

Lee Bartolini
2530 Lindsay Road
Springfield, Illinois 62704

January 22, 2001

Mr. Steve Statland
Mr. Lynn Shuster
Tri-Esox Productions Ltd.
P. O. Box 9145
Hubbard Woods, IL 60093

Dear Sirs:

My purpose in writing is to let you know how much I enjoyed this year's Chicago Muskie Show. I have been fishing for over 45 years for largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, crappie, northern pike, and other species, but I have only started fishing seriously for muskie during the last couple of years. Consequently, when I go to a fishing show, such as the Chicago Muskie Show, I want to learn as much as I can from the scheduled speakers and other experienced anglers in the various booths.

I was particularly excited after listening to Captain Don Miller who gave a slide presentation on *Trolling Lake St. Clair*. During the presentation, Captain Miller passed his rods and reels, planer boards, releases, and other fishing equipment around to the members of the audience for them to examine. He also gave members of the audience copies of maps of Lake St. Clair and illustrated copies of instructions/notes on how to set your boat up for trolling. I learned a great deal and really appreciated his presentation. In fact, his seminar, by itself, made the trip from Springfield well worth it.

I have recently joined a small group of anglers who are starting a muskie club at Lake Shelbyville (The Lake Shelbyville Muskie Club). We have only had a few meetings so far, but I fully intend to share what I learned from Captain Miller with the other club members. I believe that the techniques learned from Captain Miller can be used on Lake Shelbyville and other central Illinois lakes with muskies. I also hope to convince several of my fellow anglers in the club to make a trip with me to Lake St. Clair to fish with Captain Miller.

Please know that Captain Miller's presentation was excellent. It is too bad more people were not in attendance. Perhaps the turnout was low because he was the first speaker scheduled on Friday afternoon, and people were just beginning to show up for the show. From my perspective, however, he is the kind of speaker you want to have at future shows. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lee Bartolini
Lee Bartolini

Cc: Captain Don Miller ✓
Chicagoland Muskie Hunters, show sponsor
Southside Muskie Hawks, show sponsor

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2530 Lindsay Road
Springfield, Illinois 62704

January 22, 2001

Captain Don Miller
Miller's Sport Fishing Inc.
471 Canterbury Drive
Saline, Michigan 48176

Dear Captain Miller:

I am writing to let you know how much I appreciated your presentation at the Chicago Muskie Show on Friday, January 12, 2001. It was an excellent seminar. As a relatively new muskie angler (but an old angler for other species), I learned a lot, and I hope to try the techniques you talked about on central Illinois muskie lakes, particularly Lake Shelbyville. I have written the sponsors of the Chicago Muskie Show to let them know how good your seminar was. (See enclosed copy of letter.)

I have recently joined with a small group of muskie anglers trying to start up a muskie club on Lake Shelbyville, Shelbyville, Illinois. We have not met since the show, but I intend to give them a report on your presentation in February. I also hope to convince several of them to book a trip with you later this year. Do you recommend a particular month?

I do have some questions for you. I have tried to make planer boards in the past. They were single board models and did not always track well in choppy water. I was impressed with the planer board(s), the two-board model, you shared with the audience at the show. I tried to remember what, exactly, it looked like, and I have enclosed a picture for your review. I want to make a set of planer boards like the ones you passed around to the audience at the show. I think I know the approximate dimensions and measurements, but I would really appreciate it if you could take a couple of minutes to write the necessary figures in on the enclosed diagram. I have enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience to return the marked page. The boards you let us look at seemed to be made from standard 1" X 6" lumber, about 30 inches long. Could you please verify this on the page? I also was not sure if the "back" or "rear" board, the one that did not have the eye-bolt, was positioned ahead of or behind the "front" board. Please let me know if I made a mistake in my diagram. One final question. Was the release attached directly to the planer board? If so, which one? Or did it just slide down the board cable?

Thank you for any help you can provide. And thanks, again, for an excellent presentation at the Chicago Muskie Show.

Sincerely,

Lee Bartolini

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