



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

April 2015

MEETINGS: 7:30 P.M. ~ FOURTH THURSDAY ~ LOVES PARK VFW ~ 2018 WINDSOR RD ~ LOVES PARK, ILLINOIS

Time to fish; time to get some new baits

Some of you already have spent some time on the water and there have been a few fish caught. The much-anticipated southern Wisconsin-season opener is just around the corner and we'll talk about fishing Madison-area lakes during our meeting Thursday. The season opens May 2 and we have a club outing scheduled for that day as well. Many Flatlanders have had great success fishing southern Wisconsin and they're more than happy to share some information with you.

Thursday also will be the second annual Leaders & Lures night and Gene Seuring will bring his fish-catching baits to the meeting and sell them at a club discount. Gene was the subject of a profile on the Rockford Register Star website last week. I sent a copy of it via email. If you didn't get it, let me know and I'll resend it to you. Last year Jeremy Venhuizen, who was the winner of the men's division in the 2014 Member's Only Contest, bought a couple of baits from Gene during the L&L night and proceeded to go out and catch a couple of nice fish. Gene's baits work.

I had the pleasure of testing about a dozen new baits with Gene on Saturday. Even though I was casting in a lake where there are no muskies, I expected to see one show up on every cast. Gene's baits looked irresistible to me and I think the fish will agree.

As a bonus, Gene will bring a Robinson Outdoors catalogue. Gene has a working relationship with Robinson and can get you rods, reels and baits at wholesale cost. If you haven't filled up your tackle box for the upcoming season, Thursday is the night to do it.

LOTW odds and ends

If you've never been to Lake of the Woods, you might not realize some of the paperwork you need. First, you need a passport to go into Canada. You're required to have an Outdoors card as well as a fishing license. Border crossing permits are required if you stay on U.S. soil and cross over into Canada, like those of us on the Flatlanders trip do. It takes four to six weeks to get the paperwork so you need to get on it pretty quick.

Here's a new one: You cannot bring raw chicken or poultry or into Canada from because of concerns about Avian influenza being found in some U.S. states.



Gene Seuring offers all kinds of colors and sizes. He has blade combinations that provide a different kind of vibration that the fish have never felt before. You can pick up some of Gene's baits at this month's meeting.

Where are Flatlanders fishing?

If you're making a short trip and would like others to join you, post the information on the forums page of our website. The website is a great communications tool that we have not taken full advantage of. The season is just getting under way and you can connect with your fellow anglers quickly and easily.

Outings recap

We have five outings scheduled this year. Jeremy Venhuizen is our outings chairman this year and will coordinate the outings contest. All you have to do to participate is to let Jeremy know and pay \$25. That fee covers all the outings for the year. It doesn't matter whether you fish one or all five, that \$25 covers it all. We'll discuss how to fish these bodies of water during the closest meeting to the outing.

May 2: Madison chain

June 5-7: Squaw Lake

July 10-18: Lake of the Woods

Sept. 18-20: Deer Lake

Oct. 9-11: Eagle River Chain

The high points from Muskie School 2015

By Dick Cholke

Senior correspondent

The Capital City Chapter of Muskie Inc. put on their annual Muskie School in March. The speakers were club members and local guides. We attended the school last year and were impressed with the presentations and this year was also excellent. The speakers talk about local water, presentations and are very open to questions. The format is: an opening talk, three sessions with a choice of approximately ten presentations, catered lunch and the raffle at the end of the day. These are a few of the highlights from three of the presentations:

Adam Oberfoell – High Tech Muskies

Adam likes to troll a lure with a weight in the sonar cone angle. It is possible to see a follow or a fish coming up to look at the bait on sonar. He made a point to use sonar, not down scan. He likes this pattern especially if the water is like pea soup. On sonar, mark bait fish with a waypoint and delete those waypoints at the end of the day. Typically he will put in 50 to 60 baitfish waypoints a day. Use a specific icon for baitfish. A tight ball indicates there may be predator fish below the baitfish.



Run a weed edge, mark waypoints and then run a trail to fish the weed edge precisely.

If a fish hits at first part of the cast, it is probably a reactionary strike and location is more important than the lure. If the fish hits latter in the cast, more attention should

be made to the bait type, color etc.

Jeff Hanson and a top tournament angler – Poolside lure demonstration

In general, Jeff adds split rings to all walk the dog style baits and uses a solid wire leader without a ball swivel. He is very attentive to the style of leader for each bait type. In clear water, he likes white or natural colored lures (perch, frog etc.) and in dirty water, he goes with orange or chartreuse. He likes to pop the lure 2 or 3 times, the death rise, before entering the figure eight with crank baits, walk the dog style lures. Jeff uses shorter rods, 7'6", for twitching many types of lures. In the spring, small baits are key, baby squirkos, 4-inch grandmas twitched, and Muskie



Train MX6 with a fluorocarbon leader are good lures.

Bull Dawgs: They like spinners front and back in standard sizes with #8 blades and a wire leader. Bull Dawgs are good at night. They use white on a full moon, and black on a dark moon. During cold fronts they fish them in 15' foot of water on the weed line.

Weighted Suicks: Mid-May to Mid-June. Jeff uses a wire leader, and shorter rods. Again, in clear water white and natural colors work best and in dirty water orange and chartreuse are good. He does cup the rear fin for better action. Jeff also use a weighted leader to have the Suick run 8-10' deep.

Weighted leaders in front of the bait: They use 1 to 3/4oz for Bull Dawgs, and 1/2 oz for bucktails. He burns the bucktails deeper than most anglers.

Ace Tandems: The tournament fisherman loved this bait. He uses a wire leader for the vibration, and twists the hooks for an offset condition to improve the hooking ability. Note: Jerry O agreed, but mentioned the down side is catching more weeds

Story continued after the ad page

Purposes of Muskies, Inc.

- To promote a high quality Muskellunge sport fishery
- To support selected conservation practices based on scientific merit and carried out by authorized federal and state agencies
- To promote Muskellunge research
- To establish hatcheries and rearing ponds and introduce the species into suitable waters
- To support the abatement of water pollution
- To maintain records of habits, growth and range of species
- To disseminate Muskellunge information
- To promote good fellowship and sportsmanship among men, women and children

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 A man wearing a cap and sunglasses is holding a large fish (likely a muskie) vertically. The background is a scenic lake with trees on the shore.

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 Logos for Can-Am, Sea-Doo, and Arctic Cat are displayed on the right side of the advertisement.

ACEBAITS

 An illustration of various fishing lures (jugs and spoons) and a large fish (likely a muskie) is shown. The background is a light blue oval.
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 A Yamaha outboard motor is shown on the left side of the advertisement.


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 A large, white floating lodge with a deck and railing is shown on a lake. Several smaller boats are docked nearby. The background shows a forested shoreline.

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The high points from Muskie School 2015, continued

Regular size Squirko: Jeff strongly emphasized a straight wire leader with a split ring on the bait, and using 7'6" extra heavy action rods. He likes a nice small tap retrieve.

Big Joes: This lure accounted for 75 fish last year has been good bait for some time. They use a stop and go retrieve with reel cranks, reeper style, or for us Flatlanders, Wally style. They like black with a yellow tail, and white, both with a wire leader. They use this lure after dark and for short casts to pocket water.

I also asked the question I posed to many top anglers last year. "What did you learn or do different to start to catch Muskies consistently?" Jeff Hanson – "Fish stuff other people don't fish/something different and fish deeper." Do muskies have good memories? "Yes, that is why I do some something different and #10 double Cowgirls are becoming less effective."

Green Bay Muskies – Captain Kevin Pischke – www.layalineguideservice.com

Early season fishing – Fox River

Transition areas are good – look for rip rap, pockets, bridges, current splits, eddy, and fish high over pilings. Look for shallow sand flats with weeds and also water discharges.

The bite is over when the water temperature reaches 62°F, when the slime and the carp move into the river.

Kevin stressed there are abundant hazards.

University Bay has changed; heavy fishing pressure has taken its toll on this end of the bay.

West Side: Suamico area has sand, great weed beds and easy access at the Suamico River

Long Tail to Little Tail: He fishes this area on cold days in the fall, October. Fish the tip of the sand bay on sunny days along the 12' break line from Long Tail to Little Tail



There are multiple reefs on the west side, with cabbage out in 12' foot of water

Pensaukee to Oconto: Look for shoals, weeds and the walleye guys.

Little Sturgeon Bay: This area is good the first two weeks of the season, but gets lots of pressure. Key in on fishing points, weeds, and larger rocks.

During the summer Kevin will short line troll and also use planer boards for non-active fish. He will also put a small grandma or shallow raider 150' back with bobber and work the bait for some additional action.

Kevin likes bucktails in the colors of: black and nickel, and also gold and coppers. He likes to mix colors, and use 2-3

oz. keel weights.

Kevin stressed making big figure 8's for Green Bay's big muskies, they do not turn well.

These are just a few points I brought back from Muskie School. Now, all we have to do is get on the water and get on the board.