

Prime Time Casting and Trolling for Summer Muskies

by John Andrew

Throughout the warmer months in our midwestern states, the elusive muskie is sought after by thousands of anglers. When fishing for these predators, many people like to fish early in the morning, at sunset and into the darkness to beat the daytime heat.

Weeds are a major attraction for muskies because they provide favorable characteristics such as cover, lower temperatures, oxygen, baitfish and the conditions to ambush their prey. Top-water lures worked slowly are productive in this situation, especially when thick, dense weeds are in shallow water.

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When the weedbeds are large and extend out from a bay or flat area of the lake, there will be an underwater drawdown of the weedbed, in which it starts shallow and gets progressively



Fishing early in morning on a hot summer day, produced this large natural muskie.



A large hybrid muskie caught while drift fishing with rubber Bull Dawgs.

deeper. Drop-offs next to weedbed can be very productive with lures, such as bucktails and swimbaits.

Fishing large, featureless flats with scattered weeds can be best covered by casting or trolling large crankbaits or large jointed floating minnow baits, as well as other baitfish-imitating lures. When fishing open water, main lake basins and open-water rock bars, trolling plays a major part in producing muskies.

Matching the color of your lure to the baitfish the muskies are feeding on plays an important role in your success. One of the most popular lures the past several years is the rubber Bull Dawg. This lure comes in a variety of color combinations. Many companies are replicating this lure and other rubber designs for muskie fishing. One of the best muskie methods is cast-and-retrieve.

When drift fishing in the wind, over large sand or rock bars, cast out the Bull Dawg, let out extra line and engage the reel, using a pumping motion without reeling in line. This will often produce violent muskie strikes and many boated



A muskie caught while casting a perch-colored lure.

LAKE GENEVA FISHING CLUB	
Visit our website at: www.lakegenevafishingclub.com	
Wednesday, August 12th Dave Kranz Geneva Bass – Tournament Winning Strategies Dave has been the owner of Dave's Bait, Tackle and Taxidermy in Crystal Lake, on Rte. 176 and 31 since 1989. Dave already won an early season tournament on Geneva in 2015. He also fishes Fox and Madison Chain tournaments along with many other bodies of water in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin. Dave will be presenting tournament winning strategies for Geneva that he has used in 2015. Dave says, "I have the best job in the world...I get to teach people about fishing and hunting." You will be able to learn some new and useful Geneva tactics from this consummate professional fisherman.	Wednesday July 8th Rick Fry Boat Maintenance & Rigging Throughout the Seasons Rick is a Cabela's mechanic and is <i>Master Certified</i> for both Mercury and Mercruiser engines as well as Yamaha outboards. He is also Evinrude and Detroit Diesel <i>Certified</i> . Rick does every form of boat maintenance to major engine and drive train repair. He has been repairing and rigging boats for over 30 years. While Rick specializes in Lowrance he installs all brands of electronics including auto pilot and radar systems. Rick is an accomplished tournament bass fisherman and might have a few tips for Geneva in addition to boat maintenance.
Cabela's 5225 Prairie Stone Parkway Hoffman Estates, IL 60192	Guests are Always Welcomed Guest Fee only \$5.00 Meetings Begin at 6:30 PM

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fish. Select fishermen only use this method, but it is extremely effective. These fishermen may drift for one to two miles at a time before moving back to the beginning of their drift to start over.

Perch locations are critical to summer muskie fishermen. If the water you are fishing has a healthy population of perch (and muskies are present), you will catch muskies. Muskies, in certain waters, feed heavily on perch. As many perch fishermen will verify, when they are catching a lot of perch, they frequently have a muskie swim to the boat chasing the perch or grab the perch as it is being reeled in. This explains why perch-colored lures are among the most successful muskie baits.

Trolling summertime muskies is popular and productive. Many lures

produce summertime muskies as trolling produces fish in areas that casting often does not. Depth control and water temperature are extremely important to trolling fishermen and this is easily learned with line counter reels, downriggers and temperature gauges.

This year is going to be an extremely exciting summer and fall for trolling muskies. Stay tuned, as your reports of large fish are going to start to pour in, especially from northern Wisconsin.

MWO

John Andrew is a fishing and tour guide in a wide area comprising Vilas, Oneida, and Iron counties, Wisconsin. He holds two world fishing records. Contact: theanglerschoiceguideservice.com, ohnandrew@centurytel.net, 715-892-3020

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SPORTSMEN CLUBS

The Lake Geneva Fishing Club—meets at Cabela's Hoffman Estates, Ill., Retail, located at Prairie Stone Business Park, at 6:30 p.m. There is a \$5 guest fee that will be deducted from your dues if you join the club. For information contact Mark O'Neill @ 847-458-7559. The June 10 speaker at Cabelas in Hoffman Estates, Ill., is Carl Kaufman of Carl Kaufman Guide Service. Topic: Early Season Geneva Bass Techniques. The cost for an annual membership is \$40; there is also a family membership (husband, wife & children under 16) available for \$65.

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. 147. Public is welcome, contact David Gohr 920-901-9229 or Dave Koller (920) 323-0127.

• **Walleyes Unlimited USA**—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 at 7 p.m. In Wisconsin, we meet on the second Wednesday of each month. The July 8 meeting will be at M-W Marine, 11901 W. Janesville Rd., Hales Corners, Wis. It will be a Boat Night & Fish Fry - No formal speaker. In Illinois we meet on the last Wednesday of each month. The July 29 meeting will be at Fox Lake American Legion Grounds, 703 N. US Highway 12, Fox Lake, Ill. It will be a Social Night with brats & burgers - No formal speaker. For info call Steve Kappel at 847-946-7286. Everyone is welcome.

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.

EVENTS

Now - September 1

Lions Kids Fishing Contest—Starts May 24 at 6 a.m. until Tuesday, September

1, 8 p.m. Registration held at Up North Sport and Gifts, (8293 Main Street, Presque Isle, Wis.), for this children's fish-

ing event held on all the lakes in Presque Isle. For information: 715-686-2636.

July 3-5

NEWGLSF Salmon Derby at the Manitowoc Marina, 425 Maritime Dr., Manitowoc, Wis.; 920-682-0508. A 3-day fishing tournament with live music, food and refreshments in the evenings. Public welcome

July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2, 16, 23, 30

Free Fishing Seminars from 7 - 8:30 p.m., held at the Boulder Junction Community Center, 5392 Park Street, Boulder Junction, Wis. Visit with a different Boulder Junction area fishing guide each week for their best secrets and area action. Seminars are free and no registration required.; 715-385-2400 or www.boulderjct.org.

July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11

Outdoor Fishing Tips & Techniques from 6 - 7:30 p.m., held at the Phelps High School (Lower Commons), 4451 Old School Road, Phelps, Wis., every Tuesday with fishing tips by local guide (715-891-2715).

July 7, 21, 28, August 4, 11

Kids' Fishing Tips from 6:30 to 8 p.m., held at Hi-Pines Campground, 2338 N. Railroad Street (Highway 45 N), Eagle River, Wis. (715-477-2667). Learn tips and techniques for the young angler. All ages welcome.

July 9

35th Annual Guides/Kids Day at Vilas County Fairgrounds. Kids get to fish with Eagle River licensed guides. Great fun and thrills for the kids and guides alike! Eagle River Chamber of Commerce: 800-359-6315; 715-479-6400; email: info@eagleriver.org; web: eagleriver.org.

July 11

Kids Panfishing Day from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., at Little Spirit Lake Boat Landing, N9401 State Hwy. 102, Spirit. Crappies - perch - bluegills - Sunfish; Two age groups: 2 yrs.-8 yrs. & 9 yrs.-15 yrs., under 12 yrs. old must be accompanied by an adult; fish must be registered by 1 p.m.; \$3 entry fee includes a free gift & meal ticket - burgers, hot dogs & refreshments. Activities include games for young and old: Casting contest, fish pond, minnow races, and raffles. For info contact 715-427-3778 / 3464; website: spiritlakeassoc.org; email: lspirit@newnorth.net.

July 18

Balsam Lake Classic Fishing Tournament is held annually at Balsam Lake, 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Weigh in at 2 p.m. Open to the public. For info: 715-296-7837.

August 8

Learn to Fish Rodeo from 1- 4 pm. Let the fishing fun begin! The rodeo includes backyard bass casting, fill the tackle box, fishing regulations quiz, Avoiding Hazards, Knots Tie-up, What's that Fish? and Bait Your Hook. After completing the rodeo, experienced anglers on the fishing pier will help hone your newly acquired skills. Special surprises & prizes await all who participate. Bring your own gear or you can borrow ours. People over 16 years old need a fishing license to fish. Meet at the fishing pier. Free with 2015 Wisconsin State Park Vehicle Sticker Ad-

mission. Kettle Moraine State Park - Northern Unit - Mauthe Lake Recreation Area, N1490 CTH GGG, Campbellsport, Fond du Lac County. Call 920-533-8322.

August 8-9

24th Annual Butternut Lake Musky Tournament from 6 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday; 6 a.m. - noon, Sunday at the Lanes Pub & Eatery (Flambeau Lanes), 1127 4th Avenue S. (Hwy. 13), Park Falls (715-762-3237 / 800-444-7144; email: northway@pctcnet.net). Registration begins 5 p.m. on Friday, August 8, with the reading of the rules at 7 p.m.; registration and boat check Saturday, at 4:30 a.m.; fishing hours are Saturday 6 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday 6 a.m. - noon; \$19,900 in cash prizes based on 60 teams; 1st-\$10,000; 2nd-\$4,000; 3rd-\$2,000; 4th-\$1,200, 5th-\$800; 6th-\$500; 7th thru 10th-\$350; \$350 entry fee based on two-person teams; plus drawings & prizes and food & beverages will be served.

August 9

59th Annual Musky Jamboree from 9 - 4 p.m., Held on Boulder Junction's Main Street. Enjoy a car show, over 150 arts & crafts booths, food booths, kids casting contest, flea market, live entertainment and more. 715-385-2400 or www.boulderjct.org.

August 21-23

30th Annual National Championship Musky Open. A very exciting family oriented catch-and-release musky tournament held on seven different lake families in the Eagle River area. Great fun and prizes for all skill levels. Headquartered at the Vilas County Fairgrounds (register by August 1 to ensure your fishing spot). Eagle River Chamber of Commerce; 800-359-6315; 715-479-6400; email: info@eagleriver.org; web: eagleriver.org.

August 22

The Steve Schneider Memorial Musky Tournament, a.k.a.18th Annual Phillips Area Charity Classic Musky Tournament at 6 a.m., at Harbor View Pub & Eatery (on Long Lake), 1094 N. Lake Ave., Phillips (715-339-2626 /715-339-3625; Web: facebook.com/PhillipsChainOfLakesCharityClassicMuskyTournament; Email: rossport@pctcnet.net). This catch and release musky tournament is being held on the Phillips Chain of Lakes; \$14,400.00 in total cash prizes (based on 60 two-person teams); \$7,500 to 1st place winner, \$3,000 second, \$2,000 third, \$1,000 fourth & \$900 fifth. Register at Ross's Sport Shop, 286 N. Lake Avenue, Phillips - early bird discount is \$50.00; prizes, drawings and raffles at 4:30 p.m. at Harbor View, live music at 9 p.m. The proceeds are donated to a local non-profit organization.

August 22

Dan & Connie's Fishing Classic from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Headquartered at Sand Lake Pub, 851 Hwy 17, Phelps, Wis., with muskie fishing on Big Sand Lake only. For info: 715-545-3200.

August 30

Swen Fishing Tournament from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Headquartered at Hillside Resort with muskie fishing on Lac Vieux Desert; 715-547-3646. 2474 South Shore Road, Phelps, Wis.

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).