



January 2009 Newsletter

Presidents Message

I want to thank you all for a successful 2008. Our club accomplished most of our goals for the year, we had a good time, and we caught some nice fish too.

We raised a lot of money and spent most of it on the Minnow Fund project, Belle River Food Bank, Kids fishing day, and great tournament prizes. Just to name a few.

We had a good time at the December Christmas party at the Varsity Club, the weather wasn't very nice, but we still had a good crowd.

Now we are kicking off a new year and getting things ready for another season of Muskie fishing. It's time to plan vacations and weekends for Tournaments, Outings, etc. Margaret has the Tournament schedule and dates on the Current news page of our website. This should work well for a quick look and then more details will be coming on the Tournaments and Events page.

I hope most of you have saved a few bucks to buy some new baits at the Ohio Muskie Show, there is always a great selection there.

At our January meeting, we will have Mike Candella do his presentation on Leader making. He has done this at a past meeting and it's very good. Many Muskie fishermen are using heavy mono/fluorocarbon leaders now and this will be a good time to learn how to make your own.

We will be making detailed plans with the committees for the Ohio Muskie Show, Annual Banquet, Kids Fishing day, and Tournaments, etc. Please be ready to get involved and help plan for these events. Two of these events, Ohio Muskie Show and the Annual Banquet are coming up soon, so we don't have much time to prepare.

I would like to schedule some Outings to other lakes this spring. Saltfork, Piedmont, and Pymatuning have been good early spring lakes. So look at your calendar and see if we can pencil some dates in.

You should have received the 2009 Muskies, Inc Calendar by now. Central Ohio chapter tournaments/events dates are on it. Please consider sending a donation for this important fund raiser for the International.

Congratulations to Steve Ault, the Men's division winner by catching 30 fish. He did very well on Alum Creek last summer.

Congratulations to junior member Christian (CJ) Overmyer for winning the Club Tournament Championship for 2008. That's quite an accomplishment for a 13 year old. PS. I'm looking for a new tournament partner in 2009.

Jack Worline has scheduled our tournaments for prime times again on Clearfork and Alum Creek. I just hope he can get the weather to cooperate a little better.

The Ray Demers Tournament on St. Clair is the last weekend in June, prime time for numbers and big fish. This is a great opportunity to learn St. Clair and have a good time.

Good luck to everyone in 2009.

See you at the meeting.

Mark

PRESIDENT

Mark Pauling
(419)992-4504
paulinmf@bp.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Rob VanGorder
(740) 225-1152
rcv@kokosing.biz

TREASURER

Mike Candella
(614) 895-7822
mikecandella@insight.rr.com

SECRETARY

Kurt Hahn
khhahn@wowway.com

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Doug Dible
drdible@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Tom Rankin
tsrdds@ameritech.net

MERCHANDISE DIRECTOR

Ross Wagner
(513)231-1961
ohiomuskieshow@yahoo.com

WEB/RELEASE CHAIR

Margaret Pauling
(419) 992-4505
marg_pauling@yahoo.com

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Jack Worline
(614) 262-4474
jworline@columbus.rr.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS YOUTH DIRECTOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR MAGAZINE EDITOR

Elmer Heyob
(937) 642-1868

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Tom Rankin
(614) 459-6396
tsrdds@ameritech.net

Membership Renewals

January– George Holdridge, Rob Howitt

February– William Gessling, Don Leppert, Gary Solomon, Brian Vinson

March– Steve Ault, Chris Bricker, Ike Callison, Katie Callison, Tracy Callison, Miles Clary, Frank Cziraki, Paul Dawes, Doug Grahl, Josh Jackson, Todd Jackson, Brittany Kemp, Fred Pearson, Harold Smart, Bernice Smith, Brent Spence, The VanGorder Family, John Wagner, Huey White, Jay Wuersig

Events for 2009

Ohio Muskie Show - 2/27, 2/28, & 3/1

Annual Banquet - 3/7

John Fisher Memorial Tournament at Clear Fork - 4/25, 4/26

Russ Dodridge Memorial Tournament at Clear Fork - 5/30, 5/31

Ray Demers Memorial Tournament at St. Clair - 6/26, 6/27, & 6/28

Nite Bite Outing at Alum Creek Reservoir - 7/10

Annual Youth Event - 7/16

Fall Shoot-Out at Alum Creek Reservoir - 10/10, 10/11



MEMBER CONTEST FORMS

Please send all fish release forms to:

Margaret Pauling

Chapter Release Chairperson

870 County Road 9

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Fax: (419) 639-2293

marg_pauling@yahoo.com

Fishing report for 2008

I've put together a review of 2008 fishing reports and other details that we can use to make plans for 2009. Our catch success was definitely down in 2008, compared to 2007 and past years. Mother Nature delivered some miserable weather for both the Spring and the Fall, and as a result our number of Muskies caught were down. We logged 462 fish in 2008, this compares with 614 fish in 2007.

January and February were too cold and no Muskies were caught. March just about skunked us, but Ron Murdock and Cliff Honeycutt each got one in late March. April was also very slow. Clearfork had persistent muddy water and the massive amount of standing weeds that remained on the flats from the fall before, made trolling very tough. 3 fish were logged in April from Clearfork. Alum was tough in April too, water color was very poor. 1 fish was logged in April from Alum Creek. It looks like we should have been going to Piedmont or Saltfork in April, because some of our members did better at those lakes. May was disappointing again, Alum logged 3 fish. Clearfork did a little better in May, 22 fish caught, but there should have been more. It would sure be nice to get a favorable Spring with good water color and develop a Spring pattern for Alum Creek. I think you guys could really get into some fish on Alum if conditions would just be on our side.

In June, Clearfork and Alum Creek got back to normal, and the catch results were much better. The St. Clair opener started off terrible, murky water color made for tough fishing. The Detroit river was a better choice for early June. The Muskies finally turned on the Friday before the Ray Demers Tournament, and the rest of the summer was pretty normal for St. Clair. There is one bright spot for lake St. Clair and that is the enormous number of small Muskies, 18" to 28", being caught. There must have been a couple of very successful spawns to put all those little guys into the system. They will be growing up and giving us something to look forward to in the coming years. VHS may have hurt St. Clair for now, but the lake is recovering nicely. It's not a numbers lake anymore, but it still has some good year classes of big Muskies.

Alum Creek was normal again in July and August, trolling deeper as the water warmed up, was the pattern again. Lightning Shads, Alley Cats, Sissons, and Monster Shads were the lures most reported. Clearfork only logged 1 fish in July and August.

September was tough again at Alum and Clearfork, but that's normal.

October was slow at Clearfork and our Fall tournament at Alum Creek was the highlight for October on Alum Creek.

Bad weather set in for the last week of October and rest of the season was very slow. Lake St. Clair, the Detroit river, and the Thames river didn't log many fish because of the wind, muddy water and cold weather that hammered us all fall.

No fish were turned in for December for the first time in a long time.

It looks like we should be going to Saltfork and Piedmont lakes more this coming spring, especially if Clearfork and Alum have muddy water again. I have proposed to schedule some outings at these lakes so we have an excuse to go.

Mark

2009 Ohio Muskie Show

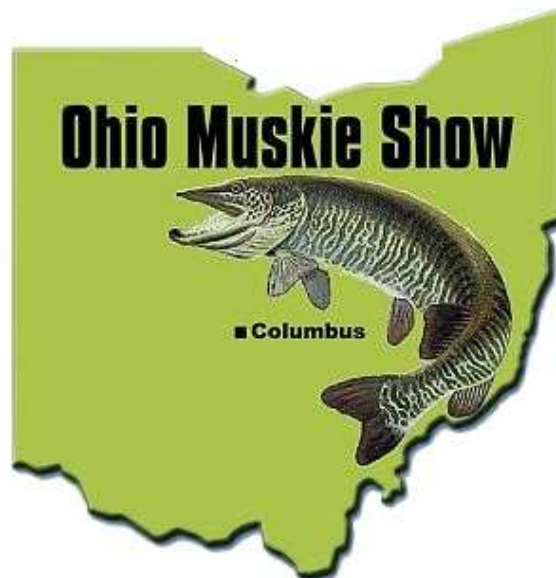
February 27,28, March1, 2009

The Largest Muskie Show East of Chicago
2008 OHIO MUSKIE SHOW

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muskie retailers!*

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learning curve
with daily
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*Learn from
the best,
buy from
the best,
in the heart of
the Midwest!*

Contact us at: www.ohiomuskieshow.com • e-mail ohiomuskieshow@yahoo.com



2008 Photos of the Year

These 2 photos get my vote as photos of the year.: Good holds, entire fish is visible, good framing

