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BEMIDJI /CASS LAKE CHAPTER OF MUSKIES INC.

# CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

<http://www.muskiesinc.com/chapters/46/>

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## Chapter Awards for 2011

Here is a list of the chapter awards for last year. The awards were announced and presented to the people present at the lure auction at the end of April. If you were not at the meeting and would like to receive your award and haven't yet please contact someone and we can make arrangements for you to get it. We do have a number of various patches available if you'd like one or more of those.

### Masters Division

Stu Wiegner – 353 pts, 28 total fish, two 50”+

### Men's Division

Brian Johnson – 189.5 pts, 11 total fish, one 50”+

### Women's Division

Katherine Ogden – 18 pts, 1 fish

### Juniors Division

Jessie Matthews – 43 pts, 4 total fish

## Community Involvement – Boat access cleanups a big success!!

The chapter had its first of two scheduled public landing cleanups the morning of April 28<sup>th</sup>. 10 chapter members + 1 little guy showed up at Northwoods Landing at 10am and began cleaning. We really cleaned up a bunch of garbage there and then moved on to the south landing near the Green

Mill. We got that one done and then dispersed from there in smaller groups to clean up additional landings. We got the Plantagenet landing, Cass Lake landing, Big Lake landing, the Lavinia landing on Lake Bemidji and even a few smaller lakes out in the Turtle River area cleaned!! All told we got 8 landings cleaned up. We had well over a full truckload of trash when we were done. All the cleaning was done by about 1pm Saturday. We've got one more cleanup scheduled this fall on September 29<sup>th</sup>. It would be great to have an even greater turnout for that one and remember, attendance at one of these two scheduled cleanups will be a requirement to qualify for the chapter replica contest for 2012. Thank you very much to everyone who made it, I just wish someone else had been “lucky” enough to find as many full dirty diapers as I was! And we all thought muskies and pike were about as slimy as things can get, guess again.

## Chapter Lure Auction Results

The lure auction was held at Cattails on April 28<sup>th</sup>. We had a very good turnout with some healthy donations of misc baits and equipment. When all the dust settled at the end of the night and the tally's were made the chapter increased the bank balance by over \$1000 for the night! For a small chapter like ours, and given that not only did chapter members step up to buy that much stuff, it's a huge accomplishment to see that much stuff get donated! Many of the lures purchased that night went for way

way way below actual value. It's amazing what this chapter can do sometimes! We want to give a special thanks to Ed Rauch as the auctioneer for the night, he really did a great job. We'd also like to make a special thanks to Duff Thury, maker of some extraordinary trolling baits (Supernaturals, Headlocks, Liplocks) who has donated some baits to the auction for a few years now. This year Duff's two donated lures raised \$245 for just those two lures! These lures "known to start fights" almost did when the bidding got a little crazy for a one of a kind "Miss America" Supernatural got a little exciting to finish the night. A final bid of \$171 for a single lure creates quite a buzz in a room full of muskie anglers. Next year we're working on a different approach for one of these special lures that will allow just about anyone on any budget a chance to get one. Another special thanks goes out to Ethan Rogers who donated a brand new Tackle Industries rod that night. Very well done Ethan.

## Legislative Update

The 2012 legislative session ended with a few positives this year. First off, MN is getting a new stadium! Go Vikes! This will be the first but not the last mention of MN's favorite team, sorry to fans of other teams out there, but Chapter 46 is a staunch supporter of the Purple! The news more of interest to fishing folk is that a new license fee structure was approved by the legislature and signed by Gov. Dayton. It's possible that not all chapter members were in favor of this legislation but in the end it will only benefit us as muskie anglers. Muskie stocking and management programs would have been amongst the first to see significant changes if the MN DNR doesn't begin to see an increase in revenue. It will mean that beginning next year we'll have to shell out a few more \$\$'s for our licenses but be able to maintain the great fisheries we currently have in MN, including what most consider the best muskie program in the country. A lot of chapter members were active participants in voicing support for these increases, thank you all.

## Season Opener is Upon Us

Are you ready? Got your equipment checked out, line, reels, rods, baits all up to snuff? Hooks

sharpened? Gear organized and cleaned up? If not – what are you waiting for! The MN muskie season opens on Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> this year and it's time to get pumped up folks! Big toothy slimey's are getting ready to bite! The water temps are likely to be a little warmer than most years, but not by much. One big difference is that the weeds in our area muskie lakes will already be at advanced stages of growth and nearly fully topped out in some areas. This is usually not the case by opener. Hopefully there will be a strong presence of fish in the weeds/shallows and are ready to bite. Remember open water trolling can also be very good early in June, especially if the weather has been bad. Keep it in mind. There will be a fun get together at Kevin Cochran's on Friday June 1<sup>st</sup>. Stop by in the late afternoon/early evening to talk about muskies and muskie fishing. Kevin's usually got some chow there also! It's real easy to find his place, it's at 2320 Lake Ave, just past Power Dam Rd on the east side of Lake Bemidji. See you there!

## Chapter Tournament – Donation Help

If any of you know anyone, any business, have a contact or an "in" with someone who might be willing to donate cash, products or services to the chapter please contact any of the clubs officers and get us that info. Better yet if you can get the donations directly and get in contact with us with what you've got, where you got it from etc that would be even better. We're planning on having a pretty nice spread of items to raffle off at the tournament awards and anything anyone can do to help is greatly appreciated. We may also be hosting a raffle during the Frank Schneider Tournament in September this year so we really can't get enough stuff. Let's do this!

## Chapter Email/Outreach

We're still asking any and all chapter members who receive the newsletter via snail mail to contact us and provide an email address. Every email we can send vs snail mail helps the chapter and you get more frequent updates and the most current chapter information via email also. Please email [thrax@paulbunyan.net](mailto:thrax@paulbunyan.net) or call 218-760-5867 to get us an email address.

## Chapter Contact Info

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You can also get chapter info on outings, the tournament and contacts on our website at <http://www.muskiesinc.com/chapters/46/>

See below for other upcoming events and till the next bite, fish well.

Brian Johnson, Chapter 46 Secretary

## Other Upcoming Chapter and Muskie Events

**June 1<sup>st</sup>** – 6:00 Pre-opener Chapter Social – Kevin Cochran’s house, 2320 Lake Ave on the east side of Lake Bemidji just past Power Dam Rd (if you’re heading north, just before it if you’re heading south). (Business meeting, supper, social event, musky stories and maybe even a “guess what’s in Kevin’s beard” contest!!)

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter Tournament. 5am – 4pm, Lake Bemidji, Plantagenet, Cass and Big Lake. Entry fee is only \$45 for adults, \$25 for youth 17 and under. Registration forms are available on the chapter website or at Bluewater Bait or Gander Mountain from 5pm-8pm on June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. For complete details see the chapter website or one of the posters up at either registration site. Bluewater will be offering 15% off any muskie lures purchased there by tournament participants those 2 evenings! Please get signed up in advance if possible but one way or the other, don’t forget! These tournaments are a truly great time.

**July 22 (Sunday)** – Pike Bay (9am-5pm). There is a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) public access on the south side of the lake at the South Shore Campground, just off of Pike Bay Loop Road. Pike Bay is also frequently accessed from Cass Lake by boat through the creek channel that connects the two lakes. This may not be the best way for larger boats, depending on water levels. See the website or the February newsletter for additional outing information.