

“Cast About – Vol. 4 - July 2021”

Saturday, August 14th – 10:00 a.m. HATCHERY TOUR (3rd qt. mtg)

Saturday, November 13th – 10:00 a.m – location TBA (4th qt. mtg)

Finally, a face to face IMA meeting. IMA organizations attending were LSMC, IMTT, SHAWNEE, QUAD CO., FRV, SSMH. Meeting minutes will be sent out by Ron. Representatives attending were: Warren and June Thompson, Ron Skala, Jim Beatty, Duane Landemeier, Rob Hawbaker, Jim Ozee, Pete Barber, Bob Kerans.



Really need your help with the following:

1. Please send membership numbers for your organization.
2. Please complete “Home Lake” form for your group.
3. Please forward Cast About to members in your organization.

IMA OBJECTIVE #1: UNIFY THE MEMBERS OF THE IMA, INC. IN THE PURSUIT AND REALIZATION OF THE GOALS OF THE IMA INC.

It's arranged, our 3rd qt. mtg will be held on Saturday August 14th at the Jake Wolf Hatchery with a tour starting at 10:00 and an IMA mtg following the tour. Tour groups are limited to 15 folks, however if we have more than that wanting to participate they will divide the group up. Soooooo start coming up with the number from your group and send me that number by August 1st and I'll let the folks at the Hatchery know of our numbers.

A special thank you to Shawnee Muskie Hunters, Lake Shelbyville Muskie Club, Quad County and Fox River Valley for making it possible for us to okay ordering the Airstones for the Hatchery.

In-Fisherman, Vol. 46/No. 4 July 2021 has an excellent article on the "Effects of Introduced Muskies". Reminds me of the pamphlet we once put out "What's On The Menu" which tried to address the same concerns in our Illinois stocked Muskie lakes. I still have copies of that pamphlet and will have them available free at our August meeting.

Special committee assignment: James Ozee has agreed to be chairman of the publicity committee and IMA Historian.

IDNR REPORT – Shabbona Lake Muskie Research

"In 2020, IDNR Fisheries initiated research with the University of Illinois on a project intended to better understand the factors responsible for catch rates of muskies in Shabbona Lake. This project is a combination of field and laboratory work, and involves both free swimming fishes in Shabbona Lake, as well as hatchery-reared individuals from the Jake Wolf fish hatchery.

In the first year of the project, muskies from Shabgon Lake were captured by IDNR biologists, and then implanted with a telemetry tag. To date, 36 muskies have been tagged, 33 fish from within the lake and three rescued below the spillway. These tags then emit a signal that is 'heard' by seven stationary receivers around the lake (see receiver locations on the map), allowing for the determination of movements, activity rates and habitat use over a full calendar year. In addition, the tags were outfitted with a temperature sensor that can reveal the thermal preferences of the fish. In this way, researchers can identify

space use, movement patterns, critical habitat needs, and activity levels that can help ensure successful populations into the future.

In subsequent years, researchers will use hatchery-reared fish to identify why muskies do, and do not, strike lures, and what that can mean for populations over a longer term. There has been a great deal of research lately that has shown that the likelihood of a fish striking a lure is related to factors such as food resources, the 'personality' of the fish (e.g., is the fish 'bold' or is it 'shy'), the activity level of the fish (e.g., is it 'active' or is it 'sedentary'), and learning (e.g., past experience with lures). Using a combination of laboratory trials and experimental angling in ponds, researchers, will explore these concepts in an effort to define the mechanism of lure striking in muskies.

The first trip to download data from the receivers will occur sometime in mid-July and then by mid-or late-August data should be processed enough to provide some preliminary information about summer movements and habitats used by the muskie. When taken together, the different aspects of this study will combine to help conserve and protect muskellunge, as well as shed some light on why 10,000 casts are needed to encounter this impressive predator”

Note: above sent in by Michael McClelland, Chief of Fisheries. He adds – “Dr. Cory Suski is heading up this research for us and we are looking forward to the results to help continue to appropriately manage the muskie population at Shabbona Lake.

