



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

June 2014

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

Are you ready for Canadian adventure?

We'll have a general discussion June 26 on fishing Lake of the Woods. Members of the club have caught numbers and some big fish in the last few years. Personal records fall almost every year. Bring your maps and compare notes with the guys who have made the trip.

Kris LaMendola, rest in peace



Kris was killed in a car accident May 31. Kris was the fiancé of Steve Ruhmann. You can read her obituary on the Flatlanders website. A memorial service will be scheduled later. There are no words to truly convey our sense of sadness and loss. Our condolences to Steve and to Kris' family.

Leaders & Lures baits work

Last month we had Leaders & Lures night during our meeting. Well, here's a story from happy customer Jeremy Venhuizen, who bought one of Gene Seuring's baits (photos at right): "I purchased a black/black double ten from ya. I purchased it for the upcoming LOTW trip but couldn't wait to try it out. Bagged a couple with it on Saturday including this 43.5! Just thought i would share. Thanks for bringing your lineup of bucktails to the meeting." Gene has plenty of baits to sell. For information see his ad on our advertisers page.

Monthly reminder: Turn in those fish

Remember, when you catch fish, you can enter them on the Muskies Inc. website and print out the form to give to our release chairman, Tim Scruggs. Also, we're doing a 50/50 for the release contest again this year. You can enter a 50/50 raffle for the season. You will get more chances the longer the fish is that you release.

Mail forms and money to:

Tim Scruggs, 9668 Bagley Drive, Apt. 3,
Roscoe, IL., 61073.

6-page newsletter

More from Dick Cholke after the ads.



New trolling rules in Wisconsin

It doesn't take effect until next year, but you won't have to worry about casting and dragging suckers in most Wisconsin lakes. (I was warned by the DNR once while fishing Lake Tomahawk) Here's what's going to happen, pending final legislative review:

- Trolling would be legal with at least one line per angler on all inland waters in Wisconsin.
- In 55 counties in the state, all inland waters would be open to trolling with up to three lines per angler.
- In the remaining 17 counties - on waters not currently open to trolling - trolling would be allowed but would be limited to one line per angler and no more than two lines

per boat, which means no more than two anglers trolling at a time. (Door, Florence, Fond du Lac, Iron, Jackson, Lincoln, Marathon, Marquette, Menominee, Milwaukee, Oneida, Ozaukee, Sawyer, Sheboygan, Vilas, Washington and Waushara.)

Oh there is another state that has muskies – Ohio!

By Dick Cholke

Senior correspondent

A rare opportunity opened up for a spur of the moment trip the second week of May. The research began and a pattern soon developed that Ohio might be a better choice for an early muskie trip than Lake Kinkaid or Cave Run. We were tired of winter and thought something south sounded more appealing. Ohio has a year round season and data from Muskie Inc database showed they catch a lot of fish in Ohio. No one in the club indicated they have ever fished those waters and gamble was on! These are some of the numbers that showed us a drive east might pay off.

Summary April 1, 2013 to June 30, 2013

Ohio non - resident fishing license \$40

	# of Fish	Average	HP Max.	Acres	Trolling %
Kinkaid	28	36.8	NR	2750	36%
Cave Run	36	36.2	NR	8270	31%
Leesville	61	36.6	10HP	1000	49%
Piedmont	121	36.1	10HP	2273	83%
Salt Fork	42	35.2	NR	2952	67%
West Branch	114	36.6	NR	2936	94%
Alum Creek	68	37	NR	3387	60%

The numbers surely indicated it might be worth a check trip and the percentage of fish caught trolling, indicated they fish differently in Ohio than Wisconsin.

Remembering Mike Mordas, of Muskie Train Lures, was very helpful at the Chicago Muskie Show, a few e-mails were exchanged. Mike indicated it might be tough because of a cold front and dirty water. After an eight-hour drive and \$61 in tolls, tandem axle trailers have a down side in toll booths; we stopped at Mike's Shop. We received the complete tour of his operation and then he pulled out the lake map of West Branch. A big thanks to Mike for helping us try to locate fish. One of his buddies caught nine two weeks before on a Saturday and after a cold front, one on Sunday.

Every trip you learn something new. The guy's in Ohio short line troll with the lures close to the back of the boat, in the prop wash (10-15 feet back) and right at the edge of the tree branches on shore. Mike indicated muskies are not boat shy. This was something different for us to try. We ran one bait close to the tree limbs, one in the prop wash and two on the outside with planner boards with a fair amount of casting. We saw about 20 boats out a day, and half of them were muskie fishing. Fishing was slow because of the transition of the spawning period. Water temps varied from 52°F to 62°F. The results – one missed, two lost / largest in the high 30" range, caught a 29"er and saw two others cruising. The larger lost fish hit in the middle of a bog like structure with 6" of water on top and 2' under the vegetation, real thick stuff. My wife gave me a hard time when I told her that the 29"er I caught, only had one functional eye.

As Mike indicated West Branch can be a really good lake but hard to learn. Other anglers were very positive of these waters. The entire 2936 acre lake is within a state park with no development. There are many variables that change the conditions with water levels and clarity being large factors. He definitely recommends to call ahead to get the lake conditions before you make the drive. Mike was a great contact and he makes some great looking lures that are made in the US – his shop in Ravenna, OH. Jeff Hanson, Madison guide, fishes a lot of Muskie Train lures which indicates they are effective.

Would we go back? Yes, but earlier to hit more of the pre-spawn pattern and we would like to try some of the other lakes that also have very good reputations. Some of those lakes are restricted to 10 HP.

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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Check out this data on LOTW

By Dick Cholke

Senior correspondent

Many of us are going back up to Lake of the Woods in July with the Flatlanders club and in August for the Muskie Challenge at Morson ON / Lake of the Woods. To get a better idea how to fish, I spent some time looking at the data on the Red Wing Lodge Lake of the Woods website : <http://www.redwinglodge.net/> and on their page listed: "Muskie Fishing" <http://www.redwinglodge.net/musky-fishing/> This is the location for the Muskie Inc. Chapter Challenge next year. Many of our club members comment on one year class of fish that is very healthy and this summer they should be near 49-50" Range. The data below confirms their theory.

<http://www.redwinglodge.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/RedWingSummaryofHistoricalMuskyResults.pdf>

Red Wing Lodge Summary of Historical Musky Results

Year	0-24.9"	25-29.9"	30-34.9"	35-39.9"	40-44.9"	45-49.9"	>=50"	#Rel.	%Rel.	Total
1987	0	4	47	50	30	10	4	138	95.17	145
1988	2	16	48	65	39	12	8	179	94.21	190
1989	1	13	27	37	31	10	1	115	95.83	120
1990	3	7	26	37	33	11	1	113	95.76	118
1991	0	0	27	27	24	10	2	86	95.56	90
1992	5	1	16	50	38	14	4	127	99.22	128
1993	5	12	26	68	65	21	5	202	100.00	202
1994	3	7	44	82	96	52	12	296	100.00	296
1995	19	8	46	94	100	52	8	324	99.08	327
1996	31	22	43	121	103	49	8	376	99.73	377
1997	24	54	77	137	127	63	11	493	100.00	493
1998	7	30	129	103	127	52	15	462	99.78	463
1999	27	29	183	149	96	47	9	539	99.81	540
2000	59	45	130	171	101	41	9	556	100.00	556
2001	49	118	133	172	96	40	11	619	100.00	619
2002	44	99	196	179	107	39	9	673	100.00	673
2003	37	122	273	219	132	51	8	842	100.00	842
2004	13	87	324	239	117	34	9	823	100.00	823
2005	19	33	275	232	121	46	7	733	100.00	733
2006	18	30	164	264	136	57	4	673	100.00	673
2007	14	28	95	219	154	36	6	552	100.00	552
2008	22	37	72	256	179	58	6	630	100.00	630
2009	14	20	89	223	209	87	15	657	100.00	657
2010	29	27	129	203	192	64	7	651	100.00	651
2011	29	44	114	207	204	113	12	723	100.00	723
2012	42	48	100	160	124	97	12	583	100.00	583
Totals	516	941	2,833	3,764	2,781	1,166	203	12,165	99.68	12,204

So after you sort the data in Excel you can see some interesting things. From there webpage: Red Wing Lodge Hall of Fame Released 50 Inch Class Muskies - <http://www.redwinglodge.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/RedWingLodgeHallofFame.pdf>

The data showed the following:

Fish Over 50 " Sorted by Month - Over Multiple Years

June	18
July	53
August	67
September	21
October	29
November	6

Fish Over 50" Sorted by Lure - Over Multiple Years - 195 Entries

Some form of Bucktail / Cowgirl	48
Spinnerbait	17
Jake	10

Believer	9
Grandma	7
Top Water	6

Top Fisherman from the List of Fish Over 50" and their lures - Over Multiple Years

(These guys have got it dialed it!)

Jeff Giesie	
Total	9
Bucktail/ Cowgirl	6
Bull Dawg	1
#5 Shad Rap	1
No Entry	1
Dennis Latoza	
Total	9
Jake	5
Crankbait	2
Crane	1
Custom	1
(Oct & Nov Fish)	
Jared Severson	
Total	6
Bucktail / Cowgirl	4
DCG	1
Glide	1
Craig Berryhill	
Total	5
Grandma	2
Crankbait	2
CB Lips	1
Erik Jacobson	
Total	4
Believer	1
Depth Raider	1
Humper	1
Stalker Jig	1
Brian Hanson	
Total	4
Believer	1
Hawg Spin	1
Hawgler	1
Reef Hawg	1

The following results are from the webpage: Muskellunge Caught at Red Wing Lodge – Data from 5/20/2012 to 9/28/2012
<http://www.redwinglodge.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/2012CompleteListofAllMuskellungeCaught.pdf>

2012 Fish over 45" 115

Some form of Bucktail/Cowgirl 51
 % 44%

July 2012 Fish over 45"

Total of fish over 45" for July 40
 Some form of Bucktail/Cowgirl 14
 % 35%

August 2012 Fish over 45"

Total of fish over 45" for July 69
 Some form of Bucktail/Cowgirl 31
 % 45%

2012 - Time of day for fish over 45"

7:00 AM	1
8:00 AM	5
9:00 AM	6
10:00 AM	10
11:00 AM	7
12:00 PM	4
1:00 PM	4
2:00 PM	5
3:00 PM	5
4:00 PM	7
5:00 PM	6
6:00 PM	10
7:00 PM	9
8:00 PM	18
9:00 PM	5
Total	102

Remember data can be misleading:

The resort may be booked with muskie fisherman one week and party animals the next week.

Bucktails may catch the most fish because that is the lure of choice and the data does not show fish caught per hour on any specific lure.

Groups may take their supper break early and get back on the water in the evening.

The data I do like is the lure of choice for the top fisherman. These guys are doing better than the rest of the pack for a reason. They found a pattern and they work their game plan.

I hope this data help us all this summer.

Dick Cholke