

2011 BASS Youth “Tournament of Champions”

Tonka Bay Marina, Tonka Bay, MN – Over 60 families and their youth anglers from across the state of Minnesota descended upon Lake Minnetonka on Friday June 24th for the 2011 BASS Federation Nation Youth State Tournament of Champions (TOC). The BASS Federation Nation Junior program includes youth clubs from Red Lake in the north, to Fairmont in the south, Brainerd, St. Cloud in the central and the Twin Cities metro area. Each year the event is rotated around the state of Minnesota, recent years include the Brainerd, Crosby, Mankato, Waconia and Prior Lake areas.

The Minnesota Junior BASS Federation is a non-profit organization devoted to teaching conservation, outdoor activities and the promotion of fishing in the State of Minnesota. Many of the junior participants are from families who do not have the means to provide this type of activity for the youth in their family. In helping to support and promote the outdoor life in Minnesota, the Junior Federation requires support from volunteers in the areas of boat providers, adult mentors, education, and general support. In addition, adult volunteers supervising the activities were present in each boat during the event.

The Junior BASS Federation also provide educational components including the participants, parents, volunteers and spectators. The youth also volunteer their time to support many activities, some recent activities include:

Coon Lake Clean-up - An annual spring event where the BASS youth show up for a day of cleaning the Anoka County Park. Results are typically two to three pick-up truck loads of waste, garbage and discarded items which are recycled or hauled away in cleaning the park.

DNR Access Signage - The youth visit many public access sites to support the Minnesota DNR by installing and replacing worn out, old or new signs regarding special regulations, lake and access information.

Minnesota State Fair – The youth provide education in a “Kids teaching Kids” to fish format at the DNR stage during the State Fair. The BASS Junior youth set up a casting contest and teach other younger kids how to cast, tie lines and learn about fishing.

Members of the Minnesota Youth BASS participate in a “Kids Teaching Kids” to fish day



2011 BASS Youth

“Conservation and Sponsors”



Eurasian Milfoil

The conservation aspect for the 2011 Junior TOC included a presentation on impacts and prevention of the spread of invasive species in our lakes and rivers. The invasive species focused on Eurasian milfoil, Zebra mussels and the spiny water flea. This included not only the education of the participants at the pre-event meeting, but also a session by the Minnesota DNR, and a “Boat Wash Station” for all participant boats to remove the threat of spreading any invasive species.



Boat Wash Station

The Junior BASS Federation would like to thank the many organizations which helped make the event possible including Jay Green who coordinated with Gabriel Jabbour, the owner of Tonka Bay Marina and Greg Nybeck the Executive Director of the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District, The Minnesota DNR, Paul Perovich, the Hennepin County Water Patrol, and Joe Kohlmann along with the City of Tonka Bay, In addition, with the help of Randy Wilcox at Hopkins schools, the Hopkins Community Education provided facilities for the pre-event meetings. The Junior BASS Federation would also like to thank Fox 9 News and Kelsey Soby for the excellent media coverage of the event and helping spread the education to others in the State of Minnesota. In addition, we would like to thank the many adult boat volunteers.



Dave Tweten from “FlaMinn Lures”

The 2011 event showcased 55 participants ranging in age from 11 to 18. The participants were also competing for a chance to fish at the BASS Northern Divisional Championships. The top finisher in the two age groups of 11-14, and 15-18 earned the honor of fishing with the Minnesota BASS Federation Nation adult team at the nationally known event. In addition, the exposure at this event has provided the opportunity for many of the past winners to fish competitively in the future at the collegiate level.

2011 BASS Youth “TOC Participants”

The participants included boys and girls competing in either the 11 to 14 or 15 to 18 age groups. Each participant is paired with another, setting out for six hours of fishing and the goal to catch the largest weight of up to five bass. The participant with the largest weight in each age group is the winner. Each boat must contain aerated live wells for the proper maintenance of the fish while on the water until the weigh in ceremonies. All fish must be brought in alive or the participants face a penalty, they are weighed and cared for under the supervision of the tournament and conservation directors. For the 2011 event 177 bass were caught and weighed with 100% released alive and unharmed in healthy condition back into Lake Minnetonka.



After all the fish were weighed, and the calculations completed there were multiple winners including individual, team and sports person of the year awards.



The fish are maintained in special aerated live wells in each boat, and then transported into “Fish Tote” bags then to the oxygenated storage tanks, weighed and immediately released back into Lake Minnetonka. All 177 fish caught were released alive and healthy to be caught another day by another angler.

2011 BASS Youth

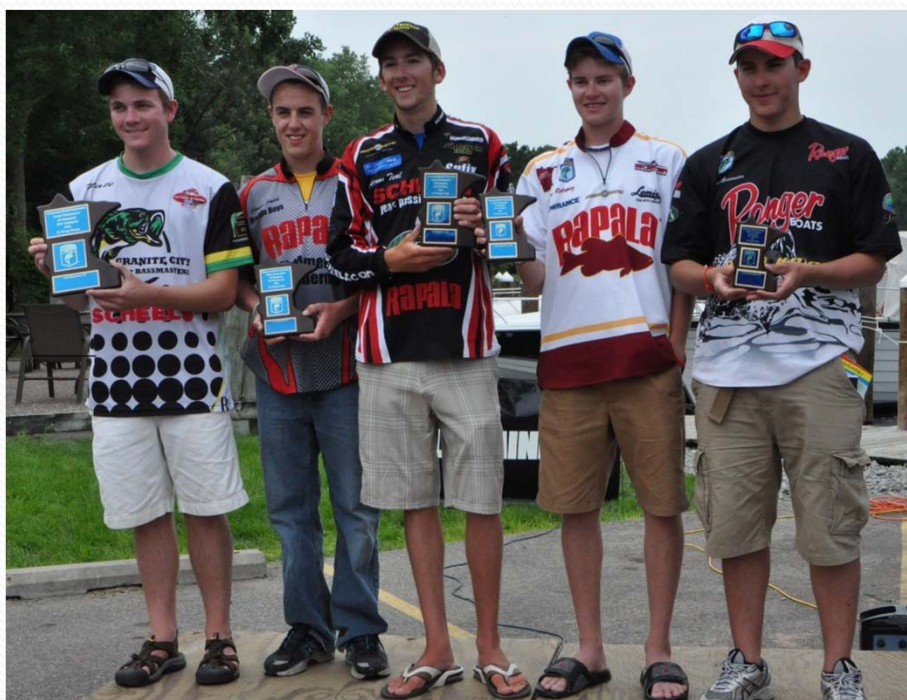
“TOC Individual Awards”



L to R, Cason Heirs, Nick Montilino, Keenan Reed, Dan Monson, Jake Gilmer

The individual awards for the 11 to 14 age group included, Cason Heirs, 1st place, Nick Montilino, 2nd place, Keenan Reed 3rd place, Dan Monson, 4th place and Jake Gilmer in 5th place. Cason Heirs will be participating on the 2011 Northern Divisional Team, while Nick Montilino will be participating in the 2012 Divisional.

The top finishers in the 15 to 18 age group are Nathan Molitor, 1st Place, Top Hook Award for the largest five fish, Connor Smith, 2nd place, Aaron Teal, 3rd place, Brent Relopez 4th place and Kolton Resseman in 5th place. Nathan Molitor will be participating on the 2011 Northern Divisional Team, and Connor Smith will be representing Minnesota at the 2012 Divisional.



L to R, Nathan Molitor, Connor Smith, Aaron Teal, Brent Relopez, Kolton Resseman

2011 BASS Youth “Top Hook Award”



Nathan Molitor receives the “Top Hook” award from the Nelson Family and Todd Saterbak

The “Top Hook” award is presented to the angler with the largest weight for their five fish. This award is in memory of Tom “Grandpa” Nelson.

Tom was a longtime member of the Minnesota BASS Federation Nation, and was known not only as a great angler, but also a mentor to youth and one new members alike. He was always available to help with the youth events and found many different ways to support getting youth involved in the sport.

He was also a good angler, representing Minnesota on the Regional Team, and also a common sight on the leader boards at the local club tournaments. Tom passed away after a battle with cancer, his last requests were to continue to support the kids, and to be buried in his federation fishing shirt.

At his request and in his memory the “Top Hook” award was created through the efforts of Todd Saterbak and the Nelson family. Tom’s wife Carol and the family members attend each year to present the award in Tom’s name.

2011 BASS Youth

“Sport Person of the Year”



Michaela Anderson

In the younger age group, Keenan Reed was the recipient, he is also a past State Champion, donates his time to “Teaching Kids to Fish” at St. Paul community events, the DNR stage at the state fair and other youth events. He also provides fishing books to inner city youth reading classes, is an “A” student and participates in high school athletics.

Sports Person of the year awards went to Michaela Anderson in the older age group who not only is a past State Fishing Champion, but also donates her time as a mentor to help an at risk child at Golden Valley Elementary School, and has guided the Governor of Minnesota on fishing trips. She is a member of the U19 State Championship Hockey Team, 2011 Academic All State Softball Team and an honor student.



Keenan Reed

2011 BASS Youth “TOC Team Awards”



The team awards consist of selected junior anglers from each local youth club. Prior to the event each club selects two anglers from the 11 to 14 age group and two anglers from the older 15 to 18 group. These four anglers represent their club in the team event.

The first place award went to the team from the “Bassin Boys”, which included (from left to right) Austin Anderly, Jake Saterbak, Connor Smith and Connor Graham

The second place award went to the team from the “Gopher Club”, which included Jeremy Jost, Eric Erdman and Dan Monson. Not pictured Matt Veech.



The third place award went to the team from the “Bassinators”, which included Keenan Reed, Kaleb Seeger and Matt Schneider and Michaela Anderson.

A first for a State Team as the Bassinators included a rare combination of four past State Champions.

2011 BASS Youth

"Complete Results"

Nathan Molitor – Big Bass

11 to 14 Age Group Final Standings

Participants	Club	Big Bass	Fish	Final Weight
Cason Hiers	Bassinators		5	9.98
Nick Montilino	Bassinators		5	9.25
Keenan Reed	Bassinators		5	9.17
Dan Monson	Gopher		5	7.88
Jake Gilmer	Bassinators		4	6.23
Theo Petrie	Bassinators		5	6.11
Austin Anderly	Bassin Boys		5	4.88
Colten Gordon	Bassinators	3.09	2	4.13
Jake Saterbak	Bassin Boys		2	3.59
Jeremy Jost	Gopher		3	3.59
John Schissel	Bassinators		2	3.52
Kaleb Seeger	Bassinators	3.04	1	3.04
Jackson Dunaski	Bassinators		0	0
Alice Yanta	Bassinators		0	0



15 to 18 Age Group Final Standings

Participants	Club	Big Bass	Fish	Final Weight
Nathan Molitor	Granite City	4.59	5	11.74
Connor Smith	Bassin Boys		5	11.64
Aaron Teal	Granite City		5	11.27
Brent Relopez	Bassin Boys		5	11.12
Kolton Resseman	Granite City	3.85	5	10.83
Ben Winge	Bassin Boys		5	10.06
Neil Molitor	Granite City		5	9.43
Matt Cook	Bassin Boys		5	9.38
Moua Lee	Bassinators		5	9.25
Zach Gromberg	Granite City		5	9.03
Joey Hinrichs	Bassinators		5	8.79
Tarin Lehn	Bassinators		5	8.78
Connor Graham	Bassin Boys		5	8.69
Matt Veech	Gopher		5	7.72
Luke Gilmer	Bassinators		5	7.63
Ian Walesch	Granite City		5	7.27
Tyler Gromberg	Granite City		4	6.98
Patrick Sheils	Bassinators		5	6.7
Joe Mentor	Bassinators		5	6.66
Jordan Keller	Granite City		5	6.26
Cody Sieben	Gopher		3	5.97
Adam Bartusek	Bassinators		2	5.76
Matt Schneider	Bassinators		3	5.27
Austin Rothstein	Granite City		3	4.65
Wyatt Guritz	Fairmont		3	4.25
James Chapman	Bassinators		3	4.09
Matt Yanta	Bassinators		2	3.75
Connor Wendt	Granite City		2	3.35
Joe Barrington	Gopher		2	3.29
Joshua Hoops	Granite City		2	3.28
Michael Kline	Granite City		2	2.73
Eric Erdman	Gopher		2	2.49
Lucas Lindgren	Gopher		2	2.36
James Stein	Bassinators		1	1.96
Michaela Anderson	Bassinators		1	1.62
Tyler Blumke	Gopher		1	1.42
Andrew Osowski	Gopher		0	0
Christopher Yanta	Bassinators		0	0
Matt Leyendecker	Granite City		0	0
Cody Winters	Bassinators		0	0



Colton Gordon – Big Bass
11-14 Age Group