

March 27th, 2019
CT B.A.S.S. Nation Meeting

7:08 Roll Call

- **CLUBS ABSENT: Ct Yankee and Candlewood**
- **Correspondence: None**
- **Announcements: None**
- **MOTION TO ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES AS Read & POSTED**

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

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

CBN Conservation Report

March 27, 2019

CBN Conservation objectives for the 2019

- 1. Conservation Projects for Candlewood Lake (Boat Launch & Habitat)**
- 2. Create an on the Water Bass Course (like Golf Course)**
- 3. Conservation/Youth Project – Burr Pond**

Information from this past Month –

- 1. CT Conservation Advisory Council (CCAC) Meeting**
 - a. Discussion on upcoming legislation and hearings.**
 - b. Information on AIS Bill in House.**
- 2. Fisheries Advisory Council**
 - a. Next meeting is March 28th**
- 3. DEEP Items**
 - a. Burr Pond – Still working on this as a Conservation/Youth project. AFTCO Grant**
- 4. Legislation –**

- a. I spoke at the State Office Building in reference to HB 6637 on behalf of the CBN. I have attached my letter of the testimony.
5. **Bassmaster Classic**
 - a. Great Fish care – lost just 2 bass the entire weekend. 1 via the Pros and 1 via the College.
 - b. Met with the President of AFTCO and spoke in regards to Conservation efforts and Grant program.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Dean Rustic
Conservation Director**

- **Hello to the Environmental Committee –**

My name is Dean Rustic and I am the Conservation Director for the CT BASS Nation. I am also the Vice Chairman of the Fishing Advisor Council and also the Vice Chairman of the CT Conservation Advisory Council. I live in Burlington, CT.

I come before your committee today to represent the CT Sportsmen and Sportswomen and provide their view point from the organizations I represent.

The CT Sportsmen & Sportswomen support the concept of a funding source to aid in protecting our inland waters. We are extremely cautious with the current writing of the bill. We have seen where legislation written poorly will have dire consequences. Our most major concern is that the CT Taxpayers could have their access to public water bodies taken or restricted due to this bill.

The good intentions of this bill place the burden only on the existing CT Residents who are already be taxed. The CT Sportsmen & Sportswomen are already taxed on our purchases of Boating, hunting & fishing gear. Those funds that are paid to the Wallop-Breaux Tax come back to CT based on the number of fishing that are sold. Last

year CT received over \$3.5 Million from this fund and is slated for \$3.6 Million this year. These funds from our tax dollars go to:

- **Boating Safety Programs promote the use of personal floatation devices (life jackets), courses on basic navigation, weather signs and appropriate safety gear; and enforcement of responsible boater conduct and speed zones**
- **Boating Infrastructure Grants boost local tourism and economic development by creating new facilities for transient boaters needing a slip or dock.**
- **Clean Vessel Act allows states to purchase and maintain pump-out facilities (for boat discharge) that are more accessible and reliable.**
- **Coastal Wetlands Restoration maintains our nation's wetlands.**
- **Sport Fish Restoration maintains fisheries and protects our natural resources.**
- **Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation supports conservation of aquatic natural resources by increasing participation in and appreciation of water activities.**
- **Boating Access Programs.**

My point here is to show that CT Sportsmen & Sportswomen are stalwart's to the environment as we have been paying this tax to ensure our environment is safe with clean water and healthy fish. The CT BASS Nation, and many others, have already adapted Clean, Drain & Dry program to help stop the spread of the invasive aquatic species as well as other proven conservation efforts.

There needs to be a larger effort to educate all folks who use the CT Lakes, Ponds & Rivers about what they can do to stop the spread of AIS. A sailboat, rowboat, canoes and kayaks all have the ability to transport AIS. The owners of these vessels need to be educated. We feel they should also support the AIS Stamp Fund.

We wish to have the following concepts added to the current wording of the bill:

- 1. Funds from this Stamp will only be used to help bodies of water that have unrestricted public access for Motor Boats.**
- 2. Towns, Municipalities and Lake Authorities who receive funds from this stamp will not be able to use these funds to limit motor boat access to public waters.**
- 3. Towns, Municipalities and Lake Authorities who receive funds from this stamp will allow motor boats on the lake without any horsepower restrictions.**
- 4. With the narrow scope of the stamp focusing on motor boats, verses all water craft using CT Waterways (Boat, canoes, Sailboats, Kayaks etc). Therefore bodies of water that do not have public access for motor boats are prohibited from using funds from this stamp until the stamp is expanded to include non-motor boats in the funding source.**
- 5. Using the DMV verses the CT DEEP Online Licensing System to capture the funds – The CT DEEP has an online License system that allows for 7x24 access to acquire Licenses and Stamps. Using the DEEP system will be much easier and user friendly.**
- 6. Many States are now including in these types of tax bills or stamps, wording that states that there is a fundamental right for CT Residents to have public access on these water bodies for Hunting and Fishing.**

Thanks for your time and for reading our concerns.

Sincerely

Dean Rustic

- CLA REPORT: None**
- TOURNAMENT REPORT- Vinny Mucci**
- B.A.S.S. has informed us that we will have smaller Regions going forward, not sure if it 5 or 6 yet but smaller for sure, keeping us closer to home!**
- Application Rules and Zebra Mussel Letter is up on ctbass.com, go to Tournaments and click Tournament Forms. Mailing Deadline for T#1 May 5th Candlewood, Squantz is April 20th.**
- CBN Proposed Trail 2020**

April 19th, CBN Scholarship, Candlewood, Squantz 50 Boats
May 3rd, - CBN T #1 Candlewood, Squantz & Latins 75 Boats 8 to 3
June 14th, -CBN T #2 River Haddam & Salmon 65 Boats, 7 to 3
July 12th, CBN T#3 Candy Squantz & Latins 75 Boats, 8 to 3
August 2nd, Classic TBD 30 Boats
Aug 23rd, Mr Bass TBD 16 Boats
Oct 3rd & 4th, Two-day, Candy, Squantz 50 boats 7 to 3

**Open Tournament Apps are on the table and on the Website
(HOC, Bryan Kerchal and the CBN Scholarship Tournament & NEOT)**

- **CBN Sponsorship Report:**

- **Alliance monies have not been received yet for 2018 we matched with 28 Leads and have earned \$5000.00 again! Working on 2019 Awesome! Thank you Thayers Marine!!!!!! They are working on getting the monies out and Merchandise will ship within 10 days. Alliance is back for 2019, now including Nitro to the list, Triton, Mercury, Motorguide, Lowrance, Bass Pro Shop and Nitro!!!! Contract has been signed and all State Merchandise has been ordered.**

A new Sponsor Has come on Board with the CBN, Interstate Battery of Killingsworth. They are giving us a Certificate for Product for the 2019 Banquet Raffle.

Raymarine has come on board as a 2019 State Team Sponsor and gave us a Axiom Unit for the 2018 CBN Banquet.

Power Pole is back for 2019, for info see Vinny Mucci

Toyota Bonus Bucks Program is back for 2019 also.

- **Tackle Supply Depot has made Discount Cards for all CBN Members, the discount is 10% in store or on line using this code: CBN2019. You can pick up your Card at Tackle Supply Depot, just tell them you are a CBN Member and what Club and they will give you one. Those in attendance have received theirs. If you can not make it to the store, tell your Club Rep to get it for you at the next CBN Meeting. Club Reps should let Vinny Mucci know how many Cards they will need so he has them ready.**
- **Danbury Super 8 has come back as a Sponsor for 2019, they have given us a free Nights Stay to Raffle off and are offering a Fisherman's Rate of \$69.00 a night, you must ask for this and let**

them know that you have a boat. They have ample parking and power! Super 8 Hotel 3 Lake Ave Ext, Danbury, CT 06811 ASK FOR CAROLYNN OR ANNA & FISHERMAN RATE, \$69.00

- **CBN Scholarship- Robert S Malloy: Marc Levesque will be the CBN Contact person for this.
Jason Vokun will be conducting the interviews to choose the winner of our Robert S Malloy Annual UCONN Scholarship.**
- **CBN Scholarship- Chairperson, Mike Billings is in charge, mailing deadline is April 1st! Judging committee is as follows:**
- **Sylvia Morris, Alex Shvartsman & Joe Kowalski. Will have everything done and ready for Judging within a week after the mailing deadline. Mike will e-mail to the Judges and then we will meet and pick our winners, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.**
- **Banquet Report: Sylvia Morris
Rebooked for Nov 9th, 2019
Any idea for prizes would be appreciated!**
- **Membership Committee: Dave has placed one new member and connected another so far. Show is coming up, March 29th to the 31st, Hartford Convention Center. We should be able to recruit there! Clubs PLEASE let Dave know if you are accepting New Members, Boaters, Non Boaters or both!!!**
- **Website: The Triton Group has built the new website, It is up and running!!!!**
- **Audit Committee: Joe Pisciotto, Rob Jeffrey, and Greg Tesch will meet next Tuesday, April 2nd, in Waterbury.**
- **Finance: No Report**
- **CBN Youth Report: John Piscioniere-: Youth Report**

Sorry I was not able to be there today...

We Had our annual Youth Meeting on Saturday, the 23rd; in Meriden.

We had over 100 people attend between parents/children and presenters.

We were able to provide a lot of gear to all the participants thanks to all the donations we had.

We presented the CBN Plaque to Paul Narducci.

Thank you to the following people who attend:

Vinny Mucci, Paul Narducci Mike Billings, Joe Kowalski, Greg Mazur, Sal Messina & Tom Laporta

I also invited Ed Machowski from the state of CT to the event. And he did show up. Here is the email he sent to me after the meeting:

Hi John,

I was super impressed with what you guys have been able to achieve and provide for these kids. The message you deliver to the kids is spot on, and it is no wonder why the trail is growing.

I talked with a few people as I was heading out, one of which has aspirations of being a biologist. I didn't get his name, but I did mention that you have my contact info and that I would be happy to sit and talk with him about mapping out what he'll need to do to pursue a career in the biological field. So, if you're

approached by anyone who wants to get in touch with me for anything at all, please feel free to pass on my contact info.

Thanks for allowing me to participate and I will definitely try and get to one or two of the weigh-ins. In the meantime, if you guys have thoughts on how we might be able to benefit your program, let me know. One thing that I thought a lot about this weekend was lifting the restrictions on boat launch capacity for the HS events. I know I am going to get a ton of push back, and it is possible that certain people will have to retire before we can make it happen, but as is everything with state government. . .you plant the seed and then kick back and watch it grow! Hopefully sooner rather than later, someone will think it is a great idea and make it happen. I will start pushing and see where it goes.

Best,

Ed

We have 30 HS Teams registered as of right now.... and 6 Juniors.

Our trail is:

TOURNAMENTDATES

7 am- 2 pm

May 11th

Zoar

Candlewood-

June 15th

Lattins

July 20th

Lake Zoar

CT River Haddam

7-Sep

Meadows

Please ask members of your clubs to volunteer for an event. We will probably need about 17 volunteer boats for each event.

One change I will be implementing this year is this:

Instead of handing out individual event plaques at our annual banquet, I am getting prices for trophies to be handed out at each tournament.

We will have 1st/2nd/3rd place (2 each) for each tournament...and give them to the kids at the end of each event.

Having the kids go home with an actual trophy, and then sharing via social media, will go a long way in promoting our program and giving the anglers instant gratification.

Half the kids who win the individual events don't end up coming to the annual banquet, and I end up spending money to ship them as well.

By doing this, we will not present the individual event plaques at the banquet; we will only hand out the overall winners that night.

Cost should not be an issue as we are shifting it from a year end cost to an event cost.... any incremental cost would be minimal.

We will not do this for the juniors for this year, as we will probably only have 2 or 3 tournaments for the 6 Jr. anglers.

We have volunteer's pretty much filled up...the only even in the near future that hasn't been filled yet is set up on the 14th.

I will send out the list for each event prior to the event.

John Piscioniere

- **State Team Administrator: Sylvia Morris**
Team Members will be working their hours at the upcoming Northeast Hunting and Fishing Show this weekend.
I will be having them sign up for their High School Tournament that they will volunteer for in 2019 and collecting any paperwork or Sponsorship Dollars that they have for me.

I will be ordering the State Team and High School National Teams Jerseys the first week in April.

I have Received the \$500.00 check from KD Foundation for their spot on the Jersey.

Next Meeting and deadline for all paperwork and Sponsorship Dollars is May 5th after the CBN T#1 weigh in and tear down.

Respectfully

Sylvia Morris, CBN State Team Administrator

- **MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS GIVEN, SECOND, ALL IN FAVOR**

Old Business

- **Excused Absences:**
- **ROSTERS ARE ALL IN!**
- **Boat Captains needed for Yearly Veterans Tournaments for 2019**
Tues. May 7th, Major Stephen Roy Andrews/ Gaylord Hospital

Veterans Tournament, Congamong Lake Tues Sept 17th, Major Stephen Roy Andrews/ Gaylord Hospital Veterans Tournament, Candlewood Lake, Danbury Town Park.

**Contact person to volunteer to be a Boat Captain is Al Guite:
alanguite@comcast.net 860-436-8646**

- **Dean Rustic had an idea he wanted some feedback on. He is presenting this idea to the Fisheries Advisory Councils next meeting and will get back to us.**

My idea is to work with the CT DEEP to create a state-wide multi-species fishing derby. The intent of the Derby is to bring together various fishing organizations to promote their aspect of the sport and invite new opportunities for CT residents to get involved in fishing.

Possible Organizations:

- 1. CT BASS Nation**
- 2. Trout Unlimited**
- 3. CT Salmon Anglers**
- 4. Carp Anglers**
- 5. Pike Anglers**
- 6. Salt Water Anglers**
- 7. Multiple Fish & Game Clubs.**

This would be state wide with the use of Facebook and pictures to show off their catches. This will probably be a length tournament to go along with the pictures so there is no weigh in.

Looking at a May Weekend. Possibly the Saturday before Memorial Day. This would provide warmer weather and still be prior to the busy boating season.

Submitted by Dean Rustic

- **We need a Social Media Director!!!**

- **Still no Tournament Director?????? We need one!!!!**

ANY MORE OLD BUSINESS?

NEW BUSINESS

- **Joe Kowalski asked the CBN for a Donation of \$1000.00 for His Major Stephen Roy Andrews outreach Program which is in need of monies to help him take out Veterans fishing for a day, this money will be enough to cover at least 10 fishing trips with gas in Boat & Truck, etc. Motion was made, seconded and passed Unanimously. Marc will send Joe a \$1000.00 check for his Foundation.**
- **Dean Rustic had a great idea, we should have a big Check made to Present to Joe at the May 7th Veterans Tournament in front of everyone and possibly TV crews. This could be great publicity for the CBN and help Joe raise more money for his Foundation.**

ANY MORE NEW BUSINESS???

- **2019 CBN Meeting Dates, Tackle Supply Depot, 4th Wed of each month, except Nov and Dec, will be third Wed because of Holidays, 7:00pm**
 - April 24th**
 - May 22nd**
 - June 26th**
 - July 24th**
 - Aug 28th**
 - Sept 25th**
 - Oct 23rd**
 - Nov 20th**
 - Dec 18th**

RAFFLE WINNERS: Jim Young won the Free nights stay at the Danbury Super 8!!!!

- **Thayer's Spring Open House April 13th, Hank Parker is the Guest.**

- **Northeast Hunting and Fishing Show, March 29 to the 31st,
Convention Center Hartford!**

**HOTELS TO UTILIZE: Super 8 Hotel 3 Lake Ave Ext, Danbury, CT
06811 ASK FOR CAROLYNN OR ANNA & FISHERMAN RATE, \$69.00**

Motion to Adjourn, second, all in favor. Adjourned at 8:10

NEXT MEETING IS WED, April 24th 2019