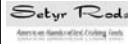




# Illinois B.A.S.S. Federation Nation

P.O. Box 703 Streator, IL 61364

www.ilfednation.com



## Happy New Year!

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

### 2011 IBFN Board of Directors

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

## Message From The IBFN President

### A New Year

During the past year, the IBFN has once again seen growth. After all, we have the greatest bass fishing organization in the state. This is because of our clubs and, more importantly, our members. It is a privilege to belong to an organization with so many anglers who not only want to compete on the water, but also take a sound interest in youth and conservation.

This year, we will hold our State Qualifier on Pool 13. The IBFN will be hosting two additional tournaments this year, as well. Over the coming weeks, keep an eye on the IBFN message board for all of the details.

We have some great sponsors and, in this time of economic uncertainty, if you are going to shop, please help support them. They have contributed to help our organization for the coming year. Each month we will continue to feature a different sponsor, thanking them for their support. Our national sponsors have also put together some great programs for this year. As we look forward to a new year and the challenge of chasing trophy bass, always keep safety and sportsmanship in mind on the water. I hope all of our members and their families had a very Merry Christmas and will have a great 2011.

Frank Labanowski  
President IBFN

## Conservation Times

BY MILT WALTERMIRE

Now that the holidays are over and everyone is looking forward to the time that they can get out and use their new rod and/or reel, depth finder or other exciting new piece of fishing gear, it is also time to not only reflect upon the past year, but also to look forward to next fishing season. A few of my thoughts on each are as follows.

The dedication of many of our clubs to assist in the improvement and protection of our fisheries continues to make me very proud. Never in my memory, albeit feeble, can I recall so many clubs doing such great things in the conservation of our resources and fisheries. Each year more and more members are taking part in conservation projects at a time when our DNR is financially strapped and in dire need of assistance. I have received many reports from park rangers, lake managers, etc.,

expressing their gratitude for the help they have received from one of our clubs. It is heart-warming to know we are making a difference to those who are charged with the management of our natural resources. Helping to preserve the resources, not just use them, is one of the qualities that sets us apart from other fishing organizations.

The past year also saw some full-scale attacks from various anti-fishing groups who have become quite adept at finding new methods or angles of attack. In one case, one U.S. Senator from California who had been rebuffed for 10 years in his attempts to get his ridiculous bill through committee, was able to convince our President to issue an executive order to create a no-fishing zone off the coast of California, thus blatantly bypassing the will of the people through representation and ignoring scientific data that did not support his claims. Fortunately, this situation was the only major setback from their attacks. Attempts to make illegal the manufacture and sale of lead in fishing tackle was appropriately not approved by the E.P.A. Bills attempting to create M.P.A.'s (Marine Protected Areas) in the Great Lakes have been, so far, defeated. In each of the previous two cases, it took a concerted effort on the part of concerned fishermen to defeat these measures through contacting their senators or representatives. I can't emphasize enough the importance of making ourselves heard when these issues come up. It makes all the difference in the world and we all did our part. I'm sure that we will need to join

forces yet again in the near future, but these efforts are certainly worth it, considering the consequences of remaining silent.

Last year also saw the resignation of Chris Horton, B.A.S.S.'s outstanding conservation director. Over the past few years, I had witnessed the slow decline of conservation support by ESPN, which was further made evident by Chris's departure. Chris became a regional director with the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus, where he continues to do terrific work on our behalf. I am hopeful that the new owners of B.A.S.S., which includes Jerry McKinnis, will return conservation to the prominent role it used to play within the organization.

The year 2011 will bring new challenges in many areas concerning fishing and the managing of our resources. I'm certain the IDNR will come under even more intense scrutiny concerning funding, given our state's poor financial condition. More attacks will come to make fishing more difficult, if not impossible. The attempt to raise ethanol levels in our gasoline to a minimum of 15 percent could have devastating effects on our outboards and the entire marine industry. These are just a couple of issues we will face, but if last year is any indication, we are up to the fight to preserve our fishing heritage and will continue to help the management of our local fisheries.

Now, if spring could somehow arrive in January...I can't wait to get out and backlash that new ABU-Garcia.

## 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.

Special room rates are being set up in Bolingbrook for those who will be arriving Friday evening. Details on the hotel and conference will be sent to all club presidents very soon and will be posted on the IBFN message board, as well.

Remember, if your club plans to enter a team to participate in the State Qualifier, your club must have representation at the Presidents' Conference. No rosters for the State Qualifier will be accepted from a club if they did not have representation at the meeting.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the conference and let's get 2010 off to a great start.

IBFN Board

## 2010 IBFN Make-A-Wish Raffle Winners



Boat winner, Brad Plunket with his grandfather, Jim Plunket.



Ed Bohn, winner of a \$500 Bass Pro Shop gift card.

## Club News

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

### Illinois Valley Bassmasters

The Illinois Valley Bassmasters will be holding their annual Braidwood Buddy Bass Tournament on Sunday, April 3, 2011. The creel limit this year is five fish 14 inches. IVBM will also be donating \$5.00 from every entry to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Email entry forms will be going out in January. For further information or to be added to the email list, you may contact Tournament Director Dave Winnie at sticknem@att.net or (815) 342-9242.

## IBFN Membership Renewal For 2011

It's that time of year again to renew your IBFN membership as a chartered club for the up and coming 2011 season. The IBFN dues have been raised to \$40 per member. Send your club rosters and enclosed check to Brian Tutko, IBFN Secretary at:

IBFN, P.O. Box 703, Streator, IL, 61364

## 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

## Customize Your IBFN Club Shirts

Full Dye Sublimation  
Details at [ilfednation.com](http://ilfednation.com)

## Featured Sponsor of the Month

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