

## **CT B.A.S.S. Nation Meeting Minutes March 26, 2015**

### **Guest Speaker: William Hyatt, EEP Bureau Chief, CT DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources**

Bill spoke to us about the trailer and boat decontamination project being piloted by the Town of Brookfield. DEEP is involved in this process and has assisted in its development. The plan calls for continued inspections at Lattins Cove and the construction of a boat and trailer decontamination station in the Town of Brookfield. Invasive species such as zebra mussels will be the focus of the inspections. Bill stayed for the entire meeting and added some helpful dialog to our environmentally focused conversations. We want to thank Bill for attending and look forward to working with him in the future.

### **Roll Call – 8:10PM**

- **CLUBS ABSENT:** CT Yankee Bassmasters
  
- **Correspondence:**
  - A copy of the 2015 CBN By Laws, Standing Rules, CBN Tournament Rules & CBN Two Day Rules have been given to each club, updated on [ctbass.com](http://ctbass.com) and e-mailed to all CBN Club Presidents.
  - We received \$1000.00 from Livingston Lure Sponsorship
  - We received \$1000.00 from Fishing Holdings, LLC for the Alliance Leads Program 2014.
  - We received reimbursement from Evans Williams for product purchased in the amount of \$250.00 which was used 2014 Banquet Prizes.
  
- **Announcements:**
  - If you receive what appears to be a bogus bill for Bassmaster Magazine, throw it away! B.A.S.S. is working on this. There is a possibility members may receive a phone call as well. Reminder - your subscription is free with your membership!
  
  - Next year's Shows are CMTA Show February 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 and the NEHFS March 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> 2016.

- **March 9, 2015**

Bassmaster Classic To Return To Tulsa, Okla., and Grand Lake O' The Cherokees in March 2016

TULSA, Okla. — The world championship of bass fishing — the GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by GoPro — will return to one of its most popular destinations in 2016, B.A.S.S. and the event's Oklahoma hosts announced today. And for the first time, the "Super Bowl of Bass Fishing" will be conducted in early March instead of February.

"The 2013 Classic was such a tremendous success, we couldn't wait to return to Tulsa and Grand Lake O' the Cherokees with our premier event," said Bruce Akin, B.A.S.S. CEO. "With the support we've received from our hosts and our bass fishing fans throughout the region, we're expecting an even better turnout next year."

Hosts of the 2016 Classic will be Tulsa Regional Chamber, VisitTulsa, Grand Lake Association and Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa.

"We're so excited to finally say the Bassmaster Classic is coming back to Tulsa," said Ray Hoyt, president of VisitTulsa. "We worked our tails off in 2013 to ensure this event was a huge success because we wanted to show our partners at B.A.S.S., and other major league events, what a great place the Tulsa region is. We wanted another Classic the minute the 2013 event was over, and today we can finally say it out loud: The Classic comes back in 2016. A huge thanks to our regional partners, especially Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, for their support in making this a reality."

"To land the Bassmaster Classic for the second time truly speaks to the staff at the City of Tulsa, Tulsa Regional Chamber and the BOK Center," Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett said. "Thanks to the hard work by many, the 2013 Bassmaster Classic was an astounding success and speaks volumes to why Bassmaster selected Tulsa for the championship in 2016. We hope the region will embrace the championship when it heads back to Tulsa as it is sure to bring more excitement and visitors from around the country and give an economic boost to our community."

Since 2006, Bassmaster Classics have all been held the third or fourth weekend in February, but the 46th championship has been moved to March 4-6, 2016, to better accommodate anglers' and sponsors' preseason schedules and other industry events.

"If moving the event improves odds of good fishing weather, that's a bonus," Akin added. "But we proved in 2013 as well as the recent Classic on Lake Hartwell, S.C., that freezing temperatures don't hamper the anglers' fishing success, nor do they hurt attendance."

The Tulsa Classic in 2013 recorded the second highest attendance in history, with more than 106,850 fans visiting one or more of the Classic venues. The attendance record of 137,700 was set at another February Classic, the 2009 event in Shreveport-Bossier City, La.

Hoyt said the economic impact of the first Tulsa Classic was \$22.7 million.

“We’re proud that we could help bring the Bassmaster Classic back to Oklahoma, and to beautiful Grand Lake,” said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker.

“Everything between Tulsa and Grand Lake is part of the Cherokee Nation, and we are delighted to showcase our magnificent scenery to the thousands of visitors this event will bring. Most importantly, this partnership and the out of town dollars spent in northeast Oklahoma will be an economic boon to many small Cherokee-owned businesses in our area.”

As in the first Tulsa Classic, the BOK Center will house daily weigh-ins, and the Cox Business Center will hold the Classic Outdoors Expo. Takeoffs each day will be from Wolf Creek Ramp in Grove, Okla. As many as 5,000 fans braved freezing temperatures to watch the Classic anglers set out on competition days in 2013.

Cliff Pace of Petal, Miss., won the Classic championship title that year with 54 pounds, 12 ounces of bass for three days of fishing. A total of 55 anglers will qualify for next year’s event through the Bassmaster Elite Series and other Bassmaster circuits during the coming 10 months.

Eleven Oklahoma anglers — 10 percent of the Elite Series field — will be gunning for berths in the event, including Scott Ashmore of Broken Arrow, Tommy Biffle of Wagoner, Jason Christie of Park Hill, James Elam of Tulsa, Edwin Evers of Talala, Kenyon Hill of Norman, Jeff Kriet of Ardmore, Kevin Ledoux of Choctaw, Jared Miller of Norman, Fred Roumbanis of Bixby and Dave Smith of Del City.

Total purse will be more than \$1 million, with the winner receiving \$300,000.

Grand Lake O’ the Cherokees was completed in 1940, when Pensacola Dam on the Grand River impounded 46,500 acres. Previous Elite Series events there have been won by Mike McClelland and Kevin VanDam in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

Akin said moving the event to March will minimize scheduling conflicts with boat and sports shows typically scheduled in January and February, yet it will still be early enough in the year to serve as a kickoff of the fishing season. Manufacturers in recent years have been using the Classic Outdoors Expo as the venue to introduce exciting new products to the bass fishing world.

- **March 9, 2015**

B.A.S.S. And Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Partner To Present 2016 Bassmaster Classic In Oklahoma

TULSA, Okla. — B.A.S.S. and Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa have signed a “Local Partnership Agreement” to present the 2016 GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by GoPro March 4-6, 2016, in Tulsa and on Grand Lake O’ the Cherokees out of Grove, Okla.

Under terms of the agreement, which was announced today during a press conference revealing Tulsa as the host city for the Classic world championship, the Cherokee Nation resort complex will be the exclusive casino for the Bassmaster Classic and will host private, invitation-only events for Classic anglers, sponsors and special guests.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa will exhibit at the Classic Outdoors Expo to be held March 4-6, 2016, at the Cox Business Center, and will partner with B.A.S.S. in promoting the event.

Hard Rock is also sponsoring a portion of the popular takeoff ceremonies each competition day from Wolf Creek Ramp on Grand Lake O’ the Cherokees. The dock will be designated the “Hard Rock Dock.”

“We are extremely pleased to be working with the Cherokee Nation and the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa again this year,” said Bruce Akin, CEO of B.A.S.S., which conducts the annual “Super Bowl of Bass Fishing.” “As part of their presenting sponsorship in 2013, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino hosted some of our most enjoyable events, and I’m told that fishing fans on hand for the Classic packed their facilities during fan appreciation night.”

“We’re proud to once again partner with B.A.S.S. to bring the Bassmaster Classic back to northeast Oklahoma, and showcase Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa to the thousands of visitors to our region,” said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker. “The Cherokee Nation is known for being a strong ally in building the regional economy, and this partnership is just one more example of our commitment to that mission.”

“We couldn’t be more excited to sponsor the Bassmaster Classic for the second time, and also serve as the official casino resort complex for the event,” said Shawn Slaton, CEO of Cherokee Nation Businesses. “Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa is the premier entertainment destination in this region, with facilities rivaling those of Las Vegas. With a casino, resort, golf course, dining and concert venue, we’re sure to provide our out of town guests a world class entertainment experience.”

The agreement also provides for advertising and promotion of Hard Rock in the industry leading fishing magazines, *Bassmaster* and *B.A.S.S Times*, as well as on the website, Bassmaster.com.

Hosts of the 2016 Classic will be Tulsa Metro Chamber, VisitTulsa, Grand Lake Association and Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa.

- **March 11, 2015**

B.A.S.S. Announces High School Championship, Midwestern Open and Junior Championship

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — B.A.S.S. has set the date for the Costa Bassmaster High School Midwestern Open and the second annual Costa Bassmaster High School National Championship, as well as announced a new youth competition in the Junior Bassmaster Championship.

The Midwestern Open will take place May 17 on Lake Springfield out of Springfield, Ill.

The 2015 Costa Bassmaster High School National Championship will be held on Kentucky Lake, July 22-25, in conjunction with the 2015 Junior Bassmaster Championship, which will be held on Carroll County 1000 Acre Recreational Lake, on July 24-25.

“Our High School program continues to grow at an exponential rate,” said Hank Weldon, B.A.S.S. High School tournament manager. “We expect a considerably larger field in this year’s championship. And, when you add in ESPN cameras and the fact that we’re fishing one of the best lakes in the country, it should be a really exciting event.”

The week’s events are made possible by a joint effort of three hosts, Carroll County, Paris-Henry County Alliance and Bethel University.

“We are excited to once again be working with our great partners at B.A.S.S., Henry County Alliance and Bethel University to bring the 2015 Costa Bassmaster High School Championship back to North West Tennessee,” said Brad Hurley of Carroll County.

This is the second year in a row that the national championship will be held on Kentucky Lake.

“We are thrilled to host the Costa Bassmaster High School Championship at Paris Landing on beautiful Kentucky Lake,” said David Hamilton, CEO of the Henry County Alliance. “Kentucky Lake is one of the top lakes for bass fishing, and these high school

anglers are excited to return to Kentucky Lake to compete for the national championship title.”

The full field will compete on Days 1 and 2, after which the field will be cut to the Top 10.

On July 24, the Top 10 will take the day off while the remainder of the Top 50 moves over to Carroll County 1000 Acre Recreational Lake to compete in a one-day last chance shootout for two more spots back in the National Championship field. The last-chance weigh-in will be held in downtown Huntington, Tenn.

Then on July 25, the newly appointed Top 12 will compete on Kentucky Lake to crown the 2015 high school national champions. The final day championship weigh-in will take place at Bethel University in McKenzie, Tenn.

“We’re very excited to be chosen as the location and host community again this year,” said Gary Mason of Bethel University. “We’re looking forward to seeing all the young anglers come down and have a good time and looking forward to possibly recruiting some of those great young anglers to fish for the bass team at Bethel University.”

The Junior Bassmaster Championship is unlike any previous junior championship because it will be a team format. The event will be comprised of teams — varying from ages 7 to 13 — from each state within the six B.A.S.S. Nation divisions.

“We wanted to offer each state’s junior program a chance to advance to a national tournament,” Weldon said. “We are fully committed to expanding our youth fishing initiatives, and we’re extremely excited for an opportunity to continue to grow the sport with the 2015 Junior Bassmaster Championship.”

Competitors will compete on Carroll County 1000 Acre Recreational Lake on July 24-25. The Junior Championship anglers will weigh in with the High School anglers on Day 1 in downtown Huntington and then on Day 2 at Bethel’s campus.

For more information on how to get involved in the B.A.S.S. High School Nation or the Junior Bassmaster Championship, visit [Bassmaster.com](http://Bassmaster.com).

- **Nominations Sought For High School All-American Fishing Team**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — With the explosive growth of high school bass fishing tournaments, young athletes are making a name for themselves in an organized sport quite different from traditional games like football, baseball and basketball.

Now there's a program that offers national recognition for outstanding young anglers, just as there is in each of the "stick-and-ball" sports.

B.A.S.S. — the world's largest fishing organization — today announced creation of the Bassmaster High School All-American Fishing Team, which honors the most successful competitive bass anglers in the country.

"Our goal is to provide skilled young anglers with the rewards and recognition they deserve," said Hank Weldon, manager of B.A.S.S.'s high school and college fishing programs. "In addition, we are offering them an opportunity to demonstrate their fishing abilities on a national stage."

To be considered for inclusion on the Bassmaster High School All-American Fishing Team, a student must be nominated by a parent, coach, teacher or other school official. Students currently enrolled in grades 10-12 with a current-year grade point average of 2.5 or higher are eligible. Judges will select up to two student anglers in each state. These All-State Fishing Team members become semifinalists in the selection of the 12-member All-American Team. Criteria include success in high school fishing tournaments and involvement in conservation efforts and other community service activities.

The 12 All-Americans will compete in a one-day Bassmaster All-American High School Tournament to be held in conjunction with the 2015 BASSfest event — one of nine Bassmaster Elite Series bass tournaments being held this year. Elite Series anglers will serve as "coaches" for the student anglers in the one-day tournament on Lake Barkley, Tennessee, June 6, 2015. The high school standouts will be honored before the weigh-in crowd at BASSfest, and each will be profiled in *Bassmaster* Magazine, read monthly by 3.2 million people.

"By focusing a national spotlight on high school students who excel at bass fishing, it's our hope that more boys and girls will be attracted to the sport of fishing and introduced to a love of the outdoors," said Bruce Akin, B.A.S.S. CEO. "In attending some of our own Costa Bassmaster High School tournaments, I've been amazed at the enthusiasm, fishing ability and character our young anglers have displayed. There's no doubt some will go on to become Bassmaster Elite Series champions."

Akin noted that all students who compete in high school fishing events are eligible, regardless of whether they are affiliated with B.A.S.S. or another fishing organization.

Notices have been sent to youth fishing directors of the B.A.S.S. Nation and other organizations, as well as leaders of state high school fishing programs. Adults can nominate students by filling out an online form at <http://www.bassmaster.com/blogs/high-school-blog/all-american>. Nominations must be submitted before midnight April 15.

A panel of judges will review the applications and select the High School All-American Fishing Team.

**A MOTION TO ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES AS POSTED – Seconded and Approved**

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

- **Treasurer Report: Was provided by Marc Levesque**

- **Conservation & FAC Report: Dean Rustic**

March 26, 2015

CBN Conservation objectives for 2015

1. Work closely with CT DEEP Officials to create a C.A.R.E. Bass Class
2. Conservation Projects for Housatonic Watershed Organizations
3. Create a Youth/School based Conservation initiative
4. Leverage our position as number 1 for fishing revenue to get funding for CBN endorsed projects

Information from this past Month –

- 1. Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting**
  - a. Discussion on Sunday Hunting Bill
  - b. Discussion on Hatchery closing. More information in the FAC heading
- 2. Fisheries Advisory Council**
  - a. Keep pressure on the legislature to keep Kensington Hatchery open and Pheasant Program going.
  - b. Support "Tom's Bill" to keep hatcheries open (?)
  - c. Must strive to get the CT sportsman system self-sustaining. Potential ways brought up to close the sportsman deficit is to start charging seniors who pay nothing for licensed "something", (there are 70,000 licenses given away each year to seniors. Even if they started charging these recipients \$3 each it would close



the gap.), implement trout/salmon stamp, ask for on line donations when you are on line buying your license.

- d. Brought up that asking anglers for more \$\$ is tough because we don't trust that the \$\$ will go to fishing and hunting. (True) The legislature has been known to sweep funds from these locations and put them into the General Fund. (Bastards!)
- e. Talked a little about "Un-refunded Motor Boat Fuels"? \$7 million dollars here? They gave \$3.5 million back to sportsman.... (I don't think I have ever heard of this unless this is the old Wallop Bureaux (?) money?)
- f. From Dave Simpson - Bill #6733. Bill is looking good. Got out of committee. This bill opens the door for new commercial fishing licenses (hook and line only) and also allows new commercial fishing using an attended gill net 200LF max. length.
- g. Candlewood Lake Pilot Program - Bill Hyatt spoke about this. The Town of Brookfield has purchased a boat decontamination station that will be in use at the Brookfield Town Boat Launch. Boats using the Brookfield Launch will be decontaminated using this new system. The CTDEEP may work with the Town of Brookfield on this. It would work like this. CTDEEP spotters at the Lattins launch would voluntarily inspect boats launching at Lattins. If the inspector suspected that a boat may be contaminated they would recommend to that person that they go to the Brookfield boat launch to have their boat decontaminated, at no cost. There are no regulations stating that the individual "must" go and get his boat decontaminated but there is a regulation that you cannot introduce exotics into CT waterways. Sounds good and is a start. Fear is that Towns will start using this as a way to deter out of towners from using Candlewood. Such as requiring all boats to be washed before launch. Charge in \$\$ for the washing. Limiting the hours that the wash will be open. Etc. Bill Hyatt is aware of these potential tactics and will be on the look out to make sure access is not limited
- h. Opening Day now the SECOND SATURDAY IN APRIL instead of the third Saturday
- i. Batterson Park Pond is not open year round (so ice fishing is permitted)
- j. Inland Fisheries going to start Twitter feed

- k. Media trout stocking to take place Thursday April 9th at 10:00 AM. New location. Stanley Pond in New Britain, CT this is an urban pond that can sustain trout
  - l. May 9th Family Fishing Day. There will be a large event at Gay City State Park
  - m. I asked Pete Aarrestad about the stocking of carp in Candlewood; is it going to happen. Pete says that the CLA has received a grant to introduce the carp so they have the \$\$\$. Regulations are in place for the introduction of carp as a way to control invasive plants (Ball pond uses carp to control their milfoil.) The CLA has not however applied for a permit from the DEEP to introduce the carp to candlewood. Once things start rolling the regulations require there be a public meeting to discuss the carp intro so keep your ears open about when that meeting may be. FYI at this point there is no milfoil left in Ball Pond. There are other native plants however and Pete says the bass fishing in Ball Pond is excellent
3. Shimano/Bass Youth Grant has been awarded to us. Waiting for Check to know how much we will receive. Earmarked for three lakes, one each in the towns of Watertown, Farmington and Southington.
  4. Working with Mossback to plan the types of structures for each of the 3 bodies of water in the Housatonic watershed (Lilly, Zoar, Housatonic)

Dean Rustic  
Conservation Director

- **Boating Advisory: No Meeting**
- **CLA Report:**

**Highlights (please go to CLA website and read the full report):**

Regarding the Lake Advisory Committee Minutes the CLA and other stakeholder's submitted comments to FERC and these were not submitted to FERC by First Light. Discussion followed and it was noted that FERC may request all comments. It was suggested that the comments could be submitted to the five lake towns and if no objections then they could be sent to FERC. Discussion followed on the topic of the "pump-up" water temperature to prevent transporting Zebra Mussel veligers – it had been at 50 degrees but 59 degrees was considered but now is considering 54 degrees. The scientific literature indicates that zebra mussels can spawn at 50 degrees but "primary" spawning occurs at temperatures starting in the high 50s.

Discussion on the stocking of the Grass Carp followed noting that information will be available at the State of the Lake, in local news media and possibly with a Science at Night. Also, DEEP will require that the CLA hold two public meetings to educate the public about the Grass Carp. Mrs. Schaer reported that she had learned that First Light Power will be donating ten thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars to the CLA for the next fiscal year; this was learned after the proposed budget has been submitted to the Towns. This is down from the \$50,000 that had been received previously. First Light will now have a Grant Program that can be applied to for additional funding. The Towns are aware of this shortfall in the CLA proposed budget for 2015-2016. Discussion continued. Noting that on other FERC licensed lakes the licensee pays for the safety patrols – discussion followed on the origin of the Lake Patrol, the State’s responsibility and that of the Lake Towns. Mr. Berger urged the delegates to contact their CEO’s to discuss this topic with them and enlist their aid in having FLPR return to their prior funding levels.

We continue to work to develop a plan for the boat and trailer inspection / decontamination project being piloted by the Town of Brookfield. We have recently reached out to the Lake George Park Commission to see if they would provide decontamination training with the high pressure / hot water decontamination unit that the Town of Brookfield has committed to purchasing to pilot an inspection / decontamination program. The unit First Selectman Tinsley is buying is identical to the units used up at Lake George.

- **CT Yankee Haddam Canal Issue: Norb Heil**

Folks,

On March 26th, we finally had our opportunity to meet & speak with Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen.

Here is a short recap on the meeting. It was productive. DEEP indicated that from their vantage they will soon have something specific to talk about and said they would be getting back to us. It was very helpful to have CBN, CRWC, RA, and Town together on this I believe. CBN, you have done a terrific job establishing significant public interest. We are waiting for DEEP to take what was presented, discuss with CY and share with us their next steps.

- **Tournament Report: Sal Messina**

Tournament Director Sal Messina reminded all in attendance that the applications for the 2015 CBN Tournament Trail are available on our website. The mailing deadline for CBN Tournament 1 is Saturday May 2. Please make sure to submit the mandatory zebra mussel paperwork with each applicable application. Separate documents will be needed for each of the two Candlewood Lake Tournaments.

- **Sponsorship Report: Sylvia Morris**

- **Livingston Lures**

Livingston Lures has come on as a Gold Sponsor for the CBN this year. In addition to all that they have done for us they have now provided us with a code to give to all CBN members for a one time purchase at 15% off! It is for your CBN use only!!!! Do not give to anyone who is not a CBN member!!!

**You must get the code from your Club President or any Executive Board member.**

**The code cannot be put into the minutes. It is for 15% off of your one time order, Guys, please utilize this so we can continue this great sponsorship!**

- **Berkley Discount**

The Berkley discount for B.A.S.S. Nation members has changed in how it will be processed. It is 25% off all Berkley Products for B.A.S.S. Nation members. What has changed is that it is now available 24/7 365 days a year! Also what has changed is the way you receive the discount. Members **must** follow these steps in order to receive the discount.

1. Go to Bassmaster.com – Join B.A.S.S. - Benefits or go to this link. <https://ssl.palmcoastd.com/pcd/apps/index.cfm?iMagId=57000&iPage=BASSBENEFITLOGIN&iXz=A05CF3B4374EA0549ED41FBFF6A7F39F>
2. Log into the benefits page with B.A.S.S. Number and last name
3. Click on Berkley Nation Discount
4. Order

- **Whip Em Baits “If You Can’t Beat Em Whip Em”**

### **25% Discount Offer**

Just like the B.A.S.S. Nation, we are a grass roots company. We believe in our 100% American Made Products and make baits for all levels of anglers, from beginners to seasoned pros. From an idea developed in our basement four years ago we continue to grow at a rapid pace requiring us to move to a separate building on our property. As our growth continues we are looking to expand that building in 2015. Just like most of you, we also work full time jobs. Even with this limitation, we now have fourteen dealers across the United States, one in Australia, one in Spain, and are bringing on our newest dealer in Nova Scotia. Our process is one step at a time, one person at a time, and one dealer at a time. We aim to take care of every individual customer the same way, whether you are the beginner or a Bassmaster Classic Winner. We take pride in sustaining our down home family company identity.

Henry, one of the owners of our company, spent over twenty years as President of a B.A.S.S. club in Western Pennsylvania. He also spent several years as President of the West Virginia Federation. Matt, our other owner, provides the creative mind that is helping our company grow. We would like to extend a **25% discount** on any order purchased from Whip Em Baits for all of the B.A.S.S. Nation. We are asking you to help spread the word to your Federation members. With your help we can continue to grow and compete with much larger companies. You can use the discount by entering the discount code **BNM2015** at the end of your orders. Check out our products at [www.whipembaits.com](http://www.whipembaits.com). With soft plastics, jigs, spinnerbaits, and buzzbaits, we've got a wide variety of proven bass catching baits! We thank you for your support and wish you the best of luck this season.

Sincerely,

Matt Marsula            Henry Likar  
Co-Owners Whip Em Baits

- **Whip Em Baits has agreed to come on as a Gold Sponsor with \$850.00 in product by March.**
- **Midstate Battery**
- A discount is available to ALL Nation members.
- Every club Rep received a packet with all the discounts available to us at the Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting. We have it posted on the Forum also. Please let Sylvia Know when you order & the amount.
- They can be reached at:  
139C West Dudley Town Rd. Bloomfield, CT 06002  
Phone 860-243-0646 Fax 860-243-5945  
Email: [smerone@midstatebattery.com](mailto:smerone@midstatebattery.com)
- **Reynolds' Garage and Marine Contingency Program 2015**  
**Qualifying Events...**  
**May 17, 2015 CBN Tournament #1, Candlewood Lake**  
**June 14, 2015 CBN Tournament #2, Connecticut River**  
**July 12, 2015 CBN Tournament #3 Candlewood**  
**October 18, 2015 CBN Classic/Tournament #4, Lilly**

Payout...

1. CBN Guaranteed Payout???
2. Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money based on the age of the highest finishing Skeeter Owners boat (only one award per event).
  - a. \$3,000.00 (2012 model Skeeter boat or newer)
  - b. \$1,000.00 (2011 model Skeeter boat or older)
3. Skeeter Real Money up to \$3,000.00

Rules...

1. 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...2012 model or newer Skeeter boat will qualify for \$3,000.00 per event, 2011 model or older Skeeter boat will qualify for \$1,000.00 per event.
  2. 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 2015 CBN Events.
  3. 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.
  4. There will be no limit to the times an angler can win per calendar year.
  5. The four CBN Events outlined above will also be sanctioned for 2015 Skeeter Real Money. Each CBN Event must have a minimum of 30 boats and 60 anglers to qualify for 2015 Skeeter Real Money. To qualify for 2015 Skeeter Real Money, each individual registered Skeeter Owner must register for the 2015 Skeeter Real Money program. Go to [www.skeeterboats.com](http://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](http://www.skeeterboats.com) website homepage.
  6. In the event that two or more Skeeter Owners daily catch weight results in a tie, each angler's largest fish of that day (by weight) will be used as a tie breaker to determine the winner of the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money at each CBN Event.
  7. The highest finishing Skeeter Owner must catch and weigh-in one legal bass to qualify for the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Contingency Prize Money. In the event that no registered Skeeter Owners catch and weigh-in one legal bass, the Reynolds Garage & Marine/Skeeter Owner Contingency Prize Money will not be awarded for that event.
  8. The tournament director has final decision in all issues and disputes.
- **Rigid Industries**  
There is a 30% off offer to all members. You will need a code. We will get it out to you as soon as we receive it. NO CODE YET, WORKING ON IT!
  - **Power-Pole B.A.S.S. Nation Rebate Program Effective March 1st**

Dear Presidents,

Power-Pole is a proud sponsor of the B.A.S.S Nation in 2015. We will continue to offer a rebate program to B.A.S.S. Nation Members. The new rebate structure will be effective March 1st 2015. The new discounts will be as follows:

Sportsman 2 Model: \$75

Pro 2 Model: \$100

Signature Series 2 Model: \$125

Blade Model: \$150

The above stated discounts are available via rebate program through our website. In order to receive your rebate, you will need to register the Power-Pole at [www.Power-Pole.com](http://www.Power-Pole.com) located under the "Support" column header then "Product Registration".

Once the product has been registered, you will then find the link "Apply for Rebate" to complete the rebate form. Once all the given information is verified we will issue you a check or credit in accordance with the discount you are slated to receive. You will need to provide a copy of your purchase receipt and membership card.

For the State Team Members, we want to invite you to apply for our Pro-Staff program. The program is geared towards your status within the fishing community. The application can be completed at [www.power-pole.com](http://www.power-pole.com) under "Pro's" then "Join Our Pro-Staff". With this program you will receive your discount at the time of purchase. For more information about our prostaff program please contact our pro-staff manager Casey Carpenter at [Casey@power-pole.com](mailto:Casey@power-pole.com). This rebate is not valid on any boat where the Power-Pole anchor is standard equipment. This program is subject to change or be terminated at any time. The rebate program is only valid towards one purchase per person per year and does not include accessories, installation or any other additional expense.

Sincerely,

Curt Hill,

Advertising Manager

9010 Palm River Road. Tampa, FL 33619 phone 813.689.9932 fax 813.689.8883 [power-pole.com](http://power-pole.com)

- **WAVE AWAY OFFER**

I've been a fellow BASS Nation Member for nearly over 20 years. I'm excited to see how quickly the youth tournament programs are growing and would love my company to be a part of it. I own a product called Wave Away and we offer a Sonar/GPS Screen Cleaning Kit that's endorsed by BASS Nation Champion Brandon Palaniuk. I've put together a fundraiser where BASS Nation Clubs can earn \$5 per referral when they send folks to our website to purchase Wave Away. Clubs can also earn \$20 per referral when telling potential retailers about our product and they sign up to carry Wave Away.

- Signing up to raise funds is simple. Log onto [www.waveaway.com](http://www.waveaway.com) and sign up now. It takes about 1 minute to register and it can earn your club a ton of money. We also have a few fun prizes for participating clubs. Bassmaster Elite Series Pro Brandon Palaniuk will be doing a

private seminar for the club that makes the most referrals. We will also draw one random participating club and they will receive a free Hydrowave mini unit.

- Sincerely, Chris Lambert Wave Away LLC [www.waveaway.com](http://www.waveaway.com)

CBN Scholarship: Applications are on the website and every President received the Document to send to their members. Mailing deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>!!! Judging will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00. There is an issue with filling out the form on line. We apologize for that. Hand written has always been acceptable, so we will have it fixed for next year. Two received as of today! A few days left let's get these in!!!!

- **CBN Scholarship Robert S Malloy Scholarship Committee: Dave gave us the name of the winner, Joshua Gagnon. He will be adding him to his Club Roster and he should be fishing with us this year.**
- **Banquet Committee**: This year's annual awards banquet will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 at the Chowder Pot in Hartford.
- **Membership Committee**- Looks like we have placed 10 out of the 14 possible new members who signed up at the shows!!!
- **Website Committee**- No report
- **Audit Committee** -No report
- **High School Report: Ron Frisk**

Season on tap to start 4/18 on silver lake

- Notre dame high and Bristol eastern approved and forming 3 teams at Notre dame and tbd for Bristol eastern
- info out there for Newington, Lewis mills, Cheney tech, Middletown voc tech, Lyme old Lyme, and east Windsor
- was working to form a community club with a family that built a sportsmans for youth web site aiding with systic fibrosis. They are now forming a CBN club
- met with few high school kids and full executive board at REYNOLDS open house. Went well. They voice their opinion on some things and suggested we do a seminar. That will be on 4/9 in the NU room from 6-9
- designing CBN tshirt to sell across the board. Long overdue. We need to represent our organization. Proceeds to offset high school teams at nationals
- new scale had arrived. Deluxe model with case, read out, and tripod
- Berlin little league donated a 4' table I will use for news scale
- BASS sign is doing great. Inmates came up with some great ideas.



- sold all 4 spots on the back of the high school jersey. \$500 for each team for this years nationals
- bass announced high school all American. Will nominate 2 or more and they kids will handle all the paperwork and costs if they choose to attend.
- bass also dropped a bomb that top 2 juniors, even though BASS officially does not support a junior program can fish at the HS national championship for 2 days. No advancement. I personally feel this was set up to keep some of the states youth directors happy since BASS stopped supporting an official junior program. Pretty sure that it's coming back.
- waiting on Terry to let us know about the new 8 juniors who signed up. We have asked several times though email and phone but no replies
- care classes with DEEP are 3/29, 4/4, and 4/12. 4/12 event is first BASS in the class.
- need boat captains

Respectfully,

Ron Frisk

High school director.

- **Finance Committee: No Report**
- **State Team Committee: No Report**
- **Motion made to accept reports as given – Seconded and approved**
- **Old Business**
  - **Excused absences- Mohawk Valley – a motion was made seconded and approved.**
  - **Sylvia thanked Tom Reynolds for another great Open House, Guest Speaker, Denny Brauer and great food as always!!!**
  - **Casting Kids Finals is scheduled for Sat March 28<sup>th</sup> 11:00, Cabelas, East Hartford.**

- **CBN Trailer Update** - Vinny & Marc are working with Stick it to Em Graphics. There are spots available for Platinum and for Gold Level Sponsorship. Please see Bob Nelson, Vinny Mucci or myself as soon as possible. Time is not on our side.
- **NRD Grant Update** – Sylvia is working on this now with Molly Sperduto and finally making some progress I am on step three out of 5, it has taken 72 Hours of phone work and e-mails and updating on the Government sights. Dean is working on our new proposal and budget to present to First Light & Power and the NRD board as soon as possible.
- **Website Update:** Sylvia reported that our Website and Calendar has been updated. If you have anything that needs to go on the Calendar or Website please send it to Sylvia.
- **Club Challenge Update:** Extreme Bassmasters donated \$100.00 to the High School Account at the end of 2014 and challenged all the other clubs to do the same. In addition Extreme donated \$60 at the 2014 Awards Banquet. Since the challenge was made Tolland County has donated \$60.00 and Silver City has donated \$300.00!!!
- **Folds of Honor Update:** The CBN is going to hold our first annual “Folds of Honor” Tournament on Thursday, June 18, 2015. The location of this event will be Candlewood Lake out of Squantz Park. There will be a 50 Boat limit in this event. For more information please contact Sylvia Morris or Al Guite.
- **Triton Alliance Leads Program:** Please let Sylvia know, as soon as possible, if anyone in your club is considering purchasing a Triton Boat this season. The CBN will receive credit from the sale. To date we have one sale for which we were credited \$1000.00 so far this year. We need an additional 5 sales to earn \$2000.00.
- **The CBN has ordered 2 - Lowrance Gen 3, 7's and one Spotlight Scan for our \$3000.00 in product earned from the Insight Genesis Mapping that was performed by Vinny Mucci. These items will be used for the raffle at the 2015 CBN Awards Banquet. These have not yet been received.**
- **2015 Two Day State Championship Proposal:**

Ballots were passed out to the representatives of the 21 clubs present at the meeting to vote on the proposal for the 2015 Two Day State Championship which was discussed at the February 2015 CBN meeting. All 21 clubs voted to adopt the proposal for 2015 rendering a unanimous vote. State Team qualification from the CBN Trail and the Bryan V. Kerchal Tournament of Club Champions (Mr. BASS) will remain the same for 2015. In addition 7 boater positions, 9 non boater positions and 2 alternate positions will be determined through qualification at the 2015 Two Day State Championship. This will require an amendment to CBN Standing Rule 18 which will be presented and voted on at the April meeting.

- **The Executive Board is working hard on proposals for our 2016 Trail, Mr. Bass, and State Championship. We will present them at the April meeting for discussion in May. These proposals will be voted on at the June meeting. We will be holding a special Executive Board meeting in April to develop these proposals.**

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- New Event Insurance forms are available at [CTBASS.COM](http://CTBASS.COM)
- Environment Connecticut and Environment America is asking for our help in getting the word out to outdoorsman and fisherman throughout the State of Connecticut. They felt that Sylvia would be a good person to reach out to due to her years of tireless work helping to organize Bass fisherman and especially the youths of the state with the Bass Nation. The event will take place on March 31st 2015 at the New Haven Free Public library at 303 Washington Ave, New Haven Ct. from 6 to 7 pm. Sylvia asked Dean Rustic to check into this. BASS has advised the CBN not to have the B.A.S.S. name affiliated with these organizations. Sylvia will respond that the CBN will not be affiliated with them at this time.
- Joe Horvath, Regional Skeeter Boats Representative and his wife Kelly will be cooking for all four of the CBN Tournaments again this year as part of the Sponsorship from Skeeter Boats and Yamaha Outboards. Thank you Joe & Kelly!!!! Please make sure you all stay and eat after the Tournaments and converse with Joe.
- The bill came for bonding the CBN Executive Board & Tournament Director for 2015. Marc has made payment.

- Dean Rustic requested to be reimbursed up to \$200.00 for food to have a cookout for the C.A.R.E B.A.S.S. Class Event sponsored by the CBN & Mohawk Valley Basscasters . The CBN High school/Juniors and Mohawk Valley Basscaster members will be cooking for the attendees. Dave Santos made the motion, Ray Bessette seconded and all were in favor.
- Al Guite announced that the CBN in conjunction with the Major Steven Roy Andrews Fishing Outreach Program, Gaylord Hospital and Riverfront Recapture will be holding two Disabled Military Veterans Tournaments once again this year. The first will be held on Tuesday May 5 on Candlewood Lake out of Danbury. The second will be held on Tuesday September 15 on the Connecticut River out of Riverside Park in Hartford. The event on the river is the day before the Eastern Divisional Tournament begins therefore we will utilize the BASS stage for the weigh in. Boater volunteers are needed. Please contact Al Guite if you are interested in volunteering for either of these events.

## • Working Together for Cleaner Rivers

### What is the Source to Sea Cleanup?

The annual Source to Sea Cleanup is a collaborative trash cleanup coordinated by the Connecticut River Watershed Council in all four states of the Connecticut River basin: VT, NH, MA & CT. Groups clean near water bodies and along roads or trails. You can join thousands of volunteers who have prevented more than **897 tons of trash** from flowing downstream.

The Source to Sea Cleanup helps protect our precious natural resources. People of all ages and abilities from watershed associations, students, scouts, towns, businesses, families, neighborhood groups, paddlers, anglers, educators and artists make a real difference for clean water, recreation and wildlife—all in a day’s work.

**To learn more visit [www.ctriver.org/cleanup](http://www.ctriver.org/cleanup).**

### How can I get involved?

You can join the effort as a group leader, cleanup participant, event organizing volunteer or event sponsor. Start a group or join one. The Watershed Council provides gloves, trash bags and group planning help.

To register a cleanup group in your town, or to sign up to clean on your own, visit [www.ctriver.org/cleanup](http://www.ctriver.org/cleanup) and click on “**Register a Group**”

To find a group near you to join, visit [www.ctriver.org/cleanup](http://www.ctriver.org/cleanup) and click on “**Join a Group**”

If you know of a site that needs cleaning, you can report it to us. Visit [www.ctriver.org/cleanup](http://www.ctriver.org/cleanup) and click on “**Report Trash Site**”

To learn more about volunteering before the cleanup or becoming a sponsor, contact us. We are here to help. Please contact us at [cleanup@ctriver.org](mailto:cleanup@ctriver.org) or 860-704-0057 with questions or ideas. Thank you for your interest in keeping our rivers clean and safe.

**SAVE THE DATE: 19th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup—September 25 & 26**

- **Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington Sat. Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 2015.**
- **Anyone interested in attending, helping and or manning a membership booth or Casting Kids Event at either one of the above events please see me after.**
- **March 28<sup>th</sup> Thayer's Open House 9 to 5, Randy Howell Speaker.**
- **Sporting Chance for Youth Day, June 6<sup>th</sup> 2015, More info to come**
  
- **Remember to utilize the hotels in Danbury that supply us with a fishermen rate!! Newbury Inn (best parking), Micro-tel & Best Western. All information is available on the CBN website!**

**OPENS FOR 2015**

**Applications are available at [CTBASS.com](http://CTBASS.com) and are listed on the Calendar.**

- **CBN/NEBA Team Championship Trail**
- **Reynolds Customer Appreciation June 6<sup>th</sup> Ct River, Haddam, 7 to 3**
- **Thayers Open Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, Candlewood, Squantz, 7 to 3**
- **Scholarship Open May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Candlewood Squantz, 7 to 3**
- **Folds of Honor Benefit Tournament, June 18<sup>th</sup>, Candy, Squantz 7 to 3**
- **Mixed Open May 31st, Candlewood, Squantz, 7 to 2**

- **HOC Open April 19<sup>th</sup> Candlewood Squantz, 7 to 3**
- **Brian Kerchal, Candlewood, Danbury, April 26<sup>th</sup>**
- **26 Angels, Candlewood, Danbury, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 to 3**
- **MBB High School Benefit Open, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, Candlewood 7 to 3**

**Guest Speaker Phyllis Schaer & Craig Mergins for next month.**

**Motion to Adjourn at 9:35 PM – Seconded and approved.**

**Our next meeting will be held on Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015**

Respectfully submitted by Alan Guite