



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

## Prez Sez

*We did it! We have successfully stocked over 2700 muskies in the Madison Chain over the last 2 months. I would like to personally thank everyone who donated and helped us reach our goal! A special shout out to Greg Voss for coordinating with the fish farms and getting all the permits in order. This is a yearlong process and I know he has put in a lot of time and effort to get this done!*

*As the season enters its final couple months, CCMI is getting ready for another season. Expo season. We will have a booth in Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, and Wausau. This time we are trying something a little different. We will have a special raffle that will begin in January and run through the Madison show. Final details are being worked out, but we will make the big announcement in December.*

*We (finally) held our Awards Ceremony last month. It is always one of my favorite meetings. It was great to hear all the big fish stories from last year. It was great to see so many people there. Congratulations to the winners! Lastly, we made a slight change to our November Membership Meeting. It will be on TUESDAY, November 11th at Mekong at 7pm. It will be our stocking update and there will, of course, be some great raffle prizes to win. I hope to see you there!*

Brian Falleck

# 2025 Event Calendar



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

November 11 .....Stocking Update  
December 8.....General Meeting, Speaker tbd

## **November's Member Meeting!**

### **ATTENTION!!!**

**To deconflict with the Packer game, November's meeting has been moved to Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> at the Mekong restaurant in McFarland. This is the old 5100 and where we held our fundraiser back in the spring and last month's meeting. 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 out again!**

## **DANE COUNTY STOCKING UPDATE!!!!**

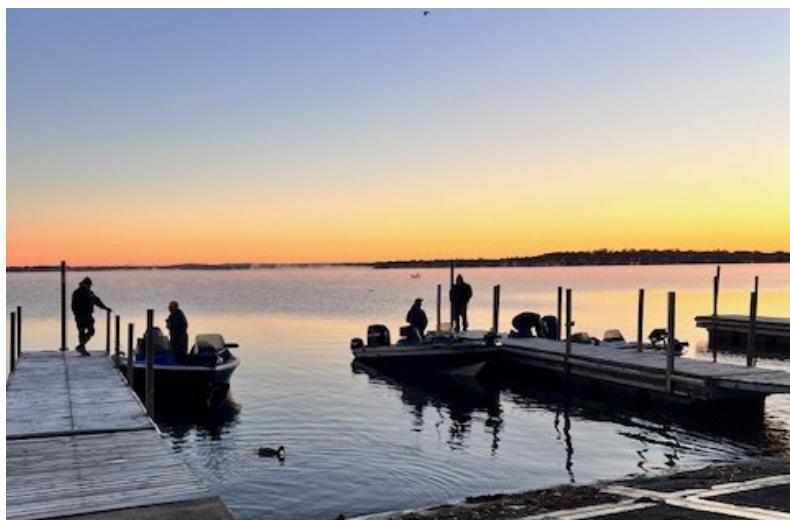
On Friday, October 25, 2025 there were 485 Leech Lake Strain (LLS) musky fingerlings stocked by CCMI into Lake Monona. There was not a DNR distribution boat available in Lake Monona that week or the next week due to the DNR boat being busy elsewhere. Three volunteer CCMI distribution boats with large live wells, well aerated, and compatible water temps between their live well and the lake water temperature were provided by CCMI volunteers (Jim and Linda Lawler, Doug Burke, and Jeff Miller). These three boats distributed almost all of our 485 musky fingerlings in large weed beds around Lake Monona. A few more sea gulls than in recent years were noted and attempts to discourage their potential musky fingerling predation occurred. About eight other CCMI members and a new recruit from our Facebook post and another new recruit moved the fingerlings from the delivery truck to the distribution boats via nets. Two young volunteers, Ryan Hron and Dominic Miller were especially helpful moving these fingerlings from the delivery truck to the three distribution boats. Kyle Olivencia, WDNR Fisheries Biologist for Dane County, approved these stocking and import permits.

These 485 LLS musky fingerlings averaged 11 inches long and appeared in a very healthy condition. We had zero fatalities or "floaters" noted. CCMI paid \$9,700 for these LLS fingerlings in 2025 (\$20 each) plus shipping (\$600) and Import Permit Fee (\$90). They were provided by Minnesota Muskie Farm (MMF). The MN DNR collects these eggs and milt from wild LLS muskies, and MMF attempts to raise that fry to fingerlings from about May until October each year. CCMI has funded stocking LLS musky fingerlings since about 2005 to help clarify if the DNR evidence supports the theory that LLS musky fingerlings may survive better, grow faster, or attain longer peak lengths than Wisconsin or Chippewa Strains of musky fingerlings.

The speaker's presentation at the November CCMI Member Meeting is scheduled to discuss CCMI musky stocking activity.

### **MADISON MUSKIES FOREVER!**

**Greg Voss, CCMI Stocking Chair**



## DANE COUNTY STOCKING UPDATE PART II

### WDNR UPDATE LAKE MONONA

Should we continue to attempt to purchase 500 Leech Lake Strain Musky Fingerlings from MN Muskie Farm annually in hope that the potential additional annual data may contribute to some future DNR research regarding the comparison of LLS and GLS, Chippewa, or Wisconsin Strains into the Madison Chain?

**Short Response:** Up to CCMI will approve if wanted. Data suggests poor survivability. Potentially reduces the number of Musky stocked with better survival since DNR reduces the number of Musky it stocks commensurate with what CCMI stocks.

**Long Response:** Data has suggested poor survivability of Leech Lake Strain (LLS) Musky. In 2021-2022, we handled 238 Musky (including juveniles), 14 were LLS Musky (5.4% Contribution). Of the 232 adult Musky >30", 12 were LLS Musky (5.2% Contribution). Comparatively native Wisconsin strains make up about 95% of the population in Monona and survive much better. The target number of Musky stocked will remain the same to promote the largest size classes of fish. Meaning any LLS Musky stocked will reduce the number of native Wisconsin strains Musky that get stocked. So, if CCMI stocks 500 into Monona, DNR reduces the 1677 fish it had planned to stock by 500. If survivability of LLS is poor, it inherently reduces the overall survivability of the stocked Musky. If CCMI thinks it's still worth their investment to stock 500 Leech Lake strain Musky I will approve the permit but wanted to provide information that the data suggests it might not be worth continuing. If you still feel inclined to stock LLS Musky another suggestion could be to do so only on odd years, when the DNR doesn't stock fish. Allowing even year stocking to consist of only native Wisconsin strain Musky that have shown to have better survival.

Is there any hope that the last Lake Monona population study could be completed to reflect musky populations which CCMI Members & guides claim are significantly decreased?

**Short Response:** The population estimate in 2021-2022 was down compared to 2015-2016 but shows excellent size structure and higher numbers of larger fish. Still on the high side for an A-1 Musky fishery.

Long Response: In 2003-2004, during the era of trying to establish the Musky population in Monona the population estimate was 0.46 Musky/acre. In 2015-2016, Musky >30" population estimate was 1,820 with a relatively high coefficient of variation of 29% (error in the estimate is high) that was approximately 0.56 Musky/acre, with a lower end estimate of 1,044 (0.33 Musky/acre) and an upper end population estimate of 3500 (1.1 Musky/acre). The 2021-2022 Musky population (all fish, even the small ones) estimate was 838, or 0.26 Musky/acre, with a low CV of 20%. For Musky > 30", the population estimate was 0.21 Musky/acre with 19% CV, that is 677, with low end population estimate of 466 (0.15 Musky/acre), high end population estimate of 1016 (0.32 Musky/acre). The current Monona population estimate is on the high side for A-1 Musky fisheries (median PE = 0.13 Musky/acre), but has excellent size structure, see figures below from 2021 and 2022 nets. The 2015-2016 survey had 26 Musky over 45", four over 48", one over 50". Comparatively, the 2021-2022 survey had 40 Musky over 45", nine over 48", two over 50". Most of the data has been analyzed for the Monona Comprehensive Survey but I cannot give you a timeline on when the full report will be publicly available. My schedule has been extremely tight as I continue to learn my position and take on all the roles and responsibilities that comes with my area. I have not had any time to work on data analysis or report writing yet.

**Greg Voss, CCMI Stocking Chair**

## Muskies Inc. Membership Contest

Muskies Inc. just launched the new Membership Contest on September 1st, 2025, and it will run through December 31st, 2025.

Here's how it will work:

Whenever a current member signs up a new member, the current member's name will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 gift card (vendor to be finalized). Each additional new member they sponsor equals another entry into the drawing. The more members they bring in, the more chances they have to win. Both the online and paper applications will include a section where the new member lists the name and membership number of the current member who referred them (their sponsor).

If your chapter uses your own paper application please add sponsor portion to the new member application form.

# Release Chair Report

***By Jeff Lyon***

All release standings are current as of 8:15 am on Oct. 30, 2025 from the National Muskie Inc. Lunge Log.

## Recap of the 2024 Awards Night

The 2024 Award Night 3.0 took place at the Oct. 13th CCMI monthly meeting at Mekong.

### 2024 Lunkers of the Month

- April 46 ½ Brian Skaife
- May 46 Jamie Wersland
- June 49 Matt Devos, Jeff Hanson, Adam Bergendahl, &
- July 56 Dan Moats
- Aug 56 Dan Moats
- Sept 55 ¼ Jeremiah Oakley
- Oct 53 Chris Clark
- Nov 51 ½ Matt (Catfish) Firestein
- Dec 41 ¾ Jeff Lehr

### 2024 Season Awards

- Largest CCMI Hybrid Muskie 47 Colyn Kotlowski
- Rookie of the Year 9 Muskies / 93 Pts. Ryan Peasley
- Junior Division Champ 36 Muskies / 604 Pts. Colyn Kotlowski
- National Muskie Inc. Fingerling Jr. Division Champion Colyn Kotlowski
- Largest CCMI Youth Release 50 ½ Colyn Kotlowski
- Mens Masters 40 Muskies / 647 Pts. Brad Nelson
- Mens Division 46 Muskies 521 Pts. Jeff Lehr
- Jrs 2nd Place National Fry Division 28 Muskies 348 Pts. Devyn Hanson
- Hat Trick Winner Devyn Hanson
- Silver Hat Trick Winner Devyn Hanson

### National Awards

- 5th Place National Masters 95 Muskies 1265 Pts. Jeff Hanson
- 2nd Largest Release 56 & 56 Dan Moats
- 3rd Largest Youth Release 50 ¼ Colyn Kotlowski
- 7th Largest Youth Release 50 Devyn Hanson
- Fly Division 6th Place 4 Muskies 55 Pts. Nathan Jndl
- 14th Largest Fly Release 44 Nathan Jndl

## 2024 Replica Winners

- WI Waters Pat Ewanowski
- All Other Waters MJ Mike Johnson
- Past Winners Dorn Gift Card Brad Nelson

## REGISTER YOUR FISH!

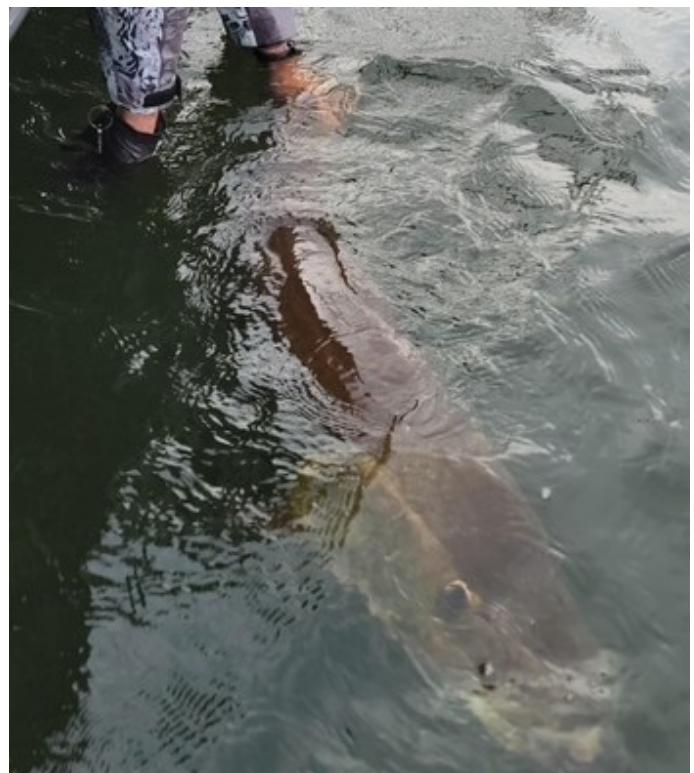
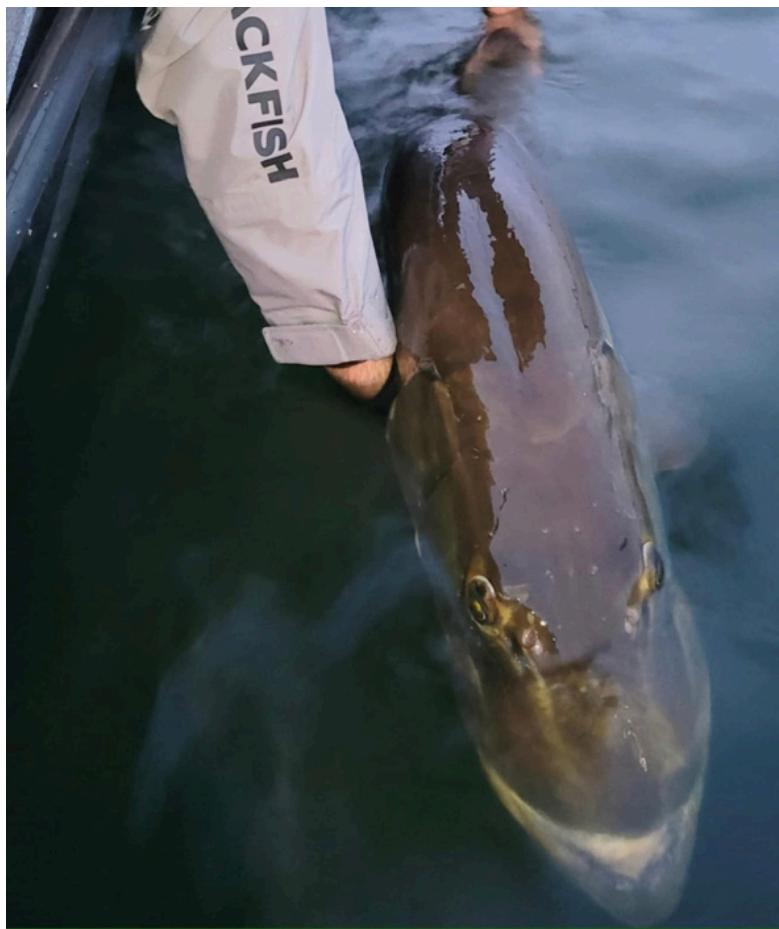
- Chapter 8 Capital City finished 4th in total catches in 2024 of all Muskie Inc. chapter with 690 registered muskies.
- #1 for total releases was chapter 19 Akron / Canton Muskie Maniacs with 1198 registered muskies.
- CCMI was 508 releases behind. Register your fish! Let's Make CCMI the #1 Chapter!!!

## 2025 Replica Contest

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](mailto:ccmireleasechair@gmail.com)



Mens Division	Muskie s	Points	Avg Length
Wilhelm Zeichert	32	579	44.05"
Todd Berge	22	302	39.61"
Jamie Wersland	10	180	43.9"
Tripp Soma	11	145	39.07"
Kyle Kramer	9	138	41.33"
Steve Reinstra	7	108	41.07"
William N. Liegel	12	107	34.92"
William Suick	6	101	42.75"
Tony Artymiuk	13	100	33.54"
Garrett Lederman	8	87	36.81"
Brad Herda	5	77	41.25"
Fred J Schulze	5	73	41.25"
Adam Bergendahl	4	72	43.88"
Pat Ewanowski	4	68	42.75"
Scott Gennrich	6	66	36.83
Nick Pierick	4	63	41.5"
Shane Nesheim	3	50	42.75"
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"
James Lawler	3	36	37.75"
John Cuta	2	35	43.25"
Brian Skaife	3	35	37.58"
Jerry Georgeson	3	34	37.33"
Scott Trimborn	3	32	36.25"

Mens Division	Muskies	Points	Avg Length
Lee Bartolini	5	31	32.2
Ray Petkovsek	2	31	41.50"
Winston Hopkins	3	31	36.17"
Chris Clark	1	25	51.00"
Noah Humfeld	1	24	50.25"
Mike Thoreson	1	24	50.25"
Justin Gasser	2	24	37.75"
Brett Cook	1	23	49.00"
Mike Beam	1	23	48.5
Gregory Rubin	2	22	36.75"
Kurt Brandli	1	22	48.0"
Mike Milia	2	20	35.50"
Erik Bunkoske	2	19	35.50"
Jeremiah Oakley	2	17	34.25"
Jeff Walker	1	16	41.50"
Ron Thompson	1	16	42.00"
Luke Will	1	15	41.00"
Allen Jenkins	1	15	41.00"
Tom Pollard	1	11	37.00"
Jackson Harris	2	9	30.25"

<u><b>Mens Masters</b></u>	<b>Muskies</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Avg Length</b>
Brad P Nelson	34	502	40.68"
Jeff Lyon	23	367	41.78"
Jeff Lehr	32	347	36.71"
Aaron Laking	16	293	44.2"
Jeff M Hanson	12	215	43.79"
Matthew DeVos	6	106	43.71"
Matt McCumber	5	68	39.3"
Craig Eversoll	3	55	44.33"
Matthew Hill	2	27	39.25"

<u><b>Womens</b></u>	<b>Muskies</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Avg Length</b>
Lynda Lawler	5	63	38.5"
Tara Jenkins	1	6	31.50"

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

## Garage Sale Items Needed!!!

We are in need of your gently used lures. Every year at the Wisconsin Fishing Expo in Madison we hold a Garage Sale, selling used baits donated by our members. This is a great source of income for our chapter and directly leads to putting muskies in the Madison Chain. If you have any lures that haven't seen water in a while or have some you just plain don't like, please consider donating them to our Garage Sale. We will be collecting baits at our monthly membership meetings from now until February. For every 3 baits you donate you will get an entry into a drawing for either a \$100 or \$50 gift card from Dorn Outdoor Pro Shop. Thank you for helping us keep Madison a great musky fisheree!

## FALL VILAS COUNTY OUTING RESULTS

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone that participated in the outing! I always look forward to this event because it gives me a chance to spend time with a great group of folks! We had 32 people in the outing and 34 for the Banquet dinner this year, which was held at The Rustic Roadhaus. It was a huge success and we send a very special thank you to Kurt and Julie Potter! Kurt, Julie, and their staff did an excellent job serving our group and the food was fabulous!

The weather during the 2-day outing this year was typical of early Fall in Northern Wisconsin. Many of the trees are still holding leaves which made for great scenery and the Muskies were eating, at least for some! On Friday we battled gusty winds but Saturday it was calm and sunny.

Congratulations to all outing participants! We had some nice muskies caught again this year – a total of 18 fish were registered by 14 anglers. Our 2025 Vilas County Outing winners are:

First Place: Tom Pennison with a 48.50-inch fish!

Second Place: Steve Reinstra with a 46.50-inch fish!

Third Place: Adam Parocha with a 44-inch fish.

Smallest Muskie: Sarge with a 17-inch fish!

There were no tunes by Geoff this year and no stories but since the Brewers were playing it was OK.

A big thank you goes out to Freddie Schulze for bringing up the awards and the club door prizes. Thank you Duffy for running our Super Raffle. We were able to send \$1540.00 back to the Club from our raffle so a huge shoutout to everyone that participated.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks for the generous donations and prizes for our outing. Dan at Townline Sports and John Bette at Stealth Tackle. We couldn't provide the quality of prizes without your help.

Mark your calendars! The 2025 Vilas County Outing will be held on October 9th-10th, 2025! Details will be forthcoming. Kurt at the Rustic has already invited our group to return to the Roadhaus next year.

Again, thanks to all of you for making this outing such a “FUN-tastic” time!

Dale Anderson



## GARY HOFFMAN PIT TAG CHALLENGE RESULTS

The 12th Annual Pit Tag Challenge was held on 9/27/25 with 27 Anglers signed up to fish on Lake Monona. No muskies were caught but several followers were seen. It was a blue bird sky, and strong SW winds developed in the afternoon. This is only the second time in 12 years that a muskie was not caught with the last time being in 2021.

Gary Hoffman's son Ryan Hoffman, with his wife and two children, stopped by to thank CCMI for all the efforts to continue the Pit Tag Challenge in Gary's name. Ryan displayed a custom-made Urn for Gary's ashes with a Muskie theme. Thanks to all who attended!



## 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](mailto: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.

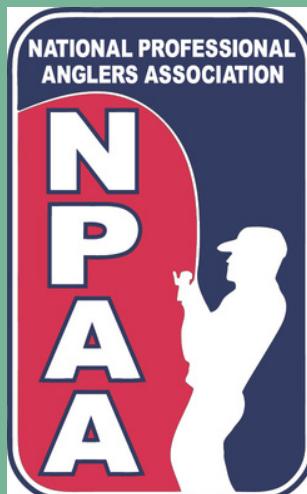
Without the generous contributions of our donors, many of the projects and activities CCMI conducts each year would not be possible. We would like to thank the following donors who have made generous cash, services, and/or merchandise donations to CCMI in 2024 and 2025 to date:

- Palac Family Healing Waters Foundation 2024 & 2025
- Dennis Lytle 2024
- Don Hollatz 2024 & 2025
- Dorn Outdoor Pro Shop 2024 & 2025
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- 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
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- 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
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- Jeff Lyon 2025
- Todd Berge 2024
- Brian Falleck 2025
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- Anonymous donors 2024 & 2025

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

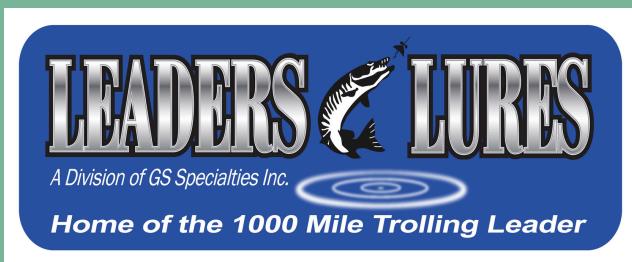
The Wisconsin DNR has announced they will not stock any Muskies in the Madison Lakes in 2025. Thanks to these generous donors, CCMI has successfully raised the required funds to supply the entire annual quota of Muskie fingerlings for stocking the Madison Lakes in 2025. Anyone who wishes to donate to CCMI can access the website at [www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org/donate/](http://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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