



## 2017 Fishing for a Cure Fact Sheet

- The 2017 tournament, scheduled for **Saturday, June 3**, will represent our 16<sup>th</sup> year at hosting our annual “Fishing for a Cure” fundraiser. The charity team bass tournament takes place on Braidwood Generating Station’s cooling lake.
- In 2002, Braidwood Generating Station (a nuclear generating plant in rural Braceville, Ill., and owned by Exelon Corp.) sought to initiate positive publicity through a philanthropic activity that combined strong local impact, use of existing resources and employee engagement. At the same time, the station was looking for a way to welcome back anglers after the station’s cooling lake was closed for security reasons following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The station launched a professional/amateur charity bass fishing tournament on the lake.
- The annual tournament raises money for a local charity selected each year by employees. The charity must have a connection to a Braidwood employee and the local community. Exelon pays the cost of staging the event, allowing 100 percent of the \$150-per-boat entry fee, prize drawings and silent auctions to go directly to the charity. The 2017 charity will be the Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition, a local not-for-profit that, among other things, is battling the heroin epidemic in the area.
- In its first 15 years, “Fishing for a Cure” raised more than \$455,000 for charity. Past benefitting charities were the Beth Ann Miller Foundation in its fight against Bacterial Meningitis (2002), Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (2003,) Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Center (2004), Multiple Sclerosis Society (2005), Citizens United in Research of Epilepsy (2006), Make-a-Wish Foundation of Illinois (2007), Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (2008), Autism Speaks (2009), Operation MOMS Cookies, Inc. (2010) Wounded Heroes Foundation (2011), four local food pantries (2012), Alzheimer’s Association of Greater Illinois (2013), Coal City/Diamond Disaster Relief Fund (2014), three not-for-profit area hospices in Grundy, Kankakee and Will counties (2015) and Easter Seals Joliet Region (2016).
- Competing fishermen will have a chance to have some fun and win some impressive cash prizes totaling \$10,000. The first place team will reel in \$4,000, with second and third place netting \$2,500 and \$1,000 respectively. In addition, 4<sup>th</sup>-, 5<sup>th</sup>- and 6<sup>th</sup>-place finishers will win \$500 and teams finishing 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> each will win \$250.
- Interesting statistics:
  - 2002 - 2006 (5-fish maximum) = 16.03 (2006)
  - 2007 - 2012 (3-fish maximum) = 11.10 (2012) – John Novak of Shorewood and Jim Rura of Morris
  - Biggest Bass – 2012 – John Novak of Shorewood (5.64 lbs)
  - Biggest Catfish – 2014 – Steve Smith and Ed Withaeger (7.84 lbs.)