

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

- ◆ Apr. 14 ~ Chapter Mtg - Gregg Thomas
- ◆ Apr. 16-18 ~ Chapter Outing - Lake Shelbyville
- ◆ Apr. 19 ~ FRV Board Mtg (Cabelas 7 - 9) **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
- ◆ Apr. 24 ~ Spring **CHALLENGE ON THE CHAIN TOURNAMENT**
- ◆ May 12th ~ Chapter Mtg - Russ Schaller

What's inside

April Mtg	2
TV Raffle/ Challenge on the Chain info	3
Boating Checklist for 2010	4
VHS Update	5
VHS Update - continued	6
FRV Outing Lake Shelbyville info	6
Buying your kids first Rod and Reel	7

FRV News Cast

APRIL 2010



From The Front Deck



Time to go fishing baby!! All of the lakes in our area are wide open so let's get our boats loaded up with everything we need for the 2010 musky season. It's time to give chase to 'ol Esox! Many of our FRV members are already taking advantage of the "early bite" and getting out on lakes like Kinkaid, Shelbyville, Spring Lake North, and even the Fox Chain! If you can take some time off from busy work schedules and family commitments, there is nothing that settles the soul like a weekend out on the water in the early spring. It's always a great feeling to smell the fresh spring air as you get the boat on plane for that 1st shakedown cruise of the season! There are lots of opportunities for early season bluegill, crappie, bass, walleye and muskies; but you can't catch 'em if you're working!! Work will always be there...you just gotta take the time to make the time! With our current economy still in the toilet, many of us will be doing a lot more fishing closer to home this season! Either way, it's a great excuse to get out on the water this spring with family & friends and explore some new lakes right here in our own state. The excitement is building for our 15th annual Spring Challenge on the Chain which is scheduled for Saturday April 24th. As of this writing we have only 38 teams registered, surely a sign of the times. If you haven't gotten your team entries in, please do so as soon as possible. This year, we will be headquartered at Famous Freddie's which is located on Pistakee Lake. Chancey Niziol from ESPN Radio Chicago AM-1000 will once again be our M.C. for this event. As many of you know, this is a great one-day tournament and it's a lot of fun to fish; so sign up now while we still have slots available. Starting positions can be viewed on the FRV website by clicking on the forum link on the front page, then go to the 2010 Challenge on the Chain Tournament section to review your starting positions. For those who are looking to fish the tournament & don't have a boat, this is also the place to post a thread looking for a fishing partner! All of this info & more can be found on our new & improved website at www.frvmuskie.com Our 1st spring outing of the year will take place on Lake Shelbyville April 16th-18th. Details on the outing can also be found on the FRV site or you can contact our Outing's Director Jimmy "Z" Ziebka. There's always a lot of camaraderie & information shared on these outings, so make sure you grab a friend or family member and get down for this outing! Lodging information is also available on the FRV site. BTW, our drawing for the 42" LCD TV will take place at the April 14th club meeting, so make sure you have purchased a booklet or two of raffle tickets. Winner does NOT need to be present to win!! Gregg Thomas will be our April 14th guest speaker who will cover "Learning to Use Your Electronics". Gregg will also be the one who will draw the winning ticket for the 42" TV. All monies raised will go to fund our 2010 Youth Musky Hunt on Moose Lake. As the 2010 fishing season gets underway, I wanted to share with you some personal goals I have for this year. I want to hit the Century mark this year (100 muskies). Currently I am just 18 fish short. I also want to pledge to take some time to take some kids fishing this year. I'm not talking about my kids, I'm talking about someone else's kids. I plan to participate in the NISRA outing on Bangs Lake in June as well as the Youth Musky Hunt in Moose Lake in September. I want to help make a difference in a youngster's life. If we all pledge to take a kid fishing in 2010, imagine the impact our club can have on a child if we instill in them the values of catch & release! Remember, for those folks that don't have boats, there are many lakes and ponds in our area that can be fished from shore!!

Finally, I want to thank the executors of the Hugh Becker Foundation for granting the FRV chapter \$5,000.00 to use in 2010 for stocking & research programs. This generous grant will allow us to execute our 2010 plans for Stocking & Research within our Chapter. Thanks for the vote of confidence and the generous donation!

Until next month....blow out the fogging oil on those outboards & let's go fishin! See you at the "Challenge"!

Rich Gallagher

GENERAL MEETINGS

7:00 PM SCHAUMBURG GOLF CLUB/CHANDLER'S CHOPHOUSE
401 N. Roselle Road in Schaumburg, IL.
(847) 885-9009

BOARD MEETINGS

7:00 PM. Cabelas, on Monday following the General meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

OFFICERS

Pres Rich Gallagher
847-741-9771
VP Dan Koniewicz
Sec. Steve Crook
Treas. Steve Kroll
RVP Dave VanDoorn

2010 BOARD MEMBERS

Frank Lucido - Membership Director
847-559-8300
Mike Zaborowski - Youth Director
630-458-1861
Mark Lamont - Newsletter
847-741-4766
Kevin Bushnick - Youth Director

Ken Miller - Contests

Todd Minor - Speakers

Dan Lamkin - Show Coordinator

John Deutinger - Website

Jim Ziebka - Outings Director

Ken Sponseller - Membership Dir.

Mike Piorkowski - General Mtgs

Mark Rue - General Mtgs

Tony Hardin - Merchandise Director

Hugh Flack - At Large

Pete Barber - IMA Director

Beau Farius - At Large
630-461-0404
Dave Lukac - At Large

APRIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14th...we have GREGG THOMAS as our monthly speaker/presenter! Gregg is one of the best known and most reputable guides in the musky fishing business.

While he's not writing for magazines or making TV appearances, he runs the *Battle the Beast Guide Service...* which offers guide services on Cave Run and Green River in Kentucky, as well as famous Mille Lacs Lake in Minnesota.

Gregg is going to take a different spin on his presentation. Instead of talking about a particular lake in KY... or MN, he's instead going to talk about how he uses his array of ELECTRONICS to get the edge on muskies. Just like a good rod, or reel, or bait... your electronics are an equally important and always common factor in your fishing success. Let's hear what Gregg has to say about how he uses his!



For more info on Gregg Thomas, visit his website at www.battlethebeast.com

Hope to see you on APRIL 14th at the Schaumburg Golf Club in Schaumburg. Dinner starts at 6 p.m., meeting starts at 7. As always visit the website for more details and please contact Rich Gallagher if you plan on meeting us for dinner.

FRV's MAY 12th SPEAKER is...

Russ "Musky Russ" Schaller! What better time to hear about cracking the musky secrets of our local lakes! And who better to point us in the right direction than Russ Schaller. April and May can be really hot months for musky anglers that are willing to get out and do their homework about opportunities on local lakes. Believe it or not, there are other musky lakes in Northern Illinois other than the Fox Chain O'Lakes!

Russ will be doing his best to address this commonly held misconception among us "city folk!" So if you're interested in expanding your repertoire locally, we'll see you at the May 12th meeting!!

TALK TO US!

Want to contact anyone on the FRV Board of Directors? Please send an email to: info@frvmuskies.org

FRV FUNDRAISER - TV RAFFLE!

At our April 14th meeting, we will be raffling off a 42 inch flatscreen LCD TV! The winning ticket will be pulled by our April speaker Gregg Thomas. Don't miss out! You can buy tickets between now all the way up until the time that we close up the raffle drum. *Ticket prices are: 1 for 1 \$ or 6 for 5\$*

All proceeds from this raffle go directly to funding our Youth Musky Hunt outing on Moose Lake (in N. WI) this fall. We really need to pick up the slack on this one so we can provide the quality outing and youth event that people have come to expect from Fox River Valley over the last year or so. Contact Rich Gallagher or any other FRV board member if you would like to buy (or sell) tickets for this great TV.

CHALLENGE ON THE CHAIN TOURNAMENT APRIL 24th

The time has passed for talking. It's time to get out on the water. Ice is off the local lakes, and all of you are running out of excuses! **You've heard enough about this great FRV Challenge on the Chain Tournament... so now it's time for you to give it a try!**

The first installment of this two event tournament series will be held on Saturday, April 24th, at 7 a.m. It's also being held at a new venue this year. We're moving to Famous Freddie's on Pistakee Lake. Freddies will provide an excellent way to get out of the elements to talk about the day on the Chain. For those of us who have fished any spring FRV Challenge event, we know how excited we all are to have a nice big warm space to come in, shake off the cold, and maybe even dry out! The location should also give us a unique opportunity to see what new strategies teams will have fishing the south end of the Chain rather than the north end.

As always, there are lots of details about the event, the new location (with ramp/launching instructions), and how to register on-line **if you visit our website**. The bottom of the entry form appears below if you didn't get a flyer or if you don't want to go on-line to sign up.

Tournament Entry Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: ____ Zip: ____
 Phone: _____ Date: _____
 Email Address: _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: ____ Zip: ____
 Phone: _____ Date: _____
 Email Address: _____

Mail Completed Form & Payment to:
 Fox River Valley Chapter of Muskies Inc.
 P.O. Box 7613
 Algonquin IL 60102

Entry Fee Per Team
 ___ Tournament Series \$340 (\$380 after 3/1/2010)
 ___ Spring Tournament \$180 (\$200 after 3/1/2010)
 ___ Fall Tournament \$180 (\$200 after 9/1/2010)

WANT A COPY OF YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IN ELECTRONIC VERSION ONLY?

Let us know via the website. FRV is trying to come up with a good way of providing this option to our members as soon as possible and any feedback would be appreciated. Thanks!

2010 BOATING CHECKLIST

Think you're ready to hit the water for 2010? According to a subset of the Federal Requirements, as published by the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety, a boat requires:

- ◆ State Numbering Displayed
- ◆ Certificate # (State Registration)
- ◆ Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs)
- ◆ Throwable PFD
- ◆ Visual Distress Signals (flare kit)
- ◆ Fire Extinguisher
- ◆ Sound Producing Device
- ◆ Navigation Lights
- ◆ Local water-way stickers where applicable (required on the Chain)

Other recommended equipment:

- ◆ Ring Buoy
- ◆ VHF radio
- ◆ Heaving and Mooring lines
- ◆ First Aid Kit
- ◆ Flashlight
- ◆ Tool Kit
- ◆ Boat Hook
- ◆ Spare Propeller
- ◆ Binoculars
- ◆ Food/Water
- ◆ Extra Clothing

So are you ready to go for 2010? If not, now's a good time to get out and buy gear before the season gets in full swing! Don't forget to **BE SAFE ON THE WATER!**

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VHS Virus

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) virus was diagnosed for the first time ever in the Great Lakes as the cause of huge fish kills in Lake Huron, Lake St Clair, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence River in 2005 and 2006. Thousands of muskies, walleye, lake whitefish, freshwater drum (sheepshead), yellow perch, gizzard shad, redhorse and round gobies died. Many Chinook, white bass, emerald shiners, smallmouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, burbot and northern pike were diseased but did not die in large numbers.

This is the first time a virus has affected so many different fish species from so many fish families in the Great Lakes. VHS virus is considered an invasive species (not native to the Great Lakes), but scientists are not sure how the virus arrived. It may have come in with migrating fish from the Atlantic Coast, or may have hitch-hiked in ballast water from ships.

HISTORY OF VHS VIRUS

VHS was first known as a disease of farmed rainbow trout in Europe as early as the 1930's. However, it was not until 1963 that scientists confirmed the disease was caused by a virus.

In 1988-89, the virus was detected in wild herring and cod from the U.S. Pacific Coast, and also in salmon and steelhead that returned to Washington hatcheries to spawn. Since then, the virus has been confirmed in several species on the Atlantic Coast and in Japan.

TRANSMISSION

Infected fish shed the virus in their urine and reproductive fluids. Virus particles in the water infect gill tissue first, and then move to the internal organs and the blood vessels. The blood vessels become weak, causing hemorrhages in the internal organs, muscle and skin. Fish can also be infected when they eat an infected fish.

Fish that survive the infection will develop antibodies to the virus. Antibodies will protect the fish against new VHS virus infections for some time. However, the concentration of antibodies in the fish will drop over time and the fish may start shedding virus again. This may create a cycle of fish kills that occurs on a regular basis.

VHS DISTRIBUTION (as of 2006)

Signs of VHS virus in fish include hemorrhages, both external on the skin and internal in the muscle and tissues, pale or swollen internal organs, and "pop-eye" (swollen eyes). Unfortunately, all these signs are not specific for VHS; fish with these lesions may be infected by other fish pathogens. Consequently, VHS infections must be confirmed by lab tests. Based on the diagnosis of VHS virus in Chinook, walleye, and lake whitefish from Lake Huron in 2006, fisheries biologists believe the virus is probably already in Lake Michigan, and ballast discharged from ships may have moved the virus to port cities on Lake Superior.

In Fall 2006, the DNR, with the help of the US Fish and Wildlife Service La Crosse Fish Health Center and the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, tested spawning Chinook and coho salmon, brown trout, lake whitefish, bloater chubs, and yellow perch from Lake Michigan for VHS virus. Spawning lake trout from Lake Superior were also tested. VHS virus was not detected in any species.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

VHS virus can remain infective up to 14 days in water. The virus grows best in fish when water temperatures are 37-54°F. Most infected fish will die when water temperatures are 37- 41°F, and rarely die above 59 °F.

Stress is an important factor in VHS outbreaks. Stress suppresses the immune system, causing infected fish to become diseased. Stressors include spawning hormones, poor water quality, lack of food, or excessive handling of fish.

VHS IS NOT A HUMAN HEALTH CONCERN.

VHS Update continued from page 5

WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DOING?

In Spring 2007, the DNR will test more wild fish from Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, including spawning steel-head, and will respond to fish kills.

The DNR will rigorously disinfect all fish eggs obtained from Great Lakes fish before they are brought into state hatcheries. This disinfection should destroy any virus inside the egg or on the egg surface. DNR boats or gear used in the Great Lakes will be disinfected before they are used in other locations.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We are asking anglers and other water users voluntary cooperation to slow the spread of VHS virus from the Great Lakes to inland locations. Here's how you can help:

- ◆ Do not move live fish from one location to another.
- ◆ Do not empty bait buckets into lakes or rivers.
- ◆ Disinfect the outside and inside of your boat and your gear after using them in the Great Lakes: Mix 1/3 cup bleach in 5 gallons of water and brush/mop boat and trailer surfaces. Keep the surface wet for 5 minutes, then rinse with clean water. Disinfection should occur away from lakes and rivers because chlorine is toxic to aquatic life.
- ◆ Report fish kills to your local fisheries biologist or conservation warden

QUESTIONS?

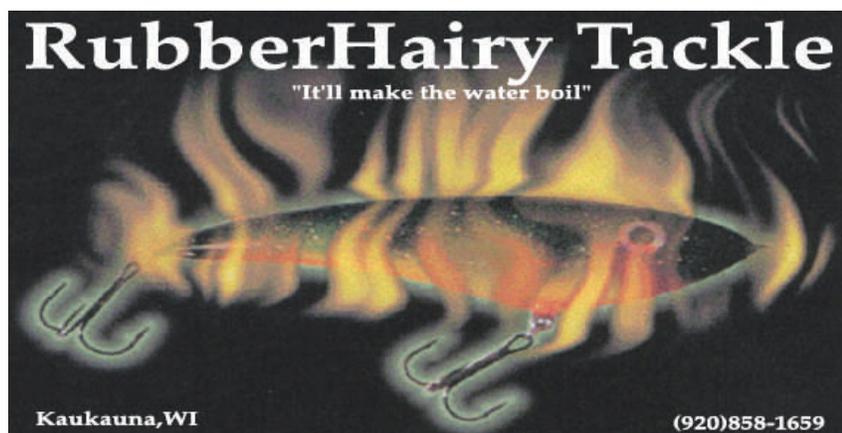
Contact Sue Marcquenski 608.266.2871... (susan.marcquenski@wisconsin.gov)

KICK-START YOUR 2010 SEASON WITH AN FRV OUTING TO LAKE SHELBYVILLE!

FRV's first scheduled "soft-water" outing of the year is coming up on April 16 - 18th on Lake Shelbyville (S. Central IL). This is typically a great body of water in IL to put your first fish of the season in the boat... and a great time with other members to boot.

Suggested lodging is at Lithia Resort, 217-774-9591, www.lithiaresort.com, or the Spillway Hotel, 217-774-9591, www.spillwaymotel.net.

There's plenty of details and on-going discussion in the "2010 FRV Outing/Events" forum of our website regarding accommodations, places to meet, etc. So check it out soon if you're interested or if you have any other questions. Outings Director Jim Ziebka will respond to you're posts as soon as possible. Thanks!



Buying Your Kid's First Rod and Reel

When my sons were born, one of the things I could not wait to do with them was to take them fishing. There is nothing more satisfying in my book than to put a net under a fish they have caught. I wanted everything to be right for them to maximize their experience and successes on the water.

One of the things at the top of this list was their rod and reel. It is of the *utmost* importance that this be comfortable and functional to make their fishing experience enjoyable for them and yourself. If the rod and reel does not function properly, kids will get frustrated and lose interest... shortening time on the water for both you and your child. Your snopy poles are just not going to cut it.

Here are some things to look for in a rod and reel combo:

Fishing rods. Kids have small hands and need a narrow, small handle on the rod. Pistol grip style handles are too fat and are not your best choice here. Go with a short straight grip handle. Comfort and ease of use is what you need in this case. I have found the Uncle Bucks 4' 6" crappie rod to be a great choice. Good for casting, lures and using for live bait. I am sure there are similar rods as well. My kids have caught pike and some really nice bass using this rod. We even brought a musky to the boat with it while reeling in a perch!

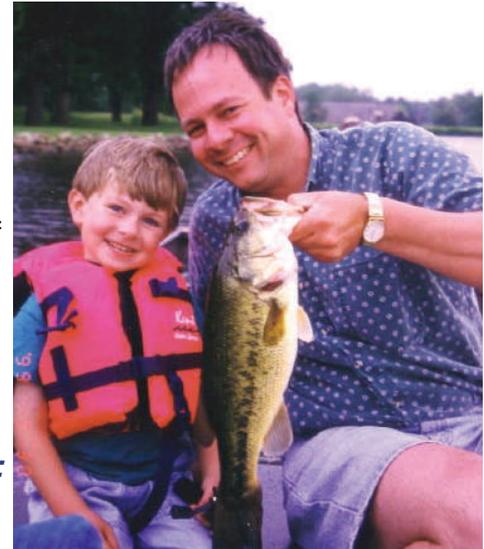
Fishing reels are just as important. For my kids, a push-button spincast reel is what I started them with. They are easy for a child to operate with less tangles and mess if you buy the right reel. The first thing you need to check is if it reels slack line. Too many of them do not and if this is the case it will just add to your child's frustration level with and interest in their equipment. The easiest way to check is to pull some line off the reel, leave it coiled and loose, and see if you can reel it back in.

The other thing to check for is line retrieve. 2:1 and 3:1 reels are just too slow for lures. Kids are not going to do a burn retrieve with lures so get a reel with at least a 4:1 retrieve speed. Some of the reels that I have found to fit the right situation here are the Zebco Pro-Staff, Rhino, Diawa Spincast, and Garcia Abumatics.

You can make this all work for *under 30 dollars!* Not a bad investment considering the memories you can make with your kids!

By Todd Minor

Todd is pictured at right with his three boys Andrew, Evan, and Logan (from top to bottom)





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Coming Attractions...

- ◆ April 14th - Speaker -
Gregg Thomas
- ◆ Apr 16- 18th -
Lake Shelbyville Outing
- ◆ April 24th - Challenge on the
Chain Tourney



Interested in sponsorship for a tournament or advertising in a newsletter?
Please contact the FRV Board members via email at:

info@frvmuskies.com

