

Moose Lake News

Musky fishing at its finest, that is what was happening all over our area this past weekend. Oct. 1-3 the Hayward Lakes Chapter of Muskies Inc. hosted its 43rd annual catch and release Musky tournament. The tournament was open to anyone who wanted to fish any of the seventeen designated lakes in our area. A 2021-1725 Lund Pro Guide boat and trailer given away to one of the lucky 441 anglers in a drawing. This was a main attraction for these anglers. The boat is equipped with, a 60 HP Mercury motor. This boat was won by Heath Hoover of Shell Lake. This was just a drawing where everyone had a chance to win. You did not have to catch a musky either, to qualify.

Matthew Alberts of St. Paul had the highest score during the tournament & won first place. He caught three muskies one of which was forty-six inches in length. Matthew was fishing on Teal Lake. He was awarded a \$1500. gift card from Cabela's. Second place went to Eric Andracke of Bloomington Ill. He won a \$1000. Gift card from Hayward Bait and Tackle. Eric was fishing on the Chippewa Flowage. There were thousands of dollars in additional prizes given away. Nick Mathews of Ottawa Illinois was fishing on Moose Lake. He caught a beautiful 41-inch musky. Nick placed 15th with his fish.

Area restaurant news. The previous Charlie's Restaurant which now we can refer to as JB's Moose Lake Shack Bar and Grill. Their business identification sign on the front of their building week will be installed on the front of their building this week. I stopped by to see Jared Burton owner of the new area Bar and Grill last weekend. In case you don't know, they will be located on County Highway S located between East Moose Lake Rd and West Moose Lake Rd. Jared is excited about getting their business sign installed so people will know the name of their business. Jared and his father have been working extremely hard to finish all the remodeling as soon as possible. They have come a long way but still have many hours of work to do yet. Jared said in a few weeks they will have a better idea of how long it will be before they can open. All I can say is, it will be worth the wait Moose Lakers. The building is undergoing major improvements and I was very much impressed. Jarred told me that they have a couple of surprises that they have done to the inside also. I promised not to say a word. The outside has been completely painted and looks very nice. I like the color combination.. Jared has several appliances that have arrived including beer coolers. Little by little it is slowly coming together. We will keep you informed.

I would like to inform everyone that it's that time of the year when many restaurants / businesses reduce their hours of business. A few weeks ago, we reminded everyone that Mel's Outdoor Power is staying open to shrink wrap boats and pontoons. Service work will be on a day-to-day basis. Mel is at the point that he wants to retire and has his business is up for sale. Mel is doing what he can to please his customers. We will keep you informed on his hours in the weeks to come.

The Robins Nest Restaurant has been open every day from 7 AM to 2 PM. Starting on Monday October 11th they will be going to their winter hours. Closed Monday thru Friday Open Saturday and Sunday 7 AM to 2 PM. Chris and Ashley would like to thank everyone for a great summer.

This Thursday morning the 7th of October the MLIA Board of directors will meet to discuss its monthly business. One item of business that we will be talking about is the possibility of stocking crappies in Moose Lake. The population of crappies has possible been reduced below what we would normally like to see.

There has been an extremely large numbers of vacationers in the hayward Lake's area during the past two summers. This has put additional pressure on our fishery. It's estimated because of COVID 25 to

30% more anglers & vacationers that normally go to Canada now have explored northern Wisconsin and Northern Minnesota. Many people that have not fished or used our outdoors before, are now using our natural resources. With the additional pressure we are possible losing as much as 25% more fish through legal harvesting. I personally would like to see our crappie harvest reduced to five crappies a day of which only one can be over twelve inches. The remainder for the total of ten must be bluegills or perch. Moose Lake residents should self-manage, of what they take. I am proud to say of 19 years of fishing Moose Lake I have never kept a fish out of Moose Lake. I repeat never kept a fish out of this lake. If I wanted a meal I would harvest my fish from other area lakes. I always wanted to put the fish back so my guests would have one more fish to catch.

Sunday night I spoke to retired Fish Biologist for the Wisconsin DNR Frank Pratt. What I have just been talking about was the topic of our discussion. Frank totally agrees with this. We also talked about the stocking of extended growth crappies. Crappies of about 6-7 inches. He did not think that stocking crappies from another source would mess up the genetics, but he did not know for sure. He said I really don't know. Most crappies that are in our lakes are not native. Most of the black crappies in our area lakes were brought in from along the Mississippi River south of here. The DNR brought them up here in railroad cars when they had to be moved in an emergency because low water in the back waters along the Mississippi many years ago.

Another thing we talked about was shallow water cover along the shoreline of Moose Lake. He said we can never have too much wood. We need more cover. Tree drops on Moose Lake would be the best thing we could do. The DNR dropped over nine hundred trees recently on the Chippewa Flowage. Frank said about 100 years ago many of our lakes had on an average, 300- 500 trees for every mile of shoreline. That was some of the best habitat that there ever was on our area lakes. It is now all gone. Why? Property owners. Let us start to improve this lake, Moose Lakers. We can do it.

This is Fire Prevention week. Please change your batteries in you smoke detectors and CO alarms. We will have much more next week.

Happy Birthday to Ed Metcalf on the eighth. Gaitlin Gunn on the 9th of October. Jon Sorsensen and Sharon Bratrud both on the 12th. Wedding anniversaries this Dan & Marge McCormick will be celebrating on Oct. 7th. I also would like to wish my wonderful wife Barb a Happy Anniversary. Twenty-four wonderful years together.

That is all I have for this week. Please send your news items to me. jonarheim@centurytel.net or 715-462-4448. Stay Safe everyone.