



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

Learn about river fishing

Michael Hanson is our guest speaker this month



The 2017 Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge team finished in 12th place.

By **Dick Cholke**
Flatlanders president

Since we have not met in a while this summer, our first meeting back for the fall season will be loaded with lots of good stories and a great presentation by Michael Hanson. This summer is starting to make up for the slow spring. Many fish are being put on the board and the two trips to Lake of the Woods were some of the best. The Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge report is included in this newsletter. Let's get started with the upcoming events for this fall season:

On Wednesday at the Rock Valley Anglers meeting at Ramada Inn, Jim Lavern's massive collection of muskie gear was on sale. Jim was an active Flatlander for many years and accumulated a large "tackle box." Tom Rizzio is helping the family sell these lures and fishing equipment. Tom gave us first choice of some of the equipment for our raffles and auctions. Any muskie related items that were not sold Wednesday will be available at our meeting as well.

Sept. 19 general meeting: We start out with Michael Hanson speaking on river muskie fishing. Based out of Prairie du Sac, Michael is a guide on the Wisconsin River. He is going to tailor his presentation to

the Wisconsin River and Lake Wisconsin. I attended Michael's presentation at Muskie School this spring and would recommend attending the meeting if you want to improve your fall fishing. This meeting should also be loaded with many fish stories and reports from many of the great destinations. In addition, at the September meeting we will vote on next year's outings. We encourage suggestions for outings on different bodies of water and we welcome ideas. This will also be the meeting to line up your boat partner for the Oct. 20-22 Deer, Bone, Apple and Wappogassetts outing. The October general meeting will be the Tuesday before we head back up north.

Sept. 23: We will support the Capital City Fourth Annual Pit Tag Challenge.

This will be a Flatlanders chapter outing for the Outings Contest.

Check out:

<http://www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org/calendar/> for further details. I did talk to the Capital City guys and they look forward to us coming up to fish the tournament. The registration form is on the website. The fishing will start at 7 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. with lunch and awards at 3:30 p.m. at Olbrich Park. Last year seven Flatlanders participated in this very well run event. All fish are scanned for pit tags to help with the research on the muskies in Lake Monona. Last year they provided a nice lunch, prizes for big fish, and a well-stocked raffle. It would be great to head to Madison to help with this research, fish Lake Monona, and swap a few fish stories with the guys from the Capital City Chapter.

Sept. 26: Executive Committee Meeting (6:30 p.m.) We welcome your input on any club events and business matters. A good part of our discussion will be the scheduling of outings for next year. It is always nice to have a few traditional trips and add some new water. Join us to make 2018 even better.

Our last two outings take us back up north. Recommended accommodations are:

Oct. 20-22: Bone, Deer, Apple and Wapogassetts: Black Smith Shop Motel north of Balsam Lake and Luck Country Inn in Luck, WI.



Michael Hanson will tell us how to catch big fish such as the one pictured above. Below, Leo Hauser with a 47.5 caught during the Chapter Challenge.



Nov. 11-13: Lake Sissabagama area: New Mountain Bed and Breakfast. We have also located a few rental cabins on the lake that could be a great place to center our outing. This is the season to get on the water, fewer power boats, cooler weather and the big ones putting on the feed bag (big talk – EH!). We should be putting a good number of days on the water this fall. Try to take a new member or

invite someone you have never fished with to get out and put a few more in the net.

We welcome you to join us at Busters for dinner before the meeting – catch up on some of the fishing patterns and plan the next trip! Get on the water and on the board.

2017 Muskie Inc. Chapter Challenge – The Report

This year's Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge was similar to the previous year's event, a second week on Lake of the Woods and fish! Our team had a great time with some good fish in the net. The six man team included Dick Estes, Wally Haas, Leo Hauser, Duane Nichols, Jack Pertz, and Dick Cholke. Our week at Mylie's Place resort worked out well with good accommodations and close enough to the tournament headquarters at Red Wing Lodge so that we could boat or drive to all the events. For the week the group put 20 fish on our bragging board, tying last year's count by the team. In addition Jerry and Becky Oestreich added five fish with their split trip that overlapped our week. Leo Hauser lead the big fish pot with a nice 47.5, Jack Pertz followed up with a 46.5, and Dick Cholke with a 44. In all, six fish over 40 inches were caught by the Flatlanders. During the tournament we registered seven fish to place 12th place out of 25 teams. The first three teams caught more fish this year than the entire field last year. The winners were Bemidji / Cass with 31 fish and 352.5 points, second was Fargo / Morehead Team #1 with 17 fish and 262.5 points and the surprising third place going to South of the Boarder Team #1 (IL) with 15 fish and 243 points. Large fish went to Bill Jacobs out of the Headwaters Team #1 with a 53-¼ monster. Three fish over 50 were registered in the tournament with a good number of fish over 50 caught earlier in the week – at least two by Capital City. Rumor had it that the top teams were trolling the first break line. The big fish for Capital City were produced by banging crank baits over rock reefs. Our team came back with very few scratches but at



Duane Nichols with a LOTW beauty.

at least three lower units were taken out during the week. The president of Muskie Inc., Jim Ashton, lost his lower unit on the first day out on the water and was back up running by Tuesday afternoon with "only" a \$3,900 bill (shipping was around \$500). It was great to meet some of the top officers of Muskie Inc. and understand some of the challenges facing the organization. Plan on joining us next year for the second week on Lake of the Woods – it is really a good week of fishing and meeting other folks in the Muskie Inc. organization.

Release contest update

By Steve Ruhmann

Release contest chairman

Hello Flatlanders. The month of September is here and we are starting to feel the signs of fall coming. This is my favorite time of year to chase the mighty muskellunge. We will start this month's report off with Carson Wilary. Carson along with his netman Dad (Frank Wilary) have been trolling the waters of Bone Lake where Carson popped his personal best of 46 inches. He also released a 38.5-incher while father Frank got a 34. On a return trip to Bone Carson cranked up a 38- and 40-incher. Brother Ben then hit the boards with a 35-incher. Brian Hansas was on our Flatlanders outing to LOTW and he released Esox measuring 41, 40, 31, 30.5, and 38 inches. John Hauser was also on the trip and caught a personal best 40.5 along with a personal best 44 inch pike. Jeff Blanck was also on the July LOTW outing and had an outstanding trip by popping fish of 36.5, 34.5,



Joe Rausenberger caught this 49.25-inch male on Eagle Lake.

38.5, 39, 31, 36.5, 42, 40, 43, 39, and 35.5. He then headed off for the PMTT on Cass Lake and netted a 46.5 incher. This fish added to both Tom Rizzo's and his total and enabled them to qualify for the PMTT Championship. Nice job gentlemen. Becky and Jerry Oestreich returned to LOTW with Becky boating a 36 incher and Jerry hooking fish of 37, 43.5, 37.5, 35.5, and 35.5. Jack Pertz was back up for the Chapter Challenge and had a great trip. Jack banged fish measuring 40, 46.5, and 38. President Dick Cholke was also up for the Challenge (get it, up for the Challenge, bwahahahaha!!!!) where he had the best trip of his life by netting fish that measured 33, 33, 35, 32, 44, and 39 inches. Wally Haas was another team member at the Chapter Challenge and stuck fish measuring 39, 32.5, and 31 inches. Aaron Wiegel scored this year with a 36.5 incher from Twin Valley. We will end this month's report with team Carlson. Mark and Jack were out on the St Lawrence with Jack banged fish of fish measuring 47, 45, 44, 39, and 44 inches. Mark also stuck a few fish that bumped the boards at 51, 45, 44, 38, and 30 inches. As I mentioned in the beginning, fall is quickly approaching and the big fish will be on the prowl. So get out there and make it happen. Good luck and always remember to be safe.

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