



The official newsletter for the Capitol City Chapter of Muskies, Inc.

Prez Sez

And just like that, it's October. For me, this year has flown by. Unfortunately, without much fishing. If you are reading this before the 4th of October, I am throwing a last minute Hail Mary on Eagle Lake in Ontario trying to make up for a summer where I couldn't get out much and when I could, the water temps were too high!

We are (finally) holding our 2024 Awards Ceremony this month. It is a great evening of hearing big fish stories and giving out much deserved hardware. Please join us if you are able.

We have our last outing of the year in Vilas County on the 10th and 11th. It is a great opportunity to enjoy some fall fishing in the northwoods. You need to sign up before October 4th.

It is getting close to the time to pull out the insulated bibs and coats and hang some suckers over the side of the boat. It's no secret that this is the time of year to catch a big fat musky. I hope you (and I) get a chance at one of them! Even though it is still musky season, we are looking for some of your used lure and fishing gear for our Garage Sale held at the Madison and Wausau Expos. If you have a lure(s) that have spent more time in the tackle box than on your leader please consider donating them to CCMI. If you donate 3 or more lures, you will be eligible for a \$100 or \$50 gift card to Dorn Outdoor Pro Shop. This is one of our biggest sources of income each year. These donated lures directly result in muskies in the Madison Chain. We will be accepting lures and gear through the February Membership Meeting. Good Luck this month on the water!

Brian Falleck

2025 Event Calendar



NOTE: Some dates may have changed. Please double-check and mark your calendars!

October 10-11.....Vilas Outing
October 13.....2024 Awards!
November 10Stocking Update
December 8.....General Meeting, Speaker tbd

October's Member Meeting!

ATTENTION!!!

The October 13 Members Meeting will be held at the Mekong restaurant in McFarland. This is the old 5100 and where we held our fundraiser back in the spring. The bar and the restaurant will be open for business. So be sure to come hungry and thirsty and show them some support for helping us at the last second! Oh, and we WILL be giving out all 2024 awards. So come on by and hopefully accept an award, or congratulate someone who received one!

DANE COUNTY STOCKING UPDATE!!!!

On Thursday, September 18, there were 2,314 musky fingerlings stocked into Lakes Wingra, Monona, and Waubesa by CCMI and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Despite Muskellunge being our Wisconsin state game fish, muskies do not reproduce naturally in sufficient quantities to support a fishable population in southern Wisconsin. This joint effort between CCMI and the WDNR has been going on since the 1980s. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has recently changed to only stocking Great Lake Strain musky fingerlings in even numbered years due to budgetary reasons. In 2024 over 2,800 WDNR Great Lake Strain musky fingerlings raised at the WDNR Wild Rose Hatchery and sourced from the Fox River near Green Bay were stocked into lakes Wingra, Monona, and Waubesa at no cost to CCMI. This year's fingerlings averaged a VERY healthy 12 inches. These 2,314 musky fingerlings come from Gollon Bait and Fish Farm in Dodgeville, WI are classified as Wisconsin Strain. They cost CCMI \$32,396 to purchase this year (\$14 each). These fingerling muskies are the result of manually mixing musky eggs and musky milt for fertilization in the spring of 2025. The number of muskies stocked for each lake must follow a WDNR formula/regulation involving lake size and existing musky population for optimum musky population management.

Stocking distribution in the three local lakes went as follows:

- Lake Wingra received 100 musky fingerlings
- Lake Monona received 1,177 musky fingerlings
- Lake Waubesa received 1,037 musky fingerlings

Lakes Mendota and Kegonsa do not receive stocked muskies since they are not managed by the WDNR as musky fisheries. Another CCMI/WDNR musky stocking event is planned for Lake Monona Olin Boat Launch at about 8:30 AM Thursday October 23, 2025. This additional musky stocking event of 500 musky fingerlings Leech Lake Strain is done for improved biodiversity and to continue potential joint WDNR/CCMI research data about survival and growth potential of this strain in the Madsion Chain. Volunteers, nonmembers of CCMI, and donations are welcome at our stocking events and free monthly meetings. CCMI is tax exempt IRS 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The economic impact to the Madison area from musky fishing is significant.

MADISON MUSKIES FOREVER!

Greg Voss, CCMI Stocking Chair

Release Chair Report

All release standings are current as of 8:00 am on September 30th, from the National Muskie Inc. Lunge Log.

Let's try it again, 2024 Awards Night 3.0. CCMI will be holding the 2024 awards night and handing out the remaining 2024 awards on Oct. 13th at the monthly CCMI Members meeting. There are unclaimed awards still from years past. If you are on this list, get ahold of me to claim your award. If your award is unclaimed by the November CCMI monthly meeting I will be getting rid of it. If you know someone on this list, tell them to please get ahold of me at ccmireleasechair@gmail.com.

Chris Smith, Rowan Stamm, Jason Schreiber, David Wagner, Dan Hollatz, & Colyn Kotlowski

Have you entered your trophy catches into the CCMI Chapter 8 replica contest? To be eligible for the CCMI Chapter 8 replica contest you need to:

- Register your fish over 45 inches
- Send a picture, your name, where, and when caught to the CCMI Release Chair at ccmireleasechair@gmail.com

Jeff

<u>Mens Division</u>	Muskie s	Points	Avg Length
Wilhelm Zeichert	32	579	44.05"
Todd Berge	18	251	39.83"
Jamie Wersland	9	155	43.17"
Tripp Soma	11	145	39.07"
Kyle Kramer	9	138	41.33"
William Suick	6	101	42.75"
Tony Artymiuk	13	100	33.54"
Garrett Lederman	8	87	36.81"
Steve Reinstra	5	80	41.70"
Brad Herda	5	77	41.25"
William N. Liegel	8	73	35.13"
Adam Bergendahl	4	72	43.88"
Pat Ewanowski	4	68	42.75"
Fred J Schulze	4	63	41.25"
Nick Pierick	3	46	41.17"
Alex Landen	3	43	40.42"
Greg Voss	4	40	36.00"
Steve Soma	3	39	39.00"
Kevin L Wegner	2	36	44.00"
Shane Nesheim	2	36	44.00"
Craig Eversoll	2	35	43.50"
John Cuta	2	35	43.25"
Brian Skaife	3	35	37.58"
Scott Trimborn	3	32	36.25"
Ray Petkovsek	2	31	41.50"
Winston Hopkins	3	31	36.17"

<u>Mens Division</u>	Muskies	Points	Avg Length
Chris Clark	1	25	51.00"
Noah Humfeld	1	24	50.25"
Mike Thoreson	1	24	50.25"
Justin Gasser	2	24	37.75"
Lee Bartolini	4	24	31.94"
Brett Cook	1	23	49.00"
Gregory Rubin	2	22	36.75"
Mike Milia	2	20	35.50"
Erik Bunkoske	2	19	35.50"
Jeff Walker	1	16	41.50"
Ron Thompson	1	16	42.00"
Luke Will	1	15	41.00"
Allen Jenkins	1	15	41.00"
Jerry Georgeson	2	14	33.00"
James Lawler	1	13	39.25"
Jackson Harris	2	9	30.25"

<u>Mens Masters</u>	Muskies	Points	Avg Length
Brad P Nelson	33	485	40.62"
Jeff Lyon	23	367	41.78"
Jeff Lehr	31	334	36.64"
Aaron Laking	15	271	43.95"
Jeff M Hanson	11	190	43.18"
Matt Mc Cumber	5	68	39.30"
Craig Eversoll	2	35	43.50"
Matthew Hill	2	27	39.25"
Matthew DeVos	1	23	49.25"

<u>Womens</u>	Muskies	Points	Avg Length
Lynda Lawler	4	47	37.56"
Tara Jenkins	1	6	31.50"

<u>Juniors</u>	Muskies	Points	Avg Length
Devyn Hanson	16	227	39.97"
Cash Soma	3	43	40.33"
Jeffrey Falleck	1	13	39.00"



FALL MUSKY TOURNAMENT RESULTS

We held the CCMI Fall Muskie Tournament on September 13th on the Madison Chain. Strong thunderstorms came through in the wee hours of the morning, but stopped just in time for the event. Four fish were caught from 37 all the way up to 48 1/2 inches! Teams came from all over the state, from Janesville to Park Falls. A lot of father/son and husband/wife teams, that was great to see! Thank you to all who participated, you helped our chapter raise money to stock more muskies!

1st Place--Aaron Laking & Colyn Kotlowski 48.5"

2nd Place--Kevin and Jack Healy 42.5"

3rd Place--Jared and Michael Case 42.25"

4th Place--Steve and Tripp Soma 37"



FALL VILAS COUNTY OUTING

The annual Vilas County Muskie 2-day Outing will be held Friday, October 10th and Saturday, October 11th, 2025. This is a friendly outing for CCMI members, family and friends. You do not have to be a CCMI member to participate.

[Click Here for the Vilas Outing Signup Form](#)

All participants must submit a waiver of liability form in order to participate in the outing. Please print out the waiver of liability form at the CCMI website and submit it to Dale Anderson with your outing and/or banquet fee payment.

[Click Here for Muskies Inc Release of Liability Form](#)

The outing banquet will be held at the Rustic Roadhaus, located at 5194 S, US Hwy 51, Manitowish Waters. There will be “fish stories” at the bar (cash bar) at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served around 7:00 p.m. Awards, Door Prizes and Raffles after the dinner. Folks may attend the dinner and not participate in the outing. For additional information on the Rustic Roadhaus, including directions/location, visit their website at rusticroadhaus.com.

The dinner will be a choice of 3 entrees:

- Prime Rib (Queen Cut) with Baked Potato
- Grilled Shrimp Alfredo over Pasta
- BBQ Ribs with Baked Potato

All entrees include a side salad, bread, and dessert! The cost of the banquet is \$33 per person inclusive of gratuity.

TOTAL COST:

- If only participating in the Outing: \$7.00 per person
- If only attending the Banquet: \$33.00 per person
- If participating in both the Outing and Banquet: \$40.00 per person

CONTEST RULES:

- Muskies caught from 7:00 a.m. Friday, October 10th, to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 11th, will be eligible for awards!
- There is no sign in.

- Report all muskies caught by 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 11th, to Dale Anderson at the Rustic Roadhaus.
- To be eligible for an award, a witness is required (an outing participant for all entries) AND your outing fee must be received prior to the start of the outing (prior to October 10th).
- Photographs of fish caught are requested (Digital or Polaroid).
- This is a Catch and Release contest only! Artificial baits and Quick Set sucker rigs are allowed – no swallow hooks for suckers!
- Participants must comply with all WDNR regulations.
- Gas motor trolling is allowed during this outing.
- Only muskies that are 30 inches or longer are eligible for an award, except for the “smallest” muskie category! Measure fish to the quarter-inch to help in a tie-breaker situation.
- Eligible waters are any body of water located within Vilas County, Wisconsin.

Winners may only win in one category! Walnut Plaques will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place:

- Largest muskie by length in inches
- Second largest muskie by length in inches
- Third largest muskie by length in inches
- Smallest muskie by length in inches-gets a Muskie Base trophy

We will need all sign-up sheets and money no later than October 9th, 2025. Please mail your outing/banquet fee, meal choice form, and waiver of liability form to:

Dale Anderson

PO Box 384

Mercer WI 54547

If you have any questions concerning the outing, contact Dale Anderson at (608) 852-0245 (text or call).

Drawings will be held for door prizes for outing participants. Folks who attend the banquet but do not participate in the outing are not eligible for door prizes. We are also planning on doing a separate “Muskie Gear” Raffle again this year, with some great prizes! We hope you can join us for this FUN-tastic outing!

[Click Here for the Vilas Outing Signup Form](#)

Join the CCMI Mentoring Program

The Capital City Chapter of Muskies, Inc. conducts a mentoring program for its members. If requested, an experienced club member will help or assist (or mentor) another member in developing specific fishing skills or acquiring knowledge about a particular topic or body of water. These informal associations have been very successful in the past in helping members learn more about muskie angling, as well as helping newer members meet some of the more knowledgeable muskie anglers in the club.

Assistance may be requested in a general area (e.g., “I would like to know more about Lake Monona”) or a specific area (e.g., “I would like to learn how to make my own leaders.”) If you need or want assistance in some aspect of muskie angling, contact Lee Bartolini by email: Lbartolini8475@charter.net, or by phone: (608) 293-4108, and he will try to match you up with a mentor to assist you.

CCMI members who are willing to be a mentor, who are willing to help or assist another club member in some aspect of muskie fishing, are invited to let Lee know of their interest. If you would like to be a mentor and help another CCMI member, contact Lee using the information above.



A Big Thank You to 2024 and 2025 Donors

Many donors play a critical role in helping Capital City Muskies, Inc. (CCMI) meet our goals for improving the South-Central Wisconsin Muskie fisheries. These activities and projects include supplemental stocking of Muskie yearlings/fingerlings in Lakes Monona, Waubesa, and Wingra; supporting scientific research on the Madison Chain of Lakes fish populations; and sponsoring youth education and outreach activities.

Without the generous contributions of our donors, many of the projects and activities CCMI conducts each year would not be possible. We would like to thank the following donors who have made generous cash, services, and/or merchandise donations to CCMI in 2024 and 2025 to date:

- Palac Family Healing Waters Foundation 2024 & 2025
- Dennis Lytle 2024
- Don Hollatz 2024 & 2025
- Dorn Outdoor Pro Shop 2024 & 2025
- Musky Fool Fly Fishing Company 2024 & 2025
- Chaos Tackle 2024 & 2025
- Spanky Baits 2024
- Team Rhino Outdoors 2024
- Suick Lure Manufacturing 2024
- Contributors to the CCMI Adopt-a-Muskie Program 2024 & 2025
- Leeann Soma – LeeLee Foundation 2024 & 2025
- Gil Hamm Foundation - Muskies Inc. 2024 & 2025
- Hugh C. Becker Foundation - Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc. 2024 & 2025
- American Family Insurance on behalf of Robbie Hron 2024 & 2025
- Craig Hungerford 2024
- Jeff Walker 2024
- Timothy “Pops” Voeck Memorial Fund 2024
- Jim Eller Memorial Fund 2024
- Jeff Hanson 2024
- Gerard Hellenbrand 2024
- PMTT 2024
- Paul Frautschi 2024
- Gottlieb Brandli 2024
- Kurt Brandli 2024
- John Eversoll 2025
- Scot Stewart 2024 & 2025
- Tuesday Night Muskie League 2024
- Quad Cities Hawg Hunters 2024
- Hiawatha Lodge and Resort, Eagle River, WI 2024 & 2025
- Barrymore Corporation 2025
- Jacob Jedryck 2025
- The Cisco Kids 2025
- Richard Brandt 2024
- Ryan Peasley 2024
- Jeff Lyon 2025
- Todd Berge 2024
- Brian Falleck 2025
- Thomas Wachowicz 2025
- Darren Dempsey 2025
- Anonymous donors 2024 & 2025

PLEASE JOIN US IN APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT TO THE DONORS LISTED ABOVE

The Wisconsin DNR has announced they will not stock any Muskies in the Madison Lakes in 2025. Thanks to these generous donors, CCMI has successfully raised the required funds to supply the entire annual quota of Muskie fingerlings for stocking the Madison Lakes in 2025. Anyone who wishes to donate to CCMI can access the website at www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org/donate/ or contact Bob Baumgartner, the CCMI Treasurer at bbaumgartner4@gmail.com or (608) 320-6336. CCMI is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, so donations may be tax deductible.

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