

# New York The Bass Federation

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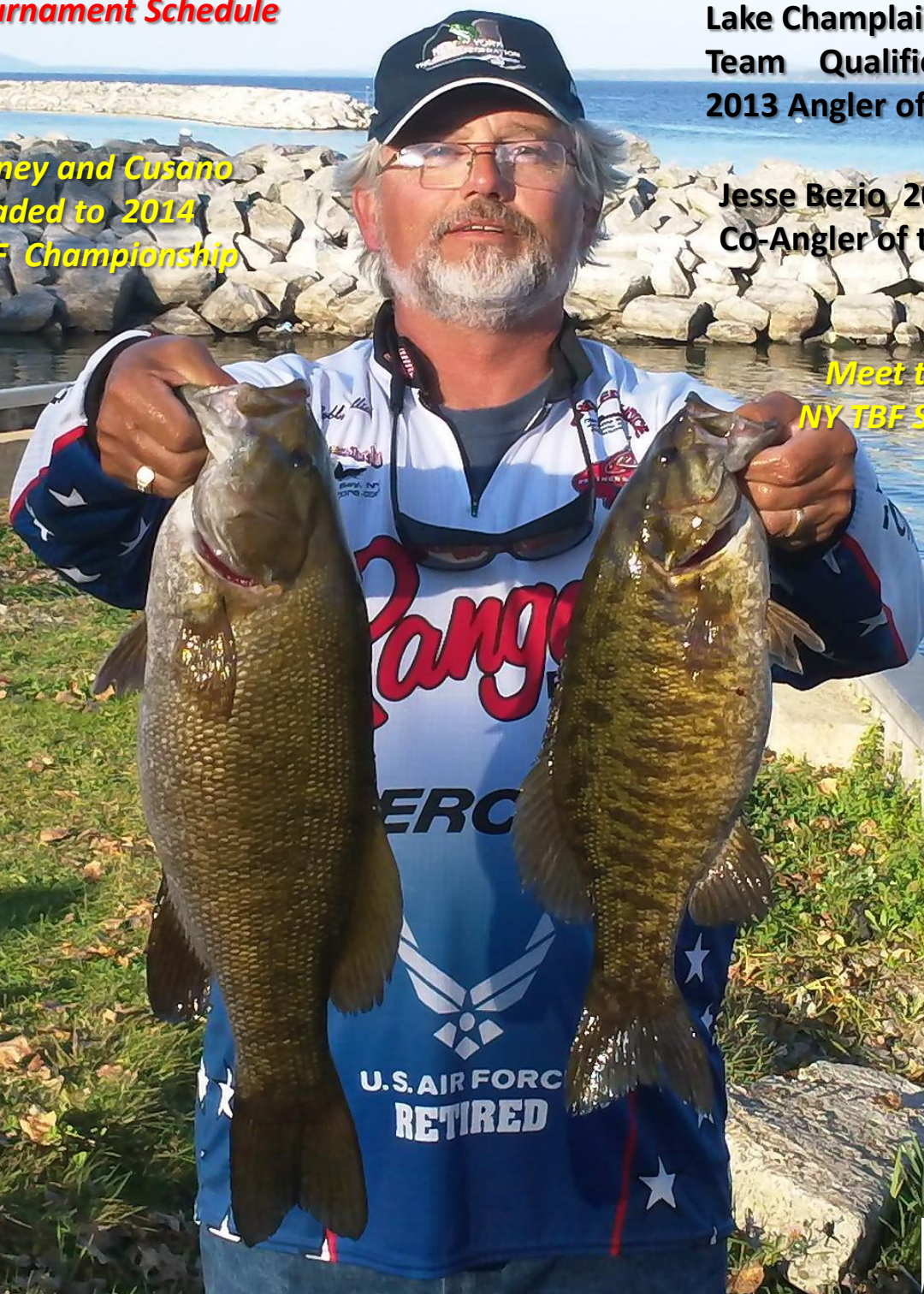
**2014**  
**Tournament Schedule**

**Haney and Cusano**  
**headed to 2014**  
**TBF Championship**

**Bobby Williams wins**  
**Lake Champlain State**  
**Team Qualifier and**  
**2013 Angler of the Year**

**Jesse Bezia 2013**  
**Co-Angler of the Year**

**Meet the 2014**  
**NY TBF State Team**



**LOWRANCE**





# NYTBF Board of Directors

**President**

Bobby Williams  
[labob1995@gmail.com](mailto:labob1995@gmail.com)  
315.408.8472

PO Box 185  
Lafargeville, NY 13656

**Vice President**

Tom Luciano  
[tluciano@millermind.com](mailto:tluciano@millermind.com)  
423.619.1458

3559 E Schroon Rv. Rd  
Pottersville, NY 12860

**Secretary**

Sandy Williams  
[nytbfinfo@gmail.com](mailto:nytbfinfo@gmail.com)  
315.408.1789

PO Box 185  
Lafargeville, NY 13656

**Eastern Regional  
Director**

Name  
email  
phone

street or PO Box  
town, state & zip

**Western Regional  
Director & Public  
Relations**

Burnie Haney  
[z8haney@gmail.com](mailto:z8haney@gmail.com)  
315.408.7622

PO Box 136  
Calcium, NY 13616

**Youth Director**

Rob Lamoy  
[rlamoyassoc@hotmail.com](mailto:rlamoyassoc@hotmail.com)  
518.569.6656

9677 Rte 9  
Chazy, NY 12921

**Conservation Director**

Nikki Eddy  
[niceddy07@gmail.com](mailto:niceddy07@gmail.com)  
315.415.7558

**Collegiate President**

Brendan Bolis  
[bboli002@yahoo.com](mailto:bboli002@yahoo.com)  
phone

street or PO Box  
town, state & zip

**NYTBF Information**

<http://www.nytbf.com>



# NYTBF SPONSORS



## 2014 Tournament Schedule

Date	Location	Launch	Event
Jun 14	Lake Champlain	Point Au Rouche	NYTBF Points
Jun 28	St Lawrence River	French Creek, Clayton NY	Lions Club Tm Open
Jun 29	St Lawrence River	French Creek, Clayton NY	NYTBF Tm Open
Jul 13	Cayuga Lake	TBD	NYTBF Points
Aug 24	Lake Ontario	Chaumont Bay	NYTBF Points
Sep 21	Lake Champlain	South Bay	NYTBF Points
Oct 12 &13	Lake Champlain	Port Henry	State Team Qualifier

Points Events are a \$90 entry fee per Boater and \$50 per non-boater (with a mandatory \$30 gas stipend payable to assigned boater) with 75% payback to the field. Contingency prizes awarded based on field size. Additionally, each angler will be awarded points based place of finish, beginning with 100 pts for 1st, then 97 for 2nd, 94 for 3rd, 91 for 4th, 89 for 5th, and so on... All anglers that zero will share last place points.

**Angler and Co-Angler of the Year** will be based on points amassed throughout the fishing season. The Boater and Non-boater amassing the greatest number of points for the season will be awarded an automatic spot on the 2015 NYTBF Eastern Divisional state team.

For additional information on tournaments got to <http://www.nytbfb.com/tournaments.html>



## BOBBY WILLIAMS WINS LAKE CHAMPLAIN STATE TEAM QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT WITH 35.35 LBS

October 15th, Calcium NY.... On October 12-13th The Bass Federation (TBF) held their annual State Team Qualifier (STQ) tournament on Lake Champlain with their base of operations out of Port Henry. Weather conditions were stable for three days leading into the event to include day one. However, day two the big lake showed her colors as Mother Nature produced sustained SSE winds of 8-15 mph.

Going into the tournament many locals announced the bite was slightly off and predictions were the two day tournament winner needed 30 lbs. or better to win and that held true to form. The top three weights were all in excess of 30 lbs. with a separation of just three pounds. We had a chance to talk with the winners and they shared a few tips on what worked for them.

Taking 1st place was NY TBF Vice President Bobby Williams with a two day total of 35.35 lbs. Williams reports a successful pattern running main lake points with a Lucky Craft Pointer 100 (Citrus Shad) and he also fished shore line flats in 8-12 ft. with a Texas-rigged Zoom Speed Craw (Green Pumpkin) with the tips dipped in Chartreuse Spike-It.

Williams reports catching 11 fish on day one and that included the daily lunger, a smallmouth bass weighing in at 5.40 lbs. Day two he caught only eight fish but they weighed 17.95 lbs. and that limit was anchored by a solid 4.95 lb. smallie.

In addition to winning the event and day one lunger Williams also pocketed the Ranger Cup bonus money and Cablea's Angler Cash.





## The NYTBF 2014 State Team



L-R: Kneeling Row- Rob Lamoy, Tom Luciano, Ben Wright, Jasen Barnes, Bud Harrington  
Standing Row – Jesse Bezio, Dave Hart, Dave Suttle, Bobby Williams, Chris Gore, Dan Murphy, Brian Wnchell



# ***Haney & Cusano Advance to 2014 TBF National Championship*** (April 7-12<sup>th</sup> Grand Lake , Grove Oklahoma)

## **Designated Boater for NYTBF**

### **Burnie Haney:**

- 53 years old (married)
- Operations Supervisor at Fort Drum NY
- Favorite Techniques:
  - Power Fishing horizontal baits
  - Drop shot 4 - 6 lb test
- Sponsors: Bass Pro Shops & Nitro Boats, TFO Rods, The Rod Glove, Lucky Craft, Keitech Bait Company

**NYTBF:** Tell us about your tournament strategy at the 2013 TBF Eastern Divisional on the Connecticut River



**HANEY:** I worked with Mike Cusano. He found an internet source for maps and I printed off a set of maps we studied and took with us. He decided to focus his efforts north of Middletown and I decided I'd fish south. I arrived Saturday morning and was on the water by 11:30 on an outgoing tide. Having never fished there before and only fished tidal waters on the Hudson River four times before, I knew I had to find a high percentage area .

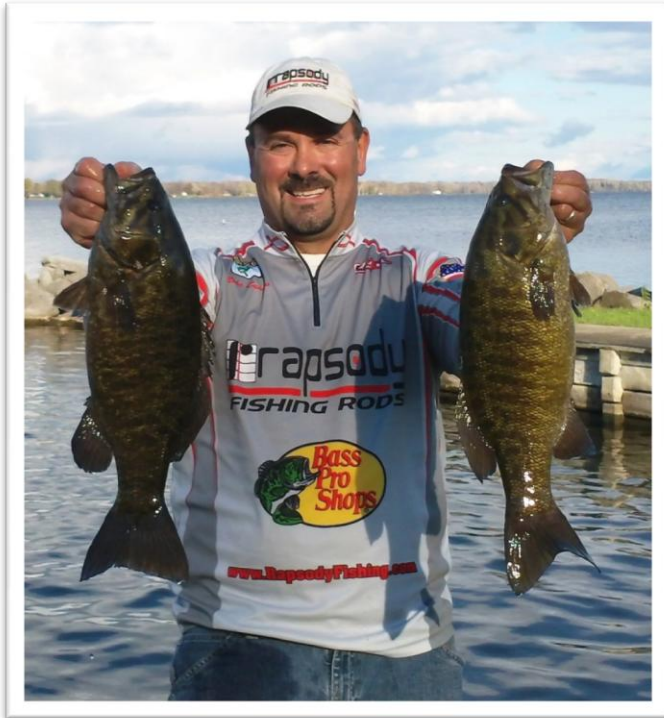
I looked for a quality grass flat, near a neck down area that would concentrate the bait, and I wanted a creek mouth near by. I found such an area on the map and it took me about 2 hrs to confirm it was what I wanted. It had good depth at high and low tides, quality cover, and a good population of baitfish in the area. I caught three quality largemouth in a 250 yard stretch on Spinnerbaits and a Chatterbait and I knew I'd likely fish the entire event right there. Each night our team shared information and that helped all of us refine our patterns.

Day one I drew a local angler and I boated the first fish of the day off my primary area and then he pulled out a Strike King Rage Tail Shad and boated a 10 lb. limit. I caught two more Fish, but only weighed in three fish for the day.

Day two the tide changed and I had a longer period to work my area and I used a Chatterbait, a Zoom Horny Toad and a Strike King Rage Tail Shad and I had a nice limit that put me in second place for our team standings.

Day three I went back to the same area and I used a ½ oz Strike King KVD Swimjig dressed with a Keitech Swing Impact Fat 3.8" (Silver Flash) and I caught my limit and culled once. I wasn't sure if I had enough weight to advance to the Nationals, but I was hopeful and it all worked out in my favor.





## Designated Co-Angler for NYTBF

### Mike Cusano:

- 46 years old (married)
- Business Analyst at Syracuse University
- Favorite Techniques:
  - Power Fishing a Swim bait
  - Dragging a Tube or Jig
- Sponsors: Rapsody Fishing Rods, Keitech Bait Company

**NYTBF:** Tell us about your tournament strategy at the 2013 TBF Eastern Divisional on the Connecticut River

**Cusano:** It was very interesting and helpful to have my long time team partner Burnie Haney qualify for the same Divisional team event. We were able to

gather and dissect information in advance of the event to formulate a practice strategy. During nightly team meetings we were able to adjust the plan by working together with the team members. Those meetings allowed us all to refine and determine numerous successful patterns and baits.

Started my first practice day south of Middletown; I was not happy with the size or the quantity of the fish. In addition it seemed that the majority of the tournament field was fishing down there. Next day I went north of Middletown and using information from the team meeting, I was able to use a spinnerbait and swim jig to locate a few key stretches of eel grass that had bait and contained some decent sized fish. My last day of practice I continued north and never found anything that had the quality of the fish I was catching. So I was basically committed to rotate through 4-5 different areas at different tides until the fish showed up, knowing I would get fewer bites but had a shot at catching a couple of good fish (3 lb. class) each day.

Day 1: Got 2 quality bites I hoped for but didn't capitalize. Only had 3 fish for a little over 3 lbs.

Day 2: Had 3 small keepers pretty quickly on the swim jig on an outgoing tide and at the end of the day my co-angler and I went on a small flurry with a drop shot. I had a small limit; 7 + lbs.

Day 3: Started in spot where I finished day 2. Slack tide. My partner while telling me a story had a giant smallmouth crush a topwater. I picked up a Lucky Craft Gunfish and immediately box a fish around 3 lbs. I pick up two more barely legal keepers before the topwater bite died. I then started rotating through my areas waiting for the tide to get right. Landed a 2lb smallmouth on a Keitech 3.8" Fat Swing Impact, and with 20 minutes to go in the event landed a 2.5 lb. smallie on Zoom Horny Toad that finished my limit and gave me 9 lbs. 15 ounces for the day which was enough to leap frog several anglers and qualify for the Nationals as a co-angler.

## **NYTBF 2013**

### **Angler of the Year**

**Bobby Williams**  
55 years old (married)  
Retired: US Air Force

We recently got a chance to ask our 2013 Angler of the Year a few questions and here's what he had to say



**NYTBF:** How long have you been fishing bass tournaments and what first got you interested in it?

**Williams:** I started fishing Bass tournaments since 1982. In the late 70s I went hunting with friends hunting, it was too warm to hunt but I caught several bass with fishing gear at the camp.

**NYTBF:** Of all your angling achievements where do you rate winning this AOY title and why?

**Williams:** It's number one. With the talent we have in the NYTBF and being 55 with health issues and diminishing skills I didn't believe this would be in the cards for me this late in life.

**NYTBF:** How would you classify yourself finesse or power fisherman and what's your favorite .

**Williams:** I am a finesse fisherman, and I like to fish a weightless Senko in all types of cover and use a drop shot.

**NYTBF:** Looking back on the 2013 tournament schedule, what do you think was your toughest tournament and why ?

**Williams:** Lake George in July. I had no confidence in catching a large bag of fish and being able to fish that time of year.

**NYTBF:** At what point during this season did you realize you had a legitimate shot at the AOY title and did it change how you fished any of the remaining tournaments?

**Williams:** At the weigh-in at the last tournament because the points were too close to call. I fished to the last possible minute to hopefully have enough weight.

**NYTBF:** As the reigning NYTBF AOY you've qualified for the 2014 TBF Eastern Divisional tournament and that event is scheduled for the St Lawrence River in Clayton, do you think you'll have a home water advantage over the other teams competing in the event?

**Williams:** No, because winning on your home water is extremely difficult because you rely on old habits and fail to adjust appropriately in most cases.

**NYTBF:** Last question, as a Boater what advice or tips can you offer other tournament anglers?

**Williams:** I can offer that tournament fishing is not a get-rich-quick program. Enjoy the time on the water, teach when you can. Learn from others and don't take yourself too seriously. As a Boater- don't try to keep up with the Jones's. Keep perspective on what size boat you can comfortably use and afford.





## **NYTBF 2013** **Co-Angler of the Year**

**Jesse Bezio** ,18 years old (single)  
Legal Assistant

We recently got a chance to ask our 2013 Co-Angler of the Year a few questions and here's what he had to say

**NYTBF:** How long have you been fishing bass tournaments and what first got you interested in it?

**Bezio:** I started fishing Bass tournaments at the age of Fifteen years old I always liked the competition. What first got me into this sport is watching it on television one day. Mike laconelli was fishing and explaining how to use lures and how to catch fish with different techniques; that fascinated me and I told myself that I wanted to be that when I get older. I started fishing every day and practicing my skills and trying different things and teaching myself how to use certain types of baits... etc.

**NYTBF:** Of all your angling achievements where do you rate winning this AOY title and why?

**Bezio:** I am pretty proud of Winning AOY because I feel that a lot of things come hard for me. I told myself the first full year of Adult TBF that I would achieve this goal and now that I've achieved it I'll set new goals such as winning a tournament or going to Nationals... that is my huge goal.

**NYTBF:** How would you classify yourself finesse or power fisherman and what's your favorite

**Bezio:** I would classify myself as a finesse fisherman, but I also know when it's time to switch up and change baits or different techniques depending on the structure or anything that I come upon when fishing.

**NYTBF:** Looking back on the 2013 tournament schedule, what do you think was your toughest tournament and why ?

**Bezio:** The Mohawk River I had trouble finding what they were biting on the structure was great but I need more time on that river.

**NYTBF:** At what point during this season did you realize you had a legitimate shot at the AOY title and did it change how your fished any of the remaining tournaments?

**Bezio:** Well my first tournament for 2013 was the Hudson River out of Catskill and I placed second, this river is a tough fishery. By placing second in the first tournament of the year that put me 2<sup>nd</sup> in the AOY race and I knew I had a shot. I felt confident after that tournament and I was able to beat out the first place angler of the year holder and maintain my spot.

**NYTBF:** As the reigning NYTBF AOY you've qualified for the 2014 TBF Eastern Divisional tournament and that event is scheduled for the St Lawrence River in Clayton, do you think you'll have a home water advantage over the other teams competing in the event?

**Bezio:** I know that we have an awesome team going to the ST. Lawrence River and I feel confident that we can pull this out and make a first place finish for 2014. I think we may have advantage the only people that could also have an advantage is Ontario possibly.

**NYTBF:** Last question, as a Co-Angler what advice or tips can you offer other tournament anglers?

**Bezio:** Believe in yourself and keep telling yourself you can do this and stay positive because good things happen to those who wait. Not only that, but if you are good god will give you good in return.

**BACK COVER**  
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