



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

May 2015

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

Six fish reported so far; more on the way

Hello everyone, I am back! This is Steve Ruhmann and I have once again taken on the responsibility of being your Release Contest Chairman. So get out there and stick some piggies and send me your forms. It is important that I get a form rather than the number from the Muskies Inc. website. This is because we have a tremendous amount of fish turned in and it allows me to have a "paper trail" in case there are any discrepancies. So please work with me to make this an accurate and enjoyable contest.

We start this year off with Travis Brady, Travis was out early and has been rewarded for his efforts. He jerked up two lunge, a 31 from Shabbona and a 32 from the Madison Chain. That makes Travis the current leader in the Men's division. Next we have Dick Cholke. Dick was also out early and hit North Spring. He set a trap, in fact a rattle trap and stuck a 34. Our next fish was caught on opening day and was spooked up by our President Jeff Blanck. Jeff was able to coax a 41-incher into munching his offering. Also on opening weekend of Wisconsin but in Illinois, Jeremy Venhuizen had a story to tell. In fact his tale of tail's was a nice 35.5 caught on Lake Storey. I thought it was fiction but in fact I saw a picture so I guess it was the truth. Our final fish that was turned in is from Mike Kruger. Mike was out looking for a beast when a 37.5 incher destroyed his bait. And when I say destroyed it I mean it. I was able to net the beast and after a head shaking from hook set to bottom of the net, the bait had both hooks bent, one screw eye twisted open and one bard snapped off at the shank. Quite the aggressive fish.

Well that is it for this month's report. Remember to send your release forms postmarked within 30 days to:

Steve Ruhmann
14728 Whispering Wind Way
South Beloit, Illinois
61080

LOTW meeting

To all of those people going on the LOTW trip. There will be a meeting to discuss cabins and any questions on at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 10 Ruhmann's house.



This 37.5-incher caught by Mike Kruger destroyed the bait, according to netman Steve Ruhmann.

Next outing: Squaw and Squirrel

We had an outing on Squaw Lake two years ago and it was a good one. Eight fish were caught with Tim Scruggs' 40-incher as the biggest. Squaw Lake is a 736 acre lake located in Oneida County. It has a maximum depth of 21 feet. It's an action lake, but there have been reports of 50-inchers being caught. There are so many muskies in the lake, the size limit was lowered to 28 inches to reduce the population density. Unfortunately, we will not be able to stay at the same cabin we did in 2013. Accommodations are available in Minocqua. We'll talk about Squaw, Squirrel and other neat stuff at Thursday's meeting.

More on outings

Jeremy Venhuizen is our outings chairman this year and will coordinate the outings contest. If you want to know more about the outings, give him a call: 815-499-9065. The cost to participate is \$25.

July 10-18: Lake of the Woods

Sept. 18-20: Deer Lake

Oct. 9-11: Eagle River Chain



Boat registration

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is no longer sending expiration notices to boat owners so be sure to make sure you have up-to-date stickers. The fine for getting caught without registration is \$120. In another money saving measure, the DNR is allowing online registration site available at www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/boating and touch-tone phone renewals at 1-866-867-3542.

It may take a couple of months to get registration materials. Keep carbon copies of registration forms you filed or printouts from online registration with you when you're on the water.

Is your membership up to date?

We have fewer than 100 members for the first time in as long as any of us can remember. One of the reasons is that good members have not renewed. Perhaps it's just an oversight. You can easily update your membership on the Muskies Inc. website. Be sure to check your membership expiration date so it can be renewed and your fish entries are valid.

What was he thinking?

Don't you love it when the little guys think they're big guys?

Muskies Inc. news

Senior Correspondent Dick Cholke has been contributing items about our club to Muskies Inc magazine. Our club had not submitted anything to the magazine for a few years so Dick stepped up and volunteered to be the magazine reporter. Check out his reports in the last couple of issues.

Milwaukee Muskie Expo to move

The 2016 Muskie Expo Milwaukee will be Feb. 12-14 at the Washington County Fairgrounds and Convention Center, located 30 minutes north of Milwaukee on Highway 45 near West Bend, Wisconsin. The new location offers 10,000 square feet of extra space, 1,000 free parking spaces and is only a few minutes from the Richfield Cabela's store.

Quote of the month

"I have reached the conclusion that if a man wants to make a complete fool of himself, there are but two quick, sure and convenient methods to go about it. One is to fall in love with the wrong woman. The other is to fish for muskies. I do not know which method is more effective." Tom Gelb, Introduction, Musky Strategy.

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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