CT B.A.S.S Nation

Meeting Minutes May 22nd, 2014

Prior to the monthly meeting, the CBN presented their choices to receive scholarships this year as well as the recipient of the Robert S. Malloy scholarship:

The Connecticut Bass Nation is proud to announce their 2014 Scholarship recipients. Every spring, the CBN solicits applications from qualifying candidates that are reviewed and judged by the Scholarship Committee. Applicants must answer various questions, including a small essay and provide information about their studies. Three awards are provided each year to the top applicants as chosen by the committee.

Will this year's recipients please come up front? (After a few brief words we will go out in the hallway for some pictures, sign some documents and hand over checks) I first would like to thank the scholarship committee: Matt DeSimone, Rob Germain and Dan Monroe. Since January 2005 the CBN has awarded over \$26,000 in scholarships. The CBN thanks its sponsors, membership and the committee for making the scholarship program such a success.

- I am pleased to announce that Ashley Bielert has been awarded the \$500 scholarship award. She is sponsored by her Grandfather Dan Bielert from Xtreme Bassmasters. Ashley is graduating from Bristol Central High School and has been on the Honor Roll every quarter of her High School tenure. Ashley plans to attend the University of Rhode Island and has aspirations of being an Adoption Counselor after graduating from college.
- For the \$1000 scholarship award, I am proud to recognize Cristopher Klepinger. Christopher is a member of Midconn Anglers and came up through the JR ranks. Christopher is graduating from Wethersfield High School and plans to attend Dickinson College. In addition to his classwork, Christopher's plate is full performing civic duties including activities with Special Olympics Basketball and Golf.
- I am honored to announce that Olivia Rustic is the recipient of the \$1500 scholarship award. She is sponsored by her father Dean Rustic of the Mohawk Valley Bassmasters. A 2012 & 2013 Scholarship Award recipient, Olivia currently attends Bryant University. She currently boasts a 3.76 Grade Point Average and has been elected as the President of the Bryant Women's Rowing Team. Olivia is the Project Lead for Bryants Business Support of Rhode Island's City Farm Gardens and assisted Mohawk Valley members teach Newtown Cub Scouts fishing for their belt loop. As a consecutive CBN scholarship recipient, Olivia considers the CBN as supporter of her academic accomplishments.

Again, thank you all for making this an opportunity and congratulations to the three winners standing before us.

The Robert S. Malloy scholarship was presented to Andrew Ransom who was present and said a few words along with many thanks to the CBN for their support.

Prior to the monthly meeting, special guest Gene Ellison from Navionics spoke. Navionics is a new 2014 CBN Sponsor. Navionics Plus is \$179.99 for the 1st year with unlimited updates, \$99/year for any additional updates.

ROLL CALL: Clubs absent - Bass Busters, CT Sweetwater Bass, MidConn Anglers

<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>: Thank you card from Dan & Christina Dobroczynski for the food that the CBN had sent to the family in memory of their daughter Katie's passing last October.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bassmaster's 100 Best Bass Lakes of 2014 announce and Candlewood was #34!
- Thayer's Marine will now be selling Tritons in addition to Stratos
- Please check out the Lowrance Insight program and give it a try, or give Sylvia some feedback as to why you would not do it. Lowrance wants to know why very few are doing it.

MOTION TO ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES AS POSTED

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Treasurer Report: Marc Levesque

Conservation Report: Dean Rustic

CAC Meeting

- SB 241 AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES, REVISING CERTAIN HUNTING
 AND FISHING LICENSE FEES AND REQUIRING REGISTRATION BY HUNTING AND FISHING GUIDE SERVICES

 This is a good bill and it has been JFed out of the Environment Committee. The bill calls for a reduction
 of license fees by 50 percent for 16 and 17 year olds. A handout with the text of the bill and testimony
 written by Commissioner Klee in support of the bill was distributed to the CAC delegates.
- HB 5080 Sunday Hunting on Private Property DEAD
- HB 5417: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEASON FOR THE TAKING OF GLASS EELS PASSED which would
 establish a program for the harvesting of glass eels effective January 1, 2015. The DEEP supports the
 intent of the proposal to remove the statutory prohibition but has some concerns regarding the
 proposed timing of doing anything to open a season.
- Suspending Hunting & Fishing day for 2014 to use funds for another use this year. CAC voted that they
 Support to Keep the Hunting & Fishing Day for 2014.
- Fishing Advocacy Working directly with CT DEEP to promote Fishing with these initiatives.
 - Shimano Youth Conservation Imitative
 - Worked with Peter Aarrestad, Mike Beauchene, Ron Frisk & Dean Rustic
 - Draft program (project) will be presented under new business.
 - Update Only 5 responses from 3 districts
- Keep America Fishing
 - Keep Fishing Day June 7th, 2014

Boating Advisory: Tom Reynolds attended and said the only thing is the possible opening of the Nuclear Plant.

<u>C.L.A Report</u>: The CLA has completed their annual deployment of hazard, navigational and speed buoys around Candlewood Lake. Each year, the CLA puts out approx. 75 buoys to aid in navigation (as well as to aid in the proper drying of cormorant wings apparently). While these buoys do provide assistance to boaters, they cannot mark every hazard. In addition, due to the ice we had this winter, there are numerous reports of floating debris (dock boards etc.) at or just below the surface. Please use caution when on the lake – and consider using a good bathymetric map and/or depth-finder to assist you if you are not familiar with every hazard beneath the waters here. Still working on the possibility of Grass Carp, figuring out how many and how to get the money and when to do this, probably sometime next year.

Tournament Report: Paul Dingee

- Thank you to all who stepped up to help! Special thank you to Dylan Frisk for coming and spending the day setting up banners and helping Joe Horvath setup the Skeeter Cook Out. Shout out to Dave Gilbert for towing the trailer to Tom Reynolds for the Reynolds Tournament! Thank you to Paul Mayo for picking up the trailer and getting it to the tournament in the morning!
- Congratulations to Kevin Lavender the winner of the Reynolds Garage/Skeeter contingency prize money. He will receive and extra \$1,000 for being the highest finishing Skeeter owner, however he did take first place!
- We apologize our tournament committee member was not in place in the afternoon at the PAL until later and caused a traffic backup on the road. When coming out of the PAL if no one is there to direct you, watch Ken Dzurenka and he will let you know when it is clear to come up. Never just go and be in the middle of the road! Remember we want to keep a low profile so we can keep coming back!

- Next tournament, June 22nd Haddam, mailing deadline is June 7th. We will need help again in the AM, and the same help in the afternoon as we will need everyone pulled out of the water also.
- Paul Dingee will be stepping out after this year as tournament director. Next meeting we will form a nomination committee and in august we will vote in a new tournament director for 2015. We need someone with TIME to devote, there are many long hours put into this job & love for the sport. Along with this position comes a trailer that must be maintained and towed (towing fee is paid) to each CBN even. Please contact Sylvia if you are interested in this position and want to discuss what is involved.
- CBN Proposed 2015 Trail:
 - o April 25th, 26 Angles Tournament, Danbury Town Park, Candlewood 7a-3p
 - o May 3rd, CBN Scholarship, Squantz, Candlewood 7a-3p
 - o May 17th, Tournament #1, Danbury Town Park, Candlewood 7a-3p
 - June 21st, Tournament #2, Hartford, CT River 7a-3p (could change to Haddam)
 - o July 12th, Tournament #3, Squantz & Lattins, Candlewood 8a-3p
 - o August 1st, Mr. Bass, TBD, 7a-3p
 - October 3rd and 4th, Two Day, Danbury Town Park, Candlewood 7a-3p
 - October 18th, Tournament #4, Steel Bridge, Lilinonah 7a-3p
- Please DO NOT put club tournaments on these dates!! There were several clubs that held tournaments on the same day as 26 Angels and the Scholarship two day this year!
- Trail is sanctioned under:
 - Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Highest finishing Skeeter Owner Contingency Program
 - Skeeter Real Money
 - Stratos 2X the Money
 - o Triton Gold

Sponsorship Report: Robert Nelson

• Pure Fishing Discount

- We are excited to announce the 2014 2nd quarter Pure Fishing Discount Purchase Program for your members. We have included almost the entire Pure Fishing portfolio at a discount of 25% of MSRP.
 Each member is allowed to purchase up to a total of 4 items during this quarter and the purchase window is May 1st through May 31st.
- Each of you and your members are a key element in gaining awareness and education on our brands and products and we are proud to support you with our discount purchase program.
- This program is not designed to circumvent any retailers and we strongly encourage your members to support them with any additional purchases.
- Here are the instructions for placing orders:
 - Click the link below (this is a new address)
 - http://mpf.shakespeare-fishing.com/tackle_shack

Enter your complete email address as your username (this is how we will contact you regarding your order)

Enter Password

- Once you are on the home page, click **My Account** to enter your shipping address, etc. Save the information then click on **Products** to begin shopping. If you ordered during the first quarter your account information is still in place.
- Add your selections to the shopping cart. You may increase the quantity of any product from the shopping cart. When you have completed your order, submitted payment by credit card and logged out, you will receive an email confirmation of your order.

Rigid Industries - There is a 30% off offer to all members. Members should follow the instructions and using the
order forms and links on the CBN website.

Navionics

- Navionics will be a sponsor of the CBN For 2014. They will be giving the CBN four (4) Navionics+ Charts to be used at the CBN Awards Banquet.
- Thayer's Marine Thayer's Marine has become a Gold Sponsor!!
- Midstate Battery A discount is available to ALL Nation members and the Nation will receive a Volume Rebate
 - MidState Battery was very pleased with the use of the sponsorship by our members! Members spent a total of \$4,400.00!! We earned a check of approx. \$88.00!! At the April meeting there will be a presentation of the new line of Northstar AGM Batteries, MidState will be donating \$600.00 in gift certificates again for the banquet also!
 - 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.
- Reynolds Garage & Marine Reynolds & Skeeter Highest Finishing Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money
 - Qualifying Events:
 - May 18th, CBN Tournament #1
 - June 22nd, CBN Tournament #2
 - July 13th, CBN Tournament #3
 - October 19th, CBN Classic/Tournament #4
 - Payout:
 - Reynolds & Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money based on the year of the highest finishing Skeeter Owner's boat (only one award per event)
 - \$3,000.00 (2011 model Skeeter or newer)
 - \$1,000.00 (2010 model Skeeter or older)
 - Skeeter Real Money up to \$3,000.00

Rules:

- The Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money will be paid to the highest finishing Skeeter Owner in each of the four CBN Tournaments outlined above. Only one prize per event will be awarded. Dollar amount of the award will be determined by the age of the highest finishing Skeeter Owners boat...2011 model or newer Skeeter boat will qualify for \$3,000.00 per event, 2010 model or older Skeeter boat will qualify for \$1,000.00 per event.
- The highest finishing registered Skeeter Owner must have verifiable proof that he or she is fishing from his or her Skeeter boat to qualify for the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money. Proof of ownership and insurance must be produced and verified by the CBN Tournament Director at weigh-in at each of the four 2014 CBN Events.
- In the event that the highest finishing Skeeter Owner cannot provide verifiable proof that he or she is the registered owner of the Skeeter boat that he or she used in the event, the second highest finishing Skeeter Owner will become the winner of the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money.
- There will be no limit to the times an angler can win per calendar year.
- The four CBN Events outlined above will also be sanctioned for 2014 Skeeter Real Money. Each CBN Event must have a minimum of 30 boats and 60 anglers to qualify for 2014 Skeeter Real Money. To qualify for 2014 Skeeter Real Money, each individual registered Skeeter Owner must register for the 2014 Skeeter Real Money program. Go to www.skeeterboats.com and download an application. Annual dues are \$25.00 per year. Skeeter Real Money rules are available by clicking on the Skeeter Real Money logo on the www.skeeterboats.com website homepage.
- Lowrance Insight Genesis B.A.S.S Nation Challenge

- In addition to the current Lowrance Social Media challenge, Lowrance has issued another, please see below. PLEASE send to all your club members!
- The program is split into two groups, large and small B.A.S.S Nations. The contest will award \$20,000 in Lowrance product to the large state that ends up on top, and \$12,000 in Lowrance product to the top state in the small division. They didn't want to lump you all together and give the states with larger member numbers too much of an advantage.
- Clubs can earn \$3,000 of Lowrance product awarded monthly
- o Individuals that take part have the opportunity to win and HDS12, HDS9 or HDS7 in the monthly awards for the top three people respectively, and if they are the top person for the entire year, they will earn and all-expense paid fishing trip with one of the Lowrance Tour Pros (I was told it would be an Elite Pro).

Power Pole

- Power-Pole is now a sponsor of the B.A.S.S Nation for 2014. Effective January 1st, they will be offering a
 discount to all B.A.S.S Nation members. They will match your officers listed with the B.A.S.S Nation
 against the rebates applied for and will match members names with current B.A.S.S Nation rosters. You
 must be a CBN Member to be eligible.
- o The discounts are available via a rebate program through http://www.power-pole.com The product will be purchased at the retail value of the Power-Pole (limit 2 per year per boat). In order to receive your rebate you will need to register the Power-Pole at http://www.power-pole.com located under the "Support" column header, then "Product Registration" Once the product has been registered you will then be prompted to fill out the rebate form, with this the discount will be issued in accordance with the discount you are entitled to receive. The discount levels will remain active on accessories and apparel purchased through the website for a period of 12 months. Should you have any questions, contact Casey Carpenter @ 813-689-9932 ext. 2021 or email casey@power-pole.com"

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Livingston Lures

New sponsor for the CBN, check for \$1500 received, product coming for banquets, tournaments etc.

CBN Scholarship: Winners announced prior to the meeting.

Robert S. Malloy Scholarship: Dave Santos – Andrew Ransom was present before the meeting to say a few words.

Banquet Report: Sylvia Morris

• CHANGE OF DATE: Due to Nationals being held on our original date of November 8th, we will now be holding it on November 22nd. Please be sure to notify all club members of the change.

Membership Committee: Paul Dingee – Numbers are up again to 266 from 260

Website Committee: None

Audit Committee: Nothing new to report

Youth Report: Terry Baksay & Ron Frisk

Progress:

 Participation is at 100% for the first 3 Tournaments. Parents are engaged and getting involved. Boat captains have been incredible!

Tournaments:

 Completed 3 of 4 for 2014 qualifying. Everyone is catching fish. Last tournament for 2014 qualifying is June 8th, Candlewood Lake out of Lattins from 8a-4p. Top 2 teams qualify for the High School National

- Championship. Top team in the state is part of the state team and will go to divisionals. Teams are aware of the paperwork required and passport responsibilities.
- 2015 qualifying starts June 26th. There are 7 tournaments and we will drop the lowest 3. Please contact Ron Frisk if you would like to boat captain. You will be offered \$40 per tournament for gas. If you choose not to accept it, it will go in the youth account. Please spread the word to your clubs to at least offer to boat captain for one day of our trail.
- o Trail is below all times are 7a-3p unless specified:
 - June 26th CT River Haddam
 - June 30th Candlewood, Lattins
 - July 24th CT River Haddam
 - July 26th Lilinonah, Steel Bridge
 - August 9th Candlewood, Lattins 8a-3p
 - September 13th Lilinonah, Steel Bridge
 - October 11th Lake Zoar
- Proposed 2016 Qualifying Trail:
 - April 18th Silver Lake
 - May 9th Candlewood
 - June 13th CT River
 - July 25th Moodus Reservoir
 - August 22nd Lake Zoar
 - September 19th Candlewood
- o Feel free to commit as boat captain now!!
- Prizes:
 - All kids, youth and high school will receive equal amount in a gift card at the banquet. The cost will be
 \$750 which will be covered by the \$750 we set for the live bait tournament last year that was cancelled.
 - We will also use \$500 from the youth account to pay the top 3 juniors in each age group:
 - First \$125
 - Second \$75
 - Third \$50
- Donations to Charity:
 - Joe Horvath from Skeeter has asked we give all donations from the cooking he is doing at all 4 tournaments to charity. The first charity selected is Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; the second is Folds of Honor. The last 2 will be determined by the high school/juniors. \$253.35 was raised at tournament #1. Thank you to all who contributed!!
- Sponsors:
 - The alliance will provide 2; possibly 4 tournament shirts for the top team...top 2 if they provide 4 shirts. If not, we will use \$100 from the youth account to purchase the other 2, cost is \$50 each.
- Divisionals/High School Championship:
 - We will reimburse up to \$1000.00 per team 2 kids and 1 parent per kid.

Finance Committee: Ray Bessette - Nothing to report

State Team Report: Sylvia Morris

• 2014 State Team

- Shirts are in
- Jackets were passed out.
- Dave Dziob brought in his \$250.00 sponsorship from Tackle Supply Depot.com, his new online tackle store.
- Scott Downie's sponsorship brought in, \$250.00 from Associated Builders Inc.
- o All side pot money was collected and mailed in to NY President Fred Blum
- Next meeting is set for June 22nd prior to the tournament start

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS GIVEN

OLD BUSINESS:

- Excused absences: None
- Scholarship tournament was a disgrace!! We had 25 boats and 15 of them were not CBN Members! We have made an executive decision and next year it will be one day out of Squantz, no launch fee, make more money for the scholarships. We made \$650.00 for each Scholarship for a total of \$1,300.00!! We pay out \$4,000.00 in scholarships yearly, do the math...at this rate we will go broke and no longer have a Scholarship!
- The Berkley Pure Fishing Award of \$1,500.00 All product has been received except the Rocket and Revo SX40 are on back order
- Livingston Lures update: received the 24 lures for the 4 tournaments
- New CBN/NEBA Team Championship trail has been started. Tournament #1 was held and we have 41 boats, 36 are doing the Team Trail also!
- Remember to utilize the hotels in Danbury that supply us with a fisherman rate!! Newbury (best parking), Micro-tel & Best Western. All info on the website.
- Marc is working on getting the taxes done as Cohen has told us he will no longer do them but will help us get someone else. Marc updated, we have contacted new company and they have applied for the extension
- Triton Alliance Leads Program, we already have some sales pending for this year. Please let Sylvia know as soon as someone THINKS they are going to buy a Triton. She will email all the info (name, email, phone number and what boat he is interested in if possible) to put the lead in.
- New Lowrance program Details Below:
 - New Lowrance program for 2014: Quarterly postings of pictures of Lowrance products being used or events featuring Lowrance products gives us 1 point for each, videos of the product or event featuring Lowrance gives us 2 points, pictures or videos with a new idea using the Lowrance gives us 3 points and finally a unique event or idea gives us an extra point for each. Points will be added and prizes awarded in each quarter. 3 prizes for each: 1st place highest point state gets a touch 12, 2nd place a touch 9, and 3rd place gets a touch 7. A state can win in multiple quarters. You must notify Sylvia when you post anything to the Lowrance Facebook page or any other form of social media. You must begin each post with #Lowrance BN CT or we will not get credit for it!!! You must notify Sylvia when you post anything to the Lowrance Facebook page or any other form of social media. Let's try to win all four!!!
 - O <u>UPDATE:</u> We won the 1st quarter and have received the HDS 12 for the Banquet. There is no limit to how many times a state can win!! We are currently working on the 2nd quarter and have the lead by 40 points; however we have two full months to go. Remember if you post something to Lowrance it MUST be done exactly as the instructions say. Let Sylvia know when you do post so she can keep track. It would be great if all clubs tried to post Lowrance pictures or videos.
- Check for \$250.00 sent to CLA for sponsorship of the May 17th Lake Cleanup which took place and was a big success and sponsorship of the Dragon Boat races coming up August 16th!
- Disabled Military Veteran's Tournament was held on May 6th with 19 Vets attending. A few younger guys attended which was a pleasure to see!

- Disabled Military Veteran's Tournament & First Responders Tournament Boat captains needed. Contact Al Guite to volunteer for any of these events (Al Guite 860-829-0616 or alanguite@comcast.net)
 - Wednesday, June 25th First Responders Tournament (Danbury Town Park)
 - Tuesday, Sept 16th sponsor River Front Recapture
 - Sponsor a First Responders Boat forms available on the table (corporate and personal). I would like to suggest a club take the personal one and collect within the club and make it a club donation.
- All Open Tournament Applications are up on the website under "Opens"
 - Scholarship Two Day May 3rd & 4th Danbury, Candlewood
 - Reynolds Open June 8th CT River
 - 26 Angels Foundation Tournament (70% payout cash & prizes) Apr 26th Danbury, Candlewood
 - Bryan Kerchal April 27th Danbury, Candlewood (Proceeds go to CBN Youth)
 - Mixed Open June 1st Candlewood
- BASS Renewal Envelopes available CBN gets \$5 for everyone mailed in to BASS.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED TO ACCEPT OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

- Proposed 2015 Trail for CBN/NEBA Team Championship Trail:
 - May 24th Candlewood
 - June 28th CT River
 - July 18th & 19th TBD Classic & Tournament #3
 - o August 16th Lilinonah
 - September 13th Candlewood
 - o October 11th Lake Zoar
- SureLife has been ordered, it is now \$10.50 a bottle. Please let your club members know it is for sale at all tournaments. We have 72 bottles available. \$136.15 for the 12lb jug.
- Armand sent a proposal to maintain the backend of the website and provide support to any administrator when needed for \$500.00 a year. Voted on and passed.
- A meeting to discuss the denial of access to public waters (Canal Boom installed by CY) on the CT River was held on May 20th. Norb Heil was there to represent the CBN and its membership. Norb gave a brief summary we have not received detailed report as of yet. Our participation will also help all those individuals who enjoy the CT River recreationally, to take in the abundance of its beauty and the wildlife it is teaming with. They have formed a subcommittee and Norb has volunteered to be on it for the CBN behalf. More to come during the June meeting.
- Zebra Mussels Task Force meeting on May 28th if anyone can attend. Noon 2:30pm in New Milford.
- Billboard signage available along with the DEEP 10'x30', Clean, Drain, Dry campaign and would have our CBN Shield on it along with the CLA emblem as always. Route 39 or Route 7, two available. The CLA has asked us to go in on one with them, \$1,000.00 each. We declined.
- Livingston Lure Raffle: Peter Rulewitz won
- Phyllis Schear, Chairman of the Zebra Mussel Task Force has asked to come and speak to us in July about Grass Carp and any questions or concerns good or bad. She can also any questions about Zebra Mussels.
- There was some discussion on the 2015 proposed trail given by Paul Dingee in his tournament report. Inquiring why we are not using Lilinonah for one of the 1st three tournaments and why we are going to Candlewood in July. Concern about the limit being cut to three fish. Discussion was held and pointed out the limit could be cut in any month if the weather was hot enough, like June, not just July. We always do everything in our power to keep the limit to five fish; however fish care is our primary concern!

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 26th, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Rose, CBN Secretary