

“Cast About - #2”

Hi Muskie Hunters,

Here we go, after a long year of obstacles to overcome, we are now ready to move into a more aggressive mode as far as Muskie fishing/catching is concerned. Even though the Muskie family in Illinois is small in comparison with other angling groups, we can take pride in our dedication, commitment, and camaraderie. For sure a very special group!

Even with virus based concerns, (one day promising and the next day gloom & doom) we are **EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE** (after over a year absence) a return to a sit-down, face to face meeting of those that make up the Illini Muskies Alliance. A heads up information wise – meeting Saturday, June 26 at Lake Evergreen, north of Bloomington/Normal. Weather permitting outside in large pavilion by concession area, bad weather in building where we’ve met before. Full details in the June 1st Cast About, but PLEASE put this on your calendar. Some new twists will take place. We don’t want YOU to miss this “back to I.M.A. business meeting”. If changes occur, we’ll report same in the June 1st Cast About.

With the agreement that YOUTH is the promise of the future, for sure want to remind ALL of the *“Eighth Annual Illinois High School Muskie Tournament at Mill Creek Lake main boat launch area (7 miles northwest of Marshall), Saturday May 15 Hours 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration deadline is May 5. For info and registration: Shawnee Muskie Hunters Chapter of Muskies Inc., Jim Beaty, 618-971-7806 shawneemuskiehunters.org.*

Finally, after many emails and phone calls and input from so many folks the I.M.A. Officers, Club Presidents, Delegates and Alternate directory is up to date and complete. This listing is more important than ever with the restrictions, etc we’ve had this past year. Inter-communication is key for our success. .

LSMC reports that habitat structure maps have been updated on the USACE web site. Printed map books are available at Chips Marine in Sullivan. Also, the USACE are collecting day use fees for Lake Shelbyville.

QUAD COUNTY HAWG HUNTERS reported that the DNR put nets out at Shabbona on April 13th. The Club has also been busy cleaning the fence in Indian Creek recently.

FOX RIVER VALLEY will have their final Zoom meeting before summer on May 12th beginning at 7:00 p.m. Musky guru Will Schultz will be the speaker.

SHAWNEE MUSKIE HUNTERS calendar of events for May include May 1&2 Guide for a Day, May 15 the High School Tournament and a Chapter Outing on Mill Creek May 15&16

CHICAGOLAND MUSKIE HUNTERS – May 8 Chapter Outing on the Fox Chain, May 11 Annual Fundraiser Raffle winner drawing held during virtual monthly meeting. In July TBD Cops and Bobbers Youth Fishing Derby with Mundelein Police Department and Oct. 23rd The 2nd Annual Lady of the Lake Tournament on Lake Geneva Wisconsin.

Frank Loye also sent in following updates re **Chicagoland Muskie Hunters**. The Chapter was approved as a 501C3 Charity in February. We received a \$2,000 Grant from the Gil Hamm Foundation for our 2021 Dean Rosset Stocking Program. We had our first Chapter Outing of the season the weekend of March 26 on Cave Run Lake, KY. With three fish being boated. We held a Litter Obliteration Day on April 17 at Busse Woods where we spent the morning picking up trash around the Busse Woods Boating Center. Our Club will be the first Muskie Tournament using the Fish Donkey Tournament hosting platform for the Lady of the Lake Tournament.

ILLINOIS MUSKIE TOURNAMENT TRAIL – The Jake Wolf Memorial Tournament will be occurring May 22 and 23rd. The tournament a split tournament where half the field will fish on Wheel Lake and the other half on Johnson Lake on Saturday and then the teams will switch lakes on Sunday. Tournament hours will be 6-2 each day.

Flatlanders Chapter – Our Chapter will hold its Awards Banquet for the 2020 fishing season at 5:30 p.m. at the SMSF Club Outdoor Facility on June 4th. This will be a fund raiser for our chapter. The public is invited. Contact Duane Wedler for more information at 815-621-2821. We will be hosting a Youth Day on June 19th at Pierce Lake in Rock Cut State Park. Advance registration will be required. More details will be coming.

IDNR Mike McClelland Fisheries Director – submits the following “Jake Wolf Muskie Spawning and Production Summary, Spring 2021” “The IDNR Division of Fisheries successfully conducted muskie brood stock collections this spring and the 2021 muskie spawning and production is looking good thus far. We collected 592,188 eggs from 24 female muskie. Of those 592,188 eggs, 121,500 fry were transferred to circular tanks on April 6th where they get started on artificial feed. We had an additional 49,800 extra fry that were stocked into Spring Lake North on April 13th. On April 20th, we transferred 110,095 muskie from the circular tanks to start tanks where they continue getting fed artificial food and are provided more space for growth. As of Tuesday April 20th, we have approximately 105,400 muskie and they are 3/4” in length.
3/16/2021 = 80 males collected, 27 females collected, Females Flowing w/eggs 14
3/17/ 2021 = 18 males collected, 8 females collected, 4 females flowing w/eggs
3/18/2021 = 13 males collected, 15 females collected, 6 females flowing w/eggs
Totals = 111 males collected, 50 females collected, 24 females flowing w/eggs”

Note: Mike plans to submit a monthly informational piece on Muskie to our Cast About.

All – We’ve heard way to often “what’s the IMA all about” – “Cast About” is all about making each and every IMA member Club member aware of the IMA. It’s about the Illinois Muskie Fishery, it’s about YOU and it’s about working together. Please, we can’t accomplish this without your help. Each monthly newsletter will be sent to each Club President, Delegate and Alternate Delegate with hopes that someone will forward it on to the membership of each Club. Communicate and stay informed will go along way in assisting the Illinois Muskie Fishery.

Bob Kerans, IMA Acting Chairman – 217-414-0093, Robert_kerans_559@comcast.net

