

TODD KELLER WINS

HIS FIRST TOURNAMENT AT THE 1000 ISLANDS WITH A 22.02 LB.



ANGLER OF THE YEAR SERIES AT **1000 ISLANDS** AUGUST 21, 2021 FRENCH CREEK MARINA • CLAYTON, NY







JIM BIANCHI 2nd Place - 20.36 lbs.

Day One of the Tradewins Financial Angler of the Year Series at the 1000 Islands was won by **Todd Keller** with 22.02 lbs.

Todd said, "**Bob Manley** and I had a great day in Lake of the Isles again. We were very surprised to find Smallmouth. Oh wait, that's not right. We had a good practice and felt comfortable mixing things up and going for small mouth this year.



JON SKIRMENT 5th Place - 18.23 LBS.

Despite Bob's insistence of following his non-boater rules and letting him catch the first fish, I caught a 4.50 and 5.68 (unfortunately it died and officially weighed 5.43 lbs but still held up for lunker). I let Bob catch a big one after that and we slowly caught fish throughout the day.

My first 5 fish were what I ended up weighing in. We used Bob's favorite fishing technique for most of the day. His most **FAVORITE** way to fish. By now you know that was the drop shot.

Thanks Bob for putting us on fish, being an exceptional net man and not throwing me overboard for not following the non-boater rules on your boat."

Jim Bianchi took 2nd place with 20.36 lbs.

I had 1.5 days of practice and found some deep fish and also mid-range fish in a handful of areas. I fished pretty fast in practice so I wasn't positive how good each area was and told Jack Kleinman that we would figure it out as we went. My first deep spot gave up one tank and several threes to get a solid bag going and then we jumped around a bit. We got to a mid-range area and Jack immediately stuck one over 4 and then another. We had to work for them but we knew we found the right ones using both moving baits and drop shots. I followed a similar routine on day two but it seemed like double the number of fish were at each area and it got stupid. A huge thanks to Dom and Marie for putting up with all of us, you made it hard to leave paradise!

With no photo evidence, Mark -2-



JACK KLIENMAN 7th Place - 17.86 lbs.

Harold placed in 3rd with 18.41 lbs.

Mark said, "After a so-so practice on Wednesday in the lake and concerned that what I found would either not be enough or the smallmouth would move, I spent Thursday and Friday in the river. I found some spotty smallmouth action and what seemed to be some reliable largemouth in the river, so I decided to fish the river. However, after a brief conversation with my day one

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TYLER AUSTIN 8th Place - 17.84 lbs.







Matt Ferante 14th Place - 16.39 lbs.

partner Sean Sims we decided that we preferred to go for the bigger, but less predictable, lake smallmouth. Fortunately, the shallow smallmouth I found were still there. I used a topwater lure to catch my first fish, switched over to a Lou Dog spinnerbait for some fast action, and ended the day culling a few times with the marabou jig. I ended up in third place with 18.41 pounds. With high hopes, I day two I made the same run to the lake. Unfortunately, this time I wasn't as lucky. Someone from a tournament out of Cape Vincent was sitting right on my best spot. I gave up on it after

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		Fish	Fish		
Place	Angler	Caught	Alive	Lunker	Weight
1	Todd Keller	5	4	5.43	22.02
2	Jim Bianchi	5	4		20.36
3	Mark Harold	5	5	4.99	18.41
4	Tj Valle	5	4		18.30
5	Jon Skirment	5	4	4.73	18.23
6	Bill Wittman	5	5	5.13	17.87
7	Jack Kleinman	5	4		17.86
8	Tyler Austin	5	5	5.40	17.84
9	Jeff Morton	5	5	4.80	17.46
10	David Livingston	5	3		16.76
11	Ralph Alexander	5	5		16.75
12	Dan Patane	5	5		16.66
13	Dom Cerasuolo	5	3		16.52
14	Matt Ferrante	5	3		16.39
15	Rod Brown	5	5		15.32
16	Tige Noni	5	1		15.17
17	Jake Zaremski	5	5		15.15
18	Tom Saile	5	1		14.95
19	Doug Walker	5	4		13.56
20	Gabriel Tan	5	5		13.02
21	Kevin Steinruck	3	3	5.40	12.71
22	Sean Sims	4	4		12.21
23	Jim Walters	5	5		11.74
24	Orlando Roman	5	5		11.66
25	Nate Kalpin	5	5		11.51
26	Wes Vyverberg	4	4		11.43
27	Paul Caldwell	3	3		10.88
28	Bob Manley	3	3		10.53
29	Ben Levy	2	2		10.07
30	Dave Rowe	5	5		9.88
31	Steve Levine	5	3		9.49
32	Terry Gartz	5	5		8.68
33	Mark Saile	4	4		7.38
34	Brian Tesmer	2	2		2.27
35	Mark Buttarazzi	1	1		1.96
36	Bob Mceneaney	0	0		0.00





a few minutes and ran to a large shallow area that was loaded on Saturday and were biting when we left. They were gone."

Taking the 4th place spot was **TJ Valle**.

TJ said, "Saturday and Sunday were two awesome days caught probably 50 fish per day.. had a lot of opportunities for bigger bags but the way I was fishing your catch to land ratio is sometimes not in your favor but a dam good time.. both day partners were blown away at the amount of fish that were in all the areas we fished.. it was incredible..both day partners Gabe Tan and Wes Vyverberg were great they said they had never experienced anything like that.. we were fishing structure in 0-8ft and that's all your getting.. it's taken me 25yrs to fish this stuff and I am not giving it away... techinics were simple topwater in the morning that yielded LM that were supposed to be smallies but turns out they were big so who cares weight is weight.. then three of my main areas were an Arsenal of weapons, little super secret bait I make that a few people know about, senko, and spybait... nothing to crazy.. my rods are key because they are technic specific and able me to make very long casts(ask Wes) to get to these fish so they were not spooked.. and also my new Shimano Vanford

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reels.. if anybody is in the market seriously treat yourself yeah I know it's alot of money BUT it's worth every penny just Bc of the drag alone. Also I love my **Phoenix Boat!**

Finishing 5th, **Jon Skirment** brought 18.23 lbs. to the scales.

John said, "I had a mixed bag of largemouth and smallmouth. The largemouth were a welcomed surprise as I primarily found schools of smallmouth in these areas in practice. I caught everything I weighed on a dropshot Berkley Flat Worm.

The largemouth came around weed clumps in 6-8ft of water in the morning. I then transitioned to a shallow rock flat area in 1-5ft of water with scattered rock and boulders. The breeze had picked up just enough to make sight fishing tough, so I relied on long casts to key target areas on the flat as we picked our way through.

Thanks to **Orlando Roman** for a great time on the water and keeping a positive outlook all day despite the adverse scramble to switch from his boat to the back of my boat last minute in the morning before blast off."

Bill Wittman took 6th place with 17.87 lbs.

Jack Kleinman took the 7th palce spot with 17.86 lbs.













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