

Curtis “Lunkerman” Waterman wins on Oneida

Fourteen Salt City Bassmasters' anglers braved the high winds on Oneida, Sunday May 19, 2009 to fish in the club's annual walleye tournament. Sustained west winds at 23 to 30 mph, made the lake rough and muddied the waters (glad we launched out of Oneida Shores - Brewerton because the east side of the lake had to look like an ocean!) Even in some extreme conditions fish were brought to the scales.

The winning angler (1st place and lunker) was non-boater Curtis Waterman of Rochester. He may have only managed to land one walleye, but he made that one fish count big time. It was a quality fish by any water body standards and a giant for Oneida Lake. That walleye, which weighed in at 7.15 lbs and came out 7 to 8' of water adjacent to a 13-14' drop and was caught with a jigging spoon. His winning fish came in the last 20 minutes of fishing time. Along with that monster walleye Curtis hooked into over a half dozen freshwater drum (sheepshead). He caught so many drum that he and I (I was his boat partner) thought his first place walleye was just another drum until Curtis calmly said, "I think it's a walleye". At which point, all heck breaks loose.

Salt City Bassmaster's tournament director, Carl Moore, North Syracuse, caught the days only 3 fish limit of walleye that weighed 6.28 lbs. Those were the first walleye Carl has ever caught, he got a great walleye lesson, from his fishing partner, Ron Kelly

Third place was (me) Mike Cusano, Clay, 2 fish weighing in at 3.26 lbs. My "squeaker" sized walleye came on a 3/8oz green pumpkin tube dragged and jiggled in place in 13' of water (bottom of a steep drop off) and those fish were mixed right in with Curtis' lunker walleye. So much for fish grouping by size.

ALL FISH WERE RELEASED ALIVE AFTER WEIGH-IN!!!

Mike Cusano