



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

March 2015

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

Catch some big ones during our outings

There's a great lineup of outings for 2015. Jeremy Venhuizen is taking over for Tim Scruggs as the outing chairman. We have five "formal" outings planned. Those are the outings where you can earn points toward the outings championship. Dave Jack has been the outings champ the last two years. This year's outings begin on the Madison chain on Wisconsin's opening weekend. You can fish any Madison lake to participate. All you have to do to participate is to let Jeremy know and pay \$25. That fee covers all the outings for the year. It doesn't matter whether you fish one or all five, that \$25 covers it all. You could win the grand prize with one good outing. Here's the list of outings for 2015.

May 2: Madison chain

June 5-7: Squaw Lake

July 10-18: Lake of the Woods

Sept. 18-20: Deer Lake

Oct. 9-11: Eagle River Chain

In addition to the "formal" outings, keep an eye on the website and your email for some informal get-togethers. That's when some guys will say, "Hey, we're going to fish Lake X this weekend. Want to come along?" It's a chance for some additional camaraderie.

LOTW openings

There are a couple of spots open for our annual trip to Lake of the Woods. Two guys canceled, so we have room if you want to join us. We'd like to have at least 20 people make the trip; 18 have committed. This is a great trip and every year Flatlanders catch personal bests. We leave July 10 and return July 18. If you're interested, give Steve Ruhmann a call: 815-558-3666.

More LOTW opportunities

Bay Store Camp has a cabin open from July 3 to Aug. 8. If you can't make the club trip, or if you would like to get an extra week or two in on LOTW, give Frank Walsh a call at 1-800-214-2533. Frank and his wife, Laura, are great hosts and the Flatlanders always have tons of fun at Bay Store. If you want to catch big fish, you owe it to yourself to make a trip to LOTW.



Tim Scruggs presents the men's championship trophy to Jeremy Venhuizen during the Flatlanders annual awards banquet March 14. Jeremy caught 16 fish for 193 points.



Becky Oestreich gets the Women's Division trophy. She caught three fish for 42 points to win the Women's Division.



Dick Cholke presented a slide show with tons of pictures and tons of data at the annual awards banquet. More banquet pictures will be available on our website.

Another great banquet

Our annual awards banquet was March 14 at the VFW and the food and camaraderie were great, as always. We'd like to thank everyone who attended. There are so many people to thank that I'm sure to miss someone. Thanks to Jack Pertz for organizing and donating a wood carving and a reel for the silent auction and for providing a gift for the women who attended. Thanks to Dick Lapp for the display tackle box that was a raffle item. Thanks to Steve Ruhmann for soliciting donations. Thanks to Jerry Oestreich and Gene Seuring for their lure donations. Thanks to Dick Cholke for setting up the slide show. Thanks to Jeff Blanck for being the emcee and Tim Scruggs for presenting awards. And thanks to the VFW for providing the venue and the food.

Boats needed

Lauren Wilcox is coaching the Christian Life High School bass fishing team and needs some help to get kids on the water for practice April 18 at Pierce Lake. If you're willing to take a couple of teens on your boat and guide them to some fish, give Lauren a call at 815-378-3719.

Big Illinois fish of 2014

Walter Krause, a member of the Shawnee Muskie Hunters Chapter of Muskies, Inc., registered a 48-inch muskie from Lake Kinkaid in 2014 in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Voluntary Creel Survey. Krause and his club will receive the Illinois Muskies Alliance traveling trophy for his big fish. The Illini Muskies Alliance honors the largest Illinois muskie released in the state with their annual trophy. To qualify, the angler must be a member in good standing of one of the 11 IMA member organizations. (The Flatlanders are an IMA member.) You can visit the website: www.illinimuskiesalliance.org for more information.

Spring tune-up tournament

The 15th Annual Heartland Chapter Spring Tune-Up Stan Harrison Memorial Muskie Tournament sponsored by the Heartland Chapter of Muskies Inc. will be April 25 on Clear Lake, Iowa. It's an individual tournament that usually has 50 or more people in it. First place is worth \$300, second is \$200 and third place gets \$100. The entry fee is \$40 if you register before April 11 and \$45 after that. Clear Lake is about a five-hour drive from Rockford. If you're interested, I can send you the forms or you can go to their website heartlandmuskies.org.

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

Officers & Committee Chairs

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Vice President

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Treasurer

Jack Pertz 815-629-2562

Secretary

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Jack Pertz 815-629-2562

Members Only Contest

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 A man wearing a cap and sunglasses is holding a large fish (likely a muskie) on a boat. The background shows a lake and trees.

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ACEBAITS

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Michael Starratt

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