



# FLATLANDERS

November 2016

# TAILS

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

## There's time to bag fish – and play bean bag

By Dick Cholke

Flatlanders president

The chapter's outings are completed for the 2016 season and we still have open water – it's time to fish!

The trip to Bone, Deer, Apple and Wapogasset Lakes was the last outing of the year. Six anglers attended and produced some nice fish. Before the official outing started on Friday night, I had a 42-incher hit a black bulldawg on the reef next to the boat ramp on Bone Lake. After a search for headlamps and flashlights we got her back in the water. Jerry and Becky Oesterich had action early Saturday morning on Deer but had to wait until evening to produce fish. Jerry landed a 43-incher at 5 p.m. and Becky was not to be outdone by landing a 45 at dark. Jerry indicated we needed to hear Becky's story before we left. Wow – what a story! We are going to let Becky tell her account of a very nice fish at the banquet – it is worth going the banquet just to hear the story. One fish was lost Sunday on Bone and Apple did not show any fish on Monday. We still had a great time and capitalized on the Tacos at the Blacksmith Friday night.

This fall has been a tough bite. E-mails exchanged with the Capital City folks indicate Madison is slow, even the guides are having a trouble getting fish into the net. It should change soon with the colder weather moving in. When is the colder weather arriving? Who knows! Note: the Capital City Chapter is again putting on their Muskie School March 18. This is an excellent way to learn from local guides and top fisherman about our local waters. They welcome Flatlanders and hope to grow the attendance to 260 anglers this year.

Our November meeting will be Nov. 17 – a week early due to Thanksgiving. We will hold the annual election of officers and bean bag challenge. Consider getting more involved with chapter, and even feel free to run for an office! Even if you do not run for office, we appreciate new ideas and a few more hands to help make the chapter operate. Realistically any new persons should have a low time commitment to help our chapter grow. Let's have a great 2017 season.

The bean bag challenge should produce a few rounds of



Scott Grabow caught this 45-incher on Lake Vermilion.

excitement – practice up – there will be a surprise award for the lowest score.

The December meeting will be our annual lure exchange. This meeting is also a week early due to the holidays – Dec. 15. Bring a muskie related article worth at least \$15, wrapped up in the most creative style fit for the season. It is always a great time, with lots of gift swapping and scuffling. We will also discuss some changes to the chapter for the new season. Topics will include changing meeting dates, possible meeting location and the number of meetings. These will be important decisions for the growth of the chapter. Please make every effort to attend and vote on the direction of the chapter. In addition, we would like to get all the trophies back for the engraving of the 2016 season winners.

In January we are heading into the Chicago Muskie Expo on Saturday Jan. 7, 2017. The traditional breakfast at Cracker Barrel will start the day off at 7 a.m. Looking forward, we also need photos of the 2016 season. Fish photos along with the embarrassing shots of your partner help make a better presentation for the year-end review scheduled for the February meeting and the March Banquet. Send them to Dick Cholke - email cholke@mchsi.com.



With all that said – get out and fish! Be safe and use common sense, quick exposures to cold water this time of year are more than refreshing. Get on the water and get on the board – again and again.

*Jeremy Venhuizen caught a 48.5 on Lake St. Clair.*

## Another slow month

*By Steve Ruhmann  
Release chairman*

Hello Flatlanders, the past month has been untypically slow for us. Even though this warmer weather has been comfortable for the fishermen, it has made the bite fairly inconsistent. This month's reports starts off with the Oestreich's. Jerry and Beck have been out on Deer Lake where Jerry Jigged up a 43 incher and Becky pop-popped at 45. There is more to the story on Becky's fish but President Cholke would love your presence at the awards banquet to hear this fun story. One member who had a tremendous fall trip is Joe Rasenberger. Joe went back to Eagle Lake in Ontario. He trolled and casted up some quality Lunge that measured 38, 39, 46, 42.5, and 45. Travis Brady was up on his favorite fall lake of Oxbow where he boated a 34 and a 37. The 37 hit a sucker and went airborne twice. The story goes the visual from a distance would have made a great Hamm's beer commercial. Since fishing has been really tough, I have been out on my old stomping grounds fighting off the weeds on Wingra. For two consecutive weekends I was able to boat a 42 each one, both on suckers. Frank Wilary was back out on his home lake of Bone stuck a 36. While we are on Bone, President Dick Cholke during the outing got a 42 to munch his Bulldawg. We finish this month's updates with Ed Havlovic. Ed was out on our little local pond of Pierce where he stuck a 36 incher.

I am hoping with the cooler weather starting to role in we will start seeing a lot more fish reported. So, remember dress in layers and always think safety first.

**Steve Ruhmann**

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## Start thinking about LOTW 2017

*By Steve Ruhmann  
Release chairman*

In case you forgot, this is a reminder to those who are planning on attending the Flatlanders annual assault to Lake of the Woods, the days of the trip are July 15-22. Deposits of \$100 are due by the January meeting. It sounds like we may have more people interested this year than we can fit in the Bay Store Camp. If that is the case, please check into Oak Island Resort and Sportman's Lodge on Oak Island. These are some very nice resorts also. 2017 will be our 15<sup>th</sup> year for this trip, let's get as many people possible and make it one to remember.

## Support Muskies Inc., buy a calendar

On the back of this month's Muskies magazine is a form for the 2017 calendar. Proceeds go to research and to improve fisheries. Help our and order a calendar.

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 A photograph of a man wearing a cap and sunglasses, holding a large fish (likely a muskie) in a body of water. The background shows a shoreline with trees.

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 A photograph of a large, white floating lodge with a blue cabin, situated on a calm lake with trees in the background.

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