



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

Prez Sez

We just can't seem to catch a break with this hot weather. And it sounds like even northern Wisconsin hasn't been spared this time either. I for one, am really itching to throw musky baits again, unfortunately, it's looking like I'll have to wait a couple weeks before that happens. The only good news is that we are closer to my favorite month, September!

This month we have our last On-The-Water Meeting on the 10th. It is always a great time getting together and swapping stories. Hopefully, someone caught a big bluegill so we have something to talk about. If you are able, please join us at Goodland Park at 6:30.

We still have a couple spots open on our Board of Directors. If you have any interest in helping out the chapter please let me know. We could use your help with our events and fundraising. Without our volunteers we wouldn't be able to hold the biggest youth event in the nation or be able to stock as many muskies into the Madison Chain.

Here's hoping for cooler water temps and big muskies in the net.

Brian Falleck

Help NEEDED!!!!

CCMI is looking for a new Merchandise Chairperson. This position consists of keeping track of inventory, ordering merch when needed, and selling items at our monthly meetings. If anyone is interested, please reach out to Brian Falleck (bdfalleck@gmail.com) to get more information.

2026 Event Calendar



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

August 10.....	On-the-Water Meeting
August 15.....	LOTW Outing
September 12.....	CCMI Fall Tournament
September 14.....	General Member Meeting
September 26.....	Gary Hoffman PIT Tag Challenge
October 9.....	Vilas County Outing

Release Chair Report

Release Chair Report

Jeff Lyon CCMI Release Chair

ccmireleasechair@gmail.com

2026 CCMI Release Standings current as of July 29th at 8:30 AM

Only 8 entries in the replica release contest so far in 2026. All entries must be submitted within 30 days of the catch!

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.
 - o 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.
 - o All Lunker of the Month entries must be entered in the Muskies Inc "Lunge Log" (www.muskiesinc.org).
 - o All Lunker of the Month entries, Members must register their catch within (30) days of the date of the catch.
 - o 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.

Send in your Lunker of the Month Pictures!

Mens Divison	# of Fish	Pts	Avg.	Biggest
Mitchell Limp	9	100	37.08"	46.25"
Todd Berge	7	98	39.93"	46.25"
Tony Artymiuk	6	68	37.08"	43.75"
Eric R Olson	5	65	38.90"	42.00"
Mike Milia	3	58	44.92"	47.50"
Kyle Kramer	3	46	41.33"	47.00"
Garrett Lederman	3	46	41.25"	50.00"
Geoffrey C Crandall	2	44	47.88"	48.00"
Allen Jenkins	3	41	39.33"	45.00"
Wilhelm Zeichert	4	40	36.00"	43.00"
Scottie Gordon	4	40	36.00"	40.00"
Scott Trimborn	3	36	38.00"	43.00"
James Lawler	2	33	42.50"	46.00"
Joe Uselman	1	26	52.00"	52.00"
Shane Nesheim	2	22	36.75"	43.00"
Lee Bartolini	2	21	36.50"	37.00"
Craig Wood	1	21	47.00"	47.00"
Justin Gasser	1	18	44.00"	44.00"
Matt Vike	1	15	40.50"	40.50"

Mens Divison	# of Fis	Pts	Avg.	Biggest
Chris Emden	1	14	39.75"	39.75"
Tom Pollard	2	10	31.00"	32.00"
Kurt Brändli	1	9	34.75"	34.75"
Scott Gennrich	1	7	33.25"	33.25"

Womens Divison	# of Fish	Pts	Avg.	Biggest
Lynda Lawler	2	28	39.75"	41.75"
Tara Jenkins	1	9	35.00"	35.00"

Mens Masters	# of Fish	Pts	Avg.	Biggest
Jeff Lehr	21	251	37.81"	47.50"
Brad Nelson	14	178	38.54"	48.50"
Jeff Lyon	8	111	39.66"	48.00"
Aaron Laking	4	72	43.75"	48.00"
Matthew DeVos	4	40	35.92"	43.00"
Matt Mc Cumber	1	16	41.50"	41.50"

Youth Divison	# of Fish	Pts	Avg.	Biggest
Devyn Hanson	6	74	38.13"	45.50"

Vilas County Outing: October 9th and 10th, 2026

The annual Vilas County Muskie 2-day Outing will be held Friday, October 9th and Saturday, October 10th, 2026. This is a friendly outing for CCMI members, family and friends. You do not have to be a CCMI member to participate.

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. Following is a link to the form.

<http://www.capitalcitymuskiesinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/MI-RELEASE-OF-LIABILITY.pdf>

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. For additional information about 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 Outing AND Banquet is \$50 per person, inclusive of gratuity.

NEW THIS YEAR

The Vilas Outing will be limited to the first 50 anglers whose payment is received by Dale Anderson no later than October 1, 2026. Please don't hesitate to sign up, it's going to fill up fast. Any registrations/fees received after there are 50 anglers registered will be returned.

TOTAL COST: \$50 for the Outing Fee and Banquet Dinner.

CONTEST RULES:

Muskies caught from 7:00 a.m. Friday, October 9th, to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 10th, will be eligible for awards! There is no sign in. Report all muskies caught by 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 10th, to Dale Anderson at the Rustic Roadhaus. To be eligible for an award, a witness is required (an outing participant for all entries). **Photographs of fish caught are required with a digital device that shows date and time stamp of your catch.** 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.

NEW THIS YEAR

The first place winner, (largest muskie by length) caught and registered will receive a free replica from Lax Taxidermy of their fish! This new replica offer for the Vilas County Outing has been generously donated by our sponsor, **Edward Jones Soma Wealth Management!**

Winners may only win in one category (with the exception of the LAX Replica that goes to the winner of the largest muskie by length)! If there is a tie in length, the first muskie caught based on the time and date stamp on the photo wins. Walnut Plaques will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place:

- 1) Largest muskie by length in inches
- 2) Second largest muskie by length in inches
- 3) Third largest muskie by length in inches
- 4) Smallest muskie by length in inches-gets a Muskie Base trophy

We will need all sign-up sheets and money no later than October 1st, 2026. 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. 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!



2026 Vilas County Muskie Outing Banquet

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

Rustic Roadhaus
Manitowish Waters, WI.
Phone: (715) 543-8500

Cocktails and Fish Stories: 5:30 p.m. Cash Bar

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

● \$50.00 per person for the Outing and the Banquet.

MENU SELECTIONS:

- Prime Rib (Salad, Baked Potato, Bread and Dessert)
- Grilled Shrimp Alfredo (Salad, Bread and Dessert)
- Full Rack of BBQ Ribs (Salad, Baked Potato, Bread and Dessert)

Please return this portion of the form to Dale Anderson with your payment no later than October 1st, 2026. Please make your check payable to Dale Anderson and mail to:

Dale Anderson, PO Box 384, Mercer, WI 54547.

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

Entrée Choice:

- ☐ Prime Rib
- ☐ Grilled Shrimp Alfredo
- ☐ Full Rack of BBQ Ribs

If more than one name is included on this banquet form, please write a number in the checkbox next to the entrée. For example, if there are two names on the form and one person wants prime rib and one person wants Shrimp Alfredo, you would write a “1” in each of those entrée boxes. If both persons would like prime rib, you would write a “2” in that entrée box. Thanks.

Please provide a cell phone number so that Dale can contact you if there are questions regarding your registration or meal choice!

Name and Cell #: _____

Name and Cell #: _____

JUNE TOUR OF DNR WILD ROSE FISH HATCHERY

Most common comment from CCMI tour participants: “I did not realize all the complicated steps that go into raising muskies for stocking before they are stocked.”

HATCHERY INFORMATION

- Wild Rose DNR hatchery is largest cold water DNR hatchery in Wisconsin
- Wild Rose DNR hatchery is one of only three DNR fish hatcheries to raise both cold (trout/salmon) and cool water (musky/walleye/sturgeon) fish
- Wild Rose DNR hatchery is the only DNR fish hatchery to raise the Great Lakes Spotted specie of muskies in WI
- Wild Rose DNR hatchery produces over 2 million fish per year (trout/salmon/musky/walleye/sturgeon)
- As of June 16, 2026 the Wild Rose DNR fish hatchery had over 200,000 musky fingerlings only 0.5- 2.0 inches long that could reach about 12 inches long by fall of 2026 stocking
- Cannibalism between musky fingerlings can result in up to 40% reduction in musky numbers
- Despite annual weather changes, WI DNR staff believe the Great Lakes Spotted muskies recently seem to spawn usually between May 6 – May 15.
- WI DNR recent plans call for local DNR Fish Biologist (Kyle Olivencia) to submit request IN EVEN NUMBERED YEARS ONLY for 2,820 muskies from Wild Rose DNR fish hatchery for stocking into counties Dane, Green, and Rock lakes (so far CCMI asks all to be stocked into Monona, Waubesa, or Wingra)

MUSKY STOCKING PROCESS

- Musky eggs from captured females are fertilized with milt from captured musky males at capture site (near DePere, WI on Fox River)
- Musky eggs realize only about 20% survival rate
- Musky eggs raised on dry krill in closely controlled inside building tanks number about 8-10,000 musky fry 1-2 inches long while inside buildings.
- Musky fingerlings transferred into outside plastic lined ponds about late June with overhead nets where significant annual growth can occur by up to 12 inches in each September
- CCMI volunteers valued in about September to help move muskies from rearing ponds to delivery trucks and insert PIT tags in some muskies to be stocked

Greg Voss, CCMI Stocking Chair



Good looking group



That's a BIG aquarium!



Cute little fellas!



The long-term results: Jim Lawler with a 46" from Monona

Stocking Update

A BIRD IN HAND IS WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH!

The 2026 CCMI plan and budget regarding musky stocking for this fall in Monona, Waubesa, and Wingra was for 2,820 Great Lakes Spotted musky fingerlings about 11 inches long to be supplied free of charge from the Wisconsin DNR hatchery in Wild Rose WI (wild egg/milt source Fox River, WI). Since that January plan and budget was approved by the CCMI Board, considerable inflammatory rhetoric was distributed by the new DNR head about potentially cutting WI musky and walleye stocking by an alarming percentage due to a lack of funding from the state legislators. WI legislators seemed to have another perspective that the funding had been already approved. That funding access has since been clarified. In early May the DNR Fisheries Biologist from the DNR Wild Rose Hatchery had harvested the full quota of musky fry for raising at the Wild Rose hatchery in 2026.

In spring 2026, we thought that maybe the state money for 2026 DNR Musky stocking may be "approved" at a later date, which appears to have occurred now. However, without that certainty in spring 2026, myself and Brad Nelson recommended, & the CCMI Board voted approval at the May CCMI Board meeting, to purchase 1,410 musky fingerlings from Gollon Bait & Fish Farm in fall 2026 for stocking into the Madison Chain. CCMI has verbally requested/ordered those 1,410 from Gollon. So, I believe we need to honor that commitment. That 1,410 number of musky fingerlings represents about 50% of the number usually approved by the DNR for stocking in Monona, Waubesa, & Wingra each year.

I have spoken with our local DNR Fisheries Biologist Kyle Olivencia & informed him of our plans. He said he would probably just reduce his DNR quota request by 50 % if funding was approved at a later date. He did not know in June 2026 if funding or stocking would be approved. Although this probably represents a significant unanticipated dollar cost to CCMI, I think our strategy in the spring of 2026 of "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush" was the best thing to do at the time to assure we did not miss a full year class of stocked musky fingerlings in Madison. If we also receive 1,410 musky fingerlings from WI DNR Hatchery in Wild Rose in the fall of 2026, that should result in the stocking of the maximum number of musky fingerlings that the WI DNR allows to be stocked into Monona, Waubesa, and Wingra each year. That would be good thing.

Greg Voss
CCMI Stocking Chair

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. 2025 & 2026
- American Family Insurance on behalf of Robbie Hron 2025 & 2026
- Midwest Musky Club 2026
- Bill Suick 2025 & 2026
- Laurie Lewandowski 2026
- Pat Ewandowski 2026
- Jeff Hanson 2025 & 2026
- Gerard Hellenbrand 2025
- Gottlieb Brandli 2025
- Kurt Brandli 2025
- John Eversoll 2025 & 2026
- Scot Stewart 2025 & 2026
- Hiawatha Lodge and Resort, Eagle River, WI 2025 & 2026
- Barrymore Corporation 2025
- Jacob Jedryck 2025
- The Cisco Kids 2025
- Jeff Lyon 2025 & 2026
- Josh Lavik 2025
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- Thomas Wachowiacz 2025
- 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
- Matt Frazer 2026
- Bryan Calcaterra 2025 & 2026
- Trena Fund 2026
- Troy Dixen 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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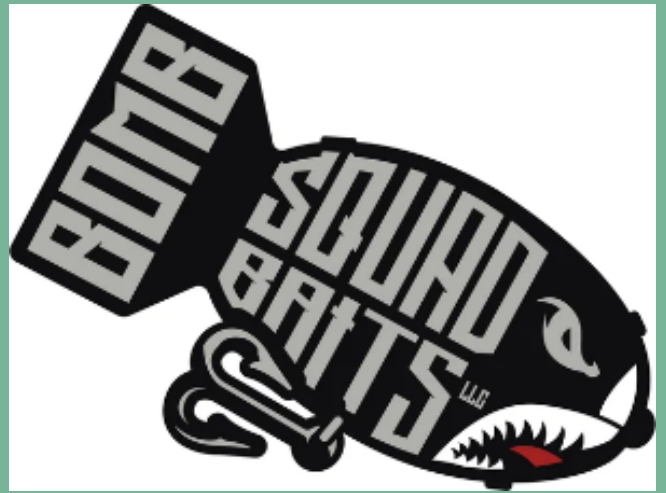
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