

# Innsbrook Fishing Club Newsletter

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**April 30, 2017**

Dear Fellow Fishing Club Members,

Spring is in the air and fishing has been great at Innsbrook. Almost all the lakes are near perfect temperature, 62 to 70 degrees. I have had numerous reports of several big bass being caught. In addition, several people have reported unbelievable numbers of bass being caught in just a few hours of fishing. The bass are very active as they are beginning to spawn or on their nests. Crappie, bluegill and red ear sunfish are being caught in numerous lakes. Please remember to remove those Green Sunfish!!

## **Fish Habitat Improvement Work Days**

Thank you to everyone who came out, not just once but several times, to help with creating and placing fish habitat improvements. As a first-time initiative at IBK, we had over 50 people volunteer over 5 days which equates to over 400 hours of donated time. Natural and artificial habitats were placed in Lake Alpine, Lake Aspen, Aspenetter and Lake Lucern. We used approximately 200 concrete blocks, cut hundreds of cedar trees, wrapped thousands of feet of wire, poured hundreds of pounds of concrete, used about 300 feet of 4 inch pipe and a few thousand feet of sprinkler pipe. Thank you and congratulations to everyone who volunteered.

I have personally fished the new habitat and it is amazing the number of fish holding in these new structures. Everyone, including the fish, likes new homes!! You should be able to find most of these structures on your fish finder. However, I am working on getting GPS coordinates for most of the structures placed so everyone has access to these new hot spots. Please be patient, information is coming soon.

## **Paddlefish Harvest**

In late January, Osage Catfisheries were on Lake Alpine and removed 58 paddlefish. It was an interesting couple of days watching how they netted, determined if a fish was male or female (for the roe), and then sorted for processing. These fish averaged 35 pounds for males and 51 pounds for females. While they hoped for more fish to be caught, it is a start to reducing this biomass source in the lake. It will be interesting to see what, if any, effect this removal will have on the overall fish population.

## **Missouri Department of Conservation – Electroshock Fish Survey**

Mark your calendars, call in sick to work and come watch the electroshock survey on Lakes Lucern and Alpine. These are scheduled for Friday, May 12, during the day on Lake Lucern and on Monday, May 15, at night on Lake Alpine. Due to the clarity of the water on Alpine, the MDC has recommended a night survey to have better survey results. Unfortunately, the MDC will not allow us in the boat due to liability issues. However, they will allow spectators!!

Lake Lucern was chosen since the MDC said it is easier to make changes quicker on a smaller lake (30 acres) than a large lake (236 acres in Alpine). Please remember “quicker” in the fisheries management arena means 2 to 3 years. I believe if we actively manage Lucern based upon the data from the survey, we can demonstrate how to improve fishing quality. It is our test case of a reasonably sized lake.

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## **Memorial Day Weekend**

### Property Owner Party

Last year, I had a booth to judge interest in starting the Fishing Club at IBK. We now have over 120 members and the list keeps growing. It would be great if a few people could volunteer some time to sit and talk about fishing to other property owners and guests. It has been discussed having a fishing reel tune up station to replace line, oil gears, etc. for the casual fishing enthusiast. I am looking for a few volunteers. Let me know if you are interested.

Fish identification is always an interest to people. How about we show off a few of the fine fish species to our non-fishing friends. This reminds me of the sports shows with coolers of ice and big fish on display. Anyone want to volunteer to catch fish the morning of the party?

### Saturday Morning Fishing Tournament, May 27, 6 am to 11 am

We are planning on hosting a fishing tournament on Saturday morning from 6 am to 11 am on Memorial Day Weekend. It will be a fun tournament with three age categories:

- Age 10 and Under
- Age 11 to 15
- Adult (16+)

The Adult category will be set up on two person teams. Each team can catch 10 bass total. No length limits as we want to keep small bass.

Sign up (if you are an early bird) starts at 6 AM at the Library and weigh in is at 11 AM. We will recognize winners in each category and have a few raffle prizes as well. This is a fun tournament and a way to get more people active in Fishing Club events. Hope you will join us. If you would like to volunteer to help with sign up or weighing in fish, it would be great.

## **Fishing Club Membership**

Our membership list keeps growing. Keep up the recommendations and references. Participation has been very active and it is appreciated. A membership meeting will be scheduled soon.

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

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