

SOUTHERN FISHING™

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 8, 1999

Fishing celebrity Bill Dance makes appearance

Horton's Fishing for Kids event held on Pickwick

On October 9, 1999, Bassmaster pro Timmy Horton's "Fishing for Kids" tournament was held on Pickwick Lake in Northwest Alabama - despite some damp weather. The tournament featured an appearance by television fishing celebrity Bill Dance.

Thirty local anglers donated their boats and time to take one or two kids fishing that rarely, or never, have the opportunity to fish. The rules were simple-bring in just about anything you can catch-bass, stripe, catfish, bream, shad, or drum. Crickets, bobbers and artificial lures were to use by the youngsters. One youngster even had a small turtle in her bag. Winning and the size of the fish was not the point. It was all about just going fishing.



Southern Fishing photo

Timmy Horton holds one of the fish caught by Jason Buckalew while the young angler poses with visiting fishing celebrity Bill Dance.

Fisherman Sam Horton, 15, said, "We fished for pretty much everything in general. It was pretty good." Another angler, Michael Cole said he "really liked it." When asked what he enjoyed most about the fishing trip Cole said, "The boat ride". This was the young man's first fishing trip of his life.

Dance said, "I can really relate to an event like this. I know what fishing meant to me while I was growing up. I was lucky because I had a father and grandfather that took me fishing." He reflected that fishing



Southern Fishing photo

Michael Cole, left, fished with Sam Parker and brought in a big bag of drum for guest Bill Dance. Michael received a first place trophy for his 22-7 pounds of fish.

offers the opportunity for a child and adult to

"This is quality time. It doesn't matter if you are fishing from a boat or from a creek bank."

- Bill Dance

bond. "This is quality time. It doesn't matter if you are fishing from a boat or from a creek bank. The times I spent fishing with my father and grandfather are cherished moments. I still remember those special things that happened on our fishing trips," the celebrity recalled. Dance made a final observation about fishing with kids, "The size of the fish is not important."

Wet heads and big smiles were the order of the day. Although, a few of the young anglers did not relish the thought of holding their catch for a photo.

Trophies were presented for the top five bag of fish and the big fish. Michael Cole, fishing with Sam Parker, was first with 22 pounds, 7 ounces of drum. Second went to Kameron Anderson fishing with Michael Keeton. Jason Buckalew, fishing with Timmy Horton, took third for 9-2. At fourth was T.J. McDaniel who fished with Barry Holt. Fifth place was awarded to Matthew Ragan fishing with Kevin Chandler. Big fish of the fishing event, a 5-1 smallmouth, went to Justin Sykes who fished with Jonathan Newton. All of the contestants

continued on page 3

Event Calendar

- Nov 10/13 Red Man Regional, Pickwick/McFarland
- Dec 1 All Star Bassin' Team registrations begin for 2000
- Jan 12/15 Nashville Boat & Tackle Show



PHOTO BY BILL DAVIS

Jeff Herrin, Madison, Alabama, has something to smile about. Jeff has a 9 lb., 6 oz. largemouth he hooked in a slough on Wheeler. The lure was a Guntersville colored Rogersville Rattler topwater plug. Herrin is the official tank tester for the Rattler Bait Company.



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National Smallmouth Trail, Inc. 1999 Championship

The talk around Tims Ford Lake at Winchester, TN was ten pounds of smallmouth per night would walk away with the 1999 Championship. Discounted was the fact that the best smallmouth anglers in the country would be competing October 1 and 2. When a group like this is gathered, you can throw the odds, and the predictions, out the window.

To illustrate this point, Tim Pridmore, Huntsville, AL, and Joel Alm, Madison, AL, took first place with an impressive display of smallmouth fishing that garnered a total of 26.9 pounds of brown fish. They were the only team to bring in a five fish limit each night. The first night they bagged 15.8 pounds of smallies and on the second night 11.1 pounds. Pridmore and Alm used a jig and Zoom craw on medium rock banks in the mid-section of the lake. This is the second year in a row the team has won the championship.

In the seven year history of the National Smallmouth Trail, this is the first time there has been a repeat winning team at the championship. The pair won the 1998 event on Center Hill Lake.

Marty Smith, Hazel Green, AL, and Jeffery Johnson, Flintville, TN, finished second with 19.62 pounds. Smith and Johnson received the award for the best comeback of the event. The first morning they only had one smallmouth that weighed 3.6 pounds. Sunday morning they weighed 16.02 pounds of smallies. This catch was the best of any single night total. The team fished a jig and craw on limestone bluffs in the lower end of Tims Ford.

Third went to John Wooten and Steve Sherlin, Cleveland, TN, for a total weight of 16.34 pounds. The pair held second place after the first night of competition but could only muster 2.38 pounds on the second night. Wooten and Sherlin also used a jig in the mid-section of the lake.

Big fish honors went to Guy Tilford and Tim Guinn, Murfreesboro, TN for a first night hawg of 5.28 pounds. Butch Robertson, Chapel Hill, TN, and Ralph Melton, Murfreesboro, TN, took the big fish award the second night with a 4.96 pound smallmouth.

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Short Strikes

Ronnie McDonald, Editor

Congratulations to the 1999 All Star Bassin' Team winners. They started this journey back in March and have ended with a chance to walk away with \$1000 cash and the 1999 Top Rod Champion title. Jeff Hargett, the 1998 champ, will be in the Top Rod competition to defend his title.

As of this writing, the forecast is for a high in the 50's and winds from the northwest at 20 to 25 m.p.h. These conditions could impact some of the plans of the contestants. Look for the story in upcoming issues.

And thanks to the observers riding with the All Stars: Tommy Edwards, Bill Davis, Jr., Mack Pyle, Marty Hammond, Todd Ouellette, Jimmy McDonald and Bill Davis, Sr.





Southern Fishing photo

Darrell Reid took Dustin Todd on a smallmouth fishing trip in the Fishing for Kids tournament. Dustin proudly poses with his fish and Bill Dance.



Southern Fishing photo

Gray's Tackle Shop was well represented at the Fishing for Kids tournament with Danny Gray, Dewayne Rumble (left) and Waymon Gray (right) all fishing. Catori Williams fished with Rumble and Shelly Sharpston fished with Waymon Gray. Shelly even brought in a small snapping turtle as part of her catch.



Southern Fishing photo

Fishing for Kids continued

received a fishing trophy presented by Bill Dance. The appearance by Dance at the first event was sponsored by Fisher Marine and Russell Sporting Center, a local boat dealership that carries Fisher and Procraft boats.

Long-Lewis Ford of the Shoals was also a major sponsor of the kids tournament and assisted in running the event. Todd Ouellette, owner of Long-Lewis Ford of the Shoals, said Fishing for Kids will be an annual event. Long-Lewis Ford of the Shoals, Procraft Boats and Russell Sporting Center are three of Horton's major sponsors.

Richard Laxson, Shoals Youth Bassmasters, was the weighmaster and Kevin Self, WLAY radio, handled the emcee duties.

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Southern Fishing photo

Winners of the 1999 Lakeside Garden Club annual tournament were (L-R), Shannon Briggs, Mike Angel, first and lunger; Grover and Monroe Tidwell, second; Waymon and Danny Gray, third; and Charles Perkins and Ralph Parrish. This was the last All Star Bassin' Team qualifying event for 1999.

“Twofer” wins garden club event

Shannon Briggs could not believe his eyes in the early morning low light of the Lakeside Garden Club tournament on Pickwick. He yelled to partner Mike Angel to, “get the net!” Mike scurried in the bottom of the boat, swooped the net into the water, laid the net in the bottom of the boat and went back to fishing. What Mike did not realize at that moment was there was not one smallmouth attached to the Jumpin’ Minnow in the floor of the boat, but two.

Briggs pointed the situation out to his partner. Angel noted that the two might go about three pounds

each. Briggs added, “How about five pounds each.” Shannon was right. The two smallmouth that hit the same topwater plug weighed in at 5-1 and 4-7 pounds each. A genuine “twofer”. The bigger of the two won lunger. The team was already halfway to a winning total of 18 pounds 3 ounces-with a single cast. Briggs noted, “They (smallmouth) were everywhere.” All their fish were caught in the morning on topwater plugs.

Monroe and Grover Tidwell, always tough to beat on Pickwick, placed second with 13 pounds, 7 ounces. In a close run for second, Waymon and Danny Gray finished third with 13 pounds, 6 ounces. “Mr. Pickwick”, Charles Perkins, and partner Ralph Parrish took fourth with 12 pounds, 10 ounces. They also had a 4-13 big fish in their bag.

This was the final All Star Bassin’ Team qualifying event held October 16. Several All Star contestants fished the tournament to try to make the top six or hold their position in the top six. The final standings are listed on page 7.



Southern Fishing photo

Shannon Briggs holds the two smallies that wanted the same bait-a Jumping Minnow.

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SYB photo by Jennifer Laxson

Winners from the Shoals Youth Bassmasters final tournament , September 19, 1999 on Wilson, were (L-R) Channing Austin, 2nd place 11-15 age group; Turner Holderfield, 1st place 10 and younger group; Cory Rumble, 1st place 11-15 age group; and Josie Sandy, 3rd place, 11-15 age group.

Youth bass club finishes season



SYB photo by Jennifer Laxson

Corey Rumble has two smallies that put him in first place at the September 13 Shoals Youth tourney on Wilson.

The Shoals Youth Bassmasters finished the 1999 season with a tournament on Wilson and a picnic in Killen Park. The club fishes in two age groups- 10 and under and 11 to 15.

In the younger group, Turner Holderfield took the first place trophy with a 2 pound, 1 ounce smallmouth. Cory Rumble won first place, Channing Austin finished second and Josie Sandy placed third in the 11-15 group.

Cory Rumble... biggest largemouth and smallmouth

Cory Rumble had the club's biggest largemouth and smallmouth bass for the year. He received a \$50 savings bond from Jig Works. Cory fished with dad Dewayne.

Andy Pike, Alabama Marine Police, presented a program on Alabama boating laws and boating safety. Pike pointed out that a license is required even if the operator is only running the trolling motor.

Richard Laxson also voiced his thanks and appreciation for all of the club's sponsors for 1999.

Anyone interested in signing a youngster up in the Shoals Youth Bassmasters may contact Richard at 757-1660 for the 2000 season. Boys and girls up to the age of 16 may join. Club tournaments are held from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. on area lakes.

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B.A.S.S. photo - MarJean Corkran
Emcee, Fish Fishburne, announces the winner of the Maryland Big Kmart BASSMASTER Top 150 while Melanie Horton smiles with emotional approval at winner Tim Horton holding his first winning plaque of his first Top 150 season.

Horton takes Top 150 Victory

MarJean Corkran, B.A.S.S.

Tim Horton, a 27-year-old pro from Spruce Pine, Alabama kept it all together until he finally reached the Smallwood State Park weigh-in stand Saturday at the \$409,450 BIG Kmart BASSMASTER Top 150 on Maryland's Potomac River. It was only after the scales showed that his 19-pound, 13-ounce limit for a four-day total of 77-8 assured his victory did Horton let his emotions overwhelm him.

Choking back tears, Horton told B.A.S.S. emcee Fish Fishburne that his thoughts had drifted during the day to an 18-year-old disabled youth named Jason who he had taken fishing during a charity event at Alabama's Pickwick Lake.

"Just thinking about his situation in life as compared to mine - and that this was just a fishing tournament - put everything into perspective. If things didn't work out today, it just wasn't that big of a deal in comparison."

Well, everything worked out quite nicely for Horton in taking home the \$74,000 in cash and a fully-rigged Ranger boat and Mercury outboard valued at \$26,000. Not only did respond with a stunning effort, he won going away by extending his lead to nearly 16 pounds.

"I was hoping that within five years I could win one, this is pretty much a surprise," said Horton about his first year on the BIG Kmart Top 150 circuit. "I'm on a roll now but it can go the other way pretty quick."

Horton's Potomac magic came largely on the strength of a 1/2-ounce Excalibur Cordell Spot (fire tiger) fished on 14-pound Silver Thread line and rigged to a seven-foot Browning crankin' stick/Shimano Curado combination. Unlike many other pros who found themselves fishing familiar water, Horton discovered an overlooked rocky shoal that he found on the last day of practice. Tipped off by a significantly larger group of feeding cormorants and gulls than normally seen on the Potomac, Horton was drawn to the area, eventually

finding the 20 by 75-yard spot by idling around the bay with sonar.

Leading by nearly 8 1/2 pounds going into the final round (when the field is pared down to the top ten pros), Horton virtually had everyone else fighting for second place.

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Final

Competitors with no totals are not shown

<p>78.90875 72.7525 48.57125 44.03625 42.375 42.375</p> <p>41.32125 32.005 27.71625 27.71625 26.75 26.75 25.69 25.69 24.77 18.125 17.38</p>	<p>Tony Datuin Donny Beck Sammy Mitchell Doug Chesteen Randy Jackson Jimmy Robb</p> <p>Jeff Hargett* Monty Yeager Sonny Carter Lee Carter Todd McBrayer Bennie Belcher Randy Ritenour Randy Mix Steve Johnson Shannon Poole Tommy Milstead</p>	<p>17.0725 17.0725 14.89 11.625 9.75 9.75 9.75 8.9375 7.125 7.125 6.81 6.70625 6.70625 4.75</p>	<p>Shannon Cox Donnie Miller Dennis Evans Steve Gautney Tony South Jeremy Jones Henry George Jack Langston Steve Hill Brett Putman Barry Youngblood Chad Murray Al Hyde Sam Parker</p>	<p>Top Hawg Award Winner Tony Datuin 6.2 1/2 lbs.</p> <p>LONG-LEWIS FORD OF THE SHOALS</p>  
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*1998 Top Rod Champion

Southern Fishing All Star Bassin' Team named

Southern Fishing has named the 1999 All Star Bassin' Team from the results of the seven qualifying tournaments that begin early this year. This is the third year that Southern Fishing has recognized the outstanding bass tournament anglers in the area.

The team members are: Tony Datuin, Donny Beck, Sammy Mitchell, Doug Chesteen, Randy Jackson, and Jimmy Robb.

Tony Datuin won the Long-Lewis Ford of the Shoals Top Hawg Award for the biggest lunker in all the qualifying tournaments. The award carried \$250 cash and a framed Top Hawg certificate.

Datuin, Beck and Chesteen fished the All Star competition for the first time this year. Jackson and Robb are qualifying for the second year in a row. Sammy Mitchell is qualifying for the third consecutive year.

The 1998 Top Rod Champion, Jeff Hargett, finished just out of the top six qualifying positions but is guaranteed a slot in this year's Top Rod fish-off as the defending champ.

The team gathered at Outpost 72 for an awards banquet where they received merchandise from All Star sponsors Charlie Brewer Slider Company, Bass Assassin, Mango Tackle, Smelly Jelly, Rattler Bait Company, Screen Connection and Southern Fishing.

In addition to the hundreds of dollars of merchandise, the All Star qualifiers competed head-to-head for \$1000 in the Russell Sporting Center Southern Fishing Top Rod Championship. Charlie Brewer Slider Company co-sponsors the championship held on Wilson Lake, October 23.

Profiles of the All Star Team members and coverage of the Top Rod Championship will be included in the next issues of Southern Fishing and on the Internet at southern-fishing.com.

Participation in the competition is open to all anglers in the area. Competitors register and pay a small fee for the entire year, then fish any or all of the qualifying local tournaments. The qualifying tournaments are tournaments held on local lakes and sponsored by nonprofit organizations. Totals are recorded by individual names so contestants can fish with the same partner all year or a different partner each tournament.

At the end of the season, the bass anglers with the top six total weights qualify for the All Star team and the right to fish in the Top Rod Championship. There is no additional entry fee to compete for the \$1000. In addition, any All Star competitor can claim the \$250 Top Hawg Award, regardless of their position in the final standings.

Tournament anglers can compete to make the All Star Team, get a free All Star competition T-shirt, receive hundreds of dollars of sponsor merchandise, fish for the \$250 Top Hawg Award, go head-to-head in the \$1000 Top Rod Championship, compete for the prize money in the qualifying tournaments and support nonprofit sponsors. All this for a low All Star registration fee. Entry fees for the qualifying events are obviously not included in the All Star registration.

All Star competitors are actually fishing two tournaments for the price of one when fishing a qualifying event. Registration for the 2000 All Star Bassin' Team competition will begin in December.