



FLATLANDERS

January 2015

TAILS

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

Resolve to catch more big fish in 2015

Happy New Year. We won't have a general membership meeting this month. The Jan. 10 breakfast at Cracker Barrel was our meeting. The next time we'll get together at the VFW is Feb. 26.

Most of us spend the offseason organizing tackle, buying new stuff and learning as much as we can about our favorite sport. It's also a good time to get all your paperwork in order for your big fishing trips.

Paperwork, part 1

If you're not fishing, you're probably thinking about fishing. If you're going to Canada on our annual Lake of the Woods outing, you need to make sure your Outdoors Card hasn't expired besides getting a license. Don't forget your Remote Access Border Crossing permit. Might as well get all of that out of the way before the weather turns nice and you want to fish.

Paperwork, part 2

This has been mentioned in previous newsletters, but it's important enough for regular reminders. You're going to have to take Aquatic Invasive Species training and display a decal on your trailer if you drive through Minnesota with your boat. Even if you don't stop to fish, you need that sticker. Trailer decals are required by July 1, which means those who are going to LOTW next year will have to take the training and get the decal. The online course is \$5. If you want to do it the old-fashioned way and have the forms mailed to you, it will cost \$11. Go to <http://trailers.mndnr.gov/> for details.

It's an online course that becomes available Jan. 31.

Banquet is set

Our annual awards banquet will be Saturday, March 14 at the VFW. The menu will be the same as last year's. The banquet form is a couple of pages down.

The awards will be different this year. We'll be handing out plaques instead of pewter mugs to the top 10 in the men's division. The longest release of the year will get a special plaque. The 40-inch plaques remain the same. You should be getting a form soon, so have your big fish list ready.



This tackle box was the most sought-after item during our Christmas party/lure swap last month. It was "stolen" quite a few times. There were lots of good lures exchanged during our December meeting. Mark your calendars for Dec. 17 so you can make this year's event.

Banquet, part 2

Do you have a projector that we can borrow? The projector we've used for presentations in the past is missing. If you have one, please let me know via email: whaas17@comcast.net.

Dick Cholke will need a projector so he can display the data he's accumulated about the fish the club caught in 2014. Dick will present that data at our February meeting. Also, Dick still needs photos for the awards banquet. Please send your photos to cholke@mchsi.com. We will draw the winner for the display tackle box donated by Dick Lapp during the awards banquet. You can buy tickets at the February meeting or at the awards banquet. Tickets are only \$5 for this unique item that any angler would be proud to own.

Informal outings

Dick Cholke would like to know if anyone is interested in "informal" outings. He's planning a trip to Ohio for some early season muskies and welcomes any other anglers and boats to make the trip. His email address is on the previous page. He's also interested in shorter trips throughout the year as a supplement to the official club outings. He is interested in fishing the 2015 Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge. If anyone else is interested in the tournament it will be Aug. 26-28 on Leech Lake, Minnesota. Horseshoe Bay Lodge is the host site.

Bits from the shows and speakers

By Dick Cholke

Senior correspondent

So far this year it has been only bits and pieces of muskie information. Here are few of those things that were shared:

Duffy Thury,

creator of the Headlock and the Mattlock

Two of his guide friends were fishing the same open water one day with similar lures and methods. The guy with all the planer boards on one side of the boat was out-fishing the balanced spread five to one. Makes you wonder if a schooling affect may make a difference.

Lake Vermilion during the shad/may fly hatch: Look for the humps on the mud flats during the hottest part of the day – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and troll. Typically he is in 40 feet of water with the lures running in the top 10 feet. He was very enthusiastic about this pattern (LOTW trip/mayflies??)

St. Croix River has a depression next to shore caused by the wave action. Muskies will lay in that trough. Troll with planer boards and keep the lure in that trough. He normally trolls downstream. Trolling is more effective because the lure stays in the strike zone.

Greg Thomas

Capital City January presentation.

Cave Run usually has dirty water during the cold water of spring and fall.

Late June – mid July fish Bondy baits or Rippin' Dawgs through the bait fish balls.

The bait should be jigged so the bait comes up into the baitball and then drop below the baitball. You must use traditional sonar to see bait on the graph. He tries to keep the bait / line near vertical while he has the trolling motor set to run approximately 2 mph. You must fish this pattern by watching the depth finder. Flat bellied lures like a Bull Dawg will drop slower than round bellied lures such as the Red October. He uses various riggings on the Red October when he fishes different depths. He will use the Red October to run deep and fast, with additional weight to get the lure down faster. He may add a nail, lead etc. in the lure for additional weight.

He has found paddle tail style rubber baits very effective in water less than 40°F.

To fix large plastic lures/Bull Dawgs with large cuts he uses a heated pocket knife. He places the hot blade into the cut, removes the blade and squeezes the cut together. Water in the cut of a white lure will turn the fix black.

He indicated many of us have problems with our Bull Dawgs getting "Dawg Balls" – the line caught in the hooks, the tail getting caught on the front hooks etc. Most the time this occurs when we try to power a cast and the lure will tumble through the air on the cast. He recommends letting a few feet of line out and lobe the lure out.

Greg now fishes Cave Run in March, April and May and Lake St. Claire the rest of the year. He indicated after the presentation, it's hard to stay away from St. Claire fish factory.

I brought a smile to his face when I asked him last year's question: What did you learn or do different to start catching muskies consistently. After a pause, Greg answered the same as many "time on the water." I added joining Muskie Inc has helped a lot and he strongly agreed.

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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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 2014 Angling season. Everyone is welcome to attend! And feel free to bring friends and family!

When: Saturday, March 14th 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 1st. 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 putebackjack2@aol.com.