



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

Good start! 47.5 Illinois fish

Randy Brady gets on the board; Guide Sean Bermingham will speak Tuesday



By **Dick Cholke**
Flatlanders president

The bar was set high at the first outing for the longest Illinois fish. Out of 14 anglers only one angler produced fish and did that in grand style. Randy Brady hit the moon phase bite in the morning and put a 33-incher on the board. At the next moon phase he landed his personal best at 47.5 inches. This is going to put the rest

of us to work to top that catch for the longest Illinois fish. It was the first outing at Lake McMaster without a rain storm. Many folks moved some fish on Saturday but no one got any to hit. Travis and Randy commented that both fish were dropping eggs all over the boat. With the late spring we hit the tough spawning



Jamie and Colin Bowman take a break during a tough day of fishing.

period. Ten of us stayed overnight in Galesburg and we all moved to Lake Storey on Sunday hoping for better action. Apparently the spawn was more important than our group and we had a tough day with no fish and not a follow. This late spring has the season delayed compared to our first outing two years ago. It was evident by the status of the weeds that were near the surface two years ago to hardly any weeds this year. We still had a great time and it was one on the best turnouts for an outing in a while. We should do better at our next outing on Lake Waubesa May 19.

The May meeting should be a good way to up your odds for this season. We have booked guide Sean Bermingham to give a presentation on Lake of the Woods. He will also touch on clear water lakes with some discussion on Lake Geneva. We all could use any additional information on LOTW and many of us have heard that Lake Geneva is starting get some muskie action. This should be a really good meeting before our annual trip to Canada, which is right around the corner. Sean guides on the Fox Chain and Southeastern Wisconsin.



Guide Sean Bermingham will talk about fishing Lake of the Woods and Lake Geneva.

Our next outing is scheduled for Lake Waubesa on May 19. We plan to take a break mid-day

with lunch at the Green Lantern. Tentatively the lunch break will be at 1 p.m. I checked the charts and there should not be any moon phase events during lunch. The Green Lantern has a good long pier for tying up your boat. This will be our chance to share information, what has been moving fish, and getting a plan together for the afternoon.

Our June meeting will be the night we draw for the rod and reel raffle. This will also be the time to formalize your LOTW plans with the folks in your cabin and mark up your maps. *Guide Sean Bermingham will talk about fishing Lake of The Woods.*

If you have not applied for your Remote Area Border Pass, you do not have much time left. It takes a few weeks to complete the process.

Make sure to schedule the remaining outings and fish with the Flatlanders. Here is the list:

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, WI

Oct. 11-14: Lake Namekagon with the Wormsoakers. (76 Rockford area anglers have reserved there spot on this outing)

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

In addition we would like to acknowledge and thank Brian Hansas and Leo Hauser for supporting the high school bass teams. As part of Muskie Inc. goals, the Flatlanders Chapter has approved donating \$100 to each team. We recognize their efforts to encourage our youth to get on the water. We hope both do well in these last tournaments of their season. Brian and Leo should have an update at the May



Jeff Blanck with a 38-incher from Wingra.

meeting. The mid-week Flatlanders trips are getting started. Feel free to join us. Get on the e-mail list and let's hit some new water this year. Get on the water and get on the board!

Report your fish

Well, the weather during the month of April finally settled down at the end and fish started to be caught. As mentioned previously, Randy Brady was the man. During the outing Randy was the one who connected on two muskies. A 33-incher then a new personal best of 47.5 inches. Both from McMaster. Fantastic job !!!! During the southern Wisconsin opener, Jeff Blanck and Tim Scruggs were out flogging the water. Jeff was rewarded for his hard work by popping a 38-incher from Wingra. Way to start out the year Jeff.

Well now it is time for the rest of us to start bringing fish to the net. Good luck this year and as always be safe.

Remember to send your release forms post marked within 30 days to :

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