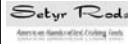




Illinois B.A.S.S. Federation Nation

P.O. Box 703 Streator, IL 61364

www.ilfednation.com



Holiday Wishes

The IBFN Board of Directors would like to wish all of the IBFN members and their families Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2011 IBFN Board of Directors

- Board President** Frank Labanowski
- Vice President** Mike Daniel
- Treasurer** Jim Nelson
- Secretary** Brian Tutko
- Membership Director** Milt Waltermire
- Conservation Director** Jim Blumenstein
- Media Director** Jim McCune
- Youth Director** Mike Sladden
- Region 1 Director** Rich Miller
- Region 2 Director** Mike Daniel
- Region 3 Director**

IBFN 2011 Annual Club Presidents' Conference

The IBFN Board of Directors is gearing up for the annual IBFN Club Presidents' Conference to be held on January 29th at the Bass Pro Shop in Bolingbrook. This is a mandatory meeting and requires representation from all of the clubs in the IBFN. Each club should have two representatives, either their club President and VP, or two appointed members.

We are going to have a one-day format for the Presidents' Conference this year. The conference meetings will be held in the Conservation Room on the second floor. We will begin club check-in at 8:00 a.m.

The agenda for the meeting is stacked with many topics for discussion and information regarding the 2011 fishing season events and tournaments, as well as, guest speakers and should adjourn by 5:00 p.m. This will give everyone time to look around at Bass Pro for a while and still, have time to travel home.

Club News

IBFN CLUBS: Send in your tournament info to be posted in club news.

Illinois Valley Bassmasters

The Illinois Valley Bassmasters based in Morris, Ill. is currently accepting new members. Boaters and non-boaters are welcome. IVM focuses on learning, fun and friendly competition while exploring and testing our skills on regional rivers and lakes. For more information, contact Rich Miller at 815-685-0570 or olbasser@att.net.



Vaughn Capasso.

Mel Hedrick Wins \$10,000 For Make-A-Wish

BY FRANK LABANOWSKI - IBFN PRESIDENT

Over the last several years, Mel Hedrick, a member of Maple Bassmasters, has been working very hard to help raise money for Make-A-Wish foundation through the annual IBFN raffle. Each year the IBFN hosts a raffle and a portion of the proceeds are donated to Make-A-Wish Foundation, which is the charity of choice for the IBFN. The ticket sales are promoted through the IBFN member clubs and Mel has consistently sold more tickets every year to help the efforts of Make-A-Wish.

Mel is an employee for UPS. Each year UPS asks the employees to submit a letter outlining the work they do to help out a charitable organization. UPS then selects one of the employees' letters that demonstrates going above and beyond the call for the charity of their choice. The employee with the winning letter

Conservation Times

BY MILT WALTERMIRE

You may have heard by the time this gets to you that the E.P.A., on November 4th, 2010, denied a petition calling for a ban on the manufacture and use of all lead-based fishing gear. The E.P.A. sent a letter to the petitioners stating that they failed to demonstrate that the rule is necessary to protect against an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment. The letter also states that the increasing number of limitations on the use of lead fishing gear on some federal and state lands, as well as, various education and outreach activities, call into question whether a national ban on lead in fishing gear would be the least burdensome, adequately protective approach to address the concern, as called for under T.S.C.A. (Toxic Substance Control Act).

This ruling represents a major triumph for America's anglers in the fight against this unwarranted petition brought to the E.P.A. by the Center for Biological Diversity, the American Bird Conservancy, the Association of Avian Veterinarians, Project Gulpie and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. Many of you may recall a previous article here and on our website asking you to get involved by contacting your senators, representatives and the E.P.A. itself to voice our opposition to the petition. Included in the articles were the facts and reasons why we were requesting that the petition be denied. It turns out that angler opposition played a major role in the final decision as over 43,000 anglers contacted Lisa Jackson, E.P.A. Administrator with their comments. "The sportfishing industry is very proud of the fact that America's anglers were united on this important

issue and played a pivotal role in E.P.A.'s decision to reject this unwarranted petition", noted Gordon Robertson, American Sportfishing Association (A.S.A.) Vice President. "E.P.A.'s dismissal is without a doubt in direct response to the facts we presented, which were soundly supported by our collective comments and input. The sportfishing community applauds E.P.A.'s decision. It represents a solid review of the biological facts, as well as, the economic and social impacts that would have resulted from such a sweeping federal action. It is a common sense decision". Kudos to all of you in the I.B.F.N. who stepped up to the plate on this one.

There were several groups working on our behalf and urging dismissal of the petition. The first letter to Jackson came from the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and partner members of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners. This was followed immediately by letters from 78 members of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. C.S.C. member and former Chairwoman, Sen. Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas, introduced S.3850 to protect lead-based ammunition and fishing tackle from a potential ban by making them exempt from any future E.P.A. regulations under T.S.C.A. In addition, The National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses Executive Council, The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the American Sportfishing Association all played major roles in urging the dismissal of the petition.

"Even with this decision, A.S.A. will continue to work with legislators and E.P.A. to ensure that future considerations of lead fishing tackle bans are made in response to sound science, not unwarranted petitions," concluded Robertson. "Aside from the many anglers that spoke up, the many organizations and members of Congress deserve our thanks for decisively voicing their opinions to E.P.A."

Mark Klemp—B.A.S.S. FNC



The second day changed a bit with temps in the 60s and winds blowing from the east at 15 to 25 miles per hour. The spot that Mark had late in the previous day was filled with floating debris and he could not get back to where the fish were. Making some changes in his plan, Mark ran from one end of the pool to the other and fished through another one of his spots. By 2:45 p.m., he was able to put keepers in the boat and barely made it back in time. Then, on the final day, the morning started out in the upper 30s, winds from the north again at 10 to 15 mph. Needless to say, the fish were not settling down at all with these kinds of changes, but Mark was able to put together a few keepers to bring to the scales. During the last hour, Mark had the winning fish on two times and lost them on the way to the boat. Mark said, "Both of them were over four pounds, but I just couldn't get them in the boat."

The last week in October, Mark Klemp, a member of the Tri-County Hawg Hunters, competed in the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Championship on the Red River in Shreveport, Louisiana. Mark is our B.A.S.S. Northern Divisional Champion from Illinois who won a birth to the FNC last August.

The practice days went well for Mark and he felt good about the fish he had found. Several fronts came through the area during the official tournament days, which made for some unpredictable fishing.

The first day, the temperatures were in the 70s with winds out of the north and very light. One of Mark's spots began producing keepers and Mark put a limit in the livewell. He figured on going back there the next day.

Northern Illinois Crank 'N Bass

Our final tournament of the year was our Fall Classic on Geneva Lake on October 1st, 2nd and 3rd. It was a chilly weekend with temperatures starting out in the 30s. This caused a tough bite and fishing was tough. We had 11 fishermen attend this event. Thirty fish were caught with a weight of 69.91 pounds. All were released alive.

The results of the tournament were: 1st Place - Vaughn Capasso with a weight of 18.36 pounds; 2nd Place - Luis Gonzalez with a weight of 15.08 pounds; 3rd Place - Allen Severance with a weight of 11.65 pounds; Big Bass for Friday went to Luis Gonzalez with a fish weighing 3.44 pounds; Big Bass for Saturday went to Vaughn Capasso with a fish weighing 4.41 pounds; Big Bass for Sunday went to Allen Severance with a fish weighing 2.99 pounds; and Team honors went to Vaughn and Chris Capasso with a combined weight of 27.45 pounds.

wins a donation from UPS for their charitable organization.

When Mel submitted his letter, he had no idea that he would be the winner and Make-A-Wish Foundation would receive such a generous donation from UPS for Mel's efforts.

At the Maple Bassmasters' October meeting, Janice Miller from Make-A-Wish was there and Mel Hedrick along with Joe Browning, the club president presented her with a check for \$10,000. Janice graciously accepted the check and presented the members with an overview of all the good things a donation like this means to the children suffering from serious illnesses and their families.

The IBFN is very proud to have members like Mel who do the very best they can each year to benefit our charity of choice, the Make-A-Wish Foundation. For more information on Maple Bassmasters, go to www.maplebassmasters.com. Great Job Mel!



IBFN 2011 Schedule

Date	Event
January 29	2011 IBFN Presidents' Meeting - Bass Pro, Bolingbrook
May 22	Jr Bassmaster State Qualifier - Lake Springfield
June 11-12	IBFN State Qualifier - Pools 13-14
Aug 10-15	B.A.S.S. Northern Divisional - Prairie Du Chien
Sept 11	Casting Kids State Championship - Bass Pro, Bolingbrook

Featured Sponsor of the Month



The IBFN thanks its sponsors for their dedication to the Illinois bass fisherman.