

“MUSKY DEANS”

By Chase Klinesteker



Dean Collins with 52 inch Muskies from Intermediate Lake



Deans' crankbait

This is a **story about 2 muskies, 2 BIG Muskies**. They were caught by 2 Lunker Hunters **on Intermediate Lake**, Antrim County, northern Lower Michigan. For many years the **Lunker Hunter fishing Club** has had **weekend outings** at different Michigan lakes where we would stay in a motel for an enjoyable weekend of **fun, food, fellowship, and fishing**. At one of the outings early in the morning **on September 27, 1987 Dean Collins**, onetime mayor of Lowell, **caught a 52 inch, 37 pound muskie** by **casting a floating crankbait** across the tip of a major bar at the SE end of the lake. He had anchored on the West side of the tip and cast across it. When the lure ticked the deep weeds, he stopped and let it float up some, then began retrieving it again when the musky hit. **Many thanks to Dean Collins** for sending me information and pictures about this great catch. Now, in 2015, Dean no longer fishes, but is doing well and lives in South Carolina.

Dean Arnold, a longtime Lunker Hunter member and **editor of our newsletter** for many years was **our second “Musky Dean”**. He was an accomplished **panfish fisherman** but did little fishing for bigger fish. At the outing

on Intermediate Lake on **September 7, 1990**, I took him out in my boat to see if we could **get him to catch a bigger fish**. We were **trolling a breakline at about 20 feet** on a bar on the east side of the lake **near the deepest water in the lake** (70 ft.). I was trolling a #700 Spoonplug in order to keep the boat path on the breakline and Dean was trolling a **large Lindy Shad** that was **running about 15 feet** when the fish hit his lure. It was fun watching such a **quiet and reserved person as Dean fight such a huge fish**, and yours truly needed his calming influence to manage to net the fish! It turned out to be a **Musky that was 51 ½ inches long, 36 pounds, with a 2 foot girth**. It was the **largest Hybrid Musky caught that year in Michigan** and Dean **appeared on "Michigan Outdoors" TV show with the mount**. What a special catch, one that Dean was very proud of. A close friend of his, **Earnie Malkewitz constructed a finely crafted wooden carrying case** for this huge fish named "Charlie". **Dean Arnold passed away several years ago** and "Charlie" made an appearance at his funeral service. **His love of fishing was strongly evident**. "Charlie now resides at **Blanford Nature Center**.



Dean Arnold with 51 ½ inch, 36 pound Musky