



Landmeier Twitches One Up To Prevent A Shutout

Eleven teams gathered at Shelbyville October 13 and 14 for the 2014 IMTT Fall Classic. Several guys pre-fishing on Friday reported seeing a couple of fish, but a big cold front rolled through dropping temperatures fast. Earlier in the week the highs had reached the low 90's, but by Saturday morning air temps dropped into the upper 40's. Fall had arrived in big fashion!

The Friday evening registration gathering was at Monical's Pizza in Shelbyville. Mark Shanks and his dad, Sid Shanks, welcomed us to Shelbyville. Monical's is an IMTT sponsor, and makes some awesome pizza to boot! It was fun for IMTT members to reconvene after our "summer break".



Fall Classic Tournament Director Garry Brookman with Monical's Pizza owners Sid and Mark Shanks.

Saturday was brutal! At the close of fishing Saturday afternoon, no team turned in a catch report. A couple of fish had been seen, but nobody hooked up. Contestants freely shared what didn't work – timber, rip-rap, flats, points and cove ends, mudline, up close or out over creek channels, working baits under large balls of shad – you name it, somebody had tried it, all with the same outcome... **Zippo – Nada – Nothing**

Saturday evening the Farmhouse Restaurant catered a great chicken and roast beef banquet. Fall Classic participants contributed 418 food items which were sent to the local food pantry. Staff with the Army Corps of Engineers gave us a presentation on Lake Shelbyville, and Bob Taylor was presented a plaque from the Illini Muskie Alliance for the largest muskie caught in tournament action in 2013 that was turned in to the IDNR Creel Survey.



IMTT President Howard Chambliss with food collected for Shelbyville food pantry



Bob Taylor receiving IMA 2013 Plaque

Sunday morning was flat-out gorgeous! A beautiful sunrise accompanied by mystic fog on the water fired us up, each team determined Sunday would not be a repeat of Saturday's result. We couldn't let Shelbyville muskies shut us out!

But Sunday's Shelbyville bite was nonexistent – well, almost nonexistent...



Right after noon, Duane Landmeier came thru. Pitching a white 10" Grandma crankbait into timber, Duane made just the right twitch to trigger this 31" muskie to strike. Duane and his tournament partner Victor Fox boated the muskie, which had a deformed upper lip. All morning long participants were hoping for anything – even a 30 incher – thinking that may be all it would take to win. We were right...



Duane's lone 31" fish took 1st place at the Fall Classic with a tournament payout of \$1,050. In addition, he received \$400 cash for the Big Fish pot, for total winnings of \$1,450.00 - not bad for a 31" muskie. In fact, that comes out to \$46.77 per inch. So if you're fishing Shelbyville and catch a little guy with a deformed upper lip, treat it well. It's Duane's new best friend...

**CONGRATULATIONS
DUANE!**