



# FLATLANDERS

## TAILS

April 2017

MEETINGS: 7 P.M. ~ THIRD TUESDAY ~ LOVES PARK VFW ~ 2018 WINDSOR RD ~ LOVES PARK, ILLINOIS

## April showers bring big May muskies

At least we hope so. You're probably getting ready to hit the water if you haven't been on the water yet. The ambitious among us have cleaned up our boats, organized our tackle boxes and sharpened our hooks. April is usually a good month for Flatlander activities. Read on.

### Notes from the bow of the boat

*By Dick Cholke*

*Flatlanders president*

We have to start out this article and thank everyone that made our banquet a success. We had a full room, great comradery and lots of prizes. We especially thank all those who work behind the scenes to organize this event and everyone for attending. Without the membership support, we cannot build the chapter. We tried a few new things this year and stayed with much of our traditions. Feel free to give suggestions to any board member for improvements to next year's banquet. My personal desire would be to see more members eligible for the 40-inch plaques – a great fishing season this new season. To help make the new season a success, make sure to attend this month's meeting with speaker, Duane Landmeier. Duane is going to speak on Illinois muskie lakes. He has been promoting muskie fishing in Illinois for many years and offers information on his website <http://www.mainlymusky.com/>. This should be a very informative presentation. Remember the meeting is the third Tuesday of the month, April 18 at 7 p.m. (new time) at the VFW post.

To keep things rolling we have Adam Walton, speaking at our May meeting. Most of us could use a refresher on our marine electronics. Adam will present on sonar, down imaging, side imaging and the new mega imaging. After attending the advanced electronics class at the Madison muskie school, you realize how much electronics has changed and become such an important part of our day on the water.

Beginning in April will also start a raffle for the 8'6" heavy action rod from Muskie Innovations. Tickets will be available at both the April and May meeting with the drawing at the May meeting.

In addition, the best news for the chapter – we have our first outing to Lake Storey in Galesburg April 29.



*Charles Carlson, 8, gets his awards from Steve Ruhmann for catching the biggest fish of 2016: a 56.6-inch.*

Last year, 10 anglers caught six fish in one day. This included Brian Hansas's 47"er, largest Illinois for 2016, and Doug Simonson with a 42-inch. A few fish were also lost that day. In the big picture it was one of the most productive outings. Check the board and see if you can help get some new members without boat, get on the water that day. We hope to see you down south and consider staying over on Saturday night to fish Lake Storey or Lake McMaster on Sunday. Lake McMaster is also known as Snake Den Hollow has also been productive during this early season. This lake is larger and deeper than Storey with very clear water. Remember, Lake Storey is trolling motor only and Lake McMaster is 10 HP maximum.

This year try to fish some of the outings. The outing with large turn outs are fun and it is the best way to get to know everyone. We also share information about what is working to get fish into the net. We should have great year with our schedule of events.



*All in the family: 2016 was good to Jack Carlson and granddad Mark.*



*Women's Division winner Becky Oestreich gets a special award from President Dick Cholke. Mary Hoernecke, the Women's Masters winner, finished 13th in the national Women's Master Division.*

#### **Here is the list of the outings:**

**April 29:** Storey Lake, IL

**May 13:** Lake Waubesa and Lake Monona

**July 15-22:** Lake of the Woods – Bay Store Camp

**Sept. 22-23:** St. Croix River

**Oct. 20-22:** Deer, Bone, Apple River and Wapogasset

**Nov.11-13:** Big Sissabagama Area

Check your passport and apply for your remote area border pass – Lake of the Woods will be here soon. Also suggest to your bosses, the extra week at Lake of the Woods at the Chapter Challenge would really help your mental attitude! Get on the water and on the board!

#### **Lake of the Woods 2017**

We are getting closer to our annual assault to Bay Store Camp on beautiful Lake of the Woods. Some reminders for those who are going, you need your passport, outdoor card, fishing license, RABC (Remote Access border Crossing pass). Those of us who are going to launch out of the Morrison area will need to pick up our I-68 when we get up there. One thing we learned last year is if you still have your I-68 from 2016, bring it with. It will speed up the process of getting registered if you present that at the time you purchase your 2017 I-68.

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- To establish hatcheries and rearing ponds and introduce the species into suitable waters
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- To disseminate Muskellunge information
- To promote good fellowship and sportsmanship among men, women and children

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