

Innsbrook Fishing Club Newsletter

July 17, 2017

Dear Fellow Fishing Club Members,

It is exciting to report on the progress our club has made in a little over a year. Since the original kick-off event at the Memorial Day Party in 2016, we have over 210 members on our email list. If you would like to be added to the list send an email to:

innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com

Our Facebook page "Innsbrook Fishing Club – Group" has 119 followers. If you would like to sign up please go to this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1758235011089741/>

By the way, we are about the same size as the Nature Club now!!!

We also have a webpage up and running. Check out our initial information at <http://www.innsbrookfishingclub.com/>. This webpage will be continually updated with a lot of useful information for your reference. Let me know if you would like to add something to the website or if you have pictures you would like to share.

Member, Joe Kinnison, has taken the time and effort to write and publish a terrific book titled "The OH'FISH-AL Innsbrook Fishing Guide". This book has valuable information and helpful techniques for all the large lakes at Innsbrook. The book has underwater topo maps of the lakes which is a first. Joe will be speaking about his book and signing copies on Thursday, July 20 at 7 PM at the Charrette Commons Meeting room.

Fishing Club Meeting

To bring members together, a fishing club meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, Aug 5th from 10 AM to 11 AM at the Charrette Commons meeting room. We will discuss what activities have occurred over the last few months, come meet other members, share a special technique, and learn what future events are scheduled as we approach fall. We encourage participation by all, young to old!

Fish Cleaning Workshop

There have been several requests on how to properly clean sunfish and bass that are being caught in Innsbrook Lakes. To help educate our IBK Community, we will be offering a Fish Cleaning Workshop after the club meeting on Saturday, August 5th from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. This workshop will show what types of knives work best, demonstrate cleaning techniques and educate you on how to prepare a wonderful meal at your Innsbrook retreat.

Participants are encouraged to bring their catch to this event so we can assist in cleaning. This is a "hands-on" event. Please bring your catch (limit 4 fish on ice), a filet knife, a zip lock bag and a cooler. If you can help teach that day, please email me.

To accommodate all participants please send an email indicating your interest in attending to: innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com and put in the Subject Line: **Fish Cleaning Workshop**. This will help in setting up the event for all participants. Location will be announced in the future.

Current Photos of Memorable Catches

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The Summer fishing pattern is in full swing. Early morning, late evenings and night fishing seem to be the best times to beat the heat and catch a few fish. The full moon recently was an added benefit for that night fishing. Lake water temperatures are in the low to mid 80's.

Here are some photos of recent catches. Post your photos on the Facebook page or send your favorite photos to: Innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com



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Recent Dead Fish Sightings

Several members have reached out to me about seeing small bass (under 12 inches) floating in Lakes Alpine and Aspen just before and after the July 4th holiday. These individuals were wondering if these dead fish were a result of a “fish kill”. I don’t know the answer but my guess is “No”. A fish kill results when oxygen is depleted from the water due to algae blooms, water stratification or lakes turning over. Fish kills impact all species including bass, bluegill, carp, catfish, etc. I saw no other species dead on Lake Alpine. My thought was fishing pressure increased dramatically around the holiday. These fishermen maybe were using live baits like a worm (it is the go to rig to catch a fish at IBK). I have found that small bass like to inhale these baits which results in deep hook sets. Fish tend to die after the hook is removed.

I had a discussion with IBK representatives about the dead fish. Jeff Yegge, IBK fish biologist, took a survey of Aspen and Alpine and saw a few dead fish after the holiday. He reached out to our MDC contact, Denise Otto. She reported several lakes in her region, eastern Missouri, have been experiencing similar die offs. She indicated the number of fish were minor and it should not be a problem. Since our group is focused on the fish resources, let’s keep an eye out for dead fish and if you see a significant number, please send an email to Jeff at jeff.yegge@innsbrook-resort.com) and to the club’s email at innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com.

To help improve fish quality, we are encouraging removal of small bass (see comments below). Please don’t put them back in the lake after you have culled them. Remove them, clean them for a meal or toss them in the woods for the wildlife. Please remember to remove those Green Sunfish as well (see below)!

Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Electroshock Survey Results

I was in contact with our MDC representative this week to determine the status of the electroshock survey results for Lake Lucern and Lake Alpine. Due to an extremely busy summer and the MDC developing a comprehensive report on previous survey data all the way back to 1977 for Innsbrook, the final report is scheduled to be completed at the end of August.

Initial findings indicate a stock piled or stunted (under 12 inch) bass population and a significant population of Green Sunfish. We have too many mouths to feed and not enough forage (bluegills, minnows, crawfish, etc.) food. I asked for a quick recommendation on what the fishermen and women should be doing right now. Response was:

*“I recommend removing **any** bass caught regardless of size. However, I understand if someone wants to return a trophy to the water. Same goes for green sunfish. Keep track of how many bass are removed.”*

Denise Otto, Fisheries Management Biologist MDC

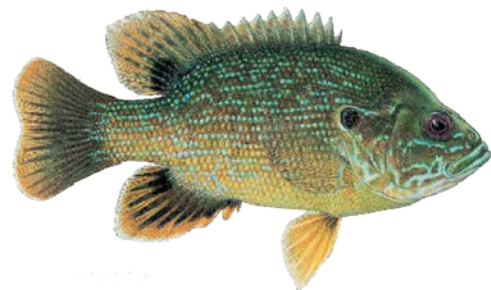
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Based upon this preliminary recommendation, let's plan to have some fun catching fish, creating a little friendly competition, and most importantly, feeding our families and friends. Introducing a few fun fishing club tournaments, activities and workshops!!

MEANIE GREENIE Tournament

This TEAM tournament will be more fun than the "Deadliest Catch" or "Wicked Tuna" TV shows. Beginning August 4, teams will fish for Green Sunfish from Friday morning till noon Sunday. Team will be limited to three persons fishing at one time. However, team members can change hourly, daily, or weekly. Green sunfish are an aggressive fish with a large mouth that compete with bass and bluegill for our limited lake resources.



The tournament will rotate each week to a different lake. This will help us focus on specific lakes to help balance out those fish populations. You can fish any lake, any weekend but participants fishing on the assigned lake will get a bonus added to their total weight. Each weekend the Team with the highest total weight will win a \$50 gift card. On the final weekend, we will award the weekly team plus crown the MEANIE GREENIE Championship Team based upon total overall weight.

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Schedule and weekly lake rotation will be:

Friday, August 4 th till noon, Sunday, Aug 6	Lake Lucern
Friday, August 11 th till noon, Sunday, Aug 13	Lake Wunderfern
Friday, August 18 th till noon, Sunday, Aug 20	Lake Aspen
Friday, August 25 th till noon, Sunday, Aug 27	Lake Innsbrook
Friday, September 1 till noon, Monday, Sept 4 th	Lake Alpine (extra day)

We encourage fishing club members to invite other teams to share boats on lakes during the tournament. Weigh ins will occur each week at a designated location at the lake. If you fish other lakes, you will bring your catch to the weigh in location assigned that week.

(You may keep fish from Friday to noon Sunday, please try to keep those fish alive or on ice to keep down the odors!!! The judges thank you.)

A registration fee of \$25 per team will assist in offsetting the cost of the tournament. You can register multiple teams. Pick your favorite fishing buddies, determine your team name, maybe design a logo and let's get fishing.



To register your team, send an email to: Innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com and put in the Subject Line: **MEANIE GREENIE**. Please include your team's name, primary contact person including name, email and cell phone number. Your registration fees may be paid when you weight in the first time. Or you can send the above information and a check payable to Innsbrook Fishing Club to:

Innsbrook Fishing Club
c/o Chris Chivetta
5 Cricklewood Place
St. Louis, Missouri 63131

This should be a fun event that will span a few weekends so you can participate anytime.

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Catch, Keep, Clean and Cook Tournament

This competitive fishing tournament will occur over the Labor Day weekend. The purpose of the tournament is to reduce the population of small, stunted bass on Innsbrook lakes. Participants will be encouraged to keep all bass, especially those fish less than 12 inches.

To encourage harvest of these fish, a fish cleaning station will be available each day from 11 to 1 pm. Fishing club members will be providing lessons on how to clean your fish. In addition, fresh fish filets will be available for you to take home for lunch or dinner.

Prizes will be awarded to teams who have the highest number of bass caught over the entire weekend. You can check in your catch each day between 11 am and 1 pm. Final check in will be at noon on Monday, September 4 at the Farm House. You do not need to be present to win the tournament.

To register your team, send an email to: Innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com and put in the Subject Line: **Catch, Keep, Clean and Cook**. Please include your team's name, primary contact person including name, email and cell phone number. Or you can send the above information to:

Innsbrook Fishing Club
c/o Chris Chivetta
5 Cricklewood Place
St. Louis, Missouri 63131

If you are looking for a fishing partner or would like to partner up with someone, please send me an email and I will try to connect people.

Volunteers Needed

Looking for volunteers to help with the above activities. Nothing too stressful, maybe taking pictures, help weighting in fish, demonstrating your fish cleaning skills, help with attendance prizes, etc. A wonderful opportunity to meet other fishing club members. If you have some time, please let me know so we can schedule a specific time for you to help. Thanks to everyone who has helped in the past!

Have an idea or activity you would like to promote? Please let me know.

Chris Chivetta
Innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com
314-378-8356 cell