

Point-n-Shoot Photo Tip #4 by Dave Dawson

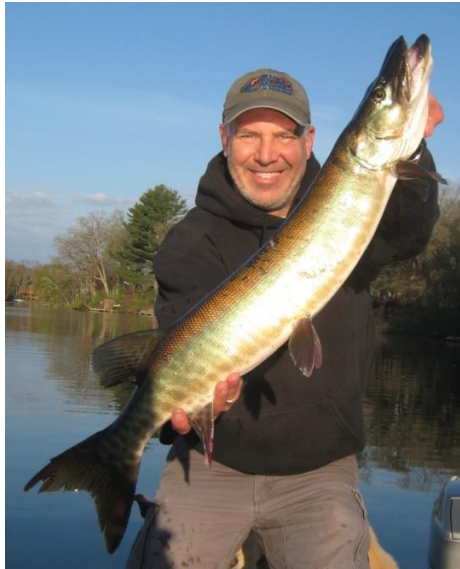
With our 2014 muskie fishing season finally upon us, this photo tip article could be useful right away and will hopefully provide something that can be tried many times this season and beyond. Last month's photo tip was the first in a series of articles on lighting but as important as lighting is for taking great pics, I'll save that topic for future articles.

This photo tip is intended to help you **showcase your muskie prize in a way that maximizes its appearance.**

The idea for this tip stems from a comment one of my friends has made about many of my muskie pics. He'll say, "How can you make that xx-inch muskie look so much bigger?"

Several things help to accentuate the size of your muskies in photos. Being a small angler is one key factor that is not something bigger people have control of but the concept here is to make the angler seem as small as possible in comparison to the muskie s/he is holding.

Once the hooks are freed from the muskie and the camera is ready, the lucky angler should get into a comfortable position and hold the muskie as far in front of him/her as possible with both arms extended the same distance. Even a slight lean toward the camera can be helpful. Ensure the hand holding the muskie's jaw is on the side of the muskie closest to the angler and try to keep that hand out of sight. For the



Because of Dave's (above) smaller frame, he has an easier time at making his muskies look bigger but using the tips in this article, even Mike (below-right) can enhance the perceived size of the muskies he catches.

hand supporting the belly of the fish, try to keep those fingers from being seen, too. One way to do that is to bend those fingers into a loose fist and then rest the muskie's belly on the finger tips of that hand. These tips help to expose the entire side of the muskie for the camera.

When holding your muskie out as described above, it is important for both the camera person and the angler to work together to prevent the camera from capturing the angler's arms and hands in the shot as much as possible. Position the camera approximately level with the muskie. Slightly higher or lower often works well too. Fill the camera's frame with the muskie and insure the lucky angler's smiling face is in the shot, too.

Remember that do-overs are not possible after the muskie is released so be sure to snap several photos but don't prolong the release. Consider taking some photos with and without the camera's flash enabled, especially in lower light or when shadows are seen under the angler's cap.

Good luck on the water this season. Whenever you get the chance, try to capture great photos of the muskies you and your fishing partners catch that make them looking as big as possible! And be sure to smile and have fun!



The two pics in this month's photo tip article come with a contest – complete with a prize! Mike and Dave caught their muskies in May and, believe it or not, both were the same length. Can you guess how long their muskies were? The first MCW member to guess correctly will be the winner! Contact Dave Dawson (d2bucktail@gmail.com or 262-227-3343) with your guess.