

**Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation was called to order May 28, 2009 at approximately 7:27 p.m. by the President.

Roll Call: The following clubs were absent: Valley Bass Anglers

Excused Absences from the previous month: None.

The minutes of previous month's minutes were accepted with the following amendment: Toyota Truck Check was \$250.00.

Presentations

- ▶ LeeAnne Housley presented the board of directors with the Annual Appeal for the Robert S. Malloy Scholarship Fund. The Appeal is made up on three parts:
 1. The Annual Appeal that will be sent out to a friends & family list.
 2. The annual appeal will also be incorporated into a BASS Blast email. The BASS Blast will be sent to all BASS members in CT. BASS Blast will contain a portion of the Robert S. Malloy article with a link to the website and donation form.
 3. Leadership News will include a link to the website as well.

- ▶ Kevin Lavender presented three scholarships as follows:

1st Place Award – Angela Mulnar

The Connecticut Bass Federation Nation is proud to announce that Angela Mulnar is the 2009 recipient of the \$1500 Scholarship award. Angela is sponsored by CBFN member, and Grandfather, Amedee Burrell from Northeastern CT Bass Club. Angela is currently in her final year at Killingly High School boasting an impressive GPA with a very high class rank. Angela has been inducted into the National Honor Society and participates in a wide array of clubs and activities. Angela will be attending University of New Haven in the fall. After college, Angela hopes to pursue a career in forensic science. In addition to an impressive application, Angela included two glowing recommendations. Angela's essay indicated that Motivation was one of the most important qualities needed to be successful in the world today. Based on the impressive application package received for Angela, it would appear as if she is well on her way to success.

On behalf of the CT Bass Federation Nation, we are pleased to present a scholarship donation to aide Angela in her academic pursuits.

2nd Place Award – Sydney Cothran

The Connecticut Bass Federation Nation is proud to announce that Sydney Cothran is the 2009 recipient of the \$1000 Scholarship award. Sydney is sponsored by CBFN member, and Father, Steven Cothran from the Greater Hartford Bassmasters. Sydney is currently in her final year at East Hartford High School carrying an outstanding GPA. Sydney has been inducted into the National Honor Society, served as Captain of her state championship Cheerleading squad and was a member of the student council. Sydney will be attending Eastern Connecticut State University in the fall. After college, Sydney hopes to be a Kindergarten Teacher. In addition to an impressive application, Sydney included three flattering recommendations. Sydney's essay indicated that Determination was one of the most important qualities needed to be successful in the world today. She looks to her coach as a role model for determination, building a state championship squad from the ground up

On behalf of the CT Bass Federation Nation, we are pleased to present a scholarship donation to aide Sydney in her academic pursuits.

3rd Place Award – Ricky Wisniewski

The Connecticut Bass Federation Nation is proud to announce that Ricky Wisniewski is the 2009 recipient of the \$500 Scholarship award. Ricky is sponsored by CBFN member, and Father, Rome Wisniewski from The Connecticut Bassmen. Ricky is currently in his final year at Southington High School with a remarkable average. Ricky participated in the National Ocean Science Bowl, a national competition involving biology, chemistry, physics and earth science of the ocean and has years of work under his belt as a YMCA camp counselor. Ricky will be attending Central Connecticut State University to pursue a career as an elementary education teacher. Ricky's essay indicated that responsibility is a major characteristic to be successful in the world today. Ricky's impressive list of community involvement and focus on school work lead us to believe Ricky practices the responsibility he preaches.

On behalf of the CT Bass Federation Nation, we are pleased to present a scholarship donation to aide Ricky in his academic pursuits.

Correspondence

Bob Nelson article in published in the Danbury Times was shared with the BOD.

http://www.newstimes.com/ci_12471424?IADID=Search-www.newstimes.com-www.newstimes.com

Report of Officers

Treasurer's Report: Sue Weeks

Presented and accepted.

Sponsorship Report: Sylvia Morris

Cabela's renewed its sponsorship of the successful Bassmaster CastingKids program. Cabela's will provide branded casting targets for all CastingKids events. Cabela's gift cards will be given to the 12 finalists who qualify for the 2009 Bassmaster CastingKids National Championship set for Oct 31st in Tavares, FL.

1. **Conservation/FAC/CAC Report:** Dave Santos

Dave is still looking for boat volunteers.

June 13, 2009 is the date for partnering with Riverfront Recapture to take youth out fishing for a day.

Volunteers so far are:

Paul Dingee
Dave Gilbert
Joe Labella
Drew Hamilton
Jim Morris
Ed Behling (possible)
Fred Wilson
Jerry Hammond
Bryan McCleary

Thank you to those for volunteering. We need at least 6 more. If you would like to volunteer please contact Dave Santos, 860-869-7722.

2. The CBFN will lend assistance to the 2009 Connecticut Bioblitz on Saturday June 13, 2009.

Thank you to Abe Kalachmen, Steve Bender, and Rob Pepe for volunteering their time to assist in this years Bioblitz.

The University of Connecticut's Center for Conservation and Biodiversity and Museum of Natural History are co-organizing the 2009 Connecticut State BioBlitz. Don't miss this world class event and opportunity to see many of Hartford's most interesting "residents." The second day (Saturday) is given to public events: lectures, mini-safaris with top naturalists, and guided tours through the event's "BioBlitz Central," where scientists race to sort, identify, and catalogue their specimens. Twenty-four middle school and high school students from around the state will be selected to participate in a BioBlitz Camp, during which they will work side-by-side with the invited scientists. This year's event is being sponsored by the Dorr Foundation, Goodwin College, Friends of Keney Park, City of Hartford, and several environmental organizations.

What is BioBlitz?

Designed as part contest, part festival, part educational event, and part scientific endeavor, BioBlitz brings together scientists from UConn's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and numerous other groups and organizations from across the Northeast in a race against time to see how many plant and animal species they can count in a 24-hour biological survey of a defined area within a Connecticut city or town.

Why Do It?

TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS: BioBlitz elevates the public's awareness of the variety of life in their immediate neighborhood and the services these various species provide to improve the quality of all our lives. Too often people take for granted clean water and air, fertile soil, or the pollination services of insects. What better way to address these topics and expose people to the marvelous array of wildlife that can be found in Connecticut's neighborhood parks?

TO EXCITE KIDS ABOUT SCIENCE: The event generates unbridled energy and enthusiasm among those who participate—scientists, students, and the general public alike. Scientists from across the region and representing many disciplines will join in the quest, share their passions and knowledge, and work toward our common goal: to record as many plants and animals as possible within 24 hours.

TO GENERATE DATA: The past seven Connecticut BioBlitzes have yielded a number of worthy scientific discoveries: new state records and many sightings of state-rare species. BioBlitzes have proved useful in the early detection of several invasive species. In addition, they generate specimens for teaching and research collections.

Goodwin College and Keney Park in 2009

The event will kick off at 3:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon, June 12th, and end Saturday afternoon, June 13th. "BioBlitz Central" will be at Goodwin College on Riverside Drive with parallel BioBlitz events at Keney Park. We will be looking for wildlife along the Connecticut River corridor south to Wethersfield Cove and throughout the 693 acres of Keney Park and the Matianuck State Preserve.

For More Information

As we get closer to June, event details will be posted at www.mnh.uconn.edu/BioBlitz/. All members of the public are urged to attend as observers. Counters, vendors, organizations, and those wanting to actively participate in the BioBlitz should register with Kathy Tebo at kathleen.tebo@uconn.edu. www.mnh.uconn.edu/BioBlitz/

3. Looking for boat volunteers to take Pro Golfers fishing during the Travelers Championship Golf Tournament. Date is Wednesday June 24, 2009 at 5:00 pm. They are looking for 15-20 boaters. Contact David Santos at 860-869-7722 if interested. Volunteers so far are Marc Levesque and Armand Fortier (thank you guys).
4. BASS and Team Marine USA, LLC., announced Wednesday the availability of the BASS Pro-Fizz FZ-1 tool, which is used to remove air from the swim bladder of fish typically caught at depths greater than 18 feet.

The BASS Pro-Fizz FZ-1 tool is a revolutionary product that will enhance the process of fizzing, a technique which is recommended on fish that show signs of over-inflated swim bladders. The February 1997 study in the *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* journal supports that the practice is beneficial for improving the post-release survival of bass.

The BASS Pro-Fizz FZ-1 is the newest addition to the family of fizzing tools made by Tampa-based manufacturer Team Marine USA. A portion of the sales from the device will benefit BASS Conservation. BASS and Team Marine worked together to create the freshwater device, a reusable fizzing tool made from aircraft-grade aluminum with stainless steel components.

"We are extremely honored to be associated with a great organization like BASS, which was founded on and is committed to conservation," said Jeff Strane, president and founder, Team Marine USA. "The FZ-1 is a necessary tool for all anglers who care about fish conservation as well as angler safety."

BASS Conservation implements programs with BASS Federation Nation chapters and leads initiatives in Washington, D.C. BASS' conservation director Chris Horton serves on a variety of coalitions, task forces and committees with government agencies and industry partners for the improvement of natural resources for all anglers.

"This BASS Pro-Fizz product will serve as a useful tool in anglers' tackle boxes to help protect our resources and conserve our fisheries," Horton said. "Conservation issues are constantly evolving and BASS continues to remain at the forefront spearheading improvements in fish habitat, angler access and education and resource management."

The BASS Pro-Fizz FZ-1 is currently available at Bass Pro Shops and will soon be in stock at more than 1,200 outdoor retailers. The tool is also available at Teammarineusa.us or by calling 1-888-464-6423.

For more information on proper fish care and BASS' *Keeping Bass Alive* booklet, visit Bassmaster.com/conservation.

About Team Marine USA, LLC

Team Marine USA, headquartered in Tampa, has become known as an industry innovator and pioneer with leading products such as the Pre-Vent Pro Series PV-1, Angler Series PV-2, Pro Mini PV-3, Pro-Fizz FZ-1 as well as a series of commercial grade de-hooking tools. Team Marine products are sold at more than 1,200 locations worldwide and at Teammarineusa.us. All products are proudly made in the USA and provide anglers with a true "no questions" lifetime warranty.

5. Environmental Conservation (EC) Fund: Special Funds Deleted – Received from Bob Crook

H.B. No. 6719 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE DEFICIT MITIGATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2009. It Sweeps most Special Funds into the General Fund in an attempt to balance this year's budget. See Sec.3 (25) – (33).

Our Position- Environmental Conservation (EC) Fund:

Sportsmen for 100 years have paid State fees for their participation in Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Programs. In addition, Federal 10% Excise Taxes (Pittman/Robertson; Wallop/Breaux) are paid on purchases of firearms, ammunition, bowhunting equipment, some boats and motors, and other accessories for over half a century. In effect, sportsmen have not only been conservation (wise use) stewards of natural resources - our user fees have contributed overwhelmingly to support DEP programs.

Since the 1990's when the EC Fund was established, in addition to increased license fees, sportsmen have initiated/supported the use of a Special Fund User Fee (Motor Boat Fuel Tax) to

support Natural Resources. The argument for these fees was that Boats/Fishermen do not use Roads and Bridges to which the revenue was dedicated. It should be noted that ONLY that fuel delivered at marinas is dedicated to the Fund, boaters purchasing at roadside gas stations are not considered.

Previously (1981), the Boating Special Fund had been established. This statute is essentially Registration in Lieu of Taxes. The Boating Fund has used this revenue to establish a standardized Boating Registration system, mandatory Boating Education, and improve Boat Launch Ramps. All agencies and users participating have been complimentary and supportive.

These funds and others Special Funds were initiated to compensate for continued minimal and inadequate General Funding (GF). A Legislative leadership statement of the lack of General Fund support for DEP programs was evidenced in 2008 in a Press Conference during which Senator Donald Williams stated: DEP has not been adequately funded for the last 30 years. The GF history for DEP has been abysmal and DEP is apparently considered to be at the bottom of appropriations priorities by the administration/ legislators and strongly perceived as so by sportsmen.

Sportsmen are convinced these Special Funds have saved and benefitted many DEP programs and the revenues have been wisely and efficiently used.

This year's proposed budget proposes to eliminate ALL Special Funding currently in the EC fund and sweep all carry-over money into the GF. Only licenses would be exempt and only those new or license increases dating from 1992. *Section 22a-27h* established the EC Fund (1991) and added to the GF all current license fees and only allowed (A) *the amount of any fee received by the Department of Environmental Protection which is attributable to the establishment of a new fee or the increase of an existing fee pursuant to the provisions of title 23 or 26* to be directed to the EC Fund. Additionally many Natural Resources GF positions were cut in 1991 and replacement positions were expected to be paid by the EC Fund. This Act seriously affected DEP manpower and operations - most called it a "rip-off" by the Weicker Administration to balance the budget.

Since then we have had two license fee increases (1992, 2002) and passed the Motorboat Fuel Tax bill generating over the years \$250,000 to \$3.2 million of the approximately \$5 million attributable to this tax, which undoubtedly saved essential DEP manpower/programs.

This year's budget, as best we can tell, again proposes to reverse the 1991 funding scheme and return DEP to total General Funding. For what purpose? Attempt to balance the State Budget. Again positions will be lost due to early retirement legislation and with no immediate refills. Much of the leadership of Natural Resources Bureau will be lost, Park positions and EC Park funding, almost 20% of DEP Environmental Police, and others. And, again sportsmen are being asked to support new fee increases. How will DEP fare with General Funding decided by Administration's Office of Policy and Management (OPM) or the General Assembly Appropriations Committee? The experience of the last 30 years tells the story- expect little!

Unlike most other funds in the state, the EC Fund applies to recreational opportunity activities for the entire public and visitors. Once the EC Fund is absorbed into the GF, based upon previous experience DEP and all its elements are an easy target when further cuts are needed. What happens when a major pump or filter quits at a hatchery – can we expect an immediate response to save tens of thousands of fish? Or when a storm destroys a boat launch ramp? Does the public have to wait an indeterminate period on the legislative process or Bonding? All DEP elements - Fisheries, Wildlife, Boating and particularly Parks will be shortchanged as they have for decades

and the public suffers. The EC fund has worked effectively and must continue to provide flexibility to DEP operations.

Sportsmen developed a "user fee" support base knowing dedicated revenue collected will be directed toward effective DEP conservation programs. Cooperation/coordination between user groups (Conservation Advisory Council, Fisheries Advisory Council, and Boating Advisory Council) and DEP have demonstrated user input will be seriously considered by DEP and actively implemented. Conversely, political funding evaluations, prioritizing mainly social programs and an always questionable priority for adequate DEP appropriations and positions, will assuredly detract from the support/input from the involved outdoor recreational constituency.

Our solutions:

- Retain the Environmental Conservation Fund and Special Funding (Motorboat Fuel Tax, Boating Fund, Parks input, and all others).
- Change as many positions to General Funded without eliminating EC Fund Special Funding.
- Provide DEP with a funding priority consistent with their benefit to the general public, tourism, and the economy.

Based upon passage of the Deficit Mitigation bill, it would appear DEP has lost Special Funding. The new budget (FY 2010-2011) is still to be completed and potentially we may have a chance to save some Special Funding. We urge you to call, e-mail, etc., YOUR legislators.

Communicate with YOUR State Representative & Senator!

You can find your CT legislators at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/maps/townlist.asp> or in the Blue pages under "Connecticut, State of" then "Legislators". Also, inform your friends who have an interest. Ask them to communicate.

While we urge you to use your own words, use the KISS principle, and please...do not be insulting or negative towards Any Senator, Representative, or anyone else in the Capitol.

Phone CALLS are BEST! Identify yourself and Town, State your position and why you Support or Oppose the bill. Be Brief, if they have questions they will ask.

Review all current bills and other info at the CCS website www.ctsportsmen.com

Tournament Committee: Al Guite

Tournament Trail

Past Tournaments - Our first tournament of the 2009 season was held at Candlewood Lake on 5/17/09. We had a number of sponsors donate approximately \$1500 worth of items which were raffled off at this event. I'd like to thank Keitech, Lunker City, Toads Tackle Shack, Newtown Bait and Tackle, Guest Chargers, Tim Horton Coffee and Boat US for their donations.

We experienced some issues at this event which resulted in a delayed start. These issues were caused by the following:

1. Approximately 35 boaters showed up at 6:00AM. There were Co-anglers who where also late to check in.
2. A number of those who were paired together did not contact there assigned partner prior to tournament day.
3. An apparent lack of communication at the club level.

I want to take this time to remind everyone of the following Tournament Rules:

Rule # 13 states that all participants will be check in at the check in table no later than 6:00AM.

Rule # 5 states that each Co-angler is responsible for contacting the Angler to discuss any details for the event. It is strongly recommended that the Angler and Co- angler meet at an off site location and ride together to reduce the number of vehicles at the ramp location.

We had numerous participants that were paired who never contacted there partner prior to the morning of the event in fact the first contact between them was made at the tournament site. This adds confusion to the process which prevents the tournament committee from running a smooth event. All tournament rules should be discussed at the club level prior to the start of the season. It is apparent that this is not taking place in various clubs. We had a new comer to the trail launch at a different location and drive his boat to Danbury. This act violated the conditions of our permit. This behavior is unacceptable and could have been avoided had his club informed him of these rules. Club representatives need to take all steps necessary to communicate the rules to their members.

In the future for all events out of Danbury Park we will be utilizing the bowling alley parking lot on East Hayestown Rd. as a meeting place for Anglers and Co-anglers. Anglers will not be allowed to launch until they have met up with their partner.

Tournament Trail – (continued)

Upcoming events – Our next tournament is scheduled for June 28, 2009 out of Riverside Park in Hartford. Please inform your club members who fish the trail that they need to get there early. I'd like to start this tournament on time if possible.

Our third tournament of the season will be held at the CT. River out of Haddam Meadows. We will need a key to Angler vehicles if they are not paired with a Co-angler due to the lack of dock space. We are asking that those Anglers provide us with a single key to their vehicle. This key should be ready for us prior to showing up at the check in table.

All participants in the C.B.F.N. Tournament Trail are expected to have an active log on I.D. and password to the member's forum. They are expected to access the member's forum on the week prior to each tournament to find out if they have been paired with a Co-angler and to read the tournament agenda.

Please communicate this report to your membership.

Finally I'd like to thank all participants at the first tournament who donated to the CBFN Junior Federation. Hopefully this will continue at future events.

Mr. Bass discussion - The Angler/Co-angler format we had last year was very well received as it allowed each competitor the ability to use their own boat. The payout of \$1000 for the Co-angler side was funded through the general fund. With that said here are a couple things that need to be addressed.

First, are we going to have the Angler/Co-angler format again this year and if so are we willing to fund the payout through the general fund? This needs to be addressed as soon as possible as I believe it will need to go back to the clubs and I'd like to send the invitation letters out at the beginning of July.

Motion was made and seconded to take the funds needed for the Co-angler payouts (\$1000.00) from the CBFN General Fund. The motion will be brought back to the clubs and will be voted on at the monthly meeting in June.

Second, and not so pressing, is how to handle Mr. Bass in the future. The tournament does not in any way fund the state team and seeing as though we are filling a boaters position on the state team through this tournament I believe it should. I'd like to see an entry fee charged for this event in future years. The entry fee will fund the payouts and the remainder can go towards state team expenditures. The entry fee should be funded by each individual club and should be figured into each clubs dues structure.

Scholarship Report: Kevin Lavender
Presentation. – See Presentations above.

Youth Report: No Report

Banquet Committee: No Report

Boating Advisory Report: Paul Carter

Bill 6428 – Saltwater Licensing has tied a hunting while intoxicated to it.
CBFN mentioned for Day on the Hill. Legislatives need to get out on the water, Dave Santos to follow up looking for volunteer Boat Captains.

CLA Report: No Report

State Team Report: Paul Carter

Jack Vinyard (14th man) will not return in time to participate.

Jimmy Morris was given the 14th man position.

Financial Committee: No Report

Audit Committee: No Report

Membership Committee: No Report

Web Site Committee: No Report

Raffle Ticket Committee: Armand Fortier

Raffle drawing was held for the boat. Russ Hall was the winner.

Sponsors Committee: No Report

All reports accepted as given.

Old Business

The two new CBFN banners from CW Signs in Berlin arrived and were shown to BOD.

New Business

***Taping Recording of Meetings** - It was proposed by Paul Carter that we start tape recording the meetings to help ensure nothing is missed when preparing the minutes. It was asked that the BOD take this discussion back to their clubs and then the discussion will continue at the June meeting.

Motion Made to donate \$500.00 to Danbury for the Dragon Boat Races – **Approved.**

January 1, 2010 BASS will increase annual dues by \$10.00.

Motion Made for Pachaug to receive \$130.00 towards youth event – **Approved.**

Motion Made for donation of \$2 per member for Bob Crook – **Approved.**

Clubs need to determine level of interest in CBFN Sweatshirts Hooded Pullovers, CBFN Sweatshirts Hooded Zip up, CBFN Sweatshirts, CBFN T-shirts long or short sleeve or hats. CBFN will place 1 order for all clubs. BOD's should report back level of interest.

Thayers hosting 5 open team events. Information made available for BOD's.

Motion was made to retain the services of our Lobbyist, Bob Crook. Motion was adopted.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Announcements

Next Meeting: June 25, 2009

**Jamie Vinyard
CBFN Secretary**