



Date: 05/31/2015
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– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

NEW YORK B.A.S.S. NATION JUNIOR BASSMASTERS STATE CHAMPIONS CROWNED

Liverpool, New York---Jim Moore, the New York BASS Nation Junior Bassmaster Director was at the launch early on Sunday May 31st. The nerves were tense as the weather had turned from a balmy 84 degrees on Saturday to monster rainfall, flooding and temperatures falling. He knew that the weather report was going to affect all aspects of the Junior Bassmasters State Championship Tournament. As the rain continued and temperatures dropped, eight members of affiliated Junior Clubs and their parents signed up to fish. At 7 AM, the boats were launched and the young anglers headed out with confidence and enthusiasm. There were three anglers in the 7 to 10 year old grouping and five anglers in the 11 to 14 year old grouping, with two girls and six boys.

The format for the event is intended to make the day fun, even if mother nature had some surprises for everyone. The adults are responsible for safety and boat operation and to coach and encourage and teach. The young anglers are trying to learn the basics of competitive fishing and using only artificial baits. This event also incorporated hand held scales as the catch and release season will not allow for the bass to be kept. Recording the weights proved a challenge with the rain but everyone was able to weigh fish and safely return them to the water. There were some surprise catches as well with several anglers catching pickerel and one caught a large tiger musky. The format includes time outs which either the anglers or the adults can call to discuss issues or instruct anglers and there is also a mandatory fifteen minute halftime break so that the anglers can stop and have a snack and beverage.

At two o'clock all the boats returned to the Onondaga Lake Marina for the weighin and awards ceremonies. Jim Moore collected all the weight sheets and began adding up the five best fish for each angler. There were two events combined with the first being state champions by age group and then qualification for the B.A.S.S. Nation Junior Bassmaster National Championship on Carroll County lake in Tennessee the third week of July. The top two anglers who are able to attend will fish as a team that week to determine a National Champion.

New York BASS Nation State Champions in the seven to ten year old age group were, first place Rein Golub with 13 lb 2 oz from the Rochester Jr. Bassmasters, second place Baily Friot with 11 lb 11 oz from the Northern NY Jr. Bassmasters and third place Marcus Wilson with 6 lb 14 oz from the Southern Tier Jr. Bassmasters.

State Champions in the eleven to fourteen year old age group were, first place Colton Stemples with 12 lb 7 oz from Northern NY Jr Bassmasters, second place Kailey House with 12 pounds 5 oz also from Northern NY Jr Bassmasters, third place Mathew Arndt with 10 lbs 13 oz from Port City Jr Bassmasters, fourth place Garret Lawton with 7 lb 4 oz from the Port City Jr. Bassmasters and in fifth place Samuel Wood with 1 lb 15 oz from Port City Jr. Bassmasters.

The BASS Nation Junior Bassmaster National Championship qualifiers are Rein Golub and Colton Stemples who will head to McKinley Tennessee on July 21st to July 25th on Carroll County Lake to compete in the National Championship as a team representing New York State.

About the NYBN...The New York B.A.S.S. Nation (NYBN) has been operating 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 Bass Anglers Sportsman's Society, the NYBCF is the New York region's foremost advocate for 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 advanced into the professional ranks and competed in national level competitions.

The New York BASS Nation Junior program has a long history of helping young people learn how to fish and many adult members started their fishing careers as Junior Anglers. This is intended as a lifetime journey to enjoy fishing and carry on the cycle of learning and participation. For the first time this year, BASS is instituting a new direct qualification national championship to encourage young people from around the nation to participate and enjoy the outdoors through fishing. Local clubs focus on learning and fun in a nurturing environment where everyone gets to participate and have fun catching fish.

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Photo Attachments:

Photo #1 – 2015 Junior Champions ready to start the day

Photo #2 - 2015 Junior seven to ten year old finishers
L to R Marcus Wilson, Bailey Friot, Rein Golub

Photo #3- 2015 Junior Champions eleven to fourteen year old finishers
L to R Samuel Wood, Garret Lawton, Mathew Arndt, Kailey House, Colton Stemples