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– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

NEW YORK B.A.S.S. CHAPTER FEDERATION ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Auburn, New York---2013 proved to be another successful year for the New York BASS Chapter Federation as the annual Awards Banquet was once again held at the Springside Inn in Auburn. This year's event featured special guest speaker Hank Weldon who is the BASS Youth, High School and College Director who spoke on his life growing up inside the BASS family as the son of famous tournament director Trip Weldon. Hank shared how he participated in BASS events as a casting kid and youth club member. He then formed the College team at Alabama University. He now is responsible for helping state organizations reach their full potential in developing programs for young people as anglers.

Chuck Rowlee, the outgoing President proceeded to make the many presentations of awards. Starting off with Boating Angler of the Year Brad Brodnicki and non-boating Angler of the Year Farris DeRoma, Chuck described both angler's achievements during the year and presented them with plaques, rain gear, rods and reels. Following this presentation, the 2014 New York Divisional Team was announced and presented with plaques, lead by Brodnicki and DeRoma, additional team members are Ken Golub, Todd Covert, Brian Kelly, Joe Valerio, Chris Killoren, Randy Lamanche, Don Staszcyk, Chris Obrien, Peter Knight and Tim Creighton.

The other angling awards included boater lunger of the year Mike Schmitt and non-boater lunger of the year Eric McDonald. Most Improved Boater was a tie with Brian Eisch and Scott Fairchild and most improved non-boater Peter Knight.

The Northern New York Bassmasters II received the outstanding club award for their participation in the Elite event plus many educational seminars and supporting an active youth club. Salt City Bassmasters and Good Old Boys Bassmasters shared in the Conservation Club of the Year award for their ongoing efforts with invasives control and water chestnut pulls. Paul Hudson received the individual Conservation Award for his efforts with fishcare and in maintaining the fishcare boat. Ted Bart was the Outstanding Committee Chairperson for 2013.

Finally, a special Citizenship award was presented to Scott Bliss who in late October while fishing on Cayuga Lake, came upon a capsized canoe with two people in the water. Scott was able to rescue both individuals and return them safely to shore, saving their lives. Also, George Yund was presented the Sportsmanship Award for his involvement in team building with the two junior anglers at the Eastern Divisional Championship. George went the extra mile including the young anglers in team activities.

Special recognition was given to three of the sponsors of our organization. The Outstanding Sponsor Award was presented to Towne Marine and Kevin Knouse for his involvement in sponsoring the Chautauqua Lake Tournament and his special contingency awards to Skeeter Boat owners who performed well at the tournaments. Rob Barber and Mark Kratz accepted an Exceptional Sponsor Award for Bass Pro Shops and Mike Cusano accepted an Exceptional Sponsor Award for Rapsody Rods.

About Us

The New York B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation (NYBCF) for over 40 years and its 50 plus B.A.S.S. sanctioned bass chapter clubs, represent more than just tournament fishing. We fulfill our mission to promote and protect the sport of bass fishing by organizing award winning programs in youth, conservation and community service. Associated with B.A.S.S., the NYBCF is the New York region's foremost advocate for conservation, bass fishing and fisherman's rights. The Federation offers a competitive annual tournament tour and extensive youth and conservation projects. Some of our members have proudly spawned into the professional ranks and competed in national level competitions.

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