



March 2018 newsletter

Meetings at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month at Loves Park VFW.

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# Awards banquet is Saturday

Plenty of prizes will be on hand as we raise money for the club



*Channel your inner Maxwell Smart: Missed it by that much. Greg Lehmann with a 29.75-incher.*

By **Dick Cholke**  
Flatlanders president

It is March and it is time for the Flatlanders Banquet. The banquet is Saturday at Thunder Bay. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at about 6:30. It will be a full evening of

awards, raffles and silent auctions. This year we continue to have a nice line up of merchandise with the addition of two half-day guided trips up for silent auction. If you watched Musky Hunter

TV show you will recognize Jeff Hanson from Madison, Wisconsin. Jeff has given the Flatlanders a great deal for our banquet with a half-day of guiding on the Madison Chain. In addition, Scott Donovan has donated a half-day guiding on Lake Kinkaid. I fished with Scott last fall and had a very informative and enjoyable day sharing the boat. These guides are among the best. The winners should be in for new insight on their waters. This year will also feature a number of raffles set up for the women. This is a fun night out and we welcome spouses and non-members.

Don't forget April 1 is the deadline for the new outing with the Wormsoakers. We are scheduled to join their group to fish Lake Namakagon Oct. 11-14. We hope to get a good number of Flatlanders on their annual trip to the Lakewoods Resort

(<http://www.lakewoodsresort.com/>). This trip includes lodging Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Thursday evening's cocktail party starts the outing with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. Draft beer will be provided. Saturday night they have dinner included and prizes for seven categories. At this time 60 anglers have reserved their spot for this event. Bob Bell requires a deposit for the trip of \$150 by April 1, 2018 and balance of the \$125 by Aug. 1. (\$275 Total). If you have any questions you may contact Bob at: bob@robertbellinsurance.com or 815-962-4400 or 815-988-5653. For deposits his address is: Bob Bell, 318 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Rockford, IL 61107.

We have started the process of organizing our order with Leaders & Lures. This is a one-time deal when Flatlanders can get special pricing on tackle from the top suppliers of muskie fishing equipment. The request for pricing will close March 30, the Friday after the banquet. Contact Lee Bach at the banquet or at babygrand10@comcast.net for more information and pricing. You will receive an e-mail later that states pricing of your requested items and full payment is due April 20, the Friday after the general meeting. The April meeting will also be "Leaders & Lures" night. Gene will display and

sell many of his fine products to get ready for the upcoming season.

April 28 is our first outing on Lake McMaster (Snake Den Hollow) near Galesburg IL. We have had some memorable outings down there. Last year most of us also fished Sunday to make it a full weekend. Note: I strongly suggest you have a good rain suit ready in case of rain – the Galesburg area has been known to be the only tropical rain forest in Illinois for the last two years.

We did organize a team for the Chapter Challenge again this year. If you are interested in fishing this event a second team would be welcomed. The dates are Aug. 25 – Sept. 1. We are staying at Mylies Place Resort again. They did have one cabin still available when I spoke to Justin a few weeks ago. Any skill level angler is welcome.

Please note the outing schedule has been updated. The May outing was moved to Saturday, May 19 plus we added a new lake for the September outing. We hope you can participate on some of these trips.

**April 28:** Lake McMaster near Galesburg, IL

**May 19:** Lake Waubesa with lunch at the Green Lantern.

**July 14-21:** Lake of the Woods Ontario, Canada

**Sept. 29:** Swan Lake near Portage, Wisconsin.

**Oct. 11-14:** Lake Namekagon with the Wormsoakers. This should be an interesting outing with other Rockford Muskie Anglers.

In addition – informal trips to Madison and Twin Valley will be organized in the fall for the sucker bite, depending on which lake has been moving fish.

For those of you that have not fished Swan Lake before, you will find it to be a nice 400 acre body of water about two hours north. The lake has a tremendous weed line around most of the lake with solid break line into deeper water. Much of the lake basin is between 40 and 60 feet, with the maximum depth of 82 feet. Sixty-three percent of the lake is over 20 feet deep. I

heard of a fish over 50" being caught last summer. The stocking report posted at the launch shows consistent stockings back about 20 years. It has a very good launch and we should have a good spot to meet for lunch. Check out the lake map <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/maps/DNR/0179800a.pdf>

If any of you would like a presentation on electronics, Even Keel is bringing in Joe Nieminski from Humminbird at 10 a.m. Saturday (same day as the banquet). In addition, Pete Rich and Ryan McMahon, Hayward guides, will be giving a presentation in Madison on May 4,5,6 on fish locations, trolling, high percentage casting etc. with on the water training the following day. See the attachment.

During that last warm spell we got out and fished Lake Storey in Galesburg. Get the fishing report at the banquet. Also this is the time of year to apply for your "Remote Area Border Crossing" permit. Lake of the Woods is right around the corner so get your boat and trailer serviced for that leisurely drive to Morson, ON.

See you at the banquet and get your deposit in for the October Lake Namekogon outing by April 1.

Get on the water and get on the board!

### **Paperwork reminder**

If you're going to Canada on our annual Lake of the Woods outing, you need to make sure your Outdoors Card hasn't expired besides getting a license. Don't forget your Remote Access Border Crossing permit. Also, make sure your boat registration is up to date. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources stopped sending out renewal notices in 2013. Registration of watercraft in Illinois is good for three years and expires June 30. Go to the DNR's website, [dnr.illinois.gov](http://dnr.illinois.gov), click on boating and go to the link "Please use Online Renewal if your boat is currently registered in your name." Follow the instructions from there.

### **Upcoming meetings**

**April 17:** Leaders & Lures night

**May 15:** TBD

**June 19:** Get ready for the trip of a lifetime – a Lake of the Woods primer.

**July:** No meeting. (Too busy fishing)

**August:** No meeting (Still fishing)



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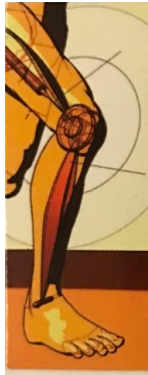
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