

THE RELEASE

MAY 2014

Website:

www.stcloudmuskies.com



MEETING: May 19, 2014 7:30 pm

Waite Park American Legion

SPEAKER: PAT SMITH of Frankie's Marine

Boat Rigging and Electronics

Time on the WaterBy Bruce A. Kitowski, President

Well it's really starting to get busy now. We just finished up with our Anglers Dinner Fundraiser, Big Brothers / Big Sisters is this weekend, and then it's the Waite Park Family Fun Fest Kids Fishing Contest. Within the next couple of weeks the DNR will be doing the netting assessment on Lake Alexander. As always they are asking for help from our chapter. This is always an eye opening adventure. It is truly amazing the size of fish that are caught. If you are interested in helping out please contact:

Marilyn Emerson
Fisheries Specialist
Little Falls Office
320-616-2450

Our Anglers Dinner was a huge success. I want to thank everyone that solicited prizes, donated money, gave up there Friday night to help at the dinner, and those who sold the tickets. This could never have been done without your help. Thanks again and we can now put this one in the books.

I happened to come across this quote and it really fits in as to what we are doing as individual anglers and as a chapter. This gentleman was the superintendent of his company for forty-eight years. He was appointed by the Governor of Ohio as a member of the State Agricultural Board Fish and Game Division. He has fished the entire country from the east coast to the west coast, and from the Gulf Coast to Canada. He was a member of the American Game Protective Association, the American Fisheries Society, and the Izaak Walton League. He goes on to say, "I have been an advocate of sane practical ideas, which include obeying game and fish laws and confining oneself to sensible limits, because fish and game cannot increase sufficiently for ourselves and the coming generation unless we do our part, like true American sportsmen. And we can only do our part effectively when we realize that in all angling it is the quality of the sport that counts --- that actually gives the real enduring pleasure --- and not the number of fish we catch." This was written in the early 1920's by J. E. Pflueger.

Have a very safe and fun opener, and see you at the next meeting.

Bruce

Kenneth J. Schmitt
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2014 ANNUAL FISH DINNER

Thank you to all who helped make the 2014 fish dinner fundraiser a success.

Front Door: Gene Bzdock, Tom Ardolf, Andy Michl, Luke Michl, Troy Schmitz

MC: Ken Smith

Door Prizes: Eric Poissant

Tip Boards: Bruce Kitowski, Norine Schmitt, Ron Fenske, Nate Rose, Aaron Meyer, Dave Mendel, Jeanne Lodermeier, Susie Ardolf

Floor Help: Eric Kohn, Joe Pfannanstein, Jason Jacobs, Jacob Moran, Roger Theiler, Nick DeBoer, Mitch Hoihjelle, Luke Jones, Avery Jones, Tracy Jones, Paula Rose

Serving Line: Marc Jefferson, Jason Johns, Bob Kmitch, Ryan Hoffman

Kitchen Cooks: Ken Schmitt, Mike Ruff, Ron Cruser

Dishes: Denny Kobiela and Bob Wruck

And to all those who donated prizes/silent auction items, went out and solicited prizes and picked them up.



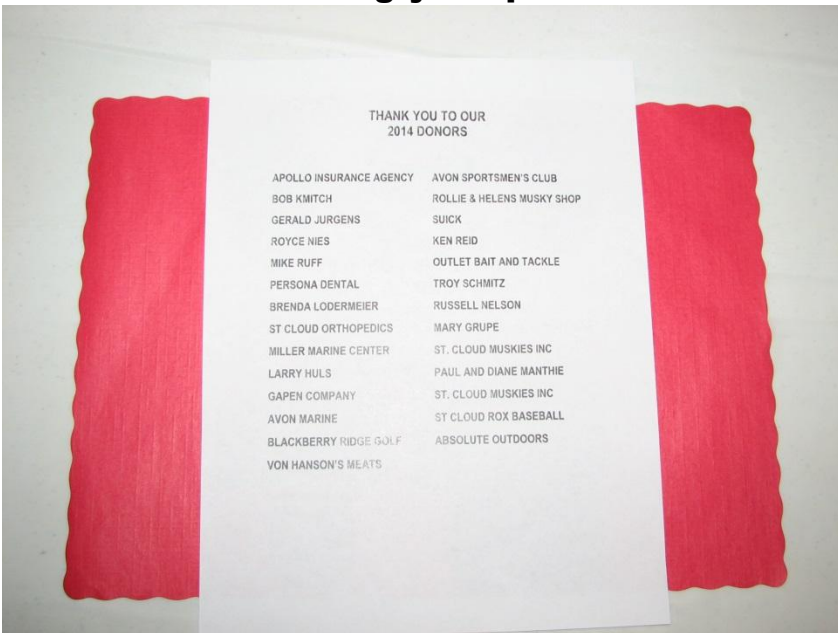
Tip Board Table Prizes



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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Big Brothers Big Sisters Program

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. Time commitment is from 9-1pm. A short time to make a lasting memory on our future generation of anglers. Please contact Eric Kohn if you are able to help with this event.

Waite Park Family Fun Festival Fishing Contest

Sunday, June 8, 2014, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. We will hold this event at Rock Island Pond between Sand Companies and Bernicks. We need assistance baiting hooks, untangling lines, weighing and marking down fish caught and registration. Please contact Bruce Kitowski if you are able to help with this event.

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT By Nate Rose

Spring time! It sure does feel good to melt the snow and see the lakes opening up. In April we don't have any new members but Jeff Miller renewed his membership. Up for renewal we've got Charles Meyer and Adam Kobes coming up in May. 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

We had a great meeting in April to hand out the plaques for the top finishers in 2013 contest standings. The plaques came out great again this year. Thanks everyone for attending!

Chapter Representative By Ron Fenske

This past month has really flown by. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the lure swaps at O'Gara's Bar & Grill in St. Paul, Brainerd, St. Cloud and the big lure swap at Cragun's. I ended up with some super deals on rods, reels lures, DVD's and even a drift sock. I can't wait to try some of that gear out!

We also had the chapter fish dinner fund raiser – if you missed that you really missed out on some good times and great deals. The silent auction was huge this year; they really did have something for everyone. Great job guys!

I hope everyone will be able to get out on the water for the other opener “walleye” or at least get out to test your gear before the June opener. I can't wait! I want to thank everyone would worked at or attended the fish dinner and I wish each of you the very best this fishing season. Ice out!!

<p>NEWSLETTER EDITORS Ken and Norine Schmitt 1208 8th Street South Waite Park, MN 56387 E-Mail to KENOR@JUNO.COM WEB E-MAIL: info@stcloudmuskies.com</p>

LAKE OF THE MONTH By Sven Larsen

Wow, what a great presentation on Lake of the Woods Paul Amberg gave us at the April meeting. He not only gave us information about how to fish the lake but also how to be careful with bears and how to keep the kids entertained on long fishing days. Thanks Paul! At the May meeting Troy Schmitz will be presenting Lobster Lake. Troy has a cabin on Lobster so he knows the lake well. Looking ahead, Dave Mendel will give a special extended version of Lake of the Month on Mother Lake in July and in August Marc Jefferson will be telling us about White Bear Lake. If you would like to do a short presentation at a meeting on a favorite lake, please let me know so I can get you on the schedule.

Thank You Message from Eric Altena for Hugh Becker Grant Donation

Hey folks,

Just wanted to send a huge thanks to all the members of St. Cloud Muskies Inc. We received the three muskie nets from Christainsen net last week. Thanks to your group for making this happen!!

We should be getting going on Alexander maybe even later this week. We will once again be counting on interested volunteers. I know Marilyn Emerson from our office will be in contact with Bruce and/or Aaron regarding coordination.

Thanks again for the generous effort! We'll be in touch soon.

Eric Altena

DNR Fisheries, Little Falls

eric.altena@state.mn.us

[320-616-2450 X 225](tel:320-616-2450)

Fall Get Together - 2014 By Dave Mendel mendjo1118@charter.net 320-293-6633

The Fall Get Together will be held September 11-14 at Cass Lake Lodge (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 cabins will only be held until August 15, 2014 at which time they will be opened up to the public. Make your reservations early to ensure a spot- 218-335-6658. 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. 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. Hope to see you there!!



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PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT By Aaron Meyer

I recently attended the DNR Esox Workshop to discuss muskie and pike management issues. There was some good information shared, and the DNR showed that they are looking into several issues that could potentially impact fisheries management in MN. First, we briefly discussed the muskie size limit proposal. There's nothing really new to report on this. There's been quite a few twists and turns along the way, and right now we're really not sure how it's going to turn out. I will say that it has become quite obvious that our efforts to provide input to Legislators regarding the 55 inch legislation were very effective. Thank you all who took the time to provide your input!

Next, we discussed the overall state of muskie populations in MN. There has been widespread discussion among anglers that the sport of muskie fishing has outgrown the resource, and the high level of pressure may be negatively effecting the quality of our fisheries. We've been expressing this concern to the DNR and they have begun initial efforts to analyze the situation. It may take them quite some time to dig into various theories.

Last, we were given quite a bit of information on the state of pike populations in MN. Much of it was right in line with the stuff I've shared in the past regarding the degraded state of our pike fisheries and the negative effects they have on other fish species. At this point, the DNR is not making any proposals yet, just working on possibilities. One of the likely outcomes will probably be pike management "zones". For the most part, pike populations react to harvest and management in particular ways based on what part of the state they are in. There appears to be roughly three zones where pike lakes differ greatly- southern MN, Central/Northern MN, and Northeastern MN. We may see pike management begin to take these zones into account.

Much of the information showed that throughout central and northern Minnesota it is very important to protect the mid-sized pike in order to maintain a healthy population balance. The initial ideas revolve around potential increased limits for small pike in conjunction with some form of slot limit that would protect those mid-sized pike, while still allowing harvest to be a big part of pike management. Representatives of the Darkhouse Assc. were in attendance for the first time in a couple years, and several of them again expressed their opposition to any form of pike slot limit. Needless to say, if the DNR is committed to improving Minnesota's pike situation, it's going to get difficult.

At our next members' meeting, we will have a presentation from Pat Smith. Pat is what you might refer to as a muskie industry insider. If you've ever been to Thorne Bro's muskie shop, you've likely talked to Pat. These days, Pat works at Frankie's Marine, a boat dealership known for catering to the muskie crowd. Pat will be discussing boat rigging and electronics. Should be a good one! See you there.

Aaron



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May 2014 Webmaster Report

Facebook: We are up to 119 LIKES, so we gained three over the last month. The page did serve as a great communications tool as the month led up to the fundraiser/fish fry. I hope folks took the opportunity to share the page. When next year rolls around, we should be more proactive and use this social medium to get the word out more extensively and possibly boost our attendance. We could even consider doing some social media advertising and see if that could help us, too.

Cafepress: Repeat from last month: Zero activity on this site by anyone.

I don't quite know what to do in this area. Some input from the membership would be useful. Is it because the items are not embroidered, that apparel isn't selling? Have I not selected products that are well-liked that carry our logo that purchases aren't being made? Let me know your thoughts by either emailing me at scmi.webmaster@gmail.com, or speak with me at the next chapter meeting.

Other: I had the extraordinary pleasure to attend the annual Muskies, Inc. meeting that was held at Cragun's on April 25th. It was made even more memorable by having George Selcke, who manages the Hugh Becker estate's foundation that provides annual financial grants to many chapters – including ours – to help our fisheries and youth engagement efforts. He's a passionate individual about our sport as well as quite visionary about things that need to be accomplished to insure a healthy “musky future”. He is quite active in planning the upcoming symposium, to be held in 2016. The Hugh Becker foundation has pledged \$75,000 of the estimated \$150,000 cost for this symposium.

The Board meeting was very illuminating, and I am very glad I attended. Passions and personalities did go to the extreme, shall I say, especially when the annual budget was being discussed. However, I sat back and realized that this is because everyone in that room wanted the best things to happen for Muskies, Inc. – it's just that there were many perspectives on what was “the best”. However, many difficult things were worked through, and consensus was reached on most things and adjustments made to budgets, initiatives, and plans. Also, a new corporate secretary was elected. Nominations were opened for a new president, and a member of the Twin Cities Chapter, Kevin Bushnick (currently VP/Youth Activities), was nominated as well as the new corporate secretary. Nominations will remain open until a board meeting in September.

The Keyes Outdoor sponsorship also received a good deal of debate. Next year's sponsorship was reduced and having a new marketing mix to boost membership is planned. Other committees' efforts were presented and discussed, and it was very illuminating to see how much work is constantly being done for all the chapters and members.

I met a bunch of new folks from the board and other chapters, I had a chance to spend some time with the new Editor, Amy Penza, with Ellen Wells (MI Admin Secretary) and her husband, Greg (VP/Membership and Marketing) who I've exchanged emails about various things over the last few years, and topped it off with picking up a lure or two or three (maybe more) at the lure swap that the Brainerd Chapter put together, so all in all, it was a very memorable day!

“Lake Landing Cleanups”. Our chapter performs cleanup at the following locations:

- SCMI cleans up the south landing on Sugar Lake.
- SCMI cleans up the landing in Sartell by the dam.
- SCMI cleans up the west landing on Lake Alexander.
- SCMI cleans up the west landing on Lake Shamineau.
- SCMI cleans up the Mississippi River landing in Sartell.
- SCMI goes to the Horseshoe Chain of Lakes and spends all day with several boats cleaning shoreline.
- SCMI does an annual cleanup of the Mississippi River shoreline on the west side in Sartell.

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