

# Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation

## Meeting Minutes

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

\*Guest speaker Bob Jacobs from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Warmwaters Fisheries Division was present to give a brief presentation on new directions for Bass management in Connecticut.

- A trend toward increasing catch-and-release in bass fishing has resulted in very low harvest rates among bass populations in Connecticut. As a result, traditional bass management strategies such as length and possession limits have become less effective in improving bass fisheries. Despite the fact that fewer anglers are keeping any of the bass they catch, bass populations in public lakes still tend to contain smaller, slower-growing bass than populations unfished or lightly fished waters.
- New research has revealed that fishing can significantly affect the genetic makeup of a bass population, producing fish that are inherently slower growing, less active and aggressive, and harder to catch.
- This presents an exciting new possibility that the genetic makeup of fished bass populations might be enhanced through supplemental stocking of bass from unfished water supply reservoirs.
- A cooperative study between DEEP Inland Fisheries and UConn was initiated in 2012 to assess the possibilities.

The regular monthly meeting of the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Nation was called to order on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at approximately 8:27p by Sylvia Morris.

**Roll Call:** The following clubs were absent: Housatonic Valley Bassmasters and Tobacco Valley Bass Anglers

### **Correspondence:**

- The CBN received a Thank You note & receipt from Tackle the Storm for Income tax purposes for the \$1,000.00 donation made by the CBN. They were able to purchase 200 rods and reels for the kids.

### **Announcements:**

- **2014 Opens Series To Qualify Anglers For The Bassmaster Classic And Elite Series**

The 2014 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Opens Series has something for everyone — whether they're a top professional angler, an aspiring pro or simply a fan of the sport. Nine events in nine states covering three geographic regions will send winners to the 2015 Bassmaster Classic, top performers to the Bassmaster Elite Series and thousands of fans to weigh-ins where they can catch the action.

- The Opens Series consists of nine events — three tournaments each in Southern, Central & Northern divisions — covering rivers, natural lakes and man-made reservoirs & running from January to October. For the fourth season in a row, Opens tournament winners who compete in all three events in a single division will earn a berth in the Super Bowl of bass fishing, the 2015 Bassmaster Classic. The Opens are the way to reach the most prestigious professional fishing circuit in the world, the Bassmaster Elite Series. Opens competitors earn performance points at each tournament, and at the end of the season the Top 5 ranked anglers in each division who aren't already qualified for the Elites will be invited to join the premier tour. At two of the stops (lakes Amistad and Champlain), weigh-ins will be held lakeside all three competition days. At the others, anglers will weigh their fish at the lake on Thursday and Friday of each tournament week, but the final weigh-in on Saturday will take place before large crowds of fans at nearby Bass Pro Shops stores.

- Entry fees remain unchanged from 2013. The cost for pros to participate in each event is \$1,500. The cost for co-anglers is \$425. For more details, visit [Bassmaster.com](http://Bassmaster.com).

#### **Southern Opens**

- **No. 1 — Lake Tohopekaliga at Kissimmee, Fla., Jan. 23-25**
- **No. 2 — Smith Lake at Jasper, Ala., March 6-8**
- **No. 3 — Lake Norman at Charlotte, N.C., Oct. 2-4**

#### **Central Opens**

- **No. 1 — Lake Amistad at Del Rio, Texas, Feb. 6-8**
- **No. 2 — Red River at Shreveport, La., April 24-26**
- **No. 3 — Arkansas River at Muskogee, Okla., Sept. 11-13**

#### **Northern Opens**

- **No. 1 — Douglas Lake at Dandridge, Tenn., May 29-June 1**
- **No. 2 — Lake Champlain at Plattsburgh, N.Y., July 31-Aug. 2**
- **No. 3 — Lake St. Clair at Detroit, Mich., Sept. 4-6**

- **Registration**

- B.A.S.S. Nation and Life members can register online beginning Nov. 5 at 9 a.m. CT and for call-in on Nov. 7 beginning at 9 a.m. CT at [877-227-7872](http://877-227-7872). B.A.S.S. members who want to fish all three tournaments in a division may register online beginning Nov. 12 at 9 a.m. CT and may call in Nov. 14 beginning at 9 a.m. CT. Anglers interested in fishing only one or two events may register online beginning Nov. 19 at 9 a.m. CT and may call in beginning Nov. 21 at 9 a.m. CT. The cost for pros to participate in each event is \$1,500. The cost for co-anglers is \$425. For more details, visit [www.bassmaster.com](http://www.bassmaster.com)

**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 – Peter Aarrestad reported on:
  - Lilly Steel Bridge work
  - Bantam Launch work in 2015
  - Catfish in Lower Bolton Lake
  - New supervisor at Quinebaug Hatchery
  - Outdoor Event at Sessions Wood
- Fisheries Advisory Council Meeting
  - Update on State Fish Hatcheries
  - Community Fishing Ponds – CBN Efforts
  - New regulation concepts
    - Common Carp
    - Catfish
    - Mill River
  - Mute Swan Control
  - Inland Fisheries

- New Quarterly Report
  - Stocking Distribution Report
- Fishing Advocacy
  - CT BASS Nation CARES
    - Specific Training Day for all clubs
    - CT BASS training at Cabela's & Dick's for early 2014
  - Conservation Grants – October 2013
    - Working with Don Mysling of DEEP and Bret Hodorski of Watertown for a Habitat project. Don & Bret presented project at town meeting. Project was approved with a 5 year time frame.
    - Will be clearing multiple fishing access areas for shore fishing
    - Will build habitat to add to the lake
    - Watertown gathering TREX from transfer station
- National Conservation
  - Parting gift for Noreen Clough was greatly appreciated
  - New National Conservation Director – Gene Gilliland of Oklahoma
  - B.A.S.S Magazines are being sent to Peter Aarrestad, Robert Jacobs, and Tim Barry at no cost to the CBN

**Boating Advisory:** Given by Sylvia Morris for Tom Reynolds

- Lake Waramaug – there is a proposed no wake zone in the Northwest corner of the lake, a public hearing is scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>, location TBA for public comment. Council felt it was not a big deal as it is a congested corner with a lot of crew team activity
- Lake Congamond, Suffield – there was a small parking spot that gave access to the lake for walk-in fishing that the town has put in posts to eliminate the parking access. It is not a DEEP issue as it is not a state access area

**C.L.A. Report:** Chris Bielert – Nothing new to report

**Tournament Report:** Paul Dingee:

- Top 40 Anglers and Top 40 Co-Anglers are invited to the Classic/T#4. Applications are posted on the ctbass.com website. You must print, complete and mail out (postmarked) to Paul Dingee by October 5<sup>th</sup>. We will NOT be mailing out the applications to you this year. Check the standings to see what position you are in and complete the application if necessary. Watch the forum for the pairings (posted by October 15<sup>th</sup>).
  - Anglers only #41-44 are asked to fill out and application and write “alternate” on the application and mail by October 5<sup>th</sup>. Only complete if you are able to be an alternate.
- If you are *not* planning to fish the classic please let Paul or Sylvia know as soon as possible.
- Two-Day Application and instructions are posted on the ctbass.com website. Please read them carefully. There will not be a two-day meeting this year. Pairings will be posted on the forum by Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - **DO NOT** mail the Classic & Two-Day applications in the same envelope.
- **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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> place finishing co-angler will receive \$75.00
    - Angler paired with the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishing co-angler will receive \$50.00
    - Angler paired with the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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:

- **CBN 2013 Awards Banquet – Invitations available at meeting & on website**
  - Saturday, November 9, 2013
    - U.S.S. Chowder Pot IV - 165 Brainard Road, Hartford CT, 06114 – Phone (860.244.3311)  
Directions are available at [www.chowderpot.com](http://www.chowderpot.com)
  - Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm Appetizers
  - Cost: \$35 per person / \$60 per couple – pay at the door
  - 7pm – Dinner

- Reservations are required! For reservations: Call Sylvia Morris – 203-877-0280 You may reserve seats by your club and we will reserve tables in the club's name. Clubs will be responsible to pay for the total number of seats reserved. **Deadline for Reservations is October 31, 2013**
- GUEST SPEAKER – ? TBD
- There will be Annual Awards, Women's prizes and great raffle prizes!!!
- MENU
  - Appetizers
  - A Buffet of Roast Sirloin of Beef – Italian Chicken w/ Italian Potatoes – Baked Stuffed Scrod – Broiled Salmon with Chili Glaze – Penne Marinara & Penne Vodka Sauce – Chef's Choice of Vegetable – Warm Bread & Butter
  - Chocolate Layer Cake or Strawberry Cheesecake
  - Coffee, Tea & Sodas

**Membership Committee:** Paul Dingee: Nothing new to report

**Website Committee:** Training held prior to meeting

**Audit Committee:** Vinny Mucci – Audit Completed

**Youth Report:** Terry Baksay and Ron Frisk:

- High School fishing tournament dates coming soon – 3 teams already so far
- Juniors will continue even though they will not be recognized at Divisonals/Nationals
- The Juniors received their hoodies and are very happy

**Finance Committee:** Ray Bessette: Nothing to report

**State Team Report:** Sylvia Morris:

- Great Job Team!!! Second place on a very tough body of water. Maine had 175.8 and we had 168.12. Congratulations Noah Winslow for winning the 11 to 14 age group and going to represent CT in Arkansas on Lake Dardanelle. Congratulations to Paul Mueller the overall winner of the 2013 Eastern Divisional also going to Lake Dardanelle to represent CT and hopefully get a shot at the Classic!!
- Received a letter on behalf of Noah Winslow thanking the CBN, Terry Baksay, Ron Frisk & Sylvia Morris
- Bob Jeffrey thanked Sylvia Morris for all of her efforts on behalf of the entire state team
- Ontario was the only team to have the 26 Angels Logo on their jerseys

**Motion made and seconded to accept reports as given**

### **Old Business**

- Excused absences: BassAttack, Candlewood Bassmasters, MidConn Anglers, Pachaug Area Bassmasters, Talcott MTN Bassmasters, Team Skeeter, Xtreme
- 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
- Nominations are being held for Secretary and Treasurer and a Nominating Committee is Needed
  - Nominations to be reported in October meeting and voted on during the December meeting
    - Sal Messina – 860.883.3166
    - Harry Gordon – 860.620.4010
- **DUES:** 2014 CBN Rosters and dues are due at the October meeting as well as the CBN Roster.
  - BASS Nation dues online are due by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Remember to use the correct form filled out in its entirety (Available for download on [www.ctbass.com](http://www.ctbass.com) under CBN News, then CBN Forms).
  - Be sure your Club name is on the check and that it is for the correct amount. Members over 60 that have been with us 5+ years are \$25.00 and all others are \$50.00.
  - **YOU WILL BE REFUSED IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE CORRECT FORM COMPLETELY FILLED OUT**
- CT Hunting & Fishing appreciation day is being held this year on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at Sessions Woods. We have been invited to attend and do knot tying, and different casting techniques. They supply the tents, tables and chairs. We will bring the banners, rods, reels and things to tie knots with. Volunteered to attend are Kevin Lavender & sons, Ron Frisk & sons, Matt Desimone, and Jim & Sylvia Morris. Will report next month on how it went.
- Bylaw proposals must be turned in at this meeting – Executive Board has submitted one
- The President and Youth Director have been invited to the 2013 Nationals at Lake Dardanelle, Russellville, Arkansas on Oct 23<sup>d</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> and Sylvia Morris and Terry Baksay will be going. Checking on airfare currently. Will also be purchasing tickets for Noah and his dad also. We will need a rental as the airport is an hour away from Russellville. Paul will decide if he is driving back and forth or leaving his rig there and flying back and forth.
- Chapter Award Nomination forms are available and we strongly urge you to consider making nominations.
  - Please bring forms back to your clubs – there are many deserving clubs in the CBN.
  - If there are no nominations in a category there will be no awards given in that category
  - Awards to be given out at the banquet
- Banquet invites are on the table, speaker to be determined yet. Sponsorship request for the banquet is also out there.
- Livingston Lures has contacted me and asked for more time with our proposal and expressed a desire to work with us.

### **Motion made and seconded to accept Old Business**

### **New Business**

- Paul Mueller asking to be reimbursed expenses to practice at Lake Dardanelle at the beginning of October.
  - Motion passed for reimbursement up to \$2,000.00 with receipts
- Ken Ingham will be security guard for the 2-Day for \$250.00 as usual and will be working sink #2 both days
  - Marc will have a check ready for Ken on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>
- Motion for CBN to purchase up to 2 rooms (up to \$200.00) for the Core Committee for Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>
- State team Expenses and Revisions – Executive Board has looked at the rising cost of the State Team and has made a few adjustments to help reduce the expenses.
  - We will not purchase maps going forward (approx. \$300.00) – which was started this year
  - We will not purchase Frogg Toggs going forward (approx. \$800.00)
  - We will change the official practice days to match the B.A.S.S official days – The team will meet as a team on Sunday instead of Saturday saving on room charges, food and gas for one day (approx. \$1,500.00)

- Right now the State team is asked to bring in \$250.00 in sponsorship monies or product per member. We have done this for 3 years now and this year 8 guys did it. Next year it will be mandatory (approx. \$3,250.00)
- Executive Board Meeting will be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm at Sylvia's house to go over all that is discussed at the Nationals Presidents meeting.
- Juniors Wilbur Cross School open applications available – money from the tournament goes to the Wilbur Cross Food Drive
- Snowball open – applications are available on the website
- Mohawk Valley is requesting \$200.00 for a Cub Scout Event to help them get their fishing belt loop.
  - Event Date - September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 7am – 1pm
  - Mohawk Valley will provide boat captains, fishing rods & reels for the scouts and will be assisted by the CBN Juniors who will work with the scouts
  - Event will help the Cub Scouts get their Fishing Belt Loops, Advance Fishing Pin and be exposed to the CBN Juniors
  - Request to be voted on during the October meeting

**Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:26 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rachel Rose, CBN Secretary.**