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Minocqua/Arbor Vitae/Woodruff • Phelps • Presque Isle • Sayner/Star Lake • St. Germain • Winchester

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Vilas County Tourism & Publicity

Annual Musky Marathon Final Results

The final standings for the 2009 Vilas County Musky Marathon have been released. “Another season of musky fishing and fishing memories during the 46th Annual Vilas County Musky Marathon has ended on a high note”, reported Janet Christianson, Vilas County Tourism & Publicity. “Area visitors and residents shared their fishing experience in 2009 as 176 muskies were registered in seven (7) divisions.” She continued, “It is important to note that while anglers do take the opportunity to register their musky in the Marathon, the number registered does not represent the total number of muskies caught in Vilas County in 2009.”

A combined 123 muskies were registered between the Men’s Released and Men’s Kept Divisions. Leading the Men’s Released Division with a 52 ½” musky in November was Tom Gelb of Conover. Gelb was using a crankbait. In 2nd place is Paul Oby of Eldorado, who was fishing on Spring Lake in early September with a Cisco Kid Topper when he caught and released his 52” musky. Following closely in 3rd place with a 51 ¾” musky is Nate Osfar of Marathon. His early August musky was caught using a Musky Innovations Mag Dawg lure.

First place in the Men’s Kept Division with a late October fish is by Art Long of Arbor Vitae with a 36 lb., 4 oz., 50 3/8” musky he caught using a homemade lure. Richard Novak of White Bear Lake, Minnesota boated a 33 ½ lb., 51 ½” musky in late June on the Flambeau Chain while using a Bucktail lure to take 2nd place. In 3rd place is a 32 ½ lb., 50” musky caught on a Bucktail lure in late July by Bill Waugh of Presque Isle.

Vilas County Tourism & Publicity

330 Court Street, Eagle River WI 54521 • (715) 479-3649 or (800) 236-3649 • www.vilas.org

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In only the second year since the divisions were created, the Women's Released and Women's Kept Divisions registered a combined 21 muskies. Leading the Women's Released Division is Maren Skovera of Pulaski who registered a 51" mid-October musky she caught while using a Manta lure on the Manitowish Chain. Amie Krelle of Eagle River, garnered 2nd place with a 50" musky caught in early August from Big St. Germain Lake while using a Musky Innovations Bulldawg lure. This fish was larger than Krelle's 2008 1st place finish of 47.75". Nancy Lessner of Highland, Indiana, in 3rd place, was fortunate to land two 49 1/4" muskies, the first in late June and the second in mid-July, to put her in a tie with herself! Lessner was using a Kari Tail lure both times.

Theresa Rosol of Cottage Grove took 1st place in the Women's Kept Division with her early July, 31.5 lb., 50" musky which was caught on the Manitowish Chain using a sucker.

A total of 15 fish between two divisions were registered by youth (ages 15 and under). Cal Hammen of Little Chute landed in 1st place in the Youth Released Division with his 47 1/2" musky from the Eagle Chain. Hammen was using an 8" Jake crankbait in mid-June. In 2nd place with a 45 1/2" musky is Jacob Rogler of Fond du Lac who was fishing in early August on Pioneer Lake using a Double Cowgirl lure. Christopher Bills of Indialantic, Florida is in 3rd place with a mid-July 45" musky caught on a Mepps Black Fury Bucktail lure.

The Youth Kept Division is led by Luke Degler of Wisconsin Rapids who boated an early August 23 1/2" lb., 46" musky while fishing with a Hawg Wobbler on Big Lake. Landon Lax of Conover is in 2nd place with a 22.7 lb., 46 1/2" musky. Lax was using a Bucktail lure on Lac Vieux Desert to catch his late June fish. In 3rd place is Kyle Ranny of West Allis who registered a 21 lb., 45 1/2" musky he caught in late June while fishing with a sucker.

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A total of 17 muskies were registered in the Guide's Division. Topping the Guide's Released Division was Jake Smith of Minocqua with a 50" early-November musky he caught while using a Smity jerk bait. Bill Jacobs of Eagle River tied himself for 2nd place with two nice 48" muskies, both in October from Kentuck Lake. His early October catch was on a Tackle Industries Mega D Heavy lure, while the late October fish hit on a jig & minnow lure. In 3rd place is Elmer Jensen of Eagle River with a 47 ½" fish he caught on a Sucker/Quick Set rig in late November while fishing Kentuck Lake.

"The success of the Vilas County Musky Marathon over the last 46 years is due to support received from sponsors, registration stations, participants, and media. In 2009, in addition to a certificate and Marathon pin, each registrant received a pen, a tape measure and a photo frame to showcase their memory of their Northwoods catch." stated Christianson. "During the Marathon sponsor-donated prizes are also sent to every junior registrant as well as to every tenth and one-hundredth registrant during the Marathon. Additionally sponsors also generously donate prizes which are used as drawing prizes and are awarded at the conclusion of the Marathon."

The drawings were conducted at the regular January meeting of the Vilas County Tourism & Publicity Committee. For 2009, the drawing prizes and their winners were:

Al Soczka, Tall Pines Motel & Gallery provided six (6) copies of *Muskie, The Written Word 1892-2003* by Al Soczka which were won by:

Rondo Avery, Andrew Richards, Maren Skovera, Patricia Lamer,
Jonathan Miller, and Jacob Rogler

Mills Fleet Farm provided four (4) \$50 gift cards which were won by:
Ken Jacobsohn, Nancy Lessner, Elmer Jensen and Landon Lax

Musky Hunter Magazine provided four (4) one-year subscriptions which were won by:

Tory Snick, Amie Krelle, Ben Lund and Christopher Bills

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Steve Doyen Guide Service provided a Half-Day-With-A-Guide which was won by:

Ryan Parker

Elmer Jensen Guide Service provided a Half-Day-With-A-Guide which was won by:

Bryce Rossmiller

Rick McClellan's Guide Service provided a Half-Day-With-A-Guide which was won by

Jim Piraino

Sponsors of the 2009 Marathon included: Al Soczka, Tall Pines Motel & Gallery; Bill Lewis Lures; Elmer Jensen Guide Service; Headwaters Chapter of Muskies, Inc.; Lax Taxidermy; Miller Beer of the Northwoods; Mills Fleet Farm; Musky Hunter Magazine; Rick McClellan's Guide Service; Steve Doyen Guide Service; Tom Gelb; Tony Rizzo Lures; Wright & McGill Co., Makers of Eagle Claw Products; Area Chambers of Commerce and Vilas County Tourism & Publicity.

Final standings, pictures, sponsor and registration station information from the 2009 season can be found on the website at www.vilas.org. A complete final report will be available after mid-February by contacting the Tourism & Publicity Department at the Courthouse in Eagle River or by calling (715) 479-3649 or (800) 236-3649.

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