



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

July 2017

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

Spring training over; time for the majors

Guys are fishing and reports of fish are coming in. Funny how that happens. The fishing season gets into high gear as trips to big fish waters are on most anglers' agendas. The Flatlanders will make their annual excursion to Lake of the Woods and most of the group will start the drive Friday (July 14). A few hardy anglers will spend some extra time on LOTW and may be on their way by the time you read this. Other members of the club are planning trips to Lake St. Clair, Lac Seul and other waters that big fish call home. Lots going on, read on.

Notes from the bow of the boat

By Dick Cholke

Flatlanders president

I don't know about the rest of you but I am getting buzzed about LOTW. After a **very** brutal early season I am ready to see some fish and I mean muskie! I am sure my first 100 casts will be faster than burning speed – I should probably put on double 12s just to get me in the realistic zone. Twenty four Flatlanders/LOTW/ a week of fishing – it is going to be a good time! If you missed the June meeting, we reviewed some of the changes this year for our annual big outing. We also reviewed some of the old items. Here is the list:

Friday July 14 6 a.m.: Leave from the Flying J in South Beloit (Wheels up). Check everyone's passport, RABC, and CB radio – reminder bring your last year's "I68" Form

Friday night: Supper in Buadette, MN (probably not on the river!)

Saturday afternoon: At Bay Store Camp after we call into customs and get settled – Steve's line up meeting and raffles.

Every morning Sunday through Friday 8:30–9:30 a.m. (Approximately): Bring your breakfast to the out building to discuss what has been working the previous day. We are starting new charts to help everyone get more fish. We are a chapter of sharing information – let's help each other increase the overall number of fish on the board. We will try to identify the best patterns and lures that moved fish. Describe the



Brian Hansas is on the board with this 38-incher caught June 21 on the Eagle River chain



Greg Lehmann caught this beauty on the Fourth of July.

areas that have moved fish in general terms and share exact spot at your discretion.

Steak night will be held early in the week this year. This will probably be a noon meal and will be weather dependent. If we get some bad weather, let's eat steak, be safe, and share fish stories.

Greg confirmed he is bringing the trophy up this year – I am looking forward to a lot of competition for big fish.

We did fill out our team for this August event. The following anglers will be competing in the MI Chapter Challenge: Wally Haas, Dick Estes, Duane Nichols, Jack Pertz, Leo Hauser, and Dick Cholke.

We will not have meetings in July and August due to so many members out on side trips.

We will kick off the fall season with a big meeting in September. We have booked Michael Hanson to speak on river muskies. He agreed to tailor his presentation to cover Lake Wisconsin and the Wisconsin River. If any of you heard the rumors last fall, the Wisconsin River produces a lot of muskies. We will also make our plans for our September outing to the St Croix River Sept. 22-24. This will be a new location for the chapter. It has a great reputation based on the PMTT results in past years. Dave Jack will speak on St Croix from his experience at the PMTT. In addition, we will vote on locations for next year's outings. Two new ideas were suggested for next year's outing locations. More one day local outings may be fun – possibly June. The other suggestion would have us participate in a small tournament possibly in the fall. We could support some other chapter's event, enjoy the festivities with minimal work.

The chapter will also highlight the fall with two more outings:

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

Nov. 11-13: Big Sissabagama Area

As always - Get on the water and on the board!



The 50s keep coming

Lake St. Clair has been very good to Kevin Stenzel, who has caught a 50-incher on four straight trips. Jack Pertz, who caught a couple of nice fish himself, tells the story: Okay, here you go. We fished Monday and Tuesday. Monday the wind was brutal. We had 4 and 5 footers at times. Russ started things off with a 36 incher about 8:05. At 9:40 I got a 37 inch hybrid. I guess they have been catching a few of those this year. Kevin got his first fish at 9:50, a 28 incher. Our rules say you are up until you get a 30-incher. His next fish was a nice smallie. While he was bringing that fish in, another rod popped so Russ grabbed it and cranked in a 33-incher. About the same time (10:05),



another rod popped and Kevin got that one, a 36 incher! Because Russ went out of rotation, I was up next and at 10:10 I got nice fat 45-incher. So we had a nice frenzy for a little while. Then at 11:15 Kevin got a 38, at 11:20 Russ got a 38 and at 11:25 I got a 38. Another little frenzy. No more fish on Monday but Kevin had a about a 40 incher shake off at the boat before the first mate could get the net to it! Day 2, Tuesday was another windy day although it did calm down as the day progressed. Kevin kicked things off with another 50-incher! Four trips, four 50s for the king of Lake St Clair! That fish was at 9:20. At 10:35 Russ got a 32-incher on a Headlock. At 12:30 I got a 46-incher and at 12:35 Kevin got a 41-incher. Good trip? Bad trip? Only 12 fish total, 8 on day one and 4 on day two. But one 50 in two days has to be a good trip. Plus a couple bonus mid-forties!

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Release contest update

Happy July Flatlanders. Summer is in full swing and we are starting to see a few more fish caught. We start this month with Jeremy Venhuizen. Jeremy was our spanking the water and boated a 32.5-incher on Carlton. Greg Lehman hit two different bodies of water where he popped a 43-incher from Pleasant Creek in Iowa and a 39 from McMaster. Brian Hansas went up North and proceeded to release a 38-incher from the Eagle Lake Chain. I have been out quite a bit and was finally rewarded with a 33 from Monona. Becky Oestreich has been out on Forest Lake where she popped a 41-incher. Jack Pertz and Kevin Stenzel made their annual trip to Lake St. Clair where they each trolled up some nice fish. Jack caught fish measuring 37, 45, 38, and 46 inches. Kevin for the third year in a row caught a 50 incher (50.25 to be exact). He also stuck fish measuring 36, 38, and 41 inches. Nice fish everyone!!!

The annual Flatlander invasion to LOTW is next week and I am sure we will have quite a few fish to report. So everyone travel safe to wherever your destination is and catch a fish of a lifetime. Remember to send your release forms postmarked within 30 days to:

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

Or email a copy to: steve.ruhmann@gmail.com