

Back to Back for LaManche

At the beginning of the 2009 season *Fishlines* talked to the reigning Angler of the Year, Randy LaManche, about his outlook and goals for the up coming year. Seeing that he had won the most coveted award on the Federation trail in his very first season, Randy's main objective for the 2009 campaign was to validate his AOY title with a strong second season. It was a reasonable goal which was met in stunning fashion.



To start out the year, Randy had two good outings on Lake George and at Ogdensburg. He was able to stay in the "Upper Tier" as he calls it, meaning while he wasn't blowing away the field, he managed two above average limits. Noting, "It really comes down to having consistent limits. Two top tens and a top twenty, or three top fifteens and you are looking good." True to form, after a 22nd place finish at George and an 11th at Ogdensburg, the 2008 Angler of the Year was sitting in 4th place in the standings and was a solid limit away from securing a State Team berth. When asked if he thought he had a shot at Angler of the Year going into the last tournament,

Randy replied, "Having jumped from way back of the pack last year to claim Angler of the Year at the last tournament, I knew it was a possibility to move up sitting in fourth place, but I didn't think it was probable." In fact, it wasn't until he got to the dock that the reality of the situation came to light.

"When I was loading the boat, Patrick Grady came up to me and asked me what I had." Grady had been monitoring the weigh in board and according to his math it was going to come down to Randy and Joe Matt for the Angler of the Year title. "I told him, 'Over twelve', and when he told me how close it was, I was revved up to get the fish to the scales." After doing some quick calculations, it was figured that Randy would need thirteen pounds to have a shot at repeating. As the fish hit the scales, Randy recalled thinking, "Be thirteen . . . be thirteen . . . be thirteen . . ." The call was 13.04 pounds which was enough that Randy won his second consecutive Angler of the Year title edging out his nearest competitor by 4.5 points.

While the Federation trail went just about as well as it could have for Randy, not all of 2009 went quite so perfectly. He was quick to point out that his success on the Federation trail was not mirrored in his club or at the Divisional on Lake Simcoe.

Seeing as the last New York Federation member to repeat as Angler of the Year is now fishing the Elite Series, it is a very reasonable question to ask: What is next for Randy LaManche? "I was very seriously looking into the Bassmasters Opens, but the schedule just isn't going to work out." This year, the Opens started way before the New York State

Opener and ended in the fall. For 2010, the Northern Opens will start in New York and run each month; this would prove difficult to add to a Federation and club schedule.

Randy related, "I'm really enjoying fishing the Federation. The guys are great; you really get to know the guys on the trail. I look forward to seeing friends that I've made while fishing." He also made mention that the possibilities to advance in the Federation is unlike any other trail. The Divisional, Nationals and Classic are all realistic opportunities in the Federation. "I see myself following the natural progression of the Federation, and I'm really looking forward to the Divisional next year." Randy also wanted to thank his sponsors Keitech Baits and KL Consulting for their support and generosity.