



*January 2020 newsletter*

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

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## The off-season. Where do you start?

How about joining us for breakfast 7:30 a.m. Jan. 18 before the Chicago Musky Expo?



*Diane Scruggs caught her first musky in 2019. Duane Wedler (below) also caught his first toothy critter.*

*By Dick Cholke  
Flatlanders president*

There are a lot of things going on this time of year related to muskie fishing. I start thinking of the highlight of the year – a week at Lake of the Woods! For those of you staying at Bay Store Camp, deposits are due by the end of the month. Send Steve Ruhmann a check for \$100 to reserve your spot for great week on some of the best water in Canada, North America, and the world. It sounds exaggerated but think about it – it's true. Steve's address is still 14728 Whispering Winds Way South Beloit IL 61080. It looks like we will have another big group in 2020 with many folks already booking



accommodations on the other island. This week must be one of the best because there are several muskie schools booked the same week. There is plenty of water to accommodate everyone. Many of us are getting pumped already.

To get ready for Lake of the Woods the Flatlanders are heading into the Muskie Expo in Chicago on Saturday, Jan. 18. Some good seminars, seeing old friends and new baits make for a good day in the middle of the winter. Per our long standing tradition we will meet at the Cracker Barrel for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Join us to start plans for the new season. We also need to remember the last season. I started the "2019 Season in Review" presentation and have noticed many of you have not sent me any photos. We need photos of your fish and the outing events that made last year a fun year. Send them to Dick Cholke cholke@mchsi.com. This power point presentation will be used at the Rockford Boat Vacation and Fishing Show, the February meeting, and annual awards banquet. This year we will have a booth at the Rockford Show to promote our chapter. Lee Bach is organizing the folks to man the booth. Volunteer a few hours and help promote the Flatlanders. You can reach Lee at babygrand10@comcast.net. This event offers some good exposure of our chapter to our local anglers. Next up will be our general meeting in February. The presentation that night will again feature lots on photos of big fish, memories, and data of our 2019 season.

Two of our biggest events will be here soon. The annual awards banquet March 21 and the Rockford All City Muskie Night April 8 are some of the highlights of the off season. We need donations for our raffles. Please consider helping the chapter and let us know if you can get merchandise, trips, or services at a discount. We are going to promote the RACMN heavily and expect a better crowd than last year. Look for our half page ad in the next Muskie Inc. magazine. Invite any folks that would enjoy this great evening with the presentation by Chas Martin. We are working with Rock Valley Anglers to have a fully loaded raffle.



*Kayla Scruggs also got on the musky board for the first time in 2019.*

We lost track of one of our items at the last meeting - our May outing. Due to the number of tournaments on Prairie Lake this spring we will move that outing to a different location. Send the EC committee some suggestions. The EC meeting will be on the normal fourth Tuesday on the month – Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone probably received the Muskie Inc. calendar. This is a nice reference for important dates and some interesting facts about our great sport. This is the only fund raiser for Muskie Inc. national. Please donate a few bucks to keep our organization healthy.

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:** Under discussion (was Prairie Lake)

**July 18-25:** Lake of the Woods

**Sept. 5-12:** Muskie Inc. Chapter Challenge at the Bemidji MN area lakes, Bemidji, Big, Plantaganet (this outing will be discussed at the January EC Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>)

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

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

Normally I end the article with “Get on the water and get on the board”. Well it may be a little while before we can get out. But consider an early trip to Ohio this spring. Do the research in the Muskie Inc. database and you will find some nice surprises for early season fishing compared to the typical early season locations down south. It may be worth some discussion at breakfast on Saturday before going to the Chicago Muskie Expo.

### **Good Stuff**

This spring brings back the Capital City Muskie Inc. Chapter, 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Another LOTW reminder**

Howdy Flatlanders. This is another reminder to get your \$100 deposit in for LOTW 2020. Dates

for the trip are July 18 – 25. Again this year the total for lodging at the Bay Store is \$400.

Remember you need an up to date passport, your Canadian License and the CBP ROAM app installed on your phone for checking in once we cross the border. We still have space available and need to get a head count up to Bay Store by the end of this month. This trip is always a great time. The fun and comradery is off the charts and the fishing isn't too bad either. So please contact me with your intent to go and then send your deposits to:

**Steve Ruhmann**  
**14728 Whispering Wind Way**  
**South Beloit, Illinois**  
**61080**

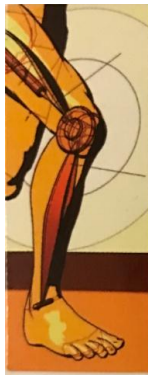
### **Get into gear**

There's not much of an inventory of Flatlanders shirts and hats. However, I have ordered some new hats that I think you will like. They will be available at the February meeting. Just like Burger King, special orders don't upset us. I can have the club logo put on any kind of apparel you want: long sleeve shirts, short sleeve, hoodies, shorts, etc. Ship me an email or corner me at a meeting.



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