



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

Throw the bums out!

Elect new officers so Flatlanders can return to the glory days



There's nothing quite like a sunset on Lake of the Woods. Sign up for the 2018 outing now.

By **Dick Cholke**
Flatlanders president

The air is getting a bit nippy out on the water but there is still open water, well maybe. According to http://infos.countyofdane.com/temp_monona - Lake Monona is down to 33 degrees. On Tuesday Lake Kinkaid was 55 degrees dropping

down from 59 a week earlier. I guess heading south may be a real consideration. We just got back from Lake Kinkaid on Tuesday night and we will fill you in on the report at the meeting.

This month's meeting features the election of officers. We encourage members getting

involved with the direction of the chapter. Even if you do not want to run for an office we need members on the board to fill some of the other positions and help grow the chapter with new ideas. We try to minimize the time commitment of everyone on the board and we appreciate all efforts.

Steve Ruhmann has been in contact with Frank Walsh at Bay Store Camp. See Steve's article and get your deposit in early for our annual big trip to Lake of the Woods. To get you primed we will run the second video of History of Lake of the Woods Tuesday night. This is the second part of the series concentrating on the eastern portion of LOTW. Not only does LOTW have a history of muskie fishing, but also World War II concentration camps, lumber jacks, and gold mines. This is a very interesting presentation.

Some of us have been out fishing and will share the reports and help everyone learn about some new water. I am curious to hear from anyone with reports from up north.

Looking forward, December 19 will be our traditional Christmas party and lure swap. Bring your wrapped muskie related item worth at least \$15 to the meeting. Get in on the fun of getting the best wrapped package and be prepared to have it move around the room.

January 6th will get the Flatlander's heading into the Chicago Muskie Expo at Pheasant Run Resort. As in years past we will meet at Cracker Barrel for breakfast at 7:00 AM.

Next year's outing schedule will get us back on the water. We encourage strong participation on the outings. In an effort to grow the chapter we kept some of the favorites and added two that are something different. The schedule is:

April 28: Lake McMaster near Victoria, IL.

May 20: Lake Waubesa with lunch at the Green Lantern.

July 13-24: Lake of the Woods Ontario, Canada.

September – date to be set later: We are trying to set up an outing in conjunction with the Muskie First Chapter out of Eau Claire, WI



Bob Cholke with a Kinkaid musky. Hope you register it in the creel survey, Bob.

on the Holcombe Flowage.

Oct. 13-14: Lake Namekagon with the Wormsoakers. This should be an interesting outing with other Rockford Muskie Anglers.

In addition, the tentative date for the Flatlanders Annual Banquet will be March 24. At the last Muskie Inc. membership telecom we learned that the Chapter Challenge will move to a regional format in 2018.

I am not ready to put the boat into storage yet. Maybe one more fish needs to find its way into the net. Remember in this late season to be safe, take along the extra safety gear for unexpected surprises, stay warm, and have fun.

Release contest update

By Steve Ruhmann

Release chairman

Howdy Flatlanders. Before the Release Contest Update I must apologize. Last month you did not see an Update. This is my fault. I did not work with the newsletter editor and get him a report before it was needed. I am sorry for that.

The October/November report:

We start this newsletters updates with Mark Carlson. Mark was up on the St. Lawrence and cranked up fish measuring 47, 32, and 40 inches. Jeremy Venhuizen was out on Twin Valley and banged fish that bumped the boards 36, 38, 42, and 42 inches. Kevin Bunch is heard from with a 41 from Wisconsin. Greg Lehmann was fishing the IMT and won the event with a

42 from Evergreen. Mike Kruger has been learning to troll and popped fish of 32 and 31 inches from Shabbona. He then went and applied his knowledge of trolling and stuck a 41 from Green Bay. He also stuck a 37.5 from Twin Valley. Mary Lou and Jack Pertz went up on their annual trip to the Indian Chain with Mary Lou boating a pair of 40s. Jack also scored with Esox of 39, 38, and 33 inches. I have been hitting the local little ponds of Twin Valley and most recently Wingra. The Red Ranger was able to release Lunge of 36.5, 37.5, 31, 32, 38, 35, and 42 inches. Our final two entries are from Wally Haas. Wally was big man on campus during the Deer/Bone/Apple river outing. He was able to convince a 37-incher to eat his offering. He has since been on Wingra and put a 44.5 in the boat.

Time is starting to run out on the 2017 season. For all you diehards, be safe and stick a piggy. I know I will be out there giving it my best.

LOTW 2018

It is getting time again to plan for LOTW 2018. President Cholke and I have been in communication working toward making this another year to remember. The cost again this year will be \$365 per person with the \$100 deposit due by the Chicago Muskie show. So round up your partner and get planning. 2017 was an outstanding year with everyone getting at least one fish and we had a few personal bests also. Hope to see you again in 2018.

Report those Illinois fish

Those of you who fish Illinois waters are encouraged to report your fish to the Illinois Musky Creel Survey. Go to ifishillinois.org,

register and enter any fish that you caught from a body of water in Illinois. This is not about bragging rights, although you can get a nice trophy if you catch the biggest Illinois fish. It's about gathering valuable data that the biologists at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources can use to determine what lakes to stock and whether the stocking efforts are effective. You are encouraged to report ALL fish, even the dinks. Doing so will let the biologists know what stocked fish survived and how quickly they are growing. For example, if you catch a 20-incher, biologists can determine what was stocked in that lake, when and what the growth rate for the fish is.

Illinois fishermen have been terrible about reporting their catches. Last year about 150 fish were reported to the creel survey, yet more than 400 Illinois fish were reported to Muskies Inc. We know muskies are being caught in Illinois, but we're not getting the kind of cooperation from anglers that is needed to improve the fishery. The DNR has limited resources, i.e. they have little money and staff has been cut not only to the bone, but to the marrow. If we want to continue to catch muskies in Illinois, we're going to have to help the DNR in every way possible and reporting your catches is about as easy a way as you can help as there is.

Step 1: Catch an Illinois musky.

Step 2: Register your fish.

Step 3: Well, there really isn't one, but I'm into threes.



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