



# FISHING FOR LIFE

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## THE DEPTH FINDER

Luke 5:4—"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." - Jesus directs us if we listen.

VOLUME 6, DECEMBER

**A Communication for Deep C's Members**

DECEMBER 9, 2020

### DEEP C'S DIRECTOR - STEVE CRUIKSHANK

Hello All,

As some of you may have heard I will be retiring in January of 2022. Jan wants to move to a warmer climate, and I can honestly say I am getting tired of the cold myself. I will miss all of you, but the good news is we will end up in a place that is good for fishing. That means you will all be welcome to come down and stay with us and do some fishing.

We had to cancel this year's Christmas party due to Covid. We will still have December meetings, but they will be on BlueJeans. I will be sending out the invite the day before the regular meeting day. If you would like an invite, please let me know.

We have some really cool programing coming up in Dec and Jan, with dark house spearing and tip-

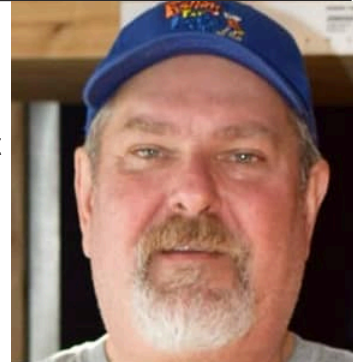
up events. The Winter Retreat will be at Mount Carmel the same place as the Fall Retreat. Cost will be \$220. That includes lodging and meals. The dates are Feb 25-28 which is the last weekend of walleye fishing. I plan to bring

my portable and lake hop on snowmobiles. Give me a call if you have any question.

We have finally started a ladies Deep C's so if you know anyone interested please let me know. Below are the 2 Chapter Coordinators.

Your Brother in Christ,

Steve



Linda Mathews - Women's Chapter Coordinator  
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[lindainhisgrace@gmail.com](mailto:lindainhisgrace@gmail.com)

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  
651-470-9028  
[pmurr9156@gmail.com](mailto:pmurr9156@gmail.com)

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.

## Calendar Items:

Because of Covid uncertainty, it is still very difficult to put things on the calendar, but here are a few dates:

Dark house spearing and tip-up events Dec 17-20 (full)

Ice fishing Winter Retreat at Mount Carmel Feb 25-28



## December Special Needs Column

With the holidays fast approaching first Thanksgiving then Christmas I thought it would be a great idea to look at coping and engaging with your special need's child during the holidays and how do I include them. COPING WITH OVER-STIMULATION

The bright lights, festive smells and greetings of cheer all around are not everyone's favorite parts of the holidays, especially those with sensory sensitivities. For a child with disabilities, seeing relatives who they may be around only a few times a year or encountering new smells, might send them running for a quiet corner.

So, let me share some tips on what can be done for an easy transition for everyone.

### 1. Have a "safe brain space."

Designate a spot before the festivities begin that other guests know is off-limits to them for the evening. Personalize this space for your child, letting them know this is their spot, and theirs alone, to go have a break if the tidings around them become too much.

### 2. Review names and relationships to guests.

Rehearse before a seasonal shindig, especially if your child does not see these guests often. Go through photo albums, perhaps reminding them of fun times they shared or positive anecdotes about the person. This will make your child more comfortable when greeted by them.

### 3. Prepare your hosts/ guests on your child's sensitivities.

While you don't need to provide rank and file of every diagnosis, do feel free to simply be honest about realistic and foreseeable occurrences. For example, your son may not be fond of physical touch, so when greeting guests or phoning family members beforehand, you might say, "Our family is so excited to be coming/that you are coming this year! Just as a reminder, Johnny doesn't really give hugs and kisses, but he loves to high-five!"

More tips for an easy transition along with many more can be found in this link - <https://researchautism.org/coping-engaging-during-the-holidays-tips-to-include-your-child-with-special-needs-in-the-holiday-festivities/>

But I challenge you this month to ask yourself "What can I do to include my Special Needs child in our holiday activities"? Maybe its by using the tips from above.



Handicapped Director Tyler Pinor

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Men's Deep C's December:

- West - December 8 - Blue Jeans
- South - December 10 - Blue Jeans
- North - December 17 - Cruikshank's
- East - Dec 22 - Fractional Toys

### Speaker & Topic

Tyler Pinor will be speaking at all 4 meetings this month describing what it is like to live with a disability.



Fishing For Life, founded in 2004, is a tax exempt charitable organization whose mission is to inspire a love of fishing and outdoor activities through Christ-centered programming.

Within Fishing For Life, there is a christian ministry called Deep C's. There are five chapters active - West, South, East, North, and women's - each meeting once / month. The Deep C's meetings all begin at 6pm with a free supper. All are welcome .

### 2020 Theme

#### "Abide in Me"

John 15:4 - "Abide in Me, as I also abide in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must abide in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in me."

Cost for membership is \$20/ year collected in February.

## Archie's Funnies



*Depth Finder is a monthly publication for our Deep C's groups.*

*Submissions should be emailed to the editor. All articles, testimonies, informational items, pictures, recipes, and items for sale or wanted are welcomed and encouraged. Please make submissions to the editor or Steve.*

*Editor: Daryle Hamlin  
dbhamlin@gmail.com*

### Deep C's

*Deep C's is a Christian group that regularly gathers together to share in their knowledge of and love for the outdoors, and, most importantly, to fellowship with one another through faith in Jesus Christ. We desire to deepen our relationships with Him and with each other. There are currently five active groups across the Twin Cities. Four for men and now one for women. All are welcome!*

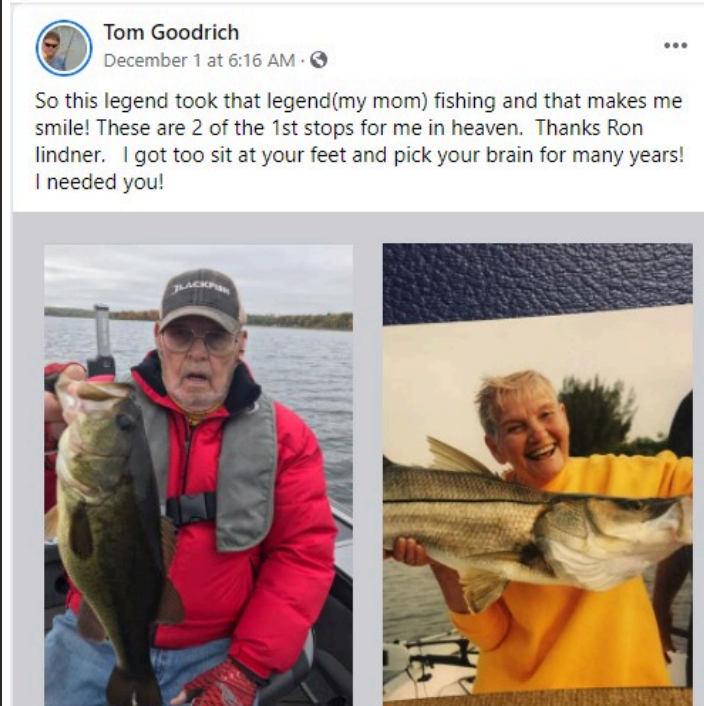


## Ron Lindner

To say we have lost a legend doesn't seem to do this man justice. Ron was a big supporter of FFL and gave his time, prayers, his personal testimony and encouragement to us over the years. We will miss him greatly. You can attend the funeral through the magic of Facebook live at:

<https://www.facebook.com/LindnersAnglingEdge/videos/1247167778994914>

Here is a tribute from Tom:



**Ronald John Lindner**, age 86, of Baxter passed away on Monday, November 30, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family. Ron was born in Chicago, Illinois to Arthur & Estelle (Belz) Lindner. He married the love of his life, Dolores Hakes on June 2, 1956, and together they raised their family of 7 children.

Ron was an entrepreneur who was driven by a passion and love for fishing. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War.

He and his younger brother Al were true pioneers in the era of modern fishing and left their indelible mark on the fishing industry for more than 50 years. The brothers brought a scientific approach to angling that helped them evolve into elite tournament fisherman. The pair developed the Lindy Tackle company and invented the Lindy Rig used by millions of walleye anglers. They went on to create a fishing media empire that began with the In-Fisherman magazine and expanded into radio, television, books and more. Then on to Lindner Media Productions which spawned Lindner's Angling Edge and an outcropping of subsidiaries.

Ron was inducted into many Sportsman and Fishing Hall of Fames throughout his lifetime.

Ron's devotion to his faith and his family will never be forgotten.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 64 years, Dolores; children: William (Kay), Michael, James (Jorie), Kim (Robert) Slagter, Cawn Lindner, Lisa (Billy) Hoffs, Daniel (Alyssa); 12 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren; brother, Allen (Mary).

Ron is preceded in death by his parents.



A pointer to many accomplishments and tributes can be found at

<http://target-walleye.com/we-lost-ron-lindner/>



Pro Fishing Tips Dec 2020  
by Dwight Nelson

## Fishing Tips by Dwight Nelson, December 2020

Instead of the usual “fishing tips” we normally look at in this column, I thought it would be interesting to chat once in a while with some folks I know in the fishing world. This month we are chatting with former professional walleye fisherman Scott Fairbairn. Mr. Fairbairn was in competitive fishing for 17 years and earned his income from professional fishing for much of that time.



Dwight Nelson: Who first taught you how to fish?

Scott Fairbairn: When I was born they said “it’s a boy” and my mom said “good, now grandpa Fairbairn has someone to go fishing with”. My earliest memories are fishing with grandpa Fairbairn for bluegills on Big Lake near Cloquet [MN]. He also took me fishing in Voyageurs National Park when I was young.

Nelson: How did you get interested in pro fishing?

Fairbairn: When I was getting to the end of high school I knew I wanted to try fishing for a living. My parents, the son and daughter of my four school teacher grandparents, were insistent that I go to college rather than fishing. So I enrolled at the U of M in the Fisheries and Wildlife Management program figuring that was at least in my interest area. During the summer between my freshman and sophomore year of college I spent the summer guiding in the Boundary Waters at Gunflint lodge. That experience taught me that guiding wasn’t really my thing. I found it to be too repetitive.

The next winter I saw an ad for a Masters Walleye Circuit tournament that was going to be held on Big Stone Lake on the MN/SD border. I had been reading about all the walleyes that had been stocked there and my dad and I had talked about making a trip at some point. So I asked him if he wanted to fish a tournament. We signed up for the tournament that had about 200 boats in the field. Our boat at the time was a 16’ Alumacraft Lunker tiller with a 40hp motor.

At the time, the pros were mostly in 18-19 foot boats with 150-175hp motors. We about got swamped at

take off and couldn’t make the run to the far north end of the lake where most of the fish were at so we fished fairly close. When the tourney dust (or spray) settled we finished about 60<sup>th</sup> place, so not that well, but ahead of many pros I had been reading about for years. We beat Gary Roach and Gary Parsons and Keith Kavajecz, etc. We were hooked. From there we decided “we’re going to need a bigger boat”.

Nelson: How long were you in professional fishing?

Fairbairn: I fished competitively from 1992 to 2009 and made a living at it from about 1996-2009.

Nelson: There’s more to it than just fishing, right?

Fairbairn: A wise industry friend once told me that no one will pay you to go fishing. They want to go fishing themselves. So professional fishing is about running a promotional business that has several revenue streams. Sponsorships where you can demonstrate your endorsement value, writing articles for publication, seminar speaking, occasional guiding, etc. are the



baseline revenue streams. Tournament winnings come and go. You can have a hot streak where you are fishing well and then hit a slump so I always looked at the tournament winnings as the bonus and used the promotional work

as the baseline income.

Nelson: When did you become a Christian?

Fairbairn: I grew up attending a church in West St. Paul with my parents until about 8<sup>th</sup> grade. At that time there was a nasty church fight about who the new pastor should be and my parents left the church and I didn’t continue going to church. Fast forward a few years and I met the woman who would eventually be my wife who insisted that I attend church with her. But I was mainly going to church for her and not because of a relationship with Christ.

In 1998 we started the In Fisherman Professional Walleye Trail (PWT) season at Lake Erie in April. At the rules meeting Daryl Christensen’s wife Sherry gave me a cassette tape with a talk by Al Lindner about Christianity and his testimony. I threw it on the dash of the truck and moved on. One quirk of the way the PWT worked at the time was that they would



determine their Angler of the Year and Championship qualifiers by adding cumulative tournament weight over the course of the year. That made Lake Erie extremely important as the average fish was 2-3 times bigger than most of the rest of the lakes we fished for the rest of the year.

I had been burned by having a tough Erie tournament multiple times already in my career. At the end of the event I had finished fairly high in the money with a good weight to start the year. So I should have been happy. But on the drive home I think I was the saddest I had ever been. It didn't make sense. At one point near Chicago I decided to put Al's tape in and listen. He talked about true happiness being found in a relationship with Christ and the hope that brings versus putting faith in worldly things. Somewhere between Brainerd and Walker, where I lived at the time, I pulled over on the side of the road and asked Christ into my life.

Nelson: How did your Christianity affect fishing?

Fairbairn: A few ways. There certainly were a lot of fisherman on the tour that aren't Christians and they were always watching whether we were living up to what we were espousing. Same as me looking at the church I grew up in and saying "this is how Christians act"? Obviously competition in professional fishing is fierce and Christians can be fierce...but also fair.

Nelson: What prompted you to leave pro fishing?

Fairbairn: A few things. First, professional fishermen are on the road a lot. In the 2000's I was averaging about 180-200 days on the road. The schedule meant that I had times where I was gone from home for a few weeks straight and other times where I was around for the same. But we had my son and daughter during that same time period and I wanted to create some more stability.

Second, I do well when I'm on the steep part of the learning curve in anything. Once I have a base knowledge I start to get antsy and need a new challenge. I found that the excitement of going to Lake Winnebago or Saginaw Bay for the first time and learning and building new skills had become stale by the time I went for the 12<sup>th</sup> time.

Third, the rules being implemented in fisheries across North America like restrictive slot limits and no cull

rules were making tournaments a lot more of a luck effort than skill. Those rules were important for managing the fisheries but made tournaments a lot less enjoyable. It is actually why I worked with a number of other professional anglers to implement Catch Record Release tournaments so that it took the luck out. With all of that going on what I did know was that I was enjoying the business side of my work. Engaging in promotional and marketing planning, new product development, etc. were where my interest was focused. I actually asked a few of the sponsor contacts I had to think about me if a marketing position opened up. They pretty much gave me the "why are you trying to break into the asylum" response. So I decided to take the GMAT exam (requirement for going to business school) and enrolled at the University of Minnesota Carlson School to pursue an MBA.

Nelson: Were you married when you started pro fishing?

Fairbairn: When I met Heather I was already fishing competitively so it wasn't a surprise for her. That doesn't go as well for some anglers who decide to announce to their wife (or husband) that they are going to go be a professional angler.

Nelson: What is the culture of the pro fishing community?

Fairbairn: It's a brotherhood of really great anglers and people. A few exceptions but for the most part if someone needed support it was and is a group that can be counted on to help.

Nelson: Do you still stay in touch with other pros?

Fairbairn: Yes, but not as much as I should. We share really great memories of a time in professional walleye fishing that spurred a tremendous amount of learning about walleyes that is now taken for granted. Catching fish in a foot of water on a sunny day was blasphemy in the 80's but now isn't overlooked. Walleyes that weren't tight to the bottom but suspended near the surface in 30 foot of water? Crazy talk but now commonly accepted.

Nelson: Thanks Scott for taking the time to tell us about your life in fishing and your Christian faith. I know the readers of The Fishing for Life Depthfinder newsletter will be blessed by your story.

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Deep C's hats available at all Deep C's meetings for \$10. Each chapter has their own color hat.



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