



Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail News

Volume 6, Issue 1

January 2012

2012 IMTT Schedule

IMTT Spring Classic @ Lake Kinkaid - March 10th and 11th

IMTT Spring Lake North - March 17th and 18th

FRV Spring Challenge @ Fox Chain - April 28th

Shawnee Spring Brawl @ Lake Kinkaid - May 5th and 6th

Shelbyville Club Spring Tournament - May 19th

IMTT Jake Wolf Memorial @ Fox Chain - June 9th

IMTT Mc Masters Tournament - September 8th

Shelbyville Club Fall Tournament - September 22nd

IMTT Fall Classic @ Lake Shelbyville - October 6th and 7th

Shawnee Club Fall Brawl @ Lake Kinkaid - October 20th and 21st

FRV Fall Challenge @ Fox Chain - October 27th

IMTT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP @ Lake Shelbyville - November 3rd and 4th

Happy New Year, IMTT

It's a new year and a new muskie season, and we've started the year in style by adding a big prize for a big fish. This year, the largest fish longer than 50 inches caught in an IMTT or IMTT-affiliated tournament will win the lucky angler a \$10,000 prize.

We also take a look at the "Alabama Rig" – which is not legal for use in IMTT tournaments this year – but is legal in some instances for casual fishing on certain waters.

In addition, we must note the IMTT Fishery Scholarship Fund, which will be sponsored by our organization through a silent auction for a week's stay at Glenwood Lodge on Lake Vermillion.

And don't forget, folks, a new year means it's time to send end this year's membership dues. Dues are \$25 and are payable by check or on PayPal through the Web site. Mail checks to Treasurer Randy Hilger at 23 Oak Bluff Drive, Lake Saint Louis, MO, 63367.

Last but not least, we highlight the Youth Honor Roll project, designed to encourage our angling youth to pursue the noble muskie.

Let's all have a safe, enjoyable season on the water as we anticipate the start of this year's tournament trail.

IMTT Fishery Scholarship Fund – Silent Auction

One of the main goals of the *Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail* since its beginning, nine years ago, has been to help benefit the Muskie fishery in the state of Illinois. Over those 9 years the IMTT has contributed thousands of dollars to this cause. We have made both small and large donations of cash, equipment, and services. We have worked closely with the IDNR, Corp of Engineers, fisheries biologists, and hatcheries, on many projects throughout the state. Working side by side, with other Muskie Clubs and the IMA, we are confident that we have made a difference in the Muskie fishery in Illinois. The key to what the fishery will be for our children and generations to come, will be determined by what we do today to help insure that our state's Muskie fishery thrives. It is our hope we will be able to pass on an outstanding Muskie fishery to future generations, rather than have it become a memory we can only tell them about.

Last November I attended an IMA meeting, where a graduate fisheries student gave an outstanding presentation on the studies he and others are doing to learn about and preserve the muskies in Illinois. The hard work and dedication he put in to his studies was impressive. We are lucky to have students like him working so hard to keep the Muskies thriving in our lakes. The more I listened, the more I thought the IMTT must find a way to help these students with their continued studies. Such endeavors are expensive, and funds are tight. With this in mind, the IMTT hopes to be able to help a few of these students each year.

We are proud to introduce the **IMTT Fishery Scholarship Fund**. The goal is to present a \$500.00 scholarship to one fisheries-related graduate student every year. With this scholarship, the IMTT can help insure we have biologists and researchers in the future that will continue to maintain and develop the Muskie in Illinois. As the scholarship fund grows, we hope to be able to offer more to deserving students.

To start the funding for this project, friend of IMTT **Billy Muelkens**, owner of **Glenwood Lodge on Lake Vermillion** has donated a one week's stay at one of his cabins. We will hold a silent auction to sell this trip. This year **all the funds from this auction will be used to start the scholarship fund**. Our hope is to present the first scholarship by the end of 2012. To help get this project off to the great start we think it deserves, I would like to ask everyone to look at the opportunity to bid on this wonderful trip. I have personally stayed at **Glenwood Lodge**, three years, and had a great experience. I highly recommend **Glenwood Lodge** to any one that wants a chance at catching a once in a lifetime Muskie, or to just spend a fantastic week in the great North Woods.

If you have any questions or, if you are interested in helping with this project feel free to contact me.

Howard Chambliss President IMT
618-214-5918 – Email hdpada@aol.com

Information on the silent auction can also be found at the IMTT website :
<http://www.illmuskie.com/>

IMTT offering \$10,000 prize for 50-inch biggest fish

IMTT members (and other anglers looking to join), here's a tremendous new reason to fish every tournament this year. Besides the enjoyment of fishing for our quarry of choice, IMTT has added a hefty prize to the mix this year.

The IMTT member catching the largest fish longer than 50 inches this year will have an extra \$10,000 to show for the accomplishment. We've posted the rules below, but here's a quick breakdown.

1. You must be an Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail member prior to fishing the tournament.
2. The tournament must be an IMTT tournament, or an IMTT-affiliated contest. The schedule is available on the Web site (illmuskie.com) along with the front page of this newsletter and in the contest announcement below.
3. The largest fish with a verified length of 50 inches or longer caught from any of the eligible tournaments will determine the winner.

Kudos to the folks in IMTT that made this prize happen. This is the sort of contest that lifts this organization at a whole new level. And, as much as we'd like to keep this little nugget to ourselves, the point of it is to promote the sport we love so dear to family, friends, neighbors and others. Please share this with anyone you think might have an interest in spending a day or two on the water.



ILLINOIS MUSKIE TOURNAMENT TRAIL



Our Mission – To promote interaction and camaraderie among muskie fisherman in the state of Illinois

www.illmuskie.com

TRAIL POINTS AND CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT WINNER



Russ Schaller (left) with board member, John Sutton (right)

Youth program includes educational activities and annual fishing program

Questions, contact Bob Taylor – clusivedreamsguide@gmail.com or 309.262.9720

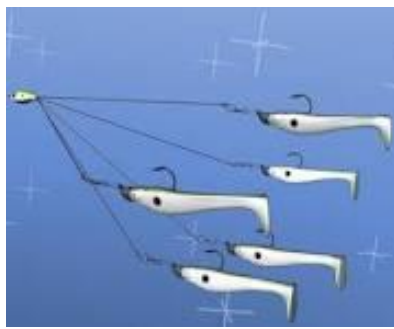
IMTT SPONSORED AND CLUB SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

IMTT Spring Classic @ Lake Kinkaid
March 10 & 11
IMTT Spring Lake North
March 17 & 18
FRV Spring Challenge @ Fox Chain
April 28
Shawnee Spring Brawl @ Lake Kinkaid
May 5 & 6
Shelbyville Club Spring Tournament
May 19
IMTT Jake Wolf Memorial @ Fox Chain
June 9
IMTT Mc Masters Tournament
September 8
Shelbyville Club Fall Tournament
September 22
IMTT Fall Classic @ Lake Shelbyville
October 6 & 7
Shawnee Club Fall Brawl @ Lake Kinkaid
October 20 & 21
FRV Fall Challenge @ Fox Chain
October 27
IMTT State Championship @ Lake Shelbyville
November 3 & 4

\$10,000 Cash Prize
for largest muskie caught 50" or greater



*Muskie must be caught in a 2012 IMTT tournament or IMTT club affiliated tournament (must be IMTT member before fishing event for fish to qualify)



“Alabama Rig” legal, but only on some lakes – and not in IMTT tournaments

By Travis DeNeal

By now, just about anyone who fishes has heard tales of the Alabama Rig, or similar devices sometimes called “umbrella rigs”.

There have been questions regarding its legality, and if you’re like me, you’ve wondered if it would make an effective muskie lure.

I, for one, do believe it could be a game-changer.

Well, before you try, you need to check out the lake regulations. Illinois lakes with a two pole and line restriction do not permit an Alabama rig or similar device unless it is limited to two hooks.

However, several larger lakes do not have that restriction at this time, including Kinkaid Lake, any of the Army Corps of Engineer lakes, and Lake of Egypt in Southern Illinois.

Please note, that according to IMTT president Howard Chambliss, this lure is banned in tournaments this season. Our basic rule is “one pole, one line, one lure”.

In addition, IDNR plans to review this lure in February, so the law could change before our tournament season begins.

And, before you decide to wet your shiny new Alabama rig on your favorite muskie (or bass) lake, don’t take my word for it. Call the closest IDNR Conservation Police Officer to double-check the regulations.

2012 General Rules Year in Review

- *If there are any questions about these rules please contact any IMTT Officer or Director.*
- 1. A complete liability release form must be completed prior to participating in any events.
- 2. No more than two people may be in a boat during an IMTT tournament.
- 3. Fishing for Muskies only and only from a boat.
- 4. Courtesy, conservation, sportsmanship, and safety are basic principles of fishing. Poor sportsmanship, drunkenness, excessive speed, or fishing in a no fishing or boating area will be grounds for disqualification for the tournament.
- 5. All fish must be caught with pole and line fishing only using artificial baits. (No live bait may be used).
- 6. Minimum measuring length is 30 inches. Fish must be measured on a flat surface with a bump board and the tail squeezed. Bump boards will be available for check out before the tournament. The actual length is to be recorded on the release form. Muskies will be scored by 30 points for each 30 in Muskies and 1 point (or fraction of) for each additional inch over 30 in. Boat may not be moved for measuring purposes and witness must come to your boat. One witness may come from your boat. Person catching fish cannot be a witness for that fish. Two witnesses are required. Refusing to witness another contestants fish will result in disqualification.
- 7. All participants must conform to the daily starting and stopping times. Release forms will not be accepted after the announced ending time of the tournament. Checked out IMTT equipment must be returned to the check in point at the end of the tournament no later than a half hour after tournament ending time. A participant may not start fishing until being released by the official starter to start. All starts must be from designated area and must be under the directives of the official starter. Boats not in proper place during starting time will be moved to the end of the starters line. Boats wanting to start 15 minutes or later after all other boats have started will be disqualified.
- 8. IMTT equipment lost, stolen, or damaged is the responsibility of the participant that signed for the equipment. The IMTT will collect from you the cost of replacing the item after the tournament.
- 9. If weather or safety prohibits the completion of the scheduled tournament, the tournament can be cancelled or postponed at the discretion of tournament officials. Participants are urged to make good safety decisions in regards to weather and fishing in the tournament.
- 10. Anglers fishing on Lake Shelbyville must respect the -No Fishing- area surrounding the Lithia Springs Marina. Other areas of the lake may be out of bounds, if so they will be announced at the tournament.
- 11. With the exception of Spring Lake (25) and Lake McMaster (25) all IMTT tournaments will be limited to 100 boats.
- 12. Trolling is permitted in IMTT tournaments. Two rods may be used for trolling purposes per team (one per entrant). If fishing alone (one person team) one rod may be used.
- 13. Tournament entrants are expected to respect the fishing area of other contestants. The - fishing area- is considered to be 100 ft from their boat. Please use good judgment and good sportsmanship in participating.
- 14. A \$25 Annual IMTT Membership fee is due before fishing an IMTT Tournament
- 15. Starting positions will be determined by order of completed entries received.
- 16. No entries accepted after registration closes on Friday evenings! No Saturday morning entries accepted.
- 17. Ties will be broken by time of earliest release of teams first fish. If still tied, then by a flip of the coin.
- 18. In the event a contestants position is challenged, a written protest must be presented to the tournament committee immediately.
- 19. Anglers may be asked to take a polygraph test before cash payments are made.
- 20. All IDNR and site specific rules and regulations will be enforced.
- 21. The tournament committee is the final judge of all tournament rules and the conducting of all tournaments.
- 22. Tournament release tools and sufficiently large net that will easily accept up to a 50 in fish are mandatory. Release tools must include at a minimum; long needle nose pliers, hook cutters and jaw spreaders. You will not be allowed to fish without these basic tools.

***Note: These rules specifically apply to Tournaments directly sponsored by the IMTT. Rules for Club Tournaments will be made available by the sponsor of that Tournament.**

IMTT Fishery Scholarship Fund



Silent Auction

Make a silent auction bid on a one week stay at
Glenwood Lodge on Lake Vermillion, Tower MN.
Check: <http://www.glenwoodlodge.com/htmls/directory.html>

- Two Bedroom cabin (4 people)
- \$1250 value
- Dates to be mutually agreed upon between bidder and Glenwood Lodge
- Does not include boat / motor rental, gas, or bait.
- **All auction proceeds to benefit the IMTT Scholarship Fund**



- The silent auction will run from December 1st to May 31st, 2012
- Bids must include bidder's name, home address, phone contact numbers and email address
- Bids must be in \$5.00 increments
- Winning bidder must submit payment in full by June 15th, 2012
- **Starting bid set at \$500**

- Bids may be submitted at any IMTT event, by phone, mail or email
- To place bids, contact **Howard Chambliss**, IMTT President,
12422 N. Sparrow Ln. Mt Vernon, IL 62864
Phone: 618-244-1982 Cell: 618-214-5918
email: hdpada@aol.com
- More info at the IMTT website: <http://www.illmuskie.com>

ILLINOIS MUSKIE TOURNAMENT TRAIL
YOUTH HONOR ROLL

The Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail, with its interest in promoting Muskie fishing among young people in Illinois, will be sponsoring the **IMTT YOUTH HONOR ROLL** starting January 1, 2012. Honor Roll entries will be accepted until November 1, 2012.

Particulars of Interest

Two age groups: 0 to 10 years old and 11 to 18 years old.

Awards to every entrant, special award to winner in each age group with largest Muskie caught and largest collective inches of Muskies caught.

A special drawing will be held for a Muskie rod and reel with each entrant being entered for every Muskie reported.

All catches must be made within the United States or Canada.

An entrant must report name, age, contact information, lake caught, date of catch, lure used and length of the Muskie caught.

A media useable photo is required with each report.

An entrant may submit as many catches as so desired.

Catches do not have to be made from a boat.

A running account of reported catches will be placed monthly on the IMTT Web Site, as well as in the IMTT newsletter.

Report Form – Print

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Parent's Name _____

Size of Muskie caught _____ inches. Name of

Lake Muskie Caught _____

Lure Used _____ Date of Catch _____

If you have a relative that is a member of an Illinois Muskie organization, please list person's name and organization _____

Please Include Photo

Mail or email above information to:

Howard Chambliss
12422 N Sparrow Lane
Mt Vernon Il 62864

Phone 618-214-5918

Email: hdpada@aol.com

2011 Youth Honor Roll Winners



2011 Top Prizes



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