



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

July 2016

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

Flatlanders starting to bag some nifty 50s

We'll recap our recent fishing adventures at Thursday's meeting and take a look forward to our next outing on North Twin. There will not be a meeting in August. Fishing is heating up and Flatlanders have landed some big fish in the last month or so.

Jack Pertz, Kevin Stenzel, Russ Hoernecke and Wally Haas fished Lake St. Clair and caught 12 muskies with Kevin and Russ cracking 50 inches.

Greg Lehmann caught a 50-incher on the recently completed Lake of the Woods outing.

More big fish are out there and we hope you catch them. Remember to send your release forms postmarked within 30 days to:

Steve Ruhmann

14728 Whispering Wind Way

South Beloit, Illinois, 61080

Or email: steve.ruhmann@gmail.com

Notes from the bow of the boat

By Dick Cholke

Flatlanders president

We just completed two of our traditional summer outings and now we will take a quick break with our goal set for some nice fish this fall. Squaw Lake and Lake of the Woods proved to be great trips.

Five of us attended the Squaw Lake trip staying at Loren's cabin, right on the lake. Even though the fishing was slow, we made up for it with some good grins after we got off the water. Each trip reinforces some basic concepts. Fishing was slow on Squaw but the move to Squirrel proved within two casts that it was the right decision to do something different. Bob Cholke landed a nice 38-inch tiger off a mid-lake reef and was the only angler to get on the board.

On the Lake of the Woods outing 24 guys had another week of both fish and grins. The full moon did have an effect and many fish were caught at moonrise. Thanks to Steve Ruhmann, Tim Scruggs, and everyone who helped to organize our biggest trip of the year. We welcome Martin Hauser as a new Flatlander and congratulations on his 42- and 45-inch LOTW fish. I will run the data later, but the numbers of fish caught and the fish per angler were up from previous years. Don't



Kevin Stenzel caught this 50-incher while trolling with on Lake St. Clair.

forget to enter your fish to Muskie Inc and Steve Ruhmann.

We will take an August break and cancel the general meeting. No outing is scheduled for August. We still need two anglers for the Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge Aug. 20-27 at Lake of the Woods, to fill the team of six. Contact Dick Cholke if you are interested. Line up your partners for the two fall trips to some very productive water – North Twin and Big Sand followed up by Bone, Deer, Waposgasset and Apple River.

With all that said we are looking forward to next year's outings. We need to submit our outing schedule to Muskie's Inc. in September to make the deadline for the calendar. The July meeting will include a vote for next year's outings. If you cannot attend the meeting, send Dick Cholke an email with your preferences for 2017 outings. The Executive Committee will set the schedule at the August EC meeting.

Please send your fish photos to Dick Cholke. We need your photo on the Flatlander website – under gallery! The fishing action is definitely picking up. Get on the water and get on the board (Again and again!)



Russ Hoernecke caught this 50-incher with guide Jason Quintano.



Greg Lehmann had the big fish during the Lake of the Woods outing.

Pelican Lake update

The Minnesota DNR will stock muskies in Gull Lake near Brainerd and the Fairmont chain of lakes in southern Minnesota, but was withdrawing its proposal to stock Franklin, Lizzie or Loon lakes in Otter Tail County.

The Pelican Lake Property Owners Association spent thousands of dollars in an effort to stop the DNR from expanding its musky stocking program. It appears they've won the PR war, according to Mike McFeely, a WDAY (970 AM) radio host and a columnist for infoforum.com.

"Science doesn't matter when it comes to a political fight over fish. Money, lobbying and political clout appear much more important," McFeely wrote.

Pelican Lake property owner David Majkrzak led the anti-musky forces. In a Q&A with the Minneapolis Star-Tribune, he said: "It's a grass roots effort. When a county commissioner comes out of church and 10 people jump him about muskies. That has an impact. We pushed back and told the DNR it didn't have solid scientific information to back up its claim that muskies would be environmentally benign in these lakes." I doubt we've heard the last about this issue.

Two outings left

Sept. 16-18: North Twin

Oct. 28-30: Deer, Bone, Apple River and Wapogasset

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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