



February 2020 newsletter

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

Who caught what, when and how?

Annual Flatlanders Season in Review will be presented Tuesday night



Dick Estes, Kyle Scruggs and Tim Scruggs worked the booth at the Boat, Vacation and Fishing Show.

By Dick Cholke
Flatlanders president

One off season event down – two to go. I would like to thank everyone that helped out at the Rockford Boat, Vacation and Fishing Show. The booth looked very sharp and we talked to a lot of folks about muskie fishing and the Flatlander's Chapter. I think we are set up for a great season this year. Here are the topics in order. The February meeting will feature the presentation "The 2019 Flatlander's Year in

Review." As in years past there will be lots of photos of folks with fish, results of the members only contest, and data. This is a good meeting for new people who might consider joining our chapter. It shows we really do have fun and catch fish. This will also be a good time to ask questions and get info on the new informal trip to Lake of the Woods in August. We will stay at Mylie's Place Aug. 29-Sept. 5. The cost is

\$281.36 each based on 4 more anglers or \$225.21 based on 6 more anglers. We have spots for 6 folks with the current reservations, more may be available. This would depend if the open cabins have been booked since our last communications with Mylie's. Check out <https://myliesplaceresort.com/cabin-photos/cabin-6/>. We have been happy with the accommodations there the last two years for the Chapter Challenge. Dick Cholke will need a \$100 deposit paid by Feb. 26!

Our annual Flatlanders awards banquet March 21 at Thunder Bay Grille is next on the schedule. The event will start out at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and awards to follow. See the attached form to reserve your spot by March 16. Send your \$35 per person to Jack Pertz 15955 Cannell Rd Rockton IL 61072. his year we are trying something different. Included with the meal is also a raffle ticket for a half day of guided fishing with Jon Ghinazzi. Jon is a Rockford native now living in Holmen, Wisconsin. Some of us heard him speak this winter at a Rock Valley Anglers meeting. He shared information on his home waters of Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages. This is always a great event where we recognize our top anglers and plan for the new season. Oh did I mention raffles? We have some nice donations and merchandise this year. Help support our chapter and donate an item for the raffle.

Rock Valley Anglers and the Flatlanders are hosting the second annual "Rockford All City Muskie Night" on April 8. The event will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Hoffman House. We have attached the flyer again. Put it on your refrigerator and the one at work, your favorite watering hole etc. – invite everyone to enjoy a great evening. This is our big fund raiser for the year to support the activities of the chapter. At the Chicago Muskie Expo the Chicago Muskie Hunters commented that Chas Martin spoke at their previous meeting. Their members indicated he put on an excellent presentation. We are working up merchandise for the raffles now – it will include a lot of great items for both the muskie angler and the RVA multi species anglers. Top prize will be a half day guided trip



Jack Pertz and Lee Bach were part of the crew that manned the booth at Rockford show.



You can win a guided trip with Jon Ghinazzi just by attending our annual awards banquet.

with Chas Martin. Check out our half page ad in the Muskie Inc. magazine.

I will be working with the EC committee next week to bring a speaker for our May meeting. If we can work out the arrangements – this one will be one not to miss. I heard him speak recently and I was impressed with the presentation. I will fill you in more as we firm things up. I think we also have a schedule that should offer us opportunities for some early fish and big fish later in the year.

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 at Thunder Bay Restaurant.
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: Castle Rock Flowage

July 18-25: Lake of the Woods

Aug. 29 – Sept. 5: Lake of the Woods at Mylie's Place. This is not an official Flatlander outing but all Flatlanders and guests are welcome.

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

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

Nov. 27-29: Lake St. Clair. Note: this was added at the last EC meeting



At our next meeting we will have new Flatlander hats and T shirts available. You can also order other items with the Flatlanders logos. We are getting closer to "Get on the water and get on the board"

Good Stuff

This spring brings back the Capital City Muskie Inc. Chapter, 19th Annual Intermediate and Advanced Muskie School on March 14 at the Waunakee High School. Check out <https://www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org/muskie-school/> These guys do a great job with over 30 choices of breakout sessions for a very full day. I personally like many of these seminars better than the big shows because they are presented by local guides and experts on water that we fish. Their day always wraps up with a huge raffle with many higher priced items such as rod and reel combinations.

Do you want a plaque?

As all of you know, our Annual Awards Banquet is coming up quickly here in March. We are going to run out of time to get the 40" plaques on order soon. Attached to this email is another copy of the 40" plaque form. These are beautiful awards. I have ordered one every year and display them proudly in my fishing room. Order yours now! You worked hard for it and deserve to be recognized for your accomplishment.

Start thinking about LOTW 2020

Are you eager for the new season to start? Well, we still have openings for members to join us at Bay Store for the annual Flatlanders assault on Lake of the Woods July 18–25. So if you are interested, get your \$100 deposit in now. Please make them out to either Steve Ruhmann or Bay Store Camp. This is the trip of the summer so don't miss out.

Are your stickers up to date?

make sure your boat registration is up to date. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources stopped sending out renewal notices in 2013. Registration of watercraft in Illinois is good for three years and expires June 30. Go to the DNR's website, dnr.illinois.gov, click on boating and go to the link "Please use Online Renewal if your boat is currently registered in your name." Follow the instructions from there.

Want more shows?

The Madison Fishing Expo is Feb. 28-March 1 at the Alliant Energy Center. The weekend after, March 6-8, is the Wausau Musky Expo. It's a bit of a drive, but it's an excellent show.



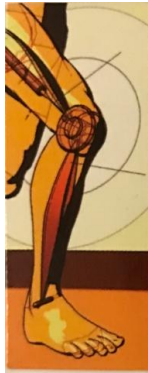
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