



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

Prez Sez

It is the most wonderful time of the year. The long, cold, dark winter is over and we finally get to use all the new goodies and knowledge we gathered at the expos at our monthly meetings.

I would like to thank everyone who attended our events and meetings over the winter. Our school and fundraiser were very successful events. Another big thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with them. It is not an easy task to put these large events on every year. We are already planning for 2027. For me, the beginning of the season brings excitement and hope. The past few years both of those things dwindled before the 4th of July. We'll see how it goes this time. I know one thing, it won't be for a lack of trying this year.

I hope to see many of you on the water and at our events over the summer. Good luck to everyone!

Brian Falleck

2026 Event Calendar



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

- May 9.....Madison Chain Outing
- May 11.....General Member Meeting, Speaker Keith Reopelle
- June 8.....On-the-Water Meeting
- June 16 and 27..... Hatchery Tour
- June 19-20..... Bill Wood Outing

Release Chair Report

2026 CCMI Release Standings current as of April 27th 11:30 AM

<u>Mens</u>	Muskies	Points	Avg Length
Shane Nesheim	1	17	43.00"

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).
 - 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.

Good Luck on your muskie hunts in early May! Email or text pictures CCMI will post on our social media accounts! Hope you have a great season!

Jeff Lyon CCMI Release Chair
ccmireleasechair@gmail.com

Stocking Update Request

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is drafting a new 2026-2036 Fisheries Management Strategic Plan, and is seeking public input. This plan will aim to provide direction on how Wisconsin's fisheries resources are managed and sustained over the next 10 years. The DNR is responsible for managing and sustaining Wisconsin's extensive fisheries resources, including over 160 fish species, 15,000 lakes, 42,000 miles of perennial streams and rivers, two Great Lakes and 260 miles of the Mississippi River. Members of the public can share their preferences on the potential management outcomes in the strategic plan until May 10.

You should click on the above words highlighted " strategic plan " to access the survey and provide your input. You could also use whatever search engine you wish and search for " Wisconsin department of natural resources fisheries strategic plan input 2026" which should produce several opportunities to access this survey. When I did my Google search something from Channel 3000 popped up first which had the words " strategic plan " in red to click on for easily providing your input.

Providing your input may take longer than complaining, but may be worth it. Completing the survey took me about 10 minutes. Later in the survey I typed in "Capital City Muskies Inc Chapter" when there was an area about being a member of a group (other?) because I thought it could raise awareness about CCMI. Soon after that area, I also responded positively to a different question about being affiliated with the WI Musky Alliance. CCMI holds a membership with the WI Musky Clubs Alliance and WDNR seems to defer to the WI Musky Club Alliance more for input and cooperation than the Muskie Inc chapters in WI.

If you agree with me that Fishing License fees across the board should be significantly increased to fully fund musky stocking, please provide that input to the WDNR in this survey.

Thank you for providing your input to the WDNR!

Greg Voss CCMI Stocking Chair

Iowa Hawg Hunt Results

Great turn out for the 2026 Iowa Hawg Hunt (IHH) with 12 participants, 7 of which were first-timers including 2 from Iowa. The thunderstorm and tornado warnings that brought with them 30-40 mph wind gusts, made boat control difficult to say the least. There were follows on Friday with the only muskie caught on Saturday by Shane Nesheim. Shane caught a 43" on Lake MacBride to take home first place trophy and gift card. Not only did Shane catch the fish, but he also fought the winds to land it, as he was fishing solo. Not that anyone is keeping count, but this is Shane's 5th win in the IHH. Saturday evening stories and laughs were shared over pizza. Mark you calendars for 2027 Iowa Hawg Hunt on April 16-17. Congratulations to Shane, again....

Submitted by Scott Trimborn



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) to get more information.

Muskies In Hot Water!

Capital City Muskies Inc. (CCMI,) is the proud sponsor of a presentation developed by CCMI board member Keith Reopelle that explores the impact that climate change is having on Wisconsin fisheries in general and on muskies in particular. Keith's presentation has three parts: part 1 looks at the importance of sport fisheries to the state of Wisconsin; part 2 describes the impacts that climate change is having on game fisheries in the state with a focus on muskies; and part 3 is a discussion of what all of us can do to minimize the impacts of climate change on our fisheries and improve game fish habitat at the same time. Keith is willing to travel anywhere in Wisconsin and give his presentation (at no cost) to local fishing clubs, lake associations, and other groups interested in learning more about how to protect our sport fisheries for future generations.

Keith's "Muskies in Hot Water", presentation was developed in coordination with, and with support from, the Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy (OSCE). Keith is a life-long Wisconsin angler, a 30-year musky chaser, and he was the Program Director at Clean Wisconsin where he worked for more than 30 years leading efforts to develop climate change solutions at the state and Midwest regional levels. Keith has a bachelor's degree in wildlife ecology and a master's degree in environmental communications from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

If you are interested in having Keith give this presentation to a group you are part of, please email him at: keithreopelle@gmail.com.



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!

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 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
- Jacob Jedryck 2025
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- Josh Lavik 2025
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- Noah Humfeld 2025 & 2026
- Julie and Rick Rimkus 2025
- Paul Twardy 2026
- North Shore Lodge, Eagle Lake, Ontario 2026
- Steven Krause Memorial 2026
- Matt Frazer 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/ 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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