



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

February 2014

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

If you love data, you'll love this meeting

Dick Cholke is continuing our tradition of members stepping up to provide valuable information to the club. Dick has put together a short presentation that he'll share with us at this month's get-together. He has charts, graphs and, of course, pictures. What was the hot color in 2013? When were the most fish caught? When were the biggest fish caught? Who caught the most fish on suckers? Who caught the most fish on Ace Tandems? You'll get the answers to these questions and more at this month's meeting. More from Dick on the next page. In addition to Dick's presentation, we'll have a discussion about outings for this year. When and where do you want to go? Outings have been the one area where we've seen increased participation from the membership the last couple of years and we would like to build on that momentum. Your input is valuable.

Awards banquet set

The Annual Awards Banquet will be 6 p.m. March 15 and will be a buffet style dinner at the Loves Park VFW. Details are in the flyer a couple of pages down. You don't have to have caught a lot of fish to attend the banquet. Actually, one of our more prestigious awards – The Skunk – goes to the person who caught no fish the previous season. The competition for that award is quite fierce. The goal of the banquet is to eat, drink and be merry. You don't have to be in line for a trophy or plaque to do that. Please join us March 15.

Message for LOTW anglers

There's a bit of paperwork that you need to get before you can make the trip to Canada. Of course you'll need a fishing license, but you'll also need an RABC – Remote Area Border Crossing permit. If you have questions about the RABC permit or general border crossing information, contact Canada Border Services Agency at (807) 624-2162 or the website www.cbsa.gc.ca.

Leaders & Lures

Gene Seuring has had a very busy offseason. He's had booths at the Schaumburg fishing show, the Rockford



Leaders & Lures was quite the hit at the Milwaukee show.



Image blades, key chains and shadow boxes to display lures are part of Gene Seuring's repertoire.

show, the Milwaukee show and the Madison show. You can see from the above photos that he has plenty of fish-catching products and plenty of people interested in those products. You can show your pride in your favorite college or pro team with his new image blades. They were a big hit at the shows. Imagine a day on the water

where you throw a double-10 with a Bears logo and your buddy throws the same lure with a Packers logo. That's sure to make it an even more fun day on the water. If you can imagine it, Gene can make it, at least as far as leaders, bucktails and spinnerbaits go. If you didn't catch Gene at one of the shows, he has an ad a couple of pages down in this newsletter.

Locally developed fishing app

There are a lot of apps for your smart phone that will help you on your fishing trips. Musky Hunter has an app, there's My Fishing Advisor and more. Now you can get an app developed right here in the River City. In fact, the app was developed by the nephew of a former Flatlander. It's called "Midwest Fishing Adventures." It was developed by RVC student/adjunct professor Josh Glovinsky, whose aunt, Gail Logemann, was a member of the club a few years ago. The information I found most useful on the app was the U.S. Geological Survey water data and the fishing maps. Musky Hunter is a better app, but Musky Hunter is about \$10 and Midwest Fishing Adventures is free. Free is good. Check it out for yourself. And, if you have an app that you like, let us know about it and I'll include some info in the next newsletter.

Lunker of the month 2013

JAN: NONE

FEB: NONE

MARCH: Russ Hoernecke -- 42 1/2 Kaskaskia River

APRIL: NONE

MAY: Russ Hoernecke -- 44, Lake Carlton

JUNE: Jerry Oestreich -- 53 3/4, Mille Lacs

JULY: Tim Scruggs -- 51, Lake of the Woods

AUG: Mark Carlson -- 52, St. Lawrence River

SEPT: Derek Ward -- 47.5, Lake of the Woods

OCT: Jeff Gayhart -- 56, Lac Seul

NOV: Mark Carlson -- 52, St. Lawrence River

DEC: Mark Carlson -- 56, St. Lawrence River

What about Bob?

Dick Cholke has been promoted to senior correspondent for the newsletter. He's contributed quite a bit of stuff the last few months and this month he has an interview with Simply Fishing's Bob Mehsikomer. Here it is.

I talked / listened to Bob for over an hour after his presentation. Needless to say he was quite the talker.

I thought as long as I wrote it up, I might as well share it. Here is my take away from the discussion.

Bob Mehsikomer Presentation 2014 Rockford Fishing Show and Discussion at the Booth

What did you learn or do different to start to catch muskies on a consistent bias.

Pay attention to detail. He used to keep extensive notes and really study /learn the entire system. Years ago he would check PH, dissolved oxygen etc. He has done a lot of work with the MN DNR.

Weeds produce oxygen during the day, algae produce oxygen all day long. When algae start to die it consumes oxygen. Waves and wind do not increase oxygen levels.

He likes structural complexes within 5 miles of a spawning area. There is an entire fish system there to hold muskies -- bait fish.

He does like the area around Skeet Island and Astron Bay. In the fall/October he

continued on next 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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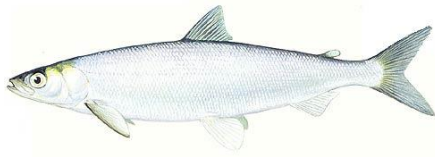
Amy Hollister 608-295-1175

Web site:

www.flatlanderschapter.com

Has cisco spots. This area has one of those spots. It is a flat of 10 -15' feet of water that has big break / cliff that drops off to 115' feet of water.

The ciscos will come up to enjoy the warmer water. These spots require exact weather and other conditions to produce.



He does return to spots where he has caught good fish before on the exact same conditions and does well.

The north end of LOTW is mostly northern's with a few muskies.

55 of his 115 muskies over

50" have come on a jackpot type bait.

He likes long casts.

Muskies cruise at 7mph. They are also like homing pigeons; they can go to an area 5 miles away and return on course a few days later. (confirmed with radio tags)

Muskies preferred water temperature is 74-77F. At that temperature they will feed every 1 to 8 or 10 hours. At 66F they will feed every 30-36 hours. One degree of water temperature is equivalent to 10 degrees to a human.

Muskies have more rods than cones in their eyes thus they like low light conditions. Northern's are opposite, that is why they feed in daylight hours. Use the daylight hours to see fish and learn the detailed structural elements so you can return in low light to know exactly where to place your cast. Certain spots require very exact presentations. He gave an example of a large crack in the rocks that would hold fish. Perpendicular cast were not effective, you need to cast in line with the crack to get the fish out.

He does not bend over for a figure 8 – he feels it spooks some fish. From his videos, he only figure 8's if he sees a fish. (not me) He does a "L" at the boat.

During a cold front he will still throw a jackpot type lure because it stays in front of the fish for a longer time – it works an area slowly.

He runs and guns a lot. A week on LOTW his gas bill is \$1,500. He will run 8-10 miles to the next area. Once he gets there he fishes 20 spots in that area. He looks for active fish, 15-20 minutes in a spot and he is on the move. His goal for the TV show is a 50" fish every week and he usually made it.

He got to his 99th fish over 50" and did not catch #100 for two years.



Flatlanders Chapter of Muskies, Inc.

Annual Awards Banquet

You are invited to attend the Annual Awards Banquet of the Flatlanders Chapter of Muskies, Inc. Please join us as we recognize the angling accomplishments of Chapter Members for the 2013 Angling season. Everyone is welcome to attend! And feel free to bring friends and family!

When: Saturday, March 15 Appetizers at 6:00 ~ Dinner at 6:30

Where: Loves Park VFW Hall, 2018 Windsor Rd, Loves Park, IL

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Dinner will be buffet style featuring baked chicken and spiraled ham. In addition to the awards presentation there will be silent auctions plus we will draw for the release contest 50/50 winner. And of course we will present the Skunk Award to a deserving member! Who will that be? Find out by attending the banquet!

Please confirm your attendance by mailing a check for the total amount and made payable to the Flatlanders Chapter of Muskies, Inc. to...

Jack Pertz
15955 Cannell Rd
Rockton IL 61072

Please respond no later than March 1. Also, please include a list of names of all those attending in your party. Hope to see you there!!

If you have any questions please contact Jack at 815-629-2562 or e-mail at putembackjack2@aol.com.

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