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# ROCHESTER BASSMASTERS BASS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2019

## WITTMAN WINS!



**BILL  
WITTMAN  
DROPPED  
21.29 LBS.  
ON THE SCALES FOR THE WIN.**

PHOTOS BY: STEVE LEVINE

PARIS KIRWAN  
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## SHOWDOWN at SODUS BAY

ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES • SEPTEMBER 8, 2019 • SODUS BAY TOWN LAUNCH





**JIM BIANCHI**  
**2nd Place -16.30 lbs.**

**B**ill Wittman won the 2019 Paris Kirwan Associates, Inc. Angler of the Years Series Showdown at Sodus Bay with 21.29 lbs.

The 1993 Angler of the Year was back in the Winners Circle again. Bill dropped 21.29 lbs on the scales, 4.99 lbs. more than the next angler.

Bill said, "It started out as a real good day. The first fish I caught was a five pounder which came fairly fast by 9:30 am. By 11:30am I had four fish in the box which were all over four pounds.

I was trying to decide to move in shallow or go back to the bay (for) the fifth fish. I went shallow (and the fifth fish) came fast but was only about 2 pounds. After that I went back out to my best depth which was 42 and 44 feet and could not bite the rest of the day.

I only had five bites on the day. but I guess they were the right ones. All of the I caught fish came on a drop shot."

*Jim Bianchi* had the next biggest bag, 16.30 lbs. for 2nd Place.

Jim said, "Sodus is always a fun, but a tricky venue. Because there are so many variables and options. I swear the weather and wind forecast was changing every 6 hours, so that forced me to prepare for being 'stuck' in the bay just in case.

I started the day opting to battle the lake and on my run, I learned my live well pump was not running and my well was bone dry. I was forced to manually bailed some water in the well, but it didn't have circulation so I set an alarm every half hour to manually circulate the well. This is not how I wanted to start the day, but it happens.

My first three spots I wasted 3 hours on those spots. So my livewell had water, but no fish! Finally my fourth smallie spot gave up two dink's and two good fish. With half the day gone I decided to punt and go back to the bay, where I felt I could catch 2.5 to 3 lb. fish. Fortunately that worked and I culled the two dink smallies and ended up with 3 bay largemouth in my bag.

My bay fish were mainly on weed edges and the smallies were deep using the normal smallie tactics. Congrats to **Bill Wittman** on his monster bag!"

Rounding out the Top Three, **Todd Keller** had a 5 fish limit of 16.12 lbs.

Todd said, "First off I want to thank my brother **Kurt** for putting us on fish.

After running to the lake for the first

1.5 hours and getting beat up and finding no fish, we decided to head back into the bay (thanks for the shower).

Kurt was nice enough to catch the smaller fish leaving the larger ones for me 😞 😊.

We spent most of the day rotating through a handful of spots fishing weed edges with a drop shot. We never really got into a large group of fish but slowly caught fish throughout the day culling up to our final weights.

Rod Brown brought in a a limit of 14.05 lbs. to the scales.

Rod said, "I tried the lake first, but after a rough ride of about 8 miles and 4 hours with only 1 smaller fish I decided to head back to the bay.

I would like to thank the "**Keller Boys**" for allowing me in. I was able to stick 2 nice fish within my first 5 flips. From there I bounced around the bay and caught between two & three limits for my 14.05 and 4th place.

*Continued on page 3*



**TODD KELLER**  
**3rd Place - 16.12 lbs.**



**ROD BROWN**  
**4th Place - 14.05 lbs.**

The only thing I fished in the bay was a 1/2 oz. black Senko and a 3/4 oz. black & blue Palmeto bug in anywhere from 3-12 feet of water.”

With 5th Place, the other half of the “*Keller Boys*”, *Kurt Keller* came in with 12.94 lbs.

Kurt said, “I started the day by



**KURT KELLER**  
**5th Place - 12.94 lbs.**

dragging my brother into the lake through 4+ footers to an area I found in practice. I had hoped to get a few smallmouth to pad our bag, but the fish either moved or were not biting due to the weather.

We headed into the bay after 1.5 hours with no bites. We steadily caught largemouth throughout the day rotating through areas I frequent.

I would catch a 2.5 pounder and Todd would catch a 3.5 pounder. Our best techniques were drop shooting, flipping, and Todd used live bait on a bobber effectively 😊.

Todd also had 8 fish in the boat at a time before culling, but he referenced a little known “*Calabrese Rule*” that apparently allows for this.

I personally think that Todd just lost track of how many fish he had after his 6th beer by 10:00 am. The fact that he fishes with three rods at a time may have been a factor also.

Todd’s best spot was in the marina where we launched on a nightcrawler and fresh fish eyes. It was a real pleasure to fish with my brother. Thanks Ray!

I want to thank my only sponsor *Michelle Keller* and *TJ Valle* for not fixing Todd’s boat and allowing us to spend quality family time insulting each other. It was a real treat to hear every club boat we ran into reference us as the Keller brother’s boat followed by “how you guys doing”, and Todd just smiling...”

New club member, *Doug Walker* weighed in 12.88 lbs. for 6th Place.

Doug said, “I would first like to take



**DOUG WALKER**  
**6th Place - 12.88 lbs.**

this opportunity to thank all of my boaters this season, as well as the guys who have let me go out and practice with them and/or shared some tips and tricks. With this being my rookie year in the club and not knowing what to expect, I can say without

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**DYLAN MACKARAVITZ**  
**7th Place - 12.80 lbs.**





reservation that it has been a great experience. One in which I've been able to vastly improve my skillset, meet a great group of guys, and have some great successes along the way. I'm very appreciative for all of my boaters' hard work and giving me the opportunities to bring in some nice bags.

In pretty short order **Bob Manley** had two keepers in the boat and at that time I realized that I needed to change things up, start covering a lot of water, and get bit before it got too late in the day."

So I put down my slow finesse presentations and started throwing a reaction bait, something that complimented Bob's bite without copying it.

I started pitching a green pumpkin, Texas Rigged Creature Bug focusing on spots in the weeds that I thought looked like they might be higher percentage areas. I soon got two nice ones doing this which motivated me to



**MARK HAROLD**  
**5.79 lbs. LUNKER**

| Place | Angler            | Weight | Fish Caught | Fish Weighed | Dead Fish | Penalties | Lunker | Total Weight |
|-------|-------------------|--------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------------|
| 1     | Bill Wittman      | 21.29  | 5           | 5            | 0         | 0.00      | 5.48   | 21.29        |
| 2     | Jim Bianchi       | 16.30  | 5           | 5            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 16.30        |
| 3     | Todd Keller       | 16.12  | 5           | 5            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 16.12        |
| 4     | Rod Brown         | 14.05  | 5           | 5            | 0         | 0.00      | 4.52   | 14.05        |
| 5     | Kurt Keller       | 12.94  | 5           | 5            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 12.94        |
| 6     | Doug Walker       | 12.88  | 5           | 5            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 12.88        |
| 7     | Dylan Mackaravitz | 12.80  | 5           | 5            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 12.80        |
| 8     | Mark Harold       | 12.60  | 4           | 4            | 0         | 0.00      | 5.79   | 12.60        |
| 9     | Matt James        | 12.16  | 5           | 5            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 12.16        |
| 10    | Jake Zaremski     | 12.07  | 5           | 5            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 12.07        |
| 11    | Rich Bush         | 11.92  | 4           | 4            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 11.92        |
| 12    | TJ Valle          | 11.18  | 5           | 5            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 11.18        |
| 13    | Dan Patane        | 10.41  | 4           | 4            | 0         | 0.00      | 5.17   | 10.41        |
| 14    | Dave Livingston   | 10.14  | 5           | 5            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 10.14        |
| 15    | Tige Noni         | 9.58   | 3           | 3            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 9.58         |
| 16    | Paul Caldwell     | 8.72   | 5           | 5            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 8.72         |
| 17    | Tyler Austin      | 8.56   | 4           | 4            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 8.56         |
| 18    | Steve Levine      | 6.61   | 3           | 3            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 6.61         |
| 19    | Nate Kalpin       | 6.42   | 2           | 2            | 0         | 0.00      | 4.18   | 6.42         |
| 20    | Matt Ferrante     | 6.38   | 4           | 4            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 6.38         |
| 21    | Jon Skirment      | 6.12   | 2           | 2            | 0         | 0.00      | 4.76   | 6.12         |
| 22    | Fred Ratcliffe    | 6.02   | 2           | 2            | 0         | 0.00      | 4.25   | 6.02         |
| 23    | Dom Cerasuolo     | 5.63   | 3           | 3            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 5.63         |
| 24    | Wes Vyverberg     | 5.06   | 3           | 3            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 5.06         |
| 25    | Ray Sacheli       | 4.33   | 2           | 2            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 4.33         |
| 26    | Bob Manley        | 3.36   | 2           | 2            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 3.36         |
| 27    | Merritt Diamond   | 2.98   | 2           | 2            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 2.98         |
| 28    | Terry Gartz       | 2.84   | 1           | 1            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 2.84         |
| 29    | Rich Zajac        | 2.39   | 1           | 1            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 2.39         |
| 30    | Dan Palazzo       | 2.33   | 1           | 1            | 0         | 0.00      |        | 2.33         |

stick with it and fill a limit.

In the 7th and final money spot **Dylan Mackaravitz** came in with 12.80 lbs.

Dylan said, "In my first tournament as a boater I started to realize the decision making that goes into it. I was able to get out to practice and I found several areas within the bay that held fish, but as tournament day rolled around I had a tough time deciding which areas I would focus on. I knew I

wasn't going to be going into the lake, as the weather was forecasting some rough winds, so I spent all my time practicing in the bay.

I ended up catching all my fish from two areas with a Texas Rigged Worm. Throughout the day I probably caught 8-9 keepers. And was able to cull a few times to get my final weight."





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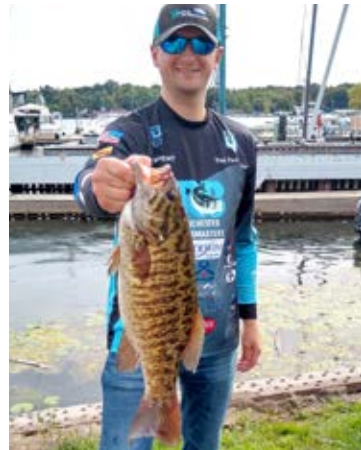
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PHOTO BY: KURT KELLER

Guys lined up at Heintzman's BBQ after the Sodus Bay Tournament







# 2019 STANDINGS

## ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES

| Place | Angler          | Lake Erie | Lake Erie | Cayuga Lake | Conesus Lake | Chaumont Bay Day 1 | Chaumont Bay Day 2 | Sodus Bay | Keuka Lake | Total  | AOTY   |
|-------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|
| 1     | Jim Bianchi     | 21.04     | 23.31     | 19.31       | 14.96        | 17.97              | 16.99              | 16.30     | 0.00       | 129.88 | 114.92 |
| 2     | Mark Harold     | 21.60     | 20.50     | 13.20       | 14.80        | 17.33              | 19.59              | 12.60     | 0.00       | 119.62 | 107.02 |
| 3     | TJ Valle        | 19.22     | 21.00     | 17.21       | 15.07        | 15.27              | 16.40              | 11.18     | 0.00       | 115.35 | 104.17 |
| 4     | Will Rogers     | 22.05     | 24.33     | 17.74       | 12.87        | 10.69              | 16.20              | 0.00      | 0.00       | 103.88 | 103.88 |
| 5     | Rod Brown       | 21.08     | 19.68     | 15.60       | 14.49        | 12.61              | 18.08              | 14.05     | 0.00       | 115.59 | 102.98 |
| 6     | Dave Livingston | 14.89     | 18.92     | 13.99       | 17.13        | 15.01              | 20.20              | 10.14     | 0.00       | 110.28 | 100.14 |
| 7     | Jake Zaremski   | 19.98     | 19.90     | 15.82       | 8.01         | 12.19              | 19.63              | 12.07     | 0.00       | 107.60 | 99.59  |
| 8     | Tyler Austin    | 19.60     | 21.00     | 11.48       | 7.32         | 18.19              | 16.42              | 8.56      | 0.00       | 102.57 | 95.25  |
| 9     | Dan Patane      | 18.99     | 23.16     | 13.54       | 7.37         | 13.63              | 14.89              | 10.41     | 0.00       | 101.99 | 94.62  |
| 10    | Bill Wittman    | 16.57     | 16.37     | 12.55       | 12.14        | 8.19               | 12.43              | 21.29     | 0.00       | 99.54  | 91.35  |
| 11    | Rich Bush       | 16.01     | 16.04     | 15.07       | 6.16         | 15.72              | 15.60              | 11.92     | 0.00       | 96.52  | 90.36  |
| 12    | Matt James      | 15.89     | 8.98      | 14.02       | 14.16        | 18.50              | 15.37              | 12.16     | 0.00       | 99.08  | 90.10  |
| 13    | Wes Vyverberg   | 17.71     | 19.05     | 15.14       | 7.04         | 16.56              | 14.31              | 5.06      | 0.00       | 94.87  | 89.81  |
| 14    | Nate Kalpin     | 17.94     | 18.75     | 16.54       | 12.30        | 16.66              | 6.81               | 6.42      | 0.00       | 95.42  | 89.00  |
| 15    | Matt Ferrante   | 18.85     | 17.36     | 13.62       | 7.93         | 15.73              | 13.27              | 6.38      | 0.00       | 93.14  | 86.76  |
| 16    | Jon Skirment    | 14.82     | 20.42     | 0.00        | 4.76         | 19.92              | 18.41              | 6.12      | 0.00       | 84.45  | 84.45  |
| 17    | Steve Levine    | 19.10     | 19.48     | 10.86       | 5.78         | 13.46              | 13.67              | 6.61      | 0.00       | 88.96  | 83.18  |
| 18    | Kyle Sweers     | 16.88     | 15.70     | 15.76       | 0.00         | 14.18              | 19.04              | 0.00      | 0.00       | 81.56  | 81.56  |
| 19    | Kurt Keller     | 0.00      | 17.11     | 9.99        | 10.62        | 16.34              | 13.00              | 12.94     | 0.00       | 80.00  | 80.00  |
| 20    | Paul Caldwell   | 17.67     | 18.12     | 12.24       | 4.52         | 18.66              | 0.00               | 8.72      | 0.00       | 79.93  | 79.93  |
| 21    | Doug Walker     | 15.66     | 13.33     | 10.93       | 11.48        | 0.00               | 15.42              | 12.88     | 0.00       | 79.70  | 79.70  |
| 22    | Tige Noni       | 9.34      | 18.26     | 15.52       | 12.51        | 11.87              | 10.32              | 9.58      | 0.00       | 87.40  | 78.06  |
| 23    | Fred Ratcliffe  | 16.62     | 19.29     | 8.78        | 9.59         | 11.79              | 10.60              | 6.02      | 0.00       | 82.69  | 76.67  |
| 24    | Todd Keller     | 16.84     | 19.11     | 0.00        | 0.00         | 11.23              | 8.91               | 16.12     | 0.00       | 72.21  | 72.21  |
| 25    | Tyler Muhs      | 22.49     | 17.56     | 3.55        | 2.38         | 9.35               | 12.70              | 0.00      | 0.00       | 68.03  | 68.03  |
| 26    | Dom Cerasuolo   | 14.28     | 20.91     | 9.66        | 3.91         | 11.75              | 4.64               | 5.63      | 0.00       | 70.78  | 66.87  |
| 27    | Chris O'Brien   | 22.76     | 23.13     | 17.66       | 0.00         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 0.00      | 0.00       | 63.55  | 63.55  |
| 28    | Rich Zajac      | 0.00      | 19.72     | 0.00        | 7.26         | 16.18              | 10.95              | 2.39      | 0.00       | 56.50  | 56.50  |
| 29    | Jim Shamp       | 18.66     | 17.10     | 12.72       | 3.97         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 0.00      | 0.00       | 52.45  | 52.45  |
| 30    | Fred Blom       | 0.00      | 0.00      | 10.82       | 14.34        | 14.11              | 13.08              | 0.00      | 0.00       | 52.35  | 52.35  |
| 31    | Tom Haley       | 0.00      | 17.26     | 0.00        | 0.00         | 18.30              | 14.61              | 0.00      | 0.00       | 50.17  | 50.17  |
| 32    | Sean Brown      | 15.15     | 17.23     | 17.63       | 0.00         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 0.00      | 0.00       | 50.01  | 50.01  |
| 33    | Drew Damtoft    | 16.62     | 18.19     | 14.51       | 0.00         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 0.00      | 0.00       | 49.32  | 49.32  |
| 34    | Bob Manley      | 7.12      | 11.47     | 0.00        | 5.01         | 5.70               | 9.58               | 3.36      | 0.00       | 42.24  | 42.24  |
| 35    | Merritt Diamond | 16.38     | 7.90      | 2.99        | 3.68         | 4.50               | 6.60               | 2.98      | 0.00       | 45.03  | 42.05  |
| 36    | Terry Gartz     | 10.63     | 15.32     | 10.00       | 2.11         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 2.84      | 0.00       | 40.90  | 40.90  |
| 37    | Dylan Mackarav  | 0.00      | 13.41     | 5.21        | 8.04         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 12.80     | 0.00       | 39.46  | 39.46  |
| 38    | Rich Calabrese  | 0.00      | 0.00      | 10.15       | 0.00         | 14.52              | 14.46              | 0.00      | 0.00       | 39.13  | 39.13  |
| 39    | Orlando Roman   | 16.15     | 0.00      | 13.66       | 4.88         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 0.00      | 0.00       | 34.69  | 34.69  |
| 40    | Jack Kleinman   | 14.55     | 17.23     | 0.00        | 0.00         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 0.00      | 0.00       | 31.78  | 31.78  |
| 41    | Kevin Kinnear   | 16.80     | 12.96     | 0.00        | 0.00         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 0.00      | 0.00       | 29.76  | 29.76  |
| 42    | Liane Livote    | 0.00      | 5.56      | 6.05        | 3.31         | 11.68              | 0.00               | 0.00      | 0.00       | 26.60  | 26.60  |
| 43    | Rob Browe       | 0.00      | 0.00      | 1.40        | 4.23         | 4.05               | 11.28              | 0.00      | 0.00       | 20.96  | 20.96  |
| 44    | Devon Talbot    | 19.14     | 0.00      | 0.00        | 0.00         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 0.00      | 0.00       | 19.14  | 19.14  |
| 45    | Ray Sacheli     | 0.00      | 0.00      | 0.00        | 13.32        | 0.00               | 0.00               | 4.33      | 0.00       | 17.65  | 17.65  |
| 46    | Dalton Forte    | 0.00      | 0.00      | 0.00        | 0.00         | 3.90               | 10.75              | 0.00      | 0.00       | 14.65  | 14.65  |
| 47    | Dalton Talbot   | 13.07     | 0.00      | 0.00        | 0.00         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 0.00      | 0.00       | 13.07  | 13.07  |
| 48    | Andrew Weber    | 0.00      | 0.00      | 0.00        | 11.32        | 0.00               | 0.00               | 0.00      | 0.00       | 11.32  | 11.32  |
| 49    | Ben Levy        | 3.31      | 7.77      | 0.00        | 0.00         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 0.00      | 0.00       | 11.08  | 11.08  |
| 50    | Don Josselyn    | 2.56      | 0.00      | 0.00        | 2.55         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 0.00      | 0.00       | 5.11   | 5.11   |
| 51    | Dan Palazzo     | 0.00      | 0.00      | 0.00        | 0.00         | 0.00               | 0.00               | 2.33      | 0.00       | 2.33   | 2.33   |





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**Stephen Levine**  
 Financial Advisor

Direct: 585-278-8665  
 Fax: 585-445-7266  
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