



September 2020 newsletter

No meetings while we sit through the pandemic. Stay safe

On the water and on the board

More nice fish are being caught as we get ready for the fall freeing frenzy



Adam Cooper caught this 52.5-incher on Green Bay fishing with Doug Wegner.

*By Dick Cholke
Flatlanders president*

This year is just not a good year to organize any events. As we push into the fall season, I feel bad we do not have any official chapter outings and meetings. Folks are fishing and more unofficial trips are being planned. Recently we

had two guys on Green Bay all week, a few pre-fishing the Chippewa Flowage getting ready for the PMMT tournament, and more guys up pre-fishing and fishing Paul's Pro-am tournament in Eagle River. I netted a 37.5 for



Mike Bowers boated this 50.5-incher on West Battle Lake in northwest Minnesota.



Carson Wilary (above) caught a 45-incher on that Minnesota trip while dad Frank (top right) bagged a 44. Granddad Mike caught a smaller fish while visiting Lake Wingra.



Doug Simonson with a decent Northwoods fish. Brandon, not to be outdone, with a nice fish of his own. (top right). Stu Sondgeroth is on the board. (Bottom right).



Leo Hauser on Tuesday 40 minutes after we launched. Leo, like many of us, was very glad to finally get a fish on the board and lose the skunk. It has been a tough year for many of us. Some chapter members may send out information on their fall informal trips.

I got a call from Amy Keyes, the managing editor of the Muskie Inc. magazine on Tuesday. She will be asking for our event schedule for next year's calendar in early October. Send me an email with ideas you have on outings for next year. Dick Cholke – cholke@mchsi.com. We will need to get an Executive Committee meeting together to set up next year's schedule.

Here are a few more items:

We have not forgotten about the annual awards banquet. As soon as the virus situation becomes reasonable, we will get that organized. I hope we do not need to have a dual season banquet but it could happen.

As I indicated before, the Muskie Inc. national organization has changed its mission statement to Fisheries, Research and Youth. To regain our 501-C3, not for profit tax status, we must change our website to show we support the new mission and show photos of our Flatlander members with the kids at an early age with any kind of fish

and one of them now with a muskie. Grandparents and grandkids photos would also be great. An example would be Kyle Scruggs as a young lad with a fish, his photo of two years back with a 50" LOTW fish and Tim and his grandson that appeared in the last Muskie Inc. calendar. I have not worked out the best verbiage yet but it will be similar to "The Flatlanders support youth fishing and it works!" Please send the photos to cholke@mchsi.com with a statement saying that it is OK to use the photos on the website. This is going to be some work to convert the website over. If you can help, it sure would be appreciated.

November is traditionally the time we vote in new officers. Please consider running for an office. The board has served the chapter for many years and they deserve a break. Everyone owes them a big thanks for all of their years of service. **I personally plan on stepping down as president and the chapter needs to move to the next level with some fresh ideas.** I believe it has been five years for me as president and the chapter needs to grow under new leadership. We need to organize the elections without a meeting. We will set something soon. Kyle should have an article with a bunch of fish photos. Hopefully he gets some team shots from Paul's Pro-am in Eagle River. All meetings, outings /events are

cancelled at this time. Remember when the virus smoke clears the Flatlanders is a great chapter and we hope to see all of you back along with a lot of new anglers. Get on the water and get on the board (Safely!)

Fish are being caught

Well it looks and feels like the summer heat has finally broke. Water temps have been dropping and the fish have been coming in. With the Canadian border staying closed for the season Frank/Carson Wilary and Mike Bowers took their annual trip to northwest Minnesota where all three of them boated nice fish. Carson started the trip off with a 45-incher on a bucktail. Not to be out done Mike Bowers popped a Giant 50.5 on West Battle Lake. After a lake change later in the trip Frank added to the totals with a beautiful 44 incher of his own. Congrats on a great family trip and solid muskies in the bag.

New member Adam Cooper recently got on the board while fishing solo on the Madison Chain boating a chunky 37.5 on a bucktail. Way to get on the monkey off your back. The good luck did not stop there. Adam recently won a day's guide service with Doug Wegner on Green Bay. Adam and two friends went up and hopped in the boat with Doug and on the first trolling pass 30 minutes in Adam's rod takes off and the fight was on. After a great fight, Doug was able to scoop her up. She measured a whopping 52.5x24. Congratulations Adam on a true fish of a lifetime and to think that this is only your 5th fish. Going to be a tough one to top.

Fall is a great time for numbers and quality fish. Get those fall trips planned and get on the board. Good Luck and stay safe. Tight Lines

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Remember the year that wasn't



The Flatlanders have worn specially designed shirts since 2011 for the July trip to Bay Store Camp. We didn't go this year, of course, but we have T-shirts as mementoes to this most unusual year. The left sleeve has a burger and beer, a tribute to Scott Grabow who died Jan. 22, with LOTW 2020 with the universal no sign in place of the O and Os. The back slogan is "COVID? Nah! We have musky fever!" The shirts are a performance no-wick hooded shirt in gray. I don't have an exact cost yet, but figure \$25. If you would like one, please send me an email with your size.



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