



## Prez Sez

Happy New Year! Now that the season is officially over, everyone can look back and reminisce about the good times on the water with friends and family. I, on the other hand, will be moving on from last year as I did not get out very often. Let's just say it was not my best season. There's always next year!!

Even though we can't go fishing for a few months around here, there is still a way to get your musky fix. Expos! CCMI will again be an exhibitor at the Chicago and Milwaukee Muskie Expos and the Wisconsin Fishing Expo in Madison. This year we will also be at the Wisconsin Musky Expo in Wausau. I really enjoy going to the expos and meeting up with some great anglers, talking a little fishing, and of course, checking out the latest and greatest lures and gear. If you are attending any of these events please stop by and say hello, and of course get yourself some Recon Boat Raffle tickets at the Madison show.

As we start 2024, I would like to thank every member for helping CCMI have another successful year! All of our events were well attended, we were able to put 1921 new muskies into the Madison Chain, and we had some great speakers at our monthly meetings. I am looking forward to another great year. I hope to see you at one of many events and meetings this coming year.

Only a little more than 4 months until musky season!!

Brian Falleck

*I don't mind going to work, but the 8 hour wait to go fishing is ridiculous!*

## January General Meeting

**January 15, 7:00 PM**  
Doors open at 6:00 PM

**Bowl-A-Vard Lanes**  
**2121 E Springs Dr**  
**Madison, WI 53704**

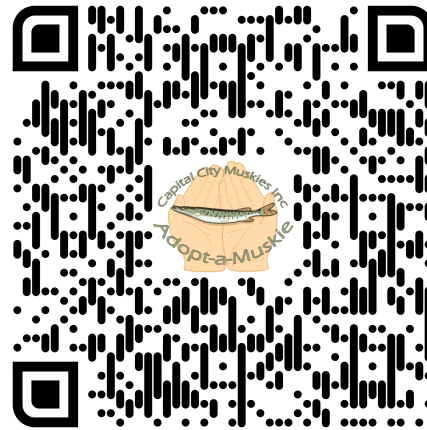
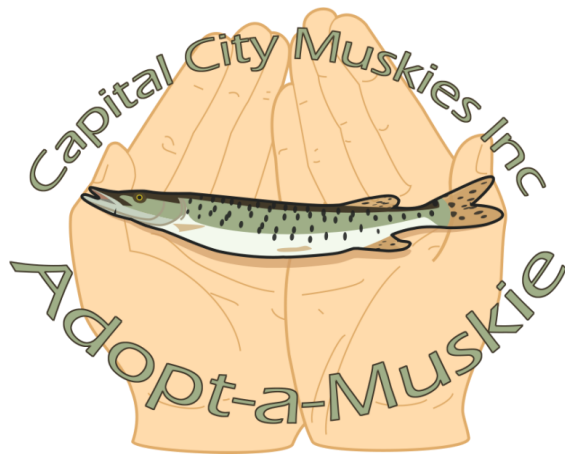
Come join the fun in talking muskie fishing, sharing fish stories, and meeting new muskie anglers.

Meetings are open to all, bring your family and friends!

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Samuel Stafslieen,**  
**Wild Rose Fish Hatchery**



**Help us ensure a healthy population of muskies in the Madison Chain.  
Scan the QR code below or visit [our website](#) to Adopt-a-Muskie!**



## 2024 Event Calendar

**NOTE: Some dates have changed. Please double-check and mark your calendar!**

January 15	General Member Meeting @ Bowl-A-Vard
February 19	General Member Meeting @ Bowl-A-Vard
March 11	CCMI Awards Ceremony
March 23	21 <sup>st</sup> Intermediate & Advanced Muskie School
April 6	Annual Fundraiser & Fishing Seminar, featuring Jeremy Smith
April 19-20	Iowa Hawg Hunt
May 11	Madison Chain Outing
May 13	General Member Meeting @ Bowl-A-Vard
June 15	Wisconsin Youth Muskie Championship
June 21-22	Bill Wood Memorial Outing
August 17-24	Lake of the Woods Outing
September 21	PIT Tag Challenge
October 5	Fall Muskie Tournament
October 11-12	Vilas County Outing

## At-Large Board of Directors Elections Results

At The December General meeting, elections were held for directors whose terms ended in 2023 and for open board of director positions. The following directors were elected or re-elected: Robbi Hron, Steve Soma, Tripp Soma, Jeff Lyon, Mike Milia, Brett Cook, Dan Donovan, Nathan Jandl, Paul Twardy, Todd Berge, Kyle Kramer, and Rob Mackesey.

# CCMI Release Report

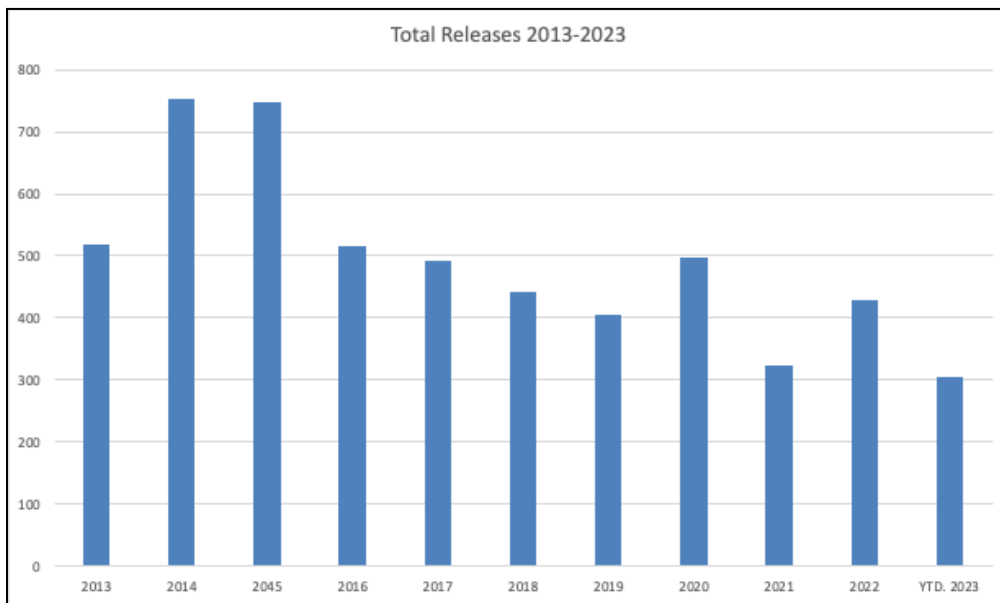
Chris Smith – Release Chairman

Hello CCMI Members!

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you are wrapping up the new year, which brings you huge fish and calm water. I am working hard to crunch the 2023 numbers and prepare for the annual awards. As a reminder, if you still need to do so, log your December releases as soon as possible so that I can calculate the final standings by February.

With the warm December, hopefully, you were able to get a few extra days in. As we were getting the Musky reports done for the club and the DNR, I wanted to share some of the stats that I shared with the board in terms of Madison Chain releases.

Year	Total Releases	Avg Size	Top 3 Biggest
2013	518	39.5	50, 49, 48.5
2014	753	39.03	49.5, 49, 48.5
2015	748	39.04	50, 49.75, 49.5
2016	516	39.02	50.5, 50, 49.5
2017	493	39.06	50.25, 50, 49.25
2018	441	39.05	51.5, 50.75, 50.5
2019	404	39.04	52.25, 51.5, 51
2020	497	39.04	53.25, 51, 50.75
2021	324	39.03	51.25, 50.5, 49.75
2022	428	39.06	52.5, 51.5, 49.5
YTD. 2023	306	39.02	51, 50.5, 49.5
	5428	39.08	



2023 looks like a big down year for us regarding releases for the Madison chain. However, there were two big tournaments, with PMTT being one of them, and I suspect that PMTT teams haven't registered any of those. The sizes have steadily increased and are consistently above 50 for the big catches. It's hard to tell by looking only at the numbers to draw any definitive conclusions as it's all self-reported. But I would say the stocking efforts have certainly shown to raise #s of the size of big fish. The yearly catch rate is fairly consistent but has dropped off and then plateaued in the last 5 years or so

It's one data point over time, but it's worth the extra effort to keep pushing stocking efforts and community engagement for support.

See you all soon!

# CAPITAL CITY MUSKIE SCHOOL

MARCH 23, 2024 – WAUNAKEE HS



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mpd339r@charter.net

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- Great raffles, free coffee, donuts
- Outstanding catered lunch
- Exclusive deals on gear
- Open to the public



Registration opens January 4 at [muskieschool.com](https://muskieschool.com)

## SESSION #1 – 9:00 AM

- A) Poolside Lure Demonstration (Michael Hanson)
- B) What Do Muskies See And React To (Steve Worrall)
- C) Hands On Rod Building (Al Hutchison) (Limit 6 students)
- D) Vilas County Muskies (Jerry Georgeson)
- E) Muskie Fishing Basics (Duffy Kopf)
- F) Muskies On The Fly – Beginners (Dan Small)
- G) Reel Knowledge For Maintenance and Repair (Cory Steil) (Limit 4 students)
- H) Filming Muskie Fishing Made Easy (Brian Skaife)
- I) Kayak Muskie Fishing (Nicole King)
- J) Living On The Edge (Steve Herbeck)
- K) Terminal Tackle tips And Tactics (John Bette)

## SESSION #2 – 10:35 AM

- A) Women In Muskie Fishing (Amanda Wilson)
- B) Poolside Lure Demonstration – Tips & Techniques (Craig Eversoll & Leif Spilde)
- C) Muskies On The Fly – Advanced (Dan Donovan)
- D) Hands On Rod Building (Al Hutchison) (Limit 6 students)
- E) Making Wood Muskie Lures (John Eversoll)
- F) River Muskies (Phil Schweik)
- G) Real Time Sonar Explained – Mega Live/Live Scope (Greg Fitch)
- H) Reel Knowledge For Maintenance and Repair (Cory Steil) (Limit 4 students)
- I) An In-Depth Look At Waukesha County Muskies (Colin Schlicht)

- J) Why You Aren't Catching More Muskies (Noah Humfeld)
- K) Turtle Flambeau/Mercer Area Lakes (Bobby Orr)

## SESSION #3 -1:00 PM

- A) Madison Chain Muskies (Craig Eversoll & Leif Spilde)
- B) Poolside Lure Demonstration (Brian Skaife & Vince DeMarte)
- C) Hands On Rod Building (Al Hutchison) (Limit 6 students)
- D) Row Trolling Tips and Tactics (Geoff Crandall & Steve Reinstra)
- E) Catching Muskies With Live Bait A to Z (Jerry Georgeson)
- F) Making Spinnerbaits & Bucktails (Scot Stewart)
- G) Reel Knowledge For Maintenance and Repair (Cory Steil) (Limit 4 students)
- H) Maximize Your Time On The Water (Michael Hanson)
- I) Off Beat Canadian Shield Muskie Tips And Tactics (Steve Herbeck)
- J) Preparing To Fish New Muskie Water (Steve Worrall)
- K) Green Bay Muskies (Capt. Kevin Pischke)

SIGN UP BY MARCH 1 AND  
YOU MAY WIN A  
\$200, \$100, OR \$50  
GIFT CARD.

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN



# 19th Annual “Iowa Hawg Hunt”

**Friday, April 19 (7:00am) until Saturday, April 20 (5:00pm)**

You are invited to the 19<sup>TH</sup> “Iowa Hawg Hunt” to be held at [Pleasant Creek Recreation Area](#) and Lake MacBride, located near Cedar Rapids, Iowa. There will be an *optional* friendly **non-cash** fish contest - \$10 per person (see below for details). This event is open to the public.

Lodging is available at the Urbana Inn (319-443-8888; contact Jessica and request the \$69/room muskie outing rate) or the Sleep Inn in North Liberty, Iowa (319-665-2700).

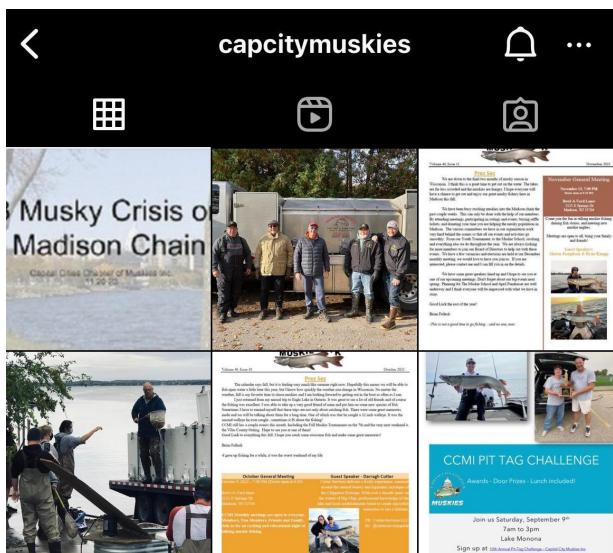
Questions? Contact Geoff Crandall at [crandall@msbnrg.com](mailto:crandall@msbnrg.com) or call/text (608) 219-0164.

**Rules:** Eligible fish must be caught between 7:00 a.m. on Friday 4/19/2024 through 5:00 p.m. on Saturday 4/20/2024. Participants must sign and provide the waiver of liability (available on CCMi website [www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org](http://www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org)) A witness (another outing participant is o.k.) and a photo is required. *Fish entries including photos must be submitted to Geoff Crandall at or before 5:15 p.m. on Saturday 4/20/2024 at (608-219-0164-text) or email (crandall@msbnrg.com).* Eligible waters include the Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area and Lake MacBride. To be eligible you must comply with all IDNR and County health regulations. Catch & release only, trolling, and live bait is permitted, no transporting of muskies and fish are to be measured to the ¼ inch. 30” muskies or longer are eligible to be entered into the contest. To be eligible for the **non-cash** prizes your fee must be **paid & received prior to the 4/19/2024 start of the outing.**

The winners will be acknowledged for: 1) Longest Muskie and 2) Second Longest Muskie. (Winners may win in only one category). The results will be announced **@ 7:30 p.m. (4/20/2024) at the Urbana Inn Community room and Pizza and Soda Pop will be provided.**

**(NO CASH AWARDS OR PAYOUTS WILL BE MADE).**

**Contest Eligibility:** \$10 for the optional contest. If participating in the contest, fees must be received **prior to the start of the 4/19/2024 outing** by Geoff Crandall @ 5306 Jonquil Ct. Middleton, WI 53562 (phone/text 608-219-0164 if you have questions) or Sue or John Eversoll at 107 N Hickory St Elizabeth, IL 61028.



@CapCityMuskies

If you want your catch posted on CCMi social media, send your photos to:

[socialmedia@capitalcitymuskiesinc.org](mailto:socialmedia@capitalcitymuskiesinc.org)

or DM us at any of our accounts!



**38<sup>th</sup> Muskie  
Seminar/Fundraiser  
Saturday, April 6, 2024**



Bowl-A-Vard Lanes - 2121 E Springs Dr - Madison, WI 53704

**Jeremy Smith**



**Win Rods, Reels, Lures & More from Today's Top Manufacturers**

**\*Doors Open @ 9:00 AM/1<sup>st</sup> Raffle @ 10:00 AM/Seminar Starts @ 11:00 AM\***

Members **\$35/Person** Non-Members **\$40/Person** Youth (13-17) **\$20/Each** 12 & Younger **FREE**

**\*Lunch Included and Cash Bar\***

Purchase Advanced Raffle Tickets w/ Registration

**\*\$25 Receives \$35 in Tickets\* \*\$50 Receives \$75 in Tickets\***

Automatically Entered to Win a Rod/Reel Combo with Registration

Raffle Tickets Also Available for Purchase at Seminar



**\*Online Registration Only\***

[www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org](http://www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org)

*Scan the QR code at left or visit our website above to register*

**All Net Proceeds to Benefit Capital City Muskies Inc**

## What About the Garage Sale?

Have you been wondering if we are still having our Annual Garage Sale at the Wisconsin Fishing Expo? We are! So why haven't we been asking for lure donations? It is because we have so many lures from Denny Leitl and we (Brian) doesn't have room for any more! Please stop by our booth at the expo and check out some of the great items we have for sale. Thanks to everyone who has asked about donating lures.

Also: please hang on to those "rarely used" lures for the next time around; we will be accepting lures for the 2025 Garage Sale late next year.



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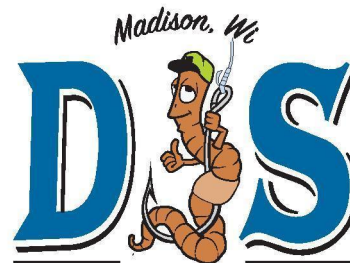
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# Madison Musky Stocking Update: The Latest on the Crisis

Greg Voss ([mzkee52@gmail.com](mailto:mzkee52@gmail.com))  
Stocking Chair

Our CCMI presentation from the November general membership meeting, “2023 Musky Crisis on the Madison Chain,” has achieved its purpose of raising awareness about that current crisis. The presentation was not only emailed to all CCMI members, but also widely shared on social media. To recap, our position is that a lack of WDNR Hatchery musky stocking into the Madison Chain for three of the past four years could jeopardize the future of the musky fishery in the Madison Chain if it continues.

The first action step after that presentation was an in-person meeting with David Rowe - WDNR in Fitchburg, our President Brian Falleck, CCMI Board member Dan Donovan, and myself to discuss in person how we might work together better to maintain or even improve the musky fishery in Madison. That meeting had value for CCMI including some mixture of opportunities and disappointments.

A second action step is also underway thanks to numerous stocking and/or fundraising ideas from CCMI Board members. For example, we are providing QR codes for donations or purchases from CCMI to make that process faster and easier. We are also pursuing potential new sources of sizable donations and taking a tougher look at CCMI annual expenses for potential reductions in 2024.



The third action step is scheduled for January 15, 2024 at 7 PM, when Samuel Stafslein, Senior Fisheries Biologist, Wild Rose Fish Hatchery, will be our speaker at our monthly CCMI Member meeting. (Note that this meeting was moved to the **third** Monday in January to accommodate the speaker's availability.) Sam will go over what they do at the WDNR Wild Rose Fish Hatchery, discuss the musky “egg take” in 2022, and discuss what happened with the Great Lakes Strain musky fingerlings from the Wild Rose hatchery in 2023.

Another action step being pursued by Todd Berge, CCMI Board Member, is submission of a resolution to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress for an increase to the annual fishing license fee with a suggested percentage to be earmarked for fish stocking. As somewhat of a political process, this will likely take many hours of effort from Todd, but he will work on this in conjunction with the CCMI Board to develop the language most likely to be accepted, achieve some of our goals, and survive a general " vote" throughout the state. Todd has also received personal advice from a former Conservation Congress member regarding our submission. At a minimum, CCMI may be able to show the WDNR that “we tried” regarding their often repeated issue “there has been no increase in the fishing license fee in the past 18 years.” Any other CCMI member with any potential state connections or relationships that may help CCMI with musky stocking into the Madison Chain is encouraged to contact me or our President Brian Falleck.

Another action step currently being considered is soliciting input/support/ EXPO signatures from **ALL** the Muskies Inc Chapters in Wisconsin and northern Illinois regarding our musky stocking crisis.

Thank you for your financial support of musky stocking into the Madison Chain, all our CCMI events and activities, and sharing potential ideas with me or CCMI Board members regarding new efforts to maintain or improve the musky fishery in the Madison Chain.



# CHICAGO

JANUARY 19-21, 2024

KANE COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS



# MUSKIE EXPO

MUSKIEEXPO.COM

FEBRUARY 16-18, 2024

# MILWAUKEE

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COUNTY FAIR PARK

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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Submissions due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to  
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Capital City Chapter, Muskies, Inc.  
P.O. Box 8862  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

