



# Illinois B.A.S.S. Federation Nation

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**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**

*Remember those who allow us to do what we love.*

## Conservation Times

BY MILT WALTERMIRE

It's never too soon to start planning your club's conservation or youth projects for 2010. If you are having difficulty coming up with project ideas, consider some of the projects many of our clubs are currently doing and perhaps the proverbial "bulb" will light up for you.

Of course, you probably have read about Illinois Valley Bassmasters' and BASS PAC's project on Braidwood Lake where they have placed multiple fish habs in the lake. Done in conjunction with Exelon and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, their efforts have made a very positive impact on the fish population of the lake. This is an ongoing project that will last for several years. If your club would like to undertake some-

thing of this nature at a lake near you, contact Rich Miller with IVBM or Mark Patterson at BASS PAC for tips on getting started. I can also help you get in touch with proper IDNR people if you need.

The Champaign-Urbana Bass Club gives an annual scholarship to a college graduate student studying and researching fisheries biology. The club gives the research grant to a student who is concentrating on bass and plan to make their life's work in that field. If your club would like to do a fundraiser for a scholarship to a fisheries student at a college near you, give me a call and I'll help in any way I can.

If these projects seem a bit daunting, then possibly 309 Bassmasters have a project that you could emulate in your area. They assist the City of Bloomington in the distribution of small-mouth bass in Lake Bloomington. The also assist in a very neat project regarding the IHSA students participating in the new bass fishing tournaments recently set up. The club assists in putting on seminars to the kids about conservation, boating safety, etc., during the winter, then takes them on the water in the spring for instruction. As you can see, this is a youth project, but conservation is included in the seminars. Perhaps your club could assist one of the participating schools in your area in this manner. Jamie Maisenbacher at 309 Bassmasters would be glad to answer any questions you might have about doing something in this regard.

Quincy Bass Anglers assist in placing fish habs, too, but they also have a youth/conservation project that is very well done and really well-received in their area. They have a 4-H Fishing Derby/Conservation Expo that draws nearly 100 participating kids each year to the event. Steve Banner or Joe Cupp of Quincy BASS Anglers could provide tips on how they do it.

North Shore Bass Anglers also combine conservation with their youth project. Each year, they have up to 75 kids participate in a fishing derby, then perform a clean-up around the lake as well as listen to the importance of conservation during their

derby. Casey Kelly at NSBA would provide suggestions on how your club could do something like this.

Speaking of clean-ups, many clubs perform this function around the waters near them each year. This activity is very much appreciated by the site managers who are now operating on such tight budgets that sometimes there's little option but to let trash build up. Tri-County Hawg Hunters and West Suburban Bass Anglers are two of the clubs who have put smiles on the faces of the managers at Cook County Forest Preserve and the Des Plaines Conservation Area. Larry Coleman is your contact at Tri-County IH and Dave Homan is your man at West Suburban BA for suggestions.

Of course, if you need any assistance at all, please give me a shout. That is, after all, one of the reasons I'm here. Hopefully, I'll be able to quickly put you in touch with the proper IDNR people, if necessary, or provide you with the information needed to perform your project. If your club president attended the IBFN Presidents Conference at Bolingbrook in January, then he will have a Conservation Packet which contains, among other things, a "Conservation/Youth Event Notice." THIS NOTICE NEEDS TO BE SENT TO ME BEFORE YOUR CLUB PERFORMS ITS PROJECT! The reason for this rule is because we have had some clubs perform projects that were worthy undertakings, but had nothing to do with conservation or promoting getting youth involved in fishing. By contacting me beforehand, I could have pointed out that the project didn't qualify and would have allowed them ample time to perform a qualifying project. I would hate to see a club disqualified from fishing the Six-Man State Qualifier because of something like this. It's not that difficult. If you know right now what project your club is going to do, send it to me now and get it out of the way. I look forward to receiving your club's notice soon.

## IBFN SQ Club Requirements

BY FRANK LABANOWSKI, IBFN PRESIDENT

A question I am hearing a lot lately is "How do I submit a team roster to fish in the State Qualifier?"

Many nonaffiliated clubs have been contacting us requesting information to compete in our State Qualifier or to join the IBFN. For IBFN members, the State Qualifier is the road to the Bassmaster Classic.

For any club out there that wants an opportunity to fish in our State Qualifier or join the IBFN, you are all welcome to do both. But you cannot do one without the other.

Here's the deal. For your club to submit a team to fish in our State Qualifier you must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Your club must become chartered/affiliated with the IBFN.
- 2) The club must complete a youth or conservation project in the year prior to the State Qualifier.
- 3) Your club President or representative must attend the Presidents Conference.

So, if your club joins the IBFN this year, the members of your

club must complete a youth or conservation project before December 31. In January your club President attends the Presidents Conference. Now your club can submit a State Qualifier team roster.

These are the annual requirements for an IBFN club to submit a team roster for the State Qualifier.

We have these requirements for good reasons. The IBFN membership will not allow a team or club to buy into our tournament. Our membership feels it is very important to promote our sport to the kids through our youth programs and it is equally important to promote good conservation practices.

All anglers—not just IBFN members—need to stay involved. Bass fishing needs to be passed down to the kids and it is everyone's responsibility to keep our lakes and rivers fishable.

If your club would like to join the IBFN, send us an email and we will help you with the process.

The Illinois Bass Federation Nation is a great organization to be a part of. Our membership actively promotes our sport and helps to maintain our fisheries. Visit our website at www.ilfednation.com.



## IBFN 2010 Schedule

Date	Event
Jan. 23	IBFN Presidents' Meeting
April 24-25	State Qualifier / Rend Lake
May 21-23	PVA / Rend Lake
June 13	Jr. Bassmasters SQ / TBD
Aug. 11-13	IBFN Northern Divisional / Escanaba, MI
Sept. 12	Casting Kids State Finals
TBD	FNC / TBD

## IBFN Club News

**ILLINOIS VALLEY BASSMASTERS ANNUAL BRAIDWOOD LAKE BUDDY BASS TOURNAMENT**  
Sunday, April 11th, 2010  
7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Launch Site: Braidwood Lake at the south ramp (Optional)  
100% PAYBACK  
BIG BASS POT  
\$10.00 per Boat  
\$100.00 per Boat - 2 man team  
Payout is based on 100 boats

**IBFN Question of the Month**

"The Bassmaster Classic"

1. What was the largest margin of victory in pounds?
2. Date of Classic?
3. Location of Classic?
4. Name of winner?
5. Winning pattern and baits?

The first verified IBFN member to answer all questions correctly will win a \$25 gift certificate from restaurant.com. All questions must be answered correctly for winner to be awarded prize. Email all answers to jim.blumenstein@ilfednation.com. Winner will be announced in next month's IBFN article.



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## IBFN Membership Renewal For 2010

It's that time of year again to renew your IBFN membership as a chartered club for the 2010 season. The IBFN dues will remain the same at \$20 per member. Send your club rosters and enclosed check to Brian Tutko, IBFN Secretary at: IBFN, P.O. Box 703, Streator, IL, 61364

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

*Featured Sponsor of the Month*

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