



New York State



Junior B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation

BASS-LINES

Fourth Quarter 2006 Edition

The Junior/Partner's Tournament weighs in BIG-TIME!

Submitted by Karen Knapp

The 2nd Annual New York State Junior B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation's **Junior/Partner's Tournament** was conducted Sunday, September 3, 2006 on Oneida Lake.

Brewerton Boatyard hosted the tournament for the 2nd year in a row, both as a launching site and also for the Angler Award Ceremonies, which was held immediately following the weigh-in.



New York State Federation Youth Director, Mickey Fortunato (far left) presents a plaque & gift certificate on behalf of the Junior Bassmasters to Wayne and Helen Carroll (owners of Brewerton Boatyard) as appreciation for their contribution and use of their Brewerton Boatyard facility.

Mickey with Wayne & Helen Carroll

Our thanks go out to our **Major and Associate sponsors** (see page 3) for their generosity and unyielding support to this Junior/Partners tournament each year, allowing all the participants a truly enjoyable and memorable outing!

The format for this special **TEAM** tournament is designed so that a **Junior angler** (ages 11 to 18) makes an official request to an adult angler asking them to team up together and compete against similarly structured teams. The entry fee for this tournament is borne by the requesting Junior angler.

A total of forty-eight (48) anglers ventured out and seventy-seven (77) largemouth & smallmouth bass were successfully boated and weighed-in.

Once again, Mickey and I can't say these TWO meaningful words enough - **THANK YOU**, especially to many of the boaters who had to re-arrange their schedules on Labor Day weekend, in order to accommodate the Junior anglers!

I would be remiss, if I didn't mention and thank all the volunteers (*Kim Goffredo, Aunt Bonnie, Linda & Ron Johnstone, Linda & Ed Martin, Lisa & John Temple, Anna & John Veli, Tom Merritt, Terry Wilhide and Lori Wheeler*) on behalf of all the participants, parents and the NYS Junior

B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation, for handling the tournament set-up, tear-down, weigh-in, documentation and Award Ceremonies.

JUNIOR / PARTNER'S TOURNAMENT RESULTS



First place team of Austin Flick and Mike Cusano

Well, there's something to be said about finishing FIRST! Hats off to Pro angler Mike Cusano and his Junior partner Austin Flick with a bag limit of eight fish, weighing in at a whopping 18.96 pounds.



Second place team of Jack Loughrey and Brent Temple

Following close behind in 2nd place was the team of Pro angler Jack Loughrey and Junior angler Brent Temple.

Unfortunately, Jack and Brent boated one bass short of the limit, but never-the-less, their seven bass weighed-in at a booming 17.39 pounds.



Third place team of Mike Fox and Tom Graziano

The team of Pro angler Mike Fox and Junior angler Tom Graziano garnered a respectable 3rd place finish with a total of seven fish, weighing in at 15.97 pounds.



Fourth place team of Tom Hudson and Nick Wolf

Pro angler Tom Hudson and Junior angler Nick Wolf finished in the 4th slot with eight bass weighing in at 12.77 pounds.



Fifth place team of Rick Gulla and Katey Knapp

In rounding out the top five places, it's gratifying to note that the only female Junior entered in the tourney, Katey Knapp, teamed up with Pro angler Rick Gulla, finishing

5th, with a total weight of 11.86 pounds.



Lunker Award & sixth place team of Tommy Merritt & Jeff Edgarton

The "Lunker Award" went to the team of Pro angler Jeff Edgarton and Junior angler Tommy Merritt with a largemouth weighing in at 5.75 pounds. Jeff and Tommy also finished 6th place in the overall standings with a total weight of 10.70 pounds.

The atmosphere for the Junior/Partner's tournament was filled with anticipation and excitement while the camaraderie between anglers was second to none.

Proof of this, was that many of the Pros and Juniors have committed to fish together in the 2007 event. ■

Kevin Ritz casts a N.Y.S. Tri-fecta!

Submitted by Karen Knapp

The New York State Junior BASS Chapter Federation held a State Casting Kids Championship at the Bass Pro Shop in Auburn, NY on Saturday, October 7, 2006.

Kevin Ritz, while competing in the 11 to 14 age group, dazzled the crowd by casting a perfect 150 score. *This win now makes Kevin a 3-time NYS Champion.*



NYS 2006 Casting Kids winners are Damion Merkel and Kevin Ritz

Damion Merkel took top honors in the 7 to 10 age group with a score of 70.

Each youngster must first compete and win a Casting Kids contest at the local level before becoming eligible to compete at the State level. Each contender must "flip" a lure at a target 10 feet away, then "pitch" a lure at a target 20 feet away and finally "cast" a lure to

a target 30 feet away. Each target is a bullseye, which is made up of scoring rings, with the top score totalling 50 points for each of the three categories.

As New York State finalist's, Kevin and Damion will be traveling to Birmingham, Alabama in January 2007 to compete in the Semi-finals. A victory in Birmingham will mean a ticket to the Bassmaster Classic in February.

2007 could be the year for New York! Mickey Fortunato and I have known Kevin for a number of years and it would be difficult to name someone who is as dedicated or who practices any more diligently for this event than Kevin. Please joins us in wishing both Kevin and Damion the best of luck in Birmingham!

Mickey and I would also like to thank Anna Velie for handling the registration, John Velie for taking care of the scoring and Katey Knapp for assisting & instructing the contenders for this event. ■



John Velie, Damion Merkel, Kevin Ritz, Katey Knapp and Mickey Fortunato

Shown below, are logo's of our (3) MAJOR Sponsors for our 2006 New York State Junior B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation.

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