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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rochester Bassmasters Repeat as NY BASS Chapter Federation Club Team Champions

Auburn NY.... The New York BASS Chapter Federation (NYBCF) held its annual six-man Club Team Championship (CTC) Aug 21 & 22 on Owasco Lake. Rochester Bassmasters secured the day one lead and rode it wire-to-wire to successfully claim the title.

Twenty four clubs participated for a tournament field of 72 boats and they sampled the fishery of Owasco Lake with two very different days of fishing. On Saturday, the winds were out of the southeast with scattered clouds. Sunday, the day started with a light drizzle that developed into a steady downpour with winds from the south shifting to NNE by the afternoon weigh-in.

A couple of weeks prior to this event, a local tournament produced four bags over 17 lbs. and many CTC anglers anticipated similar success upon their arrival. Unfortunately, the lake decided to make them work for every fish and by the end of official practice on Friday many predicted the weights would fall well short of that mark with 6-8 lbs. a day being respectable.

Day 1

To say day one was tough is an understatement and the angler's predictions weren't too far off. As the day progressed, anglers battled 2-3 ft white caps in search of a bite and what no one expected was the number of blanks that occurred. By day's end a total of 73 anglers failed to bring a fish to the scales. Overall, the day saw less than ten five fish limits hit the scales. Randy Bell (Erie County BMs) had the best limit with a weight of 13.95 lbs. Rounding out the top five were by Brett Hickey (Erie County BMs) 13.72 lbs., Fred Blom (After Breakfast Bass Anglers) 12.87 lbs., Noel Good (Southern Tier BMs) 11.99 lbs., and TJ Valle (Rochester BMs) 10.60 lbs. Brett Hickey (Erie County BMs) took daily Bass Pro Shop lunker with a mammoth 6.44 lb. LMB taken on a Black Spro Frog.

Top Six Clubs

Club	Total Weight
Rochester Bassmasters	32.20
Erie County Bassmasters	31.89
Crown City	27.56
Southern Tier Bassmasters	26.61
After Breakfast Bass Anglers	20.47
Westchester Rod & Reel	20.33

Day 2

As the anglers launched, the dock talk was that any club in the top eight stood an honest shot at the title and every club in the top six needed a repeat performance of day one or better to hold their position. The weather forecast called for scattered thunderstorms and NNE winds 10-20 mph and this time they got it right. The field launched at 6 am with a steady rain which continued to pelt the field the entire day. Conditions seemed worse than day one, but the weigh-in proved the bite was on as many quality limits appeared.

Leading the field was John Badman (Crown City BMs) with a limit of SMB good for 17.15 lbs and the heavy weight bag of the tournament. Badman reports catching his fish on 1/2 oz. green pumpkin tube in 25 - 40 ft. before 10 am and he said once the net came out the paparazzi showed up and their boat activity just scattered the fish disrupting the consistent bite. Rounding out the top five weights were Bob Jorgensen (Westchester Rod & Reel) 16.54 lbs., Wade McClurg (Southern Tier BMs) 15.70 lbs., Noel Good (Southern Tier BMs) 14.57 lbs., and Lou Rizzotti (Rochester BMs) 14.26 lbs.

Fred Bloom (After Breakfast Bass Angler) held the day two lunger lead with a 4.47 lb LMB all the way to the end until of the weigh-in when Lou Rizzotti (Rochester BMs) brought in a 5.88 lb. LMB to take the Bass Pro Shop Lunger award. Rizzotti says he found the fish in some milfoil near a pin buoy on Thursday, he tried for it on Saturday with no luck and he went back on Sunday with a wacky rigged Senko (green pumpkin) and caught it.

Final Standing (Top Six Clubs)

Club	Total Weight
Rochester Bassmasters	70.67
Southern Tier Bassmasters	67.33
Erie County Bassmasters	64.50
Crown City	61.80
Westchester Rod & Reel	42.75
Watershed Bassmasters	38.47

A Team Strategy

The Rochester Bassmasters report fishing to their strengths. When they looked at the lake and determined it offered both large and smallmouth bass they agreed their best chance to win was for each angler to fish his strength. Largemouth guys chased those fish and the smallmouth anglers fished for those; with everyone sharing productive baits and locations. Knowing the tournament format was a shared clock event with each angler (boaters and non-boaters) getting four hours on the trolling motor; the boaters worked to find areas their non-boaters could go to when they got their four hours on the trolling motor. All-in-all it proved to be the right formula as the Rochester Bassmasters successfully defended their six-man Club Team Championship title.

During the awards presentation NYBCF President Mike Cusano announced that the Rose Mary Murphy Trophy was mysteriously absent from the weigh-in area and Rochester Bassmasters Team Captain Lou Rizzotti said, "We left it at home... hey, we had a feeling".

Division Team Qualifiers

Also on the line were two positions for the NYBCF 2011 Eastern Divisional Team. These slots go to the first place anglers on the first and second place winning teams. Lou Rizzotti (Rochester BMs) earned the boater position and from the second place team Noel Good earned a non-boater position. The remaining slots on the 2011 Divisional Team (5 boaters, 5 non-boaters and one alternate) will be determined after angler's points are tallied following the season finale on Oneida Lake Sept 12th

Top Three Individual Honors

Angler	Total Weight
Randy Bell	28.10
John Badman	27.04
Noel Good	26.56

For additional information contact Tournament Director Jeff Edgerton (315) 662-7925 or tournaments@nybassfed.com

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