



Tom Goodrich

Fishing for Life's Mission Remains Strong!

COVID-19 Response Team Activated

Throughout this journal you will see our response to 2020 and how we moved forward with our programming during this turbulent time... As with most organizations all of our programming had to adjust... our banquet went virtual, the trout ponds were put on hold, Reel Em' In carried on in a smaller capacity, lake events changed to Meet Us At the Docks, camps increased to 14 camps with smaller groups able to participate at each. Our veteran programming held up well with vets participating in virtual fishing instruction, individual guided trips, our camps, Muskie mayhem and 2 more events still coming called Dark house spearing and Tip Up on early ice. We also had 2 garage sales and we ended up adding virtual fishing classes to our programming.

I must admit, I was paralyzed for a few weeks. Worried, wondering if we should shut things down. Then God downloaded a vision and He began to show me a way through. He rescued us again! I am so proud of our team and so grateful for the vision God gave us in response to this pandemic. We struck GOLD!! This was possibly our best year in the field, most meaningful and productive with new programming, new and deeper relationships started and much more! I will let the rest of the Jimmy Journal speak to what we did well.

On another note, I often wonder what the difference is between us and a church. We both have the presence of Jesus! One difference is we clearing operate in the world, in the midst of the lost, without deacons, bishops and elders or a lead pastor.

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FISHINGFORLIFE.ORG

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

Fishing for Life's Mission Remains Strong, Continued.

Our Deep C's groups (4 campuses around the metro) are currently acting like a church. We break bread, have great fellowship, occasionally worship, pray for one another, stay on mission and learn of our mission for the coming weeks and prepare for the next mission field! Not much different than a church service...

This is what we do best! Taking men and women, preparing and mobilizing them for kingdom work. Our immediate mission field includes countless men and women that are asked to do lots of events and work within the Fishing for Life mission-Kingdom Work!. This is one of the most

powerful things that change lives, not only those that we are serving-kids, families and veterans, but also the lives of our volunteers! Change comes for both! It's funny what volunteering can do... Fishing for Life has many unique opportunities to get involved which separates us from other ministries or non-profits. Our robust calendar of events continually provided opportunities to serve either kids, families or veterans. If you are looking for a way to connect with others or to serve within your communities, let us know, we are always looking for volunteers and connecting people. Email: info@fishingforlife.org to get on our volunteer list today!



Steve Cruikshank

Change Is Coming

As some of you may know, I am planning to retire from Fishing for Life in January 2022. Jan wants to move somewhere warmer; she does not do well in the cold. I must admit that winter has been getting harder for me every year

as well. I believe the state of Deep C's will go on without a hitch after I retire. I have been abundantly blessed by all your friendships. Please know this has been one of the hardest decisions I have had to make. I look forward to spending the next year with all of you.

Deep C's is in our 12th year as a program of Fishing for Life. We have 4 men's chapters and 1 women's chapter. The men meet in 4 different locations around the Twin Cities. North, South, East, and West. The Women are meeting in Forrest Lake. We have plans to expand the Women's events soon. See chapter coordinator info for time and location.

The Chapter Coordinators will continue to organize and run the meetings and I will work with whomever Tom might hire as the new "Men's Ministry Director" to replace me. Meet some of the Chapter Coordinators:



Ken Stahn
North Chapter Coordinator
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kenstahn@rocketmail.com

Ken has been involved with Fishing for Life for many years. You can find Ken at Camp, or really at any other Fishing for Life event. He is always available to help no matter what is needed. Ken and I were Baptized at the 2019 Fall Retreat. In 2020 he was inducted into the Fishing for Life "Hall Of Fame". Ken lives in Ham Lake. He attends Family of Christ church where he is on the board of Lay Ministry.



Travis Busch
North Chapter Coordinator
763-269-0181

Travis is a middle school math teacher, so he has summers off which is good for Fishing for Life because he attended 4 weeks of Fishing for Life Camps in 2020. WOW!!! Travis grew up in Yorkville IL, likes to make his own spinner baits. He has three kids Gabby 13, twins Henry and Sydney 12.

I (Steve) have a funny story about how Travis was introduced to Fishing for Life. About 7 years ago at the Fishing for Life's Sportsmen's Garage Sale. Travis says I was stalking him. Yeah right, I do not stalk people, well at least I do not think so. He says I was following him around as he was looking at the garage sale items, and he thought it was kind of creepy. Then apparently, I asked him if we knew each other, he said he did not think so. Then like always after I meet someone I started to explain about Fishing for Life and Deep C's. After that Travis started attending Deep C's meetings and his first volunteer opportunity was the "Crappie Contest".



Pat Adams
South Chapter Coordinator
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Pat has been attending Deep C's since we were meeting at Gander Mountain in Blaine. I remember him telling stories about how long it took to get there from Lakeville. Now Times have changed I'm the one who drives to Lakeville to attend the south meetings. Pat Lives in Burnsville with his wife of 38 years. He loves to catch big Crappies and Sun Fish.



Andrew Vanhoozer
South Chapter Coordinator
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Andrew and his wife Jill just moved to MN from Nebraska. They have recently been blessed with their first child named Abigale. They live in Apple Valley. Andrew enjoys hunting and fishing with Musky fishing on the top of the list. They have a chocolate lab named Moose (80lbs) who is a big part of their family hence the name.



Troy Sonnenfeld
East Chapter Coordinator
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Troy has been involved with Fishing for Life since the very beginning. He is no stranger to volunteering. Troy is currently the chairman of the board for Fishing for Life. He recently walked his daughter Danielle down the aisle which was extremely hard but was also one of the best days of his life. Troy lives in Stacy, MN and spends a lot of his free time at the cabin by Mille Lacs Lake. Fishing is a big part of his life.



Randy Markey
East Chapter Coordinator
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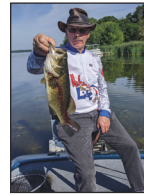
Randy met Fishing for Life at Game Fair several years ago. He really liked that we were a Christian group. He told me later that as he was walking away, he looked back and saw us praying in a circle and said to himself I want what they have. Powerful. Randy and his wife Rosa live in Woodbury. They were married in 2019 and between the 2 they have 8 kids and 2 grandkids. Randy has been working for Metro Transit for the past 12 years. Randy grew up in the outdoors with his Father and brother. They enjoyed trapping as well as hunting and fishing.



Kent Lillehaugen
West Chapter Coordinator
763-616-6506
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Kent found Fishing for Life at a time in his life that he needed some new friends. We welcomed him in with open arms and the relationship has grown in many ways. Kent works for Hamel Lumber where he sells and installs Anderson windows. He lives

close to Medicine lake and enjoys ice fishing. He puts out his fish house every year and spends almost all his spare time entertaining guests on the ice. During the ice season he spends most nights out there as well. If there is ice on the lake you are most likely to find him out in his fish house.



Ron Buster
West Chapter Coordinator
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Ron Spent 20 years in the Army the last 7 as a recruiter. He has been married to his lovely wife Jan for 52 years. They have 2 girls and 2 grandkids and live in Crystal. He says his love for fishing came from his childhood adventures in Sitka Alaska. He is part owner in Split Rock Coffee company and came to know Fishing for Life through his cousin Clancy who invited Ron to the "Pay it Forward" event on Lake of the Woods.



Linda Mathews
Women's Chapter Coordinator
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Linda is an avid fisherman throughout the year with her partner in crime and daughter Corissa. Both have been a part of Fishing for Life for 4 years. Linda is extremely excited to enter the Deep C's Women's Ministry Group. Her passion and love is not only for everything fishing and outdoors, but also for Lord and children.

This year Linda has taken up quite a bit of new hobbies and activities. From fly fishing, kayaking, visiting the gun range, and hiking.



Patti Murry
Women's Chapter Coordinator
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Patti grew up in all sports and outdoor activities from camping, hiking to many trips in the boundary waters. She has attended many outdoor survival courses with DNR and loves a good adventure. Her newest is kayaking. She has believed in Christ since High School and attended Young Life. Patti says, "God is my Rock"!

Patti has had many job titles, and is currently an Aesthetician, professional makeup and airbrush artist for special events and weddings, permanent cosmetic specialist (tattooing brows and eye liner) also includes micro blading. She also loves taking care of her flower garden.



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



The blessings of Covid-19: We had more camps in 2020 (14) than we have ever had in previous years. In the month of June, we did just day camps; July and August we were able to add overnight camps (we were blessed to provide for our campers, with Fishing for Life masks and hand sanitizer). And, while many things were canceled this Summer, sharing Jesus at camps was not!

In order to run 14 camps and service all these campers, we needed one guide to every 2-3 campers, which means a total of 70 men and women were needed to accommodate all of our campers and Jr guides. We appreciate all the camps that hosted our groups, as well as all of 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 week. As the "camp goes home with the kid", many times, we have campers from our summer camps attend one or more of our monthly events. We had a total of 193 campers join us for one of these 13 events this year. Again, thank you to all of the volunteers for making all of this possible and for helping these campers have a wonderful experience!

Please pray for the campers that made spiritual decisions, that their commitment is real and that there will be fruit and growth. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." -John 15:4

2020 CAMPS BY THE NUMBERS

"The Camp That Goes Home with the Kid" Programs

High C's Deer Camp = 6
High C's Ice Fishing Tip-up Event = 9
High C's Dark House Spearing Event = 15
High C's and Holes for Heroes = 65
High C's Ice Fishing Event = 17
High C's Firearm and Safety = 17
High C's and Banquet = virtual
High C's and Ron Shara Event = canceled
High C's and (7) Lake Events = 69
High C's Trolling for Trophies = 12
Total Attendees = 110

2020 Summer Camps

High C's Day Camp #1 = 26
High C's Day Camp #2 = 6
High C's SHT with Lakeside Academy = 11
High C's Day Camp #3 = 11
High C's Day Camp #4 = 10
High C's Adult/Child Camp = 14
High C's BWCA = 7
High C's Day Camp #5 = 15
High C's Day Camp #6 = 8
High C's Camp Fish = 16
High C's Day Camp #7 with Hospitality House = 15
High C's Catfish Camp = 18
High C's @ Poole's Paradise = 10
High C's Day Camp #8 = 19
Total summer campers and Jr guides = 186 campers

Deep C's and Veteran Camps

Lake Of The Woods = canceled
Deep C's Men's Fall Retreat = 50
Deep C's Men's Winter Retreat = 12

Total campers for 2020 = 458

Guides = 70 (not included as campers)

Please prayerfully consider how God can use you to help make our 2021 camps a success. The theme for next year will be taken from Luke 5:4-6—"And when he had finished speaking, He said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch,'" as we are discussing God's sovereignty and man's responsibility.

Vaughn | Camp Director/NextGEN Director | 763-308-5434



2021 Fishing for Life Theme

By Tom Goodrich

“And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.’ And Simon answered, ‘Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.’ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.” —Luke 5:4-6

Our whole year will drive from this theme. It resonated well with the staff and we can preach well from this within each of our programs – Each month our, Deep C’s chapters will dive into this as their study. At lake events, we will remind the people of this great “catch”. At camps, this will give us substance to talk to all the kids of the great trust and wisdom of our Lord Jesus that this verse brings.

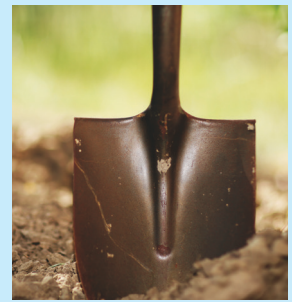
Last years’ theme was from John 15:4 – “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.” This theme came while I was sitting in church. The pastor shared that trying times can be overcome if we “abide in Him”...and that was before COVID-19 even made it’s evil appearance. We survived and thrived by simply abiding in Him.

Each year we hold tight to the theme verse for the year and use it as our guide in all we do. We invite you all to either use this verse, or find one that is meaningful to you for the year. God’s word is fresh every day for the taking... and we continue to cling to His promises for our organization and our lives.

Dig DEEPER!

A Study on Luke 5:4-6

By Charles Spurgeon,
an early Baptist Preacher
from the late 1800's



We learn from this narrative, the necessity of human agency. The draught of fishes was miraculous, yet neither the fisherman nor his boat, nor his fishing tackle were ignored; but all were used to take the fishes. So, in the saving of souls, God worketh by means; and while the present economy of grace shall stand, God will be pleased by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

When God worketh without instruments, doubtless he is glorified; but he hath himself selected the plan of instrumentality as being that by which he is most magnified in the earth. Means of themselves are utterly unavailing. “Master, we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing.” What was the reason of this? Were they not fishermen plying their special calling? Verily, they were no raw hands; they understood the work. Had they gone about the toil unskilfully? No. Had they lacked industry? No, they had toiled. Had they lacked perseverance? No, they had toiled all the night. Was there a deficiency of fish in the sea? Certainly not, for as soon as the Master came, they swam to the net in shoals. What, then, is the reason? Is it because there is no power in the means of themselves apart from the presence of Jesus? “Without him we can do nothing.” But with Christ we

can do all things. Christ’s presence confers success. Jesus sat in Peter’s boat, and his will, by a mysterious influence, drew the fish to the net. When Jesus is lifted up in his Church, his presence is the Church’s power-- the shout of a king is in the midst of her. “I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me.” Let us go out this morning on our work of soul fishing, looking up in faith, and around us in solemn anxiety. Let us toil till night comes, and we shall not labour in vain, for he who bids us let down the net, will fill it with fishes.



Marathon Man 2020

Lots of Fish and Tons of Blessings

By Sara Shrode

2020 has definitely been a challenging year to say the least... but there have also been many blessings showing up in 2020 and one of those blessings came in the form of our very own Marathon Man event. Not only did Marathon Man, Jeff Kolodzinski knock his previous record out of the water with 2,645 fish caught in a 24 hr time period (number to beat was 2,172 from 2019)... he also helped to raise over \$20,000 for Fishing for Life to continue to fund our NextGen program and other programs that help veterans and their families connect with each other and with nature. We are so grateful that Jeff and his team have come along side Fishing for Life and joined in the challenge to keep our veterans and their families connected and to provide them with unique programming.

This year was the first year I was able to be “on the ground” at the event... usually I’m at home in Minnesota running things from a distance. And boy, did I get a good year to go! We were graciously taken care of at a brand new resort setting called Sankoty Lakes Resort & Retreat in Spring Bay, IL... so new in fact, they were decorating and adding bedding and towels to each of the cabins as we were arriving. Our hosts were also spreading dirt and making paths to the docks where all the fishing was to take place. The amount of work that went into this event was unparalleled to any of our Fishing for Life events—They were building a resort and we were the recipients of their blessings.

The owners of **Sankoty Lakes Resort & Retreat** wanted to create a place where the non-fisher-man/woman/child could come and have an amazing experience. Not only do you get to stay in BEAUTIFUL canvas cabins (with indoor plumb-



Record setting year! Marathon Man, Jeff Kolodzinski sets the goal even higher for next year.

ing mind you...), you also get to learn all there is to know about catching fish, from spawning to conservation to catching full grown trout less than 25 feet from your front door. This place is amazing and will be even more amazing when it's up and running at full capacity. If you are looking for a fun experience with family or friends, this place is worth the drive! Check them out! <https://kdbgroup.org/sankoty-lakes>.

We were so taken care of at Sankoty that it was a hard place to leave... We were fed, we got to fish and in some cases we were clothed! Not knowing that the terrain would be super muddy (it had rained the night before we got there), I had made the comment that I wish I

would have brought my mud boots to walk around in... well later that afternoon, mud boots appeared for me and for many others and boy were they a blessing!

There's the saying, “it takes a village to raise a child”... well, it also takes a village to make things happen in communities and when you have the great team of people that it took to make Marathon Man a success, you see the blessings abound! This event couldn't happen without all the behind the scenes and in-front of the scenes people. Our MC, Teeg Stouffer, our tech crew Steve Worrall and his son Keith, photographers and media Luke Lovrek and Joel VandeKrol, Nathan Herman and his crew for setting up the location for this event and our Board chair Troy Sonnenfeld and Vaughn Blackburn for keeping count on all those fish. And a special thanks to Jeff Kolodzinski for coming up with this idea many years ago and for sacrificing your comforts for a day to raise funds for our programming, we are truly blessed!

I know I have forgotten many others, and apologize... when I say it takes a village, it really did and I wasn't able to get everyone's names or to meet all the “behind the scenes” people, but boy did we feel taken care of and blessed. Can't wait until next year!



Fox on the Run

Nathaniel Fox, Moving on From Fishing for Life, But Not Forgotten

By Sara Shrode



When most people hear the name Fox, they might not be reminded of Nathaniel Fox, but those of us in the Fishing for Life family definitely think of him first!

Nathaniel was a product of our trout fishing ponds... He went to one of the many sportshows that we were at and happened upon our trout pond. He paid to fish in the pond and after that, he

noticed that the man running the pond seemed a bit overwhelmed. He then proceeded to ask if he needed any help running the pond. The volunteer readily accepted his help as his other helper was still on his way but was delayed.

Nathaniel was excited to help since it meant he'd get a little more time in between other customers to fish the trout pond... and you'd think that it would stop there, but it didn't. Over the years, Fox volunteered for many tasks and was always open to volunteering. Then one day, Tom called to see if he wanted a job and he jumped at the challenge.

Fox did many things for Fishing for Life like picking up donations, hauling boats, running trout ponds, worked at many sports shows, organizing the storage areas, packing up "Dino" (our event truck) for many lake events and many, many more tasks that exceeded his initial job description. Fox was an important part of the Fishing for Life team. So we were all sad when he turned in his resignation for other work opportunities.

We miss his tenacity at getting the job done and his passion for teaching and equipping others to learn how to fish. Nathaniel was a blessing to us and we can only hope he continues blessing others with his presence. Don't be surprised if you still see him around... He definitely has a servant's heart. Good Luck Fox!



Deep C's Women's Group

Ready To Start!

The time is right to start Deep C's Women and the Greater Outdoors. This group is open to women 18+ and will encourage each other through activities and by studying the Word of God.

Linda Mathews and Patti Murray want to welcome all women to our group. They will be kicking off the first meeting the 3rd Monday of January, 2021. Place and time is still to be determined. We will follow COVID guidelines by wearing masks and keeping 6ft apart.

Linda and Patti have a common love for Christ and the great outdoors and want the meetings to be welcoming, informative and fun, with sharing of ideas in creating this group for our future.

They have great support working along side the Deep C's Men and Fishing for Life to help accomplish goals.

Please sign up early so we can start connecting. We look forward to meeting and seeing you there!

Patti & Linda

Women's Chapter Coordinators

Linda Mathews
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Patti Murry
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"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 Fishing for Life 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.

Cody Klaus

New Helper to Fishing For Life



Cody Klaus

My name is Cody Klaus. I am married and I have a three-year-old daughter at home. I have been fishing since I could hold a rod and reel in my hand. I grew up fishing for just about every gamefish there is in Minnesota. Around the age of eight, I became particularly fascinated with muskies. Since then, I have spent each year becoming more and more fascinated with them. I am now 25 years old, and muskies are pretty much the only Minnesota game fish that I fish for. Because of this, I am a member of an organization called Muskies Inc., and that is how I got involved with Fishing For Life.

Muskies Inc. and Fishing For Life partnered this summer to do three different day camps that focused specifically on musky fishing. Myself, along with two other members of Muskies Inc. were the guides, and I was put in charge of doing the instruction. After those three day camps, Tom, Vaughn, and I all agreed that FFL would be a good fit for me. From there, I helped out with camps for the rest of the summer, and a newer program of FFL, the Virtual Trainings. To give you an idea.

The Virtual side of FFL it's very helpful when it comes to communicating in today's world. The way we have been setting them up, they proceed events that requires some instruction and some training before participating in them. To give you an idea at what that's like, I will use our sturgeon/musky camp that we did earlier this fall. A few days preceding that event, we had the students and the guides join a virtual classroom. There, we went over the plan for the event day and then we walked through how to fish for each of the species that we would be targeting. That way, when the students showed up for the event, they were ready to go and they knew exactly what would be happening. This virtual part of FFL has been working great for our students, as well as our vets.



Breaking Records in 2020

Insurance Brokers of MN's Golf Event is a Success

By Jamie Sorenson

Insurance Brokers of MN is a family-owned business that has a strong desire give back to the community. Our passion for kids ministries and the work that Fishing for Life does with kids and veterans makes for the perfect partnership. For more than 10 years, we have put together a Charity Golf Tournament at The Refuge Golf Club to support Fishing for Life. This event has raised more than \$250,000 for Fishing for Life over the years! The golf tournament is usually filled to capacity and our entire staff enjoys getting involved with donating items for our raffle and silent auction and volunteering on the day of the event.

Even with COVID, the golf tournament was able to beat our yearly total and they were able to donate \$28,526.01. We couldn't do it without the help of business sponsorships and participants, many of whom are clients, family and friends of our agency.

IF YOU are interested in becoming a boat guide or volunteer, please send an email or call Sara at:

Sara@FishingForLife.org
612-554-6304.

Boat Guide Spotlight-Bob Mattsen

Wow! Where do I begin?



By Bob Mattsen

Being raised in Duluth near several creeks and Lester River, my early fishing was for trout (rainbows, brook trout and browns). The nearest inland lakes were about 35 miles away. In the 50s and 60s, Dad had an old 14' wooden boat with a 6 hp Martin on it. Great old trolling motor. We caught lots of walleye, northerns and crappies. Every Summer, my

parents would take us to the border lakes on the Gunflint Trail to fish Lake Trout during the day and walleyes in the evening. (Smallies weren't introduced until the later 60s).

Fast forward. After 20 years of work in Duluth, my office closed and I was blessed to be able to transfer to Minneapolis. I didn't know where to fish so I would always drag my boat up North every weekend. Anyway, a great Christian friend introduced me to Tom Goodrich and his wife way back when his son, Noah was a toddler, at a large "get together". Tom talked with me about Fishing For Life when he was just getting started. I wasn't quite sold on the idea yet. It took me 2 garage sales and 7 banquets where my wife and I got the bid on a houseboat trip in Voyager National Park, before I knew I needed to belong. I even bought a \$75 FFL shirt to wear on that trip before I was even a member.

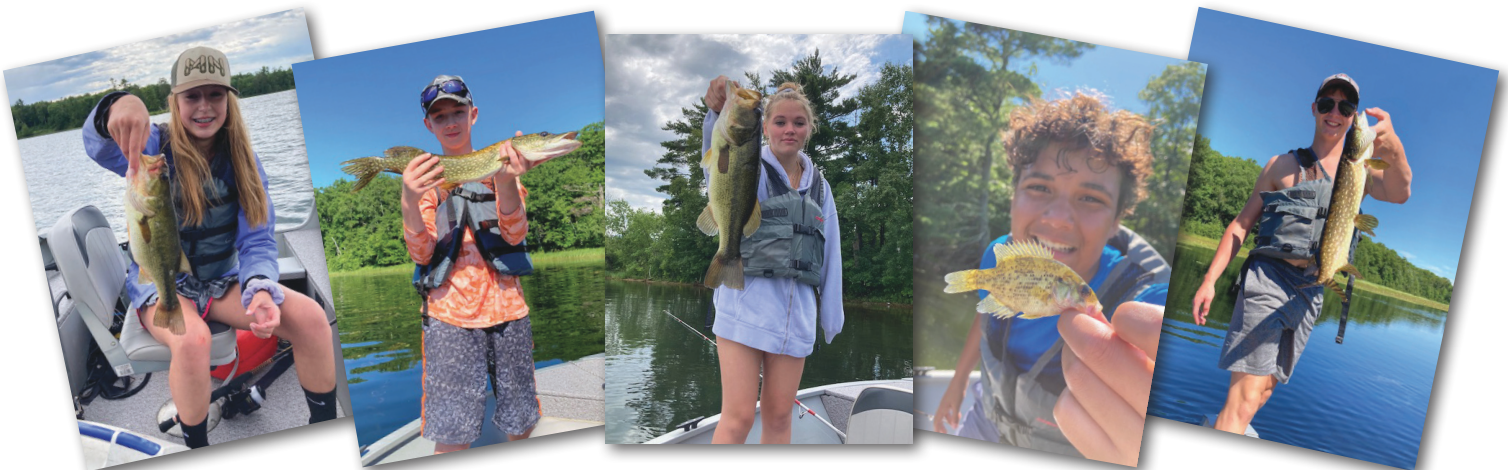
Anyway, that was 9 years ago and I have loved just about every minute of it. I have learned so much and have been so blessed. The guest speakers at "Deep C's" taught me how to use electronics properly, to "read" a body of water, and how to use many different presentations for different species and different conditions. But, it's the kids that taught me most.

Before guiding the kids, I had no clue what a wacky worm or a Ned rig was. They've shown me a lot. What really gets to me is taking a young girl or boy in their first boat ride and watching them catch their first fish. The smiles and giggles are priceless!

At the week-long camps, things are quite different. First, you get different kids every day which is nice because you get to know more kids and the different fishing techniques they've been taught. As a whole, the girls pay more attention to instruction and end up doing well. The boys tend to believe they "know all there is to know". Most kids claim that they don't need a big trophy as long as you put them on catchable fish.

I've guided boat loads of kids just content to sit on schools of sunnies, perch, crappies or rock bass as long as there was constant action. With the COVID situation, I was only able to do 1 week camp at Woman Lake near Hackensack this summer.

Later in the summer, I was blessed to go on a trip to Lake of the Woods with 11 other veterans--Awesome trip! And, in September, I was invited to go on a Lake Superior charter trip with about 18 other FFL guides. I was very Blessed to catch a "once in a lifetime" Brown Trout that weighed about 6lbs. I wish all the guys and gals on this trip could have experienced it. I sure hope and pray that we can get beyond this COVID stuff soon, as I am looking forward to becoming more involved in the upcoming year. Here are a few pictures from the camp and Lake Superior trip.



There once was a wonderful woman named Sandy Ramsey...

By Tom Goodrich



If you never had a chance to meet Sandy you missed out on a big component of Fishing for Life. She passed away recently and it was hard. When she passed it was in the midst of COVID but I was able to see her in the hospital as a family member. I, along with other Fishing for Life members, attended her funeral. We have all been so deeply touched by her, she exemplified a life of service and doing Kingdom work! She fit

perfectly into FFL and her impact is immeasurable.

Sandy served FFL as a board secretary, volunteer extraordinaire and a mom to me and others within the organization. You might have received a note from her as that was her specialty-writing thank you notes on behalf of Fishing for life. We miss her greatly!

Here's a bit more on my journey with Sandy:

When I first started Fishing for Life, after returning from Afghanistan, my own mother had passed away. We were in the midst of starting a young family of four, starting a ministry and I had been praying for someone to come



along side us and help?

I had recently seen a young pastor at my church gifted with so many helpers as she started her journey as a pastor. I was a bit jealous of her and I asked God to send his helpers and Sandy showed up at one of our lake events ready to do just that—help! Little did I know that this was God's gift to me and to FFL. Sandy filled a hole in my life at the time that was deep and meaningful to me. She continued on throughout the years ministering to me, encouraging me and supporting me and my family in many ways. Her famous fudge at Christmas time, birthday cards and notes of encouragement! She was a wonderful gift for me and my family. When I get to heaven she's definitely going to be one of the first people I look for! Thank You Sandy and may God's blessings shower you as much as you showered us with your love and presence.



Deep C's Spotlight-West Chapter



By Kent Lillehaugen

Deep C's West

"West is the Best"

Deep C's West Chapter meets at Cabela's in Rogers, Mn., on the 2nd Tuesday of the month – upstairs in one of the Conference Rooms. My Name is Kent Lillehaugen, I work together with Ron

Buster as Co-Coordiators for Deep C's West.

We are Blessed to have Perry Whitney Prepare & Deliver Dinner for our Group. When I say Blessed, I'm not kidding – Perry is a Very Good Chef. Not only does he change the Menu each month, but he always makes sure that there is

more than we can possibly consume (no matter how many guys attend).

Our Devotional Leader is Vaughn Blackburn. Vaughn's style of presenting is one of the things that caught my attention (around 5 years ago). Vaughn always has a Great message to share, and a jovial way to present it. Once again the West Group has been Blessed!

The West Chapter is made up of a group of guys that range in age from their 20's...to 80's. This makes for some very interesting discussions. GREAT group of Guys! We are always looking to grow Deep C's West, so invite and bring a Friend or maybe two!

Not to take anything away from the other Chapters, but we would like to think that "The West is the Best"



Muskie Mayhem 2020 with Fishing For Life

*The Wounded Warrior Project and the
Twin Cities chapter of Muskies Inc.*

By Jim Doyle

Wednesday October 28th was just barely warm enough to make it a go for the 12th annual Muskie Mayhem sucker soaking event! The early on-set of winter this year was threatening to postpone or cancel it, but the nice little blip of 32-45F weather saved the day for us all.

A group of roughly 24 vets and 12 or so guides met up at the Long Lake Fire Department who graciously hosted everyone for a hearty breakfast and event organization. The event kicked off with some wise words and encouragement from Tom Goodrich and Vaughn Blackburn of Fishing For Life, and getting fishermen and guides paired up before heading out on the water.

Thorne Brothers generously donated the bait, and by bait we mean the 15"-18" suckers the Muskies just love this time of year. Boats of vets and guides spread out across the metro in search of a trophy. With everyone bundled up and a little expert sucker surgery to rig up baits, everyone was in business around 9 am.

Fittingly for a vets outing, lake Independence wound up being the hot lake this year. Veteran Nate Sense and his nephew Camryn, son of another vet in the family, were the lucky anglers this year. Camryn struck first with a 43.5 incher around 11:30 am and Nate with a 43 incher at 1:45 pm made up the fireworks for the day. Nate had named what was thought to be the lucky sucker "KEVIN!" (as in KEVIN!

from the movie Home alone) as KEVIN! was a very active sucker. KEVIN! turned out not to be the hot ticket, but ever so narrowly escaped injury by dashing under the motor to escape the open jaws of another 46-48 inch Muskie right at the boat as everyone aboard watched in awe. The unnamed lazy sucker wound up catching both fish for the day before it was finally lost on Nate's necessary long-distance heavy hookset. The sucker went free but the hook was solid in the corner of the mouth.

Other boats were seeing fish following jerk baits and looking at suckers but no takers.

It was a nice day of fellowship and Muskie hunting for the group, hopefully Muskies Inc. gained a few new dedicated Muskie hunters, and we all gained a few friends in fishing!

**"Thank you for the great event.
Camryn and I had an absolute
blast!...On the drive home Camryn
wouldn't stop talking about when
the next time we could go muskie
fishing! It was such a pleasure
to be in the boat with Jim. He
was very knowledgeable, a great
teacher, and wonderful storyteller."**

—Nate S.



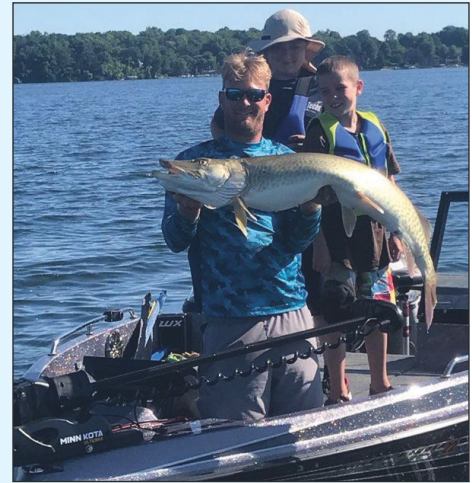
Testimonies & Photos

Throughout the year, we get many photos and kudos on what Fishing for Life is doing and has done in people's lives... Here are some we'd like to share.



"I want to thank you for another great fishing opportunity. What you and the Fishing for Life crew do for the community is just awesome."

– Scott C. (Muskie Mayhem)



"Fishing for Life has provided our high school son an opportunity to pursue his passion for fishing while exploring the biblical truths contained in God's word. As a resident of the Brainerd Lakes Area, we have come to find that the combination of fishing and bible teaching is a great way for our boys to experience first-hand the wonders of God's creation and His plan for their lives. We look forward to the many opportunities for our oldest son as he begins to prepare for life outside of our home and are grateful for the mentorship and positive life-long relationships developed through the staff and fellow campers of Fishing for Life."

– Steve W (Parent)

"My son Ryan went on his first fishing-for-life event to Leech Lake and he is hooked! He wants to go on more adventures with the group and I am wondering if you have events planned for this fall or winter yet?"

– Julie S. (Parent)



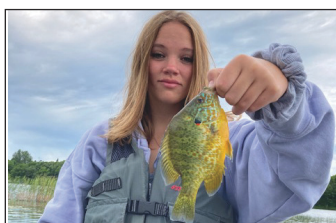
"I am so grateful for FFL. My grandson just loves it. He loves fishing and more importantly has had the guidance of Godly men. After his last day trip, he was so happy. He told me he never met a fisherman he didn't like. He really liked Cody and told me he wanted to be like him when he grows up. That Sunday morning Robert didn't want to go to church. I reminded him that Cody would be going to church. He immediately got ready without a problem, FFL has been an answer to prayer."

— Teri B. (Grandparent)



"Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity for our boys! They have been so excited every day to come home and share their stories. With all the uncertainty right now it has been a blessing for them to be able to be on the lake, making friends and enjoying a passion/sport while learning!"

— Chris & Laura H. (Parent)



"The Deep C's Fall Retreat is a highlight that I look forward to each year. I look forward to the quiet. When we are out in the boat on an early morning, it is easy to connect with God and appreciate all the blessings that we have. The loons are calling and a mist is slowly rising off the lake. I greatly appreciate being able to share moments like this with other Christian men... The worship provides opportunities to hear God's word. The speakers always share very relevant messages. The praise team is awesome!"

— Travis B. (Deep C's Coordinator & Camp Guide)

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**



Anchor

By Randy Markey

Many times, I have heard the term “Anchor in the storm”. An anchor is sometimes used metaphorically throughout the bible. Hebrews 6:19 says – We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain – The anchor represents God’s firm security for us, and he gave us Jesus as an anchor rope. When we are tethered to him, we are secure in life. The large waves can hit us, and we can withstand them. Nothing can knock us off course if we have God anchoring our life. But, we sometimes lose our grip on that rope. We let things of this world distract us.

As a fisherman, I have used many anchors. There are many different styles available. There are different designs and sizes depending on the ground you are trying to anchor to and the size of your boat. If you are using the wrong anchor for the situation, the boat will not hold its place. Many times, I have set my anchor over a good fishing spot using the wrong anchor. I start out catching fish. They are abundant in that location, but my wrong anchor choice causes me to drift off course. Sin can creep in to life much the same way. We set a course in life with good honorable intentions. Sin enters, and we find ourselves drifting away. We drift away from the place God had many blessings for us. Marriage comes to mind in this. We enter a marriage with the best intentions. After marriage, we buy a house and have children. We are living a good life. Then our sinful nature enters the marriage. This can be an easy entrance for sin if you don’t have God anchoring this stage of life. The door is wide open for things like pornography, extra marital affairs, drugs, alcohol,

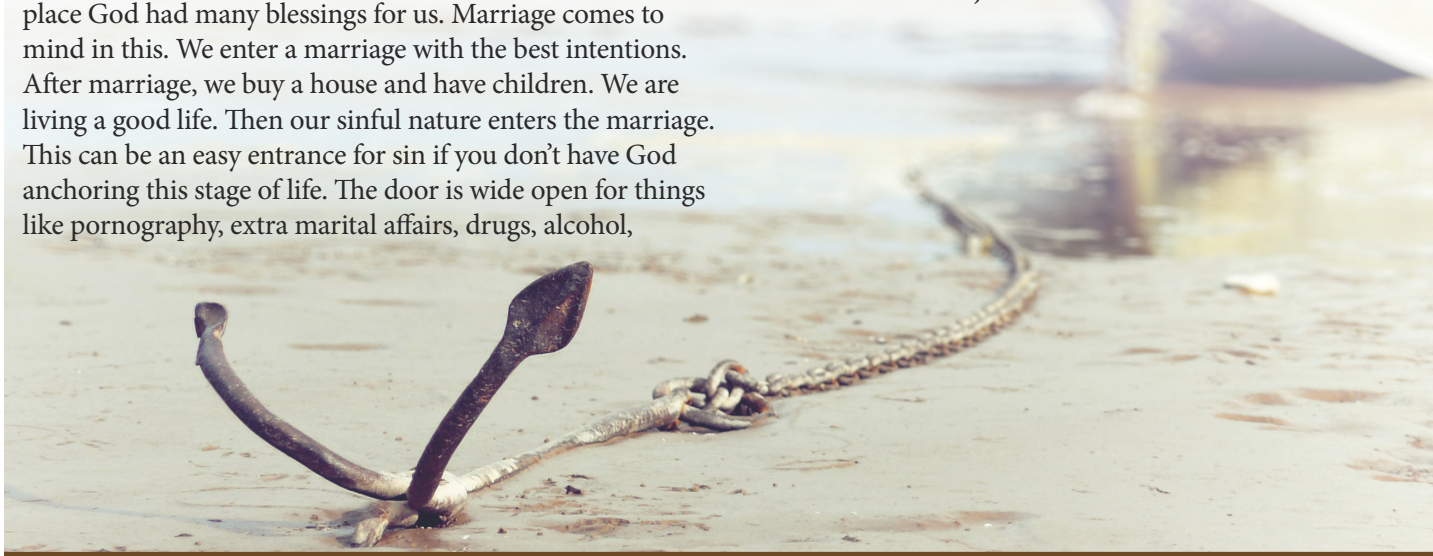
“If you are using the wrong anchor for the situation, the boat will not hold its place.”

gambling, ETC. Unfortunately, that list can go on forever. The fact is this. Sin can cause us to drift off course if we use the wrong anchor. John 10:10 – The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

There have also been times when I cast an anchor to fish a certain spot. The fishing ended up being poor in the area, so I decide to go somewhere else. But, as I try to pull up the anchor, I find it is securely lodged to the bottom where I am at. When I finally get the anchor to the surface, I find it covered with mud or a big ball of weeds. This is what has been weighing me down. I cannot move on until the debris is cleared. Hebrews 12:1 says since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings us so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is before us.

We ALWAYS have the right anchor in the boat. God will always have us in the right spot in life. He will not let us drift off course, but it requires us to live life with a firm grip on the anchor rope the God gave us to hold on to.

Praise the Lord in Jesus name



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—
Meeting virtually until further notice

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

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

WOMEN’S GROUP- 3rd Monday
Time and Place TBD

Contact Linda/Patti to get connected.

lindainhisgrace@gmail.com
pmurr9156@gmail.com

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

2021 Calendar

JANUARY

TBD—Reel 'Em In with WWP & Mission-Ridgedale YMCA
 12—Virtual training for Dark House Spearing
 14-16—High C's Dark House Spearing Event, Lake Winnibigoshish
 TBD—Deep C's Women's Ice Fishing, Moose Lake
 30—Ice Fishing on Medicine Lake

FEBRUARY

5-6—Ice Fishing Camp
 6—Holes 4 Heroes Ice Fishing Tournament
 12-13—High C's Ice Fishing Camp, Grand Rapids
 25-28—Deep C's Winter Retreat, Alexandria

APRIL

TBD—16th Annual Get Hooked Gala Banquet & Auction
 17—Reel 'Em In with Westwood
 TBD—Thorne Bros Spring Sale-Trout Pond
 24—High C's Crappie Fishing w/MNTC Lakeside, North Rush Lake
 TBD—R&R Military Marriage Retreat

MAY

1—Ron Schara Crappie Contest (tentative)
 6-11—Governor's Fishing Opener
 TBD—Reel 'Em In - Emma B. Howe YMCA
 TBD—High C's Wilderness Safety Training
 TBD—Reel Girls Fish Lake Event Marion in Lakeville
 22—Fishing in Zimmerman

JUNE

TBD—Reel 'Em In at Thorne Bros w/Deloitte
 TBD—Mille Lacs Boat Launch
 4-5—MN Fishing Challenge for MN Adult & Teen Challenge
 7-11—High C's Day Camp #1
 TBD—AFFFC at Lake Minnetonka
 TBD—High C's Disability Evening Camp-A, Medicine Lake
 14-18—High C's Day Camp #2
 TBD—High C's Disability Evening Camp-B, Medicine Lake
 20-25—High C's Fish Camp @Shore's of St. Andrew
 28-Jul 2—High C's Fish Camp @Leech Lake
 TBD—High C's Superior Hiking Trail

JULY

TBD—Trout Pond at Interlachen
 6-9—High C's Day Camp #3
 TBD—High C's Disability Evening Camp-C, Medicine Lake
 10—St. Croix River Canoeing
 11-16—High C's Fish Camp @ Camp House
 TBD—Medicine Lake Monster
 21-25—High C's Adult/Child Camp @ Miracle Bible Camp
 26-30—High C's Camp Fish @ Camp JIM
 28-Aug 1—High C's BWC

AUGUST

2-6—High C's Day Camp #4
 4—IB Golf Tournament
 TBD—Lake Event: CAST with the Anoka County Sheriff's Dept, Lake George
 TBD—Game Fair (1 of 2 weekends) Trout Pond
 9-13—High C's Fish Camp @Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch
 14—Rum River Canoeing
 10—Pastor's Tournament with Jesus In The City
 TBD—Game Fair (2 of 2 weekends) Trout Pond
 TBD—LOTW Pay it Forward Trip

SEPTEMBER

10-11—Marathon Man
 TBD—Gold Star Weekend with Ironwood Springs Christian Camp
 16-19—Deep C's Men's Fall Retreat
 TBD—Metro Mold Private Event

OCTOBER

TBD—Forest Lake/High C's Trolling for Trophies
 TBD—Muskie Mayhem Event


NOVEMBER

6-7—High C's Deer Camp
 11—Veteran's Day
 TBD—Give to the Max Day

DECEMBER

TBD—St. Paul Ice Show 2021
 TBD—FFL Christmas Party
 11 (tentative)—High C's Tip Up Event

Events/Dates are subject to change/be cancelled. We will update our online calendar as soon as we have the confirmed dates in place.



**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



FISHINGFORLIFE.ORG

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

Can enter fish into Virtual tournament as well, but MUST pay registration fee on app to enter.

Individuals looking to fish. MUST Register to join. Live tournament is FREE to participate.

*Open to military & their immediate family members, military groups, kid groups, and

Special FREE LIVE Tournament* on MN Area Lakes Feb 6th 1-4pm

*FishDonkey App Download is required to enter fish, families with kids under 16 can submit fish under a parent's name.

\$25/Registration* (Jan 1-Feb 6)

\$15 Early-Bird Registration (Dec. 15-31.)

OVER \$5,000 IN PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS!

FISHING FOR LIFE

DESIGNING YOUR FUTURE. RESTORING YOUR PAST.

H M HOFFMAN WEBER CONSTRUCTION

HOLES 4 HEROES

Armed Forces Multi-Species, Multi-State Ice Tournament

FISH ALL MONTH LONG!!!

Jan 1st - Feb. 6th at 4pm

1st Place Random Length, 2nd Place Longest Fish

Virtual

We Are GOING...

Multi-Species categories include:

Walleye, Northern Pike, Bass (lg/sm), Sunfish, Crappie, Perch

Open to MN, ND, SD, IA and WI lakes.

Presenting Sponsor: Hoffman Weber Construction

This year H4H is going Virtual AND Live!

VIRTUAL* event is open to all participants fishing on MN, ND, SD, IA, and WI lakes from Jan 1st-Feb 6th.

Our LIVE TOURNAMENT will be open to military & their immediate family members, military groups, kid groups, and individuals looking to fish. Happening on Minnesota area lakes. Feb 6th- 1-4pm

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED! Join 1 or join them both!

*FishDonkey App download and registration fee is needed to participate in the Virtual tournament.

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