



# FLATLANDERS

October 2015

## TAILS

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

## Fall is the time to catch heavyweights

By Steve Ruhmann  
Release chairman

The fall bite is starting. Hello again fellow Flatlanders. We start this month's report with Russ and Mary Hoernecke. While up on their trip to Lake of the Woods, Mary released Lunge measuring 42 and 43 inches.

Russ was able to stick some *Esox Lucius* (Pike if you aren't up on your genus terminology) between 36 and 40 inches but the Mighty Muskellunge were not really chasing his offerings.

Next we have Dick Cholke. Dick was on Carlton and trolled up a 36-incher on a homemade Matlock crankbait. Nice job! Mike Kruger has been out pursuing the almighty *Esox* and popped a 32 from Monona and then got a nice 38.5 from Waubesa. Kevin Stenzel was up north on Bone Lake and jigged up a 37-incher. Since we are on the subject of Bone Lake, the team of Becky and Jerry Oestreich have been hitting it pretty hard. Becky is strengthening her lead in the Women's Division by banging some fish on the surface measuring 36, 36, 39, and 35. She then went to Deer and stuck a 42 on a figure 8. Guide and netman Jerry got a chance at a couple and released a 33 and a 35 on Bone.

On a recent trip to the same area, Dick Estes released a nice 43-incher from the Apple River.

Men's Masters Division leader Jeremy Venhuizen has also been up north the last few weeks and got a 36 from Snipe. Rumor has it he borrowed his partner's lure and then showed him how to catch one on it. I have also been out too and was able to coax *Esox* of 33 and 34.5 munch my spinnerbait on Monona.

Then Jeremy and I headed north to the Bone Lake area where Jeremy banged toothy critters of 31.5 and 37. I jumped in on the action and got a 44.5.

We then went to Deer the next day where I got a 43.5 and then on our last day headed to the Apple River where I suckered a 38 inch Tiger into the net.

Well that is it for this month. We still have 6-8 weeks of good fall fishing left. We should see some heavy weights stepping to the scales before it is over.

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



*Ted Ustich caught this 49-incher on Lake of the Woods in July.*

### Lake of the Woods outings

It's not too early to start thinking about next year's Lake of the Woods outing, or the year after that or the year after that. ... Steve Ruhmann has negotiated the dates for our next six years. They are:

**2016:** July 16-23

**2017:** July 15-22

**2018:** July 14-21

**2019:** July 13-20

**2020:** July 18-25

**2021:** July 17-24

The Lake of the Woods outing is a lot of fun and it's a great opportunity for you to catch your fish of a lifetime. If you can't join us in 2016, try to make it up there with us one of these years.

### As long as you're planning ...

Here's the list of outings we have planned for 2016:

**April 30:** Story and Mc Master Lakes IL (McMaster is also known as Snake Den Hollow)

**May 21, 22:** Madison Chain (to facilitate members that need to work on Saturday)

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

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

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

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

## And one more

The annual awards banquet is scheduled for March 19, 2016 at the VFW.

## Barrier fence repair

This comes from Duane Landmeier, president of the Plano chapter of Muskies Inc.: The Shabbona Lake Indian Creek Barrier fence needs some repair. The one down in the creek. I am contacting your clubs because I know several of your members use the lake and fish it for muskies. The lake is better than ever since we put the barrier fence in the creek a few years ago but like everything else things need maintenance. Below is a list of what needs to be fixed. If every club could put a little towards the project then one club won't take such a hit.

Please let me know if you can donate some money towards this project. Quad County Hawg Hunters Muskies Inc. of Plano, IL. is donating \$500 to the project. We cannot pay for all of it so we are asking for some assistance. Please let me know your club can help us out.

## Walleye-musky war on Pelican Lake

Home and cabin owners on Pelican Lake, Minnesota, are threatening to sue the Department of Natural Resources unless it stops stocking muskies in the lake.

Members of the Pelican Lake Property Owners Association think muskies are eating all the walleyes in the lake and that's why they're not catching walleyes anymore.

"Our people are talking about selling their lake places," lake home owner Dave Majkrzak said in an Associated Press story. "We had one couple say, 'We can't catch a walleye on this lake anymore, we're going to sell our lake place and move someplace else.'" (Editor's note: If you're looking for a cabin on a great musky lake ...)

The DNR and fishing guides say the lake is healthy and there's no evidence musky are depleting the walleye population.

I think Jerry Sondag, a musky guide many of you know, sums it up best: "Here's what it is," Sondag said. "You have a bunch of retired guys who have nothing better to do. Because they're terrible fishermen, they're going to sit on their butts and persecute another group. (If) they want to learn how to fish, I'll take 'em fishing. It's \$500 a day. Jump in my boat and I'll teach you how to catch a fish."

## The salesman and the blonde on Deer Lake

*By Dick Cholke  
Senior correspondent*



I fished Deer Lake recently. The lake is 820 acres - remember that. I can think of two stories that match the attached photo. The guy is a salesman that is married to a blonde. "Yes dear, the old saying about buying boats, is that you can never have too much horsepower" And she bought into it!

Or

Last time we were out in the pontoon boat, it took tot long to get back to the house so I could use the bathroom -- go out a get a new boat --

make sure it is a little faster than that old boat.

Remember the lake is 820 acres. Make sure to zoom in on the photo to read the numbers on the back of the Evinrudes.

## 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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 A photograph of a man in a blue jacket and cap holding a large fish. The background shows a lake and trees.
 

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 A photograph of a white floating lodge on a lake. The lodge has a deck and a railing. There are other smaller boats in the water nearby.
 

**Michael Starratt**

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