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ROCHESTER BASSMASTERS BASS NEWS

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HALEY WINS AT CONESUS LAKE



**2015 ANGLER OF
THE YEAR TOM HALEY
GETS HIS FIRST WIN
OF THE YEAR WITH A
19.22 LB. LIMIT**

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CONESUS LAKE

**CONESUS LAKE MARINE PARK, LIVONIA, NY
ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES - JULY 23, 2017**



KURT KELLER
 2nd Place - 17.39 lbs.

Back in the winner's circle again -- Tom Haley caught 19.22 lbs. and outpaced the rest of the field by almost two pounds at the CD Renovations Conesus Lake AOY Series.

Tom said, "Conesus Lake and I have a love/hate relationship. I either do very well or I bomb terribly! I struggled to find time to get much practice in but did manage to sneak out for a few half-day trips. I caught a fish here and there, with an occasional nice fish. What I couldn't find was your typical Conesus school of fish in the weeds. Going into the tournament I wasn't excited; I knew I had two locations with some decent fish, but I knew it would be a tough bite. Up until blast off I was still debating whether to take a chance on the outside weed edge top water bite, holding up, or just head to the weed beds and put my head down and fish. I chose the latter, but for a few hours I was thinking I made the wrong decision.

The bite was even tougher than I expected, but I was able to get to my key area amongst the other boats. My partner, Kyle Swears, lost a nice fish on top water and soon after I boated a nice smallmouth on a popper. I managed to

catch one or two more fish in the next two hours, but all the time I was second guessing my decision. Another boat managed to sneak into my prime area as I drifted off 20 yards.

After spending an hour pushing my way back to the spot the other boat had left. I told Kyle that an outboard running over fish can sometimes trigger some activity, sharing a story on how we won a Dash for Cash event by catching three fish immediately after a competitor's boat purposely drove right over a weed mat we were fishing. Wouldn't you know it -- I stuck the 5.70 lb.unker with in 20 feet of where the competitor just started his motor moment earlier!

I have to say I was a little worried as he got me buried in the weeds but my 10 lb. Seaguar Inviz X held strong as Kyle netted it along with a few extra pounds of weeds. By late morning I had three solid fish, the lunker, and a rat. I knew if I could catch one more good fish I would have a shot.

The day continued to be slow, and Kyle and I decided to run around. The cupboard was surprisingly bare at my second spot and three other boats were on the third area I planned to fish. Ran to a not-so-obvious underwater point that can usually be good for one or two fish, and almost immediately caught a four-pounder on a drop shot. At this point I knew I had a decent bag, but I hadn't weighed any fish except for the lunker, so I was guessing I had 16-17 pounds.

As I said, the bite was tough. I had 10 bites and boated seven fish all day. I caught fish on popper, drop shot, shaky head and worm over the course of the day.

I just want to say thank you to Jennifer, Ethan, and Sarah for letting me sneak out for a few hours. Jen even found one of my spots in her brief 20 minutes of fishing. Kyle was a great partner and if it weren't for terrible luck he should have given Dave Livingston a run for 3rd place."

Kurt Keller finished in 2nd Place with 17.39 lbs., a personal best in an RBM points tournament.

Kurt caught 15 fish on the day and said, "I found a couple areas holding very active fish on Friday. They were feeding heavy and would hit a top water bait repeatedly. On Sunday they were still in the same areas but were not feeding nearly as aggressively. I did catch several on top water, but lost my first and biggest fish near the boat after dragging him through the weeds from a long cast. When the top water bite slowed I caught fish on a weighted worm

Late in the day I fished a few docks to try and get my non-boater a limit. Conesus Lake was Devon Talbot's first RBM tournament and he did great. I gave Devon the same baits I was catching them on and he slowly managed a 10# plus limit. It was a fun experience to fish with a former RJB in his first adult RBM tournament. This was my largest bag of largemouth bass in a RBM tournament and on a lake I have struggled on in the past. I'm confident I owe my early success this year to several RBM members who have freely offered their experience and knowledge regarding techniques, pre-fishing, baitfish, patterning, weeds, attitude, etc. Thank you!"

Dave Livingston 15.85 lbs. gave him the 3rd Place spot. Dave said, "It was a

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DAVE LIVINGSTON
 3rd Place - 15.85 lbs.



NATE KAPLIN
 4th Place - 14.93 lbs.

typical Conesus Lake tournament and practice had been very tough. I never found more than one or two fish at any one spot, and nothing worked consistently. So my plan was to hit as many spots as I could (and I have a lot of GPS spots on Conesus). I lost one on top water early, and didn't catch another fish until my third stop. That spot produced a nice 5.12 pound largemouth. I caught nothing for a while until my sixth area where



JACOB ZARNESKI
 5th Place - 13.72 lbs.

docks and open weed beds produced a few decent fish. The rest of the day was basically the same, one or two fish in weed beds, and the remainder came off of docks. My obvious lure of choice was a weightless Senko, backup was a Lake Fork craw tube. I covered the entire lake and found some fish in all sections, but no concentrations.

I did manage to drop a good GLoomis rod overboard, digging for spare culling rings for my partner. I saved the GPS position, and came back to look for it that evening. Many thanks to Jim Bianchi for coming out in the rain to help me find the rod. He actually jumped over the side of the boat in 5 feet of water and walked around looking for it. Amazingly he found it after only a few minutes of searching. I don't think I would have found it without his help. Thanks, Jim; you are a class act!"

Nate Kaplin took 4th Place with 14.93 lbs. Nate caught seven fish on the day and said, "I have always struggled at Conesus Lake tournaments, and this tournament I was least looking forward to this season. I have been practicing at this lake most weekends. Practice has been subpar, only catching one or two fish a day. Going into this tournament I knew I would struggle to even get a limit. I started the day up in the north end. I figured it would be a decently busy area, but it wasn't very long before folks were playing bumper boats. I only spent a little bit of time there, enough to watch my non-boater, **Jake Zarneski**, out fish the heck out of me from the back of the boat. Jake pulled in three decent fish before we left that area. He ended up with a limit before I even got my first fish. Jake was a big help in keying in on the early bite for us, by throwing a drop shot.

I pulled up to my next spot, which I would have to thank **Kurt Keller** for graciously sharing the area with me for the remainder of the day. Within minutes of being at the second location, I was able to hook into a 4.5 pounder on a drop shot. Shortly after #2 and #3 came from that very drop shot.



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As the day progressed the bite seem to slow, so I switched to throwing a brown jig, where I would get #4. It took most of the day to get my fifth fish, which came off a nearby shallow dock. I would soon upgrade and cull out that one-pounder thanks to the jig. We fished 7-14 feet of water all day, with the exception of checking nearby docks a few times.

I did plan to move around a little more throughout the day; however I had my cranking battery die with about three hours left. I was unable to start the big motor, and lost my electronics with about an hour left. Luckily I was close enough to launch where I returned to weigh in

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on my trolling motor. I feel pretty lucky about the turnout for me this tournament; as I said, Conesus Lake is my least favorite lake, just based on my performances in the past. However, the 14.93 lbs. is by far my best bag here yet."

Club rookie **Jake Zaremski** took 5th Place with a five-fish limit of 13.72 lbs.

Jake said, "We started fishing at the north end of Conesus in 8-12 ft. around grass. I started swimming a white jig over the grass looking for a reaction bite early in the morning. I hooked one fish with the swim jig but he came off after his first jump. Shortly after losing the first fish I switched methods from a swim jig to a drop shot. I quickly boated three good keepers and stuck with that pattern until we ran back toward the middle of the lake. My bites at the north end seemed to come in the 11-12 foot range.

In the middle of the lake we alternated between grass and a nearby rocky point. For the weed lines I used a drop shot for the rocky point and I flipped a brown jig in the grass after I watched my boater land a couple big ones on a similar setup. My boater and I both fished the day before the tournament and both of us only caught two fish total. On tournament day the fish seemed to show up at the right time. Once again, as a non-boater, I was paired with a great boater **Nate Kalpin** who put me on fish. My rod and reel setups were 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 and a Fenwick HMX 7'6" Heavy with an Abu Garcia ORRA 2SX-HS spooled with 50 lb. Sunline FX2 Dark Green braid with a 10 lb. Sunline Super FC Sniper leader."

Matt James weighed in four fish for the 6th Place finish. Matt's fish weighed 11.87 lbs. anchored by a 3.91 lb. kicker.

Rounding out the Top Seven was **Rich Bush**. Rich weighed in 11.32 lb. five-fish limit.



CONESUS LAKE

CONESUS LAKE MARINE PARK, LIVONIA, NY
 ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES - JULY 23, 2017

Place	Angler	Fish Caught	Fish Weighed	Weight	Lunker	Penalties	Total Weight
1	Tom Haley	5	5	19.22	5.70		19.22
2	Kurt Keller	5	5	17.39	4.63		17.39
3	Dave Livingston	5	5	15.85	5.12		15.85
4	Nate Kalpin	5	5	14.93			14.93
5	Jacob Zaremski	5	5	13.72			13.72
6	Matt James	4	4	11.87	3.91		11.87
7	Rich Bush	5	5	11.32			11.32
8	Devon Talbot	5	5	10.84			10.84
9	Bill Wittman	5	4	11.02		0.25	10.77
10	Tyler Austin	4	4	10.73			10.73
11	Bob McEneaney	3	3	10.68	4.27		10.68
12	Paul Caldwell	5	5	9.13			9.13
13	Steve Levine	5	5	9.06			9.06
14	Rod Brown	5	5	8.78			8.78
15	Mark Harold	2	2	8.14	4.72		8.14
16	Dalton Talbot	4	4	8.10			8.10
17	Dennis O'Brein	4	4	8.05			8.05
18	Kevin Kinnear	3	3	7.88	4.08		7.88
19	Fred Blom	3	3	7.05			7.05
20	Don Georlich	4	4	6.43			6.43
21	Aidan Blake	3	3	5.34			5.34
22	John Norton	2	2	5.32	3.70		5.32
23	Will Rogers	3	3	5.19			5.19
24	Dylan Mackaravitz	3	3	4.84			4.84
25	Sean Brown	3	3	4.48			4.48
26	Chris Burns	3	2	4.66		0.25	4.41
27	Merritt Diamond	2	2	3.91			3.91
28	Rich Zajac	2	2	3.81			3.81
29	Terry Gartz	2	2	3.04			3.04
30	Matt Ferrante	2	2	2.89			2.89
31	Dom Cerasuolo	1	1	2.87			2.87
32	Fred Ratcliffe	1	1	2.85			2.85
33	Orlando Roman	1	1	2.72			2.72
34	Gary Haun	2	2	2.42			2.42
35	Drew Demtoft	1	1	1.48			1.48
36	Ray Law	0	0	0.00			0.00
36	Kyle Sweers	0	0	0.00			0.00
36	Tige Noni	0	0	0.00			0.00
36	Ray Sacheli	0	0	0.00			0.00
36	T.J. Valle	0	0	0.00			0.00
	Non-Boaters						
	Boaters						
	Amateurs						





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2017 STANDINGS

ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES

Place	Angler	1000 Islands Day 1	1000 Islands Day 2	Conesus Lake	TOTAL
1	Mark Harold	18.72	20.15	8.14	47.01
2	Nate Kalpin	19.17	7.39	14.93	41.49
3	Tom Haley	13.37	12.91	19.22	45.50
4	Kurt Keller	10.32	13.99	17.39	41.70
5	Dave Livingston	8.69	14.17	15.85	38.71
6	Steve Levine	17.45	10.57	9.06	37.08
7	Jacob Zarneski	5.77	14.27	13.72	33.76
8	Fred Blom	16.13	9.75	7.05	32.93
9	Bill Wittman	7.67	12.84	10.77	31.28
10	Tyler Austin	11.13	11.07	10.73	32.93
11	Paul Caldwell	12.16	5.18	9.13	26.47
12	Matt James	9.05	5.73	11.87	26.65
13	Bob Manley	11.52	12.76	0.00	24.28
14	Matt Ferrante	9.69	11.66	2.89	24.24
15	Terry Gartz	11.67	9.01	3.04	23.72
16	Jon Skirment	13.07	10.43	0.00	23.50
17	Aidan (A) Blake	6.53	10.22	5.34	22.09
18	Chris Burns	10.71	6.72	4.41	21.84
19	Kyle Sweers	12.59	7.89	0.00	20.48
20	Kevin Kinnear	11.84	0.00	7.88	19.72
21	Tige Noni	14.03	5.62	0.00	19.65
22	Sean Brown	5.78	8.88	4.48	19.14
23	Dom Cerasuolo	4.62	10.89	2.87	18.38
24	Todd Keller	4.45	12.04	0.00	16.49
25	Dylan Mackaravitz	9.81	1.19	4.84	15.84
26	Lock Holmes	6.14	7.76	0.00	13.90
27	Will Rogers	8.69	0.00	5.19	13.88
28	Merritt Diamond	8.35	0.00	3.91	12.26
29	Drew Demtoft	8.29	3.90	1.48	13.67
30	Fred Ratcliffe	8.91	1.77	2.85	13.53
31	Rich Bush	0.00	0.00	11.32	11.32
32	Rich Callabrese	0.00	10.84	0.00	10.84
33	Devon Talbot	0.00	0.00	10.84	10.84
34	Bob McEneaney	0.00	0.00	10.68	10.68
35	Rod Brown	0.00	0.00	8.78	8.78
36	Dalton Talbot	0.00	0.00	8.10	8.10
37	Dennis O'Brien	0.00	0.00	8.05	8.05
38	Don Georlich	0.00	0.00	6.43	6.43
39	Dalton Forte	5.79	0.00	0.00	5.79
40	John Norton	0.00	0.00	5.32	5.32
41	Rich Zajac	0.00	0.00	3.81	3.81
42	Orlando Roman	0.00	0.00	2.72	2.72
43	Gary Haun	0.00	0.00	2.42	2.42
44	Ray Law	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
45	Harvey Rhody	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
46	Ray Sacheli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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