



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

May 2017

MEETINGS: 7 P.M. ~ THIRD TUESDAY ~ LOVES PARK VFW ~ 2018 WINDSOR RD ~ LOVES PARK, ILLINOIS

Go fish! First catches start to come in

The southern Wisconsin season is open, but before that first Saturday in May opener, some Flatlanders boated fish in Illinois waters. Want to know more? Read on.

Notes from the bow of the boat

By Dick Cholke

Flatlanders president

Wow! What a first outing. Sometimes we get a good check out trip before Lake of the Woods. Well the first outing did check out rain gear. This had to go on record as one of the toughest days to fish in a long time. If you had trouble staying dry April 29, remember we could get multiple days of that "stuff" at Lake of the Woods.

It may be time to go shopping or mention a good Father's Day gift would include the word Gore-Tex. Eight of us fished Lake Storey for the outing, with Bob Cholke producing a 33-inch fish on a sucker within the first 10 minutes on the lake. A few fish followed early but the rain and wind shut the bite down mid-morning.

Fortunately, we decided to meet under a shelter for lunch at 1 p.m. and take a break. Thanks to Jamie Bowman for a warm lunch, we were able to keep our spirits up. Even after an hour and a half lunch, the rain, wind, and lighting did not take a break.

We all pulled the plug and headed out. It was great to have eight guys for supper Saturday night. This group stuck around to fish an extra day on Sunday. McMaster produced three fish for Travis and Randy Brady on April 28 and two for Jeremy Venhuizen and Greg Lehman on April 29. Jamie, Colin, Doug, Brandon, Travis, Randy, Dick, and Bob hit McMaster on April 30. Bob had the only action, losing a low 30-inch fish at the boat. It was still good to get out and it makes you remember the outing is more than just the fishing.

If you noticed the newsletter is early this month.

We have our Madison outing on May 13 – the Saturday before the general meeting (and Mother's Day – Did you remember? – Dorn's should be open to pick up a nice Mother's Day present!).

The outing will be on Lake Monona and Lake Waubesa this year. Note: Lake Wingra is NOT part of the outing. Get yourself a partner or come alone and join us for another fun outing. We will take a lunch break at the



Yes, it's Bob Cholke under that hood, proudly hoisting the 33-incher he caught during the first outing of 2017.

Green Lantern restaurant at 1 p.m. to recharge and swap information. Give me a call for any lunch updates etc. or if you have any questions at 815-222-1062.

Speaking of meetings, we would like to thank Duane Landmeier for speaking at our last meeting. Not only did he give us some good information on Illinois lakes but he also donated a half day guided fishing trip on Lake Shabbona to our chapter. Thank you Duane!

From the feedback I heard down at the last outing, there should be some good bidding for this trip. All arrangements will be made with Duane. The silent auction for this trip will close at the June general meeting. We also moved the raffle for the Musky Innovations rod out to June so more folks can get in on the action. This may be the rod to win for throwing the big stuff at LOTW. The May meeting will be highlighted with a presentation by Adam Walton. Adam is a guide based out of Janesville. He will be speaking on marine electronic including: sonar, down imaging, side imaging and the new Mega Scan side imaging. This will be a good refresher before we head to Canada. Our June meeting will bring 24 Flatlanders together to discuss the plans for Lake of the Woods. Bring your maps and let's get primed for some big fish. We will also present some new events

during that outing that should get everyone together and share information.

Check your Passport and apply for your Remote Area Border Crossing Permit!

This year try to fish some of the outings. The outings were chosen because they are good lakes and a great place to fish as a group. We should have great year with our schedule of events. Here is the list of the outings:

April 29: Storey Lake – Done!

May 13: Lake Waubesa and Lake Monona

July 15-22: Lake of the Woods – Bay Store Camp

Sept. 22-24: St. Croix River

Oct. 20-22: Deer, Bone, Apple River and Wapogasset

Nov. 11-13: Big Sissabagama area

It looks like we have four anglers ready for the Chapter Challenge and we are looking for two more to fill our team. This is a great time and we invite anyone of any skill level to join us on Lake of the Woods Aug. 19–26.

Better yet, get a bunch of Flatlanders and let's take two teams!

Get on the water and on the board!

Release contest update

By Steve Ruhmann

Release chairman

Hello Fellow Flatlanders! The 2017 season has arrived and we have our first reported Esox Masquinongy. I have heard of a few more fish caught but these are the ones that have been turned in so far. We start with Bob Cholke. Bob was on Lake Storey during the outing and fooled a 33-incher to eat his sucker. He also advised that we lost another one the next day. We also heard from Greg Lehman. Greg and Jeremy Venhuizen were on McMaster the same weekend. Greg was able to get a 37.5-incher to chow his Medusa. Rumor has it Jeremy also scored. Greg also reported that he and Jeremy lost a few others. Both of these teams braved crappy weather but were rewarded for their efforts. Scott Grabow and I were on Kinkaid but did not score any point-worthy muskies. I lost about a 35 at boat side and got a peanut the next day. Again, lots of RAIN and flooded conditions. The season is upon us, so go out and make it happen. Remember to send your release forms postmarked or emailed within 30 days to:

Steve Ruhmann

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News about other fish

We're avid musky anglers, but we appreciate other species, most commonly referred to as bait. In March, Ryan Povolish of Carbondale caught a 4 pound 8.8 ounce crappie in Kincaid Lake, which beats the previous Illinois record of 4 pounds 8.2, ounces that was caught 40 years ago in Rend Lake. Mille Lacs Lake in Minnesota is a great musky lake, but also was known as a premier walleye lake. The walleye population is down, biologists say, because too few young survive to maturity. The Minnesota DNR is making walleye fishing catch-and-release only on Mille Lacs and will ban walleye fishing entirely for three weeks, July 7-27.



Gander Mountain closing

It looked like the Rockford store had survived after Gander Mountain declared bankruptcy in March and closed a bunch of stores, including the one in Algonquin. This month, Gander Mountain was acquired by Camping World Holdings, which hopes to keep 70 of the remaining 126 stores open. It doesn't look like Rockford will make the cut. The closing sale should bring some pretty good deals.

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