

2022

# YEAR END REPORT

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



IOWA YOUTH FISHING LEAGUE



## OUR MISSION

To support youth fishing among Iowans through educational programs, mentoring and competition, so that Iowa youth develop leadership skills and become stewards of our natural resources.

## BUILDING PROGRAMMING

## ACHIEVING GOALS

## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

2022 was a record-breaking year on and off the water for the Iowa Youth Fishing League. With the help of local and national sponsors, as well as our participants and Board of Directors, we were able to create amazing opportunities for the youth of Iowa through our nonprofit organization.

In 2022, we watched our programming grow to impact over 105 Iowa youth anglers pursuing their passion for fishing and the outdoors. This year our anglers participated in 12 educational events, several community events and 12 local tournaments. Anglers also took on the experience of fishing in Bassmaster and Major League Fishing National Opens. These anglers found many successes and the value of overcoming challenges.

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## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

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### **2022 WAS OUR BEST YEAR YET!**

Let us simply begin with a heartfelt thank you! This organization would not be possible without the people in our organization, our participants and our many supporters and sponsors. Thank you for helping to make our mission a reality.

The 2022 season gave us an opportunity to serve more youth anglers, communities and community members than ever before. We also welcomed new sponsors and partners who believe in the mission as strongly as we do. We have truly loved watching our fishing community grow into a family.

This year will be hard to beat. We watched our anglers pursue their dreams of fishing national opens and finding success all year through a multitude of opportunities. We also felt great pride when they overcame a variety of adversities that comes from competing at such a high level. We watched our records for season big bag and season big bass get broken several times. With each new moment, we could not have been prouder at how the IYFL was represented.

With gratitude overflowing, we want to take a moment to thank our families. You are equally as dedicated as your anglers. You get them to the boat ramp before the crack of dawn and are cheering them on each and every tournament. This sport is not a cheap one by any means and it is incredibly time consuming. We are so grateful to have you has part of our programming. Thank you for sharing your anglers with us.

We are humbled by the support, we are humbled by the camaraderie and we are humbled by the dedication to the mission. Now, we are ready to make 2023 even better!

With gratitude-

*Justin & Emily Lewis*



*Class of 2023 angler, Henry at Okoboji in 2022.*

# 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

## January 2022

The Board of Directors welcomes Steve Nore to the board.

## March 2022

We held our first in-person education event!



## February 2022

High school anglers Kolby and Tyler were named to the Bassmaster High School's All-State Fishing Team for Iowa.

## April 2022

2022 Tournament Trail begins!



## June 2022

Junior anglers, Grant and Lane placed 3rd at Stop #4 of the Bassmaster Junior National Opens in Saginaw Bay, Michigan. They also brought home tournament Big Bass.

## August 2022

High school anglers Kolby and Keethan brought the biggest bag in IYFL history to the scales! 16.93 pounds at Twelve Mile

## September 2022

IYFL anglers traveled Iowa B.A.S.S. Nation Junior and High School State Championship with some amazing state championship partners. HS Team Kaden and Brady placed 5th. JR Team Lane and Auggie also placed 5th.

Matthew Melvin traveled to the Bassmaster High School Combine presented by Abu Garcia.



## October 2022

High School Anglers Grant and Evan punched their ticket to the Major League Fishing National Championship!

## December 2022

Junior Angler Lane L. - 2022 Angler of the Year





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# 2022 ANGLER OF THE YEAR

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## LANE L.

### JUNIOR DIVISION ANGLER

*The Board of Directors is proud to present Lane as the 2022 Angler of the Year!*

In our third season, we are proud to award the Angler of the Year trophy as a top honor for our competitors. This award is not only honored by tournament wins, but for participation in our monthly educational events, community events and volunteer opportunities.

Our 2022 Angler of the Year had an outstanding season on and off the water. On the water, Lane had an impressive five first place finishes and four other tournaments placing in the top five. Lane and Auggie placed fifth at the Iowa B.A.S.S. Nation Junior State Championship. He also found success on the national stage with partner Grant. The duo traveled to the Harris Chain of Lakes in Leesburg, Florida to bring home a 12th place finish. At Norfolk Lake, they placed 15th. In their final appearance on the Bassmaster stage, Lane and Grant placed third at Saginaw Bay and brought home tournament big bass. Lane also won our Season Big Bass award with a 5.80 pound bass in the final 20 minutes at the John B. Schoondyke Memorial Tournament at Rathbun. In his second season, he made memories that will last a lifetime.

What is equally as impressive is Lane's dedication to fishing, community and conservation off the water. Lane completed all 12 education events, as well as, completing the maximum number of volunteer hours. Lane served as a representative of the Iowa Youth Fishing League at several community events. His dedication to maintaining a positive mental attitude were evident to all.

***Congratulations!***

**We are proud to have you representing the Iowa Youth Fishing League!**





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# BUILDING PROGRAMMING

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2022 allowed the Iowa Youth Fishing League to continue our goal of building high-quality sustainable programming opportunities to the youth of Iowa.

Due to the generosity of our sponsors we were able to continue to provide our virtual education pathway at no cost to participants. Anglers registered and received an event directly to their email. Our education pathway also partnered with The Ike Foundation to distribute over 100 tackle boxes to local youth.

In our tournament pathways, we were fortunate to offer an even larger tournament schedule feature new formats, bodies of water, and tournament duration. Our continued success in offering multiple pathways allowed our program to grow to over 100 angling families. Our tournaments saw larger turn-outs and family engagement. Offering multiple two-day tournaments was a huge hit, as well as, ending our season with a multi-species tournament at Clear Lake.

## ACHIEVING GOALS

**In 2022, the Iowa Youth Fishing League was able to:**

- continue to foster an environment to create learning opportunities for our anglers to become stewards of our natural resources.
- grow to the largest youth tournament fishing organization in the state.
- create new sponsorships, State Championship Partners, and relationships with community organizations.

## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES:

The IYFL worked to ensure that we were maximizing opportunities for the youth anglers in our programming. This included providing more options for educational, conservation, and tournament access again this season. This included seeking out new partnerships with companies to provide the most authentic angling experiences.

For the second year, our anglers were nominated for the Bassmaster High School All-American. Kolby and Tyler were named to the Bassmaster All-State Fishing Team and advanced to the process for being name one of 12 All-Americans. Several teams traveled across the country to the compete in Bassmaster and Major League Fishing Opens. High School Angler, Matthew attended the WileyX Fishing Camp, as well as, the Bassmaster High School Combine.

We continued our partnership with our Title Sponsor for our tournament trail Barracuda Fish Cleaning Stations. We worked to secure new partnerships and sponsorships. This year we saw continued growth and support for our State Championship Partners to support our 20 anglers that competed. We want to thank Ark Fishing Rods, X-Zone Lures, and Rod Gloves, as well as, Scheels and Bass Pro Shops for providing some amazing prizes at our end-of-season banquet.



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# SPONSORS

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thank  
you



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# FRIENDS OF THE IYFL

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*thank you*

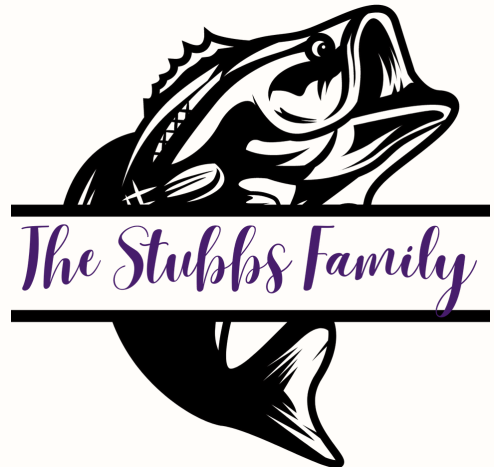


# SCHEELS®

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# VOLUNTEERS

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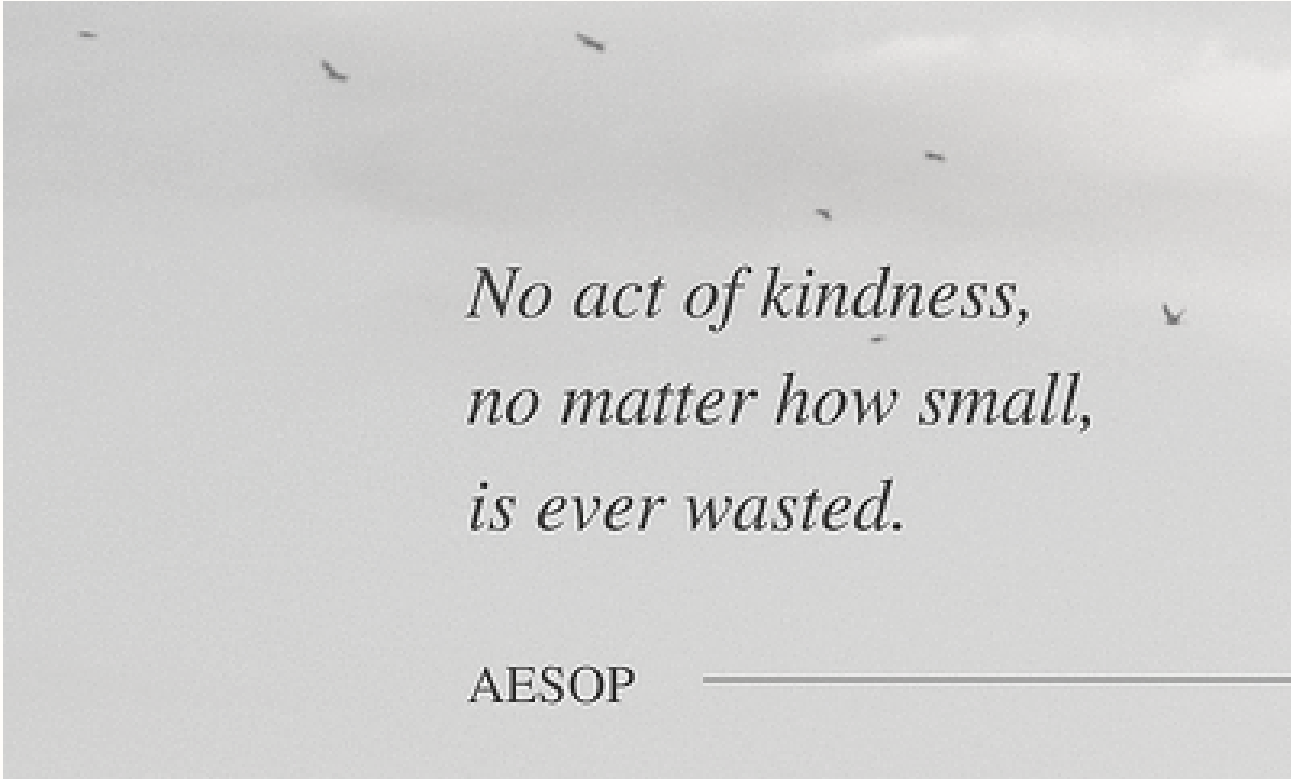
## THANK YOU!

*We are beyond grateful for your support of the Iowa Youth Fishing League.*

Our mission of providing opportunities for youth anglers in Iowa would not be possible without our amazing group of volunteers. Our organization runs largely on volunteer support.

To our boaters, thank you for taking time out of your weekends, offering up your time and coaching abilities, and your boats for our youth anglers. Your dedication to our program has increased participant's ability to pursue their passion to tournament fish.

To our Board of Directors, thank you for keeping the mission in the forefront and paving the way for youth anglers in Iowa to pursue their passions beyond our programs. Your vision keeps the ideas fresh and the opportunities limitless. Your time is greatly appreciated.



*No act of kindness,  
no matter how small,  
is ever wasted.*

AESOP

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2023

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# GOALS



**BUILDING PROGRAMMING**

**ACHIEVING GOALS**

**CREATING OPPORTUNITIES**

- Continue to foster and support an environment to create in-person learning opportunities for our anglers to increase their skill sets
- Provide opportunities for our anglers to give back to their fishing communities to become stewards of our natural resources
- Create a kayak series statewide
- Seek out additional companies to provide scholarships for anglers
- Continue to build partnerships with collegiate fishing programs and community organizations to provide more opportunities for participants



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**Board of Directors:**

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Emily Lewis  
Steve Nore  
Craig Ver Huel  
Jim Clark  
Steve Smith