

THE RELEASE

APRIL 2014

Website:

www.stcloudmuskies.com



MEETING: APRIL 15, 2014 7:30 pm

Waite Park American Legion

AWARDS NIGHT – Pizza and Beverages Provided

Time on the Water By Bruce A. Kitowski, President

Last month our guest speaker was Jeff Halverson. He traveled down from Staples in a snow storm just to be with us. As always it was a pleasure to have him speak. He always holds the crowd with his stories and cantor. Thank you very much Jeff. With that being said I must apologize to Paul Amberg and his family. Paul came and set up for his talk on the Lake of the Month which was going to be on Lake of the Woods. Jeff Halversons seminar lasted longer than we anticipated and Paul did not have the time to get it in. Paul being the stand up that he is said no problem I will do it next month. There are a lot of us looking forward to Paul's talk and a chance to see exactly where the spots are. Ok maybe not the exact spots, but I can guarantee that it will be interesting. The main event for the evening will be the awards presentation. The awards and certificates will be presented by Marc Jefferson and Nate Rose. We will also have a lure swap, so remember to bring all those unwanted fishing items to trade or sell. There will also be drink tickets and pizza sponsored by the chapter.

Remember that this month is the Anglers Dinner Fundraiser and believe you me it is coming up fast. We still need to sell those dinner tickets and get them in ASAP. Also we need prizes and silent action items. Please do what you can to help. If you are planning to help out that night and work let someone on the board know so we can start locking things down. Thank you.

Bruce

Kenneth J. Schmitt
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Angler's Fish Dinner Friday April 25, 2014

Waite Park American Legion

Dinner served between 4:30 PM and 7:30 PM

Menu: Fish, Potatoes, Green Beans Bread and Dessert

Dinner Tickets:
Adult \$10.00
Kids 12 and under
\$5.00

Tickets available from
any Muskie's Inc.
Member in advance or
at the door

Prizes:
Door Prizes
Silent Auctions
Tip Boards



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND UPCOMING EVENTS By Eric Kohn

ANGLERS DINNER

Please remember the opportunity to sign up for the Anglers Dinner which is Friday, April 25, 2014. The dinner runs smoothly if we have volunteers!!! We make more money if the evening runs smoothly!!! What a great night to help out and make it another success. Remember...great lectures...great meetings...all begin with funds from this volunteer opportunity. It is our chapter's one large fundraiser to raise funds for these occasions. Please contact me at epkohn34@hotmail.com or sign up at the next meeting. Thanks

Big Brothers Big Sisters Program

Mark the calendar!!!! Saturday, May 3, 2014, 10:00 a.m -1:00 pm Big Brothers/Big Sister MI Annual Fishing Outing at the Rock Island Pond between Sand Companies and Bernicks. Please contact me for info or to sign up to volunteer (epkohn34@hotmail.com). Time commitment is from 9-1pm. A short time to make a lasting memory on our future generation of anglers.

Volunteer and make a difference in the lives of area youth. Teach them your passion for the outdoors and fishing.

Eric

LAKE OF THE MONTH By Sven Larsen

Paul Amberg will be presenting on Lake of the Woods at the April meeting. He will give insight to one of our largest bodies of water. He has a lot of experience on the lake and he has a special extended version of Lake of the Month planned for us. If you ever wondered how to tackle this lake, don't miss April's meeting for what is bound to be a great presentation by Paul.

If anyone would like to share something about any of our Musky waters please let me know. I would really like to find someone who fishes the Mississippi and is willing to do a short presentation in it.


MEMBERSHIP REPORT · · · · · By Nate Rose

Greetings! We have three new members this month Keith Schreifels, Bob Wruck, and Jesse Lutgen. Welcome to the chapter, we look forward to meeting you. Eric Kohn and Joe Lauer renewed their membership in March and up for renewal in April we've got Jeff Miller and Daniel Fruechte. The easiest way to renew your membership is online. The website (muskiesinc.org) should prompt you for renewal once your membership expires.

Contest Report · · · · · By Nate Rose

It's good to see all the participants in our chapter contest from 2013. I've always enjoyed being a part of this and now I get to manage it. We'll see how this spring shapes up but either way it's going to be late one with all the ice on the lakes. Make sure you attend the 2014 Minnesota Muskie Expo next weekend to get some equipment and a few new baits for the upcoming season.

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Fall Get Together - 2014 By Dave Mendel

The 2014 Fall Get Together will be held September 11th through September 14th at Cass Lake. Back again, by popular demand, Cass Lake Lodge will be hosting our event. CLL 218-335-6658 www.casslakelodge.com

The camping and cabins rates for this year will be:

RV Camping / W full hook ups	\$44.00 / Night
Cabins	\$45.00 / Night / Person
Boat Slips in the Harbor	\$10.50 / Day

This year the resort will be saving 3 cabins for our event, and the use on the 'Lodge' for the Thursday night seafood buffet. The Cass Lake area is very busy this time of the year, so these cabins will only be held until August 15th 2014 at which time they will be opened up to the public. Please make your reservations early to ensure a spot. CLL has built a new and much improve harbor that will serve us much better. If you need a boat slip, please request one at the time you make reservations. Camping is in limited supply and rented on a first come first served basis. If you plan to camp make your reservations early. When making reservations, be sure to mention that you're part of the St. Cloud Muskies Inc. group.

Once again we will be charging a \$10.00 fee which includes a Friday night meal catered by CLL and a chance to win a fine attendance prize. Plus everyone attending the Friday meal will receive a lure as part of the drawing.

We hope you can join us for a great weekend of fishing on one of Minnesota's premier Muskie waters. If you have any questions please contact me.

Dave Mendel


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PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT By Aaron Meyer

I'd like to thank Conservation Officer Jeff Halverson for another informative meeting. He always comes with a lot of good information and great stories! At our last chapter meeting, he also brought a replica of the world record 8 point whitetail that was shot by a poacher in southeast MN a few years ago. This thing is unbelievable! 190+ B&C as a typical 8 point! What a shame that it had to end the way it did. I was truly a world-class animal.

By now most of you have heard about the new regulation changes going into effect on Mille Lacs this year. For those that haven't, here's the scenario, and a few of my thoughts. The walleye population on Mille Lacs has fallen drastically, and as one of MN's premier fisheries, the DNR is taking drastic steps to try to bring the walleyes back. To be honest, some of these changes make sense, biologically, and some are just meant to pacify people who are pointing fingers and placing blame. No one really knows the absolute cause of the problem, but there are many factors causing big changes on Mille Lacs. Obviously, angler and Tribal harvest are major factors. Mille Lacs also now hosts huge populations of several invasive species. Two major offenders are zebra mussels and spiny water fleas, which are removing beneficial phytoplankton and zooplankton (the base of the food chain). Smallmouth bass and northern pike populations are now at all-time highs, which essentially just mean more mouths to feed. There will be NO fishing between 10:00pm and 6:00am on Mille Lacs for the 2014 fishing season. This applies to all species. The night ban is a common tool the DNR uses on Mille Lacs during the first few weeks of the walleye season. The reason is that the walleye harvest is so high during that timeframe that they ban night fishing to avoid exceeding the annual safe harvest level, and subsequently have to shut down the season early. With the walleye population so low, they've chosen to extend the ban all year. The ban applies to all species, simply as an enforcement issue. I frequently fish a lake in Canada with a night ban, and the issues there were the same. Harvest of big walleyes had gotten out of hand so they closed walleye fishing at night. The problem arose when too many anglers claimed to be fishing other species and continued targeting walleyes, so the ban was extended to other species as well. As a guy who spends a lot of time on Mille Lacs at night, I am personally very disappointed by this change, but I do understand the current predicament and I don't feel it's beneficial for us "muskie anglers" to expect or demand special treatment right now. Smallmouth bass and northern pike regulations will be relaxed this year. The spearing ban has been removed and the pike limit has been raised to 10 per day. This is where my biggest concerns come into play. There is no question the pike population has exploded in the last few years. I can tell you first hand that there are pike everywhere! The DNR's lake assessments show the highest pike population in the lake's recorded history. Raising the limit makes sense, and realistically it could be even higher than 10 because it's so difficult to keep up with a growing pike population. BUT, doing all this without doing something to protect the big fish

is just plain irresponsible. Our statewide "one over 30 inches" regulation has proven on hundreds of lakes to be a complete failure at keeping pike populations balanced. My fear is that we've opened the floodgates to the destruction of one of the best big pike fisheries in the lower 48 states. My hope is that people will show some sensible restraint and practice **selective harvest**. Taking 10 pike can help the lake, but only if those fish are no bigger than around 25-27 inches (I'd like to point out that I'm making these statements at the recommendation of a life-long DNR Fisheries biologist). Taking big pike only makes the problem worse! What worries me most is that these changes will only serve to promote the mistaken notion that big fish (pike or muskies) are harmful to walleye populations in Minnesota.

Several of us from the St. Cloud chapter, and members of the MMPA, regularly attend the DNR Esox Workshops. At these workshops, we meet with the Fisheries Chief as well as the DNR's pike and muskie technical committees to discuss and work on management issues. We didn't hear anything about any of these Mille Lacs regulation changes until the details were released publicly. The next workshop is in a few weeks and it will be interesting to see what the pike technical committee has to say. My guess is these changes didn't come from them, but rather from the Commissioner's office in St.Paul.

I'll wrap up by saying this... These regulation changes are NOT aimed at muskies, or muskie anglers, they simply affect us by default. I don't like it much, and don't expect you to either, but right now the Mille Lacs walleye population is the DNR's number one priority above everything else. Until the walleye population has recovered, the resorts and businesses that depend on Mille Lacs are going to suffer a lot more than the rest of us. We are not going to benefit by making any of his more difficult for the DNR. Just keep in mind that we are still working towards better muskie and pike management statewide(including a higher muskie size limit), and we'll continue to do so even during these difficult times on Mille Lacs.

Aaron Meyer



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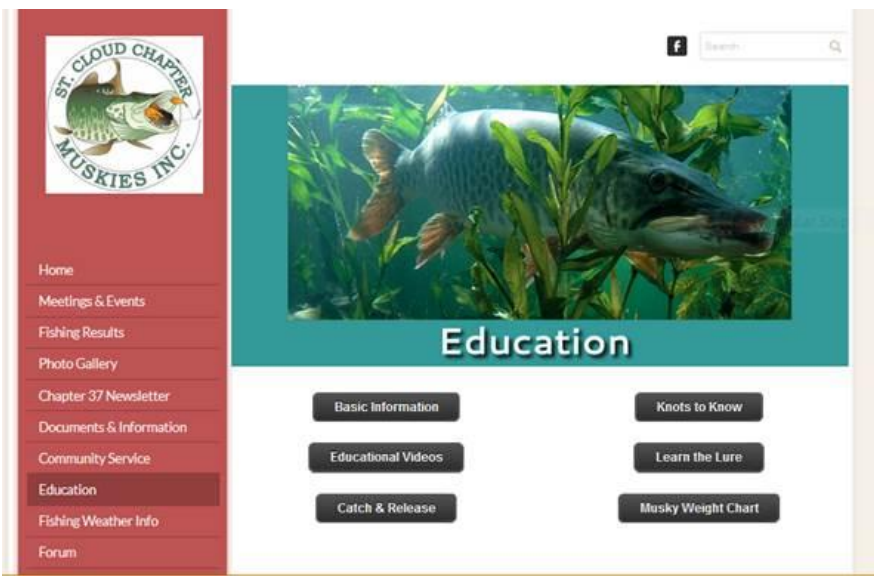
April 2014

Facebook: We are up to 116 LIKES, so we gained five over the last month. That's the best we've had in a while, and encouraging that some of you are sharing the page with others. Please keep it up as this is a great way to let prospective members know who we are and what we do.

Cafepress: Zero activity on this site by anyone. Below is a screen shot of just a small selection of items. If I've missed on items that you want, please let me know and I'll see what I can do to expand the product line.

Website: If you have pictures or other content that we can post on her, send them to me to get our 2014 picture album going.

Did you now there are a number of videos that are educational in nature on our web site? Check them out and let me know what you think of them!



Tom *Web Guy for St. Cloud Muskies, Inc.* Scmi.webmaster@gmail.com

Here's some products for your favorite beverage. Plus, get a thermos for a long day on the lake!

 <p>Thermos Can Cooler With SCMI Logo \$17.99</p>	 <p>Velcro Bear Cooler With SCMI Logo. \$8.69</p>	 <p>Stein with SCMI logo. \$17.49</p>	 <p>MORE COLORS AVAILABLE Sweatshirt (dark) w/SCMI Logo \$35.99</p>	 <p>MORE COLORS AVAILABLE Dark Color Zip Hoodie W/SCMI Logo \$49.99</p>	 <p>MORE COLORS AVAILABLE Hoodie w/SCMI Logo \$43.69</p>
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CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE Ron Fenske

FINALLY! I believe that spring is almost here - I heard something about it coming in June..... maybe?

I wanted to remind everyone that there are several lure swap meets that are worth checking out this month. Especially if you are looking to get a few decent deals on some used lures, rods or reels.... (just between us) I have more than doubled my collection of lures from swap meets. So, if it is your intent to expand your collection of lures don't overlook these swaps this spring. The Muskie Expo this year is: April 4, 5, & 6, 2014 - at Concordia University,(1282 Concordia Ave, St. Paul [651-641-8278](tel:651-641-8278)) entry fee is \$10.00. There will be tons of good deals at the Muskie Expo - on used lures and equipment, dated lures, as well as all of the new lures and gear.

However, the real fun starts any time after 6PM at O'Gara's Bar & Grill in St. Paul. The regular food and bar menu is up and running. And, some of the best Muskie stuff comes out of hiding in there cardboard boxes. There is not an entrance fee for this joyful event. For more information concerning O'Gara's the phone number is [651-644-3333](tel:651-644-3333). Hope to see you there.

The Brainerd Chapter of Muskies Inc. has two lure swaps coming up and both are free. Their lure swaps continue to be my favorite ones of the year. This year they have the "BIG" one set-up for Saturday, April 26, poolside at Cragun's Resort, 12PM until 7PM with 1000's of new and used lures. I have consistently picked up some of my best lures (and other assorted deals) at their swap meets. The Brainerd MI chapter is having a smaller lure swap during their April meeting which starts at 7PM and typically ends around 9PM on Tuesday, 8 April at the Waterfall in Brainerd. If you have any questions or concerns - give me a call and I'll do my best to find the answer.

Best of Luck and Happy Shopping to all who take part in the muskie madness.

Ron Fenske, Chapter Representative



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