



# Muskies Inc.

Fargo-Moorhead

Chapter

Box 2021

### Membership Renewal Reminder

If your name is listed here, your membership to Muskies Inc. is due to expire within the next 30 days. Disregard this notice if you've already renewed. Thanks.

**Ben Swanson**

Here's a picture of a few of the Muskies we stocked into Many Point Lake.



### Attention

Even if you've entered your fish on-line, you must fill out an entry form for Shawn. Your fish will not appear on the Standings page if you do not. Please get all entry forms to Shawn as soon as you can. Thanks.

You can now renew your Muskies Inc. membership on the computer with a credit card. You can even donate to the Kermit Benson, Perry Smith, or Gil Hamm Funds. They are requesting that you renew with your 90-day notice to save postage costs. That's up to you.



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## **FM Muskie, Inc. Officers**

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## **Board of Directors**

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**Newsletter Editor/Publisher**  
**Club Photographer**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/ ALD**  
**Research Director**  
**Chapter News Writer**  
**Brad Waldera**

**At our last meeting:** President Mark Stenger began the meeting by having Brett give us an update on the Muskie stocking project we're doing for Many Point Lake. Phase 1 has begun with 182 fish being put into the lake in mid-October, and 384 more fish have been stocked since then. We didn't get as much advance notice as we'd have liked, but a few pictures were taken. Brett may give another update at the November meeting.

Brett then went through all of the Motions voted on at the Fall Board meeting. Our Chapter presented four Motions. Two did not pass because they were By-Laws changes requiring two-thirds of the majority of voters. One Motion was withdrawn, and another one passed, but only after it was amended. Space limitations do not allow me to post all of the results, but you can find that information in a future Muskie magazine or on the Muskies Inc. website. I'd like to remind everyone to set up their password and frequent the website as often as possible. If you're not, you are selling yourself short and not getting all you can from your membership. Ron G. is always happy to assist anyone in getting started.

Brett also made a Motion that our Chapter donate \$100.00 to the International's Youth Fund. It was amended and passed, and reads as follows: The Fargo-Moorhead Chapter pledges \$100.00 to be earmarked towards a Youth project, with the money to be sent upon the International first establishing a Youth program. Our Chapter wants to know where this money is being spent, and what it is being spent on.

There is still talk about a gathering of the Minnesota Chapters of Muskies Inc. The when and where have yet to be decided, but our Chapter feels that this would be great for camaraderie. We'll learn more over the Winter, and pass along the details.

Our Chapter will be doing another collage for Muskie magazine this year. I'd like you to send me pictures of 50-inch fish, 1<sup>st</sup> Muskies caught, or Youth member photos. Please limit them to one photo per person, and put a Post-it note on the back stating the member's name and the length of the fish. Thanks.

As an At Large Director, I'm required to co-chair one of Muskies Inc.'s committees. I chose the Finance committee. This gives me access to certain information that you may be interested in, or have questions about. If you have concerns or questions about Muskies Inc.'s budget, or other financial matters pertaining to the organization, please don't hesitate to contact me. If I can't answer a question, I'll at least be happy to forward it on to someone who can. I am also a representative of the Muskies Inc. Big Brother Program. The Vikingland Chapter in Alexandria is my responsibility. I attended a meeting they held on November 14<sup>th</sup> with Jerry Wendlandt of the Minnesota DNR being the speaker. He talked about a variety of Muskie related subjects, but you'll need to attend our meeting next week or go to our section of the Muskies Inc. website to get that information. I simply don't have enough space in this newsletter for it all. It was very interesting. There may soon be some big changes in Minnesota's Muskie program.

Brad Waldera-Newsletter Editor

**At the next meeting:** We will have our "Summer Roundtable" discussion on where, when, and how fish are being caught in the area. We may have an update on the Many Point stocking.

## President's Message

Hello All,  
In the spirit of the season, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you that made this Muskie season a fun one. I shared my boat, and fished in other's boats more this year than ever. I caught some fish, learned a little, and made some good memories. We all need to remind each other why we joined Muskies Inc. We all have some of our own reasons, but we have to remember to have fun.

This season has also been made difficult. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, my dad was diagnosed with terminal lung and brain cancer. He never caught a Muskie, but he loved to fish. As he talks about his life and memories, the stories usually come back to his old fishing buddies and the fishing trips they'd had. He talked about the ones that got away, the ones that didn't get away, the beer they drank, and the fun they had. So we all need to do what we can to make Muskie fishing great and the memories last a lifetime. I know that my friends and the memories that I am making now are as special to me as my dad's are to him.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mark Stenger  
Pres. 02

## Notice

Extra Muskies Inc. 2007 calendars are available if anyone would like one. I'll bring them to the next two meetings, or I can mail them to you if you like. They're \$10.00 and there's no shipping fee.

## Upcoming Events:

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** - Regular meeting West Fargo VFW 7pm.

**December 18** - The Big one. This is our largest, and most important meeting of the year. We'll have our election of officers, Chili feed, DNR speakers, Tackle auction, etc. We'll also pass out the tickets to sell for our annual fundraising Banquet. Don't forget that this meeting has an earlier start, at 6:30pm. **DO NOT MISS!**

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**Member's Only Fish Totals**

<u>Member</u>	<u># of fish</u>	<u>Points</u>
<b><u>Men's Division</u></b>		
Jerry Sondag	44	690
Loren Crawford	29	550.5
Jeff Cadwell	28	434
Brian Penefield	17	360.5
Ben Swanson	15	268
Wayne Crawford	6	128
Jason Benson	6	107
Rick Eagleson	6	88
Jeremy Spaeth	9	86
Matt Aaser	4	74
David Hovda	5	68
Rod Aaser	3	64
Mark Stenger	3	61
Don Schrom	3	58
Jeff Bommersbach	3	56.25
Chris Schrom	3	53.5
Jon Jacobson	4	51
Brent Bushy	4	49
Jeff Samson	2	49
Jesse Frolek	2	35.5
Greg Harvey	1	25
Brian Grote	1	24
Jason Murray	1	24
Mike Flohrs	1	22
Jim Wolters	2	20
Skeeter Kingsberg	2	19
Troy Van Raden	1	19
Ron Teschner	1	17
Brad Waldera	1	15
Dan Trustem	1	14
<b><u>Master's Division</u></b>		
Joe Hardy	118	1036
Shawn Earley	42	697.5
Brett Waldera	41	654.5
Bud Anderson	29	268.5
Daryl Riley	10	149.5
Bob Collins	7	128

<u>Member</u>	<u># of fish</u>	<u>points</u>
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**Women's Division**

Ruth Anderson	22	199
Nancy Hardy	4	62
Jane Bartlett	3	59
Jen Matthees	1	26
DeAnn Grote	1	23
Jo Trustem	1	21
Karen Scheve	2	20
Melanie Aaser	1	13

**Junior's Division**

Evan Twa	109	914
Brady Crawford	3	63
Amy Crawford	1	22
Ryan Sailer	2	17
Eddie Stenger	1	11

**Professional Master's Division**

Will Hardy	175	1422
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**Lunker of the Month**

<u>January</u> - Troy Van Raden	45"
<u>May</u> - Daryl Riley	36"
<u>June</u> - Will Hardy	53"
<u>July</u> - Brady Crawford	52.5"
<u>August</u> – Jerry Sondag, Jeff Samson, and Jeff Cadwell, all with a 53"	
<u>September</u> - Jerry Sondag	52"
<u>October</u> - John Skarie	55
<u>November</u> - Jerry Sondag	52.5"

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, as part of my affiliation with Muskies Inc.'s Big Brother program, I attended the Vikingland Chapter's monthly meeting. Their speaker for the evening was Jerry Wendlandt, a representative of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He shared a lot of interesting information, so I thought I'd pass it along to those who couldn't be there.

He talked about the recent open-house meeting held to discuss the proposed changing of Lake Miltona's minimum length restriction from 40" to 48". The meeting was poorly attended, with almost as many people present opposed to this change, as were in favor of it. It was noted that some anglers were harvesting Muskies from Lake Miltona simply to remove them from the lake, and not actually consume them. Muskies in Lake Miltona take 8 years to reach 40" in size, so switching to a 48" minimum could make a big difference. Jerry mentioned that they were still waiting for confirmation, but he's very optimistic that beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> of next year, Lake Miltona will have a 48" minimum length restriction. There are actually 30 lakes statewide where they are trying to impose the 48" minimum.

In 2007, they will also be doing a critical survey, looking specifically for 1999 year class fish. They are currently stocking 800 Muskies every other year into Lake Miltona, which is actually 14% of what they are allowed. The information from this survey could be useful in future stocking of the lake, as the DNR reserves the right to increase their stocking if they feel the fishery is in jeopardy.

It is now illegal to transport live fish across State lines. The Department of Agriculture made that decision, but I'm unable to recall the reasons they gave for doing so. Even though 80% of the Minnesota DNR's resources are geared toward Walleye related matters, Jerry feels confident that in a normal year, Minnesota can produce enough Muskies to sustain their lakes. The MN DNR is planning on purchasing more fish from private growers.

Jerry stated that they'd like to get more lakes stocked in the area, especially southwest of Alexandria. They'd like to restock fish into Lake Minnewaska, but the lake association goes nuts every time it's brought up. Mina Lake is another option they're presently looking at. The Vikingland Chapter will be writing letters to Henry Drewes to encourage the DNR to pursue this. Other Muskies Inc. Chapters and members could show their support by writing to Henry too.

Looking back at the trend data for the past ten years, it appears that Lake Miltona shows a slight decrease in the amount of Suckers present. Jerry felt that this was not attributed to Muskies, as the Sucker population should have risen when the Muskie stocking was reduced. There is still a fair population of Suckers in Lake Miltona, and their numbers are far from dropping to a "red-flag" level.

Jerry had a lot of good information to share, and I'm glad I was there to hear it. Thanks Jerry.