



*March 2019 newsletter*

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

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## Musky madness in March

Our annual awards banquet and fundraiser will provide plenty of fun March 23

*By Dick Cholke  
Flatlanders president*

One last reminder! Our awards banquet is March 23 – next Saturday night. This year we were able to solicit many donations for our annual event. Thus our raffles and silent auctions are going to feature some really nice merchandise. Just to give you a flavor of items, Kyle Scruggs with Forever Green Inc. has donated \$500 worth of lawn care services for one of our top prizes. That's multiple applications that may keep you mowing grass more but should make the spouse happier. Hopefully that results in more fishing time. For that amount of extra time on the water, we will also have plenty of fishing related raffle items. There will be multiple ladies packages so everyone has a chance to win something that looks good on their trip home. Steve has been getting our trophies prepped for our top anglers and we are ready to recognize their year of putting fish on the board. The only thing you need to do is get your ticket from Jack before March 17. We are keeping the price low so that you can get in on a few more raffle tickets and bid on the silent auction items. You can send your \$28 per person to:

**Jack Pertz  
15955 Cannell Road  
Rockton IL 61072**

The awards banquet / fund raiser will start at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Thunder Bay Grille will be ready for us with another fine meal. It should be fun remembering the super tanker that would not hit on the figure 8 and planning the milk run for LOTW. Remember this is our



*Mary Lou Pertz won the Women's Division in 2017. Who was the 2018 winner? Come to the banquet and see for yourself.*

March meeting so there is no meeting on March 19. April will welcome a new event for the Flatlanders. Our ad in Muskie Inc. magazine says it all – well close. We need to include admission is free!

Our chapter and Rock Valley Anglers are excited about this combined event. We have invited ten other muskie clubs to our joint meeting. Doug Wegner has been getting excellent reviews on his presentation of fishing Green Bay. This should help us for our outing to the Bay of Green Bay Sept. 27-29. Get those hooks sharpened on the Super Shads and the new lures that Doug will suggest. The speaker, Doug Wegner, was the cameraman for Joe Butcher, a guide on Lake of the Woods and is

currently working with Bret Alexander on the Bay of Green Bay. He has recently presented at the Chicago Muskie Expo and the January Capital City Chapter meeting in Madison. This event will be a nice opportunity to meet other anglers in the Rockford area. This should bring a good size group at the Hoffman House. Remember, this is not our normal meeting night and there will be no general meeting on April 16.


After these big events for the year I am looking forward to getting on the water. Apparently a few other Flatlanders are thinking the same way. At this time it looks like we will set new records for anglers attending our annual trip to Lake of the Woods and the Chapter Challenge. I hear we have 28 to 31 for our chapter July trip and 12 heading up for the Challenge. I am happy to see that many active anglers. We should be in for a good season. Many of us stay at the Quality Inn motel in Galesburg for our first outing on Lake Storey. In past years most of us stay over and fish Sunday. Depending on the results of Saturday, the weather, and the discussion Saturday night we have the option to fish Lake Mc Master on Sunday. Charge those batteries. Lake Storey is trolling motor only (not low wake) and Lake McMaster has a 10 HP restriction. Both lakes have good fish, 47 "ers out of both lakes on past outings. Our other outings will fill out our schedule.

Here is our 2019 schedule for the Flatlander's events:

**March 19:** No General Meeting  
**March 23:** Flatlanders Annual Banquet  
**April 10:** Rockford All City Muskie Night 6:30 p.m. at the Hoffman House  
**April 16:** No General Meeting  
**April 27:** Outing at Lake Storey  
**May 18:** Outing at Lake Evergreen  
**May 21:** Flatlanders General Meeting  
**June 18:** Flatlanders General Meeting - prep for the Lake of the Woods outing  
**July 12 – 20:** Outing at Lake of the Woods  
**Aug. 17-24:** Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge  
**Sept. 17:** Flatlanders General Meeting  
**Sept. 27-29:** Outing at the Bay of Green Bay  
**Oct. 15:** Flatlanders General Meeting  
**Oct. 18-20:** Lake Alice  
**Nov. 19:** General Meeting – elections  
**Dec. 17:** Flatlanders General Meeting – Christmas Party and Lure Swap


This is the Flatlanders March to do list:

- Get the boat and trailer serviced
- Check your boat and trailer stickers
- Apply for your new passport – if needed
- Download the ROAM app to your phone



FLATLANDERS CHAPTER  
**MUSKIES**

Flatlanders Chapter  
and  
Rock Valley Anglers  
Joint Meeting to Present



ROCK VALLEY ANGLERS  
www.RockValleyAnglers.com

## **Rockford All City Muskie Night**

**Featuring  
Doug Wegner**

**Presenting on fishing the Bay of Green Bay**

**April 10, 2019 6:30 PM Hoffman House  
7550 East State St. Rockford IL  
Open to the Public**

**Win a day of guided fishing with Doug Wegner  
Plus raffles, silent auctions, and fishing info**

- Apply for your RABC permit
- Order lucky horse shoes and rabbits feet
- Respool those reels and do the spring maintenance for the early season.
- Get out and fish!

We also must congratulate Carson Wilary for his 5<sup>th</sup> place standings in the national Muskie Inc. 2018 Junior Division Fingerlings Award. Nice job! He had 13 muskies at 131 points. That makes a good season. Do you guide? In addition, Charles Carlson made the Muskie Inc magazine. His photo shows Charles receiving the replica mount of 2016 monster from Ben Fittante and Walt Krause, MI regional representative. These two gentleman can out fish many of us.

This is lining up to be a very good year for the Flatlanders. This season you plan to fish a few more of our outings and donate a few hours to support our chapter. As I wrap this up I am wondering who will be the first angler on the board and who will get the 2018 skunk award.

Get on the water and get on the board.

### **July trip need to know Border Crossing**

For entry information:

<http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html>

As part of your trip, you will be crossing through Manitoba, and will be restricted to the same Canadian Customs requirements, as if you were staying in Canada. These general guidelines are

by no means conclusive, and you should check current regulations before entry.

- You are restricted to one case of beer, or 40 ounces of alcohol (or wine) per person.
- You are allowed on carton of cigarettes, or 50 cigars per person.
- you must have a current rabies vaccination for all of your pets.
- If you have a DUI, or other criminal conviction, you may be refused entry into Canada.
- The only live bait you can possess is night crawlers in bedding. no dirt.
- You cannot enter with handguns, pepper spray, mace, or radar detectors.

### **Ontario License**

We suggest you have your license and Outdoor Card in advance before arriving at the Northwest Angle.

- They can be purchased online: [ontario.ca/page/fishing-license-non-residents-canada](http://ontario.ca/page/fishing-license-non-residents-canada).

### **Minnesota License**

You must have your Minnesota license in advance before coming to the Northwest Angle. They are no longer available at the Angle.

- They are available online at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/fishing/index.html>

### **Canadian Remote Area Border Crossing Permit (RABC).**

<http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/prog/canpass/rabc-pfre/menu-eng.html>

Cost \$30 (Canadian funds) per person. Includes spouse, and dependent children.

A RABC is not mandatory as you can check in daily at Cyclone Island, or use a cell phone. **If you do not touch land, anchor, or meet another boat, you no longer need to check into the Canadian side.** If you touch land (ice is considered land) in Canada, you need to check

back into the U.S. upon return via a OARS phone or the new smart phone app **CBP ROAM** available on Play Store and Apple.

A passport, passport card, enhanced drivers license, or NEXUS card is now required to cross the border.

### **Illinois creel survey report**

*By Ray Thompson*

*Chairman, Illini Muskies Alliance*

This article is based on the 2018 Muskie's Inc. Members Only Fishing Contest and the 2018 Illinois Voluntary Muskie Creel Survey. I received the Illinois Voluntary Muskie Creel Survey from Mary Hurley and the Illinois only portion of the MI contest results from Randy Lewandowski. I'd like to thank both Mary and Randy for their help. I forwarded the MI report to Mike McClelland, Division of Fisheries Chief, for the Illinois Department of Natural Resource. Mike sorted the green card and on-line entries from the Illinois Voluntary Muskie Creel Survey and combined the MI entries after eliminating duplicates.

Muskie's Inc. members captured 449 (compared to 334 in 2017) muskies from 30 inches to 48 inches. The Creel Survey produced 191 (compared to 178 in 2017) fish from 12 to 48 inches. (83 Green Card entries and 108 On-Line entries) Of those Creel Survey entries, 15 fish (7%) were under 30 inches. After sorting and eliminating duplicates, there were 620 muskies from 12 to 48 inches captured in Illinois in 2018. This article is based on the 605 (30" or larger) muskies that were reported. The Department will use the total number of fish registered to analyze the catch and set future management goals for stocking.

The following 21 bodies of water reported muskies greater than or equal to 30 inches in 2018. (The body of water is followed by the largest fish reported.) More than half of those bodies of water reported muskies greater than or equal to 45 inches.

**Banner Marsh:** 46.5" (includes Johnson-46.5", Shovel-35" and Wheel-36")

**Busse:** 46.5"

**Carlton:** 32"

**Diamond:** 34"

**Double T:** 48"

**Evergreen:** 48" (includes the Mackinaw River-31")

**Fox Chain:** 48" (includes Bluff-38", Catherine-37", Channel-44.5", Marie-38" and the Fox River-45")

**Heidecke:** 45"

**Johnson Sauk Trail:** 45"

Kinkaid-48"

McMaster-47"

Otter-33.75"

Pierce-30" (includes the Rock River-33")

Prairie-48"

Shabbona-46.25" (includes the Indian Creek-38")

Shelbyville-32" (includes the Kaskaskia River-44")

Spring (North)-46"

Sterling-35.5"

Storey-38.5"

Sule-33"

Waterford-34"

Other large muskies were captured in 2018 from Illinois waters.

For example:

Drake Booker: 51.75" muskie captured from the Kaskaskia River (below the Shelbyville dam) on a nightcrawler on 3/18 and released-not registered.

Mike Savitski: 47.5"-Lake Sule-released-not registered

The column below lists the top 5 bodies of water, followed by the percentage of all fish reported greater than or equal to 30 inches in 2018, in order of productivity. These 5 bodies of water accounted for about 71 percent of all fish reported.

Fox Chain (includes Bluff, Catherine, Channel, Marie and the Fox River)-31%

Kinkaid-26%

Evergreen-(includes the Mackinaw River)-5%

Banner Marsh-(includes Johnson, Shovel and Wheel)-5%

Shelbyville-(includes the Kaskaskia River)-3%

Each year, the Illini Muskies Alliance awards a trophy to the angler releasing the largest muskie captured the year before in Illinois, that was registered in the Creel Survey by an angler who is a member of one of the clubs in the Illini Muskies Alliance. The angler must be in good standing with his club at the time of the capture, must release the fish and must register his fish in the Creel Survey. The 2018 IMA trophy will be presented to Eric Gillette of the Quad County

Hawg Hunters, Chapter of MI for his 48" Lake Evergreen release.

The accuracy of any study is affected by the amount of data used. Unfortunately, many anglers fail to report their fish in the contest and the clear majority of those captured, are not registered in the Illinois Voluntary Creel Survey. Thus, the accuracy of the creel survey is diminished, and misleading information may be used as a basis for future muskie management decisions in Illinois. For example, a 52" fish is rumored to have been captured in Shabbona in 2018. However, the fish was not registered in the Creel Survey, the MI (Members Only Fish Contest) or any club fish contest. Current plans by the biologists in charge of Shabbona call for reducing the stockings to once every three years, to reduce the number of muskies in the lake and allow the lower number of fish to reach larger sizes. (Last year, Shabbona only reported three muskies in the Illinois Voluntary Creel Survey and eleven in the MI contest).

Participation in the CS is easy. Funds are partially provided by the IMA. Simply fill out a postage paid "Green Card" for any size muskie captured. (Available at local concession stands, bait shops, state park offices or an IMA organization.) Drop the "Green Card", in the mail or register your muskie on line at [www.lfishillinois.org](http://www.lfishillinois.org). The following year, you'll receive a certificate, suitable for framing, as a thank you for participating in the CS. If you can't locate a "Green Card" or register your catches on line, contact one of the eleven IMA member organizations. Go to [www.illinimuskiesalliance.org](http://www.illinimuskiesalliance.org) for more information on the eleven IMA member organizations.

The IMA continues to support and promote the CS through education and articles like this one. The IMA has asked for participation by its member organizations in reporting Illinois muskie catches for their members. We have also asked the IMTT and PMTT muskie tournaments held in Illinois waters to mandate creel survey participation in their contest rules.

We ask the help of all Illinois muskie club members to contact their fish contest chairmen and urge them to make sure that all their members report their Illinois muskie catches in the Illinois Voluntary Muskie Creel Survey. Thank you for your help-The Illini Muskies Alliance.




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