



# FLATLANDERS

November 2015

# TAILS

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

## Election time: President, VP spots open

Jeff Blanck and Dave Jack are stepping down as president and vice president. We'll pick their replacements at this month's meeting, which is a week early (Nov. 19) because of Thanksgiving. The executive committee has a couple of candidates in mind, but we hope there will be some recommendations from you. The club has scaled back its activities the last few years, but there's still plenty that needs to be done on a regular basis. If you want to be more involved, now is the time to speak up. You don't have to be the president or the VP. We welcome anyone to attend our EC meetings (first Thursday of the month) and give us ideas on what we should be doing. We thank Jeff and Dave for their service and look forward to the next chapter for the Flatlanders.

### Release contest update

By Steve Ruhmann  
Release chairman

The fall bite is in full swing and we have some fish to report. Tammie Lester has made the board with two nice fish from Waubesa measuring 42 and 39.5. Greg Lehman scores again with another Illinois fish of 35.5 from Storey Lake. Travis Brady headed over to one of the Flatlander local honey holes, Twin Valley, and stuck a 37-incher. On his October trip to Bone Lake, Stuart Adrian banged fish measuring 34 and 38.5 inches. Becky and Jerry Oestreich were also on Bone at the same time with Becky popping a 37-incher. Jerry also scored with two Esox measuring 33 and 41 inches. On the Big Fish Hunt to Lac Seul, Mike Bowers was Big Man on Campus and had a trip of a lifetime. Mike trolled up Toothy Critters of 48.25, 53, 48, and 45. The 53-incher was Mike's personal best for length but he said the 48.25 was by far the heaviest fish he has ever landed. Congratulations Mike on a great trip! Harvey Gustafson was also on the trip and popped a 36-incher. Mike Kruger was over on Wingra and stuck a 41.5 inch Wingra Beauty. Steve Ruhmann has been hitting a few different bodies of water and released Lunge of 40 from Wingra, 36 from Twin Valley, and fish of 43 and 39.5 from Monona. Current Men's Masters Division leader Jeremy Venhuizen was down on Lake Carlton in Illinois and trolled up a 37.5-incher. Dick Cholke went up to Northern Wisconsin and was rewarded



Steve Ruhmann caught this 43-incher on Lake Monona.

for his hard efforts by releasing a 39.5-incher from Squaw Lake. We close this month's report with father and son team of Dick and David Estes. Dick added to his totals by banging a 30-incher. David made the boards for the first time in a while with a 39-incher. It was exactly five years to the day that David caught his last muskie. He has been out of state and this was the first time in a long time that he got a shot at a toothy critter. Well that is it for this month's report. With the "Godzilla" El Nino the weather people are predicting we are going to have, there will be a chance to get several more fish before ice up. So keep your hooks sharp and "SET THE HOOK"! (Standings are attached)

Please remember to send your release forms postmarked within 30 days to: **Steve Ruhmann; 14728 Whispering Wind Way; South Beloit, IL; 61080**

### Lake of the Woods 2016

It is that time of year again where we are needing to collect deposits for the annual Lake of the Woods trip. In 2016 our dates at the Bay Store Camp are July 16- July 23. We have openings for 20 people again this year. As we have done in the past, the previous year's attendees get first shot at securing a spot for the trip. After that we open it up to the general membership. In

2015 Dick Cholke led the way with a 48-incher. Deposits should be to me by no later than the December meeting. So sign up now and get your spot reserved. This will be our 13th year going up there as a group. It is a great time for catching fish on "The Woods" and the camaraderie is top notch. You can bring your deposits to the meeting, or send them to Steve Ruhmann.

### Call for photos

The season is winding down and all of you have some great stories and photos. Again, we will be presenting last year's results, data and photos in a power point presentation that will be shown at the February meeting and will run during the banquet on March 19. Thus, we need your photos – all kinds of photos. Of course fish photos are the highlight, but scenic shots and embarrassing photos of your partner make for a great presentation. Send all photos to:

**Dick Cholke** [cholke@mchsi.com](mailto:cholke@mchsi.com)

Send your photos early and often, it takes a while to get the presentation organized.

### Barrier fence repair

The executive committee voted to donate \$200 to the Shabbona Lake Indian Creek Barrier fence repair project. The barrier keeps muskies in the lake rather than have them float downstream. Shabbona is one of the premier musky lakes in Illinois and we'd like to keep it that way.

### Bass Pro may buy Cabela's

Cabela's wants to sell and it looks like Bass Pro is the leading suitor. The other option is for Cabela's to sell to a private equity firm. Bass Pro Shops earned more than \$4 billion in revenue last year and employs about 20,000 individuals in 94 retail stores. Cabela's reported \$1.2 billion in revenue last year and operates 77 retail stores.

No one really knows what this will mean to the fishing and hunting industry. There will be less competition overall, but since Cabela's and Bass Pro are so far apart in Illinois there's no direct competitive advantage. In other states, Cabela's stores that are in close proximity to Bass Pro probably will close.

Neither Cabela's nor Bass Pro are talking about what's next. My guess is that something gets done by the end of the year.

### Pelican Lake update

Muskies were stocked in Pelican Lake, Minnesota, earlier this month. Last month I mentioned that there was a war brewing between homeowners on the lake and musky fishermen. The homeowners threatened to sue the DNR if it kept stocking muskies in Pelican, which is about a 4,000-acre lake.

A judge rejected a temporary restraining order from the homeowners and 813 muskie fingerlings were put into the lake Nov. 6.

The homeowners claimed the muskies were eating all their walleyes. Besides, women and children were afraid to go swimming because of big muskies.

The DNR's research showed the walleye population was as good as ever and that other species, bass, bluegills, crappie and perch, were doing very well. Perch, in fact, were at record levels. The only species that was down was northern pike.

Fishing guides contend that average walleye fishermen were having a tough time was because of the zebra mussels in the lake. The water is clearer, making it tougher to catch fish. They say tournament walleye anglers have been doing better on Pelican than they have on walleye lakes without muskies.

Homeowners are not quitting. They want more research on muskies in the lake and are considering more legal action.

The DNR tagged the recently-stocked muskies so they could study them. DNR officials the tagging had nothing to do with the recent controversy.

#### Purposes of Muskies, Inc.

- To promote a high quality Muskellunge sport fishery
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- 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

#### Officers & Committee Chairs

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Jeff Blanck 815-703-9365

##### Vice President

Dave Jack 815-389-1132

##### Treasurer

Jack Pertz 815-629-2562

##### Secretary

Wally Haas 815-262-4891

##### Chapter representative

Jack Pertz 815-629-2562

##### Members Only Contest

Steve Ruhmann 815-558-3666

##### Membership

Dick Cholke 815-222-1062

##### Merchandise

Wally Haas 815-262-4891

##### Newsletter Editor

Wally Haas 815-262-4891

Email: [whaas17@comcast.net](mailto:whaas17@comcast.net)

##### Outings

Jeremy Venhuizen 815-499-9065

Email: [jeremyv22@yahoo.com](mailto:jeremyv22@yahoo.com)

##### Pierce Lake Project

Jeff Blanck 815-703-9365

##### Programs

Steve Ruhmann 815-389-4622

##### Stocking

Jeff Blanck 815-703-9365

##### Website

Tom Pellant 815-397-1779

##### Youth Director

Jeff Blanck 815-703-9365

Web site:

[www.flatlanderschapter.com](http://www.flatlanderschapter.com)



# CARLSON ORTHOPEDIC CLINIC

Mark Carlson, MD  
 Amanda Reisinger, PT, MPT  
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 Rockford, IL 61112

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 A photograph of a man in a blue jacket and cap holding a large fish, similar to the one in the top image, against a background of a lake and trees.

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 Logos for Can-Am, Sea-Doo, and Arctic Cat are displayed on the right side of the advertisement.

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