

WISCONSIN BASS FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

April 2016
Issue #77



President's Message

By Jim Jones



Well this has been a very busy off season for the Wisconsin Bass Federation! We have had a lot of excitement and engagement in developing a new structure for our program this year. I am so thankful we have had so many different people involved in the decision making process, with open minds and creativity to make this a strong organization for the future! I know it is a lot of change to wrap your head around, but I believe the folks who put all the effort into designing it have really thought all this through. There have been multiple well attended tournament committee meetings, reps meetings and board meetings that have developed what we have today. The members have really tried hard to make sure there is something for everyone, and we keep the organization balanced between the grass roots clubs who are more focused on the fun aspects of fishing, and the serious competitors who want a great payout.

I am especially proud of the process our members went through in deliberating and deciding such big changes this year. Everyone had their opportunity to share their ideas and discuss them. Lots of different people threw out new ideas. Everyone was extremely respectful and we had great meetings, and not one single heated argument!

I am very excited for the new growth already this year! We had the largest convention attendance in years in January at the Wisconsin Dells, and we hope to grow it even more next year. We have had several new clubs join, and our membership numbers are ahead of last year already. This year our focus is on recruitment! We would like to have booths and displays at the BFLs, sports shows and other events. If your club has an event in your area and can set up a TBF booth, let us know so we can help with that. Every one of you can help by inviting a friend to join your club. Now we also have the new affiliate membership too for those who don't want to be in a club. This would be great for retired folks, teenagers, fishing industry staff, or other people interested in fishing.

So far I have had two tournaments on the FLW tour this year. Though I have been catching plenty of fish, they have not been the big ones I am after. I have been learning huge new waters I have never been to before, and it has been a great experience. Just being able to fish alongside Scott Martin & David Dudley and rig up my rods in the parking lot next to Jimmy Houston is pretty cool. I'm hopeful for bigger weights at the next ones.

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Need to find a Boater or Co-Angler LINK for a Divisional Qualifier? Post a note on our message board on our website under the Divisional Qualifier Link Folder.

Please keep your post updated once you have found your link.

Message Board

www.wisconsinbass.com

WISCONSIN BASS FEDERATION

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1033 "likes" so far....



2016 Convention Highlights



An interactive Club President's meeting kept our leaders on the move as they discussed important topics in small groups.



Thank you to our 2015 State Team for giving us a presentation and telling us all about your experience last year! It didn't sound like they cared for the fishing much at Lake Carlisle IL, but they had a good time anyhow.



We had plenty of great Raffles!



Thank you to Mud Hole Rods for presenting information on kids rod building clinics. Congratulations to Clair Getchell from Menominee on winning this rod.





2015 National Competitors Nick Smyers and Vue Thao gave a power point presentation on their trip to Grand Lake Oklahoma.

2015 Youth Champions:
Hunter Krueger, Hugh Ballweg, Brady Wendt & Joshua Miller



2016 Board of Directors: Adam Barnard, Chris Morgan, Becky Smyers, Nathan Graewin & Jim Jones. Not Pictured: Brad Lemke



2016 Wisconsin State Team:

Nick Smyers, Tim Theobald, Larry Hildebradt, Jim Jones, Brady Farrell, Brian Saari, Chris Penneybacker, Kevin Fassbind, Andy Dassow, Joe McMinn, Mitch VanErt, Dan Ehmen



Steve Hjort was our guest speaker talking about highlights of his tenure as our conservation director. We thank him for his many years of service. Steve was also the lucky winner of not one, but two great raffle prizes!





Reel Kids Casting Contest



The State Casting contest was held at the Wisconsin Fishing Expo in Madison in February. We had almost 200 participants and 60 volunteers who helped at the event.

The Bass Federation and its member states have implemented a casting skills accuracy challenge for young anglers across the country!

"The Reel Kids Program" is in many cases the first opportunity that many kids have to be introduced to the great sport of fishing. At events like sport and outdoor shows across the country and in many schools these programs are giving kids the chance to experience what it is really like to handle a fishing rod and reel. They test their skills in the art of Casting, Flipping, and Pitching a plastic jig to a very colorful target.

For the calendar year, our Bass Federation Clubs across the country will conduct approximately 450 events and reach 20,000 kids.



Congratulations to our Reel Kids Casting Contest Champions Sam Wagner and Riley Estep!

Thank you to Brovarney Baits, Wisey Worms and Vicious Fishing for donating to the kids!



Reps Meeting Minutes

Wisconsin Bass Federation Reps Meeting Minutes April 3, 2016

Meeting called to order at 1:00 by President Jim Jones

Roll Call: clubs present: Fox River, Bay View, Belle City, C&R, Castle Rock, Team Interstate, Madison, Packerland, Park City, Racine Co 1,2,3, Shawano Red Nek, River Country, Rockford, Stateline, Wis Valley, Rodbenders, Midwest, Bass Warriors, Tri County, Stevens Point, Bass Assassins, Marshfield

Absent: 4-Lakes, Black River, Lake Ripley, Last Cast, Big Sacks, Northern IL

Moment of silence in memory of Dave Fields

Minutes approved as published

Break into committee meetings

Treasurer's report reviewed- approx. \$31,000 balance, convention approx. \$4,000 net income

Conservation Director report- reminders to clean livewells and check aerators, reminders to clubs to help at cleaning up at landings, collecting fishing line, highway clean ups, weed identification- treat everything as if it is it may be carrying something,

Youth Director Report-

Kids Casting Contest, 182 participants at Madison Fishing Expo, 60 volunteers, thank you to clubs and state team who attended. Next year 6 clubs limited to (6-10 volunteers needed for 2 hours)

SAF High School Tournament- June 19 at Minoqua, would like to get TBF presence there, would like to get club volunteers to attend to help promote WBF maybe set up table and donate gift bags to each kid- let us know if you have a connection to get donations

Youth State tournament- Aug 28 Big Green Gov Dodge, Entry forms by Aug 1, must be a youth member do not have to be in a club, 11-14 age, need more volunteers for set up and lunch

Thank you to those donating unused baits to donate to youth events

Tournament Director Report

Mr Bass Public Launch Thirsty Moose

Div 1 Big Green County K Rd boat ramp Gov Dodge

Div 2: Tomahawk Chain, Coffin Lane Boat Ramp county park on L Tomahawk

Div 3: LaCrosse 7-9 Clinton St ramp

4Man Madison Lake Farm

Uncle Josh Federation discount code available- watch email blast

Presidents Report-

WI MN Semi Finals- tournament moved d/t permit: to Gull Lake, Brainard. Sept 22-25: 2 pre fish, 2 tourn days. Mon- Wed off limits. Working on a 6 yr schedule for future. Online registration directly to TBF- pay with credit card.

Promotions: flyers distributed for clubs, add to website, let us know if your club has an event we can get multiples printed for clubs. Also trying to set up booths at BFL or other tournaments- would like volunteers to help run these booths to help promote.

Review website

Trip sheet donations- if you are in area help us get local donations of places in area- advertise on trip sheet in exchange for raffle donations or member discounts

Excellent job getting emails in roster. Passed around current list on online roster as of today.

Recycling plastic donations- will continue program- give to Mike Hoffman- keep saving and bring to any state event or reps meetings.



Tournament Committee Proposals:

- Thank you to tournament committee members who met in March: Jake Willems, Pat Anderson, Larry Hildebrandt, Brian Saari, Chris Morgan, Brady Farrell, Kevin Fassbind, Adam Eisele, Roger Modrzejewski, Dru Appelhans, Joe McMinn, Jim Schulenburg, Jim & Barb Jones
- Payout for tournaments: Will work on payout schedule published for each boat number, will announce before each tournament and checks available payout at the ramp. 75% payback payout 1 in 5/ 20% of field

Tournament Committee Proposal:

- "Team Pride"- 4 Pro & 4 Co Team competing against other state teams: Top winner from each Div Qualifier and Mr Bass: Pro and Co, Shirts provided- accepted unanimously
If one person wins more than one- their first one counts, go to second place in next tournament
If same person qualifies through team pride or through club- they would have to choose which to give up
- Top 10 cumulative (each pro/ co) - pay entry fee to Divisionals aka Semi Finals- \$3,000 cost. Accepted unanimously
Any sponsor package benefits offered to top cumulative pro/ co winners, depending what is offered.
If winners don't use a benefit, it will go down to the next in line. Accepted unanimously.
- All other expense money, lodging, dinner, gas \$ eliminated for Divisionals. Accepted unanimously.
- If there is excess funds available, at Board discretion to provide additional benefits.
- All Nationals qualifiers (SD& MN): Shirts, Pay hotel expenses not covered by TBF (ie Sat-Mon fish off), \$500 & \$250 travel expense. Accepted unanimously.
- Cumulative points system: Accepted unanimously
200 points to first place, 1 point less per placing. Separated for pro and co anglers. 10 points for participants not weighing in fish. 0 points if d/q.
Best 2 out of 3 tournaments are added together for total points. (not including Mr Ba

Tournament Rules Changes: Reviewed, Approved by Board earlier

Section 2: Participants and Eligibility- delete this section- see bylaws

Section 3: TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION: edited. Delete all tournament fees listed in tournament rules- see bylaws

Section 10: edited

Section 18. edited

Section 22: Tournament hours- strike this section- see bylaws

Questions/ Clarifications:

- If someone doesn't show up- the person they were linked with is the person to be pulled. If emergency- we will do what we can to find observer, but no one can go out alone
- Allow entries without link to sign up on waiting list? No
- Discussed what handicaps mean. Co angler may not come up on front to fish, not even if invited. Can come to front to land a fish, can net a fish from front. Boaters cannot fish from back. No imaginary line in the boat, can cast over head, etc. No 4 hours, no say in where they fish. DQ examples: telling someone they can't fish an area, drifting in deep water so partner cant fish.
- Will have partners initial their partners catch at weigh in
- 30 minutes after weigh in to protest
- Time for pre tournament night meetings- 6:00 pm ish. Practice ends 1 hour before meeting. No off limits to pre-fishing before that. Raffle at each pre-tournament meeting- need members to help get donations.
- Liability- clubs taking guests out are covered? Guests attending an event- questions is if someone is competing who is not a member. Jim will get clarification from TBF and email info out to Reps.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00

Respectfully Submitted

Barb Jones for Becky Smyers



State Tournament August 15-16, 2015 Mississippi River- Alma



- 1 NICK SMYERS 7 10/ 9 31.45 3.51 31.45
- 2 TIM THEOBOLD 13 10/ 8 30.10 5.49 30.10
- 3 LARRY HILDEBRANDT 27 10/10 28.52 28.52
- 4 JIM JONES 1 10/10 28.35 3.37 28.35
- 5 BRADY FARRELL 15 10/10 26.87 26.87
- 6 BRIAN SAARI 6 10/10 25.70 25.70
- 7 CHRIS PENNYBACKER 31 10/10 25.67 25.67
- 8 KEVIN FASSBIND 4 10/10 24.64 3.49 24.64
- 9 ANDY DASSOW 34 10/10 24.50 3.26 24.50
- 10 JOE MCMINN 28 10/10 24.28 3.14 24.28
- 11 MITCH VANERT 22 9/ 7 24.21 3.34 24.21
- 12 DAN EHMEN 22 10/ 9 24.05 24.05
- 13 DON BIENIEK 8 10/ 9 23.79 3.15 23.79
- 14 TIM FLAHERTY 12 10/10 23.17 23.17
- 15 BOB VARVICK 16 9/ 9 22.96 3.52 22.96
- 16 DAVE ALDRICH 2 10/10 22.92 3.35 22.92
- 17 DAVE VANERT 20 10/10 22.71 22.71
- 18 ADAM EISELE 19 10/10 22.68 22.68
- 19 TIM SCHULZ 3 10/10 22.61 22.61
- 20 ADAM BARNARD 29 9/ 9 22.59 4.24 22.59





A Variety of Options for clubs with the new format...

With the new format there are a lot more choices and flexibility for clubs.

We know every club is different and its all about having options to do what your members want and have something for everyone.

Here are some examples of how our clubs can vary greatly:

“Just Wanna Have Fun Bass Club”

- Fishes local club tournaments on Tuesday nights close to home
 - Enjoys going out together after the weigh in
 - Has one camping weekend each year
 - Loves coming to have fun at the convention
 - Chooses not to participate in Divisional Qualifiers, Mr. Bass or National Semi Finals
 - Sends a club team to the 4 Man Classic
 - Has insurance coverage for their club
-

“All About the Kids Club”

- Has about 6 weekend tournaments each year
 - Allows kids to fish with them as part of a youth club
 - Families come to see the club weigh ins
 - Hosts a youth casting contest each year
 - Sends kids to the Youth Championship
 - Most adults go to one Divisional Qualifier
 - Brings the whole family to Convention to enjoy the waterpark
-

“Grass Roots Club”

- Has 6 club tournaments each year, like to try new places
 - Participates in conservation project each year
 - Does a launch clean up at every outing
 - Focuses on the fun in fishing and teaching others, has guest speakers at their meetings
 - Sends their top 2 straight to the National Semi-Finals
 - Sends participants to Mr. Bass and 4 Man
-

“Middle of the Road Club”

- Has 8 club tournaments each year
 - Does a youth project each year
 - Has monthly club meetings in off season
 - Runs an open tournament each year
 - About half their club does 1 Divisional Qualifier, other half do multiple Qualifiers
 - Sends their top 2 straight to the National Semi-Finals
 - Sends participants to Mr. Bass and 4 Man
-

“Busy Guys Club”

- Has 6 club tournaments on 3 weekends
 - Has one club meeting each year
 - Most of the club just does one Divisional Qualifier closest to home
 - Sends their top 2 straight to the National Semi-Finals
 - Sends participants to Mr. Bass, not to 4 Man
-

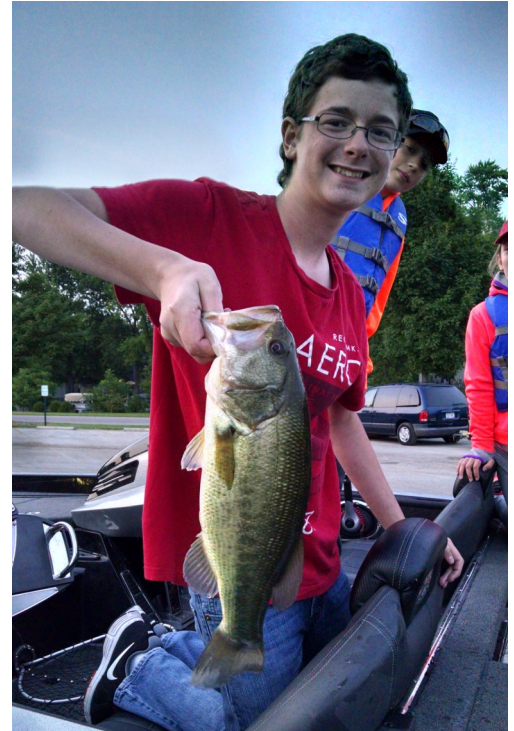
“Love the Competition Club”

- Does not hold their own club tournaments but uses another series as their club schedule
 - Does not hold club meetings
 - Does a youth project each year
 - Most of the club participates in all three Divisional Qualifiers
 - Sends participants to Mr. Bass
-



Waukesha County Youth Club

The Waukesha County Youth Club is affiliated with Belle City Bass Anglers and Waukesha County UW Extension 4-H. There were about 10 youth in the club last year. They hold 3 educational meetings in the winter to get ready for the season. They hold club tournaments around Waukesha and Racine Counties in a multi species format. Each of the kids can enter fishing related projects in the Waukesha County Fair. Some examples of fair entries have been building a rod, keeping a fishing log, poster on parts of a fish, a collection of antique lures, creating a trivia game, and hand made lures. Many of our kids have gotten grand champion ribbons for their fishing project items.



2016 Tournament Schedule

Wednesday May 11	5:30-8:30 pm	Lake Nagawicka
Wednesday May 18	5:30-8:30 pm	Pewaukee Lake
Wednesday May 25	5:30-8:30 pm	Wind Lake
Wednesday June 1	5:30-8:30 pm	Tichigan Lake
Wednesday June 15	5:30-8:30 pm	Little Muskego Lake
Wednesday July 6	5:30-8:30 pm	Okauchee Lake

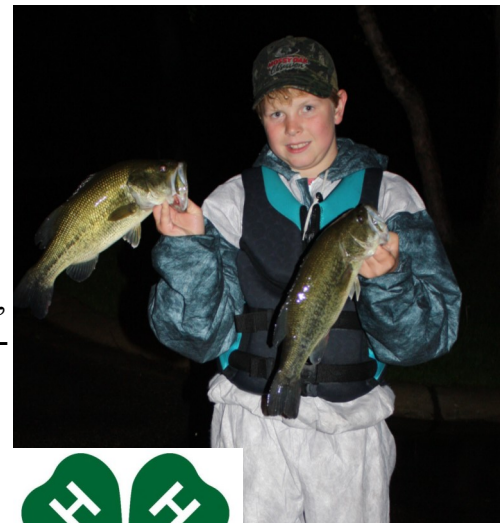


Waukesha Youth Club is accepting new members for 2016. For more information on this club or starting one just like it: Contact Jim Jones jimjones@wi.rr.com

Every county has a 4-H program, and your county likely has a fishing project too. Click here for the info on your county office:

www.uwex.edu/ces/cty

For more info on the 4-H Fishing project: <http://Fyi.uwex.edu/wi4Hprojects/natural-sciences/fishing>

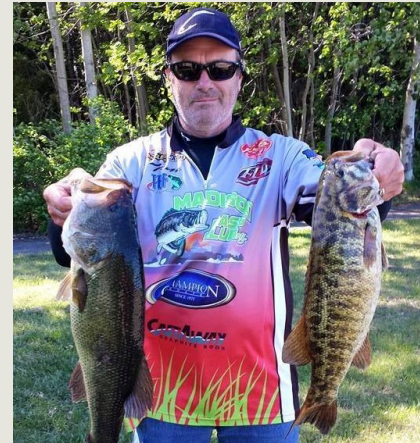


**2016 State Team— 1st Place****Nick Smyers**

Club: Last Cast Bass Club
 Hometown: Franksville, WI
 Married/ Children: Becky, no
 6th time on the State Team
 Boat: Skeeter ZX225 Yamaha 225
 Years of fishing: 30 Years in Federation: 14
 Favorite Place to Fish: Delevan Lake
 Favorite Technique: Jig & dropshot
 Biggest Bass: 7# smallmouth on Sturgeon Bay

**2016 State Team— 2nd Place****Tim Theobald**

Club: Madison Bass
 Hometown: Lodi, WI
 Married/ Children: Karie, 1 child
 1st time on the State Team
 Boat: Champion 181 150 HP
 Years of fishing: 34 Years in Federation: 14
 Favorite Place to Fish: Mississippi River
 Favorite Technique: Swim jig or frog
 Biggest Bass: 7# 2oz at Kentucky Lake

**2016 State Team— 3rd Place****Larry Hildebrandt**

Club: Madison Bass Club
 Hometown: Cottage Grove, WI
 Married/ Children: Rebecca, 1 child
 5th time on the State Team
 Boat: Skeeter ZX225 Yamaha 225
 Years of fishing: 40 Years in Federation: 20
 Favorite Place to Fish: Madison
 Favorite Technique: Weed edge
 Biggest Bass: 8# 2oz in Florida

**2016 State Team— 4th Place****Jim Jones**

Club: Belle City Bass Anglers
 Hometown: Big Bend, WI
 Married/ Children: Barb, 3 children
 7th time on the State Team
 Boat: Ranger Z521C Mercury 250 Pro XS
 Years of fishing: 42 Years in Federation: 32
 Favorite Place to Fish: Mississippi or Wolf River
 Favorite Technique: Swim jig
 Biggest Bass: 8.5# largemouth on Okeechobee





What is the new “Team Pride”?

Now that there is no longer a 12 man State Team, TBF has created something new called “Team Pride” for each state. This is an 8 man team of 4 Boaters and 4 Co-anglers who are preselected by each state. This team’s total weights will be compared against the teams from other states at the National Semi-Final tournaments to decide the top state that year. There is no prize money involved, but it does come with bragging rights for the year.

How will Wisconsin pick their 8 man “Team Pride”? The top boater and top co-angler from each of the Divisional Qualifiers and Mr. Bass will make up our “Team”. Good Luck on making the team this year!

What: Family Outdoor Adventure Day

When: Saturday July 9, 2016, 10am-2pm

Where: Cabela’s, Sun Prairie

Why: To promote outdoor activities to youth and families, and to preserve our heritage through education and conservation.

Cabela’s will continue its longstanding support of the Sportsmen’s Alliance Foundation and the Trailblazer Adventure Program by hosting the family event at several Cabela’s stores nationwide on July 9. This marks the fifth consecutive year that SAF and Cabela’s have teamed up to provide the event at select Cabela’s locations free of charge.



Youth and families visiting these stores have the opportunity to participate in hands-on firearm safety lessons, fishing instruction, archery lessons and trapping demonstrations. Knowledgeable volunteers, many of whom serve as Local Field Directors for SA, will be on hand to assist participants with activities.

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors such as Cabela’s, Trailblazer has exposed more than 1.8 million kids to outdoor sports since 2001.

What Can You Do?

We are looking for conservation organizations to present their missions to the families that attend, while providing education about outdoors sports. Whether your organization is about dogs, birds, fish, deer, bear, wetlands, woodlands, lakes, trapping, shooting, hunting, fishing, or camping, we all have the same goal; to preserve our wilderness, conserve our wildlife, and defend our heritage. All that we ask is that your presentation/booth provides education in a hands-on interactive way, if possible. Whether it be a calling demonstration, building nest boxes, wildlife identification, or any other activity that you could think of. You can promote your organization, as well as have handouts, but Cabela’s asks that you do not sell any products on their grounds.

For more information please contact: your local Cabela’s Store Manager

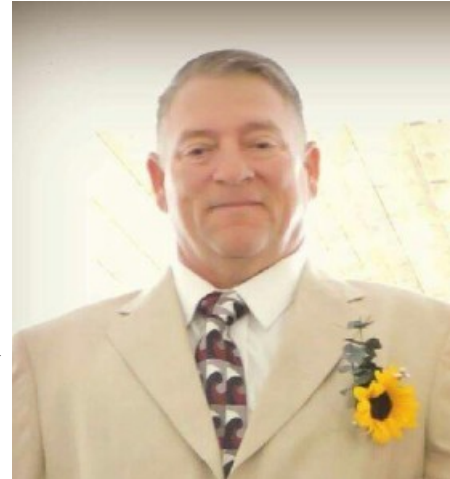


In Memory

David Sean Fields Sr., age 59, of Adams, Wisconsin passed away Wednesday, March 30, 2016.

David was born June 9, 1956 in Vermillion County, Indiana to Robert and Velma (Ohlsen) Fields. He married Laura S. Buschman on January 17, 1981 in Downers Grove Illinois.

David was a fishing guide for more than 30 years and a jack of all trades. He enjoyed everything outdoors including fishing, hunting, camping, and throwing horseshoes. David also enjoyed traveling, playing pool, and sports. Most of all, his greatest joy was spending time with his children and grandchildren. David was a member of the local Castlerock Bassmasters, and pool leagues.



Paul Charles Payas passed away on Friday, December 11, 2015 from complications due to a stroke in Madison, WI at the age of 77. He was born in Albuquerque, NM on September 28, 1938. He was adopted by Rev. Frank and Florence Payas on April 29, 1946. He attended high school in Lincoln, NE and Muscoda, WI where he was a star athlete in baseball, football, basketball and track and also Homecoming King. After high school, he entered the U.S. Army and was stationed in Vietnam.

He was very proud to be a Madison Firefighter and Paramedic. He began his career for Madison Fire Department in 1968 and became a Lieutenant in 1992 and retired in 1998. He enjoyed his retirement to its fullest by spending his days fishing, golfing, playing pool, and dancing. He won awards in the Senior Badger State Games as well as numerous championships in golf, pool, archery and fishing. He was a member of the Madison Bass Club.

The thing that made him the happiest was spending time with his family. He was proud of his children and grandchildren and he took extreme pleasure in all of their accomplishments, big and small. He will be remembered for being a loving and supportive father and grandfather and a devoted friend to all who knew him.





NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

Do you know someone who is interested in fishing but doesn't fish competitively? Encourage them to be a member of WBF! Makes a great Fathers Day or Graduation gift too.

The Wisconsin Bass Federation has a new level of membership for those who want to support our efforts and be involved, but are not interested in fishing in WBF tournaments. There is a discounted membership, which still includes full TBF/ FLW membership with all the magazine subscriptions. They have all the benefits of membership such as insurance, invited to the convention, member discounts, etc. They just don't compete in tournaments and are not a member of a specific club.

Affiliate membership forms can be found online at <http://www.wisconsinbass.com> under the members– how to join section.

All Tournament Entry Forms are available now online

Register today!

Entry forms for the year are online . There is now only one entry form for all adult tournaments. (The youth form is separate.) You can send in one entry form for all tournaments at once, or you can send them in separately. For 4-Man Classic please list your team members as your links– you can send them together or separate, but each person needs to fill out their own form. Be sure to read the new and updated rules online carefully.

Entry Form Deadlines:

Mr. Bass– May 1
Divisional Qualifier #1– May 15
Divisional Qualifier #1– June 15
Divisional Qualifier #1– Aug 1
4 Man Classic– Sept 15
Junior Championship– July 1

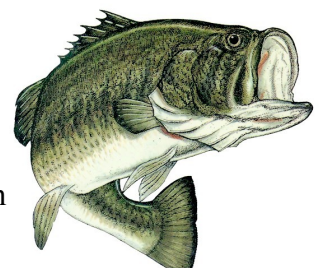
<http://www.wisconsinbass.com/tournament-entry-form/>

Club Project Ideas

Does your club need some new ideas for this year on great projects you can do?

Adopt a Highway or a Launch
Clean up Launch sites at every event
Rake weeds at ramp areas
Building habitat project
Help DNR stock ponds
Put up “Free the Fighter” Signs
Storm Drain Stenciling
Promote Catch & Release
Wash weeds off boats for the public
Line and plastics recycling
Trash or recycle bins at launch sites
Donate a picnic table at a ramp
Help DNR build a dock
Set up a boat wash station at a launch
Tournament for handicap anglers
Take a soldier fishing project
Have fishing rummage and donate proceeds to Veterans fishing group

Start a youth club
Bring kids with you on a club tournament
Host a reel kids casting contest at your county fair
Work with your local 4-H club to teach seminars to kids
Host a kids rod building workshop
Host a lure or weights making class
Help kids campground build a new dock
Work with local Boy Scouts on a fishing outing
Host a Big Brothers/ Big Sisters fishing outing
Host a kids workshop at local tackle store
Help sponsor a high school fishing team
Kids clinics on Free Fishing Day
Kids ice fishing derby
Collect unwanted lures for kids
Donate old rods to local kids campground
Go into schools to promote fish art program
Host a youth open tournament





ADVERTISE WITH US!

Full Page- \$250 per issue
 Half Page- \$150 per issue
 Quarter Page- \$100 per issue
 Eighth page- \$50 per issue

Discounts for multiple issues (published quarterly) and product donations. If you may be interested in learning more about becoming a Federation Sponsor or advertising, please contact our State President Jim Jones at jimjones@wi.rr.com

In the Next Issue....Classifieds!

If you would like to place a classified ad in the next issue, send an email to bjones@wi.rr.com. Ads will be free to members, limited to space available, first come first serve.

All information for next issue Due By:
 June 1, 2016

Remember....

The Top 5 winners from each Divisional Qualifier will receive their plaques at the State Convention Awards Banquet January, 2017. Please plan to attend!

Attendance is mandatory for all Board members and State Team Members.

CALENDAR REMINDER

PLEASE SEND US YOUR CLUB OPENS, AREA SPORTS SHOWS, LARGE ICE JAMBO-REES AND OTHER LARGE FISHING RELATED EVENTS TO ADD TO OUR COMPREHENSIVE WEBSITE CALENDAR.

IT IS HARD TO PLAN AROUND EACH OTHER'S CLUB OPENS AND OTHER EVENTS IF WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY ARE. EMAIL TO JIMJONES@WI.RR.COM

TBF/FLW Dues Reminder

It's that time of year again! The new club year is beginning soon, which means it's time to renew your TBF membership! All TBF memberships expire December 31st. To receive the full benefit of a TBF Membership and maintain our insurance coverage policy, you should renew before they expire. TBF does not prorate your dues if you decide to wait, and your club meetings will not be covered by insurance over the winter. It's just like buying a fishing license, you will have to pay the full amount, regardless of when you decide to renew your membership. Most clubs are already collecting dues and sending them in, and we appreciate your hard work, you are doing a great job! If you have questions or concerns, contact your local club Secretary, or call our national office at 580.765.9031.

**DON'T LET YOUR DUES EXPIRE-
RENEW TODAY!**

2016 Calendar of Events

Jan 22-23: Convention at Chula Vista
 April 3: Board & Reps Meetings
 April 12-17: TBF Nationals Table Rock MO
 May 22: Mr. Bass, Lake Wisconsin
 June 4: Div Qualifier #1, Big Green Lake
 June 19: SAF High School, Minoqua
 July 10: Div Qualifier #2, Lake Tomahawk
 Aug 27: Div Qualifier #3, Mississippi Pool 8
 Aug 28: Youth Championship, Big Green Lake
 Sept 4-9: Northern Divisionals Lake Oahe SD
 Sept 22-25: Divisionals, Gull Lake, MN
 Oct 1-2: 4 Man Classic Madison Chain



Sponsor Spotlight

Purchase a qualifying HDS display between February 4 and May 1 and receive a Lowrance Visa® Prepaid Card, valued up to \$300 !!

LOWRANCE®

It PAYS to belong to TBF!

Secret Weapon
Baits
Custom Poured Baits

10% discount good for the rest of the year to anyone in the Wisconsin Bass Federation when buying online.

www.secretweaponbaits.com
coupon code: wisfed

MINN-KOTA

Receive a \$100 MasterCard® Prepaid Card by mail when you purchase any Talon Shallow Water Anchor. Valid January 1 through June 1, 2016



<http://www.minnkotamotors.com/promotions/>

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Brovarney Baits
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