



HOWARD CHAMBLISS
ILLINOIS MUSKIE TOURNAMENT TRAIL
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FISH ON

The cold is gone and the heat has arrived. What happened to spring? With this heat wave locked in to the whole of the Midwest, it has been hard to find the nice cool spot for that summer Muskie trip. I have received some nice photos of fish being caught out west and from the north. Many of you have trips planned in the next few months. Have safe travels, enjoy the trip, and send in those photos to share.

The spring was a great start to the trail. We had outstanding participation at each tournament. I am hoping the fall tournaments will be just as well as the spring tournaments. Over the spring we have been able to achieve a few of our goals. I am happy to report that you helped raise \$1,400.00 for the IMTT/ Glenwood Lodge Scholarship. This year we will be able to present a student with a \$1,000.00 scholarship. We have the scholarship fund, now we need your help to find the student to give it to. Scholarship applications are available on our web page, or contact Howard or Travis Smith for more information.

We were also able to help purchase a new trailer for the IDNR. We raised enough funds that we were able to donate \$1,300.00 towards this purchase. The IMTT joined with the Shawnee, Lake Shelbyville, and FRV clubs to make this happen. The trailer will be used to transport fish from hatcheries and lakes. The IDNR was in need of the trailer and no funds were made available from the state to make it happen. Several other items from the IDNR wish list were purchased by your clubs to assist the hardworking, dedicated IDNR staff. Without their hard work there would not be an IMTT or Muskie clubs in Illinois.

Your board members have been working hard to put the final touches on the fall tournaments along with starting to plan the 2015 trail. There are a lot of ideas that we hope to incorporate in 2015. We will keep you updated as we move forward. One thing that is a fact is that we need **YOU!!!!** I am asking each of you to think about each tournament, and think of something you could step up and help with. Think back at the last few tournaments, you seen the same hand full of guys doing the bulk of the work and planning. This gets old and hard on the ones trying to do it all. This causes a bad case of burn out and leads to more work for fewer guys. Think about it and get hold of me or any board member to see what you can do to help make the IMTT even better than it is.

Enjoy those summer trips and be safe, send in your photos (any type of fish) and we will see you at the IMTT FALL CLASSIC at Lake Shelbyville on September 13th.

Howard Chambliss, President IMTT

2014 TRAIL STANDINGS TOP TEN

GARRY HANDLIN JR
181.75

BOB TAYLOR
152.5

COLTIN THOMAS
121.25

RANDY HILGER
118

VICTOR FOX
113.25

RON HAYNES
109.25

NICOLAS WEESIES
105

TONY CASTO
104.5

TIM GUASTERRO JR
96.5

SHANNON BEATY
94.5

BIG FISH FOR TRAIL

WALTER KRAUSE
43.5 INCHES

HOW YOUR IMTT TRAIL POINTS ARE FIGURED

FISH A IMTT TOURNAMENT 15 **POINTS**
FISH ANY OF THE CLUB AFFILIATED TOURNAMENTS 10 **POINTS**
PLACEMENT POINTS IMTT OR CLUB TOURNAMENT
1ST PLACE 5 POINTS
2ND PLACE 3 POINTS
3RD PLACE 2 POINTS
4TH PLACE 1 POINT

1 POINT PER INCH, FOR EVERY FISH 30 INCHES AND MORE. NO ROUNDING UP OR DOWN.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR POINTS ON THE IMTT WEB PAGE. CONTACT HOWARD WITH ANY CORRECTIONS NEEDED.

IMTT 2014 FALL TOURNAMENT TRAIL

There are five more tournaments in the 2014 Trail. Each of these tournaments will be held at different lakes. The IMTT will host a tournament at Lake Shelbyville, Lake McMaster, and Prairie Lake. Quad County Hawg Hunters will be at Lake Evergreen, and Shawnee Muskie Hunters will be at Lake Kinkaid. Each of these clubs do an outstanding job with their tournaments. Plan on attending as many of these events as you can. Each tournament will count toward your trail points.

September 13TH & 14TH

IMTT FALL CLASSIC @ LAKE SHELBYVILLE

CONTACT: GARRY BROOKMAN 573-703-1389

glbimtt@charter.net

September 27th

QUAD COUNTY HAWG HUNTERS @ LAKE EVERGREEN

CONTACT: DUANE LANDMEIER 815-761-5182

dlandmeier@frontier.com

October 4th

IMTT GREGG TICHACEK MEMORIAL @ LAKE McMaster

CONTACT: BOB TAYLOR 309-262-9720

imtt2014@gmail.com

October 18TH & 19TH

SHAWNEE MUSKIE HUNTERS FALL BRAWL @ LAKE KINKAID

CONTACT: JOHN WRIGHT 618-698-4893 or JIM BEATY 618-971-7806

October 25TH & 26TH

IMTT 2014 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP @ PRAIRIE LAKE

CONTACT: HOWARD CHAMBLISS 618-214-5918

hdpada@aol.com

Rules for participation in the Championship:

You must be a qualifier, a partial qualifier; or a non-qualifier may fish with a qualifier or partial qualifier.

QUALIFIER: \$100.00 Entry Fee. You must have fished at least three of the IMTT or affiliated club tournaments, or place 1st in any of these tournaments.

PARTIAL QUALIFIER: \$125.00 Entry Fee. You must have fished at least one of the IMTT or affiliated club tournaments.

NON-QUALIFIER: \$200.00 Entry Fee. Must fish with a Qualifier or Partial qualifier.

You must be a paid IMTT member to participate in the State Championship.

TENTATIVE 2015 TRAIL DATES

The IMTT board has worked to get a head start on the Trail for 2015. This was done for two reasons. We understand that some members have to plan vacation days well in advance. The other reason is we hope to get the dates set so we can have better chance at advertising our Trail. We have set these dates based on historic tournament dates (weekends) the affiliated clubs have held their tournaments in the past. We are also working on some new ideas that will take advance preparation with set dates. We hope having these dates set will assist in making plans to attend as many of the events as you can. Several of the tournament locations are still up in the air. But the dates should not change.

March 14th & 15th

IMTT SPRING CLASSIC @ LAKE KINKAID

April 11th & 12th

IMTT JAKE WOLF MEMORIAL @ SPRING LAKE

May 2nd & 3rd

SHAWNEE MUSKIE HUNTERS SPRING FLING @ LAKE KINKAID

May 16th

FOX RIVER VALLEY CHALLENGE ON THE CHAIN @ FOX CHAIN

May 30th

IMTT RUSS SCHALLER MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT @ FOX CHAIN

September 12th & 14th

IMTT FALL CLASSIC (LAKE TO BE DETERMINED)

September 26th

QUAD COUNTY HAWG HUNTERS @ LAKE EVERGREEN

October 3rd

IMTT GREGG TICHACEK MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT @ PRAIRIE LAKE

October 17th & 18th

SHAWNEE MUSKIE HUNTERS FALL BRAWL @ LAKE KINKAID

October 31st & November 1st

IMTT 2015 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP (LAKE TO BE DETERMINED)

The IMTT will be hosting six of the 2015 tournaments. As you all know it takes a lot of work for one person to put these tournaments together. Please think about helping out or even chairing one of these events. We are always looking for help with small things... Radio collection, raffle ticket sales, food raffle, points calculation, and planning dinners for the two day events.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!!!

Contact any board member if you want to help out.

2014 YOUTH TRAIL

The guys have boated 23 muskies this year. These are the CHAMPIONS of the future.



Ethan Cain 47 inch Lake Milton Minnesota



Lucas Kroening Bluewater -New Mexico

(Net Boy Kyle in back ground - nice job Dad!)



Cameron Riedesel 37 inch Spring Lake

**IMTT / GLENWOOD LODGE SCHOLARSHIP
\$1,400.00 Raised for Scholarships
OUTSANDING JOB!!!!**



IMTT President presenting plaque to Billy Muelkens (owner Glenwood Lodge)

Ken Ryder was the winner of the IMTT/ Glenwood Lodge Scholarship raffle. He won a one week stay at Glenwood Lodge for four.

This is the third year that Billy has donated a FREE one week stay at his lodge on Lake Vermillion.

Without support from great sponsors like Billy we would not be able to award the scholarship each year. 2014 marks the third year we will issue the scholarship to a student, to help with education related costs. We sold enough raffle tickets to increase the scholarship for 2014 to

\$1,000.00

Thanks to everyone that helped support this program.

We are still looking for the student to issue the scholarship to. If you know a student that we may be able to help out, please have them apply for the scholarship. No ties to the IMTT are required. The applications can be found on the IMTT web page. Contact Travis Smith or Howard Chambliss with any questions.

Tips before the Trips

It's that time of the year that we hook up the boat and head to the lake. These trips can be different than your Tournament trips. As a team you and your partner have their own duties to perform before you hit the water. In the summer, chances are you have the family or other friends with you for these trips. They may not be familiar with your routine. Take time to check ever thing before drop the boat in the water. Here are a few things to check out before you hit the road and then launch your boat. We have all had that day from \$\$\$ on the water when simple things went wrong. A pre-trip / launch inspection can make every day a GREAT day on the water.

Before you hit the road:

Do you have the extra key for the boat?
Do you have enough PFDs for all the people that will be in the boat?
Do you have the extra plug for the transom?
Have you checked the horn or found your whistle?
Did you check the date on the fire extinguisher?
Did you check the date on the CO2 cartridge on the PFD?
Have you checked the fluid level in the trailer brakes (hydraulic brakes?)
Have checked the bearings? Not just greased them?
Is the first aid kit full and easy to find?

Before you launch the boat:

Are all the hold down straps removed? (your trailer may float - mine did)
Has the plug been put back in?
Did you unplug the trailer lights?
Does someone have the truck/car keys?
Do you have the (I GOT TO GO NOW) kit?
Did someone get the cooler and lunch put in the boat?

It may sound funny, but when you are fishing with someone other than your regular partner it is easy to overlook what the other guy normally takes care of. These are a few of the things that have happened to me over the years. Take a few extra minutes and it can make the difference between a great day on the water or a horrible trip back to camp or hotel.

Notice a difference in this copy of the newsletter? For the last six months you have been receiving an **outstanding newsletter** that **Bob Kerans**, **Randy Hilger**, and a few others worked their butts off to put together. They put together an outstanding letter. It is a lot of work and takes a lot of time. **Bob Kerans** has asked to take a break from the newsletter, and **Randy Hilger** and **Bob Taylor** and **I** can't do it alone.

**Thanks for the hard work
Bob, Bob and Randy.**

We need to ask a few of the members to step up and help out with putting the newsletter together each month during the trail and bimonthly during the summer. The hard part is not typing and sending it out, we need each of you to send in photos, club information, trip articles, or any other information you feel we need to share with the members. With over 130 members surely we can get at least 3-4 photos and articles each month.

As I mentioned several time in this issue, there are a few die hard members doing most of the work. To give these guys a break and help grow the IMTT we need some more help. Please think about what you can do to help out and please contact any board member or myself.

Have a great rest of the summer and we will see you on the water in the fall.

IMTT Board of Directors