

State Bass Tournament on 10/14/23

WHAT A TOURNAMENT!!!!

We had 21 boats from around the state enter this year. There were 16 lodges represented. Lake of the Ozark Lodge as usual were the perfect host to everyone fishing the tournament.

Thanks to Steve Schmidt ER and all the lodge members for making this happen.

We had a fun Friday night pre-meeting and enjoyed a delicious meal with State President Lance Evans and his crew.

Our award dinner was fantastic. The food was excellent and filling. Everyone went home with an attendance prize.

We had three big gifts to give out:

A two night stay at Robins Resort with no monetary amount.

A \$150.00 gift card to Bass Pro

A diamond art made by one of our fisherman – Jim Green from Affton #2635

A total of 28 fish were caught:

First place was 11.71 pounds caught by Stuart Arthur and Timothy Vieth.

Second place was 10.86 pounds caught by Chuck and Beau Mudge

Third place was 5.85 pounds caught by Terry Summers and Rick Barnwell

Fourth place was 5.62 pounds caught by Scott and Jarrett Vandever

Fifth place was 5.55 pounds caught by Jim Green and Dan Gosney

Big Bass:

First place big bass was 4.07 pounds caught by Colby Butler

Second place big bass was 3.86 pounds caught by Stuart Arthur & Timothy Vieth

Just want to get everyone know we had 35 elks fishing this tournament and with the monies collected we were able to donate \$23.71 to benevolent trust in each fisherman's honor for a total of \$830.00

Our bass carving brought in \$1,275.00 with the monies going to benevolent trust. The winner of the trophy was George Budde who donated it back. The trophy was auctioned off that night and Bill Hamerstone from Lake of the Ozarks Lodge had the highest bid of \$375.00 and he donated it to his lodge for their Christmas auction.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all the donations to the tournament.

I have a little story to tell:

On Thursday night at Lake of the Ozark Lodge I had the pleasure to meet Forrest O'Neil. In our conversation he mentioned to me he had fished in the first tournament in 1991. He continued to fish until a stroke took out the use of his left leg and he developed Parkinsons. He told me he would give anything to go out on a boat and fish. I just looked at and said no problem.

His niece Jen, who is his care taker, came up to me and questioned me about what I said. I told her to get him over to Robin's Resort and I would take him out. Well Friday at 1:00 pm Jen showed up with Forrest and after 5 fellow elks helped we had him the boat. He got to fish for an hour and a half. Saturday I ask Jen to bring him to our awards dinner and after I handed out all the awards and gifts The State Bass Tournament presented Forrest with a hand made plack that read Elks State Bass Tournament 2023. It also had a painted carving of a bass and lure on it. Needless to say not a dry eye in the place.

So to sum it up this was a fantastic bass tournament.

Respectfully submitted,

John Devous