



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

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## Prez Sez

We are almost there! Only one more month until the southern Wisconsin musky opener. The ice is off the lakes and the weather is definitely improving. Time to dust off all your gear and get those hooks sharp. I can't wait to spend an entire day on the lake getting frustrated because the muskies are following, but not eating!

If you haven't heard yet, Dane County Parks is resurfacing the parking lot and replacing the concrete ramps at Lake Farm Boat Launch this summer. There is no exact timeline, but if it is anything like when they did Warner Boat Launch, it took most of the summer. This could cause some serious backups at other launches on Waubesa. Please don't kill the messenger, I'm just making sure everyone knows.

We had a very successful expo season. We set a record for money raised at our Garage Sales. Thank you to everyone who donated baits and gear to help the cause. We are very low on inventory now so if you get frustrated with a certain lure this year, don't throw it in the trash. We'll be collecting baits and gear again this fall.

I hope to see you at the Annual Fundraiser on the 11th!

*Brian Falleck*

# 2026 Event Calendar



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

April 11.....	Annual Fundraiser, Speaker Gus Mantey
April 17-18.....	Iowa Hawg Hunt
May 9.....	Madison Chain Outing
May 11.....	General Member Meeting (Speaker TBD)
June 8.....	On-the-Water Meeting
June 16 and 27.....	Hatchery Tour
June 19-20.....	Bill Wood Outing

## Stocking Update-Hatchery Tour

CCMI members have been invited to a private tour of the WDNR Wild Rose Hatchery!

**Tour A: Tuesday, June 16 at 10 AM**

**Tour B: Saturday, June 27 at 9 AM**

CCMI is scheduled to receive 2,824 spotted Great Lakes Strain (GLS) MUSKY fingerlings averaging 11 inches long from that hatchery later this fall. The plan is to stock these GLS MUSKY fingerlings into Monona, Waubesa and Wingra Lakes. This hatchery is about 1.5 hours north of Madison.

For Tour A, on Tuesday June 16, 2026 I can coordinate an optional six-person carpool from my house on the north west corner of Sun Prairie. We would plan to depart my home at 8:30 AM. For Tour B, on Saturday June 27, 2026 we might need a volunteer to coordinate an optional carpool (I will be fishing with grandsons that day). One suggestion so far for a free 6/27/26 optional carpool meeting place if needed is the free Deforest Park-and-Ride on the southwest corner of County Road B and I- 90/94/39 near the Shell gas station. Any volunteer coordinator can make a final decision on meeting place. Let me know if you will volunteer either way for the Saturday 6/27/26 tour.

If a CCMI member wants to bring a guest or guests that would be OK also.

If you are interested in either of these Wild Rose Hatchery tours, no commitment or money is necessary. Please just text me one of the following type messages:

(your name & phone number) I am interested in Tour A 6-16- 26

(your name & phone number) I am interested in Tour A 6-16- 26 AND the optional car pool

(your name & phone number) I am interested in Tour B 6-27-26

(your name & phone number) I am interested in Tour B 6-27-26 AND the optional car pool

(your name & phone number) I would volunteer to coordinate optional carpool 6/27/26

If you plan to drive separately for Tour A or B just text me that info also so I can share that ahead of time with the state hatchery fishery biologist who will lead the tour.

My text: Greg Voss 608-514-3897 CCMI Stocking Chair

## **MADISON MUSKIES FOREVER!**





**Capital City Chapter of Muskies, Inc.**  
**Saturday, April 11, 2026**  
**The Mekong Restaurant**  
**5100 Erling Ave., McFarland, WI**



## **Annual Muskie Seminar**

**Gus Mantey - Speaker**

**Sug's Fishing & Muskies On Tap Podcast**

**Eagle River, WI Guide, Over 20 years experience, PMTT Tournament Angler**



- **Plus: Raffles, Silent Auctions, and Many Prizes.**
- **Lunch Provided - Cash Bar available**
- **Doors open at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Early Bird Raffle at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Seminar starts at 11:00 a.m.**
- **Register Online at**  
[www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org](http://www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org)  
**For more information, contact Winston Hopkins, (608) 577-3184**



## Release Chair Report

*Release Chair, Jeff Lyon*

No submissions yet for muskie releases in 2026.

Release Contest reminders for 2026

- All Release contest entries must be registered within 30 days of the catch.
- Lunker of the month the muskie must be 45" or longer to qualify.
- Lunker of the month entrants must be a member in good standing of the Capital City Chapter of Muskies, Inc. at the time of the catch.
- All Lunker of the Month entries must be entered in the Muskies Inc "Lunge Log" ([www.muskiesinc.org](http://www.muskiesinc.org)).
- All Lunker of the Month entries, Members must register their catch within (30) days of the date of the catch.
- December catches must be registered no later than January 15th to be eligible for any CCMI contests.
- Replica Contest entries must be submitted to the Release chair within 30 days of the catch, and in December no later than January 15th.

### **Tuesday Night Madison Muskie League**

Madison Muskie League has 3 team openings. Madison Muskie League fishes on Tuesday Night starting at 5:30 for 16 Weeks. If you would like to join contact Jeff Lyon at 608-220-8779.



## Conservation Congress Report

Every spring, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides an opportunity for the public to provide input on proposed changes to rules, regulations, and legislation having to do with hunting, fishing, and general conservation issues. Members of the public can attend a hearing in person, and they can respond to a questionnaire or survey regarding the proposed changes. This year, as stated on the DNR website, “The 2026 Spring Hearing will be held in each county in person on April 13 and online from April 13-15. The annual Spring Hearing is an opportunity for the public to provide input on a wide array of natural resources-related proposed rule change questions presented by the DNR and advisory questions presented by the Conservation Congress.” The location of the hearing for Dane County on Monday, April 13th is Stoughton High School, 600 Lincoln Ave, Stoughton, WI 53589. To access the online survey, go to the WDNR website ([dnr.wisconsin.gov](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov)), click on the box that says, “Conservation Congress,” then click on the box that says “Spring Hearing.” A page will appear that allows you to click on “2026 Spring Hearing Questionnaire.”

There are 44 questions on the 2026 survey. There are no questions regarding muskies: the season, size limits, or bag limits. In fact, there are very few questions regarding fishing. Seventeen questions are related to various aspects of hunting. Eleven questions are related to various aspects of fishing, but not specifically to muskies, and four questions are related to other various aspects of wildlife conservation. The questions that may have the most relevancy to CCMI members, 12 in total, have to do with fee increases.

In various meetings with DNR staff over the past couple of years, CCMI board members were told over and over again that funding is the major issue affecting stocking and other aspects of fishing improvement activities. It is noted on the questionnaire that operating expenses now outpace license fee collections. There has not been an increase in most fees in 22 years, since 2005. The questionnaire addresses this issue with a number of proposals for increasing license fees and a number of proposals for alternative funding of conservation efforts, including increases in the sales tax, a designated portion to be used for conservation programs, use of general tax revenues for conservation efforts, access fees for users of public land, and charging registration fees for canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards.

The CCMI Board of Directors had generally been in favor of increasing license fees, and we encourage you to support such increases. The board has no position on the other survey questions. Remember, this is an opportunity for you to have your voices heard. We encourage you to go online and complete the DNR spring hearing questionnaire.

## Chapter News & Views

*If you are a regular reader of Muskie Magazine, you will have noticed that the “Chapter News and Views” column for the Capital City Chapter of Muskies, Inc. did not appear in the March/April 2026 issue of the magazine. Please know that a column was submitted to the editor of Muskie Magazine, and it was submitted in a timely manner. For some reason, the column submitted was misplaced by Muskies, Inc. While some information in that column is now outdated, a copy of the column that was submitted is reproduced below for your use and information. **Lee Bartolini***

Chapter 8: Capital City Chapter of Muskies, Inc.

Greetings from the Capital City Chapter of Muskies, Inc. We look forward to another year of successful events, outings, membership meetings, and other activities to increase our knowledge and skills on how to find and catch muskies, as well as to make new fishing friends and to continue our bonds with old ones. And, we are always looking for new faces. If any member wishes to assist in these endeavors, please contact our President, Brian Falleck.

Board Member Elections: New and returning board members were elected at our December membership meeting. Congratulations to Brett Cook, Paul Twardy, Todd Berge, Allen Jenkins, and Scott Trimborn. Our club depends on our board members and volunteers to maintain the high level of activities we sponsor. A very special thanks to all board members and volunteers for all the work you do.

Our annual Awards Ceremony meeting was held on February 10th. Jeff Lyon, our Release Contest Chair, gave a great presentation. Information on the size and numbers of muskies caught by CCMI members in 2025 was provided. Club members who won contests and made outstanding catches in 2025 were recognized and given an opportunity to tell their fish stories. It was a fun evening. Thank you, Jeff, for taking on the responsibility of Release Chair.

Thanks to everyone who stopped by our booths at the Chicago Muskie Expo, the Milwaukee Muskie Expo, and the Wisconsin Fishing Expo in Madison, WI. It was good to see everyone, to renew acquaintances, and to share a few stories. CCMI will also have a booth at the Wisconsin Musky Expo in Rothschild, Wisconsin on March 20-22. We hope to see you there. Thanks to Brian Falleck, our chapter president, for taking on the lead role representing CCMI at these events, and thanks to all the club members who volunteered to help out at our booths.

You certainly do not want to miss our annual Intermediate and Advanced Muskie School on March 28, 2026. There are 25 different classes to choose from, including many new classes and the return of popular classes. Registration is online. As in the past, the muskie school will be held at Waunakee High School in Waunakee, WI. Cost is \$40 for adults on or before March 23rd. Cost is \$50 after that. Cost for youth is \$10. Raffles, free coffee and donuts, and a catered lunch are included. Check out the school on our website ([www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org](http://www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org)) or contact Steve Reinstra at (608) 770-7131 or at [mpd339r@charter.net](mailto:mpd339r@charter.net). Thank you, Steve, for coordinating this event.

Gus Mantey, Eagle River guide and PMTT Tournament angler, will be the featured speaker at the annual Fundraiser and Fishing Seminar on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Mark your calendars, because it is a great opportunity to increase your knowledge and skills for catching muskies. It is a fun day with many raffles and many, many prizes. The event will be held at The Mekong Restaurant, 5100 Erling Ave., McFarland, WI. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. The first raffle is at 10:00 a.m., and the seminar starts at 11:00 a.m. Go to the CCMI website for more information.

Finally, mark your calendars for our early fishing outings, including the Iowa Hawg Hunt on April 17-18, 2026 and the Madison Chain Outing on May 9, 2026 on Lake Monona in Madison, WI. The Capital City Chapter of Muskies, Inc. holds membership meetings from September through May. Meetings this spring will be held at The Mekong Restaurant, 5100 Erling Ave., McFarland, WI. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Each meeting includes a speaker or fishing information program. Come and join the fun.

For more information about CCMI and our various events, visit our website at [www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org](http://www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org) or check out our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CapCityMuskies/](http://www.facebook.com/CapCityMuskies/). We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and special events.



**Help NEEDED!!!!**

CCMI is looking for a new Merchandise Chairperson. Paul has been doing a great job for many years. He has other commitments outside of the chapter that are going to keep him busy and prevent him from continuing as our "Merch Guy". If anyone is interested please reach out to Brian Falleck ([bdfalleck@gmail.com](mailto:bdfalleck@gmail.com)) to get more information.

# Youth Muskie Championship of Wisconsin

June 20, 2026 – Lake Waubesa – 7 am - 12 pm

Come out for a day of fun, and to support youth fishing, and the great sport of chasing those big Muskies!

- Friendly tournament. We do give out prizes and trophies, but the idea is to simply have a good time fishing.
- FREE to all youth age 18 and under.
- Prizes for all participants
- Tournament Headquarters will be at **Goodland Park Shelter #1 and boat launch**
- Adults may accompany youth in the boat. We encourage participants (or their parents) to bring their boat. Otherwise, we will do our best to match you with a boat.
- Put on by Capital City Chapter of Muskies Inc. (CCMI)

For all rules and regulations, scan the QR code below.

Other questions? Contact Robbi Hron at 608-469-1518.



## 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 2025 and 2026 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 2025 and 2026 to date:

- Palac Family Healing Waters Foundation 2025 & 2026
- Dennis Lytle 2025
- Don Hollatz 2025
- Dorn Outdoor Pro Shop 2025 & 2026
- Musky Fool Fly Fishing Company 2025 & 2026
- Chaos Tackle 2025 & 2026
- Spanky Baits 2025 & 2026
- Team Rhino Outdoors 2025 & 2026
- Suick Lure Manufacturing 2025
- Contributors to the CCMI Adopt-a-Muskie Program 2025 & 2026
- Leeann Soma – LeeLee Foundation 2025
- Gil Hamm Foundation - Muskies Inc. 2025 & 2026
- Hugh C. Becker Foundation - Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc. 2024 & 2025
- American Family Insurance on behalf of Robbie Hron 2025 & 2026
- Midwest Musky Club 2026
- Jeff Hanson 2025 & 2026
- Gerard Hellenbrand 2025
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- Hiawatha Lodge and Resort, Eagle River, WI 2025 & 2026
- Barrymore Corporation 2025
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- The Cisco Kids 2025
- Jeff Lyon 2025 & 2026
- Josh Lavik 2025
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- Darren Dempsey 2025
- Noah Humfeld 2025 & 2026
- Julie and Rick Rimkus 2025
- Paul Twardy 2026
- North Shore Lodge, Eagle Lake, Ontario 2026
- Steven Krause Memorial 2026

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

- 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. 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](mailto: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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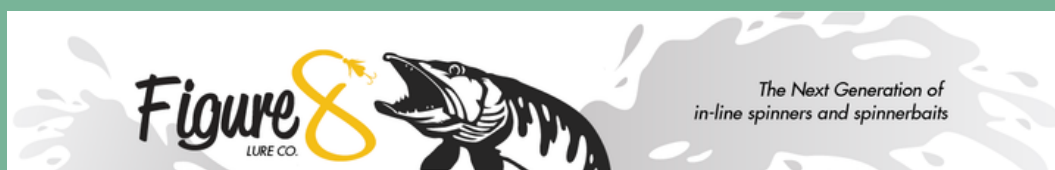
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