



# Musky Madness

September 22-23-24, 2017  
Northern Wisconsin



## **THE MUSKY**

If there's another freshwater fish that evokes the same awe and passion, I'd be hard-pressed to name it. I admit to you that I've been badly bitten by the musky-bug, particularly watching one of these fish come to a fly!

I'd like to share the magic with you.

To this end, I've organized a dedicated team of guides and a small group of fly fishermen to fish some of the best musky water in the upper-Midwest. We call it, "Musky Madness", and this will be our fifth year.

## EXPECTATIONS

Arguably, musky fishing is not for everyone, and while I certainly don't want to sound discouraging... I do want you to have reasonable expectations about the trip. I don't like to disappoint my friends.

All guides have different thoughts about it, but I think it's safe to say most would agree that a couple of follows or "eats" is a good day of musky fishing.

In my limited experience, it's not uncommon to go days without seeing a musky. But, when everything comes together, it's possible to see multiple fish and for each angler to have multiple eats. A musky to the boat is a rare and mystical occurrence, and it's our goal that everyone experiences it.

For this year's event, we've chosen an extremely target-rich location with short drives to multiple floats on the Chippewa and Flambeau Rivers of northern Wisconsin.

Over the course of the trip, you can also expect to catch a few smallmouth bass and northern pike.



## GUIDES

With the exception of myself (there's a good reason I'm on the bottom of the following list) the guides I've assembled are all very knowledgeable about guiding fly fishermen to musky on rivers. I know these gentlemen well, and would fish with any of them, anywhere, any time.

### Dan Boggs

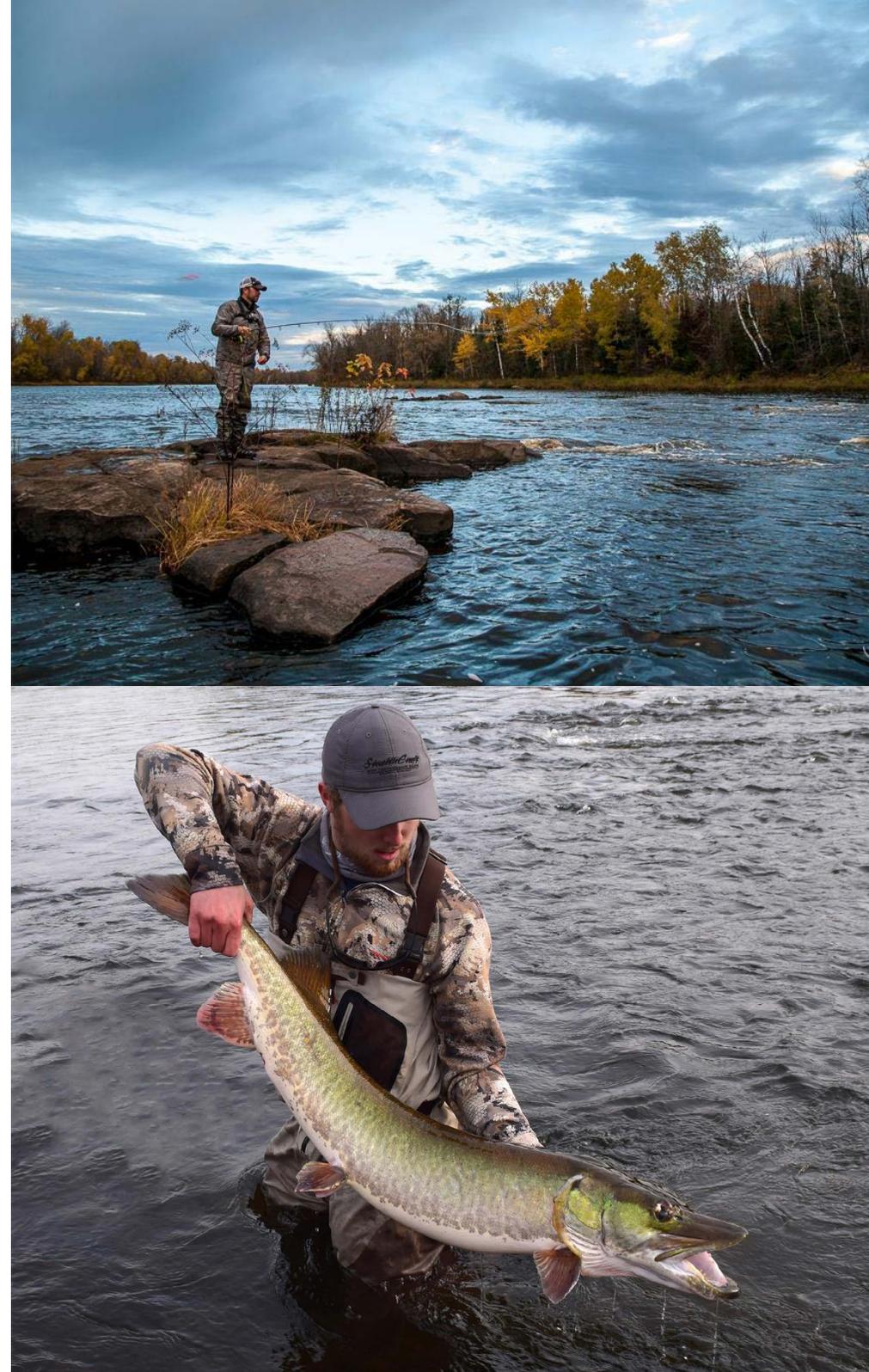
I met Dan several years ago at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo, and we became fast friends. Dan is a very experienced and knowledgeable fly fisherman, and one of the most enthusiastic guides I've ever spent time with. He has developed a great reputation guiding the rivers of the upper Midwest for smallmouth bass, northern pike and musky. Dan is also an FFF Certified Casting Instructor.

Learn more about Dan and his outfitting business, [Flying Musky Guide Company](#).

### Luke Swanson

I heard about Luke for many years, and finally met him when he dropped by to visit Musky Madness a few years ago. Luke was born and raised in Minnesota, on the banks of the Mississippi, and has fished for smallmouth bass and musky his whole life. He has guided in Alaska on the Alagnak River.

Luke owns [Livin' the Dream Guide Service](#). Make sure to [watch the video](#) that he captured at Musky Madness 2016, where he guided his fisherman to a 49.75 inch musky. We're excited to have Luke on the team!



## **Russ Gontarek**

I've known Russ (on the right) long enough to be thoroughly impressed with his enthusiasm for and dedication to catching musky on a fly. Like all of the other guides on the roster, Russ lives, eats and sleeps musky.

Russ has been a musky addict since 2006, when he built his first musky rod. He had a part in the "Field and Stream Hook Shots" video where he guided the Public Relations Director of Simms to a 42" musky. Russ enjoys helping his fishermen catch the fish of a lifetime, as much as fishing himself.



## **Gabe Schubert**

Gabe and I enjoy the same circle of friends, but incredibly, we'd not met until we guided a musky trip together in 2012. I know very few fly fishermen who have the same breadth of knowledge and passion for musky and musky fishing as Gabe. So much so, that he has become known locally as "Musky Jesus". I'm a firm believer in Gabe and the musky flies he ties. I look forward to working with Gabe again on our musky trip.

## Kip Veith

I've known Kip for a long time and have enjoyed watching him develop a stellar reputation and a life for himself guiding in the upper Midwest. I've worked with Kip on multiple occasions and I'm always impressed with his professionalism.

If you'd like to know more about Kip and his outfitting business, check out [Wildwood Float Trips](#).

## BobWhite

I'm new to the musky game, and living proof that it's as better to be lucky than good! When you're in my boat, you can count on hearing the same old jokes that I've been telling for years, but please laugh at them anyway... I'm very sensitive that way.

You should also know that I take my sardines seriously.





## EQUIPMENT

**Flies** – Tying flies that muskies eat is a fine art, and every guide has his own idea about what works best. If you have some flies you want to bring, or need an excuse to visit your local fly shop, by all means, do so... but you'll probably want to fish with whatever your guide has tied because he knows how they work, and believes in them.

All of the guides will have flies available for sale. Good musky flies are tied on select hooks, with premium materials, and average around \$30.00 each. It's a good thing they're fished with shock-tippets of 80-pound fluorocarbon or steel wire!

**Rods** – It's recommended that you have at least one or two 10 to 12-weight rods (12-weight preferred). You'll be glad to have the extra muscle when casting large flies, or trying to stop a big fish from getting into a woodpile.

We all have our favorite rod manufacturers, but it isn't necessary to spend an exorbitant amount of money on a good fly rod these days. Let me know if you'd like some recommendations.

**Reels** – Any large, single action fly reel that's matched to the line it holds will do the job. It's unusual for musky to make long, sustained runs in a river, but a trust-worthy drag is always a good thing. Large arbor reels have the added advantage of quick line retrieval. Besides having a dependable drag, I recommend that you fish with a reel that's comfortable, and you know well.

**Lines** – You'll undoubtedly use large flies, which are best fished suspended in the water-column. Sinking tip lines manage this best. A good friend of mine feels that intermediate tip lines are good, full intermediate lines are better, and sink tip lines are best.

Most agree upon these line recommendations (by grain weight) for the following rod weights:

- 10wt - 400
- 11wt - 450
- 12wt – 500

The exception to this is if the angler will be spending a lot of time on shallower water. In this case an intermediate tip or full intermediate is best.

There are a number of manufacturers and lines to choose from:

- Rio Outbound
- RioVersi-Tip System
- Scientific Angler's Streamer Express (26 foot tip)
- Scientific Angler's Wet Tip Express
- Air Flo Bass Musky Fly Line

**Leaders & Shock Tippets** – This is one area that's best left to your guide. All musky guides have their own leader/shock-tippet systems that they know, and trust. If the leader or shock-tippet fails (God forbid) you'll be happy to have had nothing to do with it!

If you'd like to help the guides out, you might have some Teeny 7.5' Pat Ehlers Hand-Tied Pike/Musky Leaders in your boat bag.

**THE USUAL STUFF NOT TO FORGET** - Waders, raingear, warm layers, warm hat, polarized glasses, sense of humor, etc.



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## **DATES and LOCATION**

We will fish the Chippewa and Flambeau Rivers of northern Wisconsin for three full days, on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday - September 22, 23 and 24. **Plan to arrive on the afternoon of Thursday, September 21** at Chippewa River Lodge, N4836 County Road G, Ojibwa, Wisconsin 54862.

## **DAILY SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, September 21** - Arrive mid-afternoon or early evening, unpack, meet the guides, stock up on a few flies, trade stories, and relax with a drink before dinner.

**Friday, September 22** - Breakfast at 7am, get on the water as soon as possible, fish until 5 or 6pm, and return to see what wondrous things Lisa has done in the kitchen for dinner. Enjoy dinner and stories.

**Saturday, September 23** - Repeat

**Sunday, September 24** - Repeat. Stay with us on Sunday night for dinner and leave Monday morning. Or, fish as long as you can before departing.

**Monday, September 25** - Depart after breakfast.

## ACCOMODATIONS

Our party of ten fishermen and five guides will stay at [Chippewa River Lodge](#) in northern Wisconsin. Located between the towns of Ojibwa and Winter on the banks of the Chippewa River, this classic northwoods lodge features a stone fireplace, game room, bar, and seven bedrooms. All meals are included. You will be provided hearty breakfasts and sumptuous dinners accompanied by thoughtfully matched wines and hand-crafted beers. The guides will provide lunches and refreshments each day on the river.

## COST

The cost for the trip is \$1800.00 per person. This includes guiding (two anglers per guide), all meals, and lodging. Not included are transportation costs to and from Chippewa River Lodge, Wisconsin fishing license, hard liquor, and gratuities.

## DEPOSIT AND CANCELLATION POLICY

A deposit of 50% will reserve a spot in our group of ten fishermen. Final payment is due July 1, 2017.

In the event of a cancellation, the deposit is forfeited unless another angler can be found to replace the cancellation. In such a case, we will do all we can to help find a replacement.

Contact [bob@bobwhitestudio.com](mailto:bob@bobwhitestudio.com). For information on other hosted trips and travel destinations visit [BobWhite Sporting Travel](#).



## GETTING TO CHIPPEWA RIVER LODGE

Chippewa River Lodge is located in north central Wisconsin. [Click here for directions via Google Maps](#). Several options are available for travel to the lodge. Let us know if you have any questions, or if we can help you with arrangements.

### From Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP)

- Rent a car and drive. The lodge is a 3 hour drive from MSP airport.
- Take the [NWT Express Shuttle](#) from MSP to Hayward. We will pick you up in Hayward and bring you to the lodge - a 45 minute drive. Review their [Hayward schedule](#) to coordinate your flight arrival and departure. Please note that there are only two shuttles per day.

### From Eau Claire, Wisconsin Regional Airport (EAU)

- Rent a car and drive. The lodge is a 1.5 hour drive from EAU airport.

