



December 2019 newsletter

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

What will Santa bring?

Christmas party Tuesday; 'Tis the season to eat, drink and bring a lure to swap



Lake St. Clair offers great fishing even when the weather is not so great.

*By Dick Cholke
Flatlanders president*

We are wrapping up the season and wrapping up gifts for our annual Christmas Party this Tuesday night. The hard water is closing the launch ramps and the temperatures have dropped to the real "nippy range" last few nights. The bad news is the release contest is done at

the end of the month, congratulations to the folks that did really well. Some of us look forward to a fresh start for the 2020 season. With all the new information we gather at the shows and seminars we should have a lot of fish on the board next season.

Tuesday night brings in the annual Christmas party / meeting. Bring a food item to share and come hungry. We always have plenty of dishes, snacks, and unusual items to start the scale moving upward. We also will have our "Lure Swap" or anything fishing related gift exchange. Bring up to three (one is fine) new wrapped items worth at least \$15 each to be passed around the room with a crazy set of rules that make for a fun evening. This meeting is always a fun way to get us in the mood for Christmas. In addition we will discuss a change to the May outing schedule. Brandon Simonson was marking up his calendar for next year and discovered I had entered the wrong date for the outing but more importantly he found the tournament schedule for Prairie Lake. This 210 acre lake is scheduled to have two tournaments on May 16 which is the same as our outing. This lake gets used a lot for tournaments. I guess it is not the sleeper that we thought! With that kind of pressure on a small body of water, I think we should change the location of the outing. So with that in mind I created a schedule of all that Illinois tournaments on the lakes we would consider fishing. We can get input on what sounds good to the group. Any of our local lakes can be considered for the outing. We sometimes like to pick a new lake to broaden our choices. Getting a group on a body of water helps confirm if we find a winner or a dud. Personally I would like to learn more about Johnson and Wheeler Lakes in the Banner Marsh area south of Peoria. We have fished Johnson twice and have heard good stories both times we fished this 600 acre lake.

We need all the trophies back to get ready for the banquet. Also we need photos for the 2019 Season in Review that will be shown at the February meeting, the banquet, and the Rockford All City Muskie Night. Send the photos to Dick Cholke - cholke@mchsi.com. Mark your calendar for January 18 for the Chicago Muskie Expo. As in past years we will meet at the Cracker Barrel for breakfast before heading into the show. The banquet date has been changed to March 21 to work around a few conflicts. Please consider making a donation of an item for the raffles to support this annual awards banquet. We are looking into half day guide packages for our top prize this year. Again Kyle



Kyle Scruggs and Jeff Blanck show off a couple of St. Clair 'skis from their November trip.

Scruggs and Forever Green Inc. will be donating \$500 of lawn services. Thank you Kyle! We will also have a great raffle at the Rockford All City Muskie Night on April 8 at the Hoffman House. This should draw a good crowd with Chas Martin as the featured speaker. Both Rock Valley Anglers and Flatlanders hope to grow this event and make this a fund raiser for the year to support our activities.

Here is the list of the Flatlander events in 2020:

Jan. 18: Annual trip to the Chicago Muskie Expo and breakfast at the Cracker Barrel

Feb. 18: General Meeting with the "Flatlanders 2019 season in review"

March 21: Flatlanders Annual Awards Banquet

April 4, 5: Lake Kinkaid Regional Chapter Challenge – not a Flatlander outing

April 8: Second Annual "Rockford All City Muskie Night" in conjunction with Rock Valley Anglers. This will include a raffle for a half day guide trip with the featured presenter Chas Martin.

April 25: Lake Storey near Galesburg, IL

May 16: Under discussion (was Prairie Lake)

July 18-25: Lake of the Woods

August TBD: Muskie Inc. Chapter Challenge

Sept. 18, 19, 20: Bay of Green Bay

Oct. 2, 3, 4: Hayward Lakes Chapter Muskie Tournament

Get on the water and get on the board

Good Stuff

The following are sources for some good information that we can share. It can be YouTube videos, information on seminars, or anything that you think other anglers would like to share.

Here is a website to check tournament schedules on Illinois lakes

<https://www.ifishillinois.org/tournament/selector.php>.

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Release Contest Update

Happy Holidays Flatlanders!!! Our 2019 is coming to an end and we have enjoyed a decent year considering the weather conditions we all have faced. We still have a few fish reported by those Die Hards that went out and braved the elements. This month's report starts off with Wally Haas. While fishing solo over on Twin Valley Wally boated a 45 incher by himself on a sucker. I also had a day where I was fishing by myself and netted a 33 incher on Wingra fishing with a sucker. Tim Scruggs made a trip to Squaw where he popped a 30 ½ incher while soaking sausage. He then went to Lake St. Claire and banged a 41 on a Medusa. His son Kyle also scored on the big pond of St. Claire and was rewarded with a 40 incher.

Well that is all we have to report for now. Remember, since it is the end of the year, **ALL** fish must be turned in by 1/15/20 to count in the contest.

It has been a fun time reading and the reporting about all your adventures while chasing these crazy fish. Kyle Scruggs will be taking of as the Release Chairman next year so do your best to keep him busy. Until then, remember to send your release forms for the 2019 season to:

Steve Ruhmann

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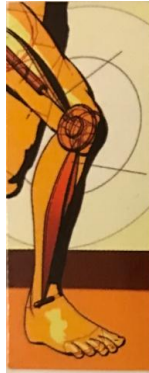
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