



# FLATLANDERS

# TAILS

May 2016

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

## Illinois muskies dominate release contest

*By Steve Ruhmann*  
*Release chairman*

Hello Flatlander Muskie Enthusiast. The May release contest update is full of fish caught from Illinois. Our first member to report fish is Joe Rausenberger. Joe has been fishing Carlton and on two separate occasions rattled up two Lunge measuring 36 and 33 inches. Aaron Wiegel also has been pursuing the mighty muskellunge on Carlton and popped a pair of fish both measuring 38 inches. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Greg Lehmann was fishing the IMTT and released a toothy critter that bumped the boards at 35.50 inches. I was down on Lake Storey with fellow Flatlanders Jeremy Venhuizen and released a 34.75-incher. Speaking of Jeremy, he has been hitting several different Illinois Muskie sanctuaries and released Esox of 38, 37 and 36 from Carlton and then got a 43 from McMaster. I am aware of several other fish but the anglers have not turned in their release forms. So, please remember to send your forms postmarked within 30 days to:

**Steve Ruhmann**  
**14728 Whispering Wind Way**  
**South Beloit, Illinois**  
**61080**

### Notes from the bow of the boat

*By Dick Cholke*  
*Flatlanders president*

Since the last newsletter we have had two very good outings.

The April outing at Lake Storey and McMaster was a real test of rain gear. Sometimes it is good to get that test done early so you do not wind up at LOTW with a real leaker for a week. Two fish were lost and four came to the net. Doug Simonson started out before lunch with a nice 43" smashing a white ace tandem. After lunch Brian Hansas set the bar very high for the largest Illinois fish at 47 inches. The group of 10 anglers also had some very large fish follow. We see why some of our members stay south to get on the board. If you compare these results to typical day on LOTW – it was a great day.

Our outing last weekend proved again that weather



*Brian Hansas caught this 47-incher during a club outing. Don't forget to report catches to Steve Ruhmann.*

trumps all. A dozen of us got some nice suntans but the fish did not want to eat. Four anglers moved 12 fish on Wingra and many fish were seen on Monona. They were in the shallows, some were paired up – do the fish on Monona spawn late?

Anyway, here are some things to put on your calendar: The meeting this Thursday will feature Steve Reinstra from the Capital City Chapter making a presentation on trolling the Madison Chain. I have been to Steve's presentation at Muskie School and I assure you it is very informative. Please thank Steve for coming down for our meeting. Also – this idea came from one of our members. If you have an idea for a meeting, tell a board member. Our general meeting on June 23 will feature a discussion on our next outing to the Minocqua area. Four lakes are included in the outing: Squaw, Squirrel, Buckskin and Booth, Our first outing to Squaw Lake was very successful with 10 fish caught by 11 anglers. This year's later date should insure the weeds are up and

holding fish compared to last year's outing.

I have a cabin reserved on Squaw Lake at \$200 a night. This will be split amongst the number of anglers. Please contact me ASAP to confirm at spot in this nicely remodeled cabin. This trip is great because we all stay in one spot and enjoy the stories of the day. Remember the dates on this trip changed to Saturday, Sunday and Monday – June 25-27 because of the conflict with the Thursday meeting. The June meeting is also very critical for anyone going to Lake of the Woods. We will discuss all aspects of the trip including: schedules, accommodations, border crossings, and fishing spots. This is a great time to make sure your cabin has their meal plan in place. Personally a bunch of us are really pumped about getting back to one of the best muskie fishing waters in the world.

The July outing will be Lake of the Woods – bring it on! Fifties for all!

We are also looking for a few more anglers to fish the Muskies Inc., Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge Aug. 20-27. This is a great week of fishing Lake of the Woods and meeting other members of Muskies Inc. We will be staying at the Buena Vista resort in Morson – a few miles from the Challenge headquarters at Red Wing Lodge. Contact me if you are interested.

Remember come to the meeting and get the scoop on what lakes have been hot this last month. Line up a trip of your own with other Flatlanders and **Fish!** Also, a number of us are meeting at Busters for supper before the meeting – come a little early and join us.

Get on the water and get on the board!

### June executive committee meeting

Any member can attend an executive committee meeting. This is where a lot of the work is done to prepare for meetings, outings and events. If you have an idea you'd like the club to pursue, an EC meeting is the venue for you. The June 2 EC meeting will be 6:30 p.m. at Gene's Place, 4412 Manchester Drive. That's near Hamilton-Sundstrand (UTC Aerospace Systems.)

This is not our usually meeting place. We're trying it out to see if it fits our needs. Please join us and help us come up with cool things for the club to do.

### Musky fishing goes to college

Plenty of universities have had bass fishing teams compete in college tournaments such as the FLW Outdoors College Series, Carhartt Bassmaster College Bass Fishing Series and others. Now, walleye and musky fishing collegians will get their shot. Eight Midwestern colleges have formed the College Muskie & Walleye League. University of Minnesota Duluth, the College of St. Scholastica, Bemidji State University, University of Wisconsin-Stout, University of St. Thomas, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Western Illinois University and McHenry County College are signed up so far. The first tournament will be May 28 on Grindstone Lake near Hayward, Wisconsin. Organizers plan six musky tournaments and six walleye tournaments this year. There will be tournaments when both musky teams and walleye teams will fish the same lake. Check out [www.collegemwleague.com](http://www.collegemwleague.com).

### Boat registrations expire June 30

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. There used to be a 10- to 12-week backlog, but that's been cut to a more reasonable two weeks or so.

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.

### Outings schedule

**June 24, 25, 26:** Squaw, Squirrel, Booth and Buckskin

**July 16-23:** Lake of the Woods – Bay Store Camp

**Sept. 16-18:** North Twin

**Oct. 28-30:** Deer, Bone, Apple River and Wapogasset

### 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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