



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

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# Muskie gear for sale tonight

Vast selection from Jim Lavern's collection



*Mary Lou Pertz with a 40-inch hybrid caught on Indian Lake. At right, Jack Pertz with a 39.5.*



By **Dick Cholke**  
**Flatlanders president**

This month's meeting will feature the sale of Jim Lavern's fishing gear. Jim was a past officer of the Flatlander's and a very avid muskie fisherman. Tom Rizzio will bring this vast collection of gear to the general meeting Tuesday night. There are still many great baits left and it is worth the trip to pick up some for your tackle box.

We will also set the stage for the next outing to Bone, Deer, Wapogasset lakes, and Apple River Oct. 20-22. Make sure to get informed on the area's to fish and how to meet up with the other Flatlander's heading north. Greg Campbell just sent me a report he got a pair of 37-inchers off the north end of Bone Lake last week. Maybe

this cooler weather will continue to get the fish moving. Tuesday night will also be a good time to line up your partner for the Lake Sissabagama outing Nov. 10-12. This lake has been known for its excellent sucker bite. Dig out the warm clothes and sucker harnesses for the last outing up North.

Other events for were set at the last Executive Committee meeting. These include:

**Nov. 21, General Meeting:** Election of officers. Each club needs everyone to share in the vision of their organization to move forward. Please consider running for an office this year and ensure the success of our chapter. Volunteering for one of the non-elected positions also helps the Flatlanders grow and become a stronger chapter. We try to minimize

the time commitment of everyone on the board and we appreciate all efforts.

**Dec. 19:** Our traditional Christmas party and lure swap. Bring your wrap muskie related item to the meeting and get in on the fun of getting the best wrapped package and be prepared to have it move around the room.

The board also set the schedule for next year's outings. In an effort to grow the chapter we kept some of the favorites and add two that are something different. The schedule is:

**April 28:** Lake McMaster near Bloomington

**May 20:** Waubesa. Lunch at Green Lantern.

**July 13-24:** Lake of the Woods

**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 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. Remember to enjoy this fall season and put a few more fish on the board.

## **The 2017 PIT-TAG Challenge Outing Report**

*Copied from the Capital City Newsletter*

The annual CCMi PIT-TAG Challenge outing was held on September 23, 2017 on Lake Monona. The outing's goal was to catch as many muskies as possible with pit-tags to help bolster the data in the CCMi Leach Lake vs Wisconsin strain study. Forty-three fisherman, two from the Rockford Flatlanders club, participated on a day that topped 90° by the afternoon. Not surprising with the very warm temperatures the muskies were quite lethargic, as reported by many who had follows. Only two were caught. First place and travelling trophy was won by Marc Rortvedt who caught a 26 inch muskie which did not have a pit-tag. Second place and pit-tag winner was Dewey Stewart who caught a 20.25 inch muskie which did have a pit-tag. This was a leech lake fish that was stocked in April 2017 at 11.6 inches. This fish grew 9 inches in six months. After fishing the participants were treated to a brat and

hamburger picnic at Olbrich park. There were many red faces due to either embarrassment, for not catching a fish, or more likely being out in the blazing sun all day.

## **Help save Lake St. Clair**

This email has been making the rounds. It originated with Spencer Berman, whom you might know from fishing shows and seminars. The Natural Resources Counsel of Michigan is planning to vote on a bill that would open Lake St. Clair up to a year round catch and release season. This would mean that anglers would be allowed to go out and target, catch, handle, and release prespawn and spawning muskies on a FULLY natural reproduction lake. The Lake St. Clair Guide Association along with the Michigan Ontario Musky Club and Muskie Inc. feel extremely strongly that this would DEVASTATE the musky population on St. Clair. I have talked to many biologists around the country and they all agree that this bill, if passed, could be hugely devastating to the Lake St. Clair musky population. For that reason we are asking everyone to please send an email to the N.R.C. stating that you DO NOT want year round musky fishing on the Lake St. Clair system. Feel free to use your own words if you would like however below I have drafted an email you can copy and paste. If you would like more info, go to <http://www.getpetition.com/petitions/stop-musky-cir-on-lsc>

**Natural Resource Council**

**Email:** NRC@michigan.gov

**Please use the following letter unless you would rather write your own:**

"As a musky enthusiast I feel strongly that I do NOT want a year round catch and release musky season on the Lake St. Clair System.

In no way can I support fishing for prespawn and also spawning muskies. Bear in mind, St. Clair is a lake based solely on natural reproduction with no stocking of any kind. The impact of a year round season for muskies would alter the fishing to the point that serious musky anglers would chose to not return to Lake St. Clair after a few years of full time musky fishing!

Thank you



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