

Illinois Fish Talk  
by Steve Welch

About a year ago I decided enough was enough of me posting on other fishing forums and readers tear my posts apart and make all sorts of accusations about me and most if not all of them didn't even know me. So I decided to start my own and from the get go we do not tolerate activities of personal attacks on one another and do not give three or four warnings to those individuals who do these things. I set it up that every post goes right through my e-mail account and I keep a very close eye on this and like I said it is my forum and I deem that post unfit then you are kicked off. We are all adults here and you know what is acceptable.

With that being said it has been a year now and we currently have almost 600 members and very helpful knowledge can be gathered on this site. My partner on this site and in my guide service is the best electronics person I have ever met. Boat dealers and electronic dealers frequently use him to troubleshoot the high end products that are on today's market. On both of our boats we have four Lowrance HDS each one networked with side imaging on both the rear of the boat and on the front. We have a very good knowledge of mapping cards and how to use them along with your hi-def electronics. I have not seen another site that has more info on Lowrance HDS and other depthfinders. We even give tutorials on the lake that are easily the most in-depth ones out there.

The forum has a screenshot section that is loaded with side and downscan shots taken from our units on Lake Shelbyville and other local lakes. These are not taken from Internet promos but actual on-water experiences. We encourage anyone to post their pics from Lowrance or Humminbird so we can all see just how good today's electronics really are.

We have a big fish photo section and all sorts of species are represented. We encourage any picture with a kid in it to be front and center because those are our most precious pictures out there.

We have a wild game and fish recipe section and I have tried several and all of them have been delicious.

There is also a for sale section and several items have been bought and sold through it.

It is by far the most up to date fishing reports for Lake Shelbyville since I guide almost 250 days a year and share lots of patterns with members. We have many other lakes that are also represented on the site and now that it is a year old I have seen it garnish about 30,000 posts and all of them helpful in one way or another.

In order to join just go to my website at [www.LakeShelbyvilleGuide.Com](http://www.LakeShelbyvilleGuide.Com) and click on the icon on the top of the page and it will lead you to the forum for a short sign up section then you are good to go. Remember this is a kid friendly site so no profanity based handles please.

February means to me better get ready for guide season it is a mere three weeks away. I make sure all my batteries are in good shape, my reels have good line and there are no motor issues and then get out there a few days before my first trip and do some scouting.

February also means I have three more fishing shows to get through. The first one is Tinley Park February 9-10 then off to Arthur February 22-23 and finally to Elmwood on March 2-3 then I am done and off to Paris Landing for a tourney on March 16th. Then full time guiding every day on Shelbyville from March 18th to mid August before I get my first day off that is five months straight fishing every day without a break. Then a half dozen days off in August and four more months without a day off. Got To Love It....