



August 2019 newsletter

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

Fin frenzy! Three 50s on LOTW trip

Jeff Blanck, Becky Oestreich and Dean Stoehr hit the magic number



Thirty-three anglers made the annual Lake of the Woods outing. This year's outing shirts were in memory of Phil Blanck, who died in October. On the left sleeve is a Batman logo, because that was one of Phil's nicknames. The colors, white and teal, represent Phil's favorite football team, the Miami Dolphins ('Phins, Fins, get it?). Last year's shirt's honored Harvey Gustafson, who died Dec. 30, 2017, with his signature red cap on the left sleeve. Let's hope we don't need a memorial shirt for 2020.

*By Dick Cholke
Flatlanders president*

Another great trip to Lake of the Woods! I understand Steve wrote up the recap of the outing and here are a few more items. No one got hurt, all the boats came back in one piece, and we had a nice time. It was good to see three 50-inch fish made it to the board. Congratulations Becky Oestreich, Jeff Blanck, and Dean Stoehr. Sometimes we learn important lessons on these trips. As Frank told

Dean "Just relax, have fun and it will happen". Dean was surprised to pull up another 50-incher well before his 10-year average, making it a very successful trip. The 33 Flatlanders averaged 2.4 fish per angler, which is on par with many past years. A few years back we hit 4.2 fish per angler and no skunks (that was a great year). Midweek we met in the Tug Channel to commemorate Phil Blanck and his last fish. We had some very moving moments remembering

one of our Flatlanders who was active in the club for many years. He now shares the water with some of the things he loved best and one of the best places we all cherish. Rest in Peace Phil. We will always remember you as we travel through the Tug Channel.

Twelve of us are heading back up to Lake of the Woods for the Muskie Inc. Chapter Challenge. This year we are taking two full teams. Team one consists of: Dick Estes, Wally Haas, Dick Cholke, Duane Nichols, Jack and MaryLou Pertz. Team two consists of: Tim and Kyle Scruggs, Leo Hauser, Brian Hansas, Jerry and Becky Oestrich. It will be fun to share Mylie's Place resort with 16 members of the Capital City Chapter. I am sure there will be a few fish tales exchanged between the two groups. Hopefully we can get on the patterns and place well in the event held at Red Wing Lodge.

The Executive Committee is working to get a speaker for our September meeting. Look at the next newsletter for details. We are hoping to get your fall catch rate pushed up a notch with information on local waters that have produced in the past. As mentioned in the last newsletter, I think we are getting a good size group heading up to the Bay of Green Bay on September 28, 29, and 30th. Note this is Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. I may stay up on Tuesday for an additional day. To repeat the logistics: Currently we are booking rooms at the Econo Lodge in Oconto. To avoid the traffic of the Packer game on Thursday, September 26 the outing will be on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday the 28, 29, 30. The Econo Lodge was formally the Riverview Motel. Duane and I stayed there a while back. The rate is better than some of the Green Bay motels at \$76.50. You will save about \$10 if you call them directly. If you are thinking about fishing this outing book the rooms now and avoid any problems. They have a 24 hour cancellation policy.

Our last outing is heading back up to Lake Alice Oct. 18-20. There should be some nice fall colors and big fish, plus a few Leinenkugel's Octoberfests should make for a nice wrap up to the season. This fall make sure you let other club members know of your side trips – it is always more fun and successful when we get



The 50-inch club (from top) Jeff Blanck (50.5), Dean Stoehr (50.5) and Becky Oestreich (50).

the group fishing together. Also if you have some free time, I received this e-mail this week:



This awesome underwater shot is was taken from the Scruggs' boat.

----- Original Message -----
From: "Kramer, Randy J"
<kramerr@illinois.edu>
To: Bob Kerans
<robert_kerans_559@comcast.net>
Date: August 6, 2019 at 1:35 PM
Subject: Fin Clipping Muskie

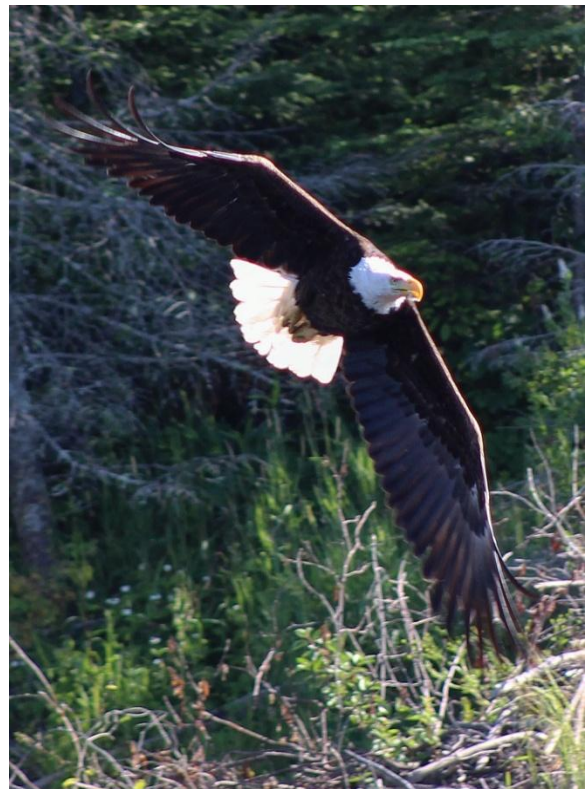
Hello Bob,

I am the graduate student that is working on the Shelbyville muskie project. We are going to be fin clipping a portion of the muskie (about 4,000) that will be stocked into Lake Shelbyville this fall. I was wondering if you could reach out to the Muskie Alliance to see if anyone would be interested in coming up to Jake Wolf Hatchery to help with the fin clipping. A date has not been decided, but it will be sometime during the first two weeks of September (2nd-12th). When the time gets closer, I can provide additional details if anyone is interested.

Thanks,

Randy Kramer
Graduate Research Assistant
Illinois Natural History Survey
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Muskie Inc. national still has some funds available for youth programs. If you have any



The wildlife you see at Lake of the Woods is amazing.

ideas in addition to supporting the two high school bass teams, please contact Dick Cholke ASAP.



Kyle Scruggs explains the photo process: All the net photos were frame by frame shots from the go pro. When you edit the footage you can save each frame as its own picture. The go pro is mounted to a power pole that goes in the rear navigation light.

80 fish for the week

*By Steve Ruhmann
Release chairman*

Well all the Flatlanders made it home safely from our assault on LOTW. We had 33 fishermen that boated 80 fish. Three 50s were caught, Becky Oestreich got a 50 with top honors by a ½ of an inch going to both Jeff Blanck and Dean Stoehr. Out of the 80 total fish, 47 were 40 inches and bigger. Jeremy Ven Huizen had the most with 7 fish. Becky and Jerry Oestreich had the highest point's total (based on the Muskies Inc. point system) with 182 points. Five personal bests were released, Becky – 50", Blake Jack 41.5", Duane Wedler – 44.5" (1st muskie ever), Andrew Penticoff- 49", and Marty Hauser with a 47.5 incher. Dick Estes had





the biggest pike at 40. It was a great time with everyone involved. Personally speaking for those of us that stayed at The Bay Store, Laura and Frank again did a great job of making sure everyone was taken care of. Thanks also goes out to Randy Meyer for the making of our door prize, a special double 10. We hope all of those that are coming up after us have as great a trip as we did. Be safe and have a great season.

Flatlanders remaining schedule:

- Sept. 17:** Flatlanders General Meeting
- Sept. 28, 29,30:** Flatlanders Outing at the Bay of Green Bay – Note these dates have been changed because of the recently released Green Bay Packer schedule (The Packers finally posted their schedule)
- Oct. 15:** Flatlanders General Meeting
- Oct. 18-20:** Lake Alice
- Nov.19:** General Meeting – elections
- Dec. 17:** Flatlanders Christmas Party.






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