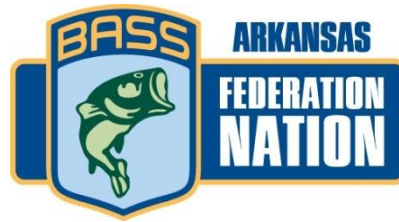


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Press Release

Thompson and Lusby win their respective age groups in the 2011 Arkansas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Junior State Championship.

Lake Village, AR, May 1, 2011: The best junior anglers in Arkansas descended on Lake Chicot and its cypress lined banks this past weekend to crown state champions for 2011. With Mother Nature wreaking havoc throughout the south the past few weeks, none of the anglers knew what to expect when practice started on Saturday. Throughout the weekend, the wind never relented and caused many to have to alter their original game plan for the tournament. As the weigh in concluded Sunday afternoon at Lake Chicot State Park, it was evident few had dialed in what the Lake Chicot Bass were wanting.

However, Ralston Lusby of Hot Springs was one junior angler that had a solid plan. During a Central Arkansas Junior Bassmasters club tournament earlier in the year, he found a spot that gave up nearly 15 pounds in the last thirty minutes of the tournament. Sunday, the same area helped Ralston win his second Arkansas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Junior State Championship in 3 years. His 5 fish limit weighed in at 18.61 pounds and was the only limit brought to the scales in either age group. Ralston also took Big Bass honors with a 7.73 pound fish he caught on his second cast of the morning. Second place in the 15-18 age group went to Jackson Roberts of Valley Springs with 3 fish weighing 6.33 pounds. Third place honors went to Jonny Shultz of Maumelle with 3 fish weighing 6.05 pounds.

Corey Thompson from West Monroe, LA was also able to quickly put two solid fish in the boat first thing Sunday morning and then add a third solid keeper late in the day to propel him to his first Arkansas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Championship win in the 11-14 age group. Corey, who fish's with the Smackover Junior Bassmasters, weighed in 3 keepers for 8.80 pounds and also took Big Bass honors in the 11-14 age group with a 3.60 pound Lake Chicot largemouth. Last year's 11-14 age group winner Trevor Brunson of Lowell, AR took second place honors with two fish weighing 4.62 pounds. Third place went to Cameron Nesterenko of Little Rock with 2 fish weighing 3.50 pounds.

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Ralston and Corey will represent Arkansas as part of the 2011 Arkansas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation state team at the B.A.S.S. Central Division Tournament in Kimberling City, MO in June. They will compete against junior anglers from seven other states and Mexico during this tournament and battle for a chance to compete for a World Title later this fall.

The Arkansas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation would like to thank Strike King, Deep South Rods, Berkley, Abu Garcia, Bass Pro Shops, and Bass X Jigs for their sponsorship of this year's event.

About the Junior Bassmaster program:

One of the most dynamic and exciting opportunities BASS has created for junior anglers is the Junior Bassmaster World Championship (JWC). Just like adults competing in the BASS Federation Nation club competitions, this program allows junior members the opportunity to compete at a club, state and divisional level, ultimately qualifying them for their Junior Bassmaster World Championship of their own. The competition format mirrors the BASS Federation Nation tournament structure. Junior Bassmasters compete on a club and state level for the chance to advance to their respective Divisional competitions. The exposure youth anglers gain to all levels of Federation Nation competition has added versatility to the skills of these developing young anglers. Youth competitors have a chance to qualify as members of their adult state team. Juniors are mentored by Federation Nation anglers and learn the elements that are central to the passionate Federation Nation membership.

The qualifying ladder for the JWC provides youth with a firsthand look at competition venues they can pursue when they reach adult competition age. The junior competitor who emerges as the top-performing angler in his or her state advances to one of six Federation Nation divisions. [to view a map showing the six geographic divisions.](#)

The first BASS Federation Nation divisional of the year typically takes place in March or April with the remaining five Divisional competitions taking place throughout the spring and summer. The top-performing anglers from each of six divisionals then qualify for the JWC Championship, to be held in conjunction with the BASS Federation Nation Championship. The championship contenders fish for scholarship money totaling \$21,000 and the distinction as the top youth anglers in the sport.

Junior clubs are sponsored by adult Federation Nation Clubs with members of the adult clubs acting as mentors and educators for these young anglers. Junior members gain skills from how-to clinics, educational workshops based on conservation, good fishing ethics, catch-and-release and habitat restoration. Junior members also get involved with other youth tournaments, adopt-a-waterway projects, charitable programs and community service projects.