

Fall Shelbyville Muskie Showing Promise - September 23, 2007

The Lake Shelbyville Muskie Club hosted the first tournament of the Illinois Muskie Tournament Trail's fall schedule. The weather was more like summer, with air temperature reaching the low 90's and water temperature starting out at 74 degrees and reaching 82 degree's by day's end. The day was mostly clear and humid, and left many of the 25 participants seeking shaded coves for at least part of the day.

Many of the teams saw muskie breaking the surface, rolling, and making passes at their baits. However, few seen were serious biters. Only five muskie were caught, measured, and released. Four of those were boated by the team of Kevin and Kerry Butler of Urbana, IL. They ran away with first place with fish measuring 41, 38, 36, and 34 inches, respectively. Unlike the times when muskie seem to select a brief time when the feeding mood strikes them, the Butler's caught theirs at regular intervals from 9am to 1:30pm.

David Eichelberger landed a 31 inch fish that earned second place for him and his partner Tony Carswell. All agreed that as the air and water temperatures cool, the Lake Shelbyville muskie fishery could bring a lot of action this fall.

The Lake Shelbyville Muskie Club put on a nice tournament. They even held a participant's raffle that gave the winning team a cash prize to offset gas costs. Mike Taylor and Keith Johnson were the lucky winners.

The next IMTT tournament is the Lake Shelbyville Classic, Oct 6 & 7. Hopefully the weather will cooperate, and the muskie will keep getting more active, to make that an exciting event for all.

The ever-positive muskie fishermen are looking forward to the next challenge.

Submitted by Roy Schodtler