



Meet at 7 p.m. third Tuesday of every month at Loves Park VFW.

101 reasons to love LOTW

Second-best trip in 15-year history of outing



The 2017 LOTW group caught lots of muskies, lots of pike and had lots of fun.

By **Dick Cholke**
Flatlanders president

Let's start out with a quick recap of our annual trip to Lake of the Woods in July. Let the data speak: 101 muskies, 24 anglers, average 4.2 muskies per angler and no skunks. This is one of the best trips to LOTW in recent years. Last year was a good year at 3.8 fish per angler and we did better this year! Fish were caught on a variety of patterns and baits. In my five years of LOTW outings this was the first trip without anyone getting skunked, and best of all we had a great time. Make sure to send me photos of your catches – I am in the process of updating the website and we need photos for the 2017 gallery, the newsletter, and the end of the year presentation. Send them to cholke@mchsi.com. The season really

kicked into high gear at Lake of the Woods. To continue that momentum we have a great fall schedule starting with our September meeting.

After our break with no meetings in July and August, the September meeting will have a full agenda. We start out with Michael Hanson speaking on river muskie fishing. Based out of Prairie du Sac, Michael is a guide on the Wisconsin River. He is going to tailor his presentation to the Wisconsin River and Lake Wisconsin. I attended Michael's presentation at Muskie School this spring and would recommend attending the meeting if you want to improve your fall fishing.

This meeting should also be loaded with many fish stories and reports from many of the great destinations including: LOTW Chapter Challenge, Lac Seul, Eagle Lake, Lake St. Clair, Northern Wisconsin, Iowa, (Yes Iowa!) local waters etc. In addition, this is the time of year to vote on next year's outings. We encourage suggestions for outings on new lakes and we welcome ideas. This will also be the meeting to line up your boat partner for the Oct. 20-22 Deer, Bone, Apple and Wappogassetts outing. The October general meeting will be the Tuesday before we head back up north.

We had scheduled our September outing to the St Croix River. Many of us were looking forward to fishing a completely different body of water. Unfortunately there are a large number of couples from Wisconsin and Minnesota that feel they should get married near the St. Croix River and enjoy the fall colors that weekend. Even with the help of our Minnesota Flatlanders, sufficient accommodations could not be found in the entire area. Calls to approximately 20 motels/hotels confirmed the area is booked solid. Thus a change in plans!

We are cancelling the outing to the St Croix River and we will support the Capital City Fourth Annual Pit Tag Challenge on Sept. 23.

This will be a Flatlanders chapter outing for the Outings Contest.



A pair of 49s: Mike Kruger and Steve Ruhmann got the big girls to bite.

Check out:

<http://www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org/calendar/> for further details. I will also be in contact with Capital City and confirm more of the details in the next newsletter. Last year seven Flatlanders participated in this very well run event. All fish are scanned for pit tags to help with the research on the muskies in Lake Monona. Last year they provided a nice lunch, prizes for big



Jeff Gayhart with the 53-incher he caught on Lake St. Clair. Jack Pertz (below) scored a pair of 45s.

fish, and a well-stocked raffle. It would be great to head to Madison and help with this research, fish Lake Monona, and swap a few fish stories with the guys from the Capital City Chapter.

An additional event this fall should be scheduled on your fishing calendar:

Sept. 13, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Rock Valley Anglers at the Ramada Inn: Jim Lavern's massive collection of Muskie gear will be for sale. Jim was an active Flatlander for many years and accumulated a large "tackle box".

Tom Rizzio is helping the family sell these lures and fishing equipment. He gave us first choice of some of the equipment for our raffles and auctions. Any muskie related items not sold that night will be available at our Flatlander's October meeting.

Recommended accommodations for the last two outings:

Oct. 20-22: Bone, Deer, Apple and Wapogasset: Black Smith Shop Motel north of Balsam Lake and Luck Country Inn in Luck, WI.

Nov. 11-13: Lake Sissabagama area: New Mountain Bed and Breakfast. We have also located a few rental cabins on the lake that could be a great place to center our outing.

Six Flatlanders met last week to organize our plans for the Gil Hamm Memorial Chapter Challenge Aug. 19-26. We are getting set for another week on Lake of the Woods. Now is the time to talk to your boss at work and home for you to schedule that week and join us next year.

With the fishing activity picking up, put the word out on your fall fishing trips and invite some of the new members to join you. We welcome you to join us at Busters for dinner before the meeting – we might even talk about fishing!

Get on the water and on the board.



Release contest update

By Steve Ruhmann

Release contest chairman

Howdy Flatlanders. Summer is in full swing and we are getting a good number of fish reported. The first group of fish will be one's turned in from lakes other than the LOTW outing. First up is Ben Wilary. While fishing his home body of water, Ben trolled up fish measuring 38.5 and 31. Stu Adrian was on Monona and popped a 39 inch. Since we are talking about Monona, Dave Jack slimed his new boat by popping a 39 inch the first time out. Mark Carlson was out hitting the St. Lawrence and released fish measuring 36, 38, 42, 42, 34, 43, 40, 40, and 42 inches. Jerry Oestreich was chasing fish on his home body of water Forest Lake and banged a 47.5 inch. The Lake St. Clair Slayers were back out there again and boated some nice fish. This time Jeff Gayhart was big man on campus with a 53 inch. He also released (2) fish measuring 44 inches each. Kevin Stenzel was unable to keep his 50 inch streak alive but he did boat fish measuring 46, 37, and 42 inches. Russ Hoerneck hit the boards with fish of 37, 38, and 42 inches. Jack Pertz rounded out the trip by popping fish of 45, 45, and 42 inches.

Now for the 2017 LOTW outing. We had 101 muskies caught by 24 anglers, 37 of those were 40 inches or bigger. No one was skunked. (HOORAY!) Big fish was a pair of 49s. The trip's leader for most fish was Dave Jack. Dave banged fish measuring 39, 45, 35.5, 43, 35, 39, 40.5, 43, 40, 35.5, 35, 41.5, 45.5, and 39 inches. Next we have Becky and Jerry Oestreich. Becky released fish of 36 and 41 inches. Jerry added to the boat total catching fish that measured 38, 36, 43, 45, and 48.5. Jack Pertz made the boards by releasing lunge of 45, and 35. The team of Stu Adrian and Mike Kruger had a good trip. Stu popped fish measuring 45 and 37 inches. Mike kept the net wet by banging fish of 37, 40.5, 49, and 44 inches.



Greg Lehmann with one of his LOTW beauties.

Mike's 49 was (1) of the (2) big fish for the trip and is his personal best. Steve Ruhmann was there and popped fish measuring 38.5, 38.5, 49, and 39 inches. His 49 was the second of two 49-inchers. Partners Wally Haas and Dick Estes scored on the trip with Wally releasing a 37-inch and Dick a 41. Team Cholke had a good trip with Dick sticking fish that measured 44.5, 42, and 42.5. Bob scored by releasing Esox that bumped in at 32.5, 34.5, and 47 inches. The 47 inch is his personal best and was the first fish that I can remember in my time as the Flatlander Release Chairman that was caught on a Johnson Silver Minnow. This brings us to Jeremy Venhuizen and Greg Lehmann. These guys also had a great trip. Jeremy boated Lunge that bumped in at 40, 40, and 39. Greg had another outstanding trip by boating fish of 36.5, 33, 38.5, 31.5, 40, 39.5, 42.5, 39, 35.5, 34.5, and 45 inches. There are more fish to report but these are the ones that I have received forms for.

Time to get out and chase the beast, it is GO TIME !!!!

Remember to send your release forms postmarked with-in 30 days to:

**Steve Ruhmann
14728 Whispering Wind Way
South, Beloit, Illinois, 61080**

Or email a copy to: steve.ruhmann@gmail.com



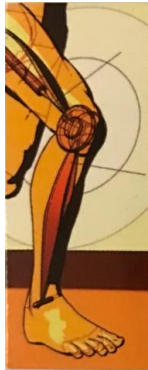
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