



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

Prez Sez

We are getting closer to musky season! The weather is getting (a little) warmer and the days are getting (a little) longer. I have stocked up on new musky lures from the expos, now I just have to wait 2 more months.

It was great seeing everyone at the expos and our Humminbird Raffle was a huge success! Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time at the shows and to all who bought raffle tickets. If you didn't get to stop by in Chicago, Milwaukee, or Madison, you have one more chance in Wausau. We will be holding a smaller Garage Sale at that expo and be promoting our upcoming events.

Thanks to all that attended the Awards Ceremony last month, it was fun to hear all the fish stories, maybe next year Will will let a few other people win. Thanks again to Jeff Lyon for the great presentation. If you were there you know exactly what lure I will be throwing and when I'll be throwing it in Madison this season.

As the weather improves and you are preparing for the summer don't forget trailer maintenance. Everyone knows to sharpen hooks and to get all the gear organized in the boat, but those bearings aren't going to grease themselves! A breakdown on the way to the lake can ruin the entire trip.

It's March, time to start stretching those casting muscles.

Brian Falleck

2026 Event Calendar



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

March 9.....General Meeting, Speaker Todd Forcier
March 28.....23rd Annual Muskie School
April 11.....Annual Fundraiser, Speaker Gus Mantey

Release Chair Report

Jeff Lyon CCMi Release Chair
ccmireleasechair@gmail.com

Recap of 2025 Awards night. CCMi had 516 total releases in 2025. CCMi had twenty-two 50 plus inch muskies that were caught, that's 11.2% of all 50's caught in Muskie Inc in 2025. Thirteen Tiger muskies were caught by CCMi members.

Awards:

Lunker of the Month

May	50 ¼	Noah Humfeld
June	50	Will Zeichert
July	50 ¼	Mike Thoreson
	50 ¼	Will Zeichert
Aug	53	Will Zeichert
Sept	54	Will Zeichert
Oct	50 ½	Jeff Hanson
Nov	52 ½	Matt (Catfish) Firestein

Hat Trick Winners	Greg Voss
Sliver Hat Trick Winners	Jeff Lyon

Largest Tiger/Hybrid Release	44	Aaron Laking
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Largest Youth Release	50 ¼	Devyn Hanson
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Largest Dane County Release	51	Thomas Daggett
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Largest Pure Muskie Release	54	Will Zeichert
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Largest Pure Muskie Release 54

Will Zeichert

Rookie of the Year 2 Muskies 24 points

Justin Gasser

2025 Women's Division Champion 5 Muskies 63 points

Lynda Lawler

Master's Division Champion 25 Muskies 408 points Jeff Lyon

Men's Division Champion 32 Fish 579 points

Will Zeichert

National Awards

1st Place! Junior Fry Division 16 Muskies 227 points

Devyn Hanson

4th Place, Fly Division 4 Muskies 54 points

Dan Donovan

Change to the Replica contest.

- One 700-dollar gift certificate for Dane County releases.
- One 700-dollar gift certificate for all other releases.

Only 31 muskies were entered in the 2025 Replica contest. Register your fish and submit your 45 plus into the replica contest. If you already have won one, you still can win a 100-gift card to the Dorn Pro Shop.

Please stop registering your fish to Madison Chain. Select Wingra, Monona, or Waubesa. There are no secret lakes in Madison. This helps collect important data on release and where fish are coming from.

I have 50-inch release patches, if you have caught a 50 in 2025 and would like a patch, please email me.

I also have 100 release patches, if you have registered over 100 muskies in muskie inc. and want a patch, again email me. Check out the picture of this beautiful swag!

Now to getting lines wet to 2026!!!

Jeff





What a fine looking group of some of the best muskie fishermen and fishergirls in the WORLD!

2026 Annual Muskie School

Go check out the lineup for the annual Muskie School! There will be some incentives for signing up early as usual. Desired classes fill fast, so get in there and sign up! To register early, click here:

<https://www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org/muskie-school/>

If you have not been to this school, it is outstanding! Donuts, outstanding speakers, a really good lunch, and tons of raffles and other prizes! What more could you ask for on an otherwise bleak March day. Sign up NOW!!!

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, 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 & 2025
- 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
- Josh Lavik 2025
- Brian Falleck 2025
- Thomas Wachowiacz 2025
- Darren Dempsey 2025
- Noah Humfeld 2025
- Julie and Rick Rimkus 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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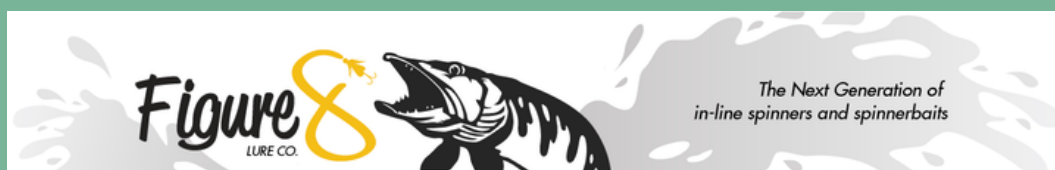
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Capital City Chapter of Muskies, Inc. Officers

PRESIDENT

Brian Falleck
608-212-7941
president@capitalcitymuskiesinc.org

VICE-PRESIDENT

Currently Vacant

CHAPTER REP. TO MUSKIES INC.

Winston Hopkins
(608) 577-3184
WinstonjHopkins@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Greg Voss
608-514-3897
mzkee52@gmail.com

TREASURER

Bob Baumgartner
(608) 320-6336
bbaumgartner4@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Submissions due by the 20th of each month to Todd Berge at:
todd.berge2@gmail.com
 or
newsletter@capitalcitymuskiesinc.org

AT-LARGE DIRECTORS	TERM EXP
Brett Cook	2027
cookbeixperts.com	
Dan Donovan	2027
djdonovan8206@gmail.com	
Scott Trimborn	2027
scotty.trimborn@wisc.edu	
Paul Twardy	2027
paulmarionpeter@gmail.com	
Todd Berge	2026
todd.berge2@gmail.com	
Joe Uselman	2026
uselman.joe@gmail.com	
Robbi Hron	2026
rhron@amfam.com	
Allen Jenkins	2027
jenk2ta@gmail.com	
Jeff Lyon	2026
rectlyon@gmail.com	
Mike Milia	2026
mikemilia@charter.net	
Keith Reopelle	2026
keithreopelle@gmail.com	
Brad Nelson	2026
bradp_nelson@yahoo.com	
Joe Uselman	2026
uselman.joe@gmail.com	



