



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

January 2017

MEETINGS: 7:30 P.M. ~ **THIRD TUESDAY** ~ LOVES PARK VFW ~ 2018 WINDSOR RD ~ LOVES PARK, ILLINOIS

Happy new year! Big fish are waiting for you

Most of us won't be hitting the water for a few months, but that doesn't mean we can't have fishing fun. There are the sports shows, like the recently completed Chicago Musky Show, and the upcoming Schaumburg and Milwaukee shows to look forward to. And, Jim Saric, Joe Bucher, James Lindner and others give us plenty of TV time to whet our fishing appetites. Our club will have a lot going on the next few months. **There's no general meeting for January**, but February will feature the annual data presentation by our president, Dick Cholke. Our banquet is in March and we plan to have a guest speaker at our April meeting. Read on.

Spots open for LOTW

Steve Ruhmann

Release chairman

Time is running out to get your 2017 Lake of the Woods deposits in. They need to be to me by Jan. 31. Previously I had mentioned that things were going to fill up quickly. Well, that was not a true statement. We currently have six open spaces for the trip. So if you have been considering on going, please get with your partner and join in on the fun. This trip is my favorite of the year with the comradery and fishing being second to none!! You can call me at 815-558-3666 or email me at steve.ruhmann@gmail.com to secure your spot. Hope you are able to join us.

Notes from the bow of the boat

Dick Cholke

Flatlanders president

It is starting out with a bang – for those of you that bought a Cannonball at the Muskie Expo. Even though we are not fishing, we are busy. There is a full list of things we are working on for the next season. Let's go through the list.

Most important: Lake of the Woods deposits are due ASAP. Send your \$100 to Steve Ruhmann to reserve your spot. We still have room for a few more, but we have to move fast to book all three cabins. (see Steve's note above)

Year in review: The year in review presentation is being organized and will be ready for the Feb. 21 general



Lee Bach and Dick Estes did a great job running the lure swap at our Christmas meeting. Flatlanders brought a new lure, value of at least \$15, to be picked and perhaps "stolen." It was lots of fun. We'll do it again in 2017.

meeting. Did you remember we changed the meeting day to the third Tuesday of the month? We still need photos for the presentation. I have not received photos from many of you. Please send them to cholke@mchsi.com.

Trophy time: If you received a trophy last year it is that time of year to get them back to Steve Ruhmann or Dick Cholke. Please get them back in January to ensure they are ready for the March banquet/fund raiser.

The chapter is also recognizing all the anglers that caught muskies over 40 inches. Same as past years, you may purchase a plaque for \$26 that will be presented at the March banquet. (See separate attachment for more information about the plaques.)

Banquet date set: The Flatlanders Annual Banquet and Fund Raiser have been set for 6 p.m. March 18 at Thunder Bay Grill with a few changes. This year we will be ordering off the menu, to facilitate the attendee's personal preferences. Feel free to invite nonmembers to the banquet for a full evening of fun. To facilitate planning, please contact Jack Pertz and enter the early bird raffle. Jack can be reached at 815-629-2562 or putembackjack2@aol. We are currently organizing a large number of items for a variety of raffles.

Musky school: The same day as our banquet/fundraiser, (that's March 18 for those of you who skipped ahead) the Capital City Chapter of Muskie's Inc. is holding their annual Muskie School. The day includes an opening seminar, three seminars that you pick from 36 choices, a catered lunch and a large raffle at the end of the day. If you are serious about learning local water and water in Wisconsin this is an excellent day of great speakers. Most of the speakers are guides including: Jeff Hanson, Lee Tauchen, Kevin Pishke of Green Bay, Adam Oberfoell and Steve Herbeck. We have attended the last three years and found that these speakers are many times better than the speakers at the big shows. Check out <http://www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org/annual-muskie-school/>

Guest speakers: We have leads on speakers for our April meeting. Come to the February meeting and get the scoop on who will be making the presentation.

Top anglers: This year again we have Flatlanders reaching national recognition. Becky Oestreich finished sixth in the Women's Division and Mary Hoerneck finished 13th in the Women's Master Division. Charles Carlson took home first place in the Juniors Top 25 for 2016 and is tied for third place for all of Muskie Inc. 2016. Congratulations on these excellent catches.

Chapter Challenge: Talk to your boss at work, the scheduler at home and reserve Aug. 19-26 for the Muskie Inc. Gil Hamm Memorial Chapter Challenge. This is another great week of fishing on Lake of the Woods. Talk to any of the past participants and you will be assured it is great week.

Outings update: This year I encourage everyone to participate in the chapter's outings. We have a great lineup and they always prove to be a lot of fun. This is one of the best ways to learn more techniques to catch fish and get to know the other members.

Our outing schedule is:

April 29: Storey Lake, Illinois

May 13: Lake Waubesa and Lake Monona

July 15-22: Lake of the Woods – Bay Store Camp – **Deposits are due in**

January. Send to Steve Ruhmann

Sept. 22-23: St. Croix River

Oct. 20-22: Deer, Bone, Apple River and Wapogasset

Nov. 11-13: Big Sissabagama Area

Odds and ends: Make sure you are ready for the new season. Get your boat and trailer in for service. I assume that you picked up on a few new lures at the shows. This is also a good time to confirm your passport is current because LOTW is just around the corner.

Open water will be here soon. Start planning those early season trips to our Illinois lakes and consider something new – Ohio is great in the spring. Well, I had to plant the seed – I am getting the bug to be on the water. Get involved with a fun group of anglers and let's grow the chapter membership of this year.

Fishing show schedule

Here is the schedule for musky/fishing shows that have been popular among Flatlanders in recent years. I added the Waukesha show to the list because a couple of guys told me it's a really good show. Musky legend Tony Rizzo is giving a seminar at that show on Jan. 27.

Jan 26-29: Chicagoland Fishing, Travel & Outdoor Expo, Schaumburg Convention Center, 1551 Thoreau Dr N, Schaumburg, IL 60173.

Jan. 27-29: Southern Wisconsin Musky Expo, Waukesha Expo Center, Waukesha, Wis.

Feb. 10-12: Milwaukee Musky Expo, Washington County Fair Park, 3000 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI.

Feb. 17-19: Rockford Boat, Vacation & Fishing Show, Indoor Sports Center.

Feb 23-26: Wisconsin Fishing Expo, Alliant Energy Center Expo Hall, Madison, Wis.

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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