

Up North Muskie, Now!

BY JOHN ANDREW

Let's get started. Up north, fall muskie are all about the rubber Bull Dawgs and rubber look-alikes, as well as the live sucker. These baits are undisputedly the number one producers of muskie in the early fall, and then it changes to using almost all suckers during late fall. These live baits are about 10 to 20 inches long, and hooked onto a quick strike rig, which allows the fish to be caught and released unharmed.

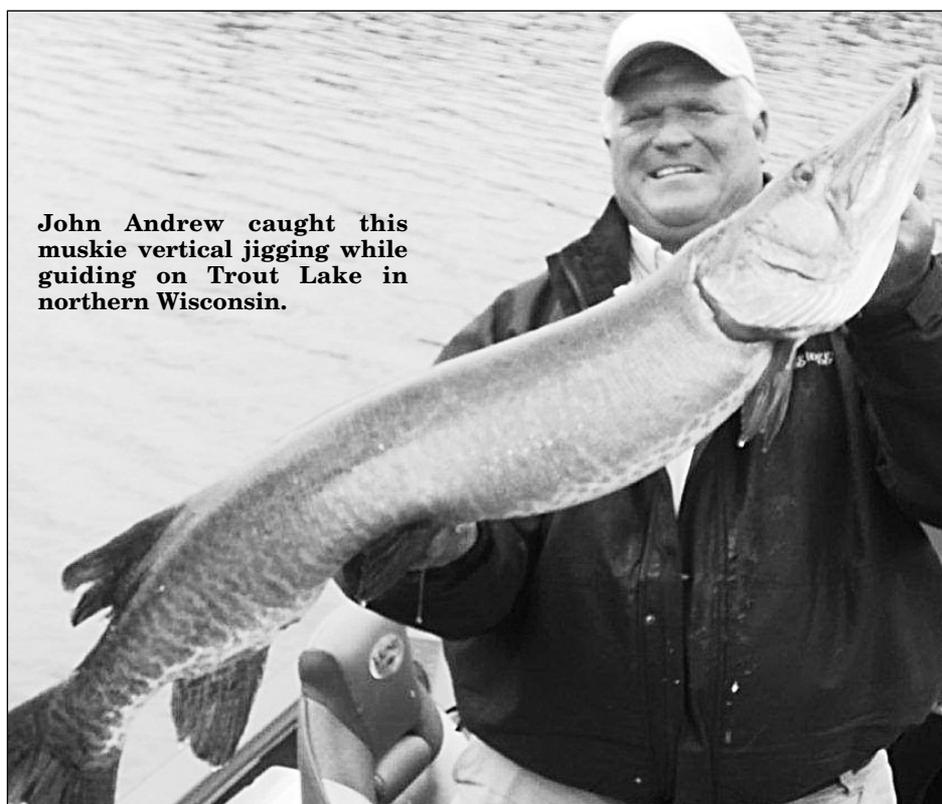
Don't let me be misunderstood, there are several crankbaits, jerkbaits, buck-tails and multiple other baits that also produce fish all year long, but for now, we will focus on the fall bite. During this time, the most consistent producer of artificial baits, proven time and time again, is the rubber bait, which comes in multiple fashions, styles, colors and sizes.

Catching deep muskie during fall and the late fall time period in 30- to the 60-foot depths while trolling or deep water jigging is a common practice and has been for several years. Trolling in northern Wisconsin is very limited and can only be done on very few select lakes. Deep water jigging in Illinois is and has been taking place for a long time, as well as all over Minnesota and parts of Wisconsin for many years. This is mostly



This 51-inch muskie was caught by a client pulling a Bull Dawg on very long casts, with guide John Andrew.

being done with some sort of rubber bait and there are three-dozen types and styles, and dozens of colors available today.



John Andrew caught this muskie vertical jigging while guiding on Trout Lake in northern Wisconsin.

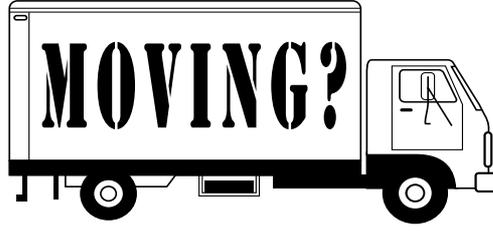
Casting and allowing your bait to sink down through the depths and then slowly retrieving your bait is one of the best strategies, especially around the structures that are in and around the main lake basin. Also, an old technique that has been reborn is drifting in whitecap conditions over similar locations and long line jigging or trolling without reeling in. Simply lift-drop-drag, or my favorite is to let out 200 feet of line and reel back in about 1/3 of the way, then let it back out 100 feet and keep repeating this process. When the strike occurs, hold on because it's a pounding, hard-hitting jolt of raw power. This method has some critical concepts for success.

The size of your bait also makes a difference for this time of year. Remember, anything is possible, but we like big, and then bigger. Rods, well, we like the old-fashioned seven-foot, thick-as-a-broom-handle rod for setting the hook, especially when you're 200 feet away from the boat. For the line we use nothing under 100-pound-test super line. There are several line companies to choose from. I suggest using 200-pound-test leaders and the same for the Sampo swivels and snaps. Many ask why it should be so heavy. It's like this: the fish can be landed on much lighter tackle, which has been done hundreds of times, but for the abuse your line and terminal tackle take when using lighter tackle, you're better off using the large and heavy baits, which is part of the critical concept mentioned above.



This client caught this muskie jigging with guide John Andrew.

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This muskie was caught on a deep sucker on October 30 with guide John Andrew.

Continued from previous page

Focusing on deep, clear lakes is a very positive option for this time of year. Also look for lakes that have multiple islands and several deep areas that are connected with 20-foot flats, lakes with multiple rock structures, and lakes that have cisco and/or white fish populations that muskie love. Remember, these high-protein, oily fish spawn in the fall, so fish deep on these lakes in October and then move shallower as late fall comes and the spawn begins for the cisco and white fish.

Then there is the technique of row-trolling suckers with planer boards over the main lake basin. This works in early October. Then repeat this technique in the shallows when the muskie are following the cisco and white fish into the shoreline to spawn in early November. There are several lakes that have cisco—do your homework and find them. When fishing down south, southern Wisconsin and in

Illinois, the lakes that have large shad and muskie should be your target, as well as Lake Michigan, which has multiple types of high protein forage.

Fishing southern states down into Tennessee, several rivers and reservoirs have been and are becoming the destination of several northern state muskie anglers. This is nothing new. It just hasn't been quite revealed by those in the know. Look into this and the door is wide open for multiple fish days, day after day. It's an untouched resource: Canadian-style fishing down south.

To catch Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota muskie it takes good research, communication, learning from seeing and reading, and then experiencing our time on the water.

Now let's go get 'em. Tighter lines!

The author, John Andrew, owner/operator of the *TheAnglersChoiceGuideService.com* is a two-time world record holder. He can be reached at 715-892-3020. John Andrew is a fulltime resident and fulltime, year 'round tour guide for fishing and hunting in the state of Wisconsin, specializing in Vilas, Iron, and Oneida counties.

Our Readers Write



Dear Editor,

In the August edition [of *MidWest Outdoors*] is an article, "Why They Are Called The Great Lakes."

I found this article to be excellent to read. There were things about Superior that I never knew. It was a pleasure and

fun to read. Superior is a lake I would like to learn more about, and this article is a great start.

To Jerry Pabst, great job!

Many thanks,
Bear Fryc
Superior, Wis.



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SPORTS SHOWS

October 4 - 5

Richland Center Gun Show at the Community Center, 1050 N. Orange Street; Friday 3 - 8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 4p.m.; Tables \$20 ea.; Admission \$5, 12 & under Free. Contact Don Stanke 608-604-9595, dmstanke@gmail.com.

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October 11-12

Menomonie Gun Show at the Broadway Banquet Center, 1501 North Broadway. Adm. \$5; hours: Friday 3-8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Tables \$25 ea. Call Gary Thompson at 715-308-8772, BearingArmsGS@gmail.com or www.bearingarmsgs.com.

October 13

Fond Du Lac Gun Show at the Fairgrounds, 495 Martin Ave. Hours: Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsor: CWGCAM Adm: \$5; 500 tables at \$40 ea. Contact Chuck Stellmacher at 920-833-6668.

October 25-26

Whitehall Gun Show at the City

Center Gymnasium, 18620 Hobson St. Adm. \$5; hours: Friday 3-8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tables \$25 ea., Call Gary Thompson at 715-308-8772, BearingArmsGS@gmail.com or www.bearingarmsgs.com.

November 1-3

Fort Atkinson Gun Show at Jansen's Hall, 1245 Whitewater Ave. Hours: Friday 3-8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; \$5 Entry fee, 120 tables at \$40; email: russ-wildes@gmail.com or chancesrgood2@yahoo.com or call 920-285-6908/ 262-443-2278.

November 8-9

Slinger Gun Show at Kettle Moraine Bowl, Hwy 60 & Hwy 175. Adm: \$3. Hours: Friday 4-8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Dealer tables: \$18 or \$25 ea. Wisconsin Gun Collectors Assn, Inc. All show info/reservations: Jim 920-447-2224. General club info: takeit-away99@yahoo.com

December 13-15

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Show, The Patriot Center, Rothschild, WI, B&J Promotions-RochesterMNShows, Brad Hansen, 507-387-7469, fax 612-564-7259, icefishingshow@gmail.com, www.icefishingshow.com.

The WISCONSIN Sportsman's Calendar

Non-profit conservation organizations, women in the outdoors, fishing, and shooting clubs, share the word about your upcoming events and tournament information in MidWest Outdoors.

SPORTSMEN CLUBS

The Lake Geneva Fishing Club will be meeting at Dick's in Schaumburg, Ill., for the month of May; we will then meet at Gander Mountain in Kenosha (Rts 50 & I-94). Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. If you have question you may contact Mark O'Neill @ 847-458-7559. We have a speaker; from members to top name pros at the monthly meetings. Our November 9 meeting will be our Awards Banquet. The cost for an annual membership is \$40; there is also a family membership (husband, wife & children under 16) available for \$65. Tournament entry fees are nominal and set by the chairman, we fish for fun and learning.

Wisconsin Fishing Club, Ltd.—meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the months of Jan., Feb., March, May, Sept., Oct., and on the 2nd Monday the remainder of the Months, starting at 7 PM with Speakers at 8 PM, Location is at "Yester Years Pub & Grill", 9427 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI. Contact: Cliff Schulz, President, (414) 453-9913, LindaESchulz@WI.RR.com.

Mishicot Sportsmen's Club—Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at

8 p.m. at 13804 Jamb Creek Rd., Mishicot, WI 54228, west of Mishicot off of Hwy. 145. Public is welcome, contact David Gohr 920-901-9229 or Dave Koller (920) 323-0127.

Walleyes Unlimited USA—One of the top multi-species fishing clubs in the country. We fish for pike, muskie, large and smallmouth bass and of course walleye. We have two meetings per month which begin promptly at 7 p.m. In Wisconsin, we meet on the second Wednesday of each month. The location is the Joe's K Ranch, 4840 So. Whitnall Ave., Cudahy, WI 53110; 414-481-1775. Our contact person in Wisconsin is Eric Skell and he can be reached at 414-745-3855. In Illinois we meet on the last Wednesday of each month. The location is the Gurnee American Legion Hall Post 771, at 749 Milwaukee Ave., Gurnee, IL 60031. The facility is located on the corner of Grand Ave. (Rt.132) and Milwaukee Ave. (Rt. 21), approximately two miles east of I-94. Our contact person is Illinois is Steve Kappel and he can be reached at 847-946-7286. Everyone is welcome.

EVENTS

Now-November 30, 2013

Vilas County Musky Marathon—Annual county-wide fishing contest runs the entire length of the muskie fishing season. This contest offers Released Divisions for Men, Women, Junior, and Guides for muskie caught in Vilas County waters. Plaques are awarded to the top three in each of the four divisions. No registration fee! Website www.vilas.org Details Address: 330 Court Street, Eagle River, WI 54521; call 800-236-3649 or email: vilasadv@co.vilas.wi.us.

October 5

Fly Tying for Beginners at the Richard Bong State Recreation Area, Kansasville. A hands-on class to learn the basics of tying flies for fly fishing. All equipment provided. Most appropriate for ages 8 and up. Class size is limited, please pre-register by calling 262-878-5600. You may stay and try out your new flies at the next session if you like. Meet at Visitor Center. 9-11 a.m. Second session is from 12 p.m.-3 p.m.

October 5-6

Greater Wisconsin Muskie Tournament—Ten area lakes are included in this catch and release tournament. Awards, cash drawing

and many fantastic door prizes are awarded to entrants. 10 St. Germain Area Lakes, St. Germain, Vilas County. Call 715-477-2205.

October 18-19

2nd Annual Mercer Muskie Madness Tournament—Two person teams, limit two contestants per boat, entry fee is \$150 per boat \$75 each person. 1st place \$2,400, 2nd place \$1,440 and 3rd place \$960. So come and have a great time on the beautiful Turtle Flambeau Flowage!!!! Mercer Chamber of Commerce, 5150N Hwy 51, Mercer, Iron County. Call 715-476-2389.

November 9

Hunter Sight-in Day, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. All are invited to come and sight in their firearms for the upcoming deer season. The use of the shooting range, shooting rests, spotting scopes, safety glasses, ear plugs and targets are all free, as are bore sighting, snacks and a hot lunch! Just bring your firearms and ammunition and your appetite. The church is located 2 miles north of Elkhorn (north of Abell's Corners) on US Hwy 12. Free. Southern Lakes Evangelical Free Church, N6686 US Hwy 12, Elkhorn, Walworth County. Call 262-742-2366.

Free Listing For Your Upcoming Event!

Send To: MidWest Outdoors, Attn: Larry Ladowski, Wisconsin Section Outdoor Calendar, 111 Shore Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, Fax: (630) 887-1958, e-mail: info@midwestoutdoors.com (Please Allow 6 Weeks).