

THE RELEASE



MARCH, 2013 Website: www.stcloudmuskies.com

MARCH 19, 2013

7:30 p.m.

WAITE PARK AMERICAN LEGION

SPEAKER: Eric Altena

Area Fisheries Manager

Little Falls DNR

Time on the WaterBy Bruce A. Kitowski, President

Well this is the month that makes us all forget about how cold the winter actually was. We are over the hump and the new muskie season is just around the corner. Time to hit the shows and go through the gear.

Our big seminar for January/February was outstanding. Thanks to Gregg Thomas for putting on a great show. If you have never been to one of his seminars you are truly missing the boat. Greg spoke on sucker rigging and had some unbelievable film footage of how muskies act and react to suckers. Also he spoke on Lowrance electronics. He donated a full day guiding trip. Paul Amberg donated a beautiful custom rod that he built. Paul owns Venture Custom Rods, and what he can do to a rod will blow your mind. Thanks to everyone that came and shared this evening with us. Read on in the newsletter to see who won the prizes.

Please don't forget to sell your tickets to the Anglers Dinner. We need everyone to pitch in and help make this a success. We also need as much help that evening as possible. This is the only fundraiser of the year for us, and it will determine what we will be able to do as far as stocking, and Natural Resources support. If anyone can donate any prizes or knows of anyone that would be willing to give a little, please try. This is the entire memberships club, and only by working together can we guarantee its survival.

Sven Larsen came up with a brilliant idea and he is calling it "Lake of the Month". I will let him explain the rest later in the newsletter. Good ideas from great men.

Try to get on the website as much as possible because it is changing all the time. We are going to start to put more emphasis on getting our message out to the members through the website. So if you don't stay on top of things you just might miss something. Tom Ardolf is doing a wonderful job and I encourage everyone to use this important tool and use the message board as an informational highway. If you need a little help, or would like to see something on the site please contact Tom.

Thanks again, and hope to see you at the next meeting.

Bruce



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LAKE OF THE MONTH By Sven Larsen

Get ready for "Lake of the Month"

We are going to offer more opportunity for members to get together and fish this summer. Starting in June we will start the Lake of the Month. At the chapter meeting one of our members will introduce the lake and give us some strategies for fishing it. Then all those who can will be welcomed for a fishing outing on that lake later in the month. Here is the schedule for 2013:

June 29 th	Sugar Lake
July 27 th	Lake Shamineau
August 31 st	Lake Miliona
September 12-15	The annual Chapter Cass Lake outing
October 26 th	Lake Alexander

Feel free to put as many of these dates on your calendar as you can and join other members to fish the Lake of the Month.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters Outing May 4th By Eric Kohn

Volunteers needed for our annual Big Brothers and Big Sisters Outing on Saturday, May 4 from 9:30-1:00 p.m. Let's take advantage of this great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our younger generations. Share your passion for the outdoors and help others to learn to appreciate the great sport of fishing. We will again be giving each "little" a rod/reel combo and a tackle box. They will need help with rigging, baiting and casting. We need volunteers to make this morning of fishing a success. Please meet at the Bernick's Pond in Waite Park at 9:30 am and be ready for a few hours of fun. We will be done by 1pm. Call me (612-636-7928) or email (epkohn34@hotmail.com) if you have questions.



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ANNUAL FISH DINNER **FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2013,**

VOLUNTEER FOR THE ANNUAL FISH DINNER FUNDRAISER
We mailed all of the tickets this year. If you need more tickets, contact Bruce. We need your support for our annual fundraiser, so please try to sell your tickets and return the money by the March 19th meeting.

Thank you.

Ken Schmitt
320-290-6272
kenor@juno.com

Bruce Kitowski
320-290-7101
esoxmaster@charter.net

Eric Kohn
612-636-7928
epkohn34@hotmail.com

St. Cloud Chapter of

MUSKIES Inc.

Presents the 2013
Anglers ^{"All You Can Eat"} Fish Dinner & Fundraiser

Join the fun with
Door Prizes & Silent Auction!

Friday
April 19th, 2013
4:30pm – 7:30pm

The Waite Park American Legion

Tickets available at the door or in advance from
any Muskie Inc. member by calling 320-656-1160

Cost: Adults \$10.00
Children (12 & under): \$5.00

Visit us on the web at www.stcloudmuskies.com

Money raised to benefit local community events including:

- ▶ Big Brothers / Big Sisters Fishing Outing
- ▶ Educational Fishing Seminars for Youth
- ▶ Research & Fisheries Efforts
- ▶ Waite Park Festival Kids Fishing Contest

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PROGRAM DIRECTOR By Aaron Meyer

Well, here we go again. There's a lot going on right now in regard to muskies and northern pike. Over the winter, we've proposed ideas to the DNR regarding better pike management as well as an increased size limit on muskies. Our ideas have been discussed throughout the DNR and in the Legislature. As usual, the Darkhouse guys have their own agenda, and feel the need to have a say in not just pike regulations, but muskie regs as well. They currently have Legislators carrying a bill that would remove 8 of the existing spearing bans. They also finally coughed up their ultimate agenda (which I've stated before). They want to spear muskies and said so directly to DNR Management. This is why they don't want the Muskie size limit increased. Meanwhile, the DNR has come out in support of removing ALL of the existing spearing bans. Yet, despite our efforts for improved pike management, they've offered no proposals to do anything beneficial while removing those bans. Sometimes it truly seems that they are most comfortable when being handcuffed by rules limiting their ability to properly manage.

Though we don't know their exact number, it appears the DNR technical committee has suggested an increase in the muskie size limit. The big question is whether or not upper management agrees with that. They seem to think it's just a small group of us behind the idea of better muskie management. The time may be coming to remind them, as well as the Legislature, that we are the group who recently brought them more public input on muskie management than they've ever seen on ANY topic ever before!

Personally, I have a feeling that some, or all, of the spearing bans are going to be removed. That's just the way it looks, and it isn't necessarily the end of the world. It may be time, rather than fighting it, to use it to our advantage and get something good out of it. Remember, the only thing that gives the Darkhouse reps' arguments the smallest shred validity is the existence of those bans. I also think we will get an increased muskie size limit. When and how much is tough to say. The future of pike management is also up in the air. It's always best to resolve these issues through DNR rule changes, and John Underhill and I have been asked to a meeting with DNR management and Darkhouse representatives to discuss all of this. One thing we can all be sure of is that the Darkhouse guys aren't interested in compromise or beneficial management. Who knows where this will all end up, but if we have to we'll take it to the Legislature ourselves. We're fighting for the fish as well as the future of our sport. Stay tuned.

Aaron



Ryan Harden with Gregg Thomas. Winner of the Gregg Thomas guided trip



Tony Harden won the Muskie Rod donated by Paul Amberg Venture Custom Rods

WEBMASTER By Tom Ardolf

March 2013 Webmaster Report

Facebook: Our weekly reach for February has varied from a low of 64 to a high of 177. The more folks post and LIKE our site, the more we get both primary and viral exposure. Please take the time to visit the site and share some of your fishing experience. About 1/3 of our likes are women, and 2/3 are men. Our biggest age bracket is 35-44, which is about 27% of the people who like the site. The top 2 cities of folks who like the site are #1, St. Cloud with 15 and #2, Madison WI with 12.

Website: The Community Service page is up, and it's quite surprising how much we do when you put the list in one place. Final statistics for fishing results are posted. I try to keep the home page fresh with new and changing content, so I hope people visit it regularly. I tend to post on Facebook when major documents get posted so folks can read them on the site. You may have seen that I make one of our sponsors the "Sponsor of the Month" on the home page, in gratitude for their support. The next big thing for the site is a "Musky Match" section in the Forum, which provides an avenue to connect people up to go fishing on ad hoc basis. Please join the Forum, and I've started a phantom/sample trial to see if this is going to work. Please make a trial post so others can see it work, and you can too.....

Cafepress: The Board voted to move forward, so I've been spending some time on getting a site working. Cafepress has been having problems with image uploading, so I've been on hold for a few days. However, I'd anticipate we should have some things for sale in the very new future. I'd appreciate some folks volunteering to purchase an item or two to exercise the site in the coming weeks. Please email me at scmi.webmaster@gmail.com if you'd be willing to give it a try.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORTBy Marc Jefferson

Greetings! We do not have any new members to report this month. Our current membership stands at 88. Donna Pavelek, you're up for renewal this month. We're also very happy that Russ Nelson, Mary Grupe, Tim Radunz, Ed Ehresmann, Charlie Meyer and the family of Ken Smith have all renewed their membership this month. I hope everyone stays safe the rest of the winter, I'm ready to start fishing some open water. Any problems with the Lunge Log or your membership, don't hesitate to call me at 320-266-6456 or email airmarc00@gmail.com (airmarc zero zero).

FALL GET TOGETHER 2013By Dave Mendel

We are proud to announce the dates for our 2013 Fall Get Together. It will be held from September 12th through September 15th at Cass Lake Lodge. CLL 218-335-6658 www.casslakelodge.com

The camping and cabins rates for this year will be:

Tent Camping	\$25.00 / Night
RV Camping / W full hook ups	\$36.00 / Night
Cabins	\$40.00 / 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 2013 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

We will be charging a \$10.00 fee which includes a Friday night meal catered by CLL and a chance to win a fine muskie rod. 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 at, 320 – 293 – 6633; mendjo1118@charter.net

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