



# FLATLANDERS

# TAILS

October 2016

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

## Let's go fishing! The last outing is this weekend

By Dick Cholke

Flatlanders president

We are heading up to Bone, Deer, Apple and Wapogasset lakes this weekend for the last outing of the year. These lakes have been some of the club's favorites for many years. This year's outing was planned later to capitalize on the sucker bite, so pack the extra rods, get a partner and join us. Currently, six of us are staying at the Blacksmith Motel close to Bone Lake. We will discuss the lakes at this month's meeting. Remember the outing is Oct. 29, 30 and 31 – Saturday, Sunday and Monday due to the meeting on Thursday night.

The October meeting will be our lure swap night and discussion of the outing lakes. If you have some lures you would like to trade or sell, this will be the night to change up the looks of your tackle box. One angler recently indicated he may bring his entire tackle box to the meeting because nothing in it has produced a fish this year – that sounds all too familiar.

Next month we have the general meeting a week earlier, Nov. 17, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The November meeting will feature the bean bag competition and election of officers. Consider running for office, new ideas help our chapter grow. We try to keep our Executive Committee meetings time efficient and respect the efforts of each member and adds to our chapter's success. Looking ahead – have you got your partner for next year's Lake of the Woods trip? Deposits will be due in December.

Also, consider fishing the Muskie Inc. Chapter Challenge next year. They have already set the dates for Aug. 23-25 at Red Wing Lodge / Lake of the Woods. The winning team, Star of the North Chapter will be the hosts again next year.

So now let's get down to the serious stuff. A number of us have had difficulty getting another fish on the board since LOTW. Thursday night at the lure swap I hope someone is willing to trade some of the lucky items that help catch fish. Considerations are the typical: rabbit's foot, horse shoes, four leaf clovers etc. I am willing to pay big bucks for the right items that work. Yea – I know, quit whining and buy some suckers and put your time in on some good structure!



Jeff Blanck caught this 43-incher on Big Saint Germain during the Greater Wisconsin Musky Tournament Oct. 1, 2. The fish got him into a catch brackets drawing and he won a rod and \$500. (Picture below.) Brian Opsahl was his partner for the tournament.



This weekend up north should bring a welcome change to numbers on the Members Only Contest board. Let's get back on the water and put a big one on the board.

## Not as many fish caught this month

By Steve Ruhmann

Release chairman

Hello there fellow Flatlanders, this month's write up is not quite as full as the previous two months but there have been several fish caught. Tim Scruggs during the Chapter Challenge had a fantastic trip. Tim bagged fish measuring 35.5, 36, 35.5, 36.5, and 47. Frank Wilary has been out on his home lake of Bone and released fish measuring 43 and 34 inches. His son, Ben, is healed up from his previous injury and has boated fish measuring 42 and 38.5. These also came from Bone.

Becky and Jerry Oestreich are again having another fantastic year with Becky banging a 41 from Deer and then sticking a 32 from Bone. Husband and guide Jerry also got in on the action with a 42 from Bone and a 38 from Deer. Way to keep things going strong you two!

Jeff Blanck made a trip to one of his old favorite lakes, Big Saint Germain. He was rewarded for his efforts with a 43-incher.

Mike Kruger made a trip up north and on a new lake for him called Trade, got a 38 to munch on his sucker. I too have been out and after a long dry spell was able to coax a chunky 37 to eat my sucker on Wingra.

We finish this month's report with Jeremy Venhuizen. Jeremy headed over to Twin Valley and got a 32.5 to crush his homemade crankbait. He then went down to McMaster and stuck a 42 on a bucktail.

Well that is it for this month's report. With this weather finally cooling off, I hope the next two months are productive for all of you. Remember when it is getting cold and we are wearing all the extra clothes, we need to take extra safety precautions to prevent something disastrous from happening. I start by having my throw cushion tied to a rope in case it needs to be tossed to my partner who has fallen overboard. Good luck and be safe.

Remember you can send your release forms postmarked within 30 days to:

**Steve Ruhmann**

**14728 Whispering Wind Way**

**South Beloit, Illinois, 61080**

**Or email: [steve.ruhmann@gmail.com](mailto:steve.ruhmann@gmail.com)**

## Deposits needed for LOTW trip

By Steve Ruhmann

Release chairman

Just 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.

## Gil Hamm Memorial Chapter Challenge 2017

Dick Cholke mentioned the 2017 Chapter Challenge (yes, they spell it funny, like muskellunge) in his message. Flatlanders have fielded teams two of the last three years and have done well. Dave Jack caught the largest fish in the Challenge in 2014 with a 52. We fielded two teams that year and finished fifth and 15<sup>th</sup>. This year our team finished 10<sup>th</sup>. The experience of the previous two trips should help our anglers make 2017 the best year yet. The Challenge is Aug. 23-25 at Red Wing Lodge on Lake of the Woods. If you're interested in going, let Dick or someone else from the executive committee know. If we can field two or three teams, 2017 could be a very good year indeed.

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