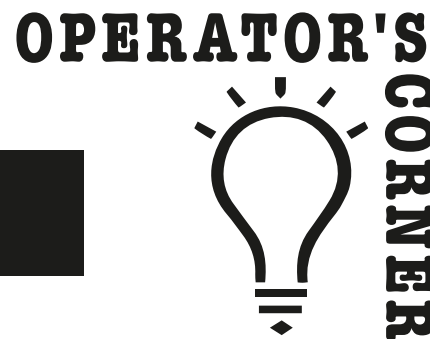


OPERATORS: This is your forum to share your experiences, new or unique inventions that have made your daily operation easier, technologies you've discovered, or express your opinions to your fellow operators. We all know the value of networking.



FISH ON!!!

James Jeffers | Village of Union Springs

June 23rd-26th 2016, will bring the world's best bass fishermen, from the Bassmasters Elite Series, to the Village of Union Springs to fish the pristine waters of Cayuga Lake.

Early morning boat launches from Frontenac Park will start daily quests, for up to 108 fishermen, to find bass that weigh 4, 5, 6 pounds or more! While the boats filled with fishermen, gear, officials and spectators cruise the waters of Cayuga Lake, land lovers will have the opportunity to visit the festival grounds, where booths, tents and trailers display the latest in fish gear, boats, trucks, and apparel. Families can bring their children down to learn how to cast a lure, learn about aquatic life, and don't forget the fried fair food that we all love!

In the early afternoon the fishermen will race back to the docks at the park for the "weigh in" to see who has caught the biggest fish and who is in the lead for the big prize money. They will head to their sponsor's tent to meet the public, sign autographs and pose for countless selfies. As evening falls, they will have packed up their fishing equipment, boats and trucks, headed back to their accommodations for the week to start planning for the next day on the lake, thinking, where will that monster bass be tomorrow?

On Sunday, a week of practice and three action packed days of tournament will conclude with the "final weigh in". The winner will hold up the oversized check, worth around \$100,000, for the crowd to see. The cameras from ESPN will zoom in to show the viewers around the world the company logo's that sponsor the winning fisherman.

Boats will be towed to the next lake, the festival will pack up and follow. All the fishermen and officials will move on physically and mentally to prepare for the next fishing spot, Oneida Lake, then on to Buffalo. Local spectators will go back to their normal routines and those who follow the Bassmasters Elite Series will go

stake their spot at the next festival to get the best view of the final "weigh in".

What percentage of them, on that Sunday night, will know that all of the activity, boat launching, fishing and festival enjoyment, took place within 800 ft. of the Wastewater Treatment Plant?

The Village of Union Springs' WWTP operates in that very park. Few will understand that, because of the dedicated employees of the Village and several other facilities along the shores of Cayuga Lake who operate a WWTP 24 hr. a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, Cayuga Lake remains a clean and healthy environment for the bass and all their fish brethren. The same holds true for all the waterways the Bassmasters Elite Series will fish. These waters are protected by the men and women of our industry. While we never took these jobs to be famous or rich, we did take them for the sense of accomplishment that the world's best want to come fish, for a possible world record fish that they had a direct hand in creating, in a lake that they watch over.

It is with mixed emotions that I will watch the competitors and crowds leave without a thank you, wave or tip of their hat to the Village employees or the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Should we be upset that they didn't notice us, that not one person questions "who keeps the lake so clean, when I use the park restroom where does it go, or what's that big building for"? Maybe. I choose to celebrate that not one person questions "what's that smell, why is the lake so dirty, or is that what I think it is floating on the water"?

To help encourage the first set of questions being asked from the crowds, I will be setting up a booth showing our industry. Through the use of samples from the plant, pictures, pamphlets and possible plant tours, I hope that some of the people in attendance that weekend will know the answers to the latter set of questions and will forever remember that a lot of hard work is done so they can enjoy a great weekend of fishing! 💧💧

