

JIMMY'S JOURNAL

An Update for Friends of Fishing for Life



VOL. 4, ISSUE 6 • SUMMER 2021



Tom Goodrich

Can't Stop Now

New Programming Comes Out of the Ashes of COVID

Hello FFL Supporters! I sure hope this time of year finds you doing well and enjoying the weather. We've had a wonderful launch to our spring, The recent crappie event served over 100 with Wounded Warriors and guides! What a joy to be at a large outdoor function together breaking bread and fishing!

We are so excited that, for the first time ever, almost all of our scheduled camps are completely full! This is an amazing "problem" to have. We now have the challenge of opening up new camps to create spots for MORE kids in need.

It has also been encouraging to find that there is an increased interest in our day camps throughout the metro, and in our newly-launched spring turkey camp (which was a great success in April).

We double down on our programming this past Fall/Winter, season with sturgeon/catfish camp, pheasant hunting, ice fishing camps, dark house spearing camps, 3 firearms safety classes and tons of virtual events leading into each camp. The virtual pre-events helped to educate and to begin relationships with the participating kids and vets for each event.

We also purchased another sleeper house that we were able to fill with vets, families and kids all winter. So we had one on Minnetonka and one on Medicine lake.

Next year, we're considering a duck camp in North Dakota, a pheasant camp in South Dakota and a possible muzzle load camp this fall in the Alexandria area. These prospects have garnered much interest from the families we support, and the kids/families surveys from previous camp experiences. We are encouraged by this AND by the partners who support these outreach opportunities.

You might be wondering about our banquet? With a few variables around COVID, we decide to move it to the Fall—Oct 9th, 2021. We can't wait to bring our base back together in one large group setting. Our staff is preparing this as we speak, check out details on page 6.

I look forward to hearing from you, and in the mean time, please know that you are prayed for, supported and appreciated by all of us here at Fishing For Life!

Blessings on the rest of your week!

Most Sincerely,
Tom Goodrich

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FISHINGFORLIFE.ORG

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



Ron Lindner

A Legend both On and Off the Water

By Tom Goodrich

On November 30, 2020 Ron Lindner, one of the greatest fishing legends, passed away into the arms of his Lord and Savior. While he may be absent from this earth his legacy will continue impacting others for many years to come. I would like to share how Ron impacted my life and helped me set a course focused on Christ and leading others to know Him through the fishing industry.

At age 12, I was growing up in Brainerd, Minnesota. Through a series of significant events and changes in my family life I was left on my own to take care of myself. Without parental supervision, I stepped into some poor habits and made a lot of unwise choices. In 1983 I was 17 years old and bargained in front of a judge to join the military. I returned to Minnesota in 1989 and attended Bemidji State University. Throughout my years of family turmoil and finding what I was to do with my life, three or four men impacted my life greatly. One of those was Ron Lindner.

Ron Lindner spent a lot of time with me as a young boy and was constantly pouring into my life. Even as a troublemaker, Ron was consistently patient with me. He allowed me to work in the basement of *In-Fisherman* when it was still a young organization. Not only did I sweep his floors and do general labor for Ron, I was able to watch him and his brother Al interact with one another and operate a business, as well as include their families in their work. I became a better fisherman and made a lot of mental notes, all the while wondering what my

role in the fishing industry would be. That answer would not be revealed until thirty years later. Looking back, God was using Ron to help shape me into the man that would eventually be called to lead Fishing For Life.

During my college years, I spent the summers with the Lindners working at *In Fisherman*, at their “Camp Fish” and traveling as a roadie with the Professional Walleye Trail in which I worked the weigh-in station and got to pre-fish with some of the greats!. I also got to watch two entrepreneurial men, Al and Ron who were transformed by Christ, tear up the industry of fishing for kingdom use, with a groundbreaking, out of the box, anointed for Christ mindset. God was so integrated into the fabric and core of their business that I witnessed what Christ can do with willing and obedient hands.

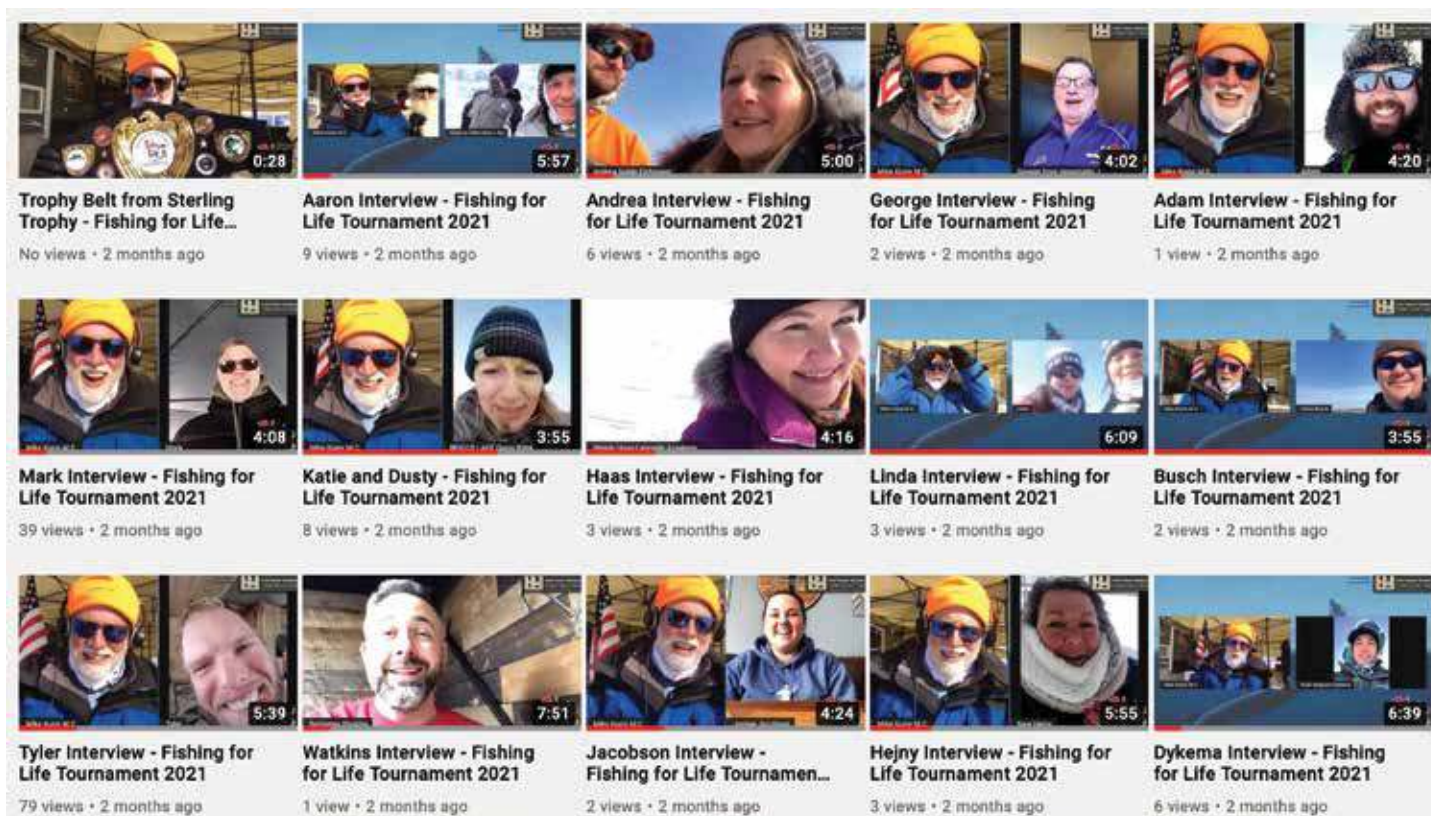
I continued to stay connected with Ron for the rest of his life. He played an instrumental role in making my vision of Fishing For Life a reality. Ron taught me how to operate a business as a ministry and I took that knowledge and reversed it, operating a ministry as a business.

Aside from modeling a ministry after Ron’s business, I have tried to replicate my faith to be like that of Ron’s. My time spent with Ron allowed me to see the genuine faith Ron had developed over the years. He was truly authentic when it came to being a believer in Christ.

After becoming a believer Ron still used bad language, struggled with smoking and even gambling too. However, when Ron put his faith in Christ he was able to have the power to quit drinking and experience a true life reformation. Ron was a regular guy that made mistakes on a daily basis and even questioned God in life. Ron’s personal walk with Jesus produced a man that followed God when life got tough, read God’s word when questions arose, prayed for direction while off course and led others to navigate life through Christ.

I will continue to miss Ron Lindner until the day I meet him in heaven again. I don’t know what the future holds for myself or Fishing for Life. Maybe someday Fishing For Life will open a fishing camp and name it after Ron Lindner, or maybe there will be scholarships in his name or fishing tournaments named after him. I do know that Ron Lindner’s life will continue to impact lives for many generations to come. God gave the fishing industry, and the world, a wonderful man whose fingerprint will be on all those who learn about him. What a wonderful day it will be to reunite with him in heaven and see all of the people who are there because they were impacted for eternity by the life and legacy of Ron Lindner.





1st... 2nd... 3rd Times a Charm!

2021 Holes 4 Heroes: Cold Weather, Good Fishing

By Sara Shrode

Planning for the 2021 Holes 4 Heroes event had lots of momentum the beginning of November eventhough COVID was still a factor. We were excited to have Hoffman Weber on board as the presenting sponsor and we were looking forward to using the FishDonkey application format to do a virtual ice fishing tournament to include MN, ND, SD, IA and WI as possible participants. We were also excited to have not 1 lake, but 15 area lakes available for our invited groups to join us for the day-of event.

So with this event going bigger than any other year, the only things we needed were good ice and decent weather. Well, we did end up with good ice and decent weather, but it required us to change the dates twice before we felt that it was safe for our participants to attend.

When the weather gets below zero in Minnesota, it's always good to be aware of what the windchill will be... that usually decides whether it will be brutally cold and unsafe or if it will just be a cold day on the ice. We made the hard decisions to postpone the event twice because we had 2 weeks in a row that had the brutal temps with low windchills predicted. As you may know, postponing an

event usually causes a chain reaction of things to solve... for instance, we had all of our lake leaders, guides, cooks and participants in place and ready to go for the first weekend of Feb... but when you change the date, not everyone was still available. So we did what we could and really appreciate all that made this event happen.

While we do have things to learn from this event, we are thinking that this format might get picked up again for next year. There were too many good things that came out of it.

This new format also gave us the opportunity to do a virtual program so we could stay connected to the other lakes participating. We worked with Michelle Church of Church Mouse Media to produce the event and our EmCee extraordinaire, Mike Kurre, both of which helped to check in on all the lakes and providing interview opportunities for all of the group leaders/lake leaders and special guests that joined on the day of the event.

We have so many people to thank to make this event a success... Greg Scott and his team from Nextera to get us internet on the ice, all of our sponsors, lake leaders, equipment lenders, group leaders, guides and volunteers. We also want to thank all the groups that partnered with Fishing for Life and made the effort bring your groups of people out for the day. We hope next year will have great ice and weather!

In case you missed it... we have all of the videos posted on our YouTube station called **Fishing for Life Nonprofit**.



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

For the theme this year, we will be discussing God's Sovereignty and man's responsibility, 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'. With this theme, and the meat of this verse, we will speak with the campers of the importance of trusting Jesus and His wisdom in all areas of life, even during those times when it doesn't make sense.

Within our fishing camps, we continue to provide a safe place for deep fellowship of kids and guides, try to foster long-term relationships, and demonstrate the gospel through word and action. We don't know if the nation will ever return to "normal", as it once was, but we have the assurance that Jesus will never change, no matter the circumstance. He can always be trusted. His return is very soon, and that is what we want most to convey to the campers.

As we are anticipating our MN governor to relax current Covid restrictions, we have plans to hold these 13 camps this summer:

- June 7-11: Day Camp #1 (Metro Lakes)—Open
- June 10: Disability Camp #1 (Medicine)—Full
- June 14-18: Day Camp #2 (Metro Lakes)—Open
- June 17: Disability Camp #2 (Medicine)—Full
- June 20-25: Green Lake (Overnight)—Full
- June 28-July 2: Leech Lake (Overnight)—Full
- July 6-9: Day Camp #3 (Metro Lakes)—Open
- July 14-18: Adult/Child (Overnight)—Open
- July 26-30: Camp Fish (Overnight)—Full
- July 27-Aug 1: BWCA (Overnight)—Open
- Aug 2-6: Day Camp #4 (Metro Lakes)—Open
- Aug 9-13: Ironwood Springs (Overnight)—Full
- Aug 15-17: Catfish (Overnight)—Open

May 18th is our annual camp guide training. We are meeting from 5:30-9pm.

May 24th is our CPR/First Aid training. We are meeting from 4-9pm, at Mercy Road Church, 12156 Nicollet Ave, Burnsville.

We praise God for all who have expressed an interest in being a guide this summer. He has provided all we need to run the summer fish camps. We are thankful to these men and women who have made this commitment.

To register for one of our open camps or for the training, please contact our registrar: Caroline@fishingforlife.org.

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



Big Blue Blessing

"New to Us"

Ice Fishing House

By Sara Shrode

This past winter we were gifted an anonymous gift which helped us to purchase the Big Blue fishing house from Deep C's member, boat guide and NextGen mentor Kent Lillehaugen. Kent had recently decided to upgrade his house to a new ice castle which meant he no longer needed his older fish house(s). I say house"s" because Big Blue is made up of 2 fish houses along with an attached outhouse.

Kent used this house for many years and also supported many Fishing for Life (FFL) events with this house, along with providing a warm place for many to fish. So it's no sur-



prise that FFL was blessed with this unique fishing house.

This year, FFL used this along with our ice castle to do just that... families and individuals were able sign up for a day or nights stay. All equipment was provided and allowed for the novice fisherman or fisherwoman to enjoy an ice fishing experience.

We look forward to the 2021/2022 ice fishing season so we can provide many more with this opportunity.



Answered Prayer X's 2!

God Knows What We Need, When We Need It

By Josh Blackburn

As 2021 summer camps approach, Fishing For Life is eager to see what God will do in the lives of the campers, guides and staff.

We have lots to be thankful for as we constantly see His provision for our needs. We have been praying for a way to transport more campers for quite some time. And these past few months showed just how big our God is. We first recieved a "new to us" SUV this past December from previous owner, Dave Janiszewski of Rip-A-Lip. This vehicle alone, helps us to bring some campers and or stuff to an from our events.

As if this wasn't enough... we also recieved a huge answer to prayer in receiving a generous donation to purchase a new passenger van from our friends at John Hirsch Motors in March.

Having safe tranportation that can take multiple people, helps us to serve more kids and adults through our programming. We look forward to filling up the seats with kids eager to fish and learn about the gospel this summer at our High C's Camps. We thank you for your continued prayers and support.



Josh Blackburn poses with our new passenger van.



From left to right, back row: Sara Shrode, Corrissa Martinez, helper Brian Wilcox, Kim Maroscchek, Mary Wilcox. Front row: Linda Mathews and Patti Murray (co-leaders).

Outdoor Women for Life

By Sara Shrode

Fishing for Life's women's group is gathering movement and we are excited to see what the future holds.

This past Janurary, a group of 6 women were blessed to do a weekend retreat at the vacation home of Brian and Mary Wilcox on Sturgeon Lake.

Patti Murray and Linda Mathews have stepped in to co-lead the women's group that we are calling "Outdoor Women for Life". We have been working a couple years now on getting this going and we have BIG dreams for what this group will entail.

Much like the men's Deep C's groups, we want the women's group to echo the sentiment that this is a group for all women 18+ to come together and enjoy doing outdoor events together with the goal of becoming a supporting place for women that will feed both spirit and soul.

Our retreat was intended to get to know each other and to plan some fun future events for the coming year that we can start inviting women to participate. Currently, the core group of 6 is meeting in the northern part of the cities, but there are hopes to have groups throughout the cities, just as the men's group currently has set up.

Along with planning, we were also able to enjoy some time in devotions and time to ice fishing on a near by lake. The women were blessed by some Deep C's men to keep us warm and helping to find some fish. Even though we didn't end of catching many, we still had a great time getting to know each other and learning some new skills.

Please check out our events page for future Outdoor Women for Life's events and contact Patti@fishingforlife.org for interested women looking to join the group.



GOAL SMASHED!!!

BOB FM Radiothon Success

By Sara Shrode

Bob FM gave nonprofits, Reach for Resources (RFR) and Fishing for Life (FFL), a big boost in funds raised through the April Radiothon.

Last year was our first attempt to use Bob FM as a fundraising avenue, and we were able to bring in over \$15,500 which was then split between the 2 nonprofits. This being our 1st year and (of course) dealing with a world pandemic, we didn't know what to expect, so any amount was a blessing, and we were very thankful to have this fund-raising option.

This year, we were BLOWN AWAY with the support of the Bob FM community that brought in over \$53,000 in donations!

Our call center enjoyed hearing stories from the listeners about their experience with RFR and FFL. We also had callers that wanted to make donations of fishing equipment or were interested in being a boat guide or volunteering with both organizations. Beyond receiving the donated funds, it was exciting to hear the communities response to our stories and testimonials.

We can't thank our sponsors enough to help make this event a success. Bob FM's, Nelson's Meats in St. Louis Park, Roofle, Hoffman Weber, All Ways Drains, Plow World and Big Frig. We would also like to thank those that provided each organization with their stories and how RFR and FFL have touched their lives. It's stories like this that show the community how we work and how our goals are reached.

We thank all the donors that made this possible! Both RFR and FFL will use these funds to provide more services to our clients will help us maintain our missions.

Fishing for Life's Banquet Moved to October

Save the Date – Oct 9th, 2021

By Sara Shrode

While we were very blessed to have a successful virtual banquet last year, we really want to have our annual banquet in a normal setting again. So we have been waiting to see if COVID rules would be lifted this past Spring to allow for more people in one area.

Since they didn't change, we decided to push out our annual banquet to this Fall. This also gives us more time to



plan and to come up with new ideas for our banquet. We really miss gathering as a big family with all of our supporters.

Please save the date of Oct 9th. We are currently working on possible venues. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor or donate to our silent auction, please contact Angiek@fishingforlife.org | 715-977-0459.

CRAPPIES GALOR

The Show Must Go On!

By Sara Shrode

As with most events this year, we've had to turn and pivot and move forward the best we can. In April the Minnesota Bound group decided to hold off one more year for the big crappie contest supporting Fishing for Life. This tournament happens the first Saturday in May each year. While we were a bit disappointed that the main event wasn't going to happen, we still knew that we could have a fun day catching crappies.

Every year we've been involved with the Minnesota Bound Crappie Contest, we've had a group of veterans, kids and families that we take out on Lake Minnetonka. And this year was no different.

We had almost 50 guides and volunteers help to take out around 100 participants to help them get some spring crappies. Within those participants, we served members of the Wounded Warrior Project, Cop House and our very own Outdoor Women for Life group (See page 5). We had a couple trophies and small prizes to help stir the pot, along with some great 80 degree weather. (Only in Minnesota, because it went back down to 50's the next week.)

We started the morning with a continental breakfast and saw a bunch of quality crappies come off the water, along with smiles of those that caught them. We are so grateful to all of our guides and volunteers that helped to make the day great! You could tell that many were excited to "get back to business" after waiting so long to do events again.

Special thanks to Tom Emer and the Lord Fletcher's crew for allowing us to run the event from their parking lot, John and Susan Eggers Lucky Lure station, Susan Bebo for providing the breakfast, all for the guides and volunteers for donating their time, talent and treasures, along with expertise on finding those crappies!

Minnesota Bound hopes to be back in full force next year, so save the date May 7th, 2022!





Support Our Troops License Plates help Minnesota Veterans

Meet SOT Grant Recipient: Fishing For Life, Inc.

Did you know when you buy the “Support Our Troops” (SOT) License Plate, you are helping Minnesota Veterans and their families?

The Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs (MDVA) distributes funds raised by the sale of SOT license plates to numerous organizations that support Minnesota Veterans and their families. Learn more about the SOT grant program on our website.

Fishing For Life, Inc. was awarded a \$20,000 SOT grant to help launch their new “NextGen Program.” The NexGen Program is a youth-oriented program which matches the children of Veterans with Fishing For Life volunteer “guides.” The program's goal is to help to broaden youth's view of the world by introducing them to fun and educational experiences. Special emphasis is given to enlisting youth whose parent has been incapacitated or killed in action.

Fishing for Life's mission is to serve kids, families, veterans and communities through fishing and other outdoor programs. Fishing for Life is proud to recognize the ongoing support of more than 500 volunteers who work more than 2,000 hours every year.

PARENT TESTIMONIALS

“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!”

“I am so grateful for FFL and the Next Gen program. My son 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 a prayer.”

“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.”

The SOT competitive grant program is currently “on-hold” due to the COVID-19 pandemic. MDVA tentatively plans to renew the program this fall 2021.

For more information about purchasing an SOT license plate, visit our website.

**IF YOU are interested
in becoming a NextGEN
Mentor or Mentee,
please contact Vaughn at:
Vaughn@FishingForLife.org
763-308-5434**



“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.



First Pheasant Hunt

Successful Fall Event

By Tom Goodrich

Late fall programming for Fishing For Life and our kids included catfish camp, sturgeon and muskie fishing, ice fishing camp and a special tip-up event for pike. The capstone event was a first-ever pheasant hunt.

We choose Caribou Hunt Club for our setting. We started the day with fire arms safety and practiced with plenty of clay pigeons to get the kids familiar with shooting and safety. Next we took to the fields with the dogs.

We had 15 adults pouring into 15 kids on two fields. We hunted over pointers and flusher, the dogs and the kids took to the field very well, all enjoying a great hunt at the Caribou Hunt club in Le Sueur, Minnesota. These kids responded well to the outdoors and obtained many skills they can build on for a lifetime.



The success of this camp excites us to continue offering these new camps in the future. We can only get better with time. And we enjoy seeing the excitement of the youth that come to these camps. Their excitement encourages us that we are doing the right things at the right times!

2021 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**

>> 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 15.

>> SPONSOR A CHILD FOR CAMP **\$150-\$605**



If led to give a gift for the 2021 year, please mail to: **Fishing for Life | PO Box 19320 | Minneapolis, MN 55419**

Deep C's Men's Ministry Updates

By Steve Cruikshank

DEEP C'S FISHING TOURNAMENT

Another fishing season is upon us as this year Deep C's is hosting a total inches tournament using the FishDonkey app.

The tournament will run from May 1st to Sept 19th and will end with the Fall retreat. The Fall retreat will be Sept 16th-19th, contact Steve to sign up for the retreat.

The Fall retreat tournament will stay the same. You cannot count fish caught during the summer in Fall retreat tournament.

It is easy to enter just download the FishDonkey app and click on "Fish in a tournament". Search for "FFL Deep C's total inches". Cost is \$30 to enter. The payout will be 100% of all entries. First place will receive 50%, second place 30%, third place 20%. There will also be a prize for each of the largest fish caught. Total inches will be one of each of these species. Walleye. Northern, Musky, LM bass, SM bass, crappie, sunfish, perch. You can enter as many fish as you want, but only your largest of each species will count in total inches tournament.

Please read the rules carefully, and see the website for more info on the Deep C's Men's Group Page: <https://fishingforlife.org/deep-cs-mens-group/>.



FALL RETREAT UPDATE

Our next Fall retreat is not so far away. Last retreat, Grant Hesselroth & Tom Goodrich tied for the total inches tournament with 94". Tom Hays caught the largest crappie at 14", largest SM Bass went to Todd Goetze at 17", largest Perch went to Todd Lindley at 9", Largest Rock Bass went to Cory Voges at



11", Largest LM Bass went to Sean at 20", Largest Northern went to Brent Shufelt at 36", Largest Walleye went to Tim L at 18", Largest Musky went to Grant Hesselroth at 42", Largest Sunfish went to Pat Adams at 10".

We are planning to use Mount Carmel again this year. Cost will be the same as last year \$220 per person. The dates are Sept 16th – 19th. We will be taking early registration again this year so get your payment in before Sept 1 and you will be in the drawing for \$220. Pastors Mike and Dan Pilla will be back again this year as well as the worship band. There will be an opportunity for total submersion baptism again this year.

THE WALLEYE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD™

LAKE OF THE WOODS MINNESOTA

2021 LOTW TRIP IS PLANNED FOR AUG 30-SEPT 2

Active & retired military
are eligible.

To apply for this trip, please
contact Troy Sonnenfeld.
612-619-5557 | troysonnenfeld@yahoo.com

BIG PRAYERS NEEDED

Our Need For Property

By Tom Goodrich

Fishing For Life is embarking on a journey to find our home. We've recently sold our property in Andover, which served us so well over the years, but it was time to move on.

Please keep this in prayer, and if you have any great ideas, let us know. We would really like to find 2 to 5 acres with a fenced-in area and the ability to put up a 40 x 80 building.

Ideally, this would be near the metro area and would help to solve a lot of our issues with storage and office facilities.

Please take a peek here to catch more of our vision: https://fishingforlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021_FFL_property_donor-scaled.jpg.





Winter Retreat

HighLights

By Steve Cruikshank

This year we went to Mount Carmel instead of Lake of the Woods. Not as many fish were caught but the fellowship was outstanding. We had 19 attendees with several first timers. I am torn between going back between Mount

Carmel or LOTW. Mount Carmel is nice accommodations but LOTW has a better fishing. I guess in my old age the accommodations are slightly more important than the fishing. I was able to catch a 35" northern through the ice using a Tip Up so I thought the fishing was rather good. We had 12 people enter the double elimination cribbage tournament and Brian Stilwell was the winner.



Deep C's guys enjoying the Winter retreat... Left column: Steve Cruikshank, Jeff White, Cory Voges. Right column Brian Stilwell's Cribbage plaque, Brian Stilwell, Jack DeOtis.

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, Lakeville

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

NORTH GROUP - 4th Thursday 6 PM—
IB Insurance in Adcover

WOMEN's GROUP-
Contact Patti /Linda to get connected.

patti@fishingforlife.org

lindainhisgrace@gmail.com



Gobble, Gobble

Our First Turkey Hunt is a GREAT Success

In our effort to do year-round programming for kids and vets, turkey camp seemed the most attainable for an early spring camp. Ryan Struger, of Feed the Fish Nonprofit, introduced us to 1,500 acres of wonderful land at the Perham Sportsman's Club, so we decided to pull the trigger on this camp. I'm proud to report it was wildly successful, 14 kids and 14 adults mentoring these kids. The camp was staged at the gun range so we got to spend Thursday and Friday practicing various weapons like pistols, long rifles, muzzleloaders and patterning, and getting familiar with our shotguns.

The kids spent weeks in virtual turkey seminars and practicing their various turkey calls, using mouth calls, slate calls and box calls.

On Friday, we set up our blinds, practiced with decoys and camouflage and assigned the mentors and away we went!

This camp had the feel of a deer camp, where these young boys and lone girl got to feel the love from the adult mentors that poured into their lives all weekend. They taught them skills and spoke deeply into their lives to be successful adults. A special shout out and thank you to Ryan Struger for making this happen in the Alexandria area, and I look forward to turkey camp 2022. This was a dream come true!



A WORD FROM RYAN STRUGER, DIRECTOR OF FEED THE FISH NONPROFIT, FEEDTHEFISH4.COM.

"When I collided with Fishing for Life it was as simple as Tom Goodrich placing out a call to arms via Dark House spear fishing. On Facebook he was looking to outfit 20 kids spearing for a day, and I bit. That was crazy when 30 some people dawned out of a caravan of rigs. At that point I knew we had something here.

Throughout the day I was slightly getting to know Tom and Fishing for Life over light hunting and fishing conversations but when turkey hunting came into the conversation, Tom lit up! I mentioned a farmer and I had made light attempts at planning a youth turkey hunt. The look in Tom's eyes when I said that, could only mean one thing—there was no taking back that offer.

Tom went on to describe his long-time vision to put on a youth turkey camp. We were quickly spiraling down the proverbial rabbit hole chasing turkeys, we had other priorities at that moment but vowed to revisit this idea. Walking away that day I was already convinced Fishing for Life was going to be worth exploring.

Through the next few months, emailing and phone calls, I quickly realized God was lining up two dreams and two people who shared the same vision for sharing God's word with children in the outdoors. I am super thankful for God bringing our dreams and His plan together."



YOUTH PARTICIPANTS



"I think that the turkey camp was a really fun and different than most Fishing for Life camp experiences. All of the Fishing for Life camps I have been to have been awesome, but it was really fun to be able to camp out in our RV and the be able to go onto the hunting preserve and see all of nature.

I think something that made it even more fun was getting a turkey. I, along with many others, think we should have another turkey or maybe even a deer hunting camp."

— Sidney

"Everything about the camp was fun. When I was hunting with my guide we saw six turkeys right in front of us. They were so close. I finally got a shot at my first turkey and it still flew away with a hole in it's neck. I learned a lot about turkey hunting. I learned that some turkey's are bullet proof. It was pretty cool helping my guide take his turkey back to camp to clean it up. Everything was so much fun, that I didn't care how early we had to wake up."

— Bluesky

"I had so much fun hunting with my guide on my first turkey hunt. We talked a lot. I liked meeting new people and having real guy time. I learned a lot and I'm thankful for the opportunity to go to the turkey camp. I can't wait to go to another camp."

— Christian





Another First!

Veteran Dark House Spearing

By Tom Goodrich

In an effort to serve vets throughout the winter we conducted our first dark house spearing camp. We took 26 veterans and our leadership team up north for a four day trip.

House spearing is definitely a skill and brings new challenges to ice fishing. So, prior to the event, we offered a 3-week virtual training to give safe practices and special instruction for a successful spearing haul.

We had wonderful fellowship inside the dark house and inside our lodge for this camp. Cooking each other breakfast and dinner, sharing the Gospel and war stories, too! It was very successful, and we're proud of the work and the relationships we built with our veterans. Giving back to our vets is a value that Fishing For Life holds dearly, and this is one of many events we do to honor veterans.



A WORD FROM BRIAN DEVRIES, DARK HOUSE ATTENDEE

It never ceases to amaze me that about nine out of ten times when you get a group of veterans together there is going to be a lot of stories, friendships made and a sense of purpose brought back into your life, and that is what happened on one weekend back in December of 2020.

I was invited to go to the Dark House spear fishing event at Dixon Lake Resort on Lake Winnibigoshish. There were several other veterans that took part in the event sponsored by Fishing for Life. I had never been spearfishing before so I was not sure what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised to see how similar it was to traditional ice fishing, with the only big difference being the tool used to catch the fish.

On the first day I went into a single-man ice house, and it looked like there was no ice underneath it. I sat on the bench and contemplated all my options and began to freak out. I had to come out of the house as I thought I was going to fall through the ice. I then asked Steve how deep the ice was as he had just test drilled a hole right outside my dark house, and he told me it was about a foot thick, but you would never have guessed that sitting in the dark house.



I had no luck spearing a fish myself or winning the prize for the largest fish speared, but just sitting in a house with others who have had similar experiences with their time in the military made me feel a sense of camaraderie that I had been missing. That Saturday morning, I was unsuccessful in seeing any fish, so after lunch I was paired up with Brian and Gary two of the Fishing for Life members and sat in a fish house and we spent time ice fishing in the traditional way and successfully caught several fish that afternoon. We also attempted multiple times to spear a few fish but had no such luck but had some great laughs.

We were grateful enough to have some great food as the first night was a pheasant wild rice soup and also had a fish fry the final night. Terry continued a great speech that he had begun the night before. I really enjoyed listening to him and learned a lot about his life in the military and after and it was inspirational to all of us.

The last event of that Saturday was a cribbage tournament in which I had the pleasure of taking home the grand prize!! To end a great weekend we were able to have a nice service that was done by Mike and then all were sent on their way with a bag of fish that was either caught or speared by the great group of men and women who attended!

I look forward to more fishing adventures with a great group of guys and grateful to have been linked up with you all.

God bless ~Brian Devries

2021 Calendar

JUNE

7-11—High C's Day Camp #1
 10—High C's Disability Evening Camp-A, Medicine Lake
 11-13(TBD)—Mille Lacs Boat Launch
 14-18—High C's Day Camp #2
 17—AFFFC at Lake Minnetonka
 17—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

JULY

6-9—High C's Day Camp #3
 10—Medicine Monster Lake Event
 14-18—High C's Adult/Child Camp @ Miracle Bible Camp
 17—St. Croix River Canoeing with Wayne Jacobson
 19-22 — IMF Chaplains
 26-30—High C's Fish Camp @ Camp House
 27-Aug 1—High C's BWCA with Wayne Jacobson
 29 — Militayr Chaplains Evening
 31 —Lake Marion Lake Event

AUGUST

2-6—High C's Day Camp #4
 4—IB Golf Tournament
 6—Lake Event: CAST with the Anoka County Sheriff's Dept, Lake George
 9-13—High C's Fish Camp @Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch

10—Pastor's Tournament with Jesus In The City
 14—Rum River Canoeing
 15-17 —High C's Catfish Camp
 16—Outdoor Women for Life Kayak Event
 30-2—LOTW Pay it Forward Trip

SEPTEMBER

1-6 — Trout Pond Elkhorn WI
 10-11—Marathon Man
 16-19—Deep C's Men's Fall Retreat

OCTOBER

2—Forest Lake/High C's Trolling for Trophies
 9-FFL Banquet
 TBD—Muskie Mayhem Event
 23-25—Outdoor Women for Life Retreat

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

TBD—FFL Christmas Party
 11 (tentative)—High C's Tip Up Event
 16— Dark House Spearing

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*

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS

OCT 9TH 2021

Fishing For Life Fall Banquet

Save The Date

Due to COVID-19 restrictions
this past Spring, we decided
to move our banquet to this
Fall so that we could all meet
in person.
**WE ARE STILL WORKING OUT
THE DETAILS, SO PLEASE
STAY TUNED!**
Looking forward to seeing
you all at a new venue and
time of year!
For those interested in
sponsorship or donorship,
please contact Angie at
Angie@FishingForLife.org
715-977-0459.

O: Have you missed going to our banquet???