

Innsbrook Fishing Club

News Letter



INNSBROOK

Winter 2018

The Innsbrook Fishing Club has been established to enhance and promote fishing opportunities for families, friends, guests and visitors to Innsbrook Resort. This club is comprised of individuals who enjoy recreational fishing in the beautiful natural surroundings of Innsbrook. This club was established in 2016 by a core group of dedicated fishermen.

FISH MANAGEMENT 101

The three most important elements to manage a lake successful for fishing are:

1. Habitat – provide areas for small bait fish to seek safety and for larger predatory to ambush prey.
2. Food Chain - a lake needs to support all levels of food sources from phytoplankton to bait fish.
3. Genetics – new genetics need to be introduced every 3 to 5 years to maintain good quality fish.

Membership: Currently we count 160 members following our activities on Facebook and close to 200 who have signed up on our email roster. We guess there's a little bit of interest in fishing at Innsbrook.

A Year in Review 2017 Events and Activities:

January 21 & March 4: Fish Habitat Workshops – *Members worked to establish fish habitat with fresh cut cedar and blocks.*

February 24: Fishing Club Meeting – Initial meeting and review of fish populations within Innsbrook.

May 15 & 14: MDC Electroshocking Lucerne and Alpine Lakes

May 27: Memorial Weekend Fun Fishing Tournament

August 5: Fishing Club Meeting / Fish Cleaning Workshop.

Joe Kinnison shared some fishing tip from his new book. - [The Oh'Fish-Al Innsbrook Fishing Guide](#). This book is for sale at the Innsbrook Conference Center gift shop or directly from Joe.

August 6 & 11: Meanie Greenie Tournament. A tournament to reduce the number of Green Sunfish in various lakes.

September 3: Catch Keep, Clean and Cook Tournament.

A fun tournament to reduce the number of small bass in our lakes and teach cleaning and cooking techniques.

October 10 -12: Jeff Yegge and Chris Chivetta attend the Pond Boss Conference near Houston, Texas to learn more about lake and fisheries management.

December 31: Innsbrook Resort Fish Restoration and Management Plan. Chris Chivetta along with Jeff Yegge and with the support of Innsbrook Management have developed a plan to improve the fishing resources for our community.

Contact Information:

Fishing Club Email

Innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com

Chris Chivetta 314-378-8356

Chris.chivetta@gmail.com

Kurt Kruger 314-366-1440

Krkruger2@gmail.com





*“Do not tell fish stories where the people know you.
Particularly, don’t tell them where they know the fish”*

Mark Twain

CURRENT NEWS AND EVENTS

Fishing Club Meeting

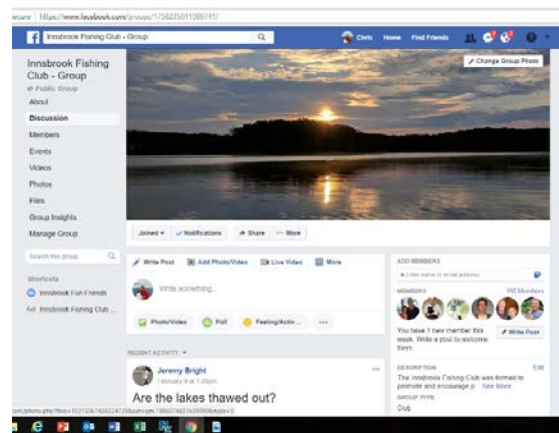
To bring members together, a fishing club meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, March 3rd from 10 AM to 11:30 AM at the Charrette Commons meeting room. We will discuss what activities have occurred over the last year, what new fisheries information we have learned, meet other members, discuss the IBK fish restoration plans, and learn what future events are scheduled for 2018. We hope you will join us and bring a friend! Kids are always welcome.

Stay Connected and Informed

Communication to fishing club members is maintained in several ways: by email, Facebook and the Website. Please send your email or maybe a friend's email who would like to learn more about the club to Innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com. Or sign up on our Facebook page "Innsbrook Fishing Club – Group", at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1758235011089741/>.

You can also stay informed at our website <http://www.innsbrookfishingclub.com/>. This webpage will be updated with events and has a lot of useful information for your reference.



Fish Habitat Improvement

Beginning in 2017, members took an active role in restoring fish habitats in various lakes. We had 5 work days and installed new habitats in Lake Aspen, Alpine, Aspenetter, Lucern and a few smaller private lakes. It is important to provide habitat for small and large fish. IBK has granted us permission to install fish habitats into lakes based upon the following conditions:

- Fish Habitats can use natural materials (cedars, Christmas trees, etc) and artificial habitat structures.
- Habitats should not be located near or in swimming areas. The habitats should be placed in the lakes along property controlled by the HOA or common areas (dams, spillways, etc.).
- Concrete blocks should be used to anchor habitats.
- Property owners can install habitat along their shorelines.

As soon as the weather warms enough to remove ice from the lakes, we will schedule a few habitat days in late February and early March.

If you are interested in artificial habitats for your lake front property, Mossback Fish Habitats, <https://www.mossbackfishhabitat.com/>, **is offering a discount to club members of one-third (1/3) off all products plus free shipping.** I have been talking with Andy Benson from Mossback and their company wants to offer suggestions and helpful tips in selecting the correct product type. If you have an interest in purchasing their products, please let Chris Chivetta know.



Winter Fish Kills

Please be on the lookout for winter fish kills due to the length of time that ice has been on most lakes at IBK. Fish kills occur in winter due to a lack of oxygen in the water. Oxygen is depleted in the water as fish and plants still use the available dissolved oxygen in the water. However, ice and snow cover restrict sunlight from penetrating the water to help with the photosynthesis process which replenishes oxygen levels. If you notice fish floating in a lake, please contact Jeff Yegge at IBK.

Bluegill Hatchery Ponds

Bluegill sunfish are the back bone to any successful fishery since they are the primary food source for predatory game fish like largemouth bass and catfish. The optimal size for bluegill to help substance a quality fishery is between 2 and 4 inches. However, electroshock surveys of IBK lakes from the last two years and even further back, indicate this size of bluegill are missing. To help restore this size class, it will be necessary to stock fish of this size or better, have a good population of +6 inch fish that will spawn and provide a reoccurring forage base. To help create these size fish for stocking, IBK will allow the fishing club to use two ponds as hatchery ponds this summer to grow out bluegill fingerlings. These ponds are relatively small at one acre and one-half acre. They will require a little work to drain them soon, seine existing fish from the lake, and then stock in April or May. The fingerlings will be feed all summer and will be harvested in October for stocking. If you are interested in participating with the hatchery ponds and raising these bluegill, please contact let us know.

Electroshock Surveying and Harvesting

In Mid-May, The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will be returning to Innsbrook to electroshock survey Lakes Wanderfern and Innsbrook. The MDC provides this service free of charge to the IBK community. It is fun to watch and learn about the size and species in each of these lakes. If you have a chance to come out and watch it is a fun day.

Previous electroshock surveys indicated our lakes have an overabundance of green sunfish and a stunted population of largemouth bass. To properly balance the size and number of fish in a lake, it has been recommended a significant quantity of bass (30 to 50 per acre less than 12 inches) and green sunfish be removed. This would be a major challenge for any angler!!



To help accomplish this goal, Herman Brothers Lake Management Company will be at IBK on May 15 and 16. They will electroshock several lakes to confirm fish densities and if necessary remove smaller bass and green sunfish. Want to participate by netting fish? Have a lake you would like to survey? Now is the time to sign up and get involved! To help offset the costs of their services, we are offering the following: a) Ride in the boat and net fish, \$100 per person or b) electroshock your favorite small lake (less than 10 acres) and ride along for \$500 per lake. This is a fun time and it will show you where the fish live!!! Organize your neighbors to electroshock your private pond. NOTE: boat trailer access is necessary! If you have an interest in participating, please send us a note.

Volunteers Needed

Looking for volunteers to help with Fishing Club activities and events. Members and their participation help make our club great. It is also a wonderful opportunity to meet other fishing club members. If you have a topic or event you would like to arrange or promote, please let us know so we can schedule it! Thanks to everyone who has helped in the past!

Areas where assistance is needed:

- News Letter Development
- Activity volunteers
- Communication and coordination with IBK Activities team
- Treasurer – Dues management

Club Dues

Due to the growing interest in the club activities and restoration efforts, we would like to propose membership dues at various levels to help support activities like tournaments, habitat structures, meetings, restoration and restocking efforts on specific lakes, and website management. We have modeled our dues structure off the Historic Society at Innsbrook. Please consider joining at one of the following levels:

Children under 16 years of age	Free
Individual or Family Membership	\$25 per year
Sportfish Level	\$50 per year
Lunker Level	\$100 per year

2018 Scheduled Activities

The following is the list of tentative activities and events scheduled for 2018:

March 3	Fishing Club meeting in Charrette Commons meeting room, 10 to 11:30 AM.
March	Fish Habitat Restoration Work Days, TBD
	Paddlefish Harvest, Alpine & Aspen Lakes, TBD
April 7	IBK Spring Property Owners Fishing Tournament, 6:30 to Noon
April	Fish Stocking in Bluegill Hatchery Ponds
April/May TBD	MDC Electroshock Surveying of Lake Wanderfern & Lake Innsbrook
May 15 & 16	Herman Brothers Electroshock Survey/Harvest of various lakes
May 26	Fishing Club Memorial Day Tournament, 6:30 to Noon
October 6,	IBK Fall Property Owners Fishing Tournament, 6:30 to Noon
October	Bluegill Hatchery Pond Harvest and Restocking

Looking for volunteers to run other activities and events throughout the summer months.