



September 2018 newsletter

Meetings resume! See you at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the VFW

Big fish show up a day early

Three big fish don't make the Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge board



Duane Nichols boated a 50-incher and Wally Haas boated two 49.5s the day before the Challenge.

By **Dick Cholke**
Flatlanders president

We are in that season of the year that many of us get caught up with all the things to do during the fall. Someone should rearrange the calendar and spread some on these activities out into winter. I try to think what I should do on some of these days, pheasant hunt, grouse hunt, deer hunt – OH! Muskie fishing sounds great – one of the best times of the year to fish. Also, I forgot to mention Oktoberfest, fall color trips with the wife – you know you have to keep her happy if you want to fish. The weather does help make



some of these decisions. Bird hunting is tough on those wet days, but muskies like the nasty stuff that helps sell Gore-tex. So much with my options for the fall, let's talk fishing.

The Chapter Challenge was another great trip at the end of August. Ninety-six anglers participated this year in the event hosted by Bimidji /Cass Lake Chapter. The host upgraded the event from previous years and it was good to see some of the anglers we met in past years plus make some new friends.

Unfortunately, the tournament started one day too late. Our pre-fishing peaked on Tuesday with the tournament starting on Wednesday. Tuesday was the best day of the entire week with Duane Nichols leading off the team with a beautiful 50" fish, hitting a No. 5 Mepps Giant Killer. The fish stayed down for a long time and when

Duane said, "She is not hooked very well, you better try to get her as soon as you can." Lucky enough, the risky net job got her on the inside of the hoop and she got Duane and myself wound up. Lesson learned; don't be afraid to fish small baits. Congratulations Duane. To continue the stories, Wally stepped up with an unusual feat. Wally's personal best has been 48-inches for years. In fact he got a pair of 48s on the same day and same bait during one LOTW trip a few years back. Well he got very close to getting the shot from the "Flatlander's 50" Club" bottle but wound up short with a pair of 49.5s. What's special is that he got them both on the same day, the same spot and same bait. What an amazing set of events. Everyone else got fish that day except the guy that was trying to think what he should include in the newsletter article this



month. See the Chapter Challenge bragging board at the meeting Tuesday night and get the rest of the story – like having a snake in the boat! The results for the tournament did not include two of our fish so the board was in error. Wally's corrections indicated we were in the upper half of 27 teams. The numbers of fish were off from last year's amazing record but were the second best finish in the history of the Challenge. Big fish was 52 inches caught by the winning team, Star of the North.

The high water has some of the lakes shut down locally – Lake Monona. Waubesa was about 2-3 feet high on Wednesday morning with a no-wake restriction. Water was over many piers. In the process of picking the lake for this week's trip, I checked out Swan Lake on Lake Link. We have heard stories of fish and big fish every

time we fish Swan Lake. Well last week a 49-
incher was caught by a guy trolling within the
first ten minutes. This confirms the stories and
rumors of the lake for our next outing on Sept.
29. This is a very nice 400 acre lake with lots of
hard weed edges, good flats, and plenty of deep
water. I think you will like this lake if you have
never fished it before. Consider staying
overnight in the area and fishing Sunday. The
lake will be chosen by the group Saturday night.

Make sure to attend the September meeting to
catch up on latest reports and stories from the
Chapter Challenge. We will also be voting on
the outings for next year. We need your input to
create a fun 2019 season. There will also be a
discussion on Lake Namekagon for those
attending our last outing that is the combined
trip with the Wormsoakers. Last Thursday night
the Wormsoaker's held their meeting to prep
everyone for the outing. It was a very good
meal with approximately fifty anglers talking
about the upcoming trip. Gene Seuring also had
his new sucker nose clip rig available for the late
season sucker bite. This is the time of year for
many informal trips. Talk to the group and try
to line up some new spots with other Flatlanders.
I have heard a few different groups talking about
heading up to Green Bay. It would be fun and
more productive if we were all up there at the
same time.

We all had a good trip to Lake of the Woods in
July. Make sure to send me the photos from the
outing up north and any other fishing
adventures. Send them to cholke@mchsi.com.

Finally I would like to thank Wally Haas for
putting this newsletter together every month.
Also, thanks for the very well written article on
Mary Hoernecke in the Muskie Inc. magazine. I
am not sure how my name was placed on the
article, but Wally gets the credit – thanks.



*Ask Duane about this fish he caught on LOTW
during the August trip*

The mid-week Flatlanders trips are rolling every
week. Feel free to join us.

Get on the e-mail list. Sharing information with
the weekend group helps everyone stay on the
active fish.

Get on the water and get on the board!




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