



Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail

Volume 1

“FISH ON”

January 2014

Casting Around with IMTT President Howard Chambliss:

“Over the years I have belonged to several organizations. I have to say being a member of the IMTT has been the most rewarding group I have participated with. Its #1 goal is to promote Muskie fishing in Illinois and to promote camaraderie among those fishermen. Over the years I have had the pleasure of meeting hundreds of men and women that have participated in IMTT events. These people come from all over Illinois and surrounding states.

I can remember my first IMTT tournament held at Eagle Creek Resort on Lake Shelbyville. I pulled into the parking lot and saw all those HUGE TOURNAMENT boats. I thought what am I doing here, these are real tournament fisherman and I have no idea what I am doing. I sat in the parking lot awhile and finally got up the courage to go inside and see what the IMTT was all about. I walked in and was met in the lobby by a tall bald man that was wearing one of those neat fishing shirts I had seen the PROS wear on the TV shows. I thought boy am I out of my league. He asked if I was here for the Muskie tournament, when I replied yes he shook my hand and directed me to the BIG man sitting at the table. He said Bob will help get you signed up and take your money. When I got all the paper work done I returned to the camp ground thinking what am I doing here with these Pros, but thought I would give it a try. I fished all day Saturday and never saw a fish. Had no idea what I was doing but thought at least I was fishing and that was better than working. At the end of the day we returned to the Resort for dinner. I saw all these guys and gals walking around with those neat shirts on and again thought boy am I out of my league.

That night I learned that the Bald Man was Bob Jefferies and the Big Guy was Bob Kerans. Before the dinner Mr. Jefferies was talking and welcomed everyone to the tournament, he even pointed at me and introduced me as Our New Friends at the camp ground. I thought gee that's neat, I was not a stranger, I was The Guy from the camp ground. During that night many of these PROS came up and introduced themselves and welcomed me to the tournament. When I explained that this was only my third try at Muskie fishing, everyone was helpful and explained some of their ideas on how to catch Muskies. By the end of the night I felt much better about this group of guys. Today I can say that many of the people I met that night are what I can call true friends. These are the kind of friends that you can always call true friends. We have laughed together, cried together, and have some of my best memories doing things with these new friends.

I would welcome any one to come out and fish a tournament with the IMTT. You will only be the NEW guy a short time, and will have a whole new group of guys and gals you will call true friends.

The IMTT has named a State Champion and Trail Points Leader and Runner up every year. The best part of these contests is the fun and sportsmanship that all participants have throughout the season. We have a great time at each event The best part is that anyone can be the Champion or Trail winner. There have been young teams, elderly teams, and even the novice win tournaments in the IMTT. Over the years the Trail Points contest has been close to the end. This has built a lot of fun competition among the members. Each year the winners are awarded the IMTT trophies and bragging rights for the year. The best thing about the IMTT tournaments is that they are low pressure friendly events that the whole family can participate in.

(continued on Page 2)

Chambliss continued:

The monies raised at each event help the IMTT donate back to the fishery and other worthwhile projects. The IMTT is one of the front runners in helping the IDNR each year with their WISH list. At times the IDNR has needs that their budget will not allow. This is when the IMTT and others step in and make sure they have what they need. The IMTT has donated tens of thousands of dollars to the betterment of the fishery in Illinois. We have worked with other organizations each year to meet these goals. Not only do we help the fishery, we also donate thousands of items to local food pantries each year. The youth trail and IMTT Glenwood Scholarship are two other programs that help achieve the goals of the IMTT. In closing, I would like to invite anyone and everyone to join the Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail and be a part of a group that does a lot for the Illinois Fishery and has a great time doing it!!!!!!!

Howard Chambliss, President IMTT

2014 Officers and Directors - Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail

- President: Howard Chambliss 618-214-5918 hdpada@aol.com
- Vice President: Bob Taylor 309-262-9720 imtt2014@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Randy Hilger 314-378-7046 rahilger@msn.com
- Secretary: Walt Krause 618-972-5584 krausewalter@att.net
- Merchandise: Garry Brookman 573-703-1389 glbimtt@charter.net
- IMTT Historian: Jim Ozee 217-235-1665 jmozee45@consolidated.net
- Director: Mike Taylor 815-757-2867
- Director: Dale Craine 312-420-1126 dalecraine@hotmail.com
- Director: Bob Jeffries 708 372-1232 thejeffries@aol.com
- Director: Tom Shafar 708-259-4419 tshafar@comcast.net
- Director: John Kliczko 773-607-8431 metromusky@aol.com
- Director: Travis Smith siuforests@yahoo.com
- Newsletter articles, etc. to: Bob Kerans, 3045 S. Franklin St. Rd., Decatur, IL 62521 217-414-0093 robert_kerans_559@comcast.net

This is the Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail

- 1. To promote Muskie fishing in Illinois and in turn promote camaraderie among Muskie fishermen.**
- 2. To sponsor a tournament trail for the purposes of not only naming a tournament trail champion and a runner-up, but also to name a State Champion and a Runner-Up**
- 3. To assist financially and in other avenues the Muskie Fishery in Illinois in order to promote continue growth and recognition of this Fishery.**

Really Now.....Shouldn't YOU be a MEMBER??????

2014 IMTT Tournament Schedule

Must be a PAID 2014 IMTT Member to Participate in IMTT Events or Receive Trail Points for Club Events - 2014 Membership Form is on Page 8

March 15: IMTT Jake Wolf Memorial Tournament at Spring Lake North \$50 per person
Contact: BOB TAYLOR, 4598 Duckhorn Lane Lafayette, IN 47909
309-262-9720 imtt2014@gmail.com

March 29 & 30: IMTT Spring Classic at Lake Kinkaid \$100 per person
Contact: WALTER KRAUSE, 211 Yorktown Rd., Collinsville, IL 62234
618-972-5584 krausewalter@att.net

May 3 & 4: Shawnee Muskie Hunters Spring Fling Tournament, Lake Kinkaid
<http://shawneemuskiehunters.org/>

May 17: Fox River Valley Spring Challenge Tournament, Fox Chain of Lakes
<http://www.frvmuskie.com/>

September 13 & 14 : IMTT Fall Classic Tournament at Lake Shelbyville \$100 per person
Contact: GARRY BROOKMAN, PO Box 1775, Sikeston, MO 63801
573-703-1389 gibimtt@charter.net

September 27: Quad County Hawg Hunters Tournament at Lake Evergreen
<http://muskiesinc.org/chapter17/>

October 4: IMTT Gregg Tichacek Memorial Tournament at Lake McMaster \$50 per person
Contact: BOB TAYLOR, 4598 Duckhorn Lane, Lafayette, IN 47909
309-262-9720 imtt2014@gmail.com

October 18 & 19: Shawnee Muskie Hunters Fall Brawl Tournament on Lake Kinkaid
<http://shawneemuskiehunters.org/>

October 25 & 26: IMTT State Championship at Prairie Lake Entry Fees vary by Qualification Status
Contact: HOWARD CHAMBLISS, 12422 N. Sparrow Lane, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
618-214-5918 hdpada@aol.com

2013 Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail Results



IMTT Angler of the Year Randy Hilger with Howard Chambliss and Bob Taylor

**2013 State Champion Team
Matt Gunkel and Travis Smith**



State Championship Tournament Results:
First Place Team – Matt Gunkel and Travis Smith
Second Place Team: Randy and Kyle Hilger
Third Place Team: Michelle Hruskovich and Bob Taylor
Fourth Place Team: Garry Brookman and Howard Chambliss

**2014 ILLINOIS MUSKIE TOURNAMENT TRAIL
TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM**

Your \$28.00 annual membership allows you to participate in the events listed below.
You also receive an IMTT membership card & pin, and subscription to MidWest Outdoors Magazine

Join today to promote the fishery and begin your hunt for the Great Illinois Muskie!

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name _____ IMTT Member # _____

Phone Number _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Boat Registration # _____

Partner's Name: _____ IMTT Member # _____

Partner's Mailing Address: _____

Event you wish to enter -X- All that apply All Tournaments are 1or 2 person teams

Date	Tournament	Tournament Contact Person (For specific tournament questions)	Fee Per Person	Prize Pool
March 15 th	Jake Wolf Memorial Spring Lake North	Bob Taylor 4598 Duckhorn Ln Lafayette IN 47909 Imtt2014@gmail.com	\$50.00	\$1,250.00 (based on 50 entries)
March 29 th & 30 th	Spring Classic Lake Kinkaid	Walter Krause 211 Yorktown Collinsville IL 62234 krausewalter@att.com	\$100.00	\$2,500.00 (based on 50 entries)
September 13 th & 14 th	Fall Classic Lake Shelbyville	Garry Brookman PO Box 1775 Sikeston Mo 63801 glbimtt@charter.net	\$100.00	\$2,500.00 (based on 50 entries)
October 4 th	Greg Tichacek Memorial Lake McMaster	Bob Taylor 4598 Duckhorn Ln Lafayette IN 47909 Imtt2014@gmail.com	\$50.00	\$1,250.00 (based on 50 entries)
October 25 th & 26 th	2014 State Championship Prairie Lake	Howard Chambliss 12422 N Sparrow LN Mt Vernon IL 62864 hdpada@aol.com	\$100.00*	\$4,350.00 (based on 50 entries)
		*Based on qualified status		

Angler of the Year Prize Pool \$2,900.00

(based on full tournaments through the trail)

NOTE: Mail all entry fees and form to tournament contact listed above.

Or Register on line at www.illmuskie.com

_____ Membership Dues

_____ Tournament Entry Fee(s)

_____ Total Enclosed

IMTT Top Ten Finishers for 2013

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Randy Hilger - 293.25 points | 2. Jim Beaty - 270 points |
| 3. Travis Smith - 261.25 points | 4. Matt Gunkel - 245 points |
| 5. Howard Chambliss - 235.5 points | 6. Michelle Hruskovich - 208.75 points |
| 7. Garry Brookman - 192.5 points | 8. Victor Fox - 187.75 points |
| 9. Duane Landmeier - 178 points | 10. Brian Paasch - 170 points |

PARTING SHOTS

1. Be sure to check out the Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail website! Simply go to the internet and type in Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail (<http://www.illmuskie.com>). We think you will like what you see.
2. Did YOU know that during 2013, the Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail spent over **\$19,000.00** in attaining the three main goals of this organization!!
3. Did YOU know that the IMTT has launched a Facebook page to reach out to the Muskie community? In less than 3 days over 100 people have joined. So far the only information posted has been the IMTT Mission Statement, a little bit about who we are, pictures of the 2013 Championship, the 2014 tournament schedule and a suggestion to become a 2014 IMTT member.
4. This is our first (for 2014) issue of our newsletter – we anticipate having a total of 12 issues this year. We certainly want to encourage you to watch for future issues as several important announcements, Muskie catching tips, photos, inside information on various Muskie lakes in Illinois, tournament planning and tournament results, etc. will be included!
5. Please take the time to complete the local newspaper information asked for on the membership blank. **YOU** can help us spread the word about Muskie fishing in Illinois by permitting us to place information articles in various papers throughout the State.

More Reasons to Fish the Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail

There are several reasons I fish the IMTT. In the beginning I fished the IMTT because I am a competitor. I always wanted to fish, race or compete against the best in a given field to see how I stacked up and figure out what I needed to do to make myself better. Today, after learning the IMTT Mission Statement and believing in what the IMTT is all about, I have to be involved. During the past nine years of fishing the IMTT I have come to know some compassionate and generous people. Now and in 2014 it's more about enjoying my favorite pastime with people I have come to consider my family while continuing to support a worthwhile cause.

Bob Taylor

FINAL CAST

WOW! DOUBLE WOW, WOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!! What an exciting time to be involved in Muskie Fishing and in ILLINOIS! Years ago, who would have “thunk it”? The Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail and the various Muskie Clubs’ in our State are working hard to not only assure successful Muskie fishing now, but in the future as well.

We are also excited about the IMTT taking a step up as far as communication and sharing is concerned; 1. The Web page is up and running and will be kept up to date, 2. A new IMTT Facebook page is being put together by Bob Taylor and of course a determined effort to provide a monthly newsletter throughout 2014!

As far as the newsletter is concerned, the next issue will have articles about “How To” in regards to fishing Spring Lake North (March 15) and an article on “How To” in regards to fishing Lake Kinkaid (March 29 & 30 tournament). We’ll include articles on how to fish all of the lakes within the IMTT tournament schedule in following monthly newsletters. We also have a neat article “So It’s Your First Tournament” in the work as well as an article concerning “Final Tournament Preparations”. How about an article on how the “Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Natural History Survey” work together to improve the fishery in Illinois.....they do, you know!

Whether you are reading this at home before the Tri Esos Show or you picked up a copy at the Show, one thing for certain – PLEASE – stop by the IMTT Booth. We know that you will find a friendly and excited group of members working in the booth, plus we would be glad to talk with you about your membership for 2014. We’re going to try and get photos of members at the Chicago Muskie Show to include in the newsletter along with a short “member profile” that we may ask you to complete.

??What do you call our favorite fish?? During the Dr. Ed Crossman Muskie Symposium 2005 it was interesting to hear our Muskie called.....**“Muskellunge, Noble Beast, Special Fish and Native Predator”**. We also heard Muskie Fishing described as **“The Purest Challenge in Freshwater Fishing”!**

Not sure how to finish this particular issue. Really hope to get the message across to YOU that YOU are so needed to secure the future of Muskie Fishing in Illinois. Being active in your local Muskie Club and by being a participant in the Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail is just an awful good way to start or continue helping!

