

# Innsbrook Fishing Club

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September 8, 2016

To: Innsbrook Fishermen

From Kurt Kruger

Chris Chivetta

Re: Inaugural Fishing Club Meeting on September 4, 2016

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the idea of starting a fishing club at Innsbrook. There were approximately 50 people in attendance who expressed an interest in starting a club to help improve the fishing and organizing events around fishing interest. Attendees ranged in age from young children to senior adults. The turnout was more than expected. Each attendee was asked to sign up for the email list and/or confirm their contact information so information can be shared in the future.

Chris and Kurt had prepared a presentation outlining what has been completed to date to help organize the fishing club. Unfortunately, the monitors could not be accessed to present the information. A copy of that presentation is attached and is available on the Innsbrook Fishing Club – Group page.

Key topics covered were:

- Approximately, 75 people have signed up regarding the fishing club either through the Memorial Day Party, Facebook or by email [Innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com](mailto:Innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com). It should be noted that after the meeting, we know have approximately 100 people on our distribution list.
- Chris gave a timeline account of how the fishing club was started. IBK representatives have been very supportive and interested in starting this club. IBK encourages clubs that bring property owners, families, and guests together. The majority of the attendees thought the club should focus on:
  - Organizing events to bring the fishermen together
  - Assist with implementing improvement plans
- To help improve fishing quality and success, a summary of the electroshock fish survey results completed in May 2016 were outlined. Attendees commented that it is the first time they had seen such data on IBK lakes, fishing quality seems to have decreased in recent years, and fishing quality needs to improve with more large fish. Chris

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commented that this will not be a quick fix but will require several years to see the results improve.

- A summary was presented of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) fishery biologist site inspection and visit in August. The MDC will be providing information and suggestions on what improves to consider for each lake. MDC will electroshock two lakes in the spring of 2017. MDC suggested the following improvement measures:
  - Self Report Fishing Survey's To Gather Data on each lake
  - Install Fish Habitat
  - Harvest Paddlefish
  - Remove/Harvest All Green Sunfish
  - Determine Specific Objectives for Each Lake
- Summary information on stocking of Paddlefish in IBK lakes was presented. Chris stressed these fish belong to the fish hatchery, Osage Catfisheries; are a federally protected species; can only be removed by the Osage and could potentially be a revenue source for fish and lake management projects. A significant number of attendees expressed concern that the Paddlefish were having a major effect on the overall fishing quality. It was explained that Osage has committed to continue the removal of the Paddlefish this winter in a number of the lakes. Paddlefish have been removed in Jan 2015 and 2016. The harvesting of the Paddlefish will occur between October and March 2017 when water temperatures reach a specific range.
- The importance of fish habitat was then discussed. Habitat will have the most significant impact on the fish populations according to the MDC. This structure is critical to provide nesting areas, protection for young fish, create plankton, and to concentrate fish densities. Attendees expressed an interest in participating in the creation of these structures in various lakes.
- It was discussed that the removal of Green Sunfish should be encouraged. The MDC made this recommendation since Green Sunfish compete with bass and other fish species due to their large mouths and aggressive behavior.
- Recommendations for a lake should be developed based upon specific objectives for that lake. The Club may help establish these objectives such as trophy bass, large bluegill, significant numbers of catfish, etc. The MDC will be providing some suggestions to consider regarding lake objectives.

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- Potential club activities were discussed. Each attendee was given six colored dots to rank their interest in specific activities. The results of those rankings are:

<b>Suggested Activities</b>	<b>Number of Votes</b>	<b>Percentage of Total</b>
Construct Fish Habitats	55	22.3%
Participate in Paddlefish Harvesting	42	17.0%
Fishing Tournaments / Derbies	36	14.6%
Electroshock Fish Surveying	27	10.9%
Create Specialty Lakes	26	10.6%
Fish Cleaning Services	16	6.5%
Fishing Clinics / Learn to Fish Events	16	6.5%
Stock New Fish Species	14	5.7%
Self-Reported Fish Surveys	10	4.1%
Fish Identification Clinics	4	1.6%

- Chris asked for volunteer Lake Champions to assist with organizing events and activities at a particular lake.
- The fall IBK fishing tournament is Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016. A potential recommendation would be for all fishermen to keep their catch or record catches on the self-reporting forms. If anglers would keep their catch then fishing club volunteers could be available at weight in and record size of fish per lake. This will be discussed with Jeff Yegge who runs the fishing tournament.
- Due to time, the purpose of the club was not discussed. This was a first meeting to get everyone together. Additional meetings to be arranged.
- Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.