

# THE RELEASE

## JUNE 2014

Website:

[www.stcloudmuskies.com](http://www.stcloudmuskies.com)



**MEETING: JUNE 17, 2014**

**6:30 pm**

**GANDER MOUNTAIN PARKING LOT**

**BOAT SHOW**

**Everyone is welcome to bring their boat and share**

**Check Website if Inclement Weather**

**Time on the Water . . . . .** By Bruce A. Kitowski, President

I would like to welcome all the new members that have joined the chapter since the beginning of the year. It is so nice to see and talk to new members, everyone has a different view on how things are done and what changes might need to be done. If you are new to the chapter please come to a couple of our meetings and introduce yourself to some of the board members and visit for a while. Let us know what you are thinking.

A big thanks goes out to Troy Schmitz who did a fantastic job on the Lake of the Month on Lobster Lake. We can know see why Troy loves this lake so much. Also our May seminar was presented by Pat Smith and all I can say about him is wow! Pat had so many really cool tips for us it was hard to soak it all in. Thanks Pat we appreciated it.

In May we held the Big/Brothers Big/Sisters fishing outing. It was one of the biggest turn outs we ever had. The fish did not cooperate but everyone had a wonderful time. Thanks to everyone that came out and volunteered. This event could never get off the ground without the time and passion that you all give to help out these children.

This next weekend is the opener for us and I most defiantly will be on the water. We seem to wait longer than most other anglers for their sport, but remember that it is always worth the wait. Be safe out there and always practice kindness and courtesy. We all use the same waters.

*Bruce*

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## “BACK” IN THE BOAT

Finally, spring is here and the area lakes and rivers are ice free. As we begin to return to the water for outdoor recreation, here are some simple tips to make it more enjoyable and decrease your back pain:

- Make sure the watercraft is adequately secured to the dock when getting in and out. There are many injuries to the back that occur getting in or out as a person may lose their balance. A quick movement or worse yet, a fall, can make for a painful and short day on the water.
- Avoid rough water. The impact from coming down off waves can increase pressure in the spine and compress disks leading to increased pain. If you have to go through rough water, navigate safely behind islands or closer to shore. Your back will thank you for taking more time to get from point A to point B without going into the largest waves. If you are on large lakes and have back problems, look into air ride seats. They disperse and absorb the shock of rough water.
- Don't sit too long. Being a patient fisherman can yield rewards but can cause more back pain from prolonged slouched sitting. Sit up and take breaks to stand and stretch every half hour or so. Stretch by sticking your chest out and squeezing your shoulder blades together.
- Be aware of your body mechanics when lifting objects into the watercraft. Bend at your knees and keep objects close to your body when lifting anchor, tackle boxes and other gear. Don't forget about being careful when helping children into the watercraft.
- Just like your motor, you made need a tune up. It has been a long winter for both you and your watercraft. You both may have done a lot of sitting. Spring is the time to get out and walk, do some stretches, strengthening exercises and be more active. If you need help with your tune up, contact the health care professionals at the Orthopedic Sports Center, they will help get you “back” in the boat.

Eric Kohn DPT, OCS, CSCS

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## Big Brothers Big Sisters Program By Eric Kohn

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Big Brother and Big Sisters Outing took place on Saturday, May 3, 2014. The weather was sunny but cool and windy. This did not keep kids from coming out. We had 19 kids attend the event with their adult sponsors. Each child received a spin cast combo and a tackle box. The fish did not want to bite due to another cool spring. The slow fishing did not stop the kids from having a lot of fun and learning about fishing from the great group of volunteers. The smiles were all around as kids learned how to cast and rig rods for the first time. Thanks to all of the volunteers that came out for the morning. Volunteers included Bruce Kitowski, Ken and Norine Schmitt, Eric Poissant, Sven Larsen, Mike Ruff and Eric Kohn.



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **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**

In May we didn't have any new members or anyone dropping. Just a reminder, Charles Meyer still hasn't renewed his membership yet. We hope to see him back for another year. Up for renewal we've got Jim and Kay Caspers as well as Rick Stawski the month of June. The easiest way to renew your membership is online. The website ([muskiesinc.org](http://muskiesinc.org)) should prompt you for renewal once your membership expires. Spread the word and encourage anyone interested in muskie fishing/management to join our chapter, it would be great to see our chapter grow.

### **Contest Report . . . . . By Nate Rose**

The contest report will need to wait another month until the season opens in Minnesota since no one has registered any fish in May. It's probably fitting with the late spring, and everyone getting their boats prepped for the season late this year. Best of luck to everyone that is able to make it out on the Minnesota Muskie opener.

### **Chapter Representative . . . . . By Ron Fenske**

Hurrah! It's been a long wait but finally... the muskie opener is here. I hope the season will be a great one for everyone in the chapter. A number of people I know have seen muskies in sandy shallow water while crappies fishing the past couple of weeks. I was told that a 53.25 inch muskie was netted by the DNR on Alex (unconfirmed) during this year's muskie survey.



I did make it out for a week of walleye fishing up north last week and I must say it was great. I've put walleye fishing on hold for quite a few years. That week was a wake-up call for me. Five days and seven lakes of hard fishing; we had hooked lots of fish, ate some and had our limits to transport home. The new electronic technology is a sweet deal when it comes to locating and hooking walleyes. Stopping at bait stores is a bit of a bummer but otherwise I couldn't see any down side to the experience. I can definitely see myself doing more walleye fishing this year. I even picked up an electric fillet knife - the right end too... :)

## **PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT . . . . .** By Aaron Meyer

Well I assume, by now, that most of you have heard the great news, but for those that haven't... Our legislation for a higher muskie size limit passed! When the 2015 muskie season arrives we will have a statewide size limit of 54 inches!! It would take me a week to explain all of the ups and downs of this whole process, but I'll give you an outline of where we ended up and how we got here.

We started with legislation for 55 statewide. Meanwhile, the DNR had a proposal for 50 statewide, with 56 on select waters. They recognized the need for better protection, and verified that the Leech Lake strain of muskies can grow beyond 55 inches throughout MN. Initially the DNR proposal sounded pretty good, but it had some flaws. First, we felt that 50 just wasn't going to help much on the average smaller lakes. These lakes have the proven ability to grow fish well beyond 50 inches but harvest of just a handful of fish in the 49-51 inch range from these lakes each year really limits their ability to grow those true trophies. Next was a major concern with the DNR's "rule change process" that would have led to a very difficult process trying to implement the 56 inch lakes. We might not have ever gotten them. Last, was the real deal breaker....throughout this process we received a ton of support from resorts who wanted a higher muskie size limit. They see the value in protecting and growing large muskies. The DNR's two tiered approach would have left resorts on an un-even playing field, where one resort could have had a 56 inch regulation while another a few miles away, on a different lake, might have only had the 50. They did not want to be left competing against each other, with one resort losing business to another where the regulations produced larger fish.

The whole legislative process is pretty complicated, and was made more difficult by several Legislators who have a very ingrained, anti-muskie sentiment. The good news is that we've now made numerous allies in the Legislature, and after all of the discussions and committee hearings, some of the Legislators who initially questioned our bill turned out to be the ones who actually made it happen for us! We couldn't have done it without their support, and there are two main reasons we got that support. The first is all of the positive input we got from the muskie angling community. Thanks to all of you who made phone calls, sent emails, and supported muskies, we were able to show the Legislators how important muskies really are! As my fellow MMPA Co-Chair John Underhill put it- we showed them the heart and soul of muskie fishing, something the Legislature had never seen before.

The second major factor in turning the tide was the support from the resort community. Without them, we would be nowhere. The following is a list of resorts that publicly supported the size limit increase. Please consider these resorts any time you are staying somewhere in muskie country, and thank them for supporting muskies!!

Lake Vermilion: Ludlow's resort, White Eagle resort, BayView resort, Polly's resort, Everett Bay resort, Whispering Winds resort, Pike Bay resort, Pine Tree resort, Vermilion Dam Lodge, Retreat Lodge, Glenmore resort, Spring Bay resort, Life of Riley resort, Forest Lane resort, Fortune Bay resort.

Lake Bemidji: Ruttger's resort.

Big Lake: Dreamers resort and Campground.

Lake Plantangenet: Balsam Beach resort.

Lake Miltona: Viking Bay resort.

These are key Legislators who made this happen for us. Nothing we did would have mattered without the actions of these people. Please call or email them, and thank them for the great things they did for muskies!

Senator Thomas Bakk 651-296-8881

Representative David Dill 651-296-2190 rep.david.dill@house.mn

Senator John Hoffman 651-296-4154 sen.john.hoffman@senate.mn

Senator Matt Schmit 651-296-4264 sen.matt.schmit@senate.mn

Senator Carrie Ruud 651-296-4913 sen.carrie.ruud@senate.mn

Representative Jason Isaacson 651-296-7153 rep.jason.isaacson@house.mn

The 54 inch decision came about as sort of a compromise between our plan and the DNR's. It was something the key Legislators were more comfortable with, and I think that we all (meaning us muskie advocates, the DNR, and the Legislature) are very happy with the final outcome. In the end, even the Legislators who had questioned the need for better muskie management voted for it!

There are a few exceptions to the 54 inch regulation. The designated Tiger Muskie lakes within the Twin Cities Metro area are not included. There is an exception written into our bill that will also allow the DNR to select specific waters to remain at 48 inches. This was intended for lakes with the shoepac strain of fish, which do not reach 50 inches (as far as we know). There's no definite news on whether the DNR will choose to do this or not. And last, the border waters fall under a different statute and are not included. The MN DNR is working with neighboring states to match up season dates and length limits.

This new regulation is a giant step for muskies in Minnesota! I'm excited to see the positive effects on our fisheries.

Thanks for your support!

Aaron Meyer

MN Muskie and Pike Alliance Co-Chair

Aaron

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**June 2014 Webmaster Report**

**Facebook:** It has been a more active month on our Facebook site with a net gain of 6 LIKES. We had reason for traffic, such as the legislation issues, Big Brothers/Big Sisters event, netting, etc. As always, please share this with your friends --- it's a few clicks for you to help us add people, and that provides good info to people about what we do and next year, people to inform about our fish fry!

The Big Brothers/Big Sisters pictures have been posted on Facebook, and I will plan on doing the same on our web site. I'd estimate we'll also end up with pictures from the Waite Park Family Fun Fest fishing event, so those, too, will get posted.

**Cafepress:** This has been a concern for me due to lack of traffic. The SCMI Board did decide to purchase SCMI aprons from Cafepress, so we'll see an order get processed for that, but other than that – nothing. I need feedback to make changes that will get you, the member, using this site.

**Web Site:** I continue with the general maintenance and posting of “Next Event” on the home page, newsletters, pictures, etc., but if anyone has ideas for changes or additions, let me know. Remember, solunar tables are there for you as the season kicks off soon!

**Other:** I had the extraordinary privilege of spending a Sunday with the Little Falls DNR folks, working with them for the population assessment netting effort. I did it on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>, and it was one of the best volunteer opportunities I've had! If there is any way I can do it next year, I'm on board. We netted 11 musky, of which 3 were 50”+. Healthy fish, but what I also saw was an incredibly healthy walleye population co-existing with the musky. Kind of trumps all the rhetoric out at the bars and coffee clutch talks. I fish Alex, of course, so it was also informative for me to spend time on water doing this, if you know what I mean.....!

I've also had the privilege of working with our Youth Activities Director, Eric Kohn, to bring together the High School participants for the upcoming tournament. Eric will give you more on this, but I've had the opportunity to prep some cartography with Lowrance for us to provide to the entrants. I'm also going up to the Brainerd Chapter meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday to meeting with them on this, so I look forward to attending another chapter's meeting.

**Fall Get Together - 2014** By Dave Mendel [mendjo1118@charter.net](mailto:mendjo1118@charter.net) 320-293-6633

The Fall Get Together will be held September 11-14 at Cass Lake Lodge ([www.casslakelodge.com](http://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!!



*Corey Nazer 715-456-5531 [www.NazeBaits.com](http://www.NazeBaits.com)*

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