



Musky Madness

September 22-23-24, 2023
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 ninth event.

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 the 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

Ben Sittig

HE'S A HUGE FLYFISHERMAN.

Ben fishes a lot, maybe not as much as you, but more than a lot of people. He'll fish for anything, and he prefers to do it with a fly rod.

Ben grew up in Maryland and started fly fishing when he was thirteen years old. He got a job at a fly shop when he was sixteen and has been in the "industry" ever since. After high school, Ben attended college in Colorado, where he earned a degree in fisheries biology, which he promptly filed away and hasn't ever used.

After college Ben began a successful but temporary career as a dirtbag, spending his summers as a fly fishing guide and winters as a ski-patroller. As he got older he matured and became somewhat more responsible and stable... but he still fishes a lot.

He's currently a father, husband, boat owner, homeowner, and YouTuber. He fishes a lot and travels to fly fishing destinations whenever he can. This is Ben's first time fly fishing for musky.

Check out [this review of Ben on FLYLORDS](#) and definitely stop by Ben's website, [Huge Fly Fisherman](#). You should watch his videos because they are super fun. [Subscribe](#) on his website for exclusive, extended, and ad-free HUGE content or find him on [YouTube](#). If you suck at fly fishing, he has [the perfect merch](#) for you. We're excited to welcome Ben to 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.

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](#).

Brad Bohlen

I've known Brad for over 2 decades, and Lisa and I are proud to call him our friend. Brad is arguably a forerunner of what has become a very big deal...catching musky on the fly. I think it's safe to say that he knows as much about fly fishing for musky as anyone. His passion for musky, and innovations in nearly every aspect of fishing for them has changed the way others approach these trophy fish.

Brad lives and works, as a full-time musky guide on the water we plan to fish. He also holds the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame record for a released musky on a fly... an impressive 51-inch fish.

If you'd like to know more about Brad and what he does, check out [Musky Country Outfitters](#).





David Holmes

David was born and raised in the Midwest along the St Croix River and has been chasing fish for as long as he can remember. He now guides full time on rivers across Minnesota and Wisconsin. He has a deep passion for chasing Musky, and helping others land their dream fish. He is energetic, passionate, and a patient teacher. David runs a 17ft jet boat and is a USCG licensed captain.

You can check out his website at davidholmesguiding.com or get in touch with him at 651-269-7644.



Josh Olsen

Josh grew up fly fishing for smallmouth bass on the Mississippi River at his family's property in the catch and release area just north of the Twin Cities. He has worked at the Fly Angler/Thorne Brothers in Blaine, Minnesota, since 2006. Josh is passionate about trophy smallmouth fishing, chasing chrome Steelhead, and hunting the apex predator of his home waters; the elusive Musky. He enjoys sharing his passion for fishing with others when he guides his clients to musky and smallmouth bass.

Josh is the owner of [Midwest River Guides](http://MidwestRiverGuides.com).

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 find Weston on Instagram at [Fontinalis Flyfishing](#). Lisa and I are very happy to have him on our team this year!



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 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, - September 22, 23, and 24. **Plan to arrive on the afternoon of Thursday, September 21** at Legacy Lodge, W6821 Golf Course Road, Winter, 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 for dinner and leave Monday morning. Or, fish as long as you can before departing.

Monday, September 25 - Depart after breakfast.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Our party of fourteen fishermen and seven 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 ([check with Lisa](#) if you're interested). 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.





COST

\$2,500.00 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 fourteen fishermen. Final payment is due July 1, 2023.

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.

