

# Innsbrook Fishing Club

## Newsletter



**SPRING 2019**

May 7, 2019

The weather is warming and so are our lakes!! Over the last several weeks the lakes have been warming nicely due to spring rains. Lake Alpine is above 60 degrees and Aspen has been in the mid 60's degree. This time of year the crappie are spawning, bass are getting ready to spawn, and the lakes are coming alive. Time to get those rods out and get a few casts in for big pre-spawn fish! Check out our Facebook page for photos of some great fish.

Our Club has been active the last several months. We have our survey results tallied, paddlefish have been harvested, fish habitats installed, new fish stocked in numerous lakes and fish feeders installed to grow bigger fish.

### Member Survey

We had 72 responses to our Member Survey or about a quarter of the people on our email and Facebook lists. We encouraged participation by offering a drawing for a \$25 Bass Pro gift cards. I am happy to report our lucky winners are:

Harmon Wasserman

Ed Macias

Tom Duchild

Chris Jentlic

Mark Graham

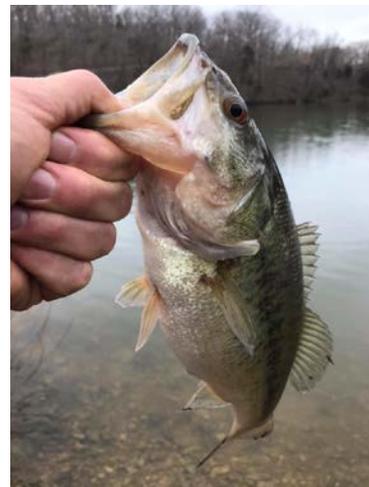
Diane Schwarz.

Based upon the survey, we have drawn the following conclusions: fishing influenced many property purchases; we do like to fish often for largemouth bass; fishing has created new friendships; we want to learn more about our lakes; a weekly fishing report would be great; let's keep having fun competitive events; and we need to support the Club activities. Some of the key data from the survey follows:

- *+90% are property owners.*
- *37% have been property owners for over 16 years.*
- *Over 60% have owned property for longer than 5 years.*
- *About 1/3 of the members are not on a lake.*
- *Around 80% said fishing was a reason to purchase at or visit IBK.*
- *Most families have 3 to 5 anglers.*
- *We fish a lot, over 60% fish at least 6 times per year.*



- *Lakes most frequently fished by rank order are: Alpine, Aspen, Lucern and Innsbrook. Other lakes included Tyrol and Innisfree.*
- *Most targeted species by rank order are: Largemouth Bass, Crappie and Bluegill Sunfish.*
- *What other species of fish should we consider by rank order: Smallmouth Bass, Walleye and Lake Trout.*
- *Boats with motors are the most used platforms for fishing, but shoreline is a close favorite.*
- *Club activities and events you would like include: expert speakers, Club meetings and demonstrations.*
- *Comments about fishing tournaments included: hold tournaments on a specific lake; some night time tournaments, and activities should be held on Sundays.*
- *Other activities members would like include: weekly online fishing reports, inspirational pond, and lake assessments.*
- *Habitat days have been well received and they are the right amount of time and effort.*
- *Majority of members ranked tournaments just right and would like to have them on a quarterly basis.*
- *Members would like to receive the monthly newsletter, have quarterly meetings and education events.*
- ***Over 76% said we need to charge mandatory dues between \$25 and \$50 per member.***
- *Approximately 50% said it was not necessary to become a 501c(3) non-profit corporation to support the Club.*
- *Our membership age is approximately 30% from 51-60 years old and 39% over the age of 61.*
- *Closing comments provided by members included:*
  - *One of the best clubs at Innsbrook.*
  - *Members appreciate the efforts to start and maintain the Fishing Club (thank you to all who help).*
  - *It has allowed people to connect with other IBK owners.*
  - *People have seen improvements in the fishing quality on the lakes we have worked on.*
  - *Keep up the efforts, we have work to do on other lakes, key selling point for properties.*



So what are our next steps? Let's get a few more individuals to participate in helping the Club implement some of these suggestions: an online weekly Fishing Report; help organize and run a small tournament; and plan an inspirational pond for all IBK property owners and their guests. Imagine introducing a child to the fun world of fishing at a special tournament or lake! Please volunteer to help implement these new ideas.

## Paddelfish Harvest



This winter Osage Cattfisheries returned to Lake Aspen and Alpine to harvest a few of the Paddlefish stocked in 2002. Lake Aspen had approximately 470 Paddlefish stocked in November 2002. In January, forty (40) fish were harvested. Alpine Lake was harvested in late March which resulted in sixty (60) Paddlefish being removed. These harvests allow Osage to process the fish for meat and to make domestic cavier. Alpine had

approximately 1,350 Paddlefish stocked between 2002 and 2009. Paddlefish can live to be over 50 years old. These fish weighted between 50 and 70 pounds when they are harvested from Innsbrook lakes. They feed on plankton levels that support the entire lake ecosystem. Fishery biologists have encouraged us to remove Paddlefish to help restore a more balanced food chain in our lakes. Proceeds from these harvests help offset the costs of fish stocking throughout Innsbrook.



## Habitat Day

Habitat Day was rescheduled twice due to Mother Nature, but the third time was the charm. We had over 22 people show up to help with installing fish structures and habitats. Joe Kinnison had everything well planned and organized for maximum efficiency. Everyone helped with lifting blocks, attaching trees, loading the barges, and placing the habitats. We have improved dramatically from our first year working from the bank. A big thanks to Innsbrook POA for letting us use the barges; to all our volunteers; and Midwest Block and Brick in Wentzville for donating the light-weight blocks. The north end of Alpine had almost 200 trees installed. Wanderfern had about 80 trees installed along the dam. A lot of fish have been seen in these new homes.



## Fish Stocking

For the last two years, we have stocked fish to help rebuild our forage base in key lakes and introduce new species of fish. In the spring of 2018, we focused on removing small bass and introducing additional forage base Bluegills. This year our stocking plan has included additional Bluegill, introduction of new genetics into existing Crappie lakes and creating speciality lakes with new species. The following fish types and quantities were stocked on April 8, 2019:

Lake Aspen	1,000	3 to 5 inch Black Crappie
Lake Innsbrook	500	3 to 5 inch Black Crappie
Schefbock	500	3 to 5 inch Bluegill
Seebrook	250	3 to 5 inch Bluegill
	100	2 to 4 inch Redear Sunfish
Lake Alpine	6,000	3 to 5 inch Bluegill
	1,000	3 to 5 inch Black Crappie
Commons Area Lake	3,000	2 to 3 inch Bluegill
Frieden Lake	5,000	2 to 3 inch Redear
	250	3 to 4 inch Smallmouth Bass



In addition, two small protected ponds were stocked for property owners as part of our fish order. The costs of stocking fish is offset by revenue from the paddlefish harvest, Club dues and donations from members and property owners. Furthermore, this year Optimal Fish Food has become a strategic partner in covering the costs to stock the Commons Area and Frieden Lakes. They will be doing research on these lakes over the next several months and years to see how Optimal Fish Food enhances growth of various species. **Please do not remove fish from these lakes or relocate other fish to these two lakes.** The Commons Area lake will help us create a sustainable source of bluegill each fall to relocate to other IBK lakes.

## Innsbrook Property Owners Tournament

April 6<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful morning for the Innsbrook Property Owners Fishing Tournament. There were numerous teams who competed in the Children and Adult Divisions. The cooler than normal water temperatures did not produce any large fish (over four pounds), but there were many ten-fish limits checked in at noon.



## Fishing Club Tournaments

We have scheduled the following Fishing Club tournaments in 2019:

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Memorial Day Weekend</b>           | <b>Saturday, May 25 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</b> |
| <b>July 4<sup>th</sup> Tournament</b> | All day   |
| <b>Labor Day Tournament</b>           | 7:00 a.m. to noon                               |

In addition, IBK Property Owners Association will be hosting tournaments in October. Check out the IBK calendar for all these events. Trophies and attendance prizes given away at weigh-in. Come by to meet other club members and see all the fish.





## Fishing Club Dues

The Fishing Club depends on everyone's support to provide activities, resources, and fun events. The last several years we have had several key people donate to support the Club. We would like to encourage your personal support for the Club. Dues help pay for our events, activities, tournaments, attendance prizes, habitat restoration projects, fish stocking, newsletters and website hosting. Thank you to the members who have renewed their membership for 2019. If you have not, please consider joining.



**Membership Pin 2019**

### Membership Levels:

<b>Children under 16 years of age</b>	Free	Membership Pin, Email Blasts and Newsletter
<b>Friend Level</b>	\$25	Membership Pin, Email Blasts and Newsletter
<b>Tournament Level</b>	\$50	Friend Level plus: - Free entry into 3 Club tournaments in 2019
<b>Lake Master Level</b>	\$100	Tournament Level plus: - One Mossback Root Wad Artificial Fish Structure
<b>Lake Captain Level</b>	\$300	Lake Master Level plus: - One Mossback Root Wad Artificial Fish Structure - Free lake analysis - Habitat Day on your lake



Also, remember a membership could be a birthday present, special gift 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:

Mark Birchler, Treasurer  
Innsbrook Fishing Club  
761 Carman Meadows  
Manchester, MO 63021

## Stay Connected and Informed

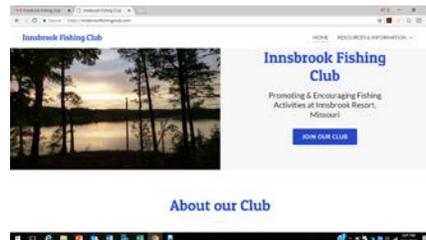
Fishing Club members can stay informed several ways. We regularly post information to Facebook, send email communications, newsletters and maintain a website. The website link is:

<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](mailto: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 database.

## 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
- Leading Club Events
- Volunteering to Help
- Reporting Weekly on Fishing Activities

## Contact Information:

### Fishing Club Email

[Innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com](mailto:Innsbrookfishingclub@gmail.com)

**Chris Chivetta, President** 314-378-8356

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**Mark Birchler – Treasurer**

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**Joe Kinnison – News/Events**

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