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# ROCHESTER BASSMASTERS BASS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2017

## DIAMOND WINS

DAY ONE  
ONEIDA LAKE



**MERRITT DIAMOND  
RETURNED TO THE WINNERS  
CIRCLE AFTER A LONG ABSENCE  
BY WEIGHING IN 16.91 LBS.**

## ONEIDA LAKE

A & P MARINA, UNION CICERO, NY

ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES - SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

**ADRIA**  
MACHINE & TOOL, INC.





**M**erritt Diamond returned to the winners circle after a long absence at the Adria Tool & Machine Inc., Rochester Bassmasters Oneida Lake tournament held on September 23, 2017. Merritt brought in a five smallmouth bass limit weighing an impressive 16.19 lbs. to claim the win.

Merritt said, "The night before Day One, **Kurt Keller** organized, as always, a trip to the Mall in Syracuse for a little last minute shopping at Dick's and some dinner (Thanks Kurt). My intent was to get a smallish topwater bait, as advised by **Mark Harold**. He suggested that the smallies might be more apt to like a smaller bait than the tradition topwaters (Thanks for the tip Mark). As I wandered around Dick's, **Chris Burns** recommended a small non-descript topwater, which I never would have looked at otherwise. Even though I complained about the price, he goaded me into it so I picked it up (Thanks Chris). You see, this was all about stars and their alignment – apparently it's called "Destiny" Mall for a reason.

After **Mark Harold** and I launched, I tied on my new secret lure, which naturally I told Mark to keep it a secret as he likes to do. After a ride down a glassy Oneida Lake, we arrived at the spot Mark had found in practice (Thanks Mark). Mark told me to make the first cast so I could catch the first fish, so I did. When the lure hit the water, I twitched it a couple of times and Boom, a 3 1/2 pounder crushed it. No need for a hook set. Mark ably netted the fish and, before he got it in the boat, out popped the lure – pretty lucky. The pattern for the next hour had been set.

We were fishing a location that looked to me like a hundred other spots on Oneida. It all looked the same, but a few minutes later – Boom, a few minutes after that, again, Boom! At one point we had a double hooked up but unfortunately Mark's came off. Like I said, the pattern had been set. Call it whatever, but that first hour just my day.

I landed my fifth fish – the largest was over 4 lbs., with a couple others close to that. Mark said, "Well, it's 7:38am and you have your limit." I was ecstatic. I told Mark so, and said, "I'm so happy, I don't care if I catch another fish all day." Mark groaned and said I would regret that statement. It was prophetic. I will never, ever say that again.

As the action on topwater slowed and then stopped we started running around to other spots, and try as I might I could not

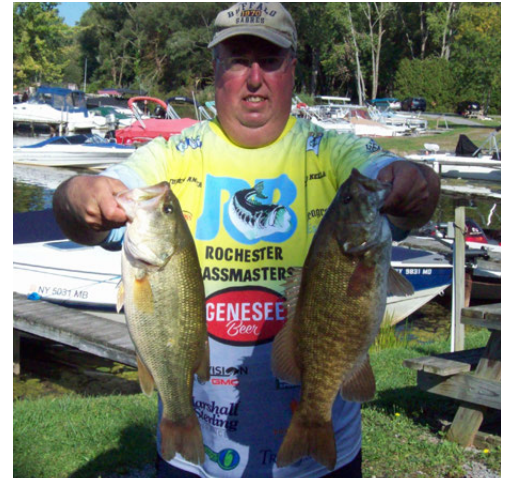
get another fish to bite, that I know of. I was pretty much a passenger at that point watching Mark work hard to put together a pretty respectable limit. As I recall I had my 16+ in the boat before Mark boated his first keeper. I could cast right or left or in back of the boat and Boom, just the right place, right time.

It was truly one of the very best fishing experiences I've ever had fishing. Thanks to Kurt for suggesting the Destiny Mall, thanks to Chris for making me buy that lure, and especially to Mark for finding such an awesome location. Oh, and a little thanks to Todd Keller too – he knows why.

I won my first RBM tournament on September 27-28 in 1987 on Keuka Lake with all smallies, and oddly Mark came in second. As I said at the weigh-in, it only took me 30 years give or take a week to win my second. They say you can't catch lightning in a bottle but I feel like I did. Thanks to RMB for the opportunity, especially Mark."

**Todd Keller** brought in the heaviest catch of bass on the day, but unfortunately he was penalized 0.25 pounds because one of his bass was dead at weigh-in. The penalty dropped Todd's weight to 16.07 and he finished in second place, just 0.12 pounds behind the winner. Todd also weighed in the biggest bass of the day, a 4.44 pounder.

Todd said, "I had a pretty rough practice Thursday and Friday. I found a nice shoal late Friday with a deeper flat off of it with rock and scattered weeds. It was the best looking spot I had found in practice, and I managed to catch a few nice SM there so I decided to start there Saturday. I got 2 nice SM there first thing and then got frustrated with all the bass jumping around me and not biting so I left for 45 minutes to try a LM spot I had – probably not a smart decision but luckily it didn't hurt me. After getting nothing there, I returned and was able to catch my Lunker SM and 5 other SM. I had a limit by 10:00am but the bite definitely died out by 11am. On Thursday, during practice, I had caught a nice LM on an isolated dock and gently returned him hoping he was a resident fish. When I returned Saturday afternoon, he was still there and allowed me to cull out a smaller SM to get me to my final weight. Unfortunately, one of my bigger SM was gut hooked and when I landed him in my net I thought there was water dripping all over my boat. Turns out it was blood



**TODD KELLER**  
2nd Place - 16.07 lbs.

and shockingly, the fish died. It turns out that dead fish cost me first place with the penalty.

Congratulations to Merritt Diamond on his great bag and the win. Also, a HUGE thanks to my girlfriend Tammy. Not only did she not complain about me leaving for 4 days of fishing, but she also did a HUGE cleanup of my back fence that was overgrown with vines and prepped 2 gardens. She mulched and planted my front gardens during the 1,000 Islands tournament as well. I think we need a couple more away tournaments and she should have everything done."

See Pictures below. You couldn't see the fence before.



*Continued on page 3*





**ROD BROWN**  
3rd Place - 15.87 lbs.

**Rod Brown** rounded out the Top 3 at the Rochester Bassmasters Oneida Lake tournament held on September 23, 2017. Rod's five bass limited weighed 15.87 lbs.

**Rich Bush** caught 15.52 lbs. for 4th place.

Rich said, "I caught 1 fish on top water early, but several were missing the bait. I caught the majority of fish caught on drop-shot."



**JACOB ZAREMSKI**  
6th Place - 14.90 lbs.

**Tom Hughes** took 5th place with a 15.28 lb. limit.

**Jacob Zaremski** came in 6th place with 14.90 lbs.

Jacob said, "I was paired with Tom Hughes. We started fishing some structure in the middle of the lake looking for action on top water. My boater caught a nice 3.5 pound smallmouth and I lost a solid fish on top water first thing so we thought the first spot would pay off. After a couple short fish, and lack of bites, we went to another smallmouth where I ended up catching my biggest largemouth and a solid smallmouth. I lost another fish on a swim bait and the action died quickly. We moved to a flat in the middle of the lake to fish swimbaits and Alabama rigs for the rest of the day. My boater caught a solid limit doing so, and I was able to fill out a solid limit with about twenty minutes to go. All day, the bites seemed to come in 20-30 minute flurries with long stretches of no activity."

**Dave Livingston** rounded out the Top Seven with a 14.59 lb. limit.

Dave said, "Practice was typical for Oneida, tough some days and good other days. Fish were taking a variety of lures/baits with no great pattern, but good fish all over the lake. On both tournament days, I found my fish to be in shallow water (2 to 6 feet) and active throughout the day. Top water action was good, but very frustrating. I don't think I've ever had that many hits on a Rico that didn't hook up (I may physically abuse that Rico late one night when no one is looking). In the end, all my fish were caught on a wacky Senko, slightly weighted. Day 2 was especially frustrating when I lost several very good fish that jumped in very shallow water (like, almost dry land).

Thanks to both my partners for doing a great job netting fish, I never lost one at the boat. **Raven** did great for her first time out, and caught fish on her secret top water lure, which had a strange name, but worked well. And thanks **Bob Manley** for not hooking me this year (I know, you're aim was a little off). Oh BTW, throwing your first keeper fish back to appease the fishing gods does not always work, ask Bob.

Finally, congratulations to both **Mark Harold** and **Tom Haley** for hanging



**RICH BUSH**  
4TH Place - 15.52 lbs.

tough all year. It's that great competition that makes us better fisherman each year."



**TOM HUGHES**  
5th Place - 15.28 lbs.

Stats continued on page 4



**DAVE LIVINGSTON**  
7th Place - 14.59 lbs.



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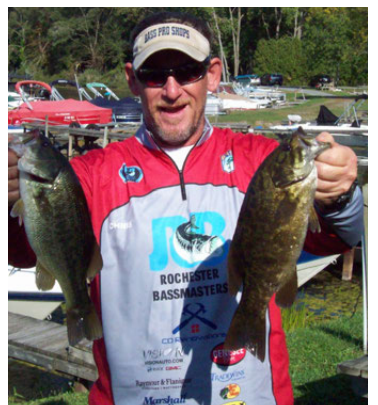
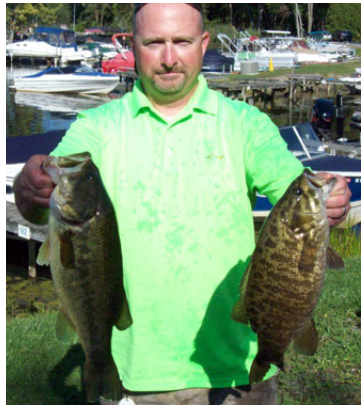
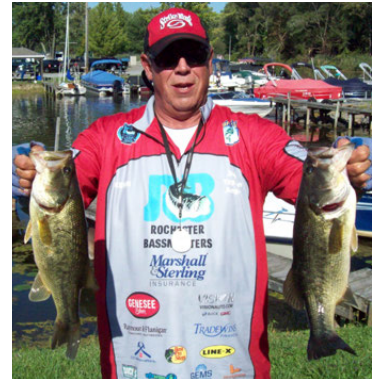
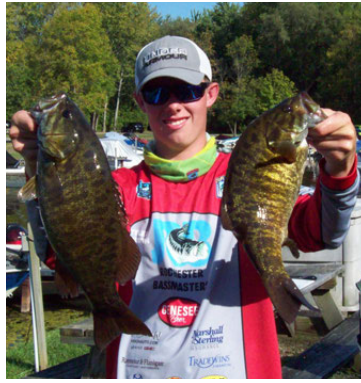


**ONEIDA LAKE**  
A & P MARINA, UNION CICERO, NY  
ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES - SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

Place	Angler	Fish Caught	Fish Weighed	Weight	Lunker	Penalties	Total Weight
1	Merritt Diamond	5	5	16.19	4.27		16.19
2	Todd Keller	5	4	16.32	4.44	0.25	16.07
3	Rod Brown	5	5	15.87			15.87
4	Rich Bush	5	5	15.52	3.78		15.52
5	Tom Hughes	5	5	15.28			15.28
6	Jacob Zaremski	5	5	14.90	3.71		14.90
7	Dave Livingston	5	5	14.59			14.59
8	Nate Kalpin	5	5	14.49			14.49
9	Will Rogers	5	2	14.83	4.11	0.75	14.08
10	Tom Haley	5	5	13.76			13.76
11	Tige Noni	5	5	13.14			13.14
12	Tyler Austin	5	5	12.92			12.92
13	Mark Harold	5	4	12.76		0.25	12.51
14	Rich Zajac	5	5	12.15			12.15
15	Dylan Mackaravitz	5	4	11.26		0.25	11.01
16	Kevin Kinnear	5	5	10.72			10.72
17	Jon Skirment	5	5	10.70			10.70
18	Paul Caldwell	5	5	10.64			10.64
19	Matt James	4	4	10.45			10.45
20	Terry Gartz	4	4	10.36			10.36
21	Bill Wittman	5	5	9.13	4.08		9.13
22	Mike Wall	3	3	8.89			8.89
23	Matt Ferrante	3	3	8.83	3.91		8.83
24	Dom Cerasuolo	3	3	8.81	3.76		8.81
25	Fred Blom	4	4	6.76			6.76
26	Drew Damtoft	3	2	6.05		0.25	5.80
27	Steve Sanca	3	3	5.47			5.47
28	Chris Burns	3	3	5.34			5.34
29	Fred Ratcliffe	3	3	5.14			5.14
30	Justin Keller	3	3	4.86			4.86
31	Raven Otto	3	3	4.56			4.56
32	Orlando Roman	2	2	4.35			4.35
33	Kurt Keller	3	3	3.54			3.54
34	Dalton Talbot	1	1	3.26			3.26
35	Ray Law	1	1	3.17			3.17
36	Bob Manley	1	1	2.64			2.64
37	Kyle Sweers	2	2	2.55			2.55
38	Tyler Muhs	2	2	2.39			2.39
39	Steve Levine	0	0	0.00			0.00
40	Devon Talbot	1	1	2.88			2.88
41	Rich Callabrese	1	1	1.95			1.95
42	Dennis O'Brien	0	0	0.00			0.00

NonBoater
Boater
Amateur









**Stephen Levine**  
Financial Advisor

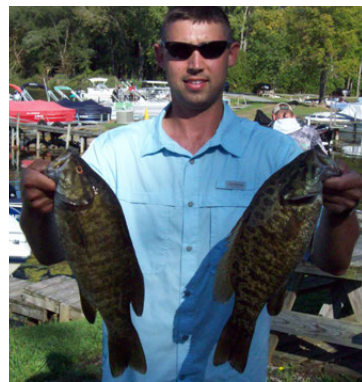
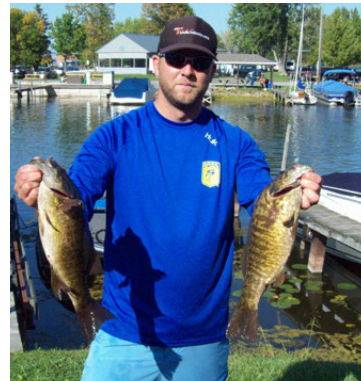
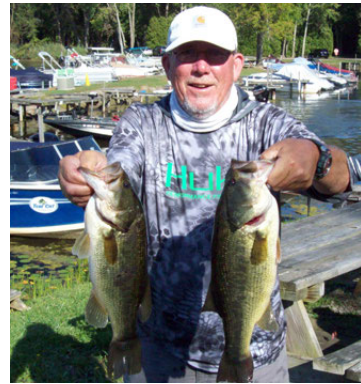
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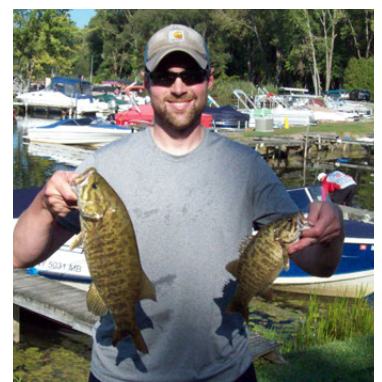
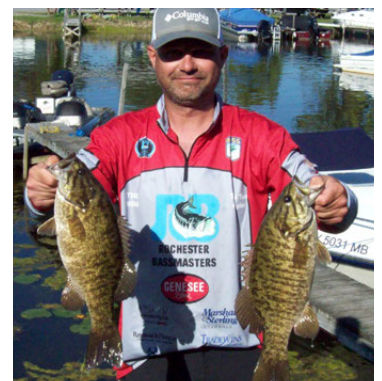




# 2017 STANDINGS

## ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES

Place	Angler	1000 Islands Day 1	1000 Islands Day 2	Conesus Lake	Sodus Bay Day 1	Sodus Bay Day 2	Cayuga Lake	Oneida Lake Day 1	TOTAL	AOY Weight
1	Tom Haley	13.37	12.91	19.22	16.12	14.12	16.78	13.76	106.28	93.37
2	Mark Harold	18.72	20.15	8.14	11.88	13.55	14.90	12.51	99.85	91.71
3	Dave Livingston	8.69	14.17	15.85	12.75	15.31	14.67	14.59	96.03	87.34
4	Nate Kalpin	19.17	7.39	14.93	15.74	8.60	6.93	14.49	87.25	80.32
5	Tyler Austin	11.13	11.07	10.73	13.58	14.99	14.19	12.92	88.61	77.88
6	Jon Skirment	13.07	10.43	0.00	16.99	12.15	12.12	10.70	75.46	75.46
7	Matt James	9.05	5.73	11.87	18.89	12.74	10.53	10.45	79.26	73.53
8	Kurt Keller	10.32	13.99	17.39	8.90	3.64	19.25	3.54	77.03	73.49
9	Bill Wittman	7.67	12.84	10.77	16.99	9.68	10.64	9.13	77.72	70.05
10	Jacob Zaremski	5.77	14.27	13.72	9.04	9.62	6.52	14.90	73.84	68.07
11	Paul Caldwell	12.16	5.18	9.13	9.47	14.24	8.89	10.64	69.71	64.53
12	Rod Brown	0.00	0.00	8.78	13.94	14.80	11.09	15.87	64.48	64.48
13	Tige Noni	14.03	5.62	0.00	8.66	7.12	15.78	13.14	64.35	64.35
14	Fred Blom	16.13	9.75	7.05	12.19	10.27	2.82	6.76	64.97	62.15
15	Steve Levine	17.45	10.57	9.06	10.17	7.46	13.26	0.00	67.97	67.97
16	Todd Keller	4.45	12.04	0.00	9.99	0.00	12.86	16.07	55.41	55.41
17	Dom Cerasuolo	4.62	10.89	2.87	9.82	13.59	7.08	8.81	57.68	54.81
18	Will Rogers	8.69	0.00	5.19	10.52	8.60	7.51	14.08	54.59	54.59
19	Matt Ferrante	9.69	11.66	2.89	7.66	8.42	8.13	8.83	57.28	54.39
20	Bob Manley	11.52	12.76	0.00	9.43	11.09	4.43	2.64	51.87	51.87
21	Rich Bush	0.00	0.00	11.32	0.00	11.81	13.08	15.52	51.73	51.73
22	Kevin Kinnear	11.84	0.00	7.88	10.99	6.32	3.67	10.72	51.42	51.42
23	Terry Gartz	11.67	9.01	3.04	10.50	4.34	3.72	10.36	52.64	49.60
24	Fred Ratcliffe	8.91	1.77	2.85	10.48	7.86	11.11	5.14	48.12	46.35
25	Chris Burns	10.71	6.72	4.41	7.92	10.10	1.82	5.34	47.02	45.20
26	Dylan Mackaravitz	9.81	1.19	4.84	5.21	10.45	1.09	11.01	43.60	42.51
27	Drew Damtoft	8.29	3.90	1.48	4.45	13.02	6.76	5.80	43.70	42.22
28	Rich Zajac	0.00	0.00	3.81	9.01	11.69	4.80	12.15	41.46	41.46
29	Sean Brown	5.78	8.88	4.48	0.00	11.77	10.40	0.00	41.31	41.31
30	Devon Talbot	0.00	0.00	10.84	4.62	5.68	15.46	2.88	39.48	39.48
31	Merritt Diamond	8.35	0.00	3.91	5.04	0.00	3.24	16.19	36.73	36.73
32	Dalton Talbot	0.00	0.00	8.10	4.62	10.54	4.38	3.26	30.90	30.90
33	Kyle Sweers	12.59	7.89	0.00	0.00	1.21	1.27	2.55	25.51	25.51
34	Aidan Blake	6.53	10.22	5.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.09	22.09
35	Rich Callabrese	0.00	10.84	0.00	9.96	0.00	0.00	1.95	20.80	20.80
36	Mike Wall	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.67	0.00	4.37	8.89	19.93	19.93
37	Orlando Roman	0.00	0.00	2.72	0.00	0.00	11.15	4.35	18.22	18.22
38	Jim Bianchi	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.46	17.46
39	Tom Hughes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.28	15.28	15.28
40	Dennis O'Brien	0.00	0.00	8.05	0.00	6.66	0.00	0.00	14.71	14.71
41	Lock Holmes	6.14	7.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.90	13.90
42	Ray Law	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.85	5.04	3.17	12.06	12.06
43	Bob McEneaney	0.00	0.00	10.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.68	10.68
44	James Dorak	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.21	0.00	9.21	9.21
45	Justin Keller	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.08	0.00	0.00	4.86	8.94	8.94
46	Don Georlich	0.00	0.00	6.43	0.00	0.00	1.70	0.00	8.13	8.13
47	Dan Palazzo	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.14	3.61	0.00	0.00	6.75	6.75
48	Ray Sacheli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.42	0.00	6.42	6.42
49	Dalton	5.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.79	5.79
50	John Norton	0.00	0.00	5.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.32	5.32
51	Raven Otto	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.56	4.56	4.56
52	Tyler Muhs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.12	2.33	3.45	3.45
53	Gary Haun	0.00	0.00	2.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.42	2.42
54	Harvey Rhody	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	NonBoater									
	Boater									
	Amateur									





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