

JIMMY'S JOURNAL

An Update for Friends of Fishing for Life



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Tom Goodrich

How We Roll

"Divinely inspired... with the Lord's prompting"

I often get asked how Fishing for Life (FFL) got so big, why I started it and other questions like that. I thought I would try and explain a bit about our programming and how it has evolved. For the most part, I believe FFL was divinely inspired, the programs came about as a result of great timing and the

Lords' prompting us to move in that direction.

We first started with lake events. When I returned home from Afghanistan, I started with a simple objective of getting kids on the water. I soon had my first event on White Bear Lake which multiplied to many lake events.

We simultaneously began the Fish-A-Thon, a program used to raise funds for urban ministry's that were struggling to stay alive. I had a heart for these urban kids and saw a great need so I asked many of the kids fishing our lake events to participate in an event called Fish-A-Thon. It was a month-long event with a great pledge packet that helped kids go door to door asking donors to pledge for a quarter for every fish they caught that month. We raised over 50k total on year one but it was hard work. We stayed with it for 4 years, raising around \$200,000 for urban ministries. The board and I had a very long discussion about moving our entire nonprofit to being more ministry-based and less Fish-A-Thon/fundraising-based. After much soul searching, we decided to go down the path of ministry.

Fast-forward 15 years and we currently have eight core ministries: Deep C's Men's Club, Newly formed Women's Adventure Group, Military R&R (Relationships through Recreation), Reel 'Em In (REI-Sporting goods/boat collection & Rebuilding program), Mobile Trout Ponds, NextGEN Mentor Program, High C's Fishing Camps, and Lake Events. Our programs are focused on serving youth, families, veteran's & communities through fishing & outdoor programs.

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FISHINGFORLIFE.ORG

SERVING YOUTH, FAMILIES, VETERANS & COMMUNITIES THROUGH FISHING & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Marathon Man

More than Just a lot of Fish!

By Tom Goodrich

This year's Marathon Man event was the best ever!

A bit of history: When I first started Fishing for Life, I was working a kid's minnow race at a wild game feed at a metro church. I met a man named Jeff Kolodzinski who was the buyer for Gander Mountain stores. He was the keynote speaker at the game feed and took a liking to our minnow race game along with my story of returning from Afghanistan and starting FFL. Jeff asked how he could help and with no real idea, I said he could do a 24-hour marathon of fishing, which he reluctantly agreed too.

We bounced around for a few years and raised awareness along with honing our craft. We felt like Tom Sawyer a Huck Finn. It was two guys, committed to a cause, figuring things out and a brotherhood of fun. This actually has all the aroma of Christ! We

bounced from lake to lake, not taking the marathon portion too seriously until we landed at the docks of Maynard's restaurant on Lake Minnetonka. We struck Gold! It was ideally set up for big numbers, multiple docks, swarms of sunfish and kids feeding them French fries all day.

After a few years of recording big numbers of fish in 24 hours, we really buckled down in 2011 and hired the Guinness Book of World Records for a qualifying run and BINGO! We had the first record of 2,143 fish in 24

hours. I still remember the celebration after establishing the Guinness record and also, Jeff's exhaustion.

Two years later, there was a move of the Spirit. We all sensed the event was shutting down and we allowed it! It was sad but Jeff moved on to bigger things as Frankie's brand manager and then to Hummingbird. I moved on to very big growth years for FFL. We also focused on our families. We kept in touch and almost landed a new Mar-



2019 Marathon Man in September setting a new number to beat for next year!



The early days of Marathon Man

athon Man event in Florida but we had to decline. We did not know why God was holding us back? We loved it, wanted it and seemingly, needed it.

Well, 10 years later, God has turned it into quite a spectacle.

In 2018, Jeff hit the golden ticket. The Giant Goose Ranch in Illinois wanted to bring us to their location to beat the Guinness Book record. I was hesitant at first since I had conducted all planning and organizing in the past and just did not have the band width to do so again. Jeff and the owners of the Ranch took the bull by the horns. This was not your little start up Marathon Man that I was used too. It was now a full fledged internet-based event.

By waiting on the Lord, we were free to focus on FFL and allow the event to mature, and for the Giant Goose Ranch plan to develop! The remaining piece was a guy named Teeg Stouffer that brought it all home for Jeff and I.

Teeg is a true laborer in the field. Immensely talented and as our mc and producer he was more than the "cherry on the top." After 2 years of Marathon Man, Jeff easily broke his record at our new location, the Giant Goose Ranch in IL. And while the location is amazing, this event is so much more than just the location... It's Gods' promise of abundance if we can remain faithful and obedient to Him.

The money raised is such a blessing to us and will help to run our NextGEN mentoring program which focuses on Veteran families. Thanks Marathon Man!



Steve Cruikshank

Hello from Deep C's

Deep C's Men's Ministry is celebrating its 9th year. Over that time there have been 8 Fall Retreats, 6 Winter Retreats and roughly 250 monthly Deep C's meetings. Every time Deep C's meets the gospel is shared and God is glorified. With all that said I wonder how many of you know what the C's in Deep C's stand for? When we started Deep C's, we knew there would be people from all walks of life with a love for fishing. We wanted Deep C's to not only be a group of men who love fishing but also men who have a love for God. The challenge was how do we meet men where they are in their spiritual life and how would we help them move forward in their walk with God. By using the C's, we allowed men to personally assess where they were in their walk with God. It would be up to us to help them advance to the next "C". It has been a very rewarding 9 years. We have made many great friends who not only love fishing but also have a hunger to increase their relationship with God. I have listed the C's below and there meaning. I pray you may grow closer to God by reading the meaning of each "C".

CHOSEN—WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CHOSEN BY GOD?

The phrase "chosen by God" is used in a variety of ways. The Bible is very clear that there are people chosen by God to do specific things. This simply means at some point God made the choice for something to happen according to His perfect wisdom, foreknowledge, and will. Because of this, God's choices are perfect and will result in the fulfillment of His perfect will.

CREATED—WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CREATED BY GOD?

We can summarize the reason why God created us in this sentence: We were created by God to worship Him, to glorify Him, predestined to do good works for Him, to share Jesus Christ's gospel with the lost, and to enjoy Him for eternity. This is the chief purpose of mankind. I believe that I could enjoy that forever – for that is what I was created for. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, then you know your purpose in life. If you are not, perhaps today is the day of your salvation (2 Cor 6:2). If you choose life, place your trust in Jesus, put your faith in His saving grace, and confess you are a sinner in need of a Savior, then you too have just found your purpose. This is the reason for which God created you.

CALLED —WHY GOD CALLED US?

You've probably heard the phrase "the call of God," but maybe you don't know exactly what it means. Is the Lord still calling people, or was that something He did only in Bible times? Does He speak only to a specific few or to everyone? Although He may not use an audible voice, He's still in the business of seeking followers. **Called to Salvation**—Because sin has created a barrier between us and God, He first reaches out to establish a relationship with us by offering salvation through Christ. **Called to Sanctification**—Once we have been reconciled to the Lord, He then calls us to sanctification or holiness. This means that He sets us apart for His purposes. Although this is an act of God that begins now at salvation and continues until our physical death, it also requires a commitment from us. If we choose not to cooperate with the Lord in this process, our growth in Christlikeness will be hindered. **Called to Service**—God has chosen to carry out His work in the world through those who are saved. He has determined the tasks He wants each of us to do; our job is to serve Him by accomplishing what He's planned for us.

CLEANSED—WHY GOD CLEANSSES US?

Paul writes, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body" (2nd Cor 6:19-20). We must be holy, pure, and clean if we are to serve the Lord. We have been forgiven when we are saved, but we need cleansing in order to serve. We are cleansed "by the washing with water through the Word" (Eph 5:26). God's Word exposes sin in our life. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

COMMISSIONED—WHY GOD COMMISSIONS US?

When you share the gospel, you're not responsible for the outcome. God is! Part of the great commission is to "make disciples of all nations", meaning that this gospel should be preached to the whole world (Matt 28:19-20). A disciple is literally one that is disciplined or taught about the Kingdom of God and these disciples are to make disciples or students of other people once they have put their trust in Christ. Christianity is not a covert operation! We must all tell others the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. To be discipled is to be instructed or to learn from one who is a disciple themselves. We can never teach what we first do not possess and so once a person receives saving faith from God, they are to impart this to others and to teach others to "obey all that [Jesus has] commanded" us.



NextGEN Veteran's Kids Program

By Jim Hale

Take a look at these pictures. What do you see? Well, maybe some fish, but I would direct your attention to the smiles and JOY in the faces of some parents and

kids experiencing for the first time the wonderful world of Fishing for Life.

Over the last many months we have talked to over 25 various military agencies, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, National Guard Outreach, Army Family Outreach, Trust Vets, Wounded Warriors, and many others. All of them felt we had a great opportunity for some veteran families and their kids. The really "boots on the ground" part revealed to me however, and Hugh West, and Tom....that finding these families was not going to be easy. But with perseverance and lots of prayer for guidance...we are very excited about how we are progressing.

As of now we have 6 families and possibly 12 kids who are experiencing the program. Some mom's and dad's had to come to a couple FFL lake events in the last months. That really helped them gain more trust of our steadfast purpose to provide safe, efficient, and fun-filled experiences for their kids. We will continue to seek more veteran parents or

guardians with kids like the ones in the pictures.

Many of you already know about the wonderful NextGEN program started in 2016 under the leadership of Vaughn Blackburn, it has provided a great foundation and many significant relationships. Also we have some terrific men and women who have been trained as NextGEN guides and also coached in basic mentoring skills for the added emphasis on mentoring the vets kids in this program in life skills and spiritual growth, as well as, outdoor appreciation.

Please tell anyone you know in your circles who may be a veteran with young kids about this program. **Please help us get the word out and share with your church and your networks .I would be very pleased to come and share a brief message on the program and how this is truly a significant Kingdom mission... right here in our "home front".** (brochures are available via email or printed document)

Thank you again for your prayers and encouragements. I sincerely appreciate them all.

Peace

Jim Hale, NextGEN Vet's Kids Program Manager
Phone: 612-963-0820 | Jim@fishingforlife.org



"Jimmy" is the name of the iconic boy that we use in our logo. Jimmy represents kids all around the Twin Cities: that inner-city kid who craves one-on-one attention, or the military kid who lost a parent to war, or the kid from a single-parent family longing for a father figure. Jimmy represents that kid who is looking for a little extra attention and a place to belong. At FFL we strive to help the Jimmys (and Janes!) of our cities to see Christ, delve into the Word of God, and to enjoy the wonderful creation that God provides!

Fishing For Life, founded in 2004, is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Fishing For Life inspires a love of fishing and outdoor activities through Christ-centered programming. Fishing For Life expands its reach by partnering with community organizations, agencies, and churches. Customized fishing and outdoor programs are developed by our staff, ministry leaders, and volunteers to benefit youth and families in our communities.



Nathaniel Fox

Getting Ready!

Trout Ponds and Sport Show Season

The weather is changing and you know what that means? It's trout pond and sports show season! This brings me back ten years ago when I first got "hooked" on Fishing for Life. It was a cold, November, Friday night, and I was headed to the Christian Community Fair at the St. Paul RiverCentre.

As I start walking in and headed down the stairs, the first thing I see is the trout pond with kids fishing. I instantly got excited and told my Mom, "I NEED to fish this pond!" so I pay my three dollars and catch my two fish, but I wanted more. As I was fishing I noticed there was only one guy trying to run the pond. He was taking money, taking off fish, and trying to tell people about Fishing for Life. Instantly a light bulb goes off in my head as I thought, hey I can help this guy out and take fish off and I'll get to stay here longer. So I go up to the guy and offer my help. He told me, "that would be great!" For the next few hours I got to work my very first trout pond.

Some of you may wonder why we spend so much time and resources on trout ponds and sport shows when we can't "truly" minister to people at these events. Well for me, I would have never found Fishing for Life if I didn't walk down those stairs into the Christian Community fair. These shows get us in front of families, men and women looking for something more but don't know what that is yet. Trout ponds are our "bait and switch." We get adults and kids interested in what we do and "release" them into our other programs which help keep us growing. Not only do we get more people involved, in some cases sport shows are also a source of income for our organization.

During the fall and winter time we get some out of state trout ponds. This November I have my first to kick off the season at the Bismarck Event Center the 15th and 16th. This one may only be a fund raising event but we still get to help kids get hooked on fishing. This is the second year we have done this show and I am excited to be returning. Last year I was able to bless a church with the left over trout for a cook out. It's not every time though I get lucky enough to find someone to buy or take the trout at the end of these events. there has been times I've had to clean trout in a hotel bathroom, which always makes for a great story.

This winter we will need volunteers for each of our trout ponds so keep an eye out for a sign up if you want to help reach families though something as simple as a trout pond. We couldn't do these events without our great volunteers. If you aren't already on our volunteer list, please let us know if you are interested in becoming a Fishing for Life volunteer.



VOL UN TEERS

This Way Please!



- BOAT GUIDES
- SPORTS SHOWS
- TROUT PONDS
- CAMP GUIDES
- REGISTRATION
- SET UP/TEAR DOWN CREWS
- FOOD BOOTHS
- YOUR TALENTS HERE

Contact Sara Today!
Sara@FishingForLife.org
612-554-6304



Fishing Careers Workshop

By Tom Goodrich

We just completed our 1st ever Fishing Careers Workshop with Al and Troy Lindner on Oct 26th. It was a special experience for me since as a young boy in Brainerd, I first met Al and Ron Lindner during my job sweeping floors at In-Fisherman. I took that seriously then as NG partnering with Al and Ron on this was filled with possibilities! For this being our first year with this event, it went as well as it could go and we look forward to future events.

The day was filled with entrepreneurs sharing their passions and giving an insight into how to make your dreams come true. The workshop was intended for anyone interested in getting their start within the sport fishing industry. Both adults and youth were in attendance and the best part for me was seeing the younger generation taking in all the knowledge and lessons that the older generation had to pass down. It's wonderful serving kids and adults who have a dream! These young skulls full of mush getting filled with love, life and the breadth of God! Nothing better!

I've always said, "if you find a place where God is on the move, pour gas on it! Well, at the Fishing Careers Workshop, these youngsters are on fire and on the move and we are pouring gas on them!

Sara, Vaughn, Fox, and Steve did such a great job representing us! We are so encouraged and look forward to more partnerships of the same.



Being a Boat Guide for Fishing for Life



Ron Buster

I have had the opportunity for the past three summers to be a boat guide with Fishing for Life.

I have had families, veterans and wounded warriors out fishing at different lake events... If you have never been in a boat with a young person that has never fished before you are in for a treat... the excitement of catching their

first fish is well a very rewarding feeling.

For the first time ever, my Granddaughter got to go fishing with grandpa and our first time out she caught one fish and was so very excited...

This past summer she and I fished the FFL Reel Girls event and she won the trophy for the largest Sun Fish and that plaque now hangs in her bed room.

I have had the opportunity to fish with Veterans and Veteran Widow families and its such a great feeling for me being a retired veteran (US Army).

So what is it like out there on the water? Its an opportunity to be close to kids that have fished and some that have not but its always awesome to just spend quality time out on the water. I try to teach each of them to the best of my ability how to fish and do it safely.

So, when I met other fishermen knowing they have a boat I always talk to them about Fishing for Life and what the rewards are to being able to service God in such a special way. Many of these kids have never been in a boat, been fishing and do not know God. We have a special opportunity to provide all.

Being a Boat Guide for Fishing for Life is an opportunity that I have welcomed in my life as a way to give back to kids and families what God has given me.



Ron's Granddaughter at the Reel Girls Event.

IF YOU are interested in becoming a boat guide, please send an email or call Sara at: Sara@FishingForLife.org | 612-554-6304.



Vaughn
Blackburn

High C's Fish Camp Updates

"We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might, and the wonders that He has done." ~Psalm 78:4

In order to run twelve camps, and service all these campers, we needed one guide to every 2-3 campers, which means a total of 77 men and women were needed to accommodate our 202 campers and Jr. guides. A big thank you to all the host camps, as well as the individuals who volunteered their time to make the summer camps a success. Over nine species of fish were caught, but the most common were Crappie, LM Bass, Muskie, Northern, Perch, Rock Bass, SM Bass, Sunfish, and Walleye. The campers enjoyed the competition and rewards at the end of the amazing week. As the "camp that goes home with the kid", many times, we have campers from our summer camps attend one of our monthly events. We had a total of 148 campers join us for one of these 12 events this year. Thank you for making it possible for these campers to enjoy this wonderful experience! Please pray for the campers that made spiritual decisions, that their commitment is real and that there will be fruit and growth.

We are expecting an increase in the need for guides, as we continue to increase our camps to 13 for 2020. Please prayerfully consider how God can use you to help make our 2020 summer camps a success.

2019 CAMPS BY THE NUMBERS

The camp that goes home with the kid programs

High C's Deer Camp = 1
High C's Ice Fishing Tip-Up Event = 40
High C's Dark House Spearing = 12
High C's and Holes 4 Heroes = 32
High C's Firearm and Safety = 17
High C's and Banquet = 2
High C's and Ron Shara Crappie Event = 20
High C's and Lake Event = 1
High C's Trolling For Trophies = 23

Total Attendees = 148

2019 Summer Camps

Green Lake Bible Camp/Shores of Saint Andrew = 23
Minnehaha Academy Day Camp #1 = 17
Disability Camps = 41
BWCA = 6
Minnehaha Academy Day Camp #2 = 18
Superior Hiking Trail with Lakeside Academy = 7
Green Lake Bible Camp/Camp House = 14
Minnehaha Academy Day Camp #3 = 14
High C's Adult/Child Camp = 15
High C's Camp Fish = 21
Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch = 13
Poole's Paradise = 13

Total Summer Campers and Jr. Guides = 202

Deep C's & Veteran Camps

Lake Of The Woods = 56 Veterans
Deep C's Men's Fall Retreat = 41 campers

Total campers for 2019 = 447

Guides = 77 (not included as campers)



David Olson

Father/Son at Camp

Fishing for Life's Adult/Child camp has given me the tools and knowledge to be able to successfully take my son fishing. It has also given my son a passion for fishing which is beyond compare. He will often times spend hours at the dock and on the boat and want more.

Adult/Child camp has also given my son and I quality time together that we cannot replace.

In 2019 we had an experience when we went out fishing. David casted 10 times and literally caught five bass. The fishing was unbelievable and it's things like that that we will always remember. Because of Adult/Child camp, David has grown a passion for fishing and would rather fish than go swimming. He already told me he'd rather fish than go snowmobiling if he had to choose and I believe that this could be a career path for him in the future. Lastly, it is also given David and I opportunities to talk about our faith in Jesus Christ. We were able to learn how to grow deeper in our faith at camp.

~Thanks Erik and David

2 Women's Adventure Groups about to launch in 2020 include:

BUFFALO/ROCKFORD AREA

Co-leaders:

Jodie DeGroot, Tracey VanLith and Leah Otto

WACONIA/VICTORIA AREA

Co-leaders:

Cindy Blomgren, Gail Oakes and Nancy Hagmann

A joint chapter ice fishing event will be on Saturday, January 25, 4:30 - 7:30 PM.

Medicine Lake, Plymouth

All equipment, instruction and food will be provided.

Just bring your MN Fishing License.

To register for this event and others like it, check out our calendar page at:

Fishingforlife.org

Fishing for Life is starting a Women's Outreach Ministry

By Cindy Blomgren



Women want to be involved in Fishing For Life's over-arching aim: "Where the Great Commission Meets the Outdoors"

Our newly developing Women's Outreach Ministry will reach women with the Great Commission, bringing them the gospel of Christ through the commonality of outdoor activities. Women's Outreach Ministry will offer local adventure experiences and fellowship for among Christian believers.

More and more women have been expressing interest to step up and volunteer at Fishing For Life events! Establishing a Women's Ministry component gives a place for connecting and getting involved with all the great programs that FFL offers.

Women's Outreach Ministry will focus foremost on developing relationships for the purpose of discipling and encouraging women in their personal faith walk. This will occur through monthly meetings of regional Women's Adventure Groups [similar in format to men's Deep C's groups].

Women's Adventure Group participants will primarily connect through activities of fishing and volunteering at fishing events. Beyond their monthly gatherings for salad/devotions/sharing, Women's Adventure Groups may set up other local outdoor activities -such as, a kayaking or canoeing trips, hiking, range gun shooting, or archery, which will be determined by local participants and set-up by that Adventure Group's co-leaders. Each Women's Adventure Group within the Twin Cities may choose a variety of outdoors activities that appeal to their own participants.

Leveraging fishing and outdoor activities as a point of common interest, Women's Adventure Group participants are Christian women that are committed to growing and living in God's Word. We give and receive encouragement to grow in faith, and become equipped to reach out to others. Adventure Group Coordinators will develop personal skills in leading others to Christ, and nurturing participants' growth.

Our future hope for Women's Outreach Ministry is that many women will connect in volunteer service at FFL's programs [such as: lake events, sports shows, fish ponds, and eventually at youth camps and NextGen mentoring programs], to share their faith and their common love of the outdoors with other women and with girls.



2020 LOTW TRIP IS PLANNED FOR AUG 31-SEPT 3

To apply for this trip, please contact Tom Goodrich.
612-987-5466 | Tom@FishingForLife.org



Vets Chasing the BIG Fish

How Muskie Mayhem Got Started.

By Brad Patterson

I first volunteered for the Fishing For Life Veteran's Celebration in June of 2012. Having done the event for a few years I pitched an idea to Tom of doing a late season Muskie Fishing event in 2014. Thus, Muskie Mayhem was born. The idea of this event was that it was a means to give a novice and/or otherwise disabled angler access to essence of what makes Muskie Fishing great via live bait. As an added bonus, the event was, at least originally, scheduled to occur on Veteran's Day.

This event has always been rugged. The weather hovers on what most would consider extreme. Fishing in 40 degree water, air temps often below freezing, and as Gordon Lightfoot reminds us, the Witch of November often comes calling in the form of high winds. The payoffs though, are equally rewarding. The Vets get the opportunity to interact with and catch a fish the often exceeds 40 inches in length and is the alpha predator of its domain. The fish hunts and stalks the minnows before it devours them. It is a magnificent fusion of freshwater fishing and trophy buck hunting.

This event warms a special place in my heart. My parents divorced when I was 2 and as a result I was raised by my Grandfather, a veteran of WWII who was a medic and served in the Battle of the Bulge. Among his many lessons, was a love of fishing and the outdoors. I lost him when I was 16, but I've always been drawn to those who serve as a result of his example. This event for me is a way to honor and share his legacy as well as give back to those who voluntarily sacrifice and endure so much so the rest of us can enjoy our heritage of liberty and freedom.

2020 GIFT GUIDE



Sponsor a Lake Event Participant

It costs roughly \$25/person to run a lake event. This includes rental fees for shelters, trophy fees, advertisement fees and sometimes food when not sponsored. To keep these events free of charge to the participants, please consider a gift of \$25.

>> SPONSOR PARTICIPANT **\$25** >> SPONSOR A LAKE EVENT **\$1250**



Rod & Reel Supplies

Supplies are needed to restring the reels and for some mechanical parts to make them work again. \$50 can help refurbish 20 rods and reels. >> REFURBISHES 20 RODS &

REELS **\$50** >> SUPPLIES MATERIALS FOR A YEAR **\$1875**



Maintain our Fleet

We graciously receive many donated boats and vehicles throughout the year. For the ones we are able to use at our events, we pay for motor or vehicle servicing, boat and vehicle licensing, gas, and insurance policies.

>> MAINTENANCE FOR A BOAT OR VEHICLE **\$100**

>> SPONSOR A BOAT OR VEHICLE **\$1200**



Sponsor a Veteran

We run many programs throughout the year to take care of our military families. These events are great ways for our military participants to connect and build healing relationships with each other through outdoor and fishing events.

>> SPONSOR A VETERAN **\$250**



Sponsor a Kid for Camp

Fishing for Life wants to be a safe place for kids to come and be a kid. We have many camps available throughout the summer months, please check out our schedule on page 11.

>> SPONSOR A CHILD FOR CAMP **\$270-\$515**



If led to give a gift for the 2020 year, please mail to: **Fishing for Life | PO Box 19320 | Minneapolis, MN 55419**

One to Remember

By Nathaniel Fox

If you did not make it to the fall retreat this year, you missed out on amazing fishing and fellowship. For me, this was a weekend I will never forget. This was my second year attending the fall retreat and decided to bring my Dad. Even though I grew up with Fishing for Life and going to Deep C's, my Dad wasn't able to get that involved. He brought me to my first Marathon Man event at the Docks of Maynard's on Minnetonka and had been to a couple of the banquets. This year has been a year of many hardships and changes for my family and knew I needed to get my Dad back into the thing that has always brought him joy.

Growing up, my best memories were spent fishing with my Dad and Grandpa for a week up at a cabin in Cass County. This is how I grew up and learned about fishing from my Dad. As I grew up and life got crazier, the less I was able to get out fishing with my Dad. This was right about the time I found Fishing for Life. The first time I saw the mobile trout pond at the Christian Community fair I knew I had to get as involved as I could. This year I have felt like I have been able to reconnect my dad to fishing and the great outdoors. Back in 2008 my Dad's boat broke down and he hasn't had one since, but for Father's Day I bought him one at our annual boat auction which has gotten him hooked once again.

As Dad and I were driving up to Mount Carmel so many memories came flooding in. We drove through the rain and wind while worshipping God and I realized this was going to be the first Christian retreat my Dad and I have been on together. I knew God was going to bless this time.

The first night was a great time of fellowship and worship. In the history of the DeepC's fall retreat no one had ever caught a Muskie and knew I had to get my Dad to be the first. That first day a lot of people stayed on Lake Carlos chain of lakes, but I knew I had to fish the rough waters of Lake Miltona, the largest lake in the region. When we got out on the water it was white caps everywhere with four foot swells.

We pounded across the lake to a promising looking area that was a little bit out of the wind. In the first fifteen minutes we saw our first Muskie. In the next hour we had six follows and two strikes, but no fish. I decided I knew this was a promising spot and headed to my second location. We started casting and in less than fifteen minutes it was fish on. My dad was casting a deep diver off the back of the boat and hooks into a Muskie. As he's fighting the fish I rush for the net and



Cory Fox

in one quick swoop I had the fish in the net and in the boat. I was shaking! I could not believe the first fish God blesses my dad with was a twenty-seven inch Muskie. We take the measurement and picture and release the fish. We keep fishing this weed line and catch three more species to bring his score to 80 inches the first day. My Dad was in the lead, but only by six inches.

We had dinner and enjoyed Chapel together and I could feel God moving in both our hearts. Pastor Dan talked on the story of Jesus and the Demonic and how Jesus broke every social norm just to save this one soul and how he cares personally about every soul on earth and he brings calm and

peace into a life that is otherwise full of chaos. I could see God doing this for my Dad though this weekend.

After chapel we looked at the weather and saw it was going to be the perfect night to get out on the water. We knew that if my dad was going to hold his lead he needed to up his inches through the night. So we decided we needed to get to a couple of hours of sleep in and then hit the water. We were on the water by 1:00 AM and casted for muskies under the full moon for two hours. After no luck, I knew I needed to change up and get him some inches. By 5:45am he increased his inches by twenty eight inches breaking the highest score of any fall retreat. We walked into breakfast with 108 inches.

After breakfast and chapel we headed back out to see if we could improve our score. Fishing was hard but we still caught fish. At this point it's lunch time and my back is killing me. We decided to call it a day and head in early with a grand total of 118 inches.

Saturday night most people would think my highlight would have been my dad sweeping the board with largest muskie, largest walleye, largest sunny, and most inches but they would have been wrong. That night my dad had opened up and shared part of his testimony and I was in tears. I am in tears just writing this. This was the first time I had ever heard my dad open up, especially in a group of people, and share his story. He was open and honest on where he was and I couldn't have been more proud. I want to thank everyone that came to this fall retreat and helped make it so special. I close with my life passage: "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching." ~Hebrews 10:23-25

Reprinted from Oct 2019 Depth Finder

Fall Retreat Recap

By Steve Cruikshank

The Fall Retreat was amazing!!! The worship team was even better than last year, and we didn't think that was even possible. Hats off to those guys. Big thanks to Jesus In The City (Mike & Dan Pilla) for all the great messages. We had 41 participants including 3 men who brought their sons. For the first time at the Fall Retreat we had 2 Baptisms. Ken Stahn and I took the plunge and renewed our commitment to our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thanks so much for Pastor Wes Brooks who performed the baptisms. Cory Fox won the coveted "Total Inches Trophy" this year with 118 inches. His bag totaled-Large Mouth Bass 17", Northern 27", Muskie 29", Walleye 17", Perch 7", Sunny 10", and Rock Bass 11". Wow this is the first year someone broke 100".

So many of you are wondering what happened to Tom Goodrich, last year's winner. Well his total inches were 55 and its notable to mention his 11-year-old son John beat his father with 60 inches. We have secured Mount Carmel again next year. Dates are September 17-20. Save the dates and hope to see you there.

Monthly Deep C's Men's Group Gatherings with FREE dinner at 6PM. Bring a friend!

WEST GROUP - 2nd Tuesday
6 PM—Cabela's, Rogers

SOUTH GROUP - 2nd Thursday
6 PM—Mercy Road Church, Burnsville

EAST GROUP - 4th Tuesday
6 PM—Cabela's, Woodbury

NORTH GROUP - 4th Thursday
6 PM—Thorne Bros, Blaine

*Coming in 2020, Women's Adventure Groups...
Times & places TBD. Stay Tuned!*

2020 Calendar

JANUARY

3-5—NPAA (National Professionals Angling Association) 2020 NPAA Conference Chula Vista Resort and Conference Center, in Wisconsin Dells, WI
9-12—MN Sportsmen's Show - St Paul RiverCentre
★ 15—Reel 'Em In with WWP & Mission-Ridgedale YMCA
17-19 Mid-Winter Conference-Minneapolis
18 (tentative)—Dark House Spearing Event-Cambridge
25—Women's Adventure Group-Ice Fishing-Medicine Lk

FEBRUARY

★ 1—Holes 4 Heroes, Medicine Lake
20-23—Deep C's Winter Retreat

MARCH

13-15—High C's Firearm Safety Class-Place TBD
★ 13-15—Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Classic-Canterbury Park-Shakopee
★ 27-29—Muskie Expo at Concordia University-Trout Pond

APRIL

2-5—NW Sports Show at the Convention Center
★ 17-18—Thorne Bros Spring Sale-Trout Pond
25—North Rush Lake Crappie Fishing w/MNTC Lakeside
27—Crappie Contest-FFL/White Stone Servant Ministry
★ TBD—R&R Military Marriage Retreat

MAY

★ 2—Ron Schara Crappie Contest
7-12—Governor's Fishing Opener
14—Reel 'Em In Rod and Reel Rebuilding - Emma B. Howe YMCA
TBD—15th Annual Get Hooked Gala Banquet & Auction
TBD—High C's Wilderness Safety Training
★ 30—4th Reel Girls Fish Event Lake Marion in Lakeville

JUNE

5—Reel 'Em In Rod Rebuild at Thorne Bros w/Deloitte
5-7—Mille Lacs Boat Launch
6—MN Fishing Challenge for MN Adult & Teen Challenge
★ 8-12—High C's Day Camp #1 Minnehaha Academy
★ 11—AFFFC at Lake Minnetonka
★ 11—High C's Disability Evening Camp-A, Medicine Lake
★ 14-19—High C's Fish Camp @ Shore's of St. Andrew
★ 22-26—High C's Day Camp #2, Minnehaha Academy
★ 25—High C's Disability Evening Camp-B, Medicine Lake
★ 29-Jul 2—High C's Superior Hiking Trail Camping Trip

JULY

★ 4—Trout Pond at Interlachen
★ 5-10—High C's Fish Camp @Camp House-30 min NW of Two Harbors
★ 11—Medicine Lake Monster
★ 13-17—High C's Day Camp #3, Minnehaha Academy
★ 15-19—High C's Adult/Child Camp @Miracle Bible Camp-Hackensack, MN
★ 16—High C's Disability Evening Camp-C, Medicine Lake
★ 20-24—High C's BWCA Experience-Ely
★ 27-31—High C's Day Camp #4, Minnehaha Academy

AUGUST

★ 3-7—High C's Fish Camp @Camp JIM - Brainerd, MN
5—IB Golf Tournament
★ 7—Lake Event: CAST with the Anoka County Sheriff's Dept, Lake George
★ 7-9—Game Fair (1 of 2 weekends) Trout Pond
★ 10-14—High C's Fish Camp @Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch
★ 11—Pastor's Tournament with Jesus In The City
★ 14-16—Game Fair (2 of 2 weekends) Trout Pond
★ 17-21—High C's Poole's Paradise Fish Camp at Leech Lake
★ 31-Sept 3—LOTW Pay it Forward Trip

SEPTEMBER

★ 10-11—Marathon Man
★ 11-13—Gold Star Weekend with Ironwood Springs Christian Camp
17-20—Deep C's Men's Fall Retreat & Fishing Tournament
★ 28—Metro Mold Private Event

OCTOBER

★ 3—Forest Lake Lunker
24 (tentative)—Fishing Careers Workshop
★ 28—Muskie Mayhem Event

NOVEMBER

11—Veteran's Day
12—Give to the Max Day

DECEMBER

TBD—St. Paul Ice Show 2020
10—All FFL Christmas Party
12 (tentative)—Tip Up Weekend

Key

★ High C's Fishing Camps
★ Lake Events
★ Trout Pond
★ Veteran Programming

Dates are subject to change.



**PO Box 19320
Minneapolis, MN 55419**

**SERVING YOUTH, FAMILIES,
VETERANS & COMMUNITIES
THROUGH FISHING & OUTDOOR
PROGRAMS**

FISHINGFORLIFE.ORG

Dear Reader,

Without your generous support, promotion, and prayers our ministry would not be able to reach the many kids, veterans, and adults that benefit from the many programs described in this newsletter. Some of you may not be able to be actively involved fishing with us, but we couldn't do what we do without you. I just want to thank each of you for being a friend to Fishing for Life.

*Blessings,
Tom Goodrich,
Executive Director
Fishing for Life*



*Spread The Word!
This ice fishing
tournament honors
our heroes and their
families! First hole
is free for Veterans
& immediate family
members.*

**NON-VETERAN TICKETS
\$5 EARLY BIRD BY 12/31/19
\$10 REGISTRATION UNTIL 1/30/20
\$15 TICKETS AT THE DOOR**

**FREE ENTRY FOR ALL
VETERANS & IMMEDIATE FAMILY!**

**OVER \$5,000
IN PRIZES &
GIVEAWAYS!**

HOLES 4 HEROES

**ARMED FORCES
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REGISTER ONLINE AT:
SERVING YOUTH, FAMILIES, VETERANS & COMMUNITIES
THROUGH FISHING & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

**SATURDAY, FEB 1, 2020
MEDICINE LAKE
1:00-4:00PM**



Q: What size fish will take home the trophies this year?