



# On the Water

Volume 9, Issue 7

JULY 2006

## Raffle Sales=Future Trophies

from John Newman, Jr., Project and Rearing Fund Chair

As you read this article, keep in mind that we have only a short time left before our stocking fund raiser ends with the drawing on July 11. So far, we have not done as well this year as we did last year. We are approximately \$6,000 behind last year. As the title of this article suggests, there is a direct correlation between our raffle sales and the potential for future trophies.

I had the opportunity to get out early this spring to fish two of our twin city lakes: White Bear and Forest Lake. At the time, the water was still very clear and I was amazed at some of the fish we spotted. Both lakes have a good size variety of fish and truly some trophy fish; 30 and 40 pound class.

Our chapter's stocking efforts began on Forest Lake in 1986 when we purchased 2,000 8-10 inch Wisconsin strain muskies at a cost of \$10,000. These dollars were the proceeds from the 1985 Project and Rearing Fund Raffle. We continued stocking Forest Lake for a couple of years until the DNR took over the stocking.

We began stocking White Bear Lake in 1990 and the fish were raised and purchased also from raffle proceeds. White Bear was stocked in 1990, 1991, and 1992 with 330 18-23-inch two-year old fish valued at \$30 apiece each year. The last few years, we have continued to spend our raffle proceeds on White Bear Lake; approximately \$15,000.

You can see how our raffle dollars have helped to create and maintain some truly great muskie lakes. It wasn't that long ago, that if you wanted to go muskie fishing for a day, you would have to purchase a Wisconsin license and head for lakes such as Dear, Bone, or the Apple River. Now the Wisconsin people are buying Minnesota licenses and coming to our lakes.

The downside is that this creates more pressure on our existing fisheries. That is why your board of directors is looking into starting more lakes. The downside to that is that it is very expensive to start a new lake and continue to stock it until it has trophy potential. This brings us back to that silly little orange \$2 raffle ticket. Sell as many as you can and, together, we can ensure the future of muskie fishing for our kids. Please call for more tickets: 651-699-8676.

*See you at the drawing, thanks for your participation!*



**Capable Partners Chapter Outing** A dozen friends from Capable Partners joined us for our annual outing on Lake Independence. Three fish were caught, but more importantly, a delicious lunch was served and fish stories told all day. **more on page 3**

## Mentor a Kid

by Brent Fox, Youth Fishing Chair

Greetings to all Musky faithful. As of May, I was knighted "Sir Youth Director". I was drawn to this because I love to teach and to take people fishing who don't normally get to, especially kids and teens who need some healthier addictions. Well... that is if you consider spending much of your time and fortune chasing pea brained fish with teeth "HEALTHY"!

**TAKE A KID FISHING DAY.** Is one day enough? To spark an interest it's great, but I personally know a guy who tried fishing as a kid and after many failed attempts he gave up. Now he wants his kids to go out with me because he realized that having a good experience can make the difference. He grew up with no one to take him fishing or to teach him what to do!

My challenge to you is to teach a kid or two how to fish. Take them out and develop their skills and appreciation for the outdoors and get them out a few times this year. I'll focus on youths, but these ideas are easily applied to spouses, family, friends, or co-workers that you could also take out.

**RULE#1 Your Family Comes First!!!** No brainer. If you've established a strong foundation of fishing with your own family (spouse and kids) then you will be a better role model for an outsider. Don't neglect your family to focus on someone else.

**Mentoring continued on page 4**

## From Our President SHAWN KELLETT

I hope everyone is hitting the water and having a great season so far. I wish I could get out more myself but with the addition of Brandon "Hammer" Kellett my outings have been fewer and further between. For anyone looking for fishing partners this year, check out our website: <http://www.twincities-muskiesinc.org/> and go to the "Forum" section located on the top right. Once there, you'll find a section titled: Have a boat/Need a boat. There you can post or respond to those that have posted looking for a fishing partner. Give it a try and meet someone new.

**WE REALLY NEED TO GET OUT AND SELL SOME RAFFLE TICKETS!** By the time you read this we'll only have a few more days to sell. Remember, if we don't sell tickets we won't have money to stock fish and do other fisheries projects. If you need more tickets or didn't get any to begin with please contact John Neuman or myself. Our contact information is in the back of the newsletter:

I spent a day in late June with Frankie Dusenka of Frankie's Live Bait & Marine stocking our club's and the MN Muskie Tournament's rearing ponds. We received 13,000 2-inch fry that we split between the two ponds. It was very cool to see muskies in their smallest and most vulnerable state. I even picked out the one I'm going to catch someday. As soon as she was released she shot out and T-boned a water bug!

Take care this summer, stay safe and stick a pig!!!



## Project and Rearing Fund Raffle Update

from Bob Culbertson, Project and Rearing Fund Raffle Co-chair

I would like to thank everyone for his or her contributions to the Rearing Fund Raffle this past month.

Between the May and June meetings we collected \$1900 toward our 2006 stocking fund goal. We have now paid all of the expenses related to the raffle and have a small profit to apply to this year's stocking efforts.

We still have a long way to go and a short time to get there if we are going to hit our stocking goal for this year. Our past efforts have really paid off, as evidenced by the results of the recent Metro Muskie Tournament. Six of the top 10 places were caught in waters that had no muskies and the chapter started stocking years ago.

Let's all give one last effort to sell a few more tickets before the raffle drawing at our meeting on July.

We again will have a drawing for some nice prizes for every one who has turned in 60 tickets by the July 11 meeting. Incentive prizes include: Bull Dog Pkg. from Musky Innovations; \$20 Gift Certificate from Axel's in Mendota Heights; "Dinner for Four" Gift Certificate from Carbones Pizza in Highland Park; \$50 Gift Certificate from Great American Marine; Lure holder, Surface Lure, and Line pkg. from Muskie Barge Co.; Phantom Lure Pkg. (1 each, 8 in. and 6 in.) from Phantom Lures; Marine Deep Cycle Battery from Parkway Auto in Highland Park; Bibs Box (pick one of the three models) from Pat McAllister.

Incentives to the top sellers include three great trips to the top ticket sellers.

- Trip for 4 for 1 week at Shingwak Resort on Lake of the Woods to be taken in 2006.
- Trip for 2 for 4 days and 3 nights at Birch Villa Resort on Cass Lake. Trip to be taken in 2006.
- Trip for 2 October 6 - 9th 2006 at Vermilion Dam Lodge.

There isn't much time left. We all need to sell LOTS of raffle tickets in order to not just break even on the expenses, but to make enough profit so we can do more stocking. Last year we earned over \$10,000 to put toward stocking efforts. This year so far, we have under \$2000 to put toward the stocking. **SELL RAFFLE TICKETS!!!!**

# A Successful Day with our Friends from Capable Partners

from Juris Ozols

It gets tricky. I wanted to tell you that this was our chapter's 14th annual Capable Partners outing on Lake Independence. But isn't that actually how many times we've done the Vet's Home Fishing Opener? Wait, I think it must be 16 Vet's Home events by now. I get those mixed up.

Well, at least that won't be confused with our International Tournament, which is going into year 39. Or 35? Or...

How many times have we netted and stocked Muskies in our local lakes?

How many times have we fished the Chapter Challenge? Of course we've won it, well, I don't know how often.

And there's no telling how many times our chapter has had Muskie trips to Rowan and Winnipeg River and Crow Lake and Red Wing and so many other places. I can't count that high...

Never mind. It just struck me that if a bloke is into couches and TV, then our Twin Cities chapter is not the place to be.

But Lake Independence was indeed the place to be on the morning of Sunday, June 11th. We took a dozen of the Capable Partners folks out, for the umpteenth time, in perfect fishing weather. We got three Muskies, by Messers Kellet and Hartman. I got some nice photos – especially of Paul catching his fish. Carol Heath took care of our breakfast coffee and running the picnic table, as usual. And we also had the usual superb shore lunch fixed up by chef Tom Lund.

A really nice, friendly, comfortable morning. We'll have many more, I'm sure. It might be a bit uncertain whether the next one will be CP V or CP VI or whatever. But no matter – if you've never done one, come on out next year. Second Sunday in June, Lake Independence. It's one of the many great things our chapter does.



## Members Only Contest

from Pete Randall, Contest chair

A 50" + hello to everyone! I would like to take a minute and introduce myself as the new Members Only Fishing Contest chair. As you may already know, my name is Pete Randall and muskie fishing has become a new and truly exiting passion of mine (and now my son's too). That started last July up in Canada with my father and uncle. Enough about me, lets talk about catching fish.

As the season progresses you have a couple of options for participating in the Members Only contest. First, and easiest is to go online – [muskiesinc.org](http://muskiesinc.org) – the International web page. Just click on the "members only" tab at the top and log in. Follow the MOFC tab and the directions on the next page. Painless!

The second method for submission is a printable form. Simply print up a submission form and fill it out. Forms can be obtained at the monthly meetings as well as from the website. I have received about a handful of forms through the monthly meetings and mail already with most of the fish taken by juniors! Just remember to read the forms carefully and fill in ALL of the questions completely.

Please mail completed forms to me or email me at [prandall@charter.net](mailto:prandall@charter.net) with all the necessary information. As a reminder, you have only one month after catching a fish to submit before it is no longer accepted. Send printable entries to: Pete Randall 6490 158th St. W, Apple Valley, MN 55124. I hope this season is a successful one for all of you, and we will see you ON THE WATER!

## Project Dollars Put to Use

Recently the board voted to send MI Chapter 09 (West Virginia) \$500 to help with a project at Woodrum Lake. A valve on the dam that controls the lake failed, the lake was drained and the entire fishery was lost despite efforts of the West Virginia DNR. The West Virginia chapter has been working with their DNR to restore the habitat. Fields of vegetation were planted before the lake was re-filled. When the lake is ready to be re-stocked, they will use our \$500 for feeder minnows. More information can be found at: [www.wvdnr.gov/2006news/06news063.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/2006news/06news063.shtm)



Vegetation fields were planted in Woodrum Lake before refilling. Note boat ramp in center of picture.

### Mentoring *continued from page 1*

#### **RULE#2 You're the Mentor/Guide. Cater to them.**

- Be patient with them.
- Put your rod down and coach them, assist them and hone their skills.
- Put them on fish. Panfish can be a great starter or even bass, pike or carp! If you can get them on a big fish then more power to you. Catching fish is the goal, you can try muskie later.
- Cater to them. Pack a lunch, bring a small grill for the boat or make a shore lunch. Consider the need for bathroom breaks (especially for girls, when they gotta go they mean it!) Bad weather? Cancel and go in more comfortable conditions. This is supposed to be fun!
- Give 'em a break. Don't expect them to match you cast for cast. Let them take a nap or play in the water or whatever.
- Be patient with them.

**PROPER EQUIPMENT.** Have decent stuff for them to use. Consider size and operational ability. Don't expect a smaller person to heave heavy baits on big gear all day. Spinning gear might fit the bill and still work for catching muskie and pike. Teach them baitcasting on bassin outfits for smaller hands.

**SAFETY.** Teach them (and model) safety on the water. Watch your back cast, keep hooks off the deck and seats, etc. Life jackets must be worn at least when cruising from spot to spot. Teach good manners on the water.

**STARTER EQUIPMENT.** Consider giving them a "starter kit". A used medium action spinning rod is great for anything from panfish to bass and small pike. Fresh line and a handful of bassin style lures. I've collected spinnerbaits, buzzbaits, crankbaits and other items on sale to use as hand outs. At the end of the day toss them a new lure. It's also a great way to clean out your own gear. Garage sales are great places to find cheap but decent gear. The gear can depend on the kid. For younger kids a Zebco outfit is just dandy with some panfish tackle and a few small bass jigs/lures. Use fresh line, of course.

Be aware that some kids won't get as "hooked" or may be simply irresponsible with your donated gear. Teach them about quality gear and, if they are serious enough, encourage them to earn their own money and help them pick out a good outfit. There's more pride in ownership when they've earned it and bought it themselves. They can learn responsibility as well as other basic life lessons and growing up.

**ONCE ISN'T ENOUGH.** It's better than nothing, but if you can take them out once a month or at least a handful of times in the year you will have helped develop that young person in many good ways. They will model after your example, so be the RIGHT example. Keep the cussing and bar stories for others.

Now I have to bring up a HARD FACT. WHO'S THE PREDATOR? I'm not talkin' fish anymore. We live in a world with child predators. This is your reality check. Be considerate of parent's concerns and have ACCOUNTABILITY. Even a false accusation can have traumatic results.

Here's a few ideas to keep in mind.

- Don't go out alone. Make it a family or group event. Bring 2 or 3 kids - they usually have a friend who'd be interested. I won't say "NEVER". A man fishing with an older teenage boy is less of an issue than if he were out with a girl or younger kids.
- Have set times and locations. Have cell phone numbers available so you and parents can be in contact for questions or emergencies.

To end on a good note, just think of your own experience growing up and how you and others you know were shaped by your experiences fishing and being in the outdoors. I'm sure a lot of you could come up with more material or ideas to add.

I won't claim that this is all there is to know, I just think these were some of the more significant points to be made. Taking kids fishing is not going to keep everyone out of trouble or from bad choices in life, but it certainly is a great thing to be involved in and those of us who do take kids fishing could be making huge contributions to them making wiser decisions about their life.

Lead and set the example!

# Share Photos of Your Fishing Adventures

from Mike McGrath, Twin Cities Chapter Web Coordinator

I'm pleased to announce that Twin Cities Chapter Members are now able to upload photos on the chapter web site and share them with everyone.

There are links on how to do this on the first page of the website:

[twincitiesmuskiesinc.org](http://twincitiesmuskiesinc.org)

I hope members will use this, show off your recent or even old photos of fish you have caught. This can be a lot of fun and you can always email the pages to your friends and family to show them what you have been up to and why you skipped the last family get together!

*Take care happy uploading and tight lines.*

Muskies Inc. Twin Cities Chapter General Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1114 West 79th Street, Bloomington, MN (just off I-494 & Lyndale Ave.) at 7:00 pm.

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## next meeting

**JULY 11**

### **SPEAKER: RAPALA REPS**

*George Large and David James of Rapala USA will be discussing new products on the market as well as improvements made in the muskie industry. George has fished all over the world and has been the in business his entire career. We're looking forward to some entertaining tales!*

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