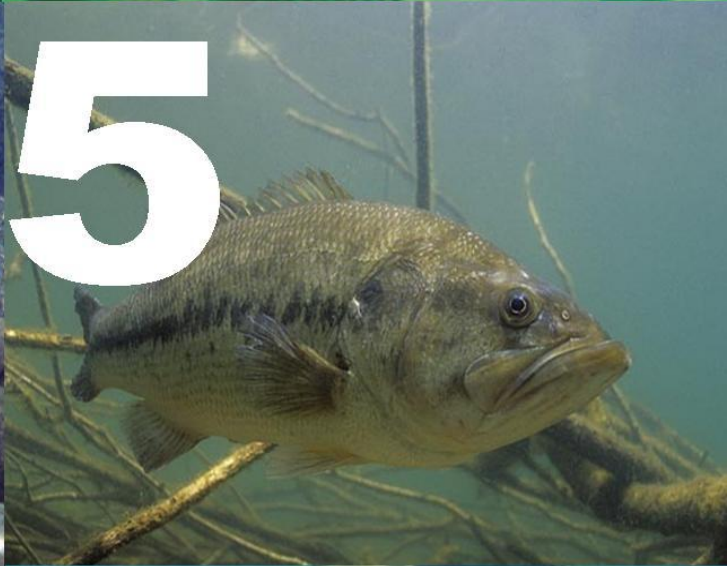




Team Bass



25



Founded in 1990, 2014 marks the 25th season for Team Bass
301 tournaments, thousands of bass and millions of casts



TEAM BASS *Timeline*

1990

- The club is formed as a spin-off from the highly popular Minnesota State Smallmouth Tournament, a 100 boat event held annually on the Mississippi in Anoka.
- The 15 or so founding members named the organization the Upper Mississippi Smallmouth Club.
- Current Team Bass members Scott Mason, Jim Chapman, Wayne Chapman, Jack Kiffe and Dale Glader are among the founding members.
- Enthusiasm runs high with monthly meetings at Billy's Bar in Anoka and several tournaments.
- Kevin Vandam fishes his first pro tournament at age 22.

1991

- Membership reaches 24.
- A couple largemouth tournaments on lakes are held along with several smallmouth ones on the upper Mississippi as practice for the State Smallmouth Championship. As a result, many of our members place high in the 100 boat event.
- Last years trophies are handed out at an awards banquet held in February.
- A monthly newsletter is started which is typed, Xeroxed and hand addressed.
- Wayne Chapman wins the first Angler of the Year title.

1992

- The tournament schedule is increased to 11 including a Guy/Gal tournament and Megabucks.
- Average tournament field is 7 boats.
- Monthly meetings start to feature guest speakers including Brad Leiferman, Billy Hildebrandt, Mike Henning, Dan Gapen, Mike Artman, Mark Fischer, Jim Moynagh, Chris Luedtke, as well as member seminars.
- Skill levels increase dramatically.
- Member boats average 60 HP.
- Wayne Chapman wins back to back Angler of the Year.

1993

- To attract more members, the name is changed to Team Bass and a "No fundraising and No Politics" policy is adopted.
- "Join Team Bass" flyers are posted around the metro.
- Jack Kiffe wins the Megabucks and Scott Mason wins AOY.
- Jack Kiffe fishes the \$1000 entry Don Shelby Minnetonka tournament.
- Fenwick Iron Thread (20# test) is the first braided line on the market.

1994

- 46 members. Average field is 11 teams.
- First 20 pound bag (Harlan Lemke and Barry Berg, 20-10, June 4, Minnetonka).
- Floyd Carlson wins angler of the year and John Fairbanks catches a 6-2 at the TOC on lake Minnetonka.

1995

- 51 members. Average field is 12 teams.
- Competition gets much tougher as members become more experienced and many highly skilled new members join.
- June 3rd Minnetonka tournament breaks record for number of boats (15) and winning weight (Dale Glader and Roger Rucci 21-8).
- Lowrance introduces the first 12 channel GPS for \$200.

1996

- 65 members. Average field is 14 teams.
- Team Bass recruits many new members from other fishing clubs.
- Tournaments start paying winnings down to 3 places.
- Record 22 teams at June 8th Minnetonka.
- John Larson and Nick Graupe win AOY.

1997

- 85 members. Average field is 22 teams.
- Severe cold fronts plague Minnesota tournaments all season making for few limits and low weights.
- Sept 20 Minnetonka only had 3 limits out of 23 teams and it only took 10-8 to win (Dale Glader, Roger Rucci).
- We added the Horseshoe Chain to the schedule on June 27th (19 teams) and Aug 15th (18 teams) and they produced only one limit each (Jeremy Olson, Terry Wietfield, 17-2 and Ron Berg, Greg Propson, 17-3).
- Chris Schneider starts fishing the tournaments at age 11.
- MN Pro Jim Moynagh wins \$200,000 in FLW tournament on Minnetonka.
- John Larson and Nick Graupe win back to back AOY.

1998

- 92 members. Average field is 22 teams.
- TOC changes to a team event.
- Team Bass follows B.A.S.S. and bans the new \$1500 underwater cameras during competition.
- Wheaties puts Denny Brauer on the box.

1999

- Membership reaches 151 making Team Bass the largest fishing club in MN.
- Average field is 32 teams.
- Eight records are broken (see 1999 stats sheet). However, the year started with 21 out of 35 teams getting skunked at the May 8th Deer Lake Tournament.
- Knife is added and becomes a favorite.
- Super Stars tournament is added.
- Members throw money in a hat and buy a \$450 digital scale that would serve us for the next 15 years.
- Jeff Lindquist, Ed Davis and John Fairbanks tie for AOY.

2000

- Membership hits the all time peak of 157. Average field is 34.
- We now take up whole parking lots at the ramps and are limited to a handful of larger lakes.
- Weigh-ins take an hour.
- The newsletter is replaced by this new thing called the internet.
- We wisely secure the domain TeamBass.com (which would be impossible today).
- The website saves the club \$600 a year in newsletter postage, enough to pay for trophies.
- The bass were unaffected by the Y2K glitch.

2001

- DNR tournament permits are now required.
- To cut back on boats, Team Bass stops taking new applications and membership drops to 124.
- Jason Berg breaks back to back records with the two highest finishes ever on Clearwater, July 7th, 24-14 and Minnetonka July 28th, 26-1.
- Clearwater also had the highest ever number of teams at 43.
- Ed Davis and Jeff Lindquist win AOY for third year in a row.

2002

- Membership continues to drop intentionally to 84 as Team Bass starts requiring entry fees for the entire year up front and no new members.
- Average field is 27.

2003

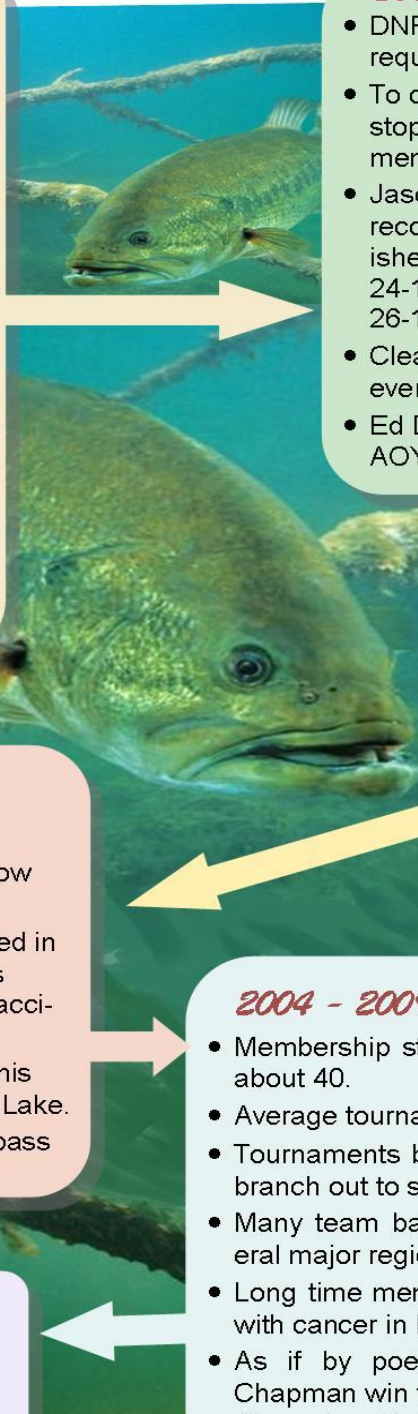
- 67 members. Average field is 25.
- Anyone over 65 or under 15 can now join Team Bass for free.
- A Junior Angler tournament is added in honor of 17 year old member Chris Schneider who was killed in a car accident on April 27, 2003.
- 10 year old Matt Schneider fishes his first tournament on June 8th Rush Lake.
- Tom Montague weighs in biggest bass ever with a 6-15 on Platte-Sullivan.

2004 - 2009

- Membership stabilizes with a core group of about 40.
- Average tournament field is 13.
- Tournaments become more relaxed and we branch out to smaller less pressured waters.
- Many team bass alumni place high in several major regional tournaments.
- Long time member Bill Knorr loses his fight with cancer in Dec 2006.
- As if by poetic justice, Jim and Wayne Chapman win the last MN State Smallmouth Championship in 2008.

2010

- TV show MN Bound features the 2009 Chris Schneider tournament airing May 9th 2010.



2011

- Four tournaments are dropped from the schedule as the price of gas hits \$4 a gallon.
- Kevin Vandam wins back to back classics making it his fourth Classic win and tops \$5 million in career winnings.

2012

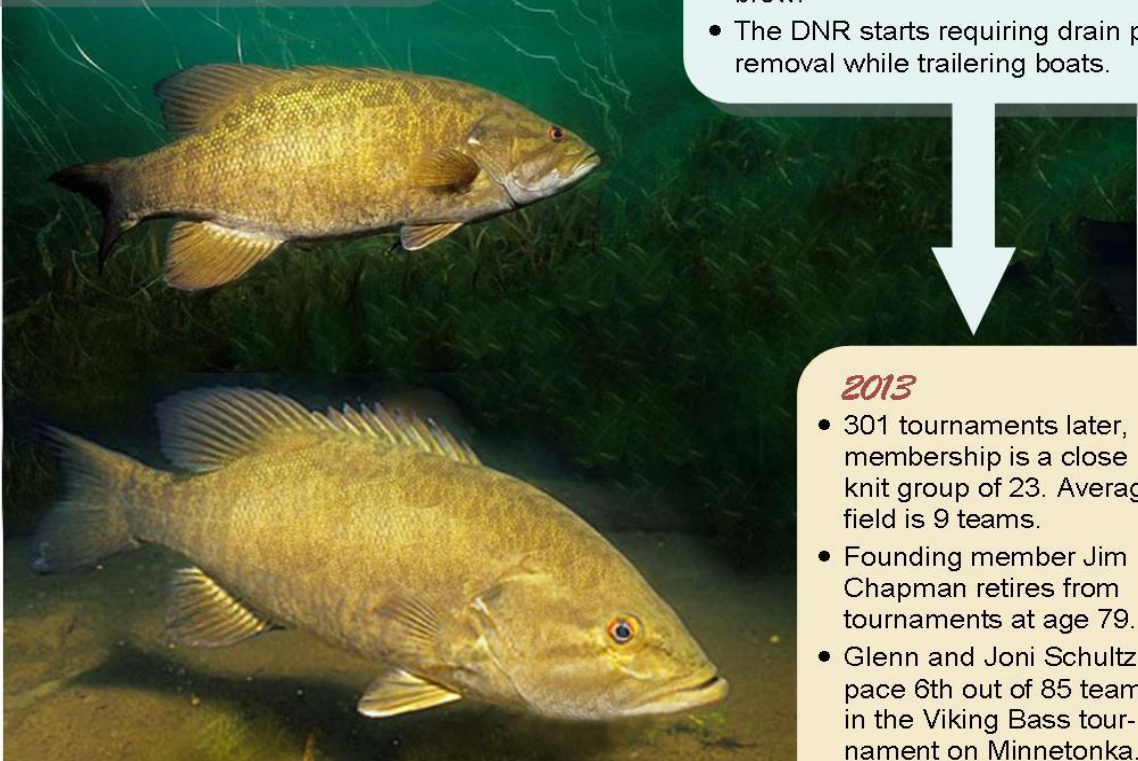
- Team Bass is a smaller circuit now, but comprised entirely of seasoned tournament anglers with all members being a threat, anytime, anywhere.
- 20 pound bags barely raise an eyebrow.
- The DNR starts requiring drain plug removal while trailering boats.

2013

- 301 tournaments later, membership is a close knit group of 23. Average field is 9 teams.
- Founding member Jim Chapman retires from tournaments at age 79.
- Glenn and Joni Schultz pace 6th out of 85 teams in the Viking Bass tournament on Minnetonka.
- Jack Kiffe wins a 45 boat Pro AM on Minnetonka.
- Harlan Lemke turns 80 and ties Wayne and Chad Chapman for AOY.
- The "Fishing with Bill Dance" TV show is still going after 46 years.
- "Fishing with Roland Martin" TV show spans 48 years.
- Al Lindner's TV career goes into 43rd year.

2014

- Team Bass skill levels are on par with any circuit around and its tougher to win than ever.
- \$500 rods and \$20,000 to \$50,000 bass boats are common.
- Member boats now average 150 HP.
- Fantasy becomes reality with side scan and mapping technology in electronics.
- The internet has replaced books, magazines, seminars and VCRs as an incredible powerhouse of information and communications for all things fishing.
- Bass are still bass
- Anglers are still anglers.
- Weigh-ins are still weigh-ins,



Vintage Team Bass



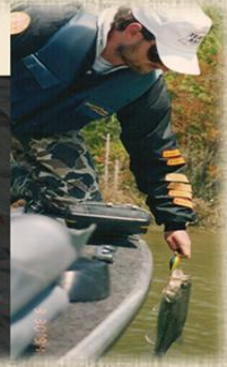
Club icon Jimmy Chapman.



Roger Rucci and Matt Schneider, 2004 AOY and Junior AOY winners.



In the early years, members earned patches for their club jackets.



1992 AOY Top Three: Dale Glader (3rd), Wayne Chapman (1st), Floyd Carlson (2nd).



Lightning strikes Leigh Kinnan's graphite rod in 2005 while it was leaning up against a tree at their cabin.



Jack Kiffe, Oct 1992, smallmouth tournament Ford Dam. The '89' Alumacraft Phantom is now owned by Jim Chapman. Notice the Ford sign in the background, plant is gone now.



Club jacket circa 1994

1992 Club Brochure (Folded Pocket Size)



1992 SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Landing	Species
May 2	Lower Mississippi	Hidden Falls	White Bass
May 16	Upper St. Croix	N. of Stillwater	Smallmouth
June 6	Upper Mississippi	Riverside Park	Smallmouth
June 13	No. & So. Center	S. Center Landing	Largemouth Draw Tournament
June 27	Forest Lake	Lake One Landing	Largemouth
July 11	Upper Mississippi	Riverside Park	Smallmouth (guy/gal)
July 25	Upper Mississippi	Riverside Park	Smallmouth
Aug 8	Upper Mississippi	Riverside Park	Smallmouth
Aug 15	Upper Mississippi 1992 Minnesota State	Riverside Park Smallmouth Championship	Smallmouth
Aug 29	White Bear Lake	Ramsey Cty. Beach	Large & Smallmouth
Sept 19	Lower Mississippi	Hidden Falls	Smallmouth/ Largemouth non-point Draw Tournament
Oct 3	Upper Mississippi	Riverside	Smallmouth
Oct 17	To Be Determined	Tournament of Champions	

UPPER MISSISSIPPI



Get In On The
ACTION!

Good fishermen know that the best way to improve their skills is through other fishermen. That's why it's no accident that eight of our members finished in the top fifteen places at the 1991 Smallmouth Bass Championship held in Anoka. Here's your chance to learn from fishermen in the metro area.

Join now and get in on a whole season of events that will transform you from a good fisherman to an expert!

As a member, you are eligible to fish our nine metro tournaments held on the following waters:

- Lower Mississippi
- Upper St. Croix
- Upper Mississippi
- Forest Lake
- White Bear Lake
- North and South Center Lake

You will also receive a monthly newsletter to keep you informed on club activities.

You are invited to visit our monthly meeting at Billy's Bar on 4th and Jackson, downtown Anoka. Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. (downstairs at Billy's).

For more information, call our president, Scott Mason, at 425-3432.

Don't put off becoming a top fisherman another year.

Join Today!

Yes, I would like to join the *Upper Mississippi Smallmouth Club*. Enclosed is my annual membership fee of \$20.00.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Mail to: JACK KIFFE
318 114TH AVE NW
COON RAPIDS MN 55448





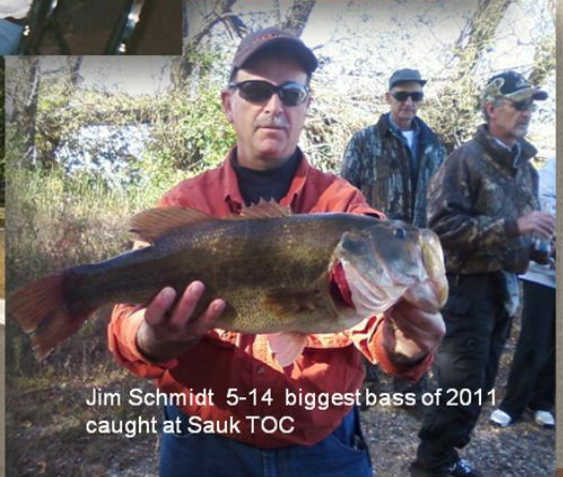
Banquet 1992 at Billy's



Scott Mason 2005



Deanna & Harlan Lemke Clearwater 2012



Jim Schmidt 5-14 biggest bass of 2011 caught at Sauk TOC

Banquet 1992 Judy Delameter Liz Glader Mary Mason



Jim & Jason Schmidt White Bear 2013



1998 FIELD NOTES....

Minnetonka and Others Hold Big Bass

- As much fishing pressure that Minnetonka gets, the bass just seem to get bigger and bigger. In 1998, two seven pound bass were weighed in at a Denny's tournament. One was 6.99 pounds and the other was 7.01 pounds. A couple of eight pounders have also been weighed in at tournaments in the last few years as well. With all the controversy about over fishing and milfoil, the bass on Minnetonka seem to keep on doing what they do best— grow. Where else in Minnesota could you come in with a seven pound bass and not be sure you have big fish.
- You may not catch a ten pound bass in Minnesota, but the average size here is comparable to southern waters like Florida and Texas. The Bassmasters circuit has a typical average size from 1-8 to 2-0 whether they are in Florida, Texas or Minnesota. In fact the average on Minnetonka in the 1997 Bassmaster Top 150 was actually higher with a 2-2 average. The average size tournament big bass in Florida is 5 pounds. The average for Team Bass tournaments in the last four years has been between 1-8 and 1-14. Our big bass average is 3-13. Studies have shown that the northern strain largemouth is more prolific and aggressive. This means a higher population and a fish that is easier to catch. Because of the short growing season, the northern strain has adapted to be less effected by cold fronts in order to survive. The Florida strain won't bite for days when a cold front rolls through.

Wrong Species

- At both May Wapogasset tournaments, it was very difficult to get a bass over the 14 inch Wisconsin minimum. But not when it comes to white bass. Harlan and Mark Lemke got into a school of whites that were bigger than the average largemouth. Wapogasset is on a river system and supports a population of these scrappy fighters in the 1-1/2 to 2 pound class. These are generally caught more during the ice fishing season.
- At the September 19th Prior Lake tournament it was announced before the morning take off that any smallmouth will not be eligible and must be released immediately. Minnesota implemented a new law in which all smallmouth

on inland waters must be released after September 15th. Not many smallmouth are caught on Prior, but given the tough bite that day any fish over the 12 inch minimum would help. As luck would have it, Ed Eisenschenk caught a 2 pounder and had to release it. The new law hurt them only a little however, as he and partner Mike Cowles got their limit of largemouth, weighing in 8-9 for sixth place.

- During both Wapogasset and Minnetonka tournaments, several members caught muskies in the 15 to 20 pound class and a couple of large northerners were also caught, one of which was around 20 pounds. This caliber of fish would have been unheard of in a metro lake just a few years ago. The muskie stocking program has been very successful and has it's supporters and opponents. Some claim that they displace the bass and other species. This may have some truth to it on some of the smaller lakes. Bald Eagle for instance is not the bass lake that it was before the muskies took off. The larger lakes like Minnetonka seem to be have enough habitat to keep the balance in check. With the catch and release concept catching on from muskies and bass, big northerners are starting to show up more and more. In the past it would have been unheard of to release a 10 pound northern from a metro lake. Even big walleyes are being released regularly now.

National Scene

- Betting the farm. At the recently held BASS Fishing Techniques class held in Milwaukee, the question was asked of the pros, how much does it cost to fish on the Bassmasters Tournament Trail? The answer is a staggering \$50,000 a year. Entry fees, travel expenses, equipment, tackle, etc. add up in a hurry. Then if you don't cash a check for the first two years, you will have to make up \$150,000 by the third year and so on and so on. They call pro fishing "play for pay" but more realistically maybe it should be called "pay to play". Even so, there doesn't seem to be a shortage of takers any time soon.
- Just like in our tournaments, some years the weedline might be hot and some years the guys that flip shallow water cover can do no wrong. The same thing happens on the national tournament trail. In 1997 David Fritz seemed

unbeatable. His deep water cranking was working everywhere he went. In 1998 however, the pattern fell apart and he failed to make the Classic. On the flip side if the shallow bite is going strong all year, who would be better to cash in on it than Denny Brauer. The flippin' king not only won the Bassmasters Classic, He also captured Angler of the Year in the FLW circuit. His various wins last year catapulted him passed Rick Clunn into the all time top money winner spot in professional fishing. He was the first pro fisherman to be featured on a network talk show (David Letterman) and the first pro fisherman to be on a Wheaties box. In response to animal rights protesters for having a fisherman honored as an athlete, Minneapolis based General Mills didn't give an inch and reports that it was the most popular Wheaties box in history with 75% selling out within a week.

Dodging Bullets

- Finding and catching the bass is one thing, but your equipment must also do it's job. Sooner or later, you will be faced with a mechanical problem on the water or on the road to the water. Last year our members had their share of trouble but luck and ingenuity favored the fisherman in these cases.
- Brad Seiwert barley made it to the June 6th Minnetonka weigh in when one of his carburetors started flooding over. Making it to the weigh in is one thing, but getting it fixed before the Prior Lake tournament the next Saturday is another. Calling around to all the marine dealers in June is like trying to get gold out of Fort Knox. A coworker suggested that he try a small repair shop that specializes in OMC called Robbinsdale Marine. Sure enough, they seemed to know exactly what was wrong and got him in and out in one day.
- While loading up after the September 19th Prior lake tournament, Wayne Chapman's 60 hp Yamaha took a hard hit on the pavement at the top of the ramp. Worst fears confirmed the lower unit started leaking oil, indicating a cracked housing. Closer inspection pointed to a loosened drain plug, but it was tight. The drain plug gasket seemed

OK, but taking a long shot, he replaced it anyway. It hasn't leaked oil since.

- While prefishing for the May 23rd Wapogasset tournament Steve Kurtovich and Mark Sanders snapped a U-bolt on Steve's Skeeter trailer that holds the winch stand to the tongue, a serious matter since this leaves the whole boat loose on the trailer. By then it was Friday evening and everything in the area was already closed. By sheer luck, they saw Jack Kiffe and Scott Mason walking into a restaurant and flagged them down. Jack's Ranger trailer just happened to have three U-bolts holding his winch stand. They replaced the broken one on Steve's with the center one from Jack's until they got home and could get a new one.
 - Ron Berg's luck continued even after he and Greg Propson blew away the competition at the August 15th Horse-shoe tournament with 17-3. After making it all the way home to Bloomington, he discovered a shredded trailer tire that could have blown at any time during the 75 MPH drive. The trailer axle had shifted moving the tire back into the fender, peeling it like a potato.
- ### Get a Life
- The odds are slim that you will make every meeting and tournament during the year, in fact the odds in 1998 were exactly 1 in 99 because out of all 99 members, only Brad Seiwert was able to accomplish that. He received the prestigious "Get a Life" trophy for his efforts and is among the elite few that have earned the award over the years.

1998 The Denny Brauer Wheaties box is their all time best seller



General Mills
BOX TOPS
FOR EDUCATION

Earn Cash
For Your School!

Crispy

MADE WITH
100% WHOLE WHEAT

WHEATIES

'n Raisins

Sweetened,
HONEY-TOUCHED
WHOLE WHEAT
FLAKES and raisins

1998



WAL-MART
FLW tour
ANGLER
of the YEAR

DENNY BRAUER

Evinrude

WINDMILL

Ranger

NET WT 1 LB 2 OZ (18 OZ) (510g)



Did You Know ...

- That the only angler to win the crown by fishing just 6 tournaments was Floyd Carlson in 1994. He made it look easy that year, cashing in on his expertise in river small-mouth. He won all three tournaments on the Mississippi with a 17-12, 17-7, and 10-15. His other three finishes that year were a second at Minnetonka, third on Clearwater and fourth on Big Marine.
- That going all the way back to 1990, the "Angler of the Year" has been won almost every single time out of an aluminum boat. The only exception was in 1994 when Floyd Carlson used his Alumacraft Bandit to win the three river tournaments and his glass Dynatrac on the lakes. This goes to show you that it's the fisherman that catches the fish not the boat. Some of our senior members have even gone full circle, owning a blaster for a while and then going back to a smaller tin boat. Tin does have some advantages such as ease of trailering and launching, miserly gas mileage, tighter maneuverability and cost. They have their down side as well, making long runs with a smaller, slower boat can be a rough, wet ride. But maybe that is part of the advantage, you spend more time with your line in the water and not as much time running. There is nothing wrong with a big, high powered bass boat. they're fast, comfortable and safe. Eight out of the eleven 1998 tournaments were won out of glass boats, but one thing veteran tournament anglers have learned is not to under estimate anyone, no matter what boat they have, the three o'clock weigh-in can be the great equalizer.
- That the day before the June 13th Prior lake tournament, the weed killer patrol was out in full force. Studies have shown that the poison may not effect the fish, but how about humans? You have to get a little concerned when your throat starts burning and you get a headache from breathing the powerful herbicide. Those were the symptoms that some of our members experienced while prefishing the day before the tournament. If surveyed, wouldn't you think that most people would probably choose thick, healthy, green milfoil over dumping poison where kids are breathing and swimming in it and you wind up with a bunch of brown, mushy, dead weeds covering the lake.

Tech Wars

- 1998 is the year when under water cameras truly opened up a new dimension in unraveling the mysteries of the fish's environment, touching off a whole new round of controversy along with it. The cameras are steadily dropping in price from the \$1500 original model, presently down to \$699, and are scheduled to drop some more this year. Last year about 5,000 cameras were sold in all 50 states, with sales of \$1.4 million and well over \$3 million projected for 1999. In Minnesota only, the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee voted to ban the camera for fishing and it will move to the senate floor for debate, after failing to do so last year. As this is being written, the bill is being amended almost daily. It's doubtful that those that oppose the camera have actually gone out and used one, because those of us that have can tell you that it is no miracle fish finder. It probably will be the best thing that ever happened to the fish, because you spend a lot of time "looking" down there instead of fishing. You also spend too much time trying to catch fish that aren't going to bite. Ice fishing is the ideal application for the camera, but that's a short season and mostly pan fish which are over abundant in most cases.

The reason that the cameras are banned from the Team Bass tournaments is to prevent controversy in the event that someone with a camera happens to win a tournament. Then everyone would feel that they have to get one in order to compete. This would be a financial stain on our members (at the time of the ruling cameras were \$1500) and gets away from the low stakes competition format. You can use it for prefishing, just not during the tournament. The long and short of it is, if the technology exists, it's not going to go away. No doubt the GPS will prove to be far more detrimental to the fish than the cameras. If fish hooks were invented today, they would probably be outlawed too. Meanwhile isn't our continuing mission to seek out new worlds and boldly go where no man has ever gone before—Kirk out.





Nathan Whiting



Brian Wick



Dale Glader

Oct 7, 2000 Super Stars, South Center



Coon Lake tournament, August 28, 2002

1999 Stats

1998 1997 1996 1995

A total of 1493 bass were weighed in totaling 3037 pounds.	771 bass, 1463 pounds	957 bass, 1,714 pounds	636 bass, 1,118 pounds	580 bass, 1,118 pounds
The average size bass was 2-0.	1-8	1-13	1-12	1-14
The highest winning weight was 20-1, brought in by Brian Block and Jason Berg, Sept. 11, Minnetonka.	20-5 Minnetonka	16-14 Green	18-12 Clearwater	21-8 Minnetonka (Club Record)
The average size big bass was 4-4.	4-2	3-0	4-0	4-2
The most successful tournament was 390 pounds, June 19th, Knife Lake.	265 Pounds Minnetonka	197 pounds Minnetonka	153 pounds Sylvia-Twin	160 pounds Minnetonka
The average total pounds of bass weighed in at each tournament was 253.	121 pounds	163 pounds	101 pounds	101 pounds
The average number of teams was 32.	22	22	14	12
The average winning weight was 16-12 pounds.	15-0	12-8	12-14	15-0
Out of 377 chances, 184 teams weighed in limits and 51 blanked.	258 Chances 63 limits, 50 blanked	264 chances 93 limits 57 blanked	168 chances 67 limits 23 blanked	133 chances 70 limits 21 blanked
The biggest bass of the year was 5-8, Steve Copps, Horseshoe.	5-5 Minnetonka	5-13 Green lake	5-7 Clearwater	5-2 Minnetonka

Note: Record broken again in 2000

2000

1766 bass

3706 pounds

RECORD

The following lure choices played a deciding role in either a first or second place finish in 1999:

Jig and Pig/Plastic	7 times	Was best in cool water early and late in the season, shallow cover of all types. Deep milfoil.
Texas Rigged Worm	5	Texas rigged power worms were productive around shallow water cover in several summer tournaments.
Spinnerbaits	4	Produced better in the last half of the season into late fall.
Crankbaits	3	Shallow to medium running crankbaits, including the lipless variety, contributed to two post spawn and one late fall top finishes.
Jig and Worm	2	Most effective during our toughest tournaments.
Tube baits	2	Spawning and post spawn fish, summer dock pattern.
Jerkbaits	1	Post-spawn fish.
Slugs	1	Sight fishing spawning beds.
Rat	1	Thick late summer weed beds.

Deep vs. Shallow

14 first or second place finishes came entirely from shallow water (less than 8 feet).

3 came entirely from deep water.

7 came from a combination of deep and shallow water.



Scott Mason Goose 2003



Joe Adriens Chisago 2002



Brad Seiwert 7-5 Indian 2012



Jack Kiffe Lake Fork 1993



Aaron Gladhill Chad Chapman
Sunrise 2013



Wayne Chapman Clear 2005



Steve Hanson and Yotaki
(Shimamo Executive from Japan)
South Center Oct 2006



Steve Naegele Lower Miss 1994



Roger Rucci Horseshoe 2006

1999 FIELD NOTES.

Bits and pieces of interest from last years season.

Brother can you spare a—trolling motor?

Although we take trolling motors for granted, all it takes is a snapped cable and you're left with only the wind or an anchor for boat control. When your trolling motor quits, you might as well quit too. Some experienced tournament anglers carry a spare unit, just in case. Jack Kiffe, who is sponsored by Minnkota, does just that and Brian Wick is a very grateful competitor because of it. After making the long drive to Washington-Stella to prefish, Brian's day was cut short when the dreaded snapped cable left him helpless. Jack was also there that day and volunteered to help. His spare motor fit right on Brian's boat and he was back in business. By the Knife Lake tournament Brian had his motor fixed and gave Jack back his spare.

Upgrading the hard way.

Moving up to a bigger, faster boat happened a lot quicker than Nathan Whiting had planned. A not so funny thing happened on the way to Sylvia-Twin for the July 24th Guy-Gal tournament. You may recall his unmistakable camouflaged aluminum boat with the shark teeth painted on the bow. Apparently the shark decided it was hungry for a mini van. At 5 A.M. on Highway 10 in Anoka every boat owners nightmare happened. The latch on the hitch coupler broke and the tongue popped off. The hooks on the safety chains straightened out and the trailer went down an embankment smashing into the side of a mini van in a used car lot. The bow of the boat was pushed in and was a total loss. Insurance took care of all that and more importantly nobody was hurt. Not wasting any time, by the August 7th Horseshoe tournament, the Whiting brothers were clipping along in a late model Champion.

Smile your on Candid Camera.

It is becoming more and more common for property owners to come running out snapping pictures to intimidate fishermen working "their" shoreline. It happened at Washington on August 14th to Dale Glader and Roger Rucci. No doubt hearing the blast off, the land owner was just waiting to make his point when the first boat

got to his property line. Dale and Roger were using buzzbaits and poppers, not even working the docks when the old guy came out in his bathrobe and started clicking away. No words were exchanged as the whole thing was stupid. Mister, get a life. (A recent In-Fisherman article stated that a landmark case involving lakeshore property owners and dock fishermen was settled by the Texas Court. In Texas, you now not only have the right to fish under and around private docks, but anyone that harasses a fisherman is subject to a fine, jail time or both. Hopefully the trend will spread).

Yogi and the two fishermen.

Doug Stahly and Terry Wietfeld experienced mother nature up close and personal on a fishing trip to Lake of the Woods last summer. Camping on an Island, they were invaded by a hungry bear. The determined bear stood his ground ruining a cooler and other camping gear.

Ouch!

The score was: Rocks—4, Lower units—0
At various tournaments this year, there was some serious battles between rocks and lower units, with the rocks usually winning. Brian Hoffies spent most of the day limping back to the weigh-in after ruining his lower unit in the river on Horseshoe. Jim Chapman was shopping for a new lower unit after hitting a rock 100 yards from shore on Washington. Brad Seiwert reaked a prop while driving his boat on the trailer at Knife and Bill Young also dinged his prop at Knife during the Super Stars tournament.

Bag gag.

With the high number of teams last year, there is always a shortage of bags to go around. Seeing the need, Bill Knorr acquired a large roll of thick poly bags. However, nobody thought to test the bags for strength. After handing out several at the

1999 Field notes Continued...

Horseshoe weigh-in, every one of them split wide open when filled with water. This could have been a real disaster. Unbelievably, no fish were lost in the mishap. We have all new reinforced weigh-in bags for 2000. (During the warmer tournaments we need to limit the number of bags so fish won't be held in line so long).

How much is that crayfish in the livewell?

It was a very close weigh-in at the June 12th Washington-Stella tournament. Only three ounces separated 2nd through 4th place. Dale Schudi and Bill Knorr came in 4th with 13-0 and Roger Ellwein and Mike Lewis took 3rd with 13-1 and Deitz Dietrich and Jeff Audette came in 2nd with 13-2. After the weigh-in Dale and Bill noticed a large crayfish in the livewell in the 2 ounce class. If one of their fish hadn't spit that craw they might have come in second.

What a day.

Steve Kordoski and Troy Barrott had their share of good luck and bad luck at the May 29th Minnetonka tournament. Starting with bad luck, before making it to their first spot they were pulled over for speeding. It was good luck though when they got off with a warning. It was good luck again when it came to fishing, getting a limit right away with plenty of time to upgrade. More good luck shined when Steve's big fish (4-9) hit a top water rat while he wasn't paying attention and only realized a fish was on when he went to reel in. Then it was back to bad luck when he blew his favorite reel while fighting the big fish. Good luck kicked in again as he was able to land the fish hand over hand and cash in on big fish and 1st place with 17-0. Bad luck got in the last jab however as there was a ticket waiting for them for no trailer license.

A slow start.

A won't quit attitude saved the day for Deitz Dietrich and Jeff Audette at the June 12th Washington-Stella tournament. They were delayed from fishing for a good hour and a half with water in the gas tank and running down the battery. Multiple game plans from pre-fishing paid off and they got their fish, winding up in second place.

No pain, no gain.

Having caught nothing but northerns for the first two hours, Dale Glader and Roger Rucci were starting to second guess their strategy at the June 12th Washington-Stella tournament. Then they figured out the pattern. In order for the bass to bite, Dale had to bury a treble hook in his hand. While reaching down to grab a 5 pound pike, the Rat-L-Trap popped loose and hooked him. Right after that Roger got their biggest fish and the bass started coming. They wound up winning the event with 13-13. (Kids, don't try this).

Winning by a nose—again.

It was a photo finish at the Aug. 28th Knife lake tournament. Matt Herrick and Greg Duerr had the winning weight of 19-7 in the palm of their hand, but a faulty livewell pump resulted in two dead fish penalties (4 oz.) giving them 19-3. John Fairbanks and Bill Warren narrowly beat them with 19-5. This is not the first time John and Bill have won this way. In 1997, Chad Chapman and Jesse Jedlicki also had a faulty pump and were penalized 6 ounces, winding up with 12-13. John and Bill beat them by 5 ounces with 13-2.

Redeeming qualities.

If you fish a lot of different circuits, the formats can be confusing. Especially when you are getting up at 4 A.M. At the August 28th Knife Lake tournament Brian Block and Jason Berg came in with a 13 pound bag good for 18th place. They would have jumped up considerably had they known it was a 6 bass limit not 5. They threw back fish all day long. As if to settle a score, they redeemed themselves by winning the very next tournament. Not only did they win on September 11th at Minnetonka, it was the highest winning weight for the year (20-1).

For Sale

1989 Aggressor 17' glass bassboat, 150 Force outboard, bunk trailer, '95 Minnkota bow mount, Hummingbird, 2 batteries, twin livewells. Call Brad Spenser 763-479-3525 eve, 952-476-3734 days.
Team Bass Special \$4000



TEAM BASS Mascot



◆ The 1975 GMC K1500 has attended all 301 Team Bass Tournaments to date.

◆ Has had a few major surgeries over the years.

◆ 407,000 miles and still ticking, but close to retirement.

◆ Is recognized at boat ramps everywhere.



It was 1997 when Bob asked if his 11 year old son could fish a tournament. Bob was confident that young Chris could handle what ever came along and Chris proceeded to prove him right, soon overtaking Barb as Bob's regular partner. It wasn't long before Team Bass adopted the likable kid and at the same time, Chris had unknowingly become the original Junior Angler. Inspired by this young man, Team Bass began to place more importance on getting kids involved and implemented the Junior Angler program.

When Chris turned 16, he was no longer classified as a Junior Angler, but actually he had become a knowledgeable tournament angler long before and left in his path a high standard for future Junior Anglers to live up to.

Bob and Barb were wise to start him young, getting in as much experience possible before girls, cars, sports and work started overshadowing fishing. Just getting a kid that age out of bed is not easy. But Chris had enough motivation to not only get up at all hours, but faced the cold, wind and tough fishing better than most of us.

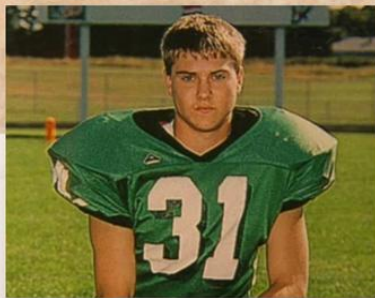
Many of us fished a tournament or two with Chris and it really struck all of us how he quietly fished hard all day and never once complained. He could cast and rig his tackle like a veteran and it was really something when this "kid" would know what to do and when. He was the type of young man that you truly enjoyed taking under your wing, evident by the grooming process he was getting.

As I am writing this, it really hits me how missed Chris will be. Some special memories for me are, the many times he helped me sign up the teams in the morning, collecting the money and handing out change. Fishing with him on Knife Lake and I also got a kick out of how much he would grow over the winter.

In 2002 we started presenting an award to the Junior Angler of the Year. Here after this will be the Christopher Schneider Award, dedicated to the memory and great example of this young man climbing the ranks.

In a quick moment, all these memories become infinitely more precious.

With great sadness,
Dale and all of us at Team Bass





Roger Rucci 1995



Jack Kiffe Bob Schneider Mary Kiffe
Maple Lake 2009



Bob Schneider Maple Lake 2009



Barb Schneider 2009



Jack Kiffe 1994

Dale Glader Gabe Frost Sunrise 2013



Scott Mason 2006

Upper Mississippi Smallmouth Club
members that placed in the 1991 MN State
Smallmouth Championship



3rd Place
Bruce Delameter, Dave Bolt



8th Place
Del Christen with Mayor



10th Place
Dale Glader, Roger Rucci

UPPER MISSISSIPPI



Founding member

Mark Shore with
25 lb., 3 oz. King
Salmon, caught
at Manitowac,
Wisconsin, May
1987.



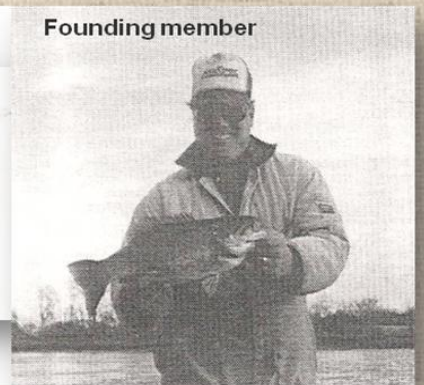
Founding member

Tim Byrd with
6 lb., 2 oz.
smallmouth bass
caught on Upper
Mississippi, fall of
1990.



Founding member

Lee Barth with
19-3/4", 5 lb.
smallmouth bass,
caught north of
Anoka on
Mississippi,
fall of 1990.





Brian Block South Center 2000



Nathan Whiting Chad Whiting
South Center 2000



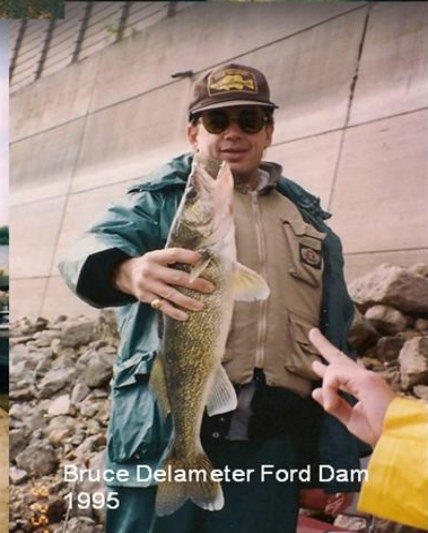
Barry Berg Lake Sarah 2001



Chad Chapman Snail 2002



Liz Glader Coon Lake Guy/Gal
1996



Bruce Delameter Ford Dam
1995



Jack Kiffe Big Marine 1993



Scott Mason 2005

Bass Fishing Then and Now

Not too many of us are old enough to remember what it was like in the early days of bass fishing before outboard motors, electronics and crowded ramps. We all just assume that it must have been a lot better fishing back then. But those of us that were fortunate enough to hear Harlan Lemke's seminar a few years ago got some rare insight into the olden days of bass fishing. He mentioned how his Dad was a bass guide in Alexandria going back into the 1940's and surprisingly, illustrated the point that the way we fish for bass may have changed a lot over the years, but the bass itself hasn't changed much at all. If anything it's better.

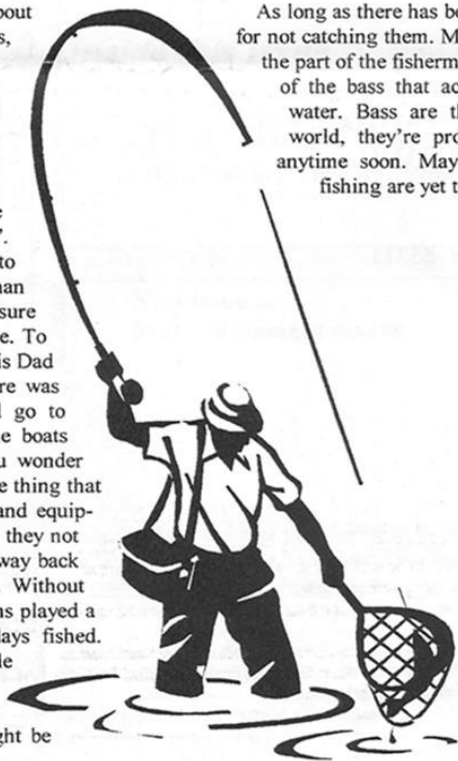
Recently Harlan's Dad (and Grandpa to Mark Lemke) passed away at age 96, one of the last of the "old school" breed of fishing guides. "He would row a wooden boat all day for \$5", says Harlan. "His customers were either resort guests or people that had summer homes on the area lakes. Many of these clients were wealthy and famous business people from down south and had a preference for bass. The season was shorter back then, running from June to Labor day and all the bays used to be posted until the end of June to protect spawning beds. Fall was hunting time, once that started nobody went fishing. The limits were about the same, 6 bass, 6 walleyes, 15 crappies, but you were allowed 6 northerns. The size of the bass was the same back then too. Just like today, there were a lot of bass in the Alex area, but not many big ones. Out of thousands of bass caught, he caught several 5 pounders, but only a couple around 6. There seems to be more and bigger bass in those same lakes today".

There is probably no one answer as to why bass fishing could be better now than decades ago. Apparently fishing pressure does not play such a role in the catch rate. To put it in perspective, Harlan says that if his Dad went to a lake in the old days and there was already a single boat on it, he would go to another lake. Compare that with all the boats pounding the same waters now and you wonder how there's any fish left, but there is. One thing that has certainly changed is the skill level and equipment that is standard today. Not only did they not have electric trolling motors or locators way back when, they didn't even have outboards. Without modern equipment, the weather conditions played a much greater role in the number of days fished. Given all the tools of the trade available nowadays, the efficiency benchmark is much higher. Even if the numbers of bass are down on a given lake, you might be

able to actually catch more than with the old methods and much higher population. Catch and release has obviously played a large roll in the continued boom in bass fishing. As much heat as tournaments take for crowding the lakes, they can take a lot of credit for the catch and release mentality.

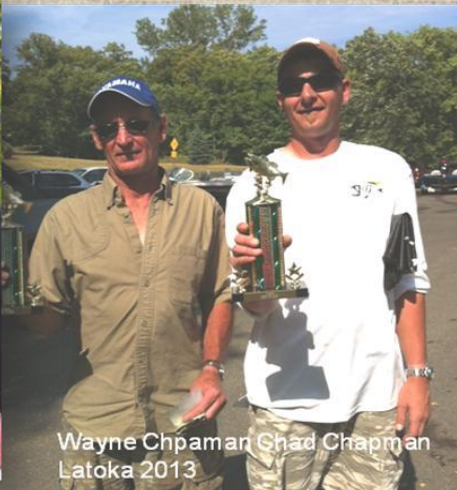
Of course, there are many other complex circumstances which are responsible for the continued success of America's favorite gamefish, but maybe the bass itself should be admired for adapting and thriving with the flow of progress. Since the beginning, bass in Minnesota have needed almost no management from the DNR. Other States have introduced them with great success into a wide variety of habitats, proving even more their ability to flourish. In some of the southern reservoirs that lack spawning areas, bass are building nests in the tops of flooded trees out in 30 feet of water. How many species could pull that off? As our Minnesota lakes change more and more from chemicals, over use and development, they seem to find a way not just to survive, but excel. Milfoil hasn't hurt the bass in Minnetonka and the zebra mussel has caused an explosion in the smallmouth population on Lake Erie.

As long as there has been bass, there has been excuses for not catching them. Most likely it is a shortcoming on the part of the fisherman and the keen resourcefulness of the bass that account for a tough day on the water. Bass are the raccoon of the underwater world, they're probably not going to disappear anytime soon. Maybe the good old days of bass fishing are yet to come.

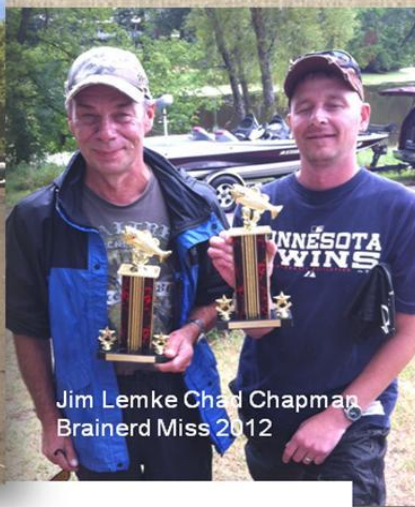




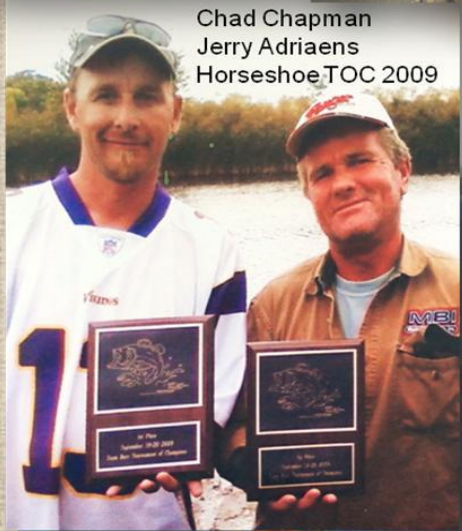
Jim Chapman Chad Chapman
Big Marine 2012



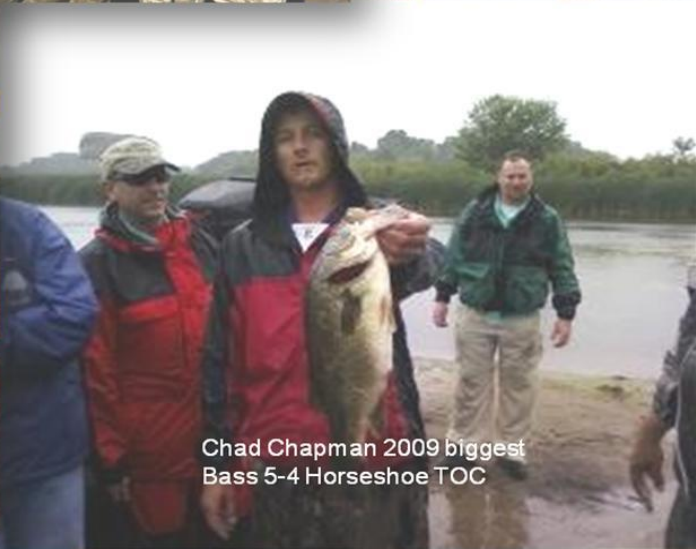
Wayne Chapman Chad Chapman
Latoka 2013



Jim Lemke Chad Chapman
Brainerd Miss 2012



Chad Chapman
Jerry Adriaens
Horseshoe TOC 2009



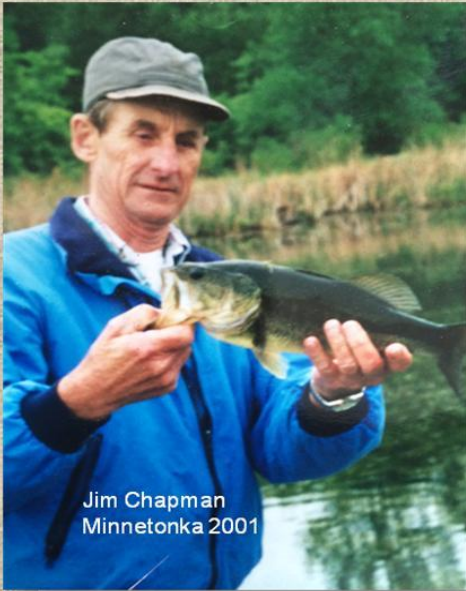
Chad Chapman 2009 biggest
Bass 5-4 Horseshoe TOC



Brad Seiwert
5-11 Pelican 2008



Jim Chapman Clearwater 2013



Jim Chapman
Minnetonka 2001



Aaron Gladhill first tournament
Upper Miss 2006



Aaron Gladhill White Bear
2010 winner



"I BECAME A PROFESSIONAL FISHERMAN, BUT DISCOVERED
I COULDN'T LIVE ON MY NET INCOME."