

Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation

Meeting Minutes

June 27th, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation was called to order on June 27th, 2013 at approximately 7:33p by Sylvia Morris.

Roll Call: The following clubs were absent: CT Bassmen, Greater Hartford Bassmasters and MidConn Anglers

Correspondence:

- Thank you card from the Levesque Family for our donation to St Jude's Childrens hospital in Peter Levesque's name.
- Thank you card from Daniel Gage for \$1,000.00 scholarship he was awarded by the CBN.
- A check for \$250.00 has been received from Jack Vinyard for the Juniors

Announcements:

- Dear B.A.S.S. Nation President,
 - I always knew that this day would come, but that knowledge doesn't make it any easier After more than 20 years with B.A.S.S., I have decided to retire from my position as Director of the B.A.S.S. Nation. My retirement is effective July 8. I've had a wonderful ride, but now it is time for me to concentrate on some of my favorite activities – time with the family, time on the water, time on the golf course, and time in a tree stand! As I leave B.A.S.S., I am comforted to know that the B.A.S.S. Nation will remain in very capable hands.

Jon Stewart, a longtime member of the B.A.S.S. Nation team and a past president of the Kansas B.A.S.S. Nation, will take over the reins as Director of the B.A.S.S. Nation. Jon has been in charge of our tournament operations for many years and has overseen our youth programs for the past couple of years. He also has been deeply involved with all of the operations of the B.A.S.S. Nation since his promotion to Senior Manager.

Hank Weldon, Manager of College B.A.S.S., will see an increase in his responsibilities as well. Hank will take over day-to-day operations of our High School bass fishing initiative, which will fit very nicely with his work and experience in collegiate fishing.

Emily Hand will continue in her role as "Office Manager" for the B.A.S.S. Nation and will be your primary point of contact for all matters related to your club or state. She will also continue to travel to many of the high school, college, and B.A.S.S. Nation events.

In addition to these changes, my good friend Noreen Clough is sending an email to Conservation Directors in each B.A.S.S. Nation announcing her retirement as well, effective August 9. A search is under way for her replacement. We should all be grateful that Noreen was willing to come out of her previous retirement to keep B.A.S.S. Conservation going strong when the new owners assumed control of the company a few years ago. Now, she tells me, it's time to devote more of her time to her passions of traveling and fishing.

I leave the B.A.S.S. Nation with the knowledge that we have made tremendous accomplishments in the past 20 years! Sure, we have had some setbacks and challenges, but we have come through all of those and are stronger today than at any time in the past. That has not happened because of any individual person, but through our combined efforts and dedication to this organization and the industry that we cherish. Thanks to all B.A.S.S. Nation members, past and present, for their commitment to the founding principles of B.A.S.S.; it has been an honor to serve as your National Director! ~Don

- Tackle storage giant Plan Molding Co. has obtained the title sponsorship to the final event of the 2013 Bassmaster Elite Series Season. The Plano Championship Chase on Lake St. Clair & the Detroit River will take place August 22-25 out of Detroit, Mich.

A motion was made and passed to accept the previous month's minutes.

Report of Officers

Treasurers Report: Marc Levesque.

Conservation Report: Dean Rustic:

- CAC Meeting
 - Committee Reports – Legislative – Bob Crook
 - Gun Bills
 - Gun rights organizations are asking for donations to pay for Attorney Fees. CCDO – no information on the court case as of yet
 - HB5412 Sunday Hunting – failed to pass
 - DEP Reports –
 - TIP Report (Law Enforcement) – 800 incidents
- Fisheries Advisory Council Meeting in Old Lyme
 - Updates for Kensington Hatcheries
 - CT River Salmon and Trout unlimited worked to save the hatchery
 - Cuts to other DEEP areas
- Recycling
 - Terry will have the youth fishing collecting used line & baits at the tournaments.
- Fizzing Kits
 - Kits will be \$3.00 per kit – Let Dean know how many for your club members would want one & they will be available at the next meeting
- Fishing Advocacy
 - Community Fishing Lakes with clean-up efforts
 - Stocking inner city ponds – Bass, Blue Gill, Sun Fish...possible youth and conservation project planned for later this year
 - Free Fishing Day – Gave idea for free day pass and online sign up
- Conservation Awards – October 2013
- National Conservation Con-Call Meeting
 - Re-writing of Conservation Mission Statement
 - Noreen Clough will step down as National Conservation Director
- **Conservation Project for CT B.A.S.S Nation**

- Creating a state wide project with the DEEP program for No Child left inside is the community fishing in urban areas. Below is the list of ponds that we have available and need assistance with the program. A clean-up day for each of these lakes is possible.
 - Bunnells Pond, Bridgeport
 - Keney Park Pond, Hartford
 - Lake Wintergreen, Hamden
 - Mohegan Park Pond, Norwich
 - Lakewood Lake, Waterbury
 - Upper Fulton Park Pond, Waterbury
 - Freshwater Pond, Enfield
 - Pickett's Pond, Derby
- Besides the opportunity to stage a clean-up day, we are working with Bill Hyatt, Peter Aarrestad and Mike Beauchene to get permitted to catch legal size Pan Fish and Bass from other CT lakes and help "stock" these ponds for the local kids.
- This would allow the CBN to accomplish the following:
 - Have an organized statewide project that is easy for clubs to join
 - Clubs can add to the project by combining this with:
 - Youth Event by having kids fish with them
 - Clean up the lake they are fishing
 - Working with the state DEEP to build on our foundation
 - Get publicity for the project (DEEP wants media coverage)
 - Helps up promote fishing and encourage fishing to more youths
- Next Steps:
 - Have clubs choose a body of water and volunteer to be lake stewards for the lake
 - Mohawk Valley Bass Casters signed up for Upper Fulton Park Pond, Waterbury
 - Hopeful to hold the event the weekend of August 24th and 25th

Boating Advisory: Tom Reynolds – Nothing new to report

C.L.A. Report:

- First Light has stated there will be no more deep draw downs
- Lake Authority is looking for other options to control milfoil.
 - The towns and First Light are still cutting funds to the Lake Authority
- Towns and First Light will be doing the lake clean-up this year
- Lines & Buoys being put in place are a Zebra Mussel monitoring system so if you see them in Lake Zoar, Lake Lillinonah and Candlewood try to avoid them
- Will begin to treat Laurel Lake in MA this summer

Tournament Report: Paul Dingee:

- Second tournament was held at CT River, Haddam, Sunday June 23rd
 - Thank you to the tournament committee and to the State Team and other anglers for their help
 - 62 Anglers & 33 Co-Anglers
- Mr. BASS letter were mailed to presidents listed on the website. If this is incorrect please let Paul know ASAP
 - If not sending someone for Mr. BASS this year let us know ASAP
 - Mailing deadline is July 19th, and pairings and location will be posted July 30th

- Next tournament is Sunday, July 14th at Candlewood Lake, Squantz – Mail in deadline is June 29th
 - Surelife for sale (\$10)
- **NEW TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED.**

Sponsorship Report: Bob Nelson:

- **Home Depot in Danbury, CT** will be giving the CBN Tournament Committee (6) new two-way radios. These radios are used, by committee members, to communicate prior to the tournaments.
- **BASSGold** – Another Benefit to your B.A.S.S Nation membership and the discount code show has to be closely guarded. It is to be used by your members for their one-year free membership to BASSGold and **cannot be shared with anyone else.** Will still have to use a credit card to enroll in BASSGold but the discount code should trigger the system to not charge for enrollment. As in anything, there could be mistakes made and will be handled on a one-on-one basis should the member be charged.
 - Use BASSGold and give them feedback on it
 - Enter 6 patters, which do NOT have to be tournament patterns; that’s basically only one every 2 months.
 - With a database of thousands of fishing patters from bass tournaments over the years, the program provides fishing recommendations (where, how and with what) for any body of water in the US.
 - A Web-based app that runs on any web connected device has predicted with remarkable accuracy the winning patters and weights for recent Bassmaster Classics, Bassmaster Elite Series events and many other tournaments. It has also helped anglers catch more fish quickly on fun fishing days as well.
- **Power-Pole** sponsorship is open to all CBN members – to receive the discount you have to complete the Pro-Staff application on the website www.power-pole.com
- The Reynolds’ Angler Incentive Program is back. The incentive is doubled for all customers who have purchased a new boat.
 - Anglers paired with the top 3 finishing co-anglers in each of the 4 tournament trail events will be rewarded as follow:
 - Angler paired with the 1st place finishing co-angler will receive \$75.00
 - Angler paired with the 2nd place finishing co-angler will receive \$50.00
 - Angler paired with the 3rd place finishing co-angler will receive \$25.00
- Bassmaster and ScoutLook created a free fishing weather app for iPhone and Android. To download the app visit www.scoutlookweather.com
- **Midstate Battery** – A discount is available to ALL Nation members and the Nation will receive a Volume Rebate
 - They can be reached at 139C West Dudley Town Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002
 - Phone 860.243.0646 Fax 860.243.5945 or email at smerone@midstatebattery.com
 - Notify Sylvia about all purchases so she can keep track of what the CBN rebate should be.
- **Powell Rods** – “Nation” Special Promotion
 - Offering a discount on rods to the Nation members for 30% off & 20% off retail on Diesel Rods
 - Purchase 6 Diesel Rods (mix & match) and pick an Endurance Rod (from specially marked rods) as yours free
 - Please see www.powellco.com to order
- **Buff USA** is now a State, Trail and State Team Sponsor. You may see their products at: www.buffusa.com
Buff USA has a line of buffs and gloves made exclusively for anglers. They have some with bass on them as well. Some of their products were on the prize table at our first tournament.

CBN Scholarship Committee: Nothing new to report

Robert S. Malloy Scholarship Committee: David Santos – Scholarships to be given again in November

Banquet Committee: Sylvia Morris:

- The next banquet has already been booked. It will be at the Chowder Pot again on November 9th, 2013.

Membership Committee: Paul Dingee: Nothing new to report

Website Committee: June training cancelled and rescheduled for July

Audit Committee: Vinny Mucci – Audit Completed

Youth Report: Terry Baksay and Ron Frisk:

- First Juniors Tournament was held June 25th
 - 11 Kids fished – 5 limits
 - Older group winner had 11.45lb and younger group winner had 16.90lb
- Next tournament is June 28th and at the July 2nd tournament prize bags will be passed out including angler donated products
- High School fishing will begin in August
 - Will qualify 2 teams for the 2014 Championship
 - \$1,700 was donated to High School account from the Bryan Kerchal Open held by Housatonic Valley Bassmasters

Finance Committee: Ray Bessette: Nothing to report

State Team Report: Sylvia Morris:

- Meeting was held after CBN Tournament June 23rd, 2013.
- State Team Jerseys were passed out, a big thank you to Valley Fashion for adding the 26 Angels Foundation logo!!
- Lowrance and Mercury hats were also passed out.
- Divisional Money has been sent for the Juniors Awards at the Divisionals (\$50.00)
- Next Meeting is July 14th following the CBN Tournament at Candlewood Lake, Squantz.

Motion made and seconded to accept reports as given

Old Business

- Excused absences: None
- Lowrance isn't doing a booklet anymore
 - CBN must work together to gain benefits from Lowrance at Nationals
 - Friend Lowrance on Facebook
 - Take and post pictures with Lowrance product and let Sylvia know when the picture is posted so she can keep track
 - At Nationals they will decide which states did best
 - The better the state has done the better the benefits
- Donation Request made for Tackle the Storm – for victims of Oklahoma Tornado
 - Don Barone was contacted
 - \$10 buys a rod/reel combo
 - CBN will match what is raised (If all clubs donate \$20 we will have \$500 plus the CBN will match the \$500 – that's \$1,000 which will buy 100 rods!)

- 12 Clubs have made donations to date, please send in donations to the July meeting if you have not done so already!!
- Executive Board Meeting held at Sylvia's house on June 17th
 - Trailer Insurance will be carried by the person towing the trailer but contents are not covered
 - Set aside general funds each year to cover the replacement cost of contents
 - Discussed Banquet and Prizes – Still need more (hats, t-shirts, etc)
 - Discussed 2014 Scholarship Tournament and possibly making it a 2-Day Tournament and will continue to discuss details
 - Discussed cookouts after tournaments
 - No Sponsors provide food etc., we pay for it
 - Asking for boat #'s and names to ensure everyone gets something at the weigh-ins from now on
 - Please kindly donate even a little \$ into the jar to benefit the Juniors
 - Need to bring in new members
 - We need to replace aging out clubs
 - Each club can bring in at least 1 new member per year (16+ years)
 - CBN only income are the dues & Two Day

Motion made and seconded to accept Old Business

New Business

- Two volunteers needed for nominating committee for Tournament Director to be voted on at August meeting
 - Dave Gilbert (860-428-7130) and Sal Messina (860-883-3116) volunteered
 - Please contact them with nominations for Tournament Director
- Purchasing a CT State flag to fly at divisionals (nylon flag, 3'x5' – roughly \$29.00)
- Easter Division to donate \$25.00 for a plaque for Don Corchran
 - CBN sent and will post pictures when we get one
 - Presidents of each nation donated \$50.00 to buy him an engraved watch and will send video when he receives the watch
- Need new tournament committee shirts (approx. 20 – approx. \$1,700.00)
 - If anyone knows a company to sponsor shirts and would like their company name on shirts let us know
- Ron Frisk – Motion to donate funds from the next two tournament cookouts to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Mr. Powers, who is responsible for acquiring the new Walkie Talkies free and all the beverages for the 26 Angels Foundation free, has a daughter with Cystic Fibrosis. This would be a nice thank you to him.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:41 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 25th, 2013

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Rose, CBN Secretary.