



Musky Madness

September 25-26-27, 2021
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 eighth year.

In 2019, our friend and filmmaker Jordan Stocker captured the spirit of the event [in this short film](#).



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.

OUR SPECIAL GUEST

Steve Ramirez

Steve is an avid fly fisherman, writer and a friend of our family. He is an outdoor and conservation author who lives and writes in the Texas Hill Country. His works have appeared in various journals including Trout magazine, The Flyfish Journal, Fly Fisherman magazine, American Angler, Tail Fly Fishing magazine, Texas Sporting Journal, Explore Magazine, Under Wild Skies, and many more. His short fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction has been published in Cutthroat: Journal of the Arts, The Houston Literary review, and Pecan Grove Review. He is a certified Texas Master Naturalist, a hiker and world adventure traveler. Steve was recently chosen by the American Museum of Fly Fishing as Ambassador to Texas.

Steve's first published book, Casting Forward - Fishing Tales from the Texas Hill Country, (Lyons Press) has received critical acclaim and is in its second printing. Ted Williams concludes his introduction to this book with, "A century hence, Casting Forward - Fishing Tales from the Texas Hill Country will be referenced in the best of North American outdoor literature."

Its sequel, Casting Onward: Fishing Adventures in Search of America's Native Gamefish, (Lyons Press) will be released on April 1st, 2022.

Steve is currently in the process of writing the third book in the series, Casting Seaward, which focuses on perusing game-fish of brackish and salt-waters.

We are honored to host Steve at this year's Musky Madness!





MUSKY 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.

Josh Alters

Josh Alters is an avid outdoorsman who takes his musky fishing very seriously. I met Josh nearly fifteen years ago. Since then we've spent a lot of time on the water together, and I've come to know Josh as a dedicated sportsman and focused individual. Josh is also an extremely creative and talented fly tyer whose musky flies have developed an enthusiastic following among musky fishermen and guides in the upper Midwest.

Josh's use of a shallow drive boat will add a great deal of flexibility and depth to the variety of water we fish this fall and we're very excited to have him on our team!

Russ Gontarek

I've known Russ for nearly a decade, 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, and started tying foot-long flies. 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 is an excellent teacher and enjoys helping his fishermen catch the fish of a lifetime, as much as fishing himself.

We're proud to have Russ on our guide roster! Make sure to check out his new endeavor: [Seam Oar & Paddle Co.](#)



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. 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.



Tony Stifter

I've known Tony for for a couple of decades now, and have spent a lot of time with him in the field and on the water. I've never met a more focused or competent outdoorsman. He's also a wonderful communicator and enjoys teaching his fishermen everything he knows about catching musky on the fly. Lisa and I were thrilled that he joined our team and look forward to all the positive energy he brings to the trip.





Weston Thier

I've known Weston for several years now, and we run into each other in all the usual places; a Northwood's café having breakfast with his clients before a day on the water, or under a bridge on a rainy day having lunch with his boat mates. And, we've gotten together in some highly unusual places, like the bodega at the international airport in Buenos Aires.

Weston is a USCG Certified Master Captain, a superb guide with an exemplary reputation, and has a lot of experience on the water we'll fish during Musky Madness. I suspect he'll get his fishermen into some small, out of the way places and some unsuspecting muskies.

You can learn more about Weston on his website, [Fontinalis Fly Fishing](#). Lisa and I are very happy to have him on our team this year!



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. Kip is an Orvis endorsed guide, and in 2015, he was awarded Orvis - Guide of the Year. Count on Kip to provide you with a casting tune-up on the lawn if you'd like!

Kip's book, "The Orvis Guide to Muskies on the Fly" was just released. [You need an autographed copy!](#)

Learn more about Kip and his outfitting business, at [Wildwood Float Trips](#).

YOUR HOST
Bob White

I've guided and fished for 65 seasons between Alaska and Patagonia, but I'm new to the musky game. Our guides, on the other hand, are dedicated professionals when it comes to catching musky on the fly. So, I leave the guiding to them... I wouldn't want any of you to get the short end of the stick!

I will be on the water, however, following some of you down the river, bantering with your guides, and joining you for lunch. Count on hearing the same old jokes that I've been telling for years.

You should also know that I take my sardines very 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.

DON'T FORGET THE USUAL STUFF - 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 Saturday, Sunday, and Monday - September 25, 26, and 27. **Plan to arrive on the afternoon of Friday, September 24** at Legacy Lodge, W6821 Golf Course Road, Winter, Wisconsin 54862.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Friday, September 24 - 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.

Saturday, September 25 - 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.

Sunday, September 26 - Repeat

Monday, September 27 - Repeat. Stay with us for dinner and leave Tuesday morning. Or, fish as long as you can before departing.

Tuesday, September 28 - Depart after breakfast.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Our party of twelve fishermen and six guides will stay at [Legacy Lodge](#) in northern Wisconsin. The lodge is located on Barker Lake, east of Hayward and the Chippewa River Flowage. This classic northwoods lodge features a stone fireplace, pool table, bar, spacious lounging and dining rooms, nine bedrooms, and five bathrooms. Adjacent cabins provide us with extra space, if needed. Our rates are based on double occupancy. Private bedrooms may be available for an additional fee. The lodge and cabins are strictly no-smoking, but an outdoor smoking area is provided.

We serve hearty breakfasts and sumptuous dinners accompanied by thoughtfully matched wines and hand-crafted beers. You are welcome to bring any hard spirits that you would like to enjoy during your stay. The guides will provide lunches and refreshments each day on the river.

The lodge was built in 1929 by the famous Joe Saltis. "Polack Joe" was a Joliet, Illinois saloon keeper, bootlegger, gangster, and rival of Al Capone. Saltis spent an estimated \$100,000 in the building of the rustic two-story cedar log lodge, cabins and a nine-hole golf course. In 1930, Saltis retired to this retreat on the Barker Lake shoreline. The colorful stories about him and his guests (including Capone) still circulate around the Winter, Wisconsin area.

Formerly known as Barker Lake Lodge, the property was recently purchased by the Hurt family and has undergone extensive renovations. We are very excited to share this lodge with you!

Please note that smoking is not allowed in the lodge or cabins. An outside smoking area will be provided. Additionally, pets are not allowed on the premises.





COVID POLICY

To ensure everyone's safety, we are requiring that all participants in the event (guests, guides, and hosts) are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Additionally, we are asking all attendees to test negative for COVID-19 prior to arrival at Legacy Lodge. The test can either be a PCR test within 72 hours of arrival or an antigen test within 24 hours of arrival. If you are unable to test before you arrive, we will have some antigen test kits available for use. Between the time that you test and arrive at the lodge, please take great care to avoid infection. It is our belief that these measures will provide an added layer of safety for all participants.

COST

\$2,200.00 per person based on double occupancy

Price includes guiding (two anglers per guide), all lodging, meals, wine, and beer.

Not included are transportation costs to and from Legacy Lodge, Wisconsin fishing license, hard liquor, and gratuities.

DEPOSIT AND CANCELLATION POLICY

A deposit of 50% will reserve a spot in our group of twelve fishermen. Final payment is due July 1, 2021.

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. For information on other hosted trips and travel destinations visit [BobWhite Sporting Travel](#).

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, go to www.travelexinsurance.com or contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 23-0160.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276. 55Y



GETTING TO LEGACY LODGE

Legacy Lodge (previously Barker Lake Lodge) is located in north central Wisconsin at W6821 Golf Course Road, Winter, Wisconsin 54862. [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)

- The lodge is a 3+ hour drive from MSP airport.

From Eau Claire, Wisconsin Regional Airport (EAU)

- The lodge is a 2 hour drive from EAU airport.

From Chicago, Illinois O'Hare Airport (ORD)

- The lodge is a 6 hour drive from ORD airport.

