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ROCHESTER BASSMASTERS BASS NEWS

JULY 2017

HAROLD TAKES DAY 2 AT THE ISLANDS



**TEN TIME
ANGLER OF
THE YEAR
MARK HAROLD
WINS DAY 2 AT
THE VISION-BUICK-GMC
1000 ISLANDS AOYS
WITH 20.15 LBS.**

PHOTOS BY: FRED BLOOM, MARK HAROLD. EDITED BY: LAUREN BRAUN

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1000 ISLANDS

KEEWAYDIN STATE PARK, ALEXANDRIA BAY, NY
ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES - JUNE 25, 2017



JACOB ZARMESKI
2nd Place - 14.27 lbs.
& 5.20 lb. Lunker

Mark Harold returned to his winning ways by outpacing the field of 29 anglers by almost 6 pounds. Mark caught 12 fish on the day and weighed in a stringer of smallmouth weighing 20.15 lbs.

Mark said, "After weighing in 18.72 pounds and finishing second in the opening tournament held on Saturday, I made the decision that on Sunday I would not go to my security blanket largemouths like I did on Saturday. The plan was to spend the whole day fishing for the less abundant but bigger smallmouths. If I couldn't catch five smallmouths and bombed I was okay with that, I was going for the win.

Instead of writing again about what is now known as "The Secret Lure", you can go to my Day One (June 24) report to read about this moving bait.

On Saturday, I had arrived at my smallmouth area after 8 o'clock with about a ten pound limit of largemouths in the livewell. Today, with an empty livewell, I rolled into the area with only hope and anticipation of a day full of giant smallies willing to eat the secret lure. It didn't take long for that hope and anticipation to become a reality.

In short order, smallmouth were going into the livewell. At one point an almost five pounder was added to the well and on the very next cast another close to five pounds joined her. When I caught my limit fish it was a little before 8 o'clock and

the five totaled over 19 pounds. Those security blanket largemouth that I decided not to visit today were a distant memory, as I had over 19 pounds before the time I had started targeting smallmouth the day before.

I caught 11 smallmouths and one largemouth on the day as I culled my way up to five smallmouth weighing 20.15 pounds.

Not so surprisingly, my partner **Jake Zaremski** accepted when I offered him one of my secret lures. He used the lure to quickly add three fish to the two he already had, the last being a 5.20 pound smallmouth. That big fish was the biggest caught by anyone during the two tournament days. Jake, who is a new Rochester Bassmasters member, weighed in 14.27 pounds to place second in the tourney. Congratulations Jake!!!"

Rookie **Jake Zaremski** brought in a limit of 14.27 lbs. to take 2nd place. Jake also had lunker on the day, a 5.20 lb. smallmouth.

Jake said, "I spent fishing in 6-10 FOW around large grass patches looking for holes in the grass. My first fish came on a drop shot on a Dobyns Savvy Series Micro Guide rod paired with an Ardent Finesse 2000 reel spooled with 10 lb. Sunline SX1 braid with a 7 lb. Sunline Super FC Sniper leader. My second fish came on a white popper while the wind laid down for about 20 minutes. My other three fish, including my largest, 5.2 pound smallmouth, came around the same large grass patches with wind blowing hard on the same rod and reel setup as my drop shot. Both days my boaters put me on good schools of fish. Day 1, I had the bites for a good bag but I missed opportunities, and day 2 I boated all the bites I had. "

Dave Livingston weighed in a five fish 14.17 lb. limit for 3rd place.

Kurt Keller caught five fish on the day and brought in 13.99 lbs. for 4th place.

Kurt said, "The bite started slow for **Aidan Blake** & me but once the wind picked up so did the bite. I caught good fish both days of practice on a couple different, moving baits but I could not get that bite going Sunday. Aidan got us on a worm rig that was producing in the 3-4 foot waves.

We drifted countless times until we found an area approximately 50 yards square that was loaded with BIG fish. We struggled to get all the fish in the boat fighting the fish/waves/nerves. Thank you to Aidan for a great day on the water and a special thank you to **Mark Harold** who tolerated us fishing in the same general area all week-end and even offered suggestions other than a new location to fish. Mark is a true LEGEND! I'm sponsored by my wife who supports my fishing weekend adventures. My winnings will go toward a drift sock!"

2015 Angler of the Year, **Tom Haley** brought in 12.91 lbs. for 5th place.

Tom said, "I failed to find a reliable smallmouth pattern in practice on Thursday or Friday so I reluctantly decided to target largemouth, at least until I had a limit. Todd Keller and I spent about a half day targeting largemouth in practice just in case I failed to find smallmouth. Though most fish were caught pitching soft plastics in practice later in the day, I thought the area looked perfect for a popping frog. Started out on Saturday with a good bite and had a 12.5 lb limit by 6:30 and my final 13.37lb bag by 9:00. Spent the rest of the day trying to find big smallmouth but like practice, I failed to find them or upgrade my bag. I was pretty disappointed that I still couldn't figure out the smallmouth but was surprised I wasn't the only one come weigh-in time. Caught approximately 15-20 keeper largemouth and 2 smallmouth on day 1. Bulk of fish caught Spro popping frog or beaver (3/4 ounce) on 40-50lb Seaguar Smackdown braid.

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DAVE LIVINGSTON
3rd Place - 14.17 lbs.



KURT KELLER
4th Place - 13.99 lbs.

Day 2 arrived and **Todd Keller** was supportive of targeting largemouth all day. We arrived at my day one starting spot at within a few minutes I had my first blow up on the frog. Immediately I knew that the bite wasn't going to be as easy as Saturday. A few more fish swirled at the frog before I finally caught one. Worked the area pretty

hard and decided it was time to move to our second spot. Almost immediately I caught keepers on back to back casts on a senko. Fish were holding on shoals. Todd and I proceeded to catch 10-15 fish in the next hour. I'd catch 2 small keepers and Todd would catch a 2-2.5 pound fish. Action slowed but we still caught fish through the day on senkos and pitching soft plastics in 4-7 feet of water. Heavy winds made pitching a challenge but once the fish adapted to the weather change we were still able to get a consistent bite. Between the two of us I would estimate we caught 20-25 keepers, all largemouth. One nice pike had me a little excited as he had me buried in the weeds. We sailed by him at about 10 knots before I got the talon down, still hoping it was a really big bass, but by then he was behind the boat. Though I wasn't happy it was a pike, I'm glad he didn't get away with me thinking it could have been a huge bass. Had a good time spending two days fishing with Todd.

Wasn't hopeful going into this tournament, so I was glad to make it out with a 5th and 6th place finish. I didn't hit anything and survived Kurt Keller's attempt to poison me with year old rotten hotdogs. Also, I think **Tige Noni** and **Chris Burns** need to create their own version of the "Larry the Legend" videos based on **Mark "The Legend" Harold**. Of course Mark the Legend would be wearing a speedo while sporting the 70's Afro. YouTube Bass Fishing with Larry the Legend if you are not a current fan of Hunter's videos."

Bill Wittman weighed in 12.84 lbs. for a 6th place finish.

Weighing 12.76 lbs. to round out the top seven was **Bob Manley**.

Bob said, "Well we have another tournament destination out of the way. It was an interesting one in many ways. Off the water, I was reminded of the fun that can be had, hanging out at the motel, shooting the breeze, talking about fishing and other things. There was some imbibing done too.

I also learned a lot over the weekend. Both on the water and off the water. Unfortunately most of what I learned was off the water. One of the things that I didn't learn was any of **Tom Haley's** way points. I guess he doesn't imbibe as much as the



TOM HALEY
4th Place - 12.91 lbs.

rest of us. I learned the true definition of what a legend is. I was going to try and explain that one, but it might be easier for you to just ask Chris Burns when you see him. I learned where gray hotdogs come from and what should be done with them -- not what was done with them. That one could have turned out bad. I learned that

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BILL WITTMAN
6th Place - 12.84 lbs.



BOB MANLEY
7th Place - 12.76 lbs.



space panties no longer exist. Anyone that has ever sat around with Uncle Ray, knows what I'm talking about. And if you don't just ask him, I'm sure that he will explain it to you for the mere cost of a scotch.

On the water, I learned that the water wasn't as scary as we had been warned about. I learned that there is a 5mph speed limit 600 ft. from shore. I still haven't learned just how big an island has to be to have a shore.

I should probably talk a little about fishing. I didn't have much of a practice. I got up there Thursday evening with the plan of putting in a full day of practice on Friday; however, Friday we woke to heavy rain. It is one thing being out on the water when it starts to rain but it's hard to go out when you don't have to during the rain. We procrastinated, climbed back in bed, went to breakfast and hung around. It looked like there was going to be a break in the weather, so I grabbed my rain gear and headed out. I already had a game plan I mind, but with the high water and eminent dangers, I wanted to make the run there slowly so I would be more confident running in the morning at a faster speed. Did I tell you that there is a 5 mph speed limit 600ft from shore?

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1000 ISLANDS
KEEWAYDIN STATE PARK, ALEXANDRIA BAY, NY
ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES - JUNE 24, 2017

Place	Angler	Fish Caught	Fish Weighed	Weight	Lunker	Penalties	Total Weight
1	Mark Harold	5	5	20.15	4.83		20.15
2	Jacob Zarneski	5	5	14.27	5.20		14.27
3	Dave Livingston	5	5	14.17			14.17
4	Kurt Keller	5	5	13.99	4.99		13.99
5	Tom Haley	5	5	12.91			12.91
6	Bill Wittman	5	5	12.84			12.84
7	Bob Manley	5	5	12.76			12.76
8	Todd Keller	5	5	12.04			12.04
9	Matt Ferrante	5	5	11.66			11.66
10	Tyler Austin	5	5	11.07			11.07
11	Dom Cerasuolo	5	5	10.89			10.89
12	Rich Calabrese	5	5	10.84			10.84
13	Steve Levine	5	5	10.57			10.57
14	Jon Skirment	5	5	10.43			10.43
15	Aidan Blake	4	4	10.22			10.22
16	Fred Blom	5	5	9.75			9.75
17	Terry Gartz	5	5	9.01			9.01
18	Sean Brown	5	5	8.88			8.88
19	Kyle Sweers	4	3	8.14		0.25	7.89
20	Lock Holmes	4	4	7.76			7.76
21	Nate Kalpin	5	5	7.39			7.39
22	Chris Burns	5	5	6.72			6.72
23	Matt James	4	4	5.73			5.73
24	Tige Noni	4	4	5.62			5.62
25	Paul Caldwell	3	3	5.18			5.18
26	Drew Demtoft	2	2	3.90			3.90
27	Fred Ratcliffe	1	0	2.02		0.25	1.77
28	Dylan Mackaravitz	1	1	1.19			1.19
31	Merritt Diamond	0	0	0			0
34	Dalton Forte	0	0	0			0
30	Kevin Kinnear	0	0	0			0
33	Ray Law	0	0	0			0
32	Harvey Rhody	0	0	0			0
29	Will Rogers	0	0	0			0
	Kevin Larrison						DNF
	Non-Boater						
	Boater						
	Amateur						

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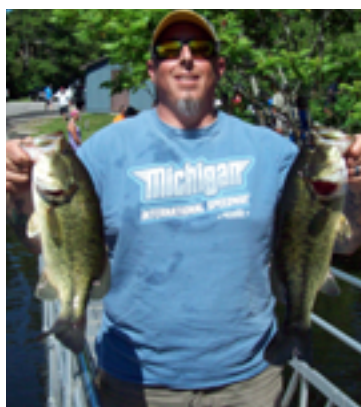
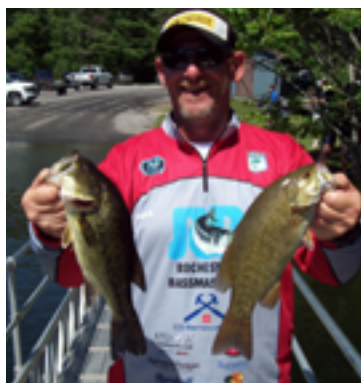
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I fished the entire weekend in Lake of the Isles. During practice, I was able to find the fish that would allow me to be able to write this article. On Saturday, after not having much luck fishing open water weed beds, I apologized to my non-boater, **Dalton Forte**. He asked why I was apologizing, feeling terrible I told him that I was about to back boat him. I had found fish hanging on the edge of the reeds. The pattern worked well. I hoped it would work as well on Sunday. It did.

On Sunday, I lost about an hour of fishing time. While idling out to the river for blast off, **Paul Caldwell** noticed that there wasn't any water spitting out of the back of my motor. Eventually the problem was solved and it was time to get going. I idled out through the narrows. Did I mention that there was a 5mph speed limit? I was pleased to find that I had the reeds all to myself. I found that because of the high water, the reeds at the edge had actually lifted and weren't attached to the bottom. The fish were hanging under the mats. I caught all my fish by flipping a blue rage tail to the reeds. I boated over 20 keepers throughout the day. Unfortunately they were all cookie cutters.

Later in the day the wind kicked up and I knew that it wasn't going to be a fun ride back. Did I mention that there was a 5 mph speed limit within 600 ft. from shore? It's not often I can say this, but I was right it wasn't fun.

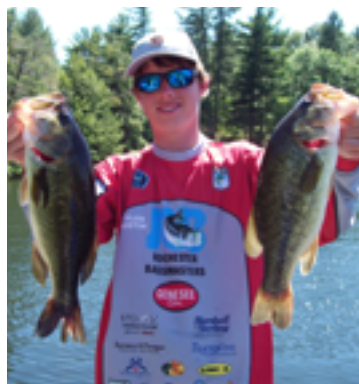
I did learn that my boat will pass a safety check while drifting, tied up to a police boat in the middle of the river. Did I mention that there was a 5mph speed limit within 600 ft. from shore?"



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2017 STANDINGS

ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES

Place	Angler	1000 Islands Day 1	1000 Islands Day 2	TOTAL
1	Mark Harold	18.72	20.15	38.87
2	Steve Levine	17.45	10.57	28.02
3	Nate Kalpin	19.17	7.39	26.56
4	Tom Haley	13.37	12.91	26.28
5	Fred Blom	16.13	9.75	25.88
6	Kurt Keller	10.32	13.99	24.31
7	Bob Manley	11.52	12.76	24.28
8	Jon Skirment	13.07	10.43	23.50
9	Dave Livingston	8.69	14.17	22.86
10	Tyler Austin	11.13	11.07	22.20
11	Matt Ferrante	9.69	11.66	21.35
12	Terry Gartz	11.67	9.01	20.68
13	Bill Wittman	7.67	12.84	20.51
14	Kyle Sweers	12.59	7.89	20.48
15	Jacob Zarmeski	5.77	14.27	20.04
16	Tige Noni	14.03	5.62	19.65
17	Chris Burns	10.71	6.72	17.43
18	Paul Caldwell	12.16	5.18	17.34
19	Aidan (A) Blake	6.53	10.22	16.75
20	Todd Keller	4.45	12.04	16.49
21	Dom Cerasuolo	4.62	10.89	15.51
22	Matt James	9.05	5.73	14.78
23	Sean Brown	5.78	8.88	14.66
24	Lock Holmes	6.14	7.76	13.90
25	Drew Demtoft	8.29	3.90	12.19
26	Kevin Kinnear	11.84	0.00	11.84
27	Dylan Mackaravitz	9.81	1.19	11.00
28	Rich Callabrese	0.00	10.84	10.84
29	Fred Ratcliffe	8.91	1.77	10.68
30	Will Rogers	8.69	0.00	8.69
31	Merritt Diamond	8.35	0.00	8.35
32	Dalton Forte	5.79	0.00	5.79
33	Ray Law	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Harvey Rhody	0.00	0.00	0.00

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