WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

WISCONSIN'S WATERS

ILLIONS OF YEARS BEFORE Lorenzo M. Newman successfully cast his line into Long Lake, muskellunge (muskies) were swimming the waters of what would become North America. During the Ice Age, glaciers drove these sleek, toothy predators south. Approximately 18,000 years ago, as the massive ice sheet receded, the fish returned, following watery pathways created by the frigid meltwater. When the glaciers disappeared, the fish were confined to the lakes and streams at the headwaters of the Black, Chippewa, Flambeau, and Wisconsin Rivers. Thanks to stocking, they're now found throughout Wisconsin.

Once known as the "fish of 10,000 casts," muskellunge are notoriously hard to catch. While stocking and catch-and-release have lowered the rate to about 3,000 casts, it's possible to spend a lifetime trying to catch the big one.

The world-record muskie, measuring 63½ inches long and weighing 69 pounds, 11 ounces, was caught in 1949 in the Chippewa Flowage near Hayward, Wisconsin.





LORENZO M. NEWMAN, OF CHIPPEWA FALLS, HOISTS HIS MUSKIE ON THE PROW OF A STEAM-POWERED EXCURSION BOAT DOCKED ON LONG LAKE. THE BOAT FEATURED ELECTRIC LIGHTING, CUSHIONED SEATS, A CANVAS CANOPY, AND A CARVED OWL FIGUREHEAD. (PHOTO BY ALFRED A. BISH, CIRCA **1900**.)







JANUARY								ΞB	RU	AR	Y			Μ	MARCH							
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30	31																					

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	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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JULY								UG	US	т			S	SEPTEMBER								
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FROM FISHING TO BOATING, WISCONSIN'S WATERS OFFER MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION. AT THE TURN OF

THE **19**TH CENTURY, DELAVAN LAKE, IN SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, WAS A POPULAR RECREATIONAL DESTINATION

FOR PEOPLE TRYING TO ESCAPE THE HEAT. THESE KIDS HAVE FOUND SOME WELCOME SHADE UNDER A CANOE.

(PHOTO BY HERMAN TAYLOR, CIRCA 1915.)

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