



BASS TAPS

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LONG ISLAND BASSMASTERS, INC.

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President's Line

By Steve Socko

Food, Friends, and Fishing, three things I enjoy very much, all of which were abundantly present at our recent Awards Dinner. I would like to thank Club members Dominic Berardi, Ken Dreyer, and George Kowalinski for making the arrangements and keeping the whole day run smoothly. Anyone who was unable to attend the dinner should contact Ken to receive their awards.

In addition to the awards and food, the dinner allows the opportunity for everyone to get together and discuss a favorite topic; of course fishing. We all talk about our winter purchases, fish stories, preference of lakes to fish, and generally start to get a little excited about the upcoming season. The fact that the dinner happens to fall on the last day of competition for the Bassmaster Classic doesn't hurt either.

March is a great month, the days are getting longer, warmer, spring begins to sprout and one can not help but think of wetting a line. I can't wait to get out there because unlike my fellow brethren who have braved the cold and have the patience to wait and slow down in order to catch a fish in the hard water months of winter, I have been cooped up all winter. But I can see a light at the end of the tunnel, in the end of the month, our state DEC will once again perform a valuable and long awaited function; the stocking of fish in our local waters, of course they are trout, but what trout! I use to kid my trout buddies and say that trout are just something to fatten bass up with, but after catching some of those beautiful two year old Brownies the state has been purchasing in recent years, with ultralight or fly fishing gear, I will have to modify my opinion.

March is a great month to imagine, we all start with a clean slate for the year and anything is possible.

It's kind of like spring training for fishermen, before the tournament season begins in April. Regardless of how good or bad last year's season was for you, the fish don't remember, so why should you.

Along with fishing come Club functions, at our March meeting a list will be passed around to collect the names of those who are interested in volunteering to help the DEC in their annual free fishing day at Belmont Lake on April 10th. Please sign up, and be on the list of those who receive free parking to all who help. This is one of the most enjoyable of the functions LIB will provide throughout the year, and I encourage all members' especially new members to attend. Allot of the members who have attended already know what fun it can be. So come and enjoy the camaraderie and the sense of helping out at a great event.

If you haven't been at a General meeting so far this year, shame on you. We have had some wonderful entertainment so far this year provided by Steve Anderson (January), and our own jig master Eric Fieldstadt (February). In March Rich Siberry, fishing manager at Campsite in Huntington will show a demo of his outrageous video 'Montauk Rocks'. It centers on the extreme side of Montauk fishing for stripers.

Dan McGarry and Dave Cangro have been working hard procuring permits and such to provide us with another exciting tournament season. Due to an increase of \$40.00 for a non-resident Con-

necticut fishing license, this year we will have slightly more tournaments in the nutmeg state to make it worth our investment.

One of the additions will be a small boat tournament held at Squantz Pond to help provide the money for our Lake Ronkonkoma stocking program. The payouts will be the same (percentage wise) to the big boat tournament held the following week at Sqwantz Cove, Candlewood Lake.

In my previous President's Lines I have thanked the numerous members for helping out in various Club functions, in particular Dan McGarry for being this year's Tournament Director. With the compilation of this up-coming tournament season I am reminded of how complicating and frustrating it can be to make all the pieces fit together. As you know our Club competes for the same bodies of water that many other clubs vie for. As much as it is Dan's responsibility, and for that matter catching most of the heat when things are not perfect, it is the man behind the scenes, who must conjure up some magic to create what has yet to be made. You can have nine out of ten tournaments set-up, but if there is a problem with the tenth one, it may set in motion a cascading effect turning the whole season into turmoil. I know a little about procuring tournaments, but let me say that every year its gets increasingly difficult to achieve this task. So the next time you see Dave Cangro, thank him very much, because he is the one doing a wonderful job behind the scenes. I was reminded of this, seeing what he is going through, and I have to admit that I am glad that it is not me this year. Thank you Dave.

Lastly, Jim Drost has tendered his resignation as Past-President to avoid any conflict of interest. Dan McGarry will assume this position creating a void for one more member -at- large. If you are interested, or know of someone to nominate to the Board, please do so at our March meeting. Thank you all, Steve Socko

“The Long Island Bassmasters wish to thank Steve Anderson from the 316:Lures Co. for his exhilarating discussion on swimbaits, and for all the product he so generously handed out at our January meeting. Thank you Steve, you made for a fun evening, and we hope to see you again.”