



ILLINOIS MUSKIE TOURNAMENT TRAIL
618-214-5918
HDPADA@AOL.COM
12422 NORTH SPARROW LANE
MT. VERNON ILLINOIS, 62864



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VOLUME 8

FISH ON

What happened to the summer? It seems like the kids had just gotten out of school. The family loaded up the car and headed out on the yearly get away. Well it's September and the kids have returned to school. I can remember those days when I was glad to get back to school to see, and catch up with all my friends. It was great to share with each other what adventures we had during the summer.

The IMTT Fall Classic is the same in a lot of ways. It's time to return to the Trail, and meet up with all our friends in the IMTT. In just a few weeks we will get the opportunity to sit back and reflect on all the great fishing trips or other adventures we had during the summer months. There have been a lot of trips to the North Woods and other destinations made by several of you. It will be good to have the opportunity to visit with everyone and share the adventures, and catch up on what's been going on during the summer months.

As we start the 2014 Fall Trail I invite each of you to try and attend as many of the events as you can. The IMTT and other clubs have planned some nice tournaments. The IMTT will host a tournament on Lake Shelbyville and Lake McMaster. Quad County Hawg Hunters will host a tournament at Lake Evergreen, and The Shawnee Muskie Hunters will host their Fall Brawl at Lake Kinkaid. The 2014 trail will conclude with the IMTT State Championship at Prairie Lake. As always these tournaments have been planned to insure a great time for all. I encourage you to invite a new member to at least one of these events. Participation at the tournaments is what allows each club to raise funds for their yearly projects. As a group there are a lot of worthwhile projects that we can all be proud to support.

I hope everyone had a great summer, and look forward to seeing you at the Fall Classic at Lake Shelbyville on September 13th and 14th.

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. Shawnee Muskie Hunters will be at Lake Kinkaid.

Each of these clubs do an outstanding job with these 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 573-258-9860

glbimtt@charter.net

September 27th

QUAD COUNTY HAWG HUNTERS @ LAKE EVERGREEN

CONTACT: DUANE LANDM EIER 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 or partial qualifier or a none qualifier may fish with a qualifier or partial qualifier.

QUALIFIER: \$100.00 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 you must have fished at least one of the IMTT or affiliated club tournaments.

NON- QUALIFIER: \$200.00 must fish with a Qualifier or Partial qualifier.

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

IMTT / GLENWOOD LODGE SCHOLARSHIP



2012



2013

Who's Next ?

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.

Summer Fun

By Lucas Kroening

As summer wraps up and we begin to prepare for the fall season, I thought I'd share some of the summer adventure. Summer got off to a hot start by heading home to New Mexico and the clear cold water of Blue Water. The water temp was still in the mid 60's for the 4th of July. Action with the tiger muskies was fast and furious as usual. First two hours of fishing, put five in the boat including a nice 41 incher. Great way to start the summer and turns out the summer end was even better.

Headed north to test the water at St. Clair. This trip was off the charts educational, and the fish lived up to their reputation. Met up with charter boat Capt. Don Miller of Miller's Muskies. Capt. Don is doing some great work with the University of Michigan and graduate student Ellen. Capt. Don let me help out in a study Ellen is doing for school and the fisheries. She is documenting the feeding habits of the St. Clair muskie. Awesome work, and surprisingly, nothing like this has been done before. My job was to catch muskie and then we were to look at the contents of the stomach. Sounds easy right, Well to keep this short, as I plan on writing more later, no matter who or how many times someone says, "its ok, just hold the musky down on the mat you won't get shocked yourself". I'm telling you it's easier said than done! Wrapped things up with a couple of great guys, Capt. Daryl Lozon and first mate Scott Rogers, of Pro Marine Charters.

All I will say is 13 Musky in the boat, if that's not a good time you need to rethink your priorities. Like I said, I will write more later, but wanted to reach out and say welcome back to the IMTT fall season and wrap up the summer fun.

Good summer? Darn Tootin...

Lucas
IMTT Youth Ambassador

The Hilger Blade Box

By Randy Hilger

Whoever coined the phrase, “*Necessity is the Mother of Invention*” was probably not a muskie fisherman, but someone who was frustrated by an inadequate solution. Kind of like me, in my past attempts to organize, store and use muskie sized safety-pin style spinnerbaits in my boat. Over the years I’ve tried a variety of solutions including small plastic spinnerbait boxes designed to hold bass-sized spinnerbaits, and soft side spinnerbait binders with zippered pouches. The small boxes could not handle my oversized baits, and even with “up-sized” binders, the zippered pouches kept “blowing-out” under the weight of my big spinnerbaits. One year, out of sheer desperation, I tried just “dumping” about 20 spinnerbaits into a divider-less Plano 3700 box for a Lake of the Woods trip. My son Kyle warned me this was a disaster in the making, and after just two days on LOTW, it was clear he was right. And at the Gil Hamm Tournament in 2012, my partner Ken “Snagger” Ryder resorted to dozens of Ziplock bags in a duffel to store his spinnerbaits... an equally suspect solution. No system seemed to work right!

Then I had an opportunity to meet the Team Cordwood guys at the Chicago Muskie Show last January. Team Cordwood, located in Aledo, Illinois, is a couple of guys who have started a small business manufacturing tackle storage systems. When I got home and checked out their website, I noticed something unusual - an invitation to “*design a custom box*”. After measuring my baits and modeling different ideas using shoeboxes and a tape measure all evening (*what else was there to do last January?*), I sent Team Cordwood a detailed description and dimensions of exactly what I wanted. A box deep enough to properly hang my largest baits - Llungen’s “Magnum Nut Buster” and Colby Simm’s Monster School-N-Shad. Hanger slots spaced far enough apart to accommodate large baits, and cut wider to fit the heavy wire on these baits. Drain holes in the box bottom so I can put baits away wet and not worry about rust, removable strap handles, and a lid that flips completely out of the way so the box sits open on my boat deck when in use.

Team Cordwood responded with a detailed 3-D schematic of exactly what I had imagined. How cool!

After getting my go-ahead, Team Cordwood President Bob Pople turned the schematic into reality. The box is constructed from clear polycarbonate allowing me to readily see the contents.



These photos show my finished box empty and fully loaded with the lid open. It will hold 22 large muskie spinnerbaits – one per slot – or even more “smaller” baits (3/4 or 1 ounce) if I “double up” the smaller ones.



Team Cordwood has also produced a special **IMTT** edition of the Blade Box, with the **IMTT** logo laser etched onto the lid. This box will be raffled off at the IMTT Championship Tournament on October 25-26 at Prairie Lake. If you want to purchase a raffle tickets for this box, but are not going to be at the Championship, you can purchase raffle tickets through Howard, Bob or me.

If you're interested in purchasing a "*Hilger Blade Box*" from Team Cordwood – visit their website <http://store.teamcordwood.com>. Or, design a system of your own! Bob and his team are great guys to work with, and it was a really fun experience.

Randy

2014 IMTT/GLENWOOD LODGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The winner of the IMTT/GLENWOOD LODGE Scholarship fund was Ken Ryder. The trip was taken the week of August 16th thru the 23rd

Ken took Walt Krause, Colby Simms and Ray Simms. The group only caught one Musky and it was caught by Colby and it was 47 inches and was caught on one of Colby baits – Baby Hatchet Shad Spinner Baits! The group had 39 follows, 8 strikes and lost 4 Muskies. Quite a few Pike up to 36 inches were caught along with Small Mouth Bass up to 5 pounds. Top Baits that produced the follows and strikes were Baby Hatchet Shad Spinner Baits, Globe Top Water, Top Raiders, Double Ten Buck Tails, Phanom Glide Baits, and a Crain Crank Bait.

Left to Right – Walt Krause, Ray Simms, Colby Simms, Billy (owner of Glenwood Lodge) and Ken Ryder



That's all for this month. Hope to see everyone at the IMTT Fall Classic September 13th and 14th !