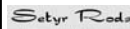




# Illinois B.A.S.S. Federation Nation

P.O. Box 703 Streator, IL 61364

www.ilfednation.com



## Conservation Times

BY MILT WALTERMIRE

Most of you already know that a former B.A.S.S. Conservation Director has returned to the post, and boy has she really hit the ground running. Noreen Clough wanted to get brought up to date as quickly as possible with all of the issues facing our state Conservation Directors so she set up a conference call with all of us. It had to be cut off at two hours, and in that time we were only able to thoroughly cover two topics—Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) and Access issues.

In our discussions concerning ANS, it was generally believed that there are three areas with which we should be concerned: 1. The public believes the problem is all our (anglers) fault, and therefore; 2. We need to better educate the public, and; 3. New regulations are coming our way.

As you may recall, I took on problems #1 & #2 in an article several months ago, stating unless we have been fishing in Peru or China in our boats and then brought our boats back here to fish, we didn't bring the invasive species here. Those people/companies actually responsible for doing so should be required to foot the bill for eradication of the problems, not the fishermen. Sure, we may have spread them around unintentionally, but we didn't cause the initial problem. As for new regulations, some states are already seeing their imposition. For example, Nevada is stopping and checking every boat that crosses the state line into their state, looking for any invasives that could be introduced into their waters. Illinois certainly wouldn't be able to commit the resources to such an undertaking in its current fiscal condition, but other steps or regs could be in our future.

To summarize, we (the conservation directors) will be attempting to develop new strategies to educate and eradicate.

Also briefly discussed was an EPA press release concerning ANS that we all need to keep an eye on. Entitled, "EPA Seeks Public Comments to Help Develop Management Practices for Recreational Vessels," the EPA claims that it wants input from boaters and other stakeholders to help develop proposed regulations to "reduce water pollution and the spread of invasive species in the nation's rivers, lakes and other bodies of water." As an alternative to the permits required for commercial vessels, the 2008 Clean Boating Act directs the EPA to develop management practices for recreation vessels. The Act directs EPA to "take steps to limit the impact of pollution and the spread of invasive species associated with the discharge and deck runoff from boats." This is just a wild guess on my part, but I'm thinking that the "management practices" and the "steps to limit the impact" will require some sort of payment by the boat owner to the EPA to acquire a permit. Let's be vigilant on this one.

Access is a rapidly developing problem, especially when it comes to fishing in marinas that were built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Each access issue presents a variable condition that makes it impossible to develop a specific strategy with which to combat the problem. In many cases, working with a state legislator who is part of the Sportsmen's Caucus will help alleviate the issue. In some cases, it's a homeowners association that tries to keep tournaments away. In others, it's dock renters who want an entire marina to themselves.

To name a couple of issues in Illinois, Clinton Lake and Lake Sara have been presenting access problems.

At Clinton, signs are posted all over the entrance

road to the main marina, "No Fishing In Marina". Those signs were posted to pacify dock renters who complained about fishermen crowding the marina. What those signs don't tell anyone is that the "No Fishing" refers to fishing from the bank or from the docks. Therefore, the dock renters and fishermen usually have some sort of confrontation. The lake was built with state funds and, although most dock renters now understand that the water is public, there are always a few who try to discourage fishermen from fishing in the marina. So far, efforts to convince the marina owners to make the signs more specific have been in vain.

The city of Effingham owns Lake Sara, where the majority within the homeowners association would like to keep tournaments away. Knowing that they couldn't keep the public completely away from a public lake yet still wanting to placate the Lake Sara Homeowners Association, the City raised the required lake permit from \$25 to \$80 for non-residents, plus a \$5/day launch fee, to discourage as many bass clubs in the state as they possibly could from holding tournaments there. When combined with the lake manager's recent practice of killing most of the weeds (also at the request of the homeowners association), the city of Effingham has been successful in making it financially difficult to fish their deteriorating fishery. I'm sure the motel and restaurant owners as well as the rest of the residents in Effingham are proud of the fact that their city fathers are deflecting previous business and its resultant taxes to other communities. Yeah, I know that the Effingham business owners' happiness is none of my concern, but I point this out simply to illustrate how the selfish desires of a few can have such an adverse result for everyone else on access issues.

## 2011 IBFN State Qualifier

This year's IBFN State qualifier will be held on the Mississippi River pools 13-14. There will be over 100 IBFN members competing for one of the 12 spots on the 2012 IBFN Illinois State Divisional Team. The official days of competition are April 11 and 12. Official practice days are April 9 and 10. The tournament will take off and weigh-in will be at the Mississippi Palisades State Park - IL. Route 84, Savanna, IL 61074.

The event will start with a pre-tournament meeting that will begin at 6 p.m. All participating clubs team captains must check in beginning at 5 p.m.

The Mississippi River is off limits for all participants from Sunday, June 5 at sundown till Thursday, June 9 at safe light.

## IBFN Announces Open Events

IBFN announced that it will be hosting two initial open events in 2011. These events are open to the public and do not require membership to participate. These tournaments are 100% payout after expenses and are hosted by the IBFN Tournament committee.

### Tournament dates:

June 4, 2011 - Mississippi River Pool 13-14, Savanna, Ill.  
Aug 20, 2011 - Lake Springfield, Springfield, Ill.

Visit [www.ilfednation.com](http://www.ilfednation.com) for more information.

## 2011 PVA Tournament

On May 21 and 22 the Paralyzed Veterans Association will be holding their annual bass fishing tournament for paralyzed veterans. This is a great organization and fantastic tournament. Over the years many of the IBFN members have gone down to Rend Lake and volunteered their time on their boats to take the PVA anglers out to compete. Once again they are looking for support from our members. If you would like to be a PVA boater, go to the IBFN web site at [www.ilfednation.com](http://www.ilfednation.com) for more information. It is a very rewarding experience and a great opportunity to help our fellow anglers.



**LAND OF LINCOLN PVA BASS TOURNAMENT**  
Hosted by Nation PVA  
May 20-22, 2011  
Rend Lake, Mount Vernon, Ill.

Marina:  
Wayne Fitzgerald State Park  
Rend Lake  
11094 Ranger Road  
Whittington, IL 62897  
618-629-2320

Registration:  
May 20, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Partner Pairing at 7:30 p.m.  
Veterans Park Community Center

Host Hotel:  
Holiday Inn  
222 Potomac Blvd.  
Mount Vernon, IL 62864  
618-244-7100

Tournament Contact:  
Alan Earl - 800-424-8200, ext. 738, [alane@pva.org](mailto:alane@pva.org)

## IBFN CLUBS:

Send in your tournament info to be posted in Club News.

## 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 will be \$40 per member. Send your club rosters and enclosed check to Brian Tulko, 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 4	IBFN Open Circuit – Pool 13
June 11-12	IBFN State Qualifier – Pools 13-14
Aug 10-15	B.A.S.S. Northern Divisional – Prairie Du Chien
Aug 20	IBFN Open Circuit – Lake Springfield
Sept 11	Castling Kids State Championship – Bass Pro, Bolingbrook

Featured Sponsor of the Month



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