



# FLATLANDERS

November 2014

## TAILS

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

## This month's meeting: One week early

The holidays are here and our meeting schedule changes. We'll meet Nov. 20 this month and Dec. 18 next month. This month's meeting we'll wrap up the last of the outings (Vermilion, see story below) and give you an update on what the annual awards will look like. (Banquet is March 14 at the VFW). We still have plenty of tickets for the display tackle box donated by Dick Lapp. Tickets are \$5 and we'll keep selling them until the March banquet.

**December** will be our annual lure swap (NEW lure at least \$15 in value), Christmas party and election of officers. We'd like to see some new blood on the executive committee. No experience required, just a willingness to make the club the best it can be. For the December meeting, you can bring food to share (Chicken, pizza, lobster, whatever, it's optional).

**In January**, our tradition has been to have breakfast at Cracker Barrel before heading to the Chicago Musky Show. This year's show is new. It's the Chicago Musky Expo and it's being run by the same folks who put on the Milwaukee Musky Expo. The Chicago show is Jan. 9-11 so we'll have breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Cracker Barrel (located on Lyford Road just north of East State Street near the Clock Tower.) The show is at the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates, across the street from Cabela's. Figure 45 minutes to eat and 45 minutes to get to the show. You can take the opportunity to fill your belly before you go to the show to buy stuff to fill your tackle box.

### Lake Vermilion:- You say it's too warm – but it was snowing!

By Dick Cholke

Senior correspondent

Dick Cholke and Dick Estes arrived at Lake Vermillion for the last Flatlander's outing to some serious snow. That deterred our plans to fish Thursday night since we could not see anything past 20 yards. The snow stopped during dinner but it changed the landscape for Friday morning. Jeff Blanck and Dave Jack arrived at the house after midnight for the trip. Friday morning we found water temperatures at 45° -- far above the desired 40°. The ciscos/tullibees were not on top of the reef for the



Dick Cholke with a 33.5 inch musky caught on Lake Vermilion.



Dave Jack with a 37-incher. Jeff Blanck's 40.5 is on the next page.

spawn – similar to last year. The group did manage to put three fish in the boat. Dick Cholke started out with a 33.5" on Friday, with Dave following later Saturday with a 37" and Jeff with a 40.5". Jeff and Dave did move a number of fish in the 4- foot range and lost a few



during the weekend. As Jeff stated "Weather trumps all." The timing on the fall cisco bite is critical and has been difficult to time. Being relatively new to fishing Lake Vermillion, I did not have a lot of the background of the previous years. The stories of past years shared during the weekend made us understand why the club continues the tradition of this lake for the last outing.

There have been some great fish caught by the Flatlander's in previous years when the thermometer cooperated.

We still enjoyed the outing and now we look forward at dodging ice to put any additional fish on our personal list.

For those of you looking at something different next spring – consider Ohio. The most recent issue of the Muskie Inc. magazine shows this is worth a consideration for a pre-spawn trip. A few of us could use some company to get next year's fishing season started early.

## LOTW 2015

Hello everyone, it is that time of year again where we need to collect deposits for Lake of the Woods 2015. The dates of the trip are July 11– 18. The amount for the deposit is \$100 per person. The remaining balance of \$231 will be due when we arrive and can be paid to Baystore Camp directly. (Total per person is \$331.00 each). We have only space available for 21 people so be sure to get your deposits in early. Deposits will be due no later than the Chicago Muskie in January. There is an extreme amount of interest for this outing so please get your name on the list at the November meeting. Prior attendees will get first shot at cabin vacancies and then it will be on a first-come, first-serve basis until we fill our allotment of cabins. Last year Tim Scruggs caught the biggest fish of the week with a 52.5. Steve Ruhmann caught a 51.5 on the same day at the same time. Other big fish were Leo Hauser's 51 and Jerry Oestreich's 51. You may remember that Leo was last year's winner of the prestigious Skunk Award. Another biggie was Jack Pertz's 49.5. Fishing was a little tougher last year due to 4-foot high water as well as high winds. Regardless LOTW is putting out a large number of 45-50+ inch fish so if you are looking to possibly get a new personal best, this is the lake that can do it. So please contact me if you are interested in attending and get your name on the list. I can be reached at:

Cell phone – 815-558-3666

### Please mail your deposits to:

Steve Ruhmann  
5776 Vesper Drive  
South Beloit, IL. 61080

## Chapter Challenge 2015

This year we fielded two teams for Muskies, Inc. Gil Hamm Chapter Challenge on Lake of the Woods. If anyone is interested in the 2015 tournament it will be Aug. 26-28 on Leech Lake, Minnesota. Horseshoe Bay Lodge is the host site.

## Ooops, Muskies Inc.

No, we do not have a new member named Dave Frank. That was Dave Jack who caught the big fish in the 2014 Chapter Challenge. The magazine got it wrong in the last issue.

### Purposes of Muskies, Inc.

- To promote a high quality Muskellunge sport fishery
- To support selected conservation practices based on scientific merit and carried out by authorized federal and state agencies
- To promote Muskellunge research
- To establish hatcheries and rearing ponds and introduce the species into suitable waters
- To support the abatement of water pollution
- To maintain records of habits, growth and range of species
- To disseminate Muskellunge information
- To promote good fellowship and sportsmanship among men, women and children

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#### Vice President

Dave Jack 815-389-1132

#### Treasurer

Jack Pertz 815-629-2562

#### Secretary

Wally Haas 815-262-4891

#### Regional Vice President

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Tim Scruggs 815-270-0014

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 A man in a cap and sunglasses is holding a large fish on a boat. The background shows a lake and trees.

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