



JIMMY'S JOURNAL

An Update for Friends of Fishing for Life



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Tom Goodrich

Blessings Abound

Wishing you a happy holiday season. Wow! What can I say, in the midst of a turbulent year, we were able to successfully serve those in our local community and beyond. I'm so encouraged and proud of our team and the work we've done this past year. Inside this issue you'll see a plethora of great articles, programs, testimonies, vision and leadership by the team.

Our robust calendar has given us so many opportunities to be in front of veterans, men, women, children, families and communities we desire to serve. We recognize and appreciate your helping us along this journey, your time your talent and your treasure has been a part of the story of Fishing For Life since its inception.

In looking forward to 2022, our scripture to focus on will be Mark 1:35—"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." With this scripture we are looking to find the "holy moments in our lives." We chose this because we want kids and adults alike to recognize the many holy times that God gives us and that we "sometimes" soon forget. We need to take time to recognize our "holy moments," write them down and even put them to memory so we can retrieve them from our heads and hearts.

Thank you for joining our journey, and please continue with us and enjoy this six-month review of all that God gave us.



Chad Lanners

New FFL COO

I am very pleased to join Fishing For Life as the Chief Operating Officer/Integrator as I began my journey on June 1, 2021. I look forward to supporting and implementing the vision, mission and strategies approved by our CEO and Board. My goal is to work with the team to develop and execute an operational strategy that provides innovative, high-quality program delivery while building

relationships with the community.

I have over 25 years of non-profits experience, drawing on my educational background in social work and genuine passion for enriching the lives of others, my versatile executive experiences in non-profit business has prepared me to lead with Fishing For Life. I bring experience in programming, community partnership, strategy, new initiatives and P&L management.

I received a bachelor's degree from St. Cloud State University and I am a Licensed Social Worker in the State of Minnesota. I am excited to bring my personal commitment and operational excellence to Fishing For Life.

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FISHINGFORLIFE.ORG

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

More New Employees

Please Welcome...



John Rickenbach,
Director of Outreach (Part Time).
Start Date- June 1, 2021

John will be focused on producing a Fishing for Life ministry tool kit that helps churches introduce their communities to Jesus, keeping the core values and

vision of FFL as the foundation. John earned his Master's of Divinity from the Masters Institute in St. Paul, MN. He has served in 5 churches in a variety positions including Senior Pastor. In 2007, John helped launch Centershot Ministries. As the President and CEO, John built CSM into a non-denominational outreach tool that helps the local church reach its community for Jesus through target archery.

John Enjoys the outdoors and has had the privilege of hunting and fishing all over the United States, Canada, and Africa. John resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is married and has been blessed with 5 amazing children.



Ryan Strugar, Specialty Camps
Coordinator (Part Time).
Start Date-October 1, 2021

Ryan will focus on expanding our fall, winter, and spring camps, while keeping the core values and vision of Fishing for Life as the foundation.

Ryan attended Montana Wilderness School of Bible, learning scriptural foundations, along with a degree in natural resources/wildland firefighting from Itasca Community College. Ryan is passionate about sharing Christ's good news, hunting, fishing, and public service.

Ryan resides in Dent, Minnesota, is married and has been blessed with 2 amazing boys.

Please welcome John and Ryan to the Fishing for Team.

Deep C's Fall Retreat Fishing Tournament Results

By Steve Cruikshank

The Fall Retreat was a wonderful success. We had 40 men in attendance. We had one man give his life to Christ as well as many who rededicated their lives to be more in tune with what God has in store for their lives. We stayed at Mount Carmel in Alexandria, MN and they did a wonderful job hosting us.

This is my last year putting the Fall Retreat together as I'm retiring in December. Tom Goodrich and team got together and presented me with a necklace for my years of service to Fishing For Life. I feel honored to receive this gift from Michael Angelo Jewelry. I will wear it proudly. This is my last year organizing, but definitely not my last to attend. I have already made plans to fish out of Todd Lindley's boat next year.

I wanted to thank Travis Busch for being my partner this year. Travis came in second place in the total inch's tournament held every year with 102".

This year's largest fish winners are:

- Largemouth Bass Ron Buster 21"
- Smallmouth Bass Travis Busch 17"
- Rock Bass Wes Wheatly 12"
- Northern Pike Todd Goetze 29"
- Muskie Brad Patterson 35"
- Walleye Adam Hejny 14"
- Perch Travis Busch 11"
- Sunfish Adam Hejny 10"
- Crappie John Goodrich 14"
- Total Inches Steve Cruikshank 119"



"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.

Summer Tournament

Results

By Steve Cruikshank

This was our first year doing a summer fishing tournament. We used the FishDonkey app, and it went pretty smooth. It was a total inch's tournament, meaning each participant could enter their largest sun fish, perch, crappie, large mouth, small mouth, walleye, northern, and muskie into the App. Each fish caught was entered, but only the largest one was added to their total inches.

Travis Busch led the tournament from start to finish with 146 inches. Travis also came in 2nd place at the Fall Retreat in September 2021. Prizes will be distributed shortly. There were 10 participants and here are the winners:

- **1st Place-\$143.50:**
Travis Busch with 146"
- **2nd Place-\$86.10:**
Steve Cruikshank with 119"
- **3rd Place-57.40:**
Khai Tran with 110"



1st Place, Travis Busch; 2nd Place Steve Cruikshank; 3rd Place Khai Tran

- **Largest Crappie:** Ryan Schmotter 13"
- **Largest Largemouth Bass:** Khai Tran 20"
- **Largest Muskie:** Khai Tran 43"
- **Largest Northern Pike:** Steve Cruikshank 30"
- **Largest Perch:** Travis Busch 11"
- **Largest Smallmouth Bass:** Brad Patterson 19"
- **Largest Sunfish:** Kent Lillehaughen 10"
- **Largest Walleye:** Steve Cruikshank 23"



Trout Ponds Galore

Results

By Chad Lanners

Fishing for Life has been inspiring a love of fishing and outdoor activities in youth, families, veterans and communities through our mobile

trout ponds. Many volunteers and the Fishing for Life team have had a great summer and strong start into the Fall with our mobile trout ponds.

We had many opportunities to provide this experience of joy to many people who are catching a fish for the first time. The fishing has been GREAT, we have partnered with local churches, businesses, schools districts, country clubs, county fairs and more.

Most recently we had the opportunity to partner with

Career Force and their Veterans Employment Native American Project in North Minneapolis. Fishing For Life offered a safe, fun and unique opportunity that promoted Catch and Release fishing for those wanting to be a fishing enthusiast.

Those attending this wonderful community event could apply and interview for jobs with local companies right on site. This event offered a wide

range of community resources that included: Good In the Hood Hunger Relief, Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center and much much more!





Steve Cruikshank

A Ride With Leo

Making A Wish Come True

Recently I had a chance to make one little boy's wish come true. That boy's name is Leo, and he is on his end-of-life journey. Leo is 6 years old and suffers from shaken baby syndrome. Leo suffers from a multitude of ailments, including recently losing his ability to speak and is confined to a wheelchair.

When Leo's adopted mom contacted me through a Facebook friend and told me what Leo's wish was, I said "LET'S GO". We picked a beautiful day the sun was shining, and the water was flat and calm. I am betting you figured out what Leo's wish was, right? You guessed it a boat ride.

We met at Maxwell's boat landing and loaded Leo and his mom into my boat. I took out one of the seats and Leo's wheelchair fit right in the same spot. Leo's mom got to sit right next to him. As we pushed off from the dock, I said a short prayer and we were off. As we motored across the lake Leo was sitting right in front of me and I got to see first-hand the joy of a little boy getting to fulfill a dream. It still brings tears to my eyes as I write this now. What a small thing to want to go on a boat ride, but not for Leo, it was a big deal. Leo likes any kind of motion. The more I turned the boat the happier he was. I drove that boat like a drunken sailor and Leo had a blast. I am not sure which one of us had more fun.

We stopped for lunch at Lord Fletcher's. I got a chance to get to know Leo's mom. She adopted Leo when he was 2 years old. The doctors told her that Leo should grow up and live a healthy life with some limitations. As it turns out Leo suffered more brain damage from being shaken as a baby than the doctors had originally thought. Leo's brain is not growing as fast as his body, so his organs are shutting down. Leo's brain is

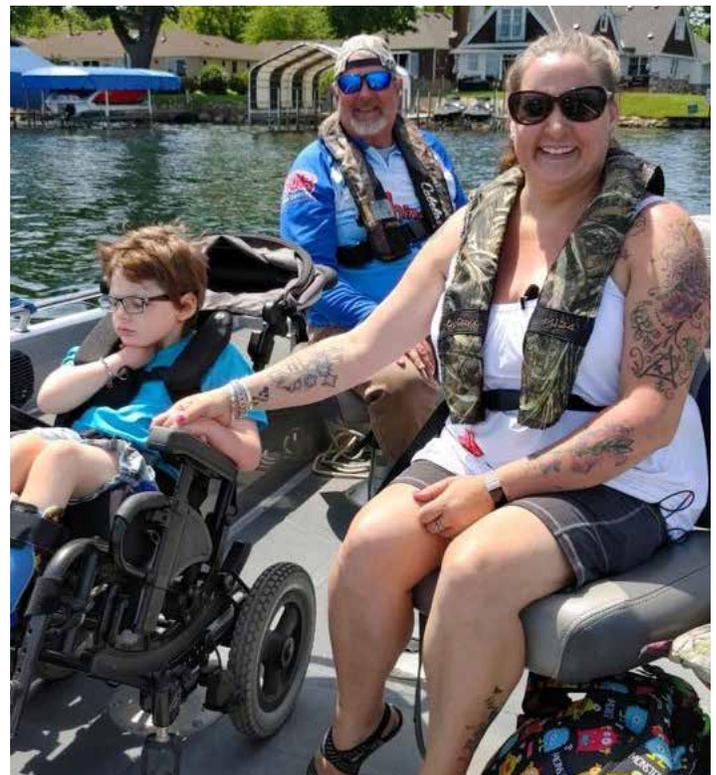
not strong enough to support his fast-paced growth.

We went back out on the water after lunch and did a little fishing. I found a spot where the sun fish were still on the beds and quickly caught one. Leo got very excited to see the fish and wanted to touch it. As Leo was petting the fish, I asked him if he wanted to kiss the fish and he stuck out his tongue to give the fish a kiss. I caught several fish that afternoon and Leo wanted to touch and kiss everyone.

As we headed back to the landing (I took the long way) I did not want this day to end. Never have I had so much fun on a boat ride and I have been on a lot of boat rides. It is hard to believe, something I take for granted, like a boat ride could bring so much joy to a little boy. I will never forget that day and now every time I get into my boat I think of Leo.

Your brother in Christ! ~ Steve

Leo's current status, he is doing good, better than expected. Continued prayers for his family please.



Minnesota Bound recorded this story, view it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R11eRy6Lrr8>

Veteran Progaming

So Many Events, We Are Blessed!

Every year we put together multiple events for our veterans that gives them a chance to connect with each other, gets them out on the water and gets them catching fish, big or small! Here are some highlighted events from this Summer/Fall season.

Armed Forces Family Celebration/ AUSA Brithday Party

June 17, 2021

Fishing For Life continues to serve in unique and deep ways. This year's Armed Forces fishing event served over 100 soldiers and their family members, complete with dinner and a wonderful fishing experience. This event also highlights new recruits getting sworn in to serve in the Army.

Special thanks to our partnership with AUSA, all of our volunteers and the over 40 guides that serve at this annual event. Everyone was excited to get back out on the waters and to enjoy a morning of fishing.



Scenes from the Armed Forces event.

Lake of the Woods Pay It Forward Trip

Aug 30-Sept 2, 2021

By Troy Sonnenfeld
(Board Chair)

On August 30th thru September 2nd Fishing for Life along with the Pay It Forward/Lake of the Woods Tourism brought 65 Veterans representing all 4 Military branches up to Lake of the Woods fishing.



I was blessed to be apart of this event. Watching the friendships that were made and the comradery of all the veterans was special. The weather was perfect, and the fishing was on fire. Being able to stand on the docks while the launches came in in the afternoon and seeing the smiling faces of the participants and hearing all the fish stories was very special. Getting to know each of them and hearing their stories, I can truly say that all the Men and Women that served in our Military are true heroes. Testimonies from some of the Veterans were heart-breaking but also inspirational. How they have overcome addictions and PTSD and other haunting issues confirmed in my faith that God is real and working in each of our lives.

Our speaker on Tuesday and Wednesday was Melony Bulter of Eagles Healing Nest in Sauk Centre, MN. This privately run facility helps Veterans heal without medication. We heard several success stories of the healing that goes on at the Eagles Nest. The message given was of hope for healing and that life doesn't have to be filled with pain and suffering.

On Wednesday evening we had a drawing, where every Veteran received a gift. Prizes were also given out for the biggest Walleye and Northern. The rest of the evening everyone hung around the lodge, swapping stories, playing in a cribbage tournament or just enjoying the event.

A special thanks to all of the resorts that participated, Border View Lodge, Cyrus Resort, River Bend Resort, Sean's Birchview Resort and Zippel Bay Resort. We really appreciate their support and the hospitality, this event wouldn't happen with out their generosity.

A big thank you to Joe Henry of Lake of the Woods Tourism, Dave Johnson and Brian Stilwell for all the hard work they did throughout the year in putting this event together. Along with all the staff at Fishing for Life who's hard work behind the scenes (Sara & Tom) helped make this a special event.

Thank you to all who have served our great nation. God Bless! ~Troy Sonnenfeld, Board Chair, Fishing for Life

Veteran Progaming Continued...

Muskie Mayhem

Oct 17, 2021

Every Fall the cold waters bring hopes of catching the BIG Ones! Those large mamouth lake monsters called Muskie! We love taking our veterans out on the cold October lakes to see who will get one! This year we had quite a few, here is a note from one of the vets from this year's event.



1st place winner, Patrick Sullivan, 44.25".
Guided by Jim Harmon.

"WOW!! Muskie Mayhem was definitely one for the books! From cold weather gear to rain gear to catching my FIRST Muskie what a thrill it was to watch the follow

and land the bite! My guide was willing to wait out the storm and without that I know I wouldn't have landed that 42" Muskie!! Thank you to all the guides that took us out, without you guys this kind of self care wouldn't be possible for someone without the means to fish for a giant like this!" ~ Courtnie Mann



Courtnie Mann

Pastors Tournament

Urban Pastors Unite!

Every year we partner with Jesus In The City to host a pastors tournament where pastors from all over the cities come together to meet with each other and enjoy a day fishing together.

Pastor Michael Pilla heads up this event to connect the pastors and Fishing for Life provides the guides, many guides bringing their pastor out to fish.

Here are some photos from this year's event.



Chaplains Event

Our First, But Not Our Last

By Chris Lorentz, IMF Pastor



International Ministerial Fellowship (IMF) chaplain training event happens each year. This 3-day training is for military and civilian chaplains from across the globe. They gather for connection, training, and encouragement.

This year nearly 90 chaplains came together in Bloomington, MN. This year's theme was "Moral Leadership: The Way Forward." Chaplains heard from several key leaders including the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains, Major General Thomas Solhjem, Heart of the City worship leaders Dan and Sandy Adler, and IMF's President and Acting General Overseer Dr. John Braland.

We are grateful to Fishing for Life for sponsoring an evening fishing tournament for several of our chaplains as a part of this year's event. It was a wonderful time of relaxation and connection. International Ministerial Fellowship is an association of churches, pastors, chaplains, missionaries, and ministry leaders who are committed to proclaiming the name of Jesus and seeing the Holy Spirit move in the lives of people today. For more information about IMF go to <https://imfserves.org>.



REI Rod & Reel Rebuild Event

Where Do They All Go?



We had a very successful day refurbishing rods, reels and tackle boxes this Summer. 490 Rods and Reels were rebuilt and were distributed to our requested groups or

were used at our lake events this summer.

A BIG "Thank You" to our host and 60 volunteers from MN Teen Challenge Portland House. Without this group of volunteers, the Reel Em' In (REI) program would not function. When Covid hit, we lost many of our partner companies' and employee volunteer programs... We had over 400 request from groups or individuals for rods and reels and needed a rebuild day to solve this problem- God



is good and provided us with a great day and helpful volunteers!

Here's where some of them went:

- 30-Ramsey County Sherrifs Department
- 100-Trout Pond Program at Fridley School
- 60-MN Adult and Teen Challenge
- 10-Shipped to Oklahoma
- 60-Burnsville YMCA
- 30-Lake Phalen/Waterfest
- 20-to Jim Odel



This is a summary from one of our camp guides, he gives you a look into what one of our camps is like...

Fishing for Life at Camp Jim

July 2021

By 'CHRIS' Rinkenberger

On 7/26/21 Monday, Campers (10) and 4 Guides met at Patriot's Converting parking lot. Lots of fishing equipment, snacks and clothing were loaded in the vehicles and boats. We departed and drove to Crooked Lake to fish for the afternoon. After fishing we drove to Camp Jim near Brainerd. Campers had dinner and got room assignment for the week. We followed the High C's Log Book for Spiritual teaching and Outdoor Life lessons.

- Day 1 Spiritual Life: Character of God and Outdoor Life: Panfish,
- Day 2 Spiritual Life: Sin & Outdoor Life: Bass Large and Small Mouth,
- Day 3 Spiritual Life: Salvation & Outdoor Life: Pike and Muskie,
- Day 4 Spiritual Life: Growing in Christ and Outdoor Life: Walleye & Sauger,
- Day 5 Spiritual Life: Spreading the Word and Outdoor Life: Awards and leave for home.

Campers had the opportunity to get involved in some other activities at the camp in the evenings. Lakes fished" Day 1: Crooked Lake, Day 2: Hubbert or Mille Lacs, Day 3:



Campers and guides from Camp Jim.

Lake Placid Dam Res. on Rum River, Day 4: Borden Lake.

We had some very warm, humid and smokey weather conditions to deal with, but overall campers liked the fishing and camp experiences. The meals were very healthy and plentiful. Thursday night was fish fry night. Very yummy.

Fishing summary: No Crappies or Muskies were caught. Largest Fish Caught: 9" Sunfish, 16 LM Bass, 20" SM Bass, 13" Rock Bass, 11" Perch, 26" Walleye and a 28" Pike. The most inches caught by one camper was: 115" inches. Total inches caught by all campers: 705 inches.

God blessed each camper and each guide with safety as they fished and traveled to and from all locations. It was a great time for food, fishing and fellowship.



Community And Sheriffs Together

Continued Partnership

We're proud to be a partner for this event with the Anoka County Sheriff's Department. Yearly, our guides take out



as many as 100 kids and family members through this special event. Our heart is to impact kids who are identified as high-risk within the Anoka County community. We enjoy being able to provide boat guides for this event and our hope is that many of these kids join us at our other events throughout the year where we can continue to be a positive influence in their lives

Special thanks go to our volunteers that stepped up to guide and to Chief James Stewart, Tim Day and the entire Sheriff's department for choosing to partner with us!



From left to right, back row: Mary Wilcox, Sara Shrode, Kim Maroschek, Katherine Hanson, Front row: Susy Bebo, Patti Murray and Rachel Ramsey.

Outdoor Women for Life

1st Fall Retreat

By Patti Murray

What a fabulous weekend on our first retreat for Outdoor Women for Life on Oct. 23-25.

We started the weekend by meeting at dinner and getting acquainted over a fabulous meal. Everyone got settled in our rooms and admired the Mount Carmel Retreat Center facilities near Alexandria, Minnesota. What a great place to stay!

Our weekend filled our cups up with devotion by the fire place, rock painting (which was very therapeutic), hikes, resting, reading, morning stretch yoga, game night full of belly laughs and jewelry making.

We enjoyed getting to know each other and hearing everyone's story. We all believed God showed up in a wonderful way for us all. We are looking forward to our next gathering and meeting more great women to be in our group.

This group is open to any women 18+ and the mission of the group is to connect with God and with other women, while enjoying outdoor (or indoor) activities. We are currently working on a schedule of events for the 2022 calendar, so stay tuned for more announcements.

If you or someone you know is interested in being apart of this newly formed women's group, please reach out to Patti Murray, pmurr9156@gmail.com | 651-470-9028. We have also started a Facebook page, so like us at <https://www.facebook.com/OutdoorWomenforLife>.



Pheasant Hunt

Successful Fall Event

By Ryan Strugar

Saturday, October 23rd had barely started when 17 young men and women met up to embark on a day unlike no other. At the Caribou Gun Club and Hunting Preserve in Le Sueur, MN, the day started with firearms safety and field day training, led by our very own Steve Cruikshank.

After learning how to properly handle a firearm, we moved to the .22 range and trap shooting range where campers practiced safe handling and discharging of their firearms starting with stationary targets and moving up to clay pigeons flying through the air. They also demonstrated how to cross a fence and get up into a tree stand safely with the firearm. All this practice and preparation was going to come in handy for the hunt the second half of the day.

Pastor Vaughn Blackburn delivered a great message on "taking the shot" from Luke 12, and after our bellies were full of the famous Markey sloppy joes, we took to the field with the grace of God, some antsy bird dogs, and pockets full of shells.

As we worked together through the field, the sound and sight of a bird flushing at the nose of the honed bird dogs made everyone smile. It embarked on a flight through a gauntlet of 12 and 20-gauge rounds that seemingly no bird could endure. As each bird fell, the cheers got louder and the smiles got wider. God gave a great bounty that day, one greater than any bird or quarry taken. He gave us fellowship in and through His creation and, as in life, He gave us grace when we missed our mark, and opportunity for redemption.

The day was full of laughs and cheers and God's love. Four staff and 16 amazing volunteers worked together to create a safe and positive atmosphere for the campers. We cannot express how key it was to have a one-on-one adult to camper ratio for the success of the camp. We are looking forward to seeing what God has in store for future camps.



Youth Outdoor Activity Day

Over 5,000 In Attendance

By Chad Lanners

On August 29th Fishing For Life team members Ryan and Chad had the opportunity to travel to Alexandria, Minnesota to participate in the Youth Outdoor Activity Day. Its' purpose was to guide, direct, encourage and educate today's youth on environmental activities while providing opportunities in building the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts.

This was a fantastic opportunity for Fishing For Life to create visibility and develop new partners throughout

the State of Minnesota. Youth Activity Day is a free family friendly event intended to provide youth a fun environment in which to learn about outdoor recreation. Over 40 hands on activities and demonstration were on site.

Activities included: angling skills, trap shooting, bird house building, rock climbing and more. We facilitated our very own inflatable archery activity, which was a big hit with everyone attending the event. Over 5000 people attend the Youth Activity Day and we were excited to be a part of this to share more about our mission and programs. This event was hosted and organized by Viking Sportsmen and Douglas County Pheasants Forever



Partnerships And Beyond

Over \$99,000 Funds Raised on Our Behalf

It is such a blessing to be in partnership with different organizations, businesses, and individuals. We are always in awe of those that remember us and want to support us. This Summer we had many organizations reach out and want to partner with us in varying ways.

For many years, Insurance Brokers of Minnesota has always had us on their radar with their Golf tournament, this year we received a check for over \$31, 243.

We also had the Heath family reach out to do their very first Memorial Golf event to honor Jake Heath, their beloved son, brother, and friend who was an avid fisherman. This brought in over \$2,000 this year with hopes that next year will be even bigger and better.

And last, but not least, we were blessed with a big surprise check of \$66,750 from winners of The Partner's Group

Lake Minnetonka Charity Fishing Invitational, Todd Doege and David Foster.

This is how organization like ours run, from partnerships like these and form donors like you that come together and support causes that we can all be proud to call our own.

We are extremely humbled that you reached out and remembered Fishing for Life, Thank You.





Robert with guide Cody Klaus

Trolling for Trophies

Muskie Fishing At Its' Finest!

By Cody Klaus

On Saturday, October 16th we had 9 campers (and a father of one of the campers) out on White Bear Lake for a muskie day camp. These 9 campers are all connected to Fishing For Life and expressed interest in muskie fishing over the summer at other FFL camps.

It ended up being a very special day for these campers: four fish were caught, and SEVERAL others were chasing baits. Most of these kids had never seen a muskie up close, so you can imagine the excitement they had out on the lake with all the action. For three of the campers, they were able to boat their very first muskie.

There is one camper I'd like to highlight: his name is Robert. Robert is a middle schooler that just started getting into muskie fishing this fall. I had him join me in my boat for both the Frank Schneider and George Wahl tournaments. After muskie fishing hard for the 35-40 hours of those two tournaments, he was really hoping his hard work was going to pay off soon.

So on Saturday, Robert, again, joined me in my boat with another camper. We drove to our first spot and the two of them started casting, and I dropped a sucker out the back. Robert had first dibs if the sucker rod went off. After maybe 15 minutes of fishing, I looked back at the sucker and saw a large silhouette behind it. I alerted the kids and they started freaking out (quietly of course).

The stalking muskie finally grabbed the sucker after following it for quite a distance. Once it started swimming away from us, Robert picked up the rod and set

"Thanks as for including Robert! I'm so grateful he's a part of this program and has developed some great relationships and has positive and impactful men to learn from..."

~ Shayna B. (Parent)



Latrell with guide Travis Busch



Vaughn and his son Aaron

the hook. As he was frantically heaving the fish towards the boat, you could hear a pin drop on the carpet of the boat; everyone was on edge. Then, as the fish finally slid into the net, I wonder if everyone in the city of White Bear Lake could hear the explosion of shouting from our boat. Robert capped it off by saying, "This is the best day of my life."

A huge thank you to Fishing For Life and Twin Cities Muskies Inc. for partnering together to take kids out muskie fishing. Another huge thank you to East Metro MN DNR for helping create an outstanding muskie fishery here in the metro.

The future of muskie fishing is looking good!



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 He has done." Psalm 78:4

By Vaughn Blackburn

On May 18th, the Camp Guide Training kicked off our summer fish camps. There were 33 present! On May 24th, we held our CPR/First Aid Training, and then on June 1st-3rd, a few of us attended a Water Wilderness Survival Course at Camp Amnicon in Lakeside, WI. These trainings helped to prepare us for the 12 summer camps.

The theme for this summer was 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 discussed God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. We are thankful that God was sovereign and that a total of 87 men and women served our 300 campers and Jr. Guides! We appreciate all the camps that hosted our groups, as well as all of the individuals that volunteered their time and fishing knowledge 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. A highlight for this summer was when one week, a camper won the fishing tournament with 115 total inches (only the measurement of the largest species of each fish caught are recorded), which set a new High C's Camp Champ record dating back to 2013 when we first started recording in this way. Another highlight this summer was when a camper caught the largest fish ever recorded as a High C's Camp Champ, a Muskie, measuring in at 47.5 inches! The campers enjoyed the competition and the rewards at the end of the week. Thank you to the many donors for all the wonderful prizes and to the volunteers for making all of this possible so that these campers could enjoy an amazing experience.

We ended the summer with the blessing of 100 donated Twins tickets that we were able to distribute to our faithful volunteers and their families. The Twins won their game against the Blue Jays 3-1. We also had a boat launch that weekend on Mille Lacs Lake where there was good fellowship and several fish caught.

As "the camp that 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 163 campers this Summer.

Please prayerfully consider how God can use you to help make our 2022 camps a success. The theme for next year will be taken from Mark 1:35 "And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, (Jesus) departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed." We will be teaching the campers about evidences of God's grace in their lives, helping them to recognize those "holy" moments by ridding themselves of distractions so that they can "hear" God speaking into their lives. As they recognize these evidences of God's grace, we pray that they can openly share them with others.



2021 CAMPS BY THE NUMBERS

What you need to know!

- This year we completed 12 of our regular fishing camps, which include our High C's Day Camps, Disabilities Camps and Overnight camps, it takes **75 or more guides** to help take our campers out on the waters and to provide a safe experience for our them.
- We tagged our Fishing Camps as "**The Camp That Goes Home With the Kid Program**", this means when our campers go back home, they have a booklet that helps them discuss what they learned during their day(s) at fish camp. This also means they are welcome to join any of our other camps to continue their journey with God and with others. This year we had **163 campers** join us at fish camp this year.
- Veteran events include our Dark House Sparring event, Crappie event, Armed Forces/AUSA Celebration, Muskie Mayhem and the Lake of the Woods Pay It Forward Trip. **This year we served over 475 Veterans.**
- Our other High C's Programs are: **Turkey Hunt** 13 kids, 14 volunteers, **Pheasant Hunt** 17 kids, 20 volunteers and 10 dogs **Deer camp** is expecting 7 campers with 9 adults. **Dark House Sparring Events**- 20 kids & 26 veterans, **Women's Ice Fishing event** 6 with 6 guides, **Firearm and Safety** 17, **Crappie Event**-150, **Lake Events**-25, **Trolling For Trophies**-10, **Deep C's Fall Retreat**-40 men & **Winter Retreats**-19 men.
- **Total Attendees for 2021 = 936***
(*Some individuals attend multiple events and are counted for those events.)





Mission:9/11

One Fish For Every Life

By Chad Lanners

On September 10-11, a Fishing for life team traveled to Sankoty Lakes Resort in Spring Bay IL for the annual Marathon Man event. This year marked the 20th anniversary of Sept 11th, so the goal was set to catch 2,977 fish which represented the 2,977 lives that were taken during the terrorist attacks—"Mission 9/11." During this event, seven-time world championship team member, brand manager for Johnson Outdoors and long-time partner with Fishing for life, Jeff Kolodzinski, a.k.a. "Marathon Man", fished for 24 hours straight, from September 10, 9:11pm through September 11, 9:11pm to try and beat his previous records set and to honor those that lost their lives on 9/11.

The Marathon Man was not fishing against others, he was fishing FOR others. Kolodzinski needed to catch more than 2 fish per minute for 24 hours straight to break his previous record. All Funds raised through this event went to Fishing For Life in support of our NextGEN Program and the local First Responders of Spring Bay, IL.

2,977 was a big number and the team believed after setting a Guinness world record at 2,143 more than 10 years ago that he could do this. Kolodzinski has consistently caught more fish throughout the years. In 2020, the Marathon Man caught 2,645 fish, his best catch ever. However, this meant he needed on average to catch 14 more fish per hour. In doing this endeavor, he fished the same way most new anglers do, by simply sitting on fishing pier, using a fishing pole, a bobber, and live bait.

Let me tell you... The fishing was great, as the fish were hungry and biting. As the Marathon Man neared his record setting number the crowd grew and you could feel the excitement. The atmosphere was fun, as there was



food, a lemonade stand, fire trucks followed by a massive fireworks display.

There was a moment of silence once the fish count reached 2,977. Kolodzinski gave a honoring speech to the crowd that had formed. And then he remarked that his time was not finished just as those that lost loved ones during the 9/11 attack, "they kept going and so must we... "

Kolodzinski continued fishing and reached an astounding tally of 3,168 fish. Not only did he knock his goal of 2,977 fish out of the water, he also helped to raise over \$50,000 for NextGEN and the Spring Bay First Responders.

Our NextGEN program provides a mentor and mentee pairing with intentional, consistent fishing and outdoor experiences, as well as meaningful spiritual guidance, for youth from military families and single parent households.

We are continually amazed by this event and how God comes in and uses his people to accomplish a big goal. We thank all those that supported this event by giving of their time, talent and treasures... A special thanks to the owners of Sankoty Lakes, Kim Blickenstaff, Dwayne Atherton, for providing a beautiful backdrop for this event, the Herman Brothers and their family for feeding everyone and helping to make all the arrangements necessary to make this event go off without a hitch. Thanks to Jeff Kolodzinski, Teeg Stouffer, Steve Worrall for keeping us captivated online for 24-hours. Many thanks to our sponsors and on-air interviewers, without this support, we could not do this event. And, of course all our behind the scenes people, you are amazing.



2022 Calendar



JANUARY

- 12—REI-Ridgedale YMCA
- 13-16—MN Sportsmen's Show - St Paul RiverCentre
- 14-16— Bismark Rec & Leisure Show-Trout Pond
- 14-16—High C's Fish Camp/DarkHouse Sparring, Alexandria, MN
- 21-24—Outdoor Women For Life, TBD

FEBRUARY

- 12—Holes 4 Heroes Ice Tournament
- 18-20—High C's Sparring Ice Fishing Camp, Grand Rapids

MARCH

- 3-5—Muskie Expo at Concordia University-Trout Pond
- 11-13—Outdoor News Deer & Turkey Classic- Canterbury Park-Shakopee
- 19-20 —Grand Forks Rec & Leisure Show-Trout Pond
- 24-27—Northwest Sportshow

APRIL

- 8-10—R&R Marriage Retreat
- 9—Spring Fundraiser
- 21—Bob-106 Radiothon
- 21-24—High C's Turkey Hunt

MAY

- 7—Crappie Contest
- 12-14—Governor's Fishing Opener
- 19—REI-Coon Rapids YMCA
- 26—REI Cabella's

JUNE

- 3—REI-Deloitte
- 3-4—MN Teen Challenge/ Al Linder Tournament
- 4—Mille Lacs -Youth Launch
- 5—Mille Lacs-Veteran Launch
- 6-10—Father/Son Camp BWCA
- 9 —High C's Disability Camp
- 12-16—High C's Green Lake Camp
- 14—AFFC at Lake Minnetonka
- 16 —High C's Disability Camp
- 21-24—High C's Day Camp 1
- 27-1—High C's Day Camp 2

JULY

- 4—Interlachen-Trout Pond
- 5-8—High C's Day Camp 3
- 9 — Clay Ofanagen Memorial Lake Event-Medicine Lake
- 11-15—High C's Day Camp 4
- 13-17—High C's Adult/Child Camp @Miracle Bible Camp
- 21—IMF Chaplains Fishing, Medicine Lake
- 24-29—Camp Jim

AUGUST

- 1-5—High C's Camp Fish
- 3—IB Golf Tournament
- 5—Lake Event: CAST with the Anoka County Sheriff's Dept, Lake George
- 9—Pastor's Tournament with Jesus In The City
- 12-14—GameFair (Weekend 1)
- 14-16—High C's Catfish Camp
- 19-21—GameFair (Weekend 2)
- 29-1—LOTW Pay it Forward Trip
- Aug 30—Military Appreciation Day at the Minnesota State Fair

SEPTEMBER

- 8-11—Marathon Man
- 15-18—Deep C's Men's Fall Retreat
- 24—Boat Launch Appreciation Event

OCTOBER

- 14-16—Outdoor Women for Life Retreat
- 15—High C's Trolling for Trophies
- 26—Muskie Mayhem Event
- TBD—High C's Pheasant Camp
- TBD—Firearms Safety Class

NOVEMBER

- 4-6—NextGEN Deer Camp
- 11—Veteran's Day
- 17—Give to the Max Day

DECEMBER

- 1-4—NextGEN Muzzleloader Camp
- 2-4—St. Paul Ice Fishing & Winter Show
- 13—FFL Christmas Party

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*

- **April 9, 2022—Our Annual Fundraising Banquet**
- **Feb 12, 2022—Holes 4 Heroes**
- **Dec 14—Christmas Party**



Get EXCITED!!!

Save These Dates!