

# HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER...

A NEWSLETTER BY ESPN WOMENS TOUR ANGLER, COLLEEN MCKAY

## WOMEN'S BASSMASTER TOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS —LAKE MITCHELL

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The 2006 WBT Championships and a chance to be part of Women's Bass Fishing History. Wow, what an honor!

I had managed to qualify for the WBT Championships, finishing in 11th place in 2006.

There was a ton of excitement in the air as I arrived at the host hotel in Birmingham. We had a couple of days with meetings, meet and greets with WBT sponsors, etc. before the official practice day so I had plenty of time to prepare my rods and tackle.

I was crossing the street as I was heading to the boatyard with some of my gear, when what to my wondering eyes should appear? Well, it wasn't Santa but it was KVD, one of the top anglers on the men's tour. We exchanged some greetings in the middle of the street and KVD said "good luck in your tournament". I said "you too" and we went our respective ways but I don't think my feet were touching the ground after that.

**Practice Day:** It sounded like most of the WBT anglers and co-anglers managed to locate some nice fish during practice so confidence levels were high heading into the tournament. Catching those spotted bass is a lot of fun!



WBT Championship Competitors

**Day 1:** The alarm clock rang bright and early at 3:15 am giving me some time to have a coffee and get my gear to the boatyard for a 4am departure to the boat ramp.

Well, it seemed that most of the WBT competitors were in for a rude awakening on Day 1 as the fishing conditions had changed considerably from the day before. Many of us struggled to catch keepers. I managed to weigh in a fish Day 1 and was several pounds off the lead in the co-angler division but not out of striking distance. Then it was back to the hotel to get ready for Day 2.

**Day 2:** Up bright and early again for another day of fishing. I was looking forward to fishing with a friend of

mine, Linda Sands from Alabama. I lost a couple of fish first thing in the morning but managed to boat a keeper after a while. I kept struggling but managed to catch another keeper. Linda ended up with a limit and worked hard trying to find some areas that would produce for me so I could have a limit too. Alas, it was not to be. However, I ended up in fifth place. The excitement was not over though as all of the WBT competitors headed to the arena to watch the men's weigh-in at the Bassmaster Classic. After the Classic was over we were presented with awards and winnings from the WBT Championships on the Classic Stage. Absolutely incredible!

### NEXT ISSUE:

- A report from Lake Dardanelle



I am employed as a faculty member and researcher at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. I began fishing bass tournaments in 1999 and I am actively involved in my Bass Club serving on committees and as an officer. I fish both club (individual) and team tournaments in the Massachusetts Bass Federation. I have caught several lunkers and had top ten finishes in club tournaments. My partner and I finished in the top ten in the Mass Bass Federation Tournament of Champions in 2002 and 2005. I'm fishing the Women's Bassmaster Tour (WBT), initially as a non-boater but with a goal of obtaining a boat and fishing as a boater. I would like to establish relationships with sponsoring companies for myself and for my club. I strive for advancement opportunities in pursuit of a professional fishing career.

### UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Women's Bassmaster Tour  
 Lake Dardanelle  
 Russellville, AR  
 March 29-31, 2007

Green Water Wizards—Club Tournament  
 Lake Wequaquet  
 Barnstable, MA  
 April 21, 2007

Women's Bassmaster Tour  
 Lake Guntersville  
 Guntersville, AL  
 May 3-5, 2007

Green Water Wizards—Club Tournament  
 Charles River  
 Waltham, MA  
 May 12, 2007



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As I head to my next tournament, I want to take the opportunity to thank my sponsors and supporters:

#### Sponsors

St. Croix Rod Company

Buckeye Lures

Barry's Bait and Tackle

Sure-Life Laboratories (Please Release Me)

McCoy Fishing Line

#### Supporters

The Green Water Wizards

On stage at Lake Mitchell with ESPN announcer "Lurch"

