

# Connecticut B.A.S.S. Meeting Minutes

## June 23, 2016

**Roll Call – 7:30PM**

**CLUBS ABSENT:** Tolland County

### **Correspondence:**

- Thank you Letter from Tomesello Riccio to the CBN for his winning one of the CBN Scholarship Awards.
- A Thank you e-mail from Craig Mergins for our help with the Sporting Chance for Youth Day.

### **Announcements:**

- Save the Date for Katie Dobroczyński Memorial Golf Tournament, Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 HLCC Southington Ct.
- Mossback Fish Habitat ([www.mossbackfishhabitat.com](http://www.mossbackfishhabitat.com)) is announcing an expansion of its partnership with B.A.S.S. Conservation and the B.A.S.S. Nation. The Springdale, Arkansas manufacturer of artificial fish habitat will be providing all B.A.S.S. Nation state chapters, clubs and B.A.S.S. High School fishing teams a substantial discount on products used to enhance fish habitat in ponds, lakes and reservoirs. Shipping will also be discounted.

Mossback products are made of plastics that are long-lasting (they don't require frequent replacement like natural brush fish attractors), provided surface for colonization of plankton and periphyton (the base of the food chain for all fish), and provide shade and cover for both juvenile and adult fish - including game fish like black bass.

Mossback has been a supporter of B.A.S.S. Conservation efforts for the past several years as a sponsor of the Conservation Summit held every other year at the Bassmaster Classic and by sponsoring a grant program, awarding product to B.A.S.S. Nation clubs who submitted the best proposals that integrated Mossback structures into fish habitat enhancement projects. Past winners of the Mossback grant include Nation clubs in New Mexico and Virginia. Mossback products have proven to be popular with other clubs that have purchased materials for habitat projects funded through other B.A.S.S. Conservation grants such as the Shimano/B.A.S.S. Youth Conservation Initiative and the Fish America Foundation.

Nation clubs or fishing team representatives who are planning habitat projects and are

considering artificial structures in the mix need to contact their state's B.A.S.S. Nation Conservation Director for details on how to take advantage of this discount program.

**A motion to accept the previous month's minutes was seconded and approved.**

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

- **Treasurer Report:** Marc Levesque
- **Conservation & FAC Report:** Dean Rustic

CBN Conservation objectives for the 2016

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. Meeting at 79 Elm Street – We had 4 visitors from the Animal Rights Front
  - b. Reviewed Inland Fisheries and the new stocking information
  - c. Introduced the findings and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel.
    - i. Jonny Morris Co-Chair
2. Fisheries Advisory Council
  - a. Discussion on Trout Stamp – the implementation not until 2018 – if DEEP needs it.
  - b. Hatchery personal being adjusted to keep staff levels low.
  - c. The head of the Marine Fisheries is retiring. Peter Aarrestad will be taking over both the Inland and Marine fisheries.
3. Shimano/B.A.S.S. Youth Grant
  - a. Working with the Watertown Fishing Club, The Town of Watertown and a Boy Scout doing his Eagle Scout Project we install the structures in Lake Winnemaug.
4. BASS Class
  - a. The Bass Class was highlighted in the Quarterly Inland Fishing report
5. NRD Grant
  - a. Received Data from Moss Back about the South Dakota study on their Fish City Designs.
  - b. Need Volunteers for the Project Team to work with me.

- c. Research for installation of the amount of structures that we will need to install lends itself to a work barge/pontoon boat. Possible to get used one and donate to DEEP to use for their CARE Program and allow us to use as needed.

Dean Rustic  
Conservation Director

- **Boating Advisory:**

CLA REPORT: DANBURY — Two grass carp flopped in a net as Todd Bobowick carried them from a tank on the back of his truck to the town boat launch, where he released them into Candlewood Lake on Wednesday morning.

Several trips and 10 minutes later, a dozen carp 12 to 14 inches long, each trailing a thin metal antenna, had joined the 3,800 sterile grass carp stocked in the lake last summer in an effort to combat the spread of the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil.

By early afternoon, about 50 new fish had been released at four sites around the lake. But unlike their predecessors, these carp will be tracked using radio transmitters with unique frequencies in the first program of its kind in Connecticut.

Each carp has had a transmitter surgically inserted into its abdominal cavity, along with an antenna several inches long coming out of its side. Bobowick, a fish veterinarian, along with representatives from the state and [Candlewood Lake Authority](#), implanted the transmitters on Saturday at his hatchery, Rowledge Pond Aquaculture.

Each fish transmits a signal that can be detected up to 400 yards away using special equipment mounted in a boat. Scientists will track each fish to see how it moves through the 5,000-acre lake and what factors might contribute to these movements, including proximity to its favored food, the Eurasian watermilfoil.

“The academic goal is to better understand their behavior in relation to a food source,” said Candlewood Lake Authority Executive Director [Larry Marsicano](#).

He said this will help the authority better distribute the fish when they add more in coming years to improve the fish-to-milfoil ratio.

Last summer, the authority decided not to release the carp in sections of the lake bordering New Milford, for fear the fish would escape through the power company conduit that feeds into the Housatonic River. If tracking research shows the carp don’t travel too widely, Marsicano said, the authority might stock the area in the future.

Theodora Pinou, a biology professor at [Western Connecticut State University](#), and some of her students will track the fish a few times a week throughout the summer.

“We don’t know a lot about these animals, so I’m interested to see their behavior,” she said.

Pinou is looking forward to comparing their observations of the sterile carp to the carp that are naturally present in the lake, as well as conducting other research on the species.

“It’s good for the students to be involved in a hands-on project instead of a theoretical project,” Pinou said. “I’m a lifelong learner, so it’s always exciting to be on the front of something that’s new and different.”

Adding the fish with the trackers is the next phase of the project paid for with a \$50,000 matching grant the authority received from the state in 2014. The [Goldring Family Foundation](#) also donated money for the carp.

“The state’s been very supportive,” Marsicano said. “They’re very interested in this work.”

The new carp could also help raise some money for the authority. People will be able to name a particular carp and follow its progress for \$100.

The authority hopes to post maps of where the fish migrate on its website.

“It’s certainly unique for us, and it’s the first tracking program in the state,” said [Mark Howarth](#), the authority’s public education director. “It’s just a good way to raise awareness about what we’re doing and a lot of fun. A lot of residents were excited about the stocking last year.”

- **Tournament Report:**

Address NO Wake Issue and Discussion with Bill Forman about possible video. You can be disqualified if you are identified going through the no wake & given a Ticket even after the scales are closed!

YOU MUST ABIDE ALL NO WAKES AND SPEED LIMITS ON ALL BODIES OF WATER IN OUR CBN EVENTS!!!!!!

- **CBN Sponsorship Report:**

CBN Sponsorship Report

May 25, 2016

Robert Nelson

Full Sponsorship Report can be found on Sponsor Page of the ctbass.com Forum Sponsor Section.

We are pleased to announce that Huk Performance Fishing has stepped up to support the B.A.S.S. Nation and our conservation efforts with a discount program that will provide a whopping 50% discount off Huk's Internet website prices and fund a grant program for B.A.S.S. Nation clubs.

Club Presidents, Please PASS THIS ON TO ALL MEMBERS IN YOUR CLUB, if interested in ordering have them:

- Go to the Huk website [www.hukgear.com](http://www.hukgear.com) and order whatever they like for themselves only, print up their order add shipping if applicable and give the order & monies to you the President and you will need to get your club order as a whole to me with the monies. Please have one big order and all monies ready for me.
- I will do three bulk orders only, June 15th, July 13th, and August 10th. You must have your orders and money to me by any one of those dates you may choose for your club. I will only do one order per club!!!
- I will NOT order without the money in my hands!!!!
- The orders will be shipped to the President placing the order it is up to you to keep track of your individual club members orders or you may designate someone to be in charge of it, just let me know who that will be.

This offer is for all members and HS/Juniors!!!!

And here is a big incentive to buy from Huk... They will be tracking these sales and use those figures to calculate a donation to B.A.S.S. Conservation that will fund the Huk Performance Conservation Grant which we will award in 2017. The more you buy, the larger the donation Huk will make to the fund. That money will come right back to B.A.S.S. Nation clubs doing work on fish habitat, access improvements, fighting invasive species, improving tournament fish care, or recruiting more people to fishing and the B.A.S.S. Nation. Details of the grant program will be provided to Conservation Directors later this year.

- **CBN Scholarship**- No Report
- **CBN Scholarship Robert S Malloy Scholarship committee**: No Report
- **Banquet**: Banquet for 2016 has been booked for Nov 12<sup>th</sup>.
  
- **Membership Committee**: No Report
- **Website Committee**: Working with Armand on updating, We added a Sponsorship Section in the Members Only Forum. This is where the Sponsorship Report and any Sponsorship news will be posted from now on.
- We are looking for Social Media person, please check with your clubs and see if there is anyone who would be interested in this.
- **Audit Committee**: No Report
  
- **High school & Juniors**: Ron Frisk

I am going to need a few boats (possibly as many as 4) for 7/16 tournament on Lilly from 7am-2pm, Steel Bridge.

Had second tournament on river and the catches were bigger than I expected. Thanks to all the boat captains. Several new ones and I believe they all had a blast! Ramp was a disaster at weigh-in but we got through it only 15 minutes later than usual.

Very competitive this year and I can see the improvement in all the anglers. Looks to be a battle up top in the standings in the high school division with 2 more events to go.

Juniors and HS champions are registered for National Championship with BASS and they have sent all pertinent information to us. Rooms are booked as well.

Juniors will fish August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and the winner will be crowned.

High School will fish August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> with only top 12 fishing last day, August 6<sup>th</sup>. Small % if they do hit the 250 boat mark but that is something to be discussed with BASS at the National meeting in November...Even 10% of field would be better considering they take 10% from opens to qualify for National Championship and the amount of money it costs, etc. to get these teams fishing it.

Hoping BASS can help us come up with a way to grow the CT High School program. As it stands, with the junior program needing 5 boats and just about 15 or so HS teams fishing each event, growing it any larger is simply a challenge and it should not be. This is the future of BASS and we need BASS to step up and help Nations like CT, where boat captains and season length is at a minimum.

Thanks,

Ron

- **Finance:** The CBN is still in need of a Financial Advisor.
- **State Team 2016:**  
Approximate cost of the 2016 State Team is 13,154.10. All reimbursement checks have been sent out.

**BASS National Dates:** - November 12<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 at Lake Conroe Texas.

**A motion to accept all reports as given was seconded and approved.**

## **Old Business**

### **Excused Absences:** Statewide Bassmasters

- Nominations are open for Tournament Director for 2017. They will be turned in at the July meeting and voted on in August. Please call with your nominations Rachel Rose, 860-212-5598 or Kevin Rose, 860-978-3987
- Remember Sure Life is 11.00 a bottle now and will be sold at each Tournament. Please try to have the right change. Not selling very well, if there is no interest we will revisit purchasing in the future. We have sold 7 Bottles out of 48 so far.
- Triton Alliance Leads Program: please let Sylvia know, as soon as possible, if anyone in your club is considering purchasing a Triton so we can connect and get credit for the sale. We have 9 leads already for 2016! We have already made \$2000.00.
- The Executive Board has put a Proposal together for the Top 25/ Classic Tournament. This is basically a precaution in case we do not have enough Non boaters interested in participating.

### **PROPOSAL:**

#### 2016 CBN Classic Proposal

We have only 29 Non-boaters/Co-anglers participating in the 2016 CBN Tournament Trail. The Executive Board is submitting the following proposal to the Board of Directors in order to satisfy the number of Non-boaters/Co-anglers needed to ensure all Boaters are paired with a Non-boater/Co-angler as depicted in BASS rules regarding State Team Qualification.

Proposal;

For the 2016 CBN Classic, if the number of Non-Boaters/Co-anglers needed to satisfy the BASS requirement for State Team qualification where all State Team qualifiers must be paired during a qualifying event, the CBN Tournament Director will offer Non-Boater/Co-angler positions in the 2016 Classic Tournament to boaters who participated in 2016 CBN Tournament Trail beginning with finishing position 26 in the final standings and continue in ascending order until the pairing requirement is met.

Submitted by the CBN Executive Board

**Voting ballots were passed out by Alan Guite and collected by David Santos. David Santos performed the count. The proposal passed 17 to 1.**

- Website and Calendar updated! If you have anything that needs to go on the Calendar or website send it to Sylvia Morris.

### **New Business**

- The Milford Black Bass Club will be holding a Benefit Tournament for the Simons Family. Mr Simons is going to have a Kidney Transplant and Mrs Simons is a match. Ins is not covering the medications necessary for the both of them to be on for at least 6 months. They will cost, out of pocket, about \$700.00 a day. There will be a Benefit Dinner, Oct 1st and a Golf Tournament Oct 5<sup>th</sup>. I will get all the info to all the presidents and on the Forum as soon as I get it. PLEASE help by attending one or all of the events!!!! If you cannot make any of these events and wish to make a donation of cash or prizes please see me after the meeting or call me. 203-675-4666
- Craig Mergins had a meeting with Nathan Grube, who is the Traveler's Championship Tournament Director, and because many of the golfers love to fish, he was questioning if a couple guys might be available if when the guys check in, inquire about getting out on the CT. River? If interested let Sylvia know. The tournament is August 1-7, need a few boaters please. We have one volunteer so far.
- Sylvia will be booking flights for herself and Dean Rustic, who will represent the CBN as Youth Director, to attend the meetings at the 2016 Nationals. We are expected to be there on the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. BASS will cover our rooms for three nights. I am booking an extra night for us and traveling a day earlier because of the holiday travel. I am estimating the room and travel cost to be aprox \$1100.00 with taxes and Ins. This is not including food that is not provided by BASS.

### **CBN May 26<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Attending:

Sylvia Morris, Vinny Mucci, Al Guite, Marc Levesque, Ron Frisk, Paul Dingee, Sal Messina, & Dean Rustic

Absent: Bob Nelson

- Started the meeting by reminding all it is an election year for President and Vice President in addition to Secretary, Treasurer and Tournament Director.

I announced that I would not be running for any position. I would be willing to stay on as State Team Coordinator and Banquet Chairperson if the Executive Board in 2017 would want me to.



I went around the room and asked all if they would be interested in any positions that are elected? There were definite no's and some maybes. So we are in need of nominees for all positions please! Talk to your clubs and see if there is anyone interested in running.

The other positions, that are appointed, are always open if anyone is interested please let us know. They are:

Financial Advisor, Sponsorship Chairperson, UConn Scholarship, Audit Committee (3) & Chairperson (January), Scholarship Committee (3) & Chairperson (April), Social Media Person, Ron Frisk is interested in one more year as HS/JUNIOR director, Dean Rustic is interested in one more year Conversation Director, Paul Dingee is interested in one more year as Membership Chairperson

- Discussed Trailer update: Stormr Logo is ready. We must apply ourselves.
- Joe Kowalski's Foundation Logo is not very good quality and therefore cannot be larger than 12". We will put it on the back of the trailer as Tackle the Storm and Folds of Honor are.
- Discussed new members and possibility of changing the amount of days prior to the Two Day that they have to join in order to fish the Two Day. Will discuss further at our next Executive Board meeting in August. Mixed ideas.
- Tournament Trail, T#1 went very well!!! Discussed Non Boaters being treated poorly. Hard to prove, but should be talked about.
- T#2 River, will contact Johnathan Weeks to see if we can leave the Trailer at his house on the night of June 11<sup>th</sup>, Reynolds Open to have it already there for ours on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Haddam issues have not been resolved. I have been in touch with Bill Forman and he is trying to find out what is being decided.
- CBN Scholarships and UCONN Scholarship, we need more income into the accounts!!! We are paying out more than we are putting in. Not Good!
- Discussed taking 25% of the Banquet income after expenses, and giving 15% to the HS/Juniors and 10% to the Scholarship Accounts. Decided to do that. We also decided for 2017 we would cut back on the amounts; CBN Scholarship will be 1<sup>st</sup> place \$1000.00 and second \$500.00. UCONN will stay at \$1000.00 for now. Milford Black Bass Open will now fund the Scholarship accounts, to be split equally between the CBN and the UCONN Scholarships. That would add approx. 300 to each in 2017, depends on attendance, the Banquet % could add approximately 300 to each, could be more, and depends on attendance. We usually make 1400 from our CBN Scholarship Tournament, which is 700 to each that also depends on attendance.
- Awards for end of year Banquet, lack of interest! We decided not to have a committee, which has really not had to judge in the last few years because there was only entry. Executive Board will decide if there is a deserving person or persons or club or clubs and will get Plaques done if warranted.

- Dean brought up that maybe Ron Frisk could select some of his HS or Juniors and award those special individuals with an award or awards. We all agreed if he feels there are any that deserve plaques or awards he can certainly do that out of his HS Account.
- Cy Boom contract is still not complete. Will keep you all posted.
- Going forward we will have two people attending the Nationals, Boater and Non-Boater. The format for the Nationals is going to be different this year and we will wait to see what they put forth before we decide how to handle the expenses of practice. We will cover the expenses for the Boater and the Non Boaters travel to the National, however they must travel together.
- State Team Going forward; we will decide how much the Team mandated Sponsorship will be once we see how much we collect from the CBN Trail, Mr. Bass and the Two Day. Also see where we are going and how much it will cost. I estimate we should have \$17,900 by the end of the year for the State Team. We have decided to open a State Team account to keep an accurate account of what we have and what we need. Marc will open one for us.
- Greater Hartford has asked for a refund from their 2016 Dues as they did not come up with a sixth member but said they would return next year. We decided to hold their money over for 2017 and help them get a new member. We really should not refund money that came in Nov 2015 in May 2016.
- Top 25/Classic possible issue. Could be a possibility that we will not have 25 Non Boaters. What would we do? Cannot fish alone, cannot put an observer, must be someone trying to qualify for the Team. We came up with the Proposal that has been passed out to all Reps and we will vote on at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
- Bass Pro Shops donated many Rod & Reels from their trade in program to Craig Mergins for the Sporting Chance for Youth program! Thank you Bass Pro Shop of Bridgeport!
- Dean Rustic brought up a Social Media Proposal from Tyler Wade for the CBN. A small discussion was held about the cost and what it actually covered, We decided to table it until the Aug. Executive Board meeting at Sylvia's house, we find a Social Media person and we will bring it up again at the August CBN meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Sylvia Morris

Remember to utilize the hotels in Danbury that supply us with a fishermen rate!! Newbury, (best parking) Micro-tel & Best Western. All on website! They have contacted me this past week to remind us to ask for the Fisherman Rate!

- Best Western Danbury/Bethel, 11 Stony Hill Road, Bethel CT, 203-744-3200
- Microtel Inn & Suites Bethel, 10 Benedict Road, Bethel CT, 203-748-8308
- Newbury Inn, 1030 Federal Road, Brookfield CT, 203-775-0220

## OPENS & EVENTS FOR 2016

NEW: A Benefit Tournament for the Simons Family, Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, Squantz, \$200.00 entry Fee per Team, Apps will be available soon!

All other Open Tournaments Applications are available and also on CTBASS.com, on the Calendar.

Reynolds Boats Northern Bass Tournaments Trail & Opens, many dates

CBN Scholarship Open, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, Candlewood, Squantz

Simons Family Benefit Tournament, Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, Candlewood, Squantz and Lattins,

Raffle winners;

- Snag Proof Winner-Dean Rustic
- Whip Em Baits Winner-Sal Messina
- Keitech- David Santos

Meeting adjourned – 8:45PM

Next month's meeting - July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

