



October 2018 newsletter

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

Fall into the big fish

Plenty of time to get on the water and catch a trophy or two



Leo Hauser with a 42.5-incher he caught on a Medussa. Fall is a good time to throw rubber baits.

By **Dick Cholke**
Flatlanders president

This season is flying by and the fall bite should be upon us. I just realized that Wally will need my article for the next newsletter and I will be on the extended Lake Namekagon outing. We will report to you on that trip at the October meeting and fill you in on the Wormsoakers'

events. I am looking forward to getting away for another trip up north. Many of you are planning other trips this fall. Inviting other Flatlanders along always adds to the enjoyment of those trips.

The Swan Lake outing was a nice day on the water but no fish to the net. Tim Scruggs and

"Mr. Estes" caught a few very nice bass. Bob Cholke was the only one to move fish with two pickups on suckers and one follow of a very thick low 40-inch fish. I saw a tailing fish on the north side to reinforce that there are fish in Swan Lake. Note: the Pardeeville Sport and Marina do carry suckers in the fall. I would call before you head up there to confirm what size of suckers they have in stock. Most of the group liked the lake and were impressed with the weed flats next to deep water.

The news from up north indicated they had snow flying Oct. 4. The Headwaters Chapter newsletter also discussed the Muskie Inc. Chapter Challenge.

"The Gil Hamm was won by the Star of the North. They want to have it at Red Wing again next year. Next year's dates are Aug. 21, 22, and 23. They are thinking of rotating the Gil Hamm in all four regions. There will be changes for next year. Region 2 will be hosting the Kleeba."

We again had a great time this year at the Challenge. I hope you can join us next year for a second week on Lake of the Woods. Personally I hope they do not split the Challenge up. I think having the event at a premier destination lake has more appeal than a tournament on lesser waters. The board met last week and set the dates for the 2019 Flatlanders outings and events. We are trying to get our schedule of events listed in the Muskie Inc. calendar to attract new members. They hope to get the calendar out earlier this year for one of the few Muskie Inc. fund raisers. We are holding off on setting the outing in October until we get a feel for the combined trip with the Wormsoakers. That trip offers us exposure to over 60 other Rockford anglers who already own the boats and gear to fish muskie.

The following is the 2019 schedule for the Flatlander's:

Jan. 19 : Chicago Muskie Expo

Feb. 18: Flatlanders General Meeting – presentation of the "Flatlander's 2018 Season

Review."

March 23: Flatlanders Annual Banquet

April 16: Flatlanders General Meeting

April 27: Flatlanders Outing at Lake Storey and Lake McMaster

May 21: Flatlanders General Meeting

May 18: Flatlanders Outing at Lake Evergreen

June 18: Flatlanders General Meeting - Prep for the Lake of the Woods Outing

July 13 – 20: Flatlanders Outing at Lake of the Woods

Aug. 17-24: Flatlanders Outing at the MI Chapter Challenge

Sept. 17: Flatlanders General Meeting

Sept. 27, 28, 29: Flatlanders Outing at the Bay of Green Bay

Oct. 15: Flatlanders General Meeting

October outing: TBD

Nov. 19: Flatlanders General Meeting – Elections

Dec. 17: - Flatlanders General Meeting – Christmas Party and Lure Swap

A reminder: The November meeting will be our elections of officers. We have to give a big thanks to guys that have given many years of service to our chapter. Consider running for an office or becoming involved with the board activities. A few guys splitting up some of the responsibilities could also grow our chapter and insure a solid future. We encourage and welcome new faces and ideas. (Editor's note: The president said he will serve only one more year so, ideally, the next president should join the executive committee this year to learn the ropes. If you're at all interested, please let us know.)

Get on the water and get on the board.

Release contest update

By Steve Ruhmann

Release contest chairman

Howdy Flatlanders! This update will cover releases received since the August update. We start this month with Kyle Scuggs. During the club outing to LOTW in July Kyle was big man on campus by releasing Esox of 39, 43.5, 50 and 48.5. As mentioned in the August newsletter, the 50 was the longest fish caught by a

Flatlander. Great job sir! That brings us to Dave Jack. Dave was also on the same LOTW outing and banged Lunge of 37, 42, 41, 39.5, 38, 36, 42, and 39. Then on the PMMT on Lake St. Clair he released fish measuring 38.5 and 44 inches. The next team to make the boards are Becky and Jerry Oestreich. On an early September trip to LOTW Becky released toothy critters measuring 40, 38, 40, 41, 42, 38 and 38. Jerry boated Muskellunge of 38.5, 45.5, 30, 42, 32, and 36. They followed those fish up with a few from Bone where Becky popped a 34.5 and 30. Jerry added to his totals with a 31-incher. Carson and Ben Wilary were also on were also patrolling their home waters of Bone with Carson sticking a 33.5 and Frank banging a big girl of 49 inches!! Jeff Blanck has made a few trip up north where he stuck a 30 on Catfish, a 39 and 41 on Monona, and then a 30 on Cranberry. Another wife and husband team of Cindy and Kevin Stenzel were out slaying the beast on Canyon Lake with Cindy popping fish of 34, 32, 30, 31, 30, and 33 inches. Kevin filled the net with Esox measuring 32, 30, 31, 30, and 31 inches. Mark Carlson was out on the mighty St. Lawrence where he stuck toothy critters of 40, 40, 42, 43, and 40 inches. The next group of fish were caught by our team that attended the Chapter Challenge. President Dick Cholke made the boards with a 36.5 incher. Jack Pertz showed off his fishing skills by releasing Lunge of 30, 35, 35, and 39 inches. Wally Haas had a great trip where he banged Esox of 49.5, 49.5, 32.5, and 41.5. The pair of 49.5 inchers were both caught on the same day off the same spot. WOW! Dick Estes was out hitting the local waters of Twin Valley where he proceeded to pop a 35. I too was out on the local waters and released a 35 from Wingra.

Well the fall bite is here. This rainy weather has made fishing tough but unless you get out there is no chance for that reward of releasing a fall

fatty. They don't bite on the couch. So get out, be safe and use special care with the water cooling, and stick a piggy!

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

Steve Ruhmann
14728 Whispering Wind Way
South Beloit, Illinois
61080

RIP, Phil Blanck

Phil Blanck, brother of Jeff, died Oct. 5. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a memorial service at 1 p.m. Sunday at Honquest Family Funeral Home with Crematory, Mulford Chapel, 4311 N. Mulford Road, Loves Park.

"Phil fought a good fight at the end of his life," it says in his obituary. May we all face our ends with the courage Phil showed. Yes, pilgrim, you've come far.

The Flatlanders family offers its condolences to the Blanck family. Phil will be missed.

I sent a link to the full obituary earlier in the week. If you missed it, here it is again:
<https://www.honquestfh.com/notices/Philip-Blanck>




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