



FLATLANDERS

October 2014

TAILS

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

Oxbow outing: Fall colors, frost and fish

By Dick Cholke

Senior correspondent

Seven Flatlanders made it up to Oxbow Lake for a very nice outing. The trees still carried a good number of leaves to give the outing a good fall background. Not only did the colors set the fall stage, but the ice on the sucker bucket and some very frosty boats made us aware summer was over.

Everyone arrived at the Pine Hill Resort Thursday night. Friday was the productive day with three fish coming to the net. Jeff lead the pack with a 37" on a Bulldawg, Dick Estes produced a 36" fish on a sucker and Dick Cholke came in with a 31"er on a Bulldawg. Saturday all three boats saw action but the muskies were successful shaking all the sucker rigs. Action varied from shallow to 30 foot of water.

Several members commented that Oxbow has a good variety of structure along with very nice areas of cabbage. The water is stained but clear. There are many bays and the main lake basin has deep water to hold fish with a maximum depth around 45 feet.

The Rest of the Story

Jim Goebel and his family arrived on Sunday and stayed through Tuesday. Jim hoped his family would like the area. After a day and a half of nice weather they found the northern lake very beautiful. A little muskie action also helped, when they lost a nice muskie in 8 feet of water. The highlight of their trip was the lunch break back at the cabin. Jim left his sucker dangling over the edge of the boat during the break. After lunch they noticed the sucker was in considerably deeper water. Jim's youngest daughter, Joy, did a great job reeling the sucker back in along with a 44" muskie. This is her second muskie and personal best. Joy caught her first muskie last year on Lake Wingra. Jim said she is hooked. Bob and Dick Cholke stayed up on Oxbow until Thursday for the "Cast and Blast" remainder of the week. Lena, Dick's yellow lab, was happy to get out and push up grouse every day. The number of flushes each day was excellent along with continued muskie action. Every day produced good action except Wednesday. Unfortunately the birds were fast and the muskies were good at spitting the hooks.



Joy Goebel with a 44-incher caught on Oxbow Lake..

Everyone was favorable on the lake and we all look forward to Lake Vermilion in just a few weeks.

Next: Vermilion

Water temperatures are going down so big fish will soon be coming up to the net. There are some monster muskies in Lake Vermilion and you can have a chance of catching one if you participate in the last outing of the season on Vermilion Oct. 30-Nov. 2. Flatlanders President Jeff Blanck has extensive experience on that body of water and will provide insights on how to catch big fish during this month's meeting. You can expect it to be cold on Vermilion at the end of the month, all the better to land the big one you've been waiting for.



A wonderful scenic shot of Oxbow.

Holiday happenings

The November and December meetings will be a week early because of Thanksgiving and Christmas – Nov. 20 and Dec. 18. Our December meeting will be our annual lure swap. You can bring up to three ... **NEW** ... musky lures with a minimum value of at least \$15. We'll have more on that in the next couple of newsletters.

It pays to ask

On a recent trip up north, I stopped at Rollie and Helen's (that's a requirement, isn't it?) to ask what the hot lake might be. Without hesitation, one of the guides on staff (didn't catch his name) said "Squaw. It will be a sucker bite. I doubt you see anything on an artificial." So I dutifully bought three suckers and headed over to Squaw. The first day, I boated a 36, a decent fish for Squaw, on a sucker. We didn't see anything on lures. Day 2, my brother-in-law caught a personal best 39.5, also on a sucker. We only fished a total of six hours in two days so I consider that a pretty good weekend. There was a tournament going on at the lakes I had wanted to fish. If we didn't stop at Rollie and Helen's we would have wound up in tournament traffic, a frightening thought. Whenever you make a trip, it pays to check fishing reports, stop at a bait shop, ask a guide or anything else you can do to get information.

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.

Speaking of website ...

There's a lot of good info there. You can see the latest standings, check out the calendar and.

Thank you, Duane

Duane Nichols won last month's 50-50 drawing and donated his winnings back to the club. We thank you for your generosity, Duane.

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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 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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