

Results of the 2007 IMTT Lake Shelbyville Fall Classic

Two weeks ago The Lake Shelbyville Muskie Club hosted the first tournament of the IMTT fall schedule, and it indicated the action they saw on Lake Shelbyville gave reason to be optimistic. This past weekend, the IMTT organized, ***Lake Shelbyville Fall Classic***, showed that the earlier optimism was well founded. The weather had still not established a typical fall pattern, and in fact was again more like summer, with air temperature reaching the low 90's, and water temperature getting to the mid 70's. The skies were mostly clear. Not ideal muskie conditions... but 40 boats of determined muskie fishermen, coaxed 22 quality fish into their boats, over the two-day tournament. There were many additional reports of aggressive attempts by, and temporary hook-ups with, muskie.

The tournament place results were as follows.

- 1st : John & Romas Sutton of Chicago , with muskie of 46", 39", & 41.5".
- 2nd : Brandyn Shepherd & Joe Andrews of Yorkville, with 38", 40" & 41".
- 3rd : Dave Eichelberger & Tony Carswell of Champaign with 40.5", 39" & 37"
- 4th : Walt Krause & Todd Russell of Collinsville with 38" & 39"
- 5th : Mike Witkowske & James Putz of Crestwood with 47.5"
- 6th : Rich Cosentino & John Reichert of Cantrell with 44"

The muskie caught were of consistently good quality, with the shortest fish measured being 37", and fifteen muskie measuring 40 inches or more. Mike Witkowski's 47.5" brute was the largest fish caught in the tournament, and the largest muskie caught on the IMTT circuit this season.

The IMTT and Lake Shelbyville community again put together a great classic. The tournament banquet at the Shelbyville VFW post was outstanding, and continued strong community sponsor support allowed for more place awards, more attractive prizes than ever. The IMTT and Lake Shelbyville community are already enthusiastically putting together a spring and fall *Classic* encore for 2008.

Hopefully the muskie will keep getting more active, making the upcoming ***Bass Pro Illinois Invitational State Muskie Championship***, held on, Lake Shelbyville **Nov. 10 & 11, 2007**, an exciting event for all. The Championship will be an invitational event with specific point requirements, earned by participation in the IMTT circuit. In addition an "other lake" requirement must be met. There may be a few "at large" slots, open, if eighty IMTT fishermen have not all met the point requirement, but those invitees must still have fished an IMTT event on a lake other than Lake Shelbyville.