** - John Daley: 773-704-3401 // jdfish444@icloud.com
- 08..... **Capital City** - Brian Falleck: 608-212-7941 // bdfalleck@gmail.com
- 09..... **West Virginia** - Jim Moore: 740-667-3571 // jfmoor@windstream.net
- 10..... **Heartland** - Ryan Wilcke: 641-430-6961 // heartlandmuskiesch10@gmail.com
- 11..... **Mississippi Valley** - Russ Schneider: 563-529-5813 // russ@yahoo.com
- 12..... **Headwaters** - Bill Jacobs: 715-891-5574 // promusky@live.com
- 13..... **Hayward Lakes** - Mike Persson: 715-634-4543 // mikepersson@centurylink.net
- 14..... **South of the Border** - Len Szulc: 815-385-9026 // muskyteer@aol.com
- 15..... **Star of the North** - Cliff Arola: 218-966-8220 // xlmusky@yahoo.com
- 16..... **Three Rivers** - Joel Morrow: 724-859-3386 // Threeriversmuskies@outlook.com
- 17..... **Quad County** - Duane Landmeier: 815-286-7170 // dlandmeier@frontier.com
- 19..... **Akron-Canton Muskie Maniacs** - Guy Bechter: 440-310-6239 // worldgonemad@msn.com
- 20..... **Between the Lakes** - Damian Nevers: 920-207-4635 // dnevers1@gmail.com
- 21..... **North Metro** - Michael Riha: 763-607-2800 // mwriha@aol.com
- 22..... **New Jersey** - Cal Huntzinger: 908-319-2205 // muskysquadron@hotmail.com
- 23..... **Cleveland** - Robert Basic: 330-550-9890 // muskeybob@gmail.com
- 24..... **Brainerd Lakes** - Jim Kath: 218-838-7488 // kathmuskiehunter@gmail.com
- 26..... **Central Wisconsin** - John Carlson: 715-339-3635 // rossport@pctcnet.net
- 28..... **Shawnee Muskie Hunters** - Jim Beaty: 618-971-7806 // jbeaty@certapro.com
- 29..... **Upper Great Plains** - Joe Anderson: 507-236-6185 // anderj85@yahoo.com
- 30..... **God's Country** - Mike Weidemann: 608-792-7722 // muskie313@aol.com
- 32..... **Flatlanders** - Stu Sondgeroth: 815-233-0964 // billies@comcast.com
- 33..... **Lake Superior** - Terry DeMenge: 218-391-2699 // muskie2031@mcchsi.com
- 35..... **Milwaukee** - Geoff Verges: 262-442-8496 // vegas492@yahoo.com
- 37..... **St. Cloud** - Ken Smith: 612-703-6239 // smittyisamuskienut@yahoo.com
- 38..... **Alexandria-Vikingland** - Katee Campion: 320-293-7910 // campz22@aol.com
- 39..... **Fox River Valley** - Dan Koniewicz: 847-682-9238 // dan.koniewicz@aptar.com
- 41..... **Central Ohio** - John (Turk) Michel: 937-537-1110 // turkmichel@icloud.com
- 46..... **Bemidji/Cass Lake** - Chris Thury: 612-590-9785 // cthury@midco.net
- 49..... **Indiana Muskie** - John Dobry: 219-743-4131 // trowel007@yahoo.com
- 50..... **Penn-Jersey** - Michael DiGuiseppe: 610-427-3499 // mxd1@comcast.net
- 52..... **Daniel Boone** - Chris Haley: 606-759-7610 // Buckhornguide52@gmail.com
- 53..... **Huskerland Muskie Hunters** - Matt Tesarek: 402-676-1019 // mtesarek@gmail.com
- 54..... **Southern Crossroads** - Dean Peterson: 507-345-8701 // dapeters@hickorytech.net
- 55..... **Mid-Iowa Muskies** - Charlie Ridgway: 515-306-1951 // ridgwaycharlie@yahoo.com
- 57..... **NW TIGER PAC** - Michael Floyd: 206-331-9050 // rainbowjigs@aol.com
- 58..... **Lake St. Clair Muskies, Inc.** - Charles Legarski: 586-873-9154 // cklegarski@comcast.net
- 61..... **Northwoods Chapter** - Pete Stoltman: 715-356-9758 // pstoltman@northwoodsmuskies.com
- 62..... **Wausau Area Chapter** - Joel DeBoer: 715-297-7573 // joelthemuskyman@charter.net
- 64..... **Nittany Valley Musky Alliance** - Matt Dixon: 814-280-5759 // nvmainc@gmail.com
- 65..... **Mountain West Muskie** - Blake Millett: 801-706-9202 // bmille001@gmail.com
- 69..... **New York Muskies** - Michael Breen: 315-879-8787 // nymusky69@yahoo.com
- 70..... **Central New York** - Trevor Thieme: 315-571-4046 // cnyomuskies@gmail.com
- 76..... **Virginia Chapter** - Toby Tester: 540-354-7869 // Outdoorsman@swva.net
- 77..... **Northern Maine** - Henry Obrey: 207-717-4836 // h.obrey@aol.com





## Chapter 1: Twin Cities

[www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org](http://www.twincitiesmuskiesinc.org)



## Chapter 5: Pomme de Terre

[www.missourimuskie.org](http://www.missourimuskie.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Pomme-de-Terre-Missouri-Muskies-104122384519453](https://www.facebook.com/Pomme-de-Terre-Missouri-Muskies-104122384519453)

The 55th Frank Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament was held September 9-11 on about 20 lakes in the Leech Lake area. Out of 385 anglers, 69 muskies were registered, measuring 40 inches or over during the event.

The first place finisher was Ayden Froeschle, who boated four muskies on Lake Winnibigoshish. His efforts earned him a week-long trip to Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods and a new rod and reel from Abu Garcia and Berkley line. All of the top ten winners and junior winners received a rod, reel, and line courtesy of Pure Fishing. Ayden is 17 but registered to compete in the adult division.

The Junior winner was Juliana McDougall, with a 45.5 inch muskie caught on Big Lake. The second place Junior was Jake Ashby with a 40 inch Leech Lake muskie.

Juliana McDougall, Caitlin Bissen, and Mackenzie Trom registered the top three muskies caught by a lady of any age to receive ladies' bonus cash.

The Bob Kubista Senior bonus was awarded to top seniors Bruce Black, Alex Worobel, and Graham Hendrickson. Each received a plaque and bonus cash.

Five muskies over 50 inches were registered during the tournament, and those anglers each received a \$50-for-50 gift certificate from Thorne Bros. The longest fish of the tournament was a 52-incher caught by Ayden Froeschle. Ayden will receive a replica of the fish courtesy of Lax Reproductions.

This year's grand prize was divided into three equal amounts, tripling the chances of winning. The grand prize winners of \$3,520 each were Nick Petersen, Scott Urhammer, and Jason Higgins.

The results of the George Wahl Tournament will be published in the next issue.

- Tom Keith



## Chapter 3: Chicagoland Muskie Hunters

[www.facebook.com/chicagolandmuskiehunters](https://www.facebook.com/chicagolandmuskiehunters)  
[facebook.com/chicagolandmuskiehunters](https://facebook.com/chicagolandmuskiehunters)

The Dean Rosset Stocking Program, led by Fisheries Director Kevin Butts, had our largest stocking to date on Thursday, October 20. We stocked 1,500 Leech Lake Strain Muskies into Lake Geneva, WI. Our goal at the start of the year was 1,000, but we received amazing support from our chapter members, Flatlanders and FRV chapters, Blackhawk Musky Club, and other donors and businesses such as Bass Pro Shops.

Now that the muskie season is starting to wind down, we rely more on our monthly meetings to get our muskie fix. So we have some good ones coming up. On November 8 meeting will feature a seminar from southeast Wisconsin guide Joel Michaels, and bait maker Matt Wirth will speak at our December 13 meeting, where we will also be raffling off one of Matt's baits.

We will again have a booth at the Chicago Muskie Expo on January 20-22.

We're putting together the prize list for our Annual Fundraiser Raffle, and we'll be selling tickets at the show. Be sure to stop by and say 'hi' if you go, and maybe buy a raffle ticket or two.

You can keep up with all our Chapter's activities by following us on [facebook.com/chicagolandmuskiehunters](https://facebook.com/chicagolandmuskiehunters).

Keep On Chuckin',

- Frank Loye

Congratulations to Chapter 5 member Denis Viscek for being the Muskies, Inc.'s new VP of Finance/Treasurer.

The chapter does not actively fish for muskies on the Pomme when water temperatures exceed 80 degrees. With that in mind, some members head north to hunt the slimy critters. One such outing occurred in August when Denis Ledgerwood hosted a trip to Lake St. Claire for his annual Muskie Trolling Experience. This year, eight muskies were caught, including a 50-incher caught by Kevin Richards.

As of this writing, the surface water temperature on the Pomme has dropped to the 78-degree range, so muskie fishing will be picking up along with chapter activities. We will start the fall season on September 24 with our Fall Guide for a Day, a fundraiser for the chapter where members volunteer their time and equipment to take potential members for a Muskie Hunt on the Pomme.

Our Annual Fall Tournament took place on October 7-9. The tournament was broken up into two separate events, one on Friday the 7 and the second on Saturday and Sunday, the 8 and 9. Cash prizes were awarded to winners of each of the two events. Saturday evening, there was a raffle and banquet dinner. On November 12, there will be an outing, an officer election meeting, and on December 3, a 2023 planning meeting.

By the time you read the above, most of the events will have already taken place. Hopefully, in the next issue, we will have stories to share about how the big one was either sighted, caught, or how it spit the lure right back at you.

**Question:** Do you fish the Solunar Tables? Some anglers swear by them. Do they work? Because we have specific days and times to fish during our chapter outings, it may be challenging to be on the water at the major and minor times. However, unless you know when these times are, and unless you have a line in the water at those times, you will probably never know if they work or not. So try it and see for yourself. Download a Solunar Table, adjust it for the area you are in and make every effort to have a line in the water at those times. Most important of all, keep records. Note your location, time of day, water conditions, weather conditions, and any information you can think of that

may be pertinent. Don't forget to note if it was a major or minor time. Review these notes before every outing.

One more thing, take a kid fishing. Look at the smile on Tate Hughes' face. I don't remember many things about my childhood, but I remember nearly every fishing trip my Dad took me on. See you next time in the MUSKIE issue.

Now, go catch a muskie.

- Joe Magerl



Tate Hughes, son of member Jamie Hughes, caught his first muskie at Little Musky Lake in Ontario and measured 30 inches.





## Chapter 8: Capital City

[www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org](http://www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org)

Fall is here, the colors have changed, and for many anglers, it's time to chase big fish. October was very busy for Capital City Muskies, Inc. the month started with our general membership meeting featuring Noah Humfeld of Madison Angling Guide Service talking about fall fishing for muskies.

The month featured several events, including our annual Vilas County Outing on October 7-8, with the banquet held at the Rustic Roadhaus in Manitowish Waters featuring great food and many great fish stories. Our 3rd Annual Fall Tournament, sponsored by Chaos Tackle, was on the Madison Chain of Lakes. All net proceeds from both events support CCMI youth activities, research projects, and stocking on the Madison Chain. Thank you to all who participated.

On October 20, 2022, in partnership with the Wisconsin DNR, CCMI stocked muskie fingerlings in Lake Monona and Lake Waubesa. Our Adopt-A-Muskie Program raised over \$1,700 this year to go towards stocking muskies on the Madison Chain of Lakes.

CCMI is delighted to announce the return in-person of the 20th Intermediate and Advanced Muskie School on Saturday, March 25, 2023. Featuring over 30 classes and open to all levels of muskie anglers. The school will be at Waunakee High School in Waunakee, WI; an excellent catered lunch is included. Adult tickets are \$35, and youth 17 and younger are \$10. If you sign up before March 14, 2023, you are eligible to win a \$200 gift card. Registration opens in January 2023, and you can visit our website for more details.

It won't be long, and the expo season will be here. Capital City Muskies, Inc. will have a booth at both the Chicago Muskie Expo, January 20-22, 2023, at the Kane County Fairgrounds in St. Charles, IL, and the Milwaukee Muskie Expo, February 17-19, 2023, at the Washington County Fairgrounds in West Bend, WI. Stop by and say hello and register for one of our raffles.

Our general membership meetings are always open to all and free to attend. They are on the second Monday of each month. Visit [capitalcitymuskiesinc.org](http://capitalcitymuskiesinc.org) to learn more about our chapter and our events or programs.

Introduce someone new to muskie fishing.

- **Fred J. Schulze**, CCMI Vice President



## Chapter 10: Heartland

[www.heartlandmuskies.org](http://www.heartlandmuskies.org)

[www.facebook.com/Heartland-Muskies-Inc-Chapter-10](https://www.facebook.com/Heartland-Muskies-Inc-Chapter-10)

Family league night was on Tuesday, August 16, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on Clear Lake. Eighteen anglers experienced fair skies, 6 mph NE winds, 76° air temperature, and 74° water temperature. Five muskies were boated, with four exceeding the 30 inch minimum.

**1st Place:** Bart Asche, 43 and 39-incher netted by Tracy Crail

**2nd Place:** Pat Thompson, 40 inch netted by Dean Anderson

**3rd Place:** Ryan Wilcke, 37 inch netted by Colby Dickes.

Family league night on Tuesday, September 6, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Clear Lake. Sixteen anglers experienced fair skies, 6 mph SSE winds, 76° air temperature, and 74° water temperature. Six muskies were boated, with five exceeding the 30 inch minimum.



## Improve Your Muskie Skills

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Contact Geoff Crandall: [Crandall@msbnrg.com](mailto:Crandall@msbnrg.com) or 608-219-0164

**Registration opens in January 2023 visit [capitalcitymuskiesinc.org/events](http://capitalcitymuskiesinc.org/events)**





Winning Heartland team, IA Chapters' Challenge, Spirit Lake (not pictured Mark Arnold, Chris Doane, William Doane).



Michael Wentworth 34 inch Spirit Lake muskie.



Ryan Wilcke's 33 inch Spirit Lake muskie.

**1st Place:** Derrick Barnes, 41 inch netted by Devon Mullenbach  
**2nd Place:** Colby Dickes, 36 inch netted by Ryan Wilcke  
**3rd Place (Tie):** Bart Asche, 33 inch netted by Tracy Crail and Chris Doane, 33 inch netted by William Doane

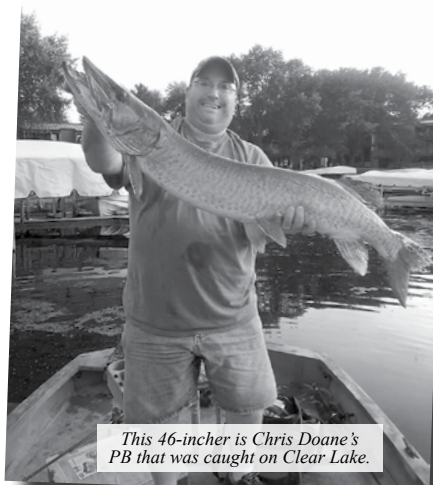
The second leg of the 2022 Iowa Chapters' Challenge was on Saturday, September 10, from 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Spirit Lake, IA. The host was the Upper Great Plains, Chapter 29. Sixteen anglers total, with 11 being Heartland members and

five being Upper Great Plains members. They all experienced cloudy skies, 6 mph winds, 54° air temperature, and 70° water temperature. Four muskies were boated, with two exceeding the 30 inch minimum. Heartland was honored to place first in this year's Challenge.

Family league night on Tuesday, September 20, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on Clear Lake. Thirteen anglers experienced fair skies, 8 mph S winds, 88° air temperature, and 75° water temperature. Christopher Doane boated the only muskie during the event measuring 35 inches, netted by his son, William Doane, and also landed a bonus 20 inch largemouth bass!

Please help me welcome new member Randy Nielsen to our Heartland chapter!

**Member Spotlight:** Christopher Doane, 54, calls Princeton, IN. his hometown. Chris, his wife Ann, and sons Matthew and William reside in Clear Lake, IA. Chris graduated from Baker University, Baldwin, KS., with a Bachelor of Science/Management degree. He is a 16 year Army sergeant veteran who worked for the Iowa Department of Human Services for 11 years before his retirement. Chris' favorite custom muskie rod is adorned with replicas of his Army ribbons. He has been an avid muskie angler for 11 years, taking first place in a past muskie tournament on Lake Minnetonka, MN. Chris has been a Muskies, Inc. member for nine years, Heartland Treasurer for six years, and serves as our Youth Director. He hunts muskies out of a 2003, Bass Tracker, Grizzly, 1860, powered by a 75 HP Mercury with Garmin electronics. Chris' longest muskie measured 46-inches,



This 46-incher is Chris Doane's PB that was caught on Clear Lake.

which was boated on Clear Lake, IA. His go-to lure is a double hooker spinnerbait in a blue/cisco pattern made by his company, CD Lures. Chris' favorite fishing presentation is casting. His favorite body of water is Iowa's Brushy Creek Lake. Chris' bucket list includes a trip to Lake Michigan's Green Bay, WI. Besides muskie fishing, he enjoys hunting, model trains, creating new lure designs, and teaching kids about fishing. Chris regularly attends Heartland meetings and events and is a driving force behind our youth activities.

Please see the "Events Calendar" page of our website [heartlandmuskies.org](http://heartlandmuskies.org) or our Facebook page Heartland Muskies, Inc. Chapter 10, for a detailed list of 2022 Heartland events

Please remember to be kind to one another, recognize your netter, and here's to everyone's personal best muskie in 2022!

- **Michael Wentworth**, Chapter 10 Secretary

HEADWATERS CHAPTER

**Chapter 12: Headwaters**  
[www.headwatersmuskies.com](http://www.headwatersmuskies.com)

Our third chapter outing was on August 17 at Conover Park. It was open to members and guests with a meal and raffle that followed fishing. Twenty-seven members and guests fished, and Andy Hendrickson caught only one 31.5 inch fish. Jim Ashton, President of MI, presented our president Bill Jacobs with the Perry A. Smith President-to-President award. Bill was the president of the Headwaters Chapter for the last 19 years and has grown the chapter to the second largest in the nation. The Headwaters Chapter has contributed over 1.5 million dollars over the last 20 years to the local economy by improving boat landings, holding youth events like rod building classes and Kids Fishing Tips, sponsoring Wounded Veterans in Action, hosting Fishing Has No Boundaries and numerous other events.

Our Lake of the Woods Outing at Red Wing Lodge was on September 3-10. Over 100 fish were caught between the 25 members who attended, the biggest being 51.5 inches caught by Bill Jacobs. We had our steak cookout on Wednesday, and Red Wing Lodge provided a meal for us on Monday night. Water levels were up, so caution was needed to avoid reefs that were islands before. Friday afternoon, we held our awards and raffle.

The 47th Annual Paul's ProAM tournament was on September 17-18 on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. Results will be in the next report.

The 9th Annual Chapter Challenge between the Headwaters and Northwoods Chapters was on October 15, more to come in the next issue.

- **Dale "Musky Pete" Peterson**





## Chapter 13: Hayward Lakes

[www.muskiesinc-hayward.org](http://www.muskiesinc-hayward.org)

The Hayward Chapter had its annual Kids Fishing Day on Sunday, July 31. Chapter members took 24 youngsters fishing on the TigerCat Flowage and other nearby lakes in the morning and then had a picnic lunch at noon. Each youngster got a bag of fishing goodies, and we had a raffle of larger items for each kid.

Our 44th Annual Tournament was on September 30 and October 1 and 2. The results and fish list are on The Hayward Bait and Bottle website.

The following people have entered fish in our member's contest:

**Juniors:** Christian Dueholm with 4 fish for a total of 34 points and Jake Allen with 1 fish for a total of 16 points. Bradey Gottwald with 1 fish for a total of 8 points.

**Women's:** Tera Neibauer with 6 fish for a total of 46 points and Vickie Shumway with 1 fish for a total of 10 points.

**Women's Masters:** Claudette Kersten with 1 fish for a total of 9 points.

**Men's:** Kris Gottwald with 9 fish for a total of 101 points, Al McElroy with 4 fish for a total of 53 points, Steve Truver with 3 fish for a total of 40 points, Adam Ellis with 1 fish for a total of 20 points, Jack Kettlehut with 1 fish for a total of 17 points, JB Ellis with 1 for a total of 15 points, and Larry Daman with 1 for a total of 10 points.

**Men's Masters:** Larry Ramsell with 5 fish for a total of 106 points, including a 51 inch from the St. Lawrence River, and Mike Persson with 8 fish for a total of 96 points.

### Chapter events:

Tuesday, November 8: Meeting 7:00 p.m. Flat Creek

Sunday, December 4: Chapter Christmas party

We will have some outings this next summer. Call for details (715) 634-4543. Hope to see you at our meetings and events. Bring a friend.

- Good Fishing, *Mike Persson*



## Chapter 23: Cleveland

[www.facebook.com/MuskiesIncClevelandChapter](https://www.facebook.com/MuskiesIncClevelandChapter)

Greetings from Cleveland Chapter 23! I hope everybody is doing well. The September tournament results for the Ed Garland Memorial Tournament are as follows:

**1st Place:** Beau Chumley with 47 points

**2nd Place:** Second placed Kevin LaRoche 32 points 46 with a 46-incher. Kevin's 46-incher was the tournament's big fish. This is the second year in a row that Kevin has taken the big fish in this tournament. What's up with that?

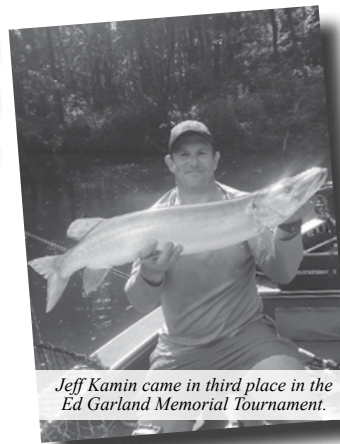
**3rd Place:** Jeff Kamin with 26 points and a 35 inch muskie.

Congratulations to the winners, and we'd like to thank everybody who came out to support our tournament. There were 18 anglers signed up with three youth and a total of 12 fish caught.



Beau Chumley took first place in the Ed Garland Memorial Tournament at Pymatuning Lake.

Special thanks to Laurie, owner of Duck & Drakes, for letting us have our sign-ups in her shop. Please, anytime you're heading to



Jeff Kamin came in third place in the Ed Garland Memorial Tournament.

like to get out there now is February 25, 2023, our date for the Cleveland Chapter 23 awards and fundraiser banquet. It will be at Roby Lees Restaurant in Newton Falls. So please mark this important date down, and I hope you can join us. The 2023 tournament dates are set and will come out in January. Once they are finalized, you could check our Muskies, Inc. Cleveland Chapter 23 Facebook page for upcoming events and information.

As we mentioned in the last publication of Muskies, Inc., special thanks goes out to John Trevelline, Park Director for Lake Milton/West Branch, for helping to get the message out on tips to everyone to help stop the spread of invasive species.



Kevin LaRoche took second place in the Ed Garland Memorial Tournament and big fish with this beautiful 46 inch muskie.

Everything we discussed today in MUSKIE can be found on our Facebook page, Cleveland Chapter 23. However, a lot of good information about different subjects can be found there, so please take the time and check it out. That said, good luck fishing the rest of the year; stay safe.

- *Robert Basic*

Pymatuning Lake, make sure you check out her muskie gear line.

We will have a fall cleanup at West Branch. Check out the date on our Facebook page, and we will email our members once the date is determined. Hopefully, you can come out and help clean up this area. With fall fishing rapidly approaching and the summer months behind us, we will be planning our 2023 calendar soon.

One significant date I would like to get out there now is February 25, 2023, our date for the Cleveland Chapter 23 awards and fundraiser banquet. It will be at Roby Lees Restaurant in Newton Falls. So please mark this important date down, and I hope you can join us. The 2023 tournament dates are set and will come out in January. Once they are finalized, you could check our Muskies, Inc. Cleveland Chapter 23 Facebook page for upcoming events and information.

As we mentioned in the last publication of Muskies, Inc., special thanks goes out to John Trevelline, Park Director for Lake Milton/West Branch, for helping to get the message out on tips to everyone to help stop the spread of invasive species.

Don Clowes, the chapter environmental specialist, has been keeping close contact with John, and together they came up with this sign. Mr. Trevelline took it upon himself, had the signs made up, and posted them at Lake Milton and West Branch ramps. So once again, thanks, John, for helping get the word out.



John Trevelline Park Director at Lake Milton and West Branch took it upon himself to make the signs up to help "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers." You will find these signs at Lake Milton/West Branch.

Share your photos and fishing memories by emailing them to Alison Willers, our Photo Contest Editor  
[pictures@muskiesinc.org](mailto:pictures@muskiesinc.org)



## Chapter 39: Fox River Valley

www.frvmuskie.com

Fall is just about here in northern Illinois and FRV is gearing up for another year. By this article's publication, we will have held our first fall meeting on September 21 with Dr. Cory Suski, and the local Fox Chain will have an additional 1,160 muskies stocked.

Our meeting schedule for the remainder of 2022 includes:

**October 12:** Keith Cortopassi, Musky Psycho Guide Service of Indiana

**November 9:** Speaker, Sean Bermingham

**December 14:** Speaker, Captain Matt Raley, northern WI muskie guide

In addition, please mark your calendars for the following events:

**March 11, 2023:** Fundraising banquet and tickets will go on sale in December

**May 13, 2023:** Annual Challenge on the Chain Tournament - Info TBA

Please visit our Facebook page for current events if you are interested in following what our chapter does throughout the year. Our general meetings are held at Chandler's Chophouse (Schaumburg) on the second Wednesday of each month starting in September.

- Joe Erkenswick

their free rods and reels, bait, and food and drinks served by the Chapter 41 membership. We have forty-one rod rigs left over, which will be used next year. The weather was great, Dr. Tom Rankin did a bang-up job on the grill with Chuck McKnight's help, and our combination of shrimp and nightcrawlers kept the fish biting. Noone landed the albino catfish but maybe next time. Members afterward went to the nearby Pig Iron Grill for some adult refreshments and great stories. This has always been one of my favorite nights of the summer.

The chapter revamped our tournaments' rules to smooth out some rough edges. We require participants to remain in the launch area until a take-off time. At C.J. Brown we had a shotgun start for the first time in chapter history, which was interesting but we decided not to continue that. MI's muskie scoring will be used, 4 points for the first 30 inches of muskie and point per inch after that. We elected to keep the attendance points but reduce them to 5 points per event., including the conservation and youth events. No perfect attendance Iron Man Awards at the end of the year.

Generally, our chapter finances are doing better than the last two years, and membership and attendance are up after some hard times for chapters everywhere. So let's hope the trend continues!

That's all for now, until later when there will be more, good luck out there!

- Dan Collins



A nice fish caught by a youth participant during the youth event.

## Chapter 41: Central Ohio

www.centralohiomuskies.wixsite.com/centralohiomuskies

Catching up with our tournament stats, here are the winners for our Russ Dodridge Event at Alum Creek this past June 11-12. First place went to Dave Flockerzie, second place went to Bill Lambert, third place to Bill Kuljiu, and fourth place to Dan Collins.

Ed Pserney won our Nite Bite tourney with the only fish, a 37-incher.

The C.J. Brown Fall Season Kickoff tournament was even better than last year with 25 entrees and 33 fish caught. First place was George Weber with 54 points. Second place was Mike McDonald with 53.5 points. Tim McGhee took third place with 41 points.



First place winner, Dave Flockerzie.

Fourth place was Chuck McKnight with 39.5 points. Fifth place was Clay Pserney with 18 points.

Our Youth Fishing event at the Whetstone Park of Roses pond went well, alas, with fewer youths showing up due to a scheduling conflict with the Columbus Park System. Thirty-eight kids showed up to get



George Weber won first place at the CJ Brown tournament.

## Chapter 65: Mountain West Muskie

www.muskiesinc.org/chapter65

Chapter 65 is proud to welcome three new members to our muskie cult. All three hail from different states! Please warmly welcome Corey Bolyard from Colorado, Jessica Bennett from Utah, and Jesse Langner from Montana!

As of this writing, things are progressing along with the aging and growth study at Pineview Reservoir. Currently, 473 tigers are accessorized with various colored tags. So far, in 2022, we have had 48 reported recaptures of tagged tigers. One tiger, in particular, has been especially hungry. Fish number 256 was tagged in May of 2018. He has been captured four more times in a four-year and four-month period, growing 14.75 inches in that time.

While Pineview Reservoir is the crown jewel of Utah's tiger muskie program, Jordanelle is particularly interesting in Chapter 65. The Utah Division of Wildlife has been sporadically stocking tiger muskies in Jordanelle for several years, but the tigers are struggling to gain a foothold (or would that be a fin hold?). Jordanelle is closer to Salt Lake than Pineview, meaning that if it were a quality muskie fishery, it would pull some of the angling pressure away from Pineview. Jordanelle is also very similar in structure to Pineview, with 400 more surface acres to work. Representatives from Chapter 65 met with the UDWR earlier this year to discuss Jordanelle. Going forward, the hatchery staff will grow the tiger muskies to a larger size before releasing them in Jordanelle. The usual stocking size is 1 to 2 inches, and the fish stocked in Jordanelle will be 4.3 inches. We hope that stocking larger fish in Jordanelle will give them

(Text continued on page 32)



a better chance of survival so that the muskie fishery can finally start to prosper.

As our events proceed, Addie Minchey now leads Big Fish with a 49.5 inch fish out of Joe's Valley Reservoir. Ellie Davis still leads in the Youth Division with her Montana 47.5 inch, and Jonathan Davis is currently in the lead in our Little Fish Category with a stellar 22.5 inch juvenile! Brigham Pett has been hoofing it from shore and leads the Un-Motorized Division with a 37 inch, while Kenny Birdsall holds the lead in the fly category with a 39.5 inch, and Ryan Elizondo's 43.75 inch tiger is at the top of the Rubber category. As our season draws to a close, the last chances for the competitors to take the lead are on the horizon!

While water temps were still hot, a small group of chapter members had a get-together on the patio of a bar near Pineview Reservoir to have some fun and start doing things together again after all the pandemic shutdowns. This get-together featured leader-making tutorials, how to cast with a bait caster, and best of all, a hand-crafted Sea-Doof as a target to cast regular dawgs at! This Sea-Doof was a cardboard cutout of a wave runner, something we've all wanted to throw a regular dawg at some point in our muskie hunts!

As our water temps cool down, members enjoy both rain (the little that we have been blessed with this year) and shine. Below are some photos from our member's recent escapades.

From all of us at Chapter 65, may your lines be tight and your leaders hold strong.

**- Blake Millett**



Dylan showing off some cool colorations on that tiger.



The hand-crafted Sea-Doof target worked great!



Blake showing off his new personal best!



Troylynn weathered the rain and caught this nice topwater muskie.



Kay hoisting a healthy tiger.



## Chapter 24: Brainerd Lakes

[www.brainerdmuskies.com](http://www.brainerdmuskies.com)

### The BLC wins the 2022 Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge!

The Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge was in August on Leech Lake, MN. Thanks to the Fargo-Morehead Chapter for hosting the event out of Horseshoe Bay Resort. Most of you know this is an annual event (the location changes yearly) that began in 1977. And for the first time in the event's history, the Brainerd Lakes Chapter emerged victorious in 2022! (See Vikings fans, anything is possible!)

Not only did the BLC take home first place, but with the two teams we launched, we were able to take second place, and Jim took home the Big Fish pot. Well, not really home. As rumor has it, all the winnings went to boat captain Dan Burrow to feed his thirsty 400. Congrats to both BLC teams on a strong showing during a challenging bite!

While the BLC has never been the official host of the Gil Hamm, we have helped host several events, and we are hearing that some are looking forward to us hosting next year. Pictures are floating around of a particular Hamm on Lake Vermilion from about a decade ago that might explain some of that anticipation! Hopefully, the pictures do not contain coconuts and a grass skirt... Yeah, we had fun.

Stay tuned for more details. The location announcement will also be posted on the Gil Hamm website when it's official. [www.gilhammchallenge.com](http://www.gilhammchallenge.com)

Our 2023 Sportsman Banquet will be on March 25 at Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake, Legacy Pavilion. This event sold out last year in the shadow of the COVID pandemic, so we are planning for an even better event this year. You can expect plenty of prizes, a great meal, and great conversation with other attendees as we welcome the coming of spring. We cannot predict whether we will have any surprise celebrity guests like last year when Al and Jim Lindner spent the evening with us, but one never knows as word of the event spreads.

Did I mention Chapter 24 won the Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge? Now to repeat – easier said than done.

Have a great fall, and we'll see you on the water.

**- Brett Sande, Chapter 24 Representative**



BLC team with the Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge trophy. President Jim Kath, Dan Burrow, Jay and Jody Young (J3 Tackle), and Dawn Marie and Don Hines (pictured left to right).



BLC President, Jim Kath, with his 47 inch Big Fish of the Challenge.



## MUSKIES, INC. MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By: Mike Moschell, Chapter 9

For this issue, I spoke with Chapter 3's Steve "The Big Tuna" Statland. As it turns out, Steve has been very active in the organization over the years, and as he remarked, I could do the article page just on him.

Suffice it to say, he's been on the Executive Board, two-term International President helped create the Chapter Challenge, named the Lunge Log. As he said, MI has "gotten their money's worth out of me!" Steve also organized the Chicago Muskie Expo for 19 years and raised funds through the shows; he estimates \$30-40,000 was donated to MI. He is in the MI and Freshwater Fishing Halls of Fame.

John Kaltenecker is a member of the West Virginia Chapter 9's Hall of Fame and was inducted into the Muskies, Inc. Hall of Fame in 1995. He was WV Chapter secretary from 1983 until I took the position a few years ago and regularly reported to the News and Views of MUSKIE for many of those years. He prefers numbers lakes to trophy size waters. I have had the honor of fishing with him.

Bill Schmidtke is from First Wisconsin Chapter. He was a racquetball player of some repute - he's in the Minnesota and Wisconsin Halls of Fame and a member of the National Racquetball HOF, in addition to his muskie skills. He won the first Wisconsin national muskie tournament in 1991. When I mentioned I was from the West Virginia Chapter, he noted that he had met a group from that chapter up on Eagle Lake that included Bill Crane. Bill was thus introduced to crane baits. This seemed to be a common thread since Steve also said he'd been 'shown by the West Virginia boys how to fish the rock walls' on a Shield Lake one year.

### STEVE 'THE BIG TUNA' STATLAND

Chapter 3, Chicagoland Muskie Hunters

**How long have you been a member?** Joined for \$10 in 1975, and became a Life Member a year later.

**Hometown:** Lincolnwood, IL

**Home waters:** NW Ontario wilderness lakes

**Favorite waters:** Dryberry, Crow

**Favorite bait:** "Whatever the fish tells me that day", is the reply I got. He likes jerkbaits a lot.

**Number of Lunge Log entries:** 310

**How long have you fished for muskies?** 1960, caught his first two ten minutes apart, and suddenly he was "over my limit!"

**Longest released:** 52-inches is the longest, heaviest was 37 pounds; he has 7 over 50 inches (five from Dryberry, 1 LOTW), first was from St. Germain.

**Quote:** "Keep your hooks sharp," was the best advice he'd heard.



### JOHN KALTENECKER

Chapter 9, West Virginia

**How long have you been a member?** 1982? He went to a WV Husky Musky Chapter meeting and met Chuck Braniff, the MI chapter president at the time.

**Hometown:** Parkersburg, WV

**Home waters:** In Ohio, Leesville Lake, Piedmont Lake, Little Muskingum River, and several West Virginia streams.

**Favorite waters:** Galway (Deer) Lake, Wolf Lake - two small 200-acre lakes in eastern Ontario - a numbers lakes.

**Favorite bait:** Glide baits mostly; CeeBee jerk was mentioned.

**How long have you fished for muskies?** Since the 1970s, he got the first one (30 inches) on a worm and a hook with a Zebco 33.

**Number of Lunge Log entries:** John counts (by the date of this writing) 1,308 legals and 734 sub-legals.

**Longest released:** 50 inches from the Little Kanawha River in West Virginia.

**Quote:** "When I catch a muskie, I feel like I've accomplished something, a feeling I don't get with catching other species."



### BILL SCHMIDTKE

Chapter 6, First Wisconsin

**How long have you been a member?**

Since the early 1970s, Gil Hamm has been a life member.

**H o m e t o w n :** Weyerhaeuser,

Wisconsin

**Home waters:** Potato Lake, Amocoy Lake

**Favorite waters:** Live at a resort on Potato Lake, WI, fishes every day.

**Favorite bait:** Black Reef Hawg, and also Hawg Wobbler, Suick, Buchertails.

**How long have you fished for muskies?** 1959-1960? His dad bought the resort in 1958.

**Number of Lunge Log entries:** Just broke 100

**Longest released:** 50.5 inches from Potato Lake; can be seen mounted at the resort's bar.

**Quote:** "Now that I'm retired, I don't fish all the time. I've also taken up golf. But, sometimes when I'm out golfing, I think I should be fishing, and other days I'm fishing, I think maybe I should have gone golfing."

Now is the perfect time to begin volunteering! This series was imagined as a one-year pilot program to recognize a few of the many early members of Muskies, Inc. Due to some other commitments next year, I'd appreciate someone taking over the calls and interviews. If interested, please get in touch with Amy Keyes at [muskie\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:muskie_editor@yahoo.com).

Thanks, Mike Moschell!



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# MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

By: Alison Willers MUSKIE Photo Editor, [pictures@muskiesinc.org](mailto:pictures@muskiesinc.org)

## ERIC OLSON

Numerous devoted muskie anglers in the northwoods look forward to the gradual cold-down that occurs in the weeks leading up to the fall turn-over. On these mornings, your drive to the lake has you traveling through areas of fog, and you're dressed in layers to ward off the cool and damp morning. There is peaceful tranquility across the lake, one that will soon be disrupted by your topwater lure and, with any luck, the thrashing of a muskie. Eric's photo captured so many of those aspects of fall fishing in Wisconsin; small details like the bibs he is wearing, and the smoky effect of the cooling lakewater help tell the story behind the catch. Eric's muskie did react to the sound of his topwater lure, and the early morning sunrise provided the perfect lighting for capturing a quick photo. Next time you are out on the water, take a moment to plan for a potential photo, and consider the items in the environment that you want to capture along with your catch!



Share your member photos or enter the Photo Contest by contacting Alison Willers at [pictures@muskiesinc.org](mailto:pictures@muskiesinc.org)

If you are interested in being a featured sponsor, please contact Alison Willers at [pictures@muskiesinc.org](mailto:pictures@muskiesinc.org), and mention the Photo Contest.