

Innsbrook Fishing Club

News Letter



Summer 2018

Our Mission

"Education, Conservation, Friendship"

The membership of the Innsbrook Fishing Club is committed to enhance the aquatic environment of Innsbrook lakes, provide educational opportunities for our community and promote fishing as a community activity to be enjoyed by all.

- *To protect, restore and manage Innsbrook lakes to support an environment for aquatic life, especially fisheries.*
- *To work as one with community leadership to develop and proactively manage an effective fish stocking program to create a sustainable fishery capable of producing record setting fish.*
- *To provide advice and resources that build skills and knowledge for maintaining a healthy aquatic environment across Innsbrook.*
- *To provide educational opportunities for our members and the community.*
- *To schedule and manage community activities for fun and recreation of all ages.*

FISH MANAGEMENT 101

It requires ten (10) pounds of forage fish (bluegill) to put one (1) pound on a largemouth bass.

Redear sunfish primarily feed on the bottom and seldom feed on surface insects. They have “molariform pharyngeal teeth”, which are grinding surfaces in the throat (like molars in your mouth) which allow them to grind snails and small clams. Redears ability to eat snails helps disrupt fish parasites such as yellow grubs and black-spot disease.

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With the end of summer, we can look back on our successes so far for this year and plan for fall and winter. Our spring fishing season seemed to short with temperatures climbing quickly in late April and early May.

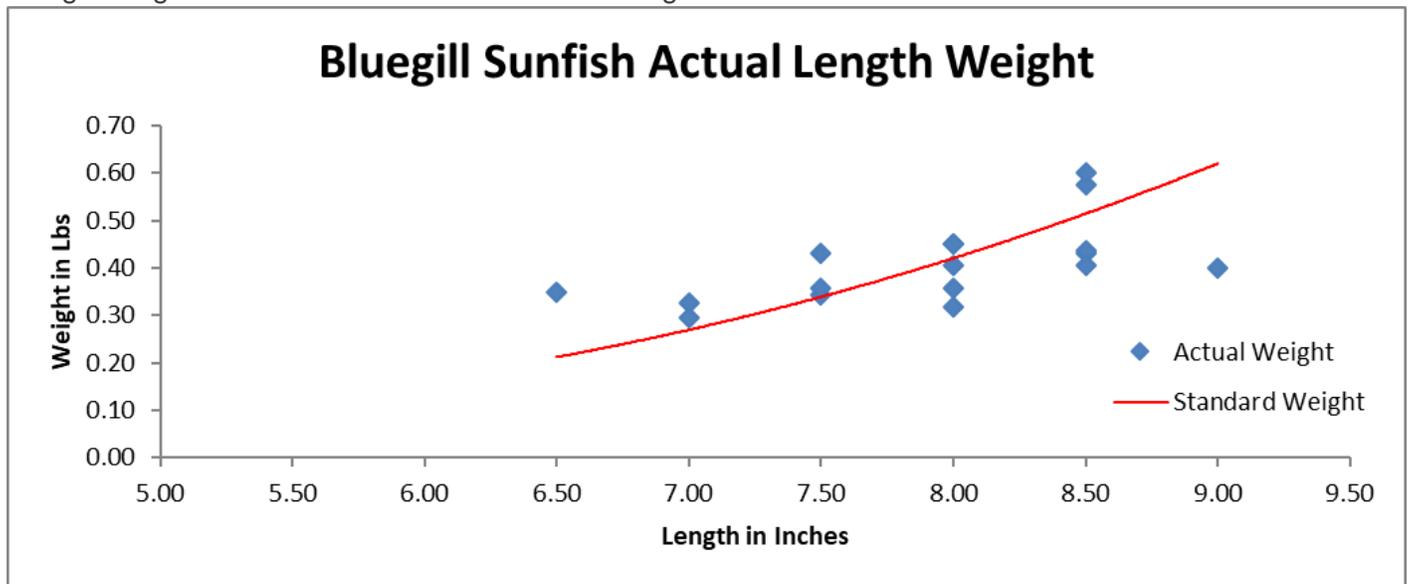
Fishing seemed to slow by several accounts by early June. It has been a summer time fishing pattern for months. The lack of rain has kept lakes at lower than normal levels and very clear. Fitness fishing with drop shot rigs, light lines and small lures has had some good success.



Anglers are reporting good success on the fish habitat and structures installed during the last two winters. These structures are key to holding small and large fish. It is always fun to catch fish on new habitats knowing we helped create these environments. We hope many fishing club members get active this fall and winter in other habitat improvement projects. Or maybe you want to work on a project in your lake! The fishing club has information to help you create the perfect habitat.



We would like to thank the property owners who committed this summer to installing fish feeders on several different lakes this spring. Feeders were placed on Alpine, Seebrook and a small private lake. The feeders have helped to enhance the nutritional base for bluegill and small forage fish. Catfish have enjoyed the feeders and we encourage everyone to harvest these fish. It has been amazing to see the size increase of bluegill in one summer from these feeders. Also, please return all bluegill caught so we can continue to build our forage base.



Small Sample Size of Bluegill Caught, Weighed and Released Near Feeder

Higher Than Normal Standard Weights, Feeding is Working



Note Plumpness of Fish

Previous Events and Activities:

Club Meeting – March 3, 2018

A Club meeting was held in early March to discuss activities for the coming year and special presentation from Dr. Brian Graeb from South Dakota State University. Dr. Graeb toured Innsbrook before the meeting to get an understanding of our lakes. He talked about his research regarding habitat deterioration. His research has determined that adding new structures to existing lakes have a positive impact on water quality, the density of phytoplankton and zooplankton, and fish populations.



Electroshock Surveying and Harvesting

Herman Brothers Lake Management Company was at IBK on May 15 and 16. They surveyed several lakes to confirm fish densities, health of the lake and provide recommendations for improvements. We had many Fishing Club members participate in helping to net fish, take measurements and weights, and relocate fish when appropriate to other lakes. When lakes with an extensive number on stunted or crowded bass were encountered, we had members available to harvest these fish. It should be noted that the survey equipment does not harm fish, just temporary stuns them so they can be netted for analysis. A complete survey of results is available on the Website under the “Resources” tab.



Fish Stocking

On May 16th, Harrison Fish Hatchery delivered 7,500 adult bluegills between 4 and 6 inch in size. These bluegills were stocked to help reestablish a forage base in several lakes. These large bluegills are necessary for stocking due to existing fish populations and so they can spawn in the first summer. If we stocked a smaller bluegill, say 3 to 5 inches, these could be consumed by bass as small as 10 inches. Lake Alpine received the largest number of bluegills since feeders were installed on the lake to help supplement their food source. The information gathered so far this summer has indicated these fish had maybe two successful spawns and have now grown to over 8 inches in size. Please limit your harvest of bluegill from Lake Alpine to fish 8” or larger and no more than 4 per person per day. See new Fishing Regulation section below.



Club Tournaments

The Club sponsors a few fun tournaments each year. We are trying to encourage children, youths and adults to participate.

Our Memorial Day weekend tournament drew a large crowd since it was at the start of summer. We had numerous teams in the child, youth and adult brackets. We also held a raffle at weight-in to allow everyone a chance to win a small attendance prize. Trophies were awarded for the winners.

On Labor Day weekend, we hosted our first ever overnight catfishing tournament beginning the evening of August 31 and running overnight till the morning of September 1. Weight-in was on Saturday morning and numerous stringers of fish over 20 pounds and several fish over 9 pounds were caught. Three young anglers won fishing rods and equipment. The modest entry fee of \$10.00 per person was split amongst the adult categories of winners. A catfish cleaning clinic after the tournament allowed everyone to enjoy a fresh fish dinner over the Labor Day holiday. A big thanks to Joe Kinnison for helping organize and manage this tournament.



New Fishing Regulations

You might have noticed the new fishing regulation signs posted on Alpine, Wanderfern, Innsbrook, Lucern and Aspen this summer. These regulations have been based upon electroshock survey data and recommendations from professional lake managers over the last three years. The regulations were changed to allow our forage base fish (bluegill, crappie and redear sunfish) to re-establish their populations to levels that will support an enhanced largemouth bass population. The harvesting of stunted or crowded bass (<12 inches) is encouraged to reduce the biomass of the lake.



Upcoming Events and Activities:

Sunday, September 30, 2018 – 10:30 to Noon

Fishing Club Meeting at Charrette Creek Commons

We will be holding a Fishing Club at the Charrette Creek Commons on Sunday, September 30 from 10:30 to Noon. Come meet your fellow club members and hear about some techniques you might want to use at the fishing tournament the following weekend.

Tuesday, October 2, 2018 – 6:30 to 8:00 PM

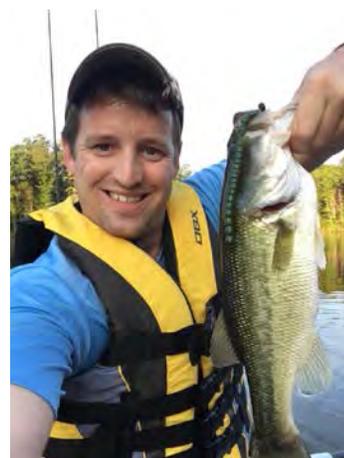
Fishing Club Meeting at Cabela's In Hazelwood

We will be holding a Fishing Club at the Cabela's store in Hazelwood on Tuesday, October 2 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. We are trying this new location to encourage attendance from members who might find it hard to meet on the weekend. Please join us to hear what is happening and meet other members. We are hoping to work out some specials for club members that night!

Saturday, October 6, 2018

IBK Fall Property Owners Fishing Tournament

The annual fall property owners fishing tournament will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2018. Registration will begin at 6:30 AM at the Oh'Fish-AI Scale at the Library near the Stable area. Adult two-person teams will be allowed to keep up to 10 largemouth bass for weigh-in. Bass need to be at least 12 inches in length. Children's division (less than 15 years of age) may weigh in any type and number of fishes caught. Adult and children divisions will be awarded trophies for biggest fish, and first and second place for heaviest stringer. Weight-In will be at Noon at the Oh'Fish-AI Scale.



Stay Connected and Informed

Fishing club members can stay informed several ways. We regularly post information to Facebook, send email communications, newsletters and maintain a website. As a matter of fact, we have a new website to help promote our mission, allow people to sign up and to review information concerning our lakes and ponds.

Our website has a new look and a lot of valuable information and resources for you to review. The website link remains the same so check out the new format!

<http://www.innsbrookfishingclub.com/>

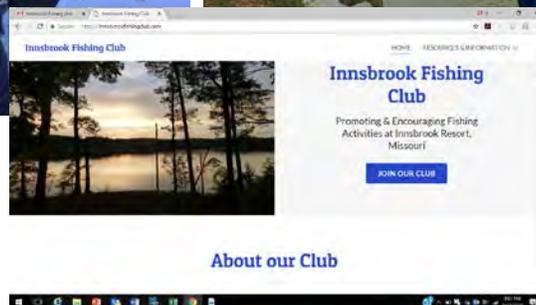
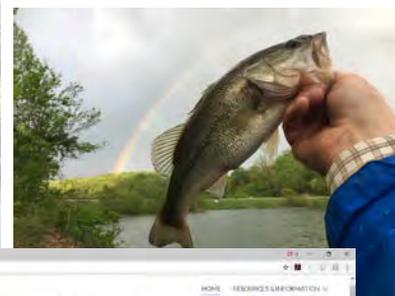
You can also sign up on Facebook at:

“Innsbrook Fishing Club – Group”, at this link:

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

Drop us your email or send this along to another friend or family member that would like to connect with us at:

Innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com



We try to promote all activities and events in several different ways. If your email has changed recently, please update your email with our data base.

Fishing Club Dues

The Fishing Club has been providing activities, resources and fun events for everyone who likes to fish at Innsbrook. We would like to encourage your support for the club. Funding helps pay for our events, activities, tournaments, habitat restoration projects, fish stocking, newsletters and website hosting. We have approximately 225 people following us on Facebook or on our email campaign. We have less than 30 people who have paid dues. If you join and pay your dues before October 15, 2018, it will carry you through December 2019.

Please consider joining at one of the following levels:

Children under 16 years of age	Free	
Friend Level	\$25.00	- Email blasts and Newsletter
Tournament Level	\$50.00	- Friend Level plus - Free Entry into 3 Club tournaments in 2019
Lake Master Level	\$100.00	- Tournament Level plus - One Mossback Root Wad Artificial Fish Structure
Lake Captain Level	\$300.00	- Lake Master Level plus - One Mossback Root Wad Artificial Fish Structures - Free lake design and hosted habitat day on your lake (lakes over 10 acres additional \$25 per acre)



Also, remember a membership could be a birthday, holiday or Christmas present or maybe a thank you for a friend who has taken you fishing at IBK. You can mail a check payable to "Innsbrook Fishing Club" to:

	2018 Costs	Expenses to Date
Mark Birchler, Treasurer	Fish Habitat Materials & Supplies	\$1,500 (partial pay by donor)
Innsbrook Fishing Club	Website Hosting/Domaine Name	\$200
761 Carman Meadows	Tournaments & Events	\$400
Manchester, MO 63021	Electroshock Surveys	\$2,700 (paid by donor)
	Fish Stocking in Three Lakes	\$4,500 (paid by donor and IBK)
	Total	\$9,300

Thank you for your support.

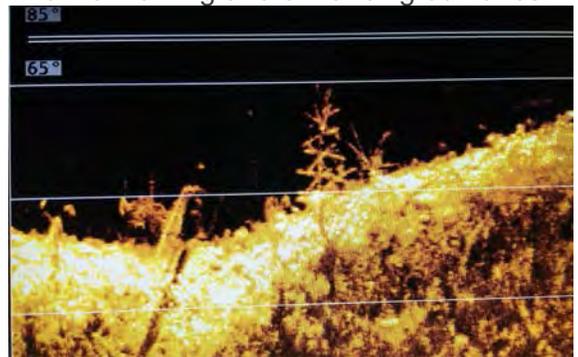


Fish Habitat Improvement Results

Over the last two winters, our members have installed hundreds of fish habitats which include cedar trees and artificial structures. These habitats have been installed in Lake Aspen, Alpine, Aspennetter, Innsbrook, Lucern and a few smaller private lakes. These habitats provide protective cover for young fish. Our lakes and ponds have aged and any structure or cover in an older lake has now deteriorated. The small and young fish do not have a place to seek shelter and safety. By installing new habitat, young of the year (YOY) forage fish have a better chance to survive. This is the forage base that is so important to maintaining and enhancing our lakes.

If you are not seeing a lot of small bluegill or baitfish; catching a lot of big bluegill (+6 inches) but no small ones, and all your bass are less than 12 inches, installing habitat will help to build up your small fish population. We have seen amazing results the last two years from our habitat efforts. These results have been confirmed by angler data and electroshock surveys

I would like to thank Joe Kinnison and other fishing club members who has participated in habitat restoration days the last few years. These events have allowed members to work together to improve specific lakes and to make new friends. I hope you join us for an event this fall or winter. Besides, you learn where the best places to fish!



Screen Shot from fish finder of artificial habitats. Note white dots, those are fish!

Missouri Department of Conservation Angler Certificates and Awards

The Fishing Club is encouraging everyone to consider submitting an application to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for a First Fish Certificate or a Master Angler Award. These awards recognized individuals for their first fish and a memorable fish for Master Angler Awards.

The First Fish Certificate could be fun for children, grandchildren or adults. You can apply at the following link:

<https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/fishing/trophies-certificates/first-fish-certificate>

Master Angler Awards recognize individuals who catch a fish that is consider a memorable due to its size. It should be noted that a lot of fish are caught each year at IBK that would qualify. This award is based upon either the length or weight of a specific fish species. Several of the more common fish species and the requirements for this award include:

Largemouth Bass	22 inches	or	6-0 pounds
Channel Catfish	27 inches	or	10-0 pounds
Crappie, Black or White	15 inches	or	2-0 pounds

Bluegill 10 inches or 1-0 pounds

Redear Sunfish 10 inches or 1-0 pounds

You can download the MDC form for Master Angler Awards at:

<https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/fishing/trophies-certificates/master-angler-award>

It would be great if IBK was known for our recognition by the MDC for our outstanding fishing.

Frieden Lake Fish Stocking

You might have heard about the most recent lake to be added at IBK, Frieden Lake. This will be a beautiful 6.5 acre lake with chalet homesites. The dam on the lake is almost completed and everyone is hoping our drought will end soon so this lake can start to fill. The fishing club has consulted with several lake and fishery managers on ideas of how to stock this new lake. We approached IBK and they are allowing the Fishing Club to provide guidance on a stocking strategy.

Our strategy is to establish the forage base of fish (fathead minnows, bluegills and redear sunfish) first and then stock predatory fish. The initial stocking could occur this fall or early spring in 2019 when the lake fills. We would feed the small bluegill and forage fish during the first year. We would allow this initial forage stocking to establish and grow until Spring 2020. We plan to electroshock survey the lake in the Spring of 2020 to confirm success of an adequate forage base. We would then stock a predatory fish like largemouth bass. Fishery managers have documented that by creating a well-established forage base of fish first this will help eliminate a stunted or crowded bass population in the future. This will be an exciting opportunity to follow a new strategy that may be used on other future IBK lakes.

PLEASE NOTE: **DO NOT BUCKET STOCK** THIS LAKE WITH OTHER FISH DURING THIS CRITICAL TIME FRAME. If largemouth bass were bucket stocked, they are the apex predator and could significantly hamper the new management strategy.



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:

- Organizing Tournaments
- Leader of Habitat Restoration Events
- Activity volunteers
- Communication and coordination with IBK Activities team

