

Federation Nation

Junior Bass masters

2011 year end recap

As we get started to plan out the 2012 year I would like to thank all the junior anglers, parents, sponsors and the boat captains for their participation and support during the 2011 year. We continue to have strong membership with our junior angler tournaments. As we continue to grow I welcome your ideas and suggestions on how to improve on the youth trail each year. I am looking for suggestions for new sites to fish next year. Again this year we will have the set of rules for boat captains and juniors to follow and have each member complete a registration form 2 weeks prior to fishing any events.

Our first qualifying event for 2011 on Long Pond Lakeville went off smoothly, the weather was great but as always in the spring the fish were not very cooperative. We had a full field of juniors with only one 5 fish limit, but these anglers didn't quit and still figure out how to catch them. In first place in the **15-18 age division** was Jake Rowinsky with 5 fish weighing 7.12lbs; behind him were Brendan Webb -3 fish at 5.1lbs and Pat Wentworth 3 fish 4.0 lbs. In our **11-14 age group** we had a 3 way tie for first place with Andrew Palmacci, Tom Anderson and Pat Sheeran.

As we moved on to warmer weather and more cooperative fish, Lake Attitash was our second stop of the year. Expectations were high for limits of fish and at the scales it showed. In first place in the **15-18 group** was Kory Dominic with 5 fish 10.11 lbs, second was Jake Rowinsky with 5 fish 7.11 lbs and third went to Brendan Webb with 4 fish 6.0lbs. In our **11-14 age group** everyone caught fish, rounding out the top three were Pat Sheeran with 2 fish weighing 4.03 lbs , Tom Anderson with 3 fish at 3.09lbs and Nathan Lacombe 2 fish 1.15lbs.

At our final qualifying event, after having to change the date a few times. We would decide our 2011 Champions who will be fishing the divisional on the Mystic River here in Massachusetts in September 2012. Our last stop of the year was on the Charles River Waltham, this river is very similar of the Mystic/Charles I location, so it would give the juniors a chance to river fish. For the **15-18 group**, in first place was Jake Rowinsky with 5 fish 10.12 behind him was Brendan Webb weighing 5 at 9.5 lbs and Kory Dominick 5 fish 6.1lbs. In the **11-14 group** Andrew Palmacci weighed in 3 fish for 3.15lbs, second was Tom Anderson with .15 lbs and third place went to Pat Sheeran.

After the points were added for the year I am proud to announce our **2011 state champions, in the 15-18 age division Jake Rowinsky and in the 11-14 age division Andrew Palmacci. These two anglers will be fishing the 2012 Eastern Divisional that our state is running, on the Mystic River / Charles River. So get out there early and often to practice.**

Big Fish for the year was Jake Rowinsky at the Charles River with a beautiful 3.8 largemouth and Pat Sheeran with a 3.1 largemouth at Lake Attitash.

This past September Robert Ramasci for the 15-18 age group and Brendan Webb 11-14 age group represented Massachusetts at the 2011 Eastern Divisional on Lake Champlain. If you have not been there this is one BIG beautiful body of water with great fishing. Both anglers had practiced several times for this event and had some nice locations holding fish. They had located one spot that yielded 4 consecutive smallmouths all over 3-4 lbs during practice, so hopes were high. In the end the wind and waves played a major role on the tournament day but both anglers fished hard and finished 3rd and 4th in there age groups.

As I sit here and recap the year so many highlights come through my mind, The Boat captains that gave their time , boats and travel expenses to take these juniors out, Paul Leblanc , Bruce Veras, George Barnes, Chip Servant, THANK YOU !. The parents of these juniors that get up at 5:00 am to support their child's passion for fishing and the Mass Bass Federation Nation for its backing and financial support.

I also see these juniors practicing for each of these events and being consistent top finishers, Jake Rowinsky and Kory Dominic finishing in the top 3 all of the year, Brendan Webb practicing out of his canoe and other juniors just off the shore, the high fives of 11-14 age group partners Tom Anderson and Andrew Palmacci as they weigh in their fish. I also hear the juniors sharing information at the morning of the event to try and help each other out. These juniors have learned so much from their boat captains as well that they are all good at flipping structure (Paul leblanc)and how to fish weed lines at different times of the year (George Barnes). We have had several of our juniors move on to fish the adult tournaments, this year Abijah Summons and Rob Ramasci fished the adult state fish offs, both weighed in respectable bags of fish and Rob qualified for the 2012 state team. I can assure you that these junior programs are not going away; the focus at corporate B.A.S.S. is at these junior levels along with high school and college fishing. Who wants to start the first high school fishing program in Massachusetts???, let me know, I can help, it's easy.

2012 tournaments and News

Please don't forget you must sign up each year to become a junior member, the cost is still going to be very low and the registration forms are on the website. I must continue to enforce this year for insurance purposes and to comply with B.A.S.S. rules that in order to compete you must be a member up to 14 days in advance of the event you will be fishing. We are planning on having two – four tournaments this year , depending on permits and available dates. Right now I am waiting on the dates that are available but most likely one in May and two in June. (If you have any suggestions please email me).

Again this year Fed Nation adult trail will be a Co angler format which means you are only fishing against other co -anglers in the back of the boat, entry fee will still be low, Those juniors that are 16 as of the date of the event can sign up to fish, this is a great time to learn how the adult level tournaments work and a chance to learn techniques from our more experienced members. Rules and format will be on the trail site.

There is a professional BASS fishing seminar (see website thebassuniversity.com) again this year in Massachusetts, with pro Mike Iaconelli; we can get group rates if you are interested

Some time in March, 2012 will be Banquet date, last year we had a great time with the bass fishing game and most of the juniors won awesome raffle prizes. Tickets are \$25 per person; please let me know if you will be attending so we can reserve the food and seating.

We look forward to another good year and hope to see everyone on the water.

Happy Holidays to you and your families.

(Any thoughts on ice fishing get together over the winter)

Jerry Ramasci

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