# THE RELEASE MARCH 2016

Website:

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Established in 1982



MEETING DATE: March 15, 2016 7:30 pm
WAITE PARK AMERICAN LEGION
SPEAKER: ALEX LAUER
LAKE OF THE MONTH – MANTRAP LAKE (September Outing)
AWARDS NIGHT

Come Hungry - Pizza and Beverage provided

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

Open water is on its way. Some of you are experiencing severe cabin fever and I don't blame you. But this winter so far is the warmest winter ever recorded in the United States. A warm winter every now and then isn't such a bad thing, it sure makes the months after the holidays fly by.

One of the only winter storms of the year had to happen on the night we were to have Laura Schara speak. There is nothing we could have done to change the weather, but it just sucked for the people that wanted to attend. We are already working on next year's seminar, and I promise it will be a good one. Thanks to all the sponsors that supported us.

On Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Anglers Dinner. We want this to be a great success and are counting on all our members to help in any way they can. Please sell the tickets that were mailed to you, consider making a donation and/or try to volunteer the evening of the dinner. We are behind a little on getting merchandise this year and I would like to ask if anybody can or knows anyone that would be able to donate prizes or merchandise to us it would greatly be appreciated. Our entire year reflects on how we do that night. Thank you for everything you do for the Chapter.

**Bruce** 





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

Each year, there are muskies kept by anglers hoping they've caught the new state record. Unfortunately, these fish never end up weighing what the angler hoped, and the fish is killed for nothing. Catching a state record fish is the ultimate goal for many anglers, and a new official record would lend legitimacy to Minnesota's muskie stocking program, but losing these top end fish does nothing for our fisheries. In the last few years, at the DNR Esox Workshops, we've occasionally brought up the idea of a Catch and Release state record for muskies.

The DNR recently informed us that they'll be implementing a new Catch and Release state record program, beginning this year. The program will initially be for muskies, lake sturgeon, and flathead catfish, because these species are largely targeted by C&R minded anglers. If the program catches on, eventually other species will be included as well.

The Master Angler program came up in our conversations, but we expressed concern that it did not provide the notoriety that people are looking for when they catch a really large fish. That program just doesn't get any press, and certainly doesn't provide the recognition record class fish deserve. So, the DNR plans to implement their own program, and would like it to eventually be carried by the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, possibly in conjunction with the Master Angler program.

The details of the program are not fully finalized yet. The real key to this program will be angler involvement. We need to embrace this program and encourage anglers to utilize it. It will only become a "real" record in the public's eye if people get on board and register their big fish. It will obviously take a few years to catch a lot of attention, but with some of the huge fish caught in recent years, it should have no problem getting going. This program has the potential to bring recognition to Minnesota's great fisheries, and help preserve those fisheries at the same time. Stay tuned

We've been talking a lot about the potential changes for pike management. The DNR recently finished compiling all of the input they received on the proposal. They've released a document that addresses the concerns and questions people had. Please read the following document:

The proposed new muskie waters need your help!

The opposition to muskie stocking is rising. While the arguments are just the same old false information about muskies harming other fish populations, the threat to our stocking program is real. A wealthy lakeshore owner is actively traveling across the state presenting false information to every Legislator, lake association, and local government agency that will listen. After being fed these lies about muskies, many lake associations, city councils, county commissions, and other local government agencies are actually passing resolutions to ban muskie stocking in their areas!

The current stocking proposals are in jeopardy. If they beat us on this, it will set a precedence for attacking the stocking programs on our muskie lakes statewide. We are working to combat this in several ways. It's time to address this issue with DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr. He is the focal point where science based fisheries management meets politics and public sentiment.

## Here's what we need:

Support from local businesses always carries significant weight in these issues. Minnesota businesses should send emails to the Commissioner <u>supporting the stocking proposals and the expansion of the muskie program.</u>

This can be ANY business that supports and/or benefits from muskies. Some examples would be guides, lure manufacturers, bait shops, tackle companies, retailers, television hosts, boat dealers, boat manufacturers, gas stations, hotels, and restaurants. **Every business, no matter how big or small**. Try to think of anyone you have contact with- call them and ask them to do this. These businesses don't need to commit to anything big, or put their support for muskies on public display. Just a simple email to the DNR Commissioner is all we ask.

Below is the contact information. Please also copy the emails to Dave Schad the Deputy Commissioner, Bob

Meier the Assistant Commissioner, and Don Pereira the Fisheries Chief.

DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr: Deputy Commissioner Dave Schad:

tom.landwehr@state.mn.us dave.schad@state.mn.us

Assistant Commissioner Bob Meier: Fisheries Chief Don Pereira: bob.meier@state.mn.us don.pereira@state.mn.us

#### Aaron

MN Muskie and Pike Alliance Co-Chair

# OUTING'S CHAIRMAN . . . 2016 Club Outing on Big Mantrap . . . . By Ryan Hoffman $\underline{SEPTEMBER~22\text{-}25}$

The 2 eight person cabins at Norway Hills Resort on Big Mantrap for the 2016 SCMI chapter outing September 22-25 have officially been reserved. The owners have been great to work with and are looking forward to our stay. 8 people are confirmed with a deposit so 8 more spots are available! If we get more than 8 that want to go between now and September they have additional cabins we can rent. Let's fill those cabins! Cost is \$120 each plus tax for the 4 days/3 nights, you can't beat it!

The more people that go lead to more info being shared, the more info shared leads to more fish being seen which leads to the more fish in the net! Most importantly - more friends and memories are made in the process. Knowing the group of anglers who have already put down a deposit, there are going to be fish caught - reserve your spot and be a part of it! There are going to be some contests and wagers too which will add to the fun!

There is also tent camping available at the Mantrap Lake Campground and Day Use Area adjacent to the main launch for those who may choose to camp. From the DNR website "The campsites are considered "primitive", designed to furnish only the basic needs of the camper. The campsites consist of a cleared area, fire ring, and table. Vault toilets, garbage cans, and drinking water are available. All sites are on a first come, first-served basis". Cost is \$14 per night and is required via registration envelopes available at the campground.

Check out the resort here: <a href="https://www.norwayhills.com">https://www.norwayhills.com</a>

Before the next newsletter I hope to have a lineup of a couple day trip outings put together for the summer months, maybe a few evenings too.

See you at the next meeting! *Ryan* 

# YOUTH DIRECTOR REPORT . . . . . . . By Eric Kohn

**Save the Date**... Saturday May 7, 2016 - 9:30 - 1pm:

14th Annual Big Brothers Big Sister Fishing Outing,

Rock Island Park, Waite Park

## **ANNUAL FISH DINNER – APRIL 29TH**

We are still looking for donations for door prizes, tip boards and silent auction items.

Contact Bruce 320-290-7101 or Ken 320-290-6272 for prizes and

Eric to volunteer: epkohn34@hotmail.com 612-636-7928



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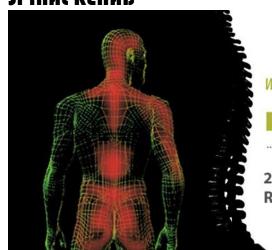




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# WEBMASTER REPORT..... By Alex Lauer

We sure hope everyone is finding a way to cope with the mid-winter slump. Build baits, brush up on articles, and watch all the videos you can to keep yourself sharp for the next 3 months!

Coming into March, our Facebook page has been seeing quite a bit of activity! We are up to 528 likes, which is a huge jump from the first of the year. Please continue to like & share any posts that move you, as well as feel free to invite all of your friends to join in by inviting them directly off our page. We are always looking for good content to share!

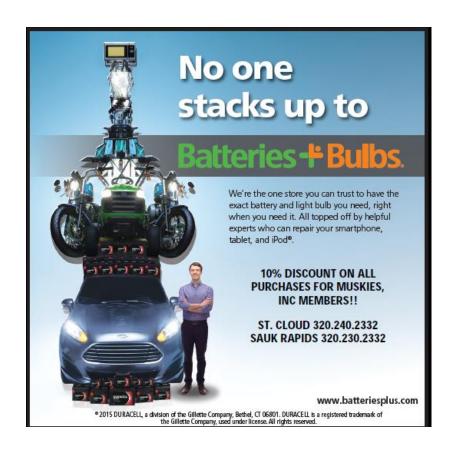
As far as other news, there isn't much. I've been busy getting myself organized to field E-mails, and update the website occasionally once the season starts. I do urge everyone to use the Facebook page as much as possible, as it's the quickest and easiest access to the happenings of the club!

I personally look forward to seeing everyone at the March meeting for awards, and a breakdown of Mantrap Lake which happens to be the location of our big chapter outing in September!

Alex







### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Hospitality Suite hosted by Twin Cities Chapter (#1) and North Metro Chapter (#21)

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016

ANNUAL MEETING AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HOSTED BY TWIN CITIES CHAPTER (#1) AND NORTH METRO CHAPTER (#21)

7:00 am - 8:00 am Breakfast Buffet for Annual Meeting attendees 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Annual Meeting Working Lunch for attendees

5:00 pm - 9:30 pm 50th Anniversary Banquet Celebration 10:00 pm - midnight Hospitality Suite

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016 | MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016

HUGH BECKER MUSKIE SYMPOSIUM COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS TO BE PROVIDED BY SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE

8:00 am - 9:00 am Breakfast served for Symposium attendes 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Hugh C. Becker Muskie Symposium 12:00 pm-1:00 pm Lunch served for Symposium attendees 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm Hugh C. Becker Muskie Symposium 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Dinner served for Symposium attendees

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016

8:00 am - 9:00 am Hugh Becker Muskie Symposium

## HOST HOTEL

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Muskies Inc. Room Rate: \$89 per night plus taxes Room rate will be available until February 18, 2016

## **CONTEST REPORT**· · · · By Nate Rose

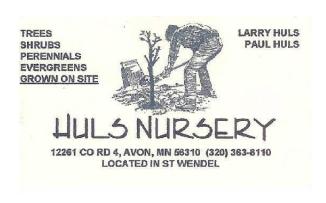
Well the 2015 season is a wrap. I'd like to congratulate everyone who boated a fish this season and especially those who boated 50" fish!!

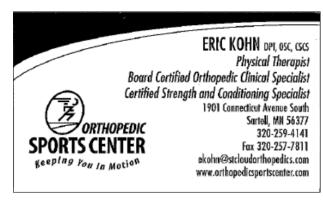
Thanks for participating in the contest everyone and I hope you had a great season. Have a great winter as you reflect back on the 2015 season.

# **MEMBERSHIP REPORT** · · · · · · · · By Nate Rose

In January we had Mike Bristow join, so please welcome him. There were no drops this month. Up for renewal in February we've got Bob Wruck and Rick Stark. The easiest way to renew your membership is online. The website (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.







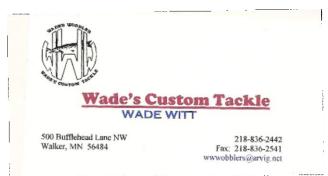
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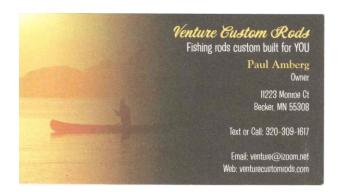
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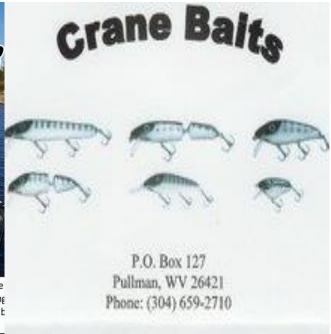
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Chase Poissant (four years old) caught this nice fat 32" plus northern ice fishing with dad, Eric Poissant. Way to go Chase!! Great video of the catch on Eric's Facebook page!!





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