

CARPENTER CRUSHES FIELD

Submitted by: Nick Angiulo

The second New Jersey Bass Federation point event of 2014 had the potential to be one for the ages. Returning to the Northern Chesapeake Bay (also known colloquially as the Susquehanna Flats) in mid-May, May 18, 2014 to be exact, should have had anglers targeting pre-spawn, spawn and post-spawn fish in an all-out slugfest. However, similar to a large number of northeast fisheries, the Flats have been, in fishing terms, “off.” Myriad reasons for the slow spring fishing are easy to identify: the long, cold winter; the overabundance of cold spring rain; the below average night time temperatures; the lack of weed growth, etc. Regardless, most anglers would have thought that the fish on the Flats would finally have to be in positions to be caught in numbers. Unfortunately, that plan did not pan out for most anglers; but the few who found them produced weights in line with what the Flats is known to produce. Among that backdrop, the Boater Division champion dominated his Division and in the Co-Angler Division, a rare back-to-back champion emerged.

Boater Division

Winning first place in the Boater Division in spectacular fashion was John Carpenter of the K.O.B.A. chapter. Carpenter, from Marmora, New Jersey improved upon his second place finish at last month’s Flats event and captured the event by nearly three full pounds over his nearest competitors by bringing in a five fish limit totaling 19.70. Carpenter also struck the “daily double” with his Boater Division lunker winning 5.94 pound largemouth. For the Boater Division victory, Carpenter received \$870 as well as an additional \$145 for his Boater Division lunker.

Finishing a distant second with a five fish limit of 16.78 pounds was Derick Olson. Olson, from Honey Brook, Pennsylvania and a member of the Quickfire Bassmasters, was almost two full pounds clear from third place. Olson received \$638 for his second place Boater Division finish. Third place in the Boater Division went to Darren Pincus from Flemington, New Jersey and a member of the Blazin Bass. Pincus was one fish short of a limit but still posted an impressive 14.94 pounds. Pincus reported losing his fifth fish which was in the seven pound range. Regardless, he received \$435 for his third place Boater Division finish.

Co-Angler Division

To win an event as a Co-Angler, you need a number of factors in your favor, such as preparation, talent, as well as the ability to adapt to different Boaters. Other factors can also play a significant role, such as who you draw as a Boater. This variability makes it quite difficult for Co-Anglers to consistently place highly in events. So, when a Co-Angler wins two events in a row, everyone should take notice. This is especially impressive when that Co-Angler is a Federation rookie. That eventuality came to pass at this event, where Co-Angler Dan Schoneveld captured the Co-Angler Division title for his second consecutive victory. Schoneveld, a member of the Warren County Bassmasters from Hopatcong, New

Jersey brought three hefty fish to the scales totaling 9.56 pounds, enough to win his division by over one pound. For his victory, he was rewarded with the Co-Angler Division first place check of \$900.

Second place was taken by another Co-Angler rookie, Mike Wotanowski. Wotanowski, from Randolph, New Jersey is also a member of the Warren County Bassmasters. While no Co-Angler managed a limit on the day, Wotanowski was the “high hook” on the Co-Angler side bringing in four fish, which weighed 8.36 pounds. He received \$660 for his efforts. Third place went to perennial Co-Angler threat, Ken Bertles. Bertles, from Pennsville, New Jersey and a member of the Gloucester County Bass Club managed two fish totaling 8.10 pounds. Included in his weight was the 5.54 pound Co-Angler Division lunker winning largemouth. Bertles received \$450 for his third place Co-Angler Division finish and he received an additional \$150 for the Co-Angler Division lunker.

Miscellaneous Notes

1. Only 4 anglers brought five fish limits to the scales and 79 fish totaling 220 pounds were weighed in. All fish were released alive.
2. Hutchinson Cabinets has graciously sponsored this season’s points tournaments where in each event, the Boater and Co-Angler not in the top three with the next highest weights in their Division who **are present at the awards presentation at the end of the weigh-in**, each will receive \$50. In this event, the \$50 was awarded to Jason Orecchio in the Boater Division and C.J. Tuite in the Co-Angler Division.
3. By virtue of being the highest placing eligible Ranger Boat owner in the event, John Carpenter will receive \$120 in Ranger Cup bonus money. The second highest placing eligible Ranger Boat owner, Derick Olson, will receive \$100 in Ranger Cup bonus money.