



Illinois B.A.S.S. Federation Nation

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Conservation Times

BY MILT WALTERMIRE

I recently received a "Call to Arms" from Chris Horton, B.A.S.S. Conservation Director. This is very serious stuff and therefore I feel the need to pass this info along to you as quickly as possible. We must block this confirmation. President Obama has chosen Cass Sunstein for a powerful regulatory position in the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. This agency has extensive authority over all federal regulations, including the Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service) and the Department of Agriculture. If confirmed, Sunstein would immediately move to block pro-hunting and pro-fishing regulations. A rabid supporter of animal rights, Sunstein claims that he might move to ban hunting and fishing altogether if the sole purpose is for human recreation. He also supports allowing lawsuits on behalf of animals, for crying out loud. No matter which side of the political aisle you stand, these views raise serious concerns about the future of our outdoor sports. The confirmation of Cass Sunstein cannot be allowed to take place. If you value your rights to hunt and fish and want to pass on these rights to your children and grandchildren, contact our Illinois senators now and demand a "no" vote for confirmation. Remind our senators that outdoorsmen spend \$76 billion

each year, which not only supports fish and wildlife conservation, it also means jobs and helps local economies. For more on this issue and to contact our senators, please go to: www.nwtf.org/help_block_animal_rightist_regulatory_czar. As I have said frequently, I believe the number one issue facing anglers today is access. I don't just mean access to fishable waters, but access to the sport overall. Holding on to our outdoor heritage and rights has become a battle, nay, a war, in which we are being attacked on various fronts by various foes. Chris's usage of the term "Call to Arms" underscores the seriousness of this battle. It won't be the last we face, unless we don't win this one.

Gerald Sobkowiak To Represent Illinois At The B.A.S.S. National Championship



Gerald "Flic" Sobkowiak 2009 Illinois Divisional Champ

Gerald Sobkowiak, a long time member of the Thunderbird Bassmasters, as well as, the current President of the club, will go on to represent Illinois at the B.A.S.S. National Championship. Gerald or "Flic," as his friends know him, competed in the B.A.S.S. Northern Divisional Tournament that was held in August at Escanaba in upper Michigan. Flic was the angler with the best

weight on the Illinois Divisional Team.

Flic is a resident of Granville and a very competitive angler. I can speak from experience as a member of the Thunderbird Bassmasters, I can tell you that Flic is very focused when fishing. However, he is always willing to tell you how he got his fish and will even share his baits with you, too. He will be a great representative for our state at the National.

The National Championship Tournament will be held on October 28th, 29th and 30th at the Harris Chain of Lakes in Tavares, Florida. Flic will be competing for one of the top spots, which could move him on to the Bassmaster Classic. Skeeter/Yamaha will provide a fully rigged, tournament-ready boat for use during the event.

Thunderbird Bassmasters along with the IBFN Board would like to congratulate Flic and wish him good luck at the Nationals. For more information about the Divisional Team and the IBFN, go to www.ilfednation.com.

Club News



Illinois Bass Anglers 2009 Kids Fishing Day July 11, 2009 Whalon Lake

Saturday July 11th, the Illinois Bass Anglers held their ninth annual Kid's Fishing Day on the grounds of the Whalon Lake Preserve in Bolingbrook. Although the big one's never starting biting the little ones were abundant for all to have a great time. Every participant received a tackle pack filled with baits as well as a Raffle ticket to choose a prize of their choice from a table full of rods, reels, back packs and tackle boxes. This year we were graciously joined by Pat Fiacatto from Nancy's Pizza-Bolingbrook who setup games for the kids and handed out coupons for a free slice of pizza and candy for all who participated. After all the festivities every participant and their families enjoyed lunch with hot dogs, chips, fruit snacks and a beverage. Congratulations to Javier Romo and Helen Barton for catching the largest fish in both the girls and boys division. Javier and Helen both received new Rod and Reel combos for their winning catch.

The Illinois Bass Anglers would like to thank the following sponsors for helping to make the event a huge success with their generous donations: Progressive Eye Care; Nancy's Pizza - Bolingbrook; Bolingbrook Wal Mart; Bass Pro Shops; Jewel Food Stores; MinuteMan Press, Joliet; Riverstone Financial Advisors; State Farm agent, Sean Carney; Professional Center of Dental Care, Bolingbrook; Andy's Frozen Custard; and AMF Lanes, Bolingbrook.



IBFN Divisional Team Results

Last month the 2009 IBFN Divisional Team competed in the B.A.S.S. Northern Divisional Tournament. The event was held at Escanaba in upper Michigan and for the first time, two Jr. Bassmaster members were invited to fish with the team on the last day of competition. The IBFN Jr. Bassmasters catch was also included in the team's final weight.

The Divisional Team members competed last year at the 2008 IBFN State Qualifier for a spot on the team. The results for the IBFN Illinois State Team are as follows:

1	Gerald Sobkowiak	Granville, Ill.	35-13
2	Bill Skowronski	Hennepin, Ill.	28-05
3	Kevin Rebouche	Frankfort, Ill.	27-08
4	John Williams	South Elgin, Ill.	25-03
5	Jim O'Malley	Elmhurst, Ill.	23-01
6	Michael Rubino	Hoffman Est, Ill.	23-00
7	Ed Schmidt	Granville, Ill.	23-00
8	R. Blumenstein	Bolingbrook, Ill.	21-15
9	Michael Richetta	Spring Valley, Ill.	16-10
10	Jim Blumenstein	Bolingbrook, Ill.	15-06
11	Rich Newell	Aurora, Ill.	13-09
12	Steven Brown	Danville, Ill.	12-12
13	Ronnie Putnam	Altamont, Ill.	1-10
14	Matt Burchfield	Diamond, Ill.	0 0-00



IBFN CLUBS:
Send in your tournament info to be posted in Club News.



2009 IBFN Divisional Team



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