



FLATLANDERS

TAILS

September 2014

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

Bone delivers big fish during outing

By Dick Cholke

Senior correspondent

The cold snap right before the trip (Sept. 12-14) must have scared some folks away. The Flatlanders north of the stateline showed that it was a worthwhile trip and they put some nice fish in the net.

Three boats fished the outing with Dick Cholke, Dick Estes, Mike Bowers, Frank Wilary, Jerry and Becky Oestreich showing the fish a wide range of baits. Water temperatures were 59-60°F on Apple and 64-65°F on Wapo and Bone Lakes. No one fished Deer Lake.

On Friday, the team of Dick Cholke and Dick Estes had one follow of a mid-40s fish and a "hit and spit" near dark on the Apple. Saturday new water was on the agenda, with a full day on Wapogasset. The lake was somewhat similar to Bone Lake, that it had lots of good weed beds, nice structure and a boasts 1,156 acres with an additional 244 acres of the attached Bear Trap Lake.

The locals spoke very highly of Wapo, especially after the last area tournament. It has an excellent launch and park on the west side of the lake. The phone call from Mike Saturday evening indicated we chose the wrong lake for that day. No fish were seen on Wapo and a total of 12 fish were moved on Bone with two coming to the net for Frank.

Frank Wilary was the "The Guy" for the weekend catching 4 fish off his home water. Frank got a 30" and a nice 43" on Saturday. Sunday was a tougher day and he still managed to boat a pair of 39" fish within 15 minutes of each other. This once again showed that the feeding window opened for a short time. Quick phone calls around the group indicated Ace Tandems were the lure of choice. Two fish over 45" were also raised by Frank and Mike.

Becky Oestreich was the "The Gal" for the weekend boating her first muskie. Here is the way Jerry described Becky's fish.

"After a visit with Mike and Frank, we took a lunch break and decided what we were going to do for the rest of the day; we got back out on the water about 3:20. We went back over the spot where we both had the same fish up



Becky Oestreich with a 35-incher and Frank Wilary with a 43-incher caught during the September club outing.

and Becky wanted to go with black & chartreuse this time. Her words "maybe it wants something different." It sure did, because it didn't take long and she's hollering get the net. Hurry please, get it in the net. Well we got that one in the net. Becky's first musky in the boat. A 35" FATSO. This fish had the build of a forty-incher with 5" missing in the middle."

In addition "It was a great trip to see Becky catch and release her first musky. We talked about it while having a

picnic dinner at the park before we left for home, and she says, "you know what I really liked about that fish, it was the way that it swam away. Strong and healthy." Jerry and Becky raised three fish on Saturday and seven on Sunday. The fish had bad aim, Becky had one go over her top raider twice on Saturday night and Jerry had three misses on his jack pot.

Suckers were not available yet, and the word from Lucky's Bait shop indicated it was going to be a tough year to find good suckers.

As we got off the water we discussed that it was a good trip, we tried new water, did not break anything and we stayed in the boat. Five fish for six anglers is good weekend. A side note: The waitress at the A&W in Baldwin asked "where is that guy that likes that frosty mug taste?"

See you at Oxbow for some new water.

VFW will be open

Jack Pertz reports that the VFW will be open for our meeting Thursday. We'd rather not have a repeat of last month's parking lot meeting.

Next up: Oxbow

Oct. 10-12 the club will have an outing on Oxbow, a 523 acre lake in Vilas County. It has a maximum depth of 44 feet. The Oxbow outing will be one of the topics of discussion at this month's meeting. If you're interested, check with outings chairman Tim Scruggs 815-270-0014; email: scruggsbay@yahoo.com.

If you drive through Minnesota in 2015 ...

You're going to have to take Aquatic Invasive Species training and display a decal on your trailer next year. This is required "If you trailer a boat or water-related equipment like docks and lifts in Minnesota ..." It's an online course that becomes available Jan. 5. Trailer decals are required by July 1, which means those who are going to LOTW next year will have to take the training and get the decal. The online course is \$5. If you want to do it the old-fashioned way and have the forms mailed to you, it will cost \$11. Go to <http://trailers.mndnr.gov/> for details.

Buy a ticket for display tackle box

We'll be selling \$5 tickets for a chance to win the unique tackle box that Dick Lapp has donated. We'll sell tickets up until the March banquet and will pick the winning ticket during our annual awards program. If you want to see what it looks like, check last month's newsletter, which you can access any time on our website.

Muskies in Vermont

Don't know if any of you ever head east to fish, but the state of Vermont is stocking muskies. Form The Associated Press; The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife says 7,000 muskellunge fingerlings have been stocked in Lake Champlain's Missisquoi Bay and the Missisquoi River, a lake tributary. The fish disappeared from Vermont in the late 1970s following a chemical spill. Since 2008, Fish and Wildlife has stocked more than 38,000 muskies into the Missisquoi River and Missisquoi Bay. The six-inch fish stocked in the river were donated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which stocks the Great Chazy River on the New York side of the lake with the same strain of muskie. Lake Champlain is the only lake in New England to which muskies are native.

Purposes of Muskies, Inc.

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- To establish hatcheries and rearing ponds and introduce the species into suitable waters
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