

2021 Big Bass Tournaments (Member/Guest)

All ages welcome. No registration required. Once again this year our four Big Bass Tournaments (May, June, July and August) are being run in a member/guest (or 2-person) format. Each participating WOLA member may fish by themselves, with another WOLA member or with a guest in this format. The participant weighing in the biggest bass for the event takes home the WOLA plaque. Participants can begin fishing any time after the start of the event. Each participant can weigh only ONE big bass that he or she caught at the end of the event time at the dam. Fish must be alive. Anglers must be at dam at official time/horn blast at end of event to qualify.

IMPORTANT: To protect integrity and fairness to all members participating, tournament participants may not fish at any time on the day of the event prior to the start of the event -- until horn sounds. Disqualification will result if not followed. Cast and retrieve only – no trolling. No live bait or multi-rigs. Call Ronnie Pollitt, 2021 Tournament Director, at 360-0881 for more information.

MAY

Big Bass Tournament (Member/Guest) **Wednesday, May 19, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.**
(See above tournament description for more information)

JUNE

Big Bass Tournament (Member/Guest) **Wednesday, June 16, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.**
(See above tournament description for more information)

JULY

Big Bass Tournament (Member/Guest) **Wednesday, July 21, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.**
(See above tournament description for more information)

AUGUST

Big Bass Tournament (Member/Guest) **Wednesday, August 18, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.**
(See above tournament description for more information)

(2020 Results, scroll down)

2020 Results:

8/19/2020

Pollitt Captures Final 2020 Big Bass Tournament Title



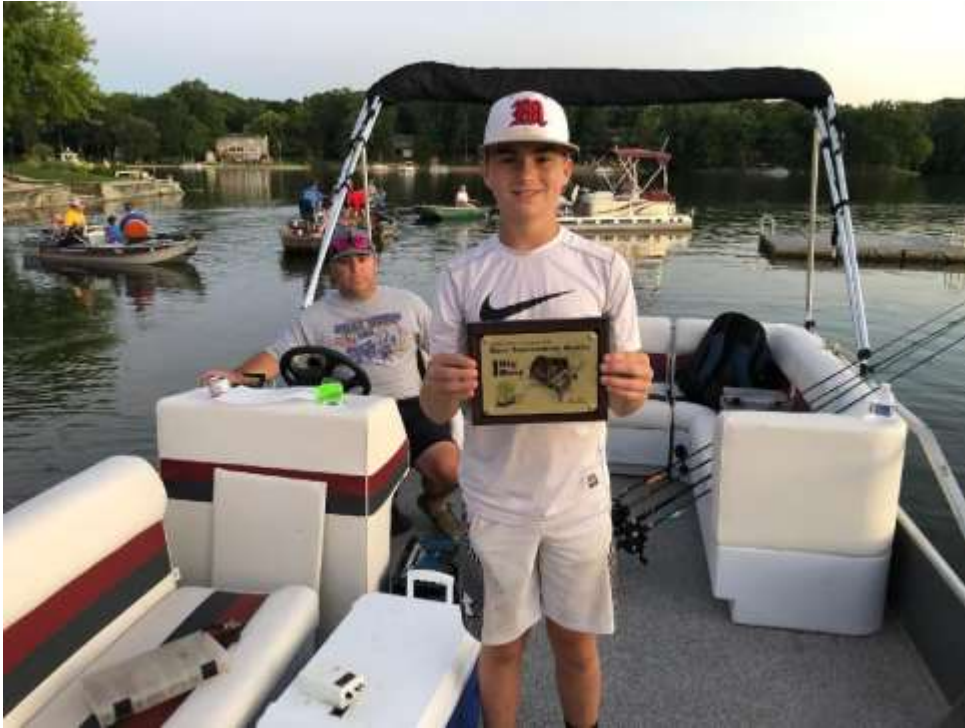
Ronnie Pollitt, current WOLA Big Bass Tournament Director, capped a great season of bass tournaments with a win himself, landing a big 3.6 pound lunker midway through the three-hour event Wednesday night.

Pollitt got the big one to bite on a wacky rig in the west cove of the big lake, near new construction, in about 15-feet of water. "It put up a good fight," said Pollitt, "I didn't have my drag set very well and it made a run under the boat, bending my pole almost double." After a lengthy fight he finally tired the largemouth, and his partner helped him net the winner into the boat.

Twenty-one participants competed in this last contest of 2020. Some fished from their backyards, most from boats on the lake. Pollitt wants to remind all members that you don't have to have a boat to participate. Several contests have been won from participants fishing from or near the dam, or from backyards around the lake. Come on out next year to see the fun for yourself. The rules are always posted on the website.

Congrats to our August winner, Ronnie Pollitt! And thank you, Ronnie, for organizing these tournaments again this season!

7/23/2020



(Clockwise from left) Drew Melody with the July winner's plaque and many participants behind him; Holding up the winning fish with a proud father watching; At the weigh-in (background) with Tourney Director, Ronnie Pollitt, weighing the winner.

Drew Melody wins July WOLA Big Bass Tourney

In 85-degree (and humid) heat, Drew Melody bested more than 20 other anglers participating in the postponed July WOLA Big Bass Tournament last night. Lots of smaller bass were caught by participants, but no giant surfaced this month. However, persistence pays off and his 1 lb. 3 oz. beauty was good enough to take home the trophy, topping past multiple-winner Bill Rodier's entry by 2 ounces.

Drew caught the trophy-taker on a crankbait with about one hour left in the contest. It was his first-ever win in the summer series events on White Oak Lake. He is a student at Metamora High School, and son of WOLA Fish and Lake Committee Chairperson, Mark Melody. Congrats Drew!

The final event of the summer will be held on Wednesday, August 19 from 5:30 – 8:30. Check out Fishing Activities on this site for more information and rules of these events.

WOLA Big Bass Tourney #2 Ends Well for Eckhart Guest



June Winner Kevin Bannon (guest)



Some of the 21 participants at the weigh-in

Kevin Bannon, guest of WOLA member Jim Eckhart, landed a lunker just before the horn blast on Wednesday night in sweltering 90+ degree conditions. His 5 lb. 1 oz. bass easily took the trophy in the second event of the 2020 season. It was the second consecutive last-minute winning catch in the four-event series. Twenty one anglers fought the heat in the early hours of the evening.

Fishing was tough for anything but smaller bass, with at least one boat landing 15 of the young whippersnappers. But the big bite came late, as predicted, as the sun was setting and the temps began falling into the low 80's and upper 70's. "We thought we caught a monster a littler earlier, but it ended up being a pretty big snapping turtle," said the proud guest. "We had to cut the line to get it off," he quipped. Then, with the sound of the 5-minute horn, he got into the bigmouth near the large undeveloped lot on the north end of the lake. "That's a winner!" shouted Eckhart to nearby boats. It would prove to be.

There was at least one 2+ pounder brought to the weigh-in but dispatched back into the lake upon seeing the eventual winner bass being weighed. Thanks for another great tourney, Ronnie! (Tourney Director Ronnie Pollitt). The next Big Bass tourney is scheduled for July 15th from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Call Ronnie at 360-0881 with questions. See you there!

May WOLA Big Bass Tourney draws 17 participants

Despite damp, cold, windy and even rainy conditions, especially towards the conclusion of the three-hour WOLA Big Bass Tournament, the first event of 2020 was a huge success with participation and enthusiasm for “just getting out” during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fishing was fun but “catching” big fish proved pretty elusive for all, that is, right up to the final 5 minutes of the event. Member Jon McKee was heading back to the dam with his smaller 1 lb. entry when his final cast hooked a big 4.3 lb. largemouth. The fight to land her was harrowing, as McKee could not get his hands on his just tucked-away net. After several jumps and lots of frigid, soaking splashes, McKee managed to get the big fish to the side of his boat and lipped her in by hand, old fashioned style.

He secured her in his livewell without much inspection and immediately motored towards the beach for the weigh-in, confident of a winning weight. It proved to be, as the second-place fish weighed 1.4 lbs. Member Leon Maxheimer had a fight with “a really good one,” most likely another top-place qualifier, but he lost the fish at the side of his boat. That’s fishing!



A nice crowd at the weigh-in made the night even more enjoyable, despite everyone keeping a safe 6-foot distance with boats. Derby Director Ronnie Pollitt got in the water to help measure each entry, so members would not have to carry their fish up to his scale. Thanks, Ronnie, for organizing these events and keeping us all safe!

Remember, if you plan of fishing in a tourney, you cannot wet a line on the day of the event – that makes participation fair for those unable to make it to the lake before the contest. Call Ronnie Pollitt with any questions. You can read more in the Fishing Activities section of the website. Ronnie’s cell is 360-0881. See you in June!

[Scroll to next page for past year results](#)

2019 Recaps

August

Richmond Takes Final Big Bass Title of 2019



WOLA member Bob Richmond's 2.1 lb. largemouth bass was enough to take the Big Bass Tournament title for August on Wednesday night, August 21.

Man, it was a tough bite all night. Beautiful weather but poor fishing conditions due to a slight cool front that had moved in the night before. The chances of taking home the last plaque for the year was pretty good with a low turnout for the event, as well. Only six boats had lines in the water, with eleven anglers fishing. There were about one dozen smaller bass caught, but nothing that exceeded the 2-lb. mark other than the one that gave Richmond the victory.

This was the last tourney planned for this year. Thanks to Ronnie Pollitt who served again this year as the tourney director. See you on the lake and in next year's events! In the meantime, if you catch a wall hanger, please snap a picture and let us share it on the WOLA website. Send them to Jon McKee at 696-4725.

July



More than 26 men and women of all ages competed in the rain-postponed July fishing tournament on WOLA on 7/24. In fact, eleven boats gathered at the dam for the weigh-in at the conclusion of the event. In the end, one of the youngest of the participants prevailed. Congratulations to Emily Alexander with her nice 1 lb. 14 oz. largemouth bass. It was her first win ever in the member/guest series!

It was a tough-bite night but Emily pulled it off. Many anglers had smaller fish, and one lucky member collected them before they were released for a nice batch to clean. Remember, we are trying to remove all 8" – 14" largemouth bass until further notice. This will thin the over-population of that size and allow many more to get bigger.

Next tournament is Wednesday, August 21st from 5:30 – 8:30. It's the last one of the season! See you there!

June

6/27 Pollitt takes Big Bass Tourney trophy



WOLA member Ronnie Pollitt landed a nice 1 lb. 12 oz. bass to win the June Big Bass Tourney on White Oak Lake. 17 participants fished just one day after a big storm swept across the Germantown Hills lake subdivision, and plenty of uprooted trees and broken limbs were proof of harsher fishing conditions to follow. Lots of smaller bass were caught, some boats recording up to 20, but mostly smaller bass were landed. Just two over 1.5 lbs. were weighed in. Congratulations to Ronnie!

The next Big Bass tourney is scheduled for Wednesday night, July 17 from 5:30 to 8:30. Come on out and toss in a line! Just one cast is all it takes!

May



Jon McKee, 4 lbs. 14 oz.

McKee wins first Big Bass Tourney of 2019

The rain- and ramp-delayed May WOLA Big Bass Tournament was held Wednesday, June 5th. Despite the new ramp not being safe (see below) nine boats with fishermen and several anglers on the dam accounted for at least 16 participants. It was a slow, cool night for bites right up until the end. With ten minutes left in the contest, on-lake resident Jon McKee hooked a big 4 lb. 14 oz. bigmouth to secure the win. A few other one-pounders were brought to the scale but none were a match for the big bass.

The new ramp was supposed to be finished by that date but was unfortunately delayed due to an improper ramp length discovered earlier in the evening when one boat was being launched. The ramp was immediately reclosed (since opened and it is fabulous!). One angler who was planning to fish (an off-lake member) decided to make a few casts from the dam

and then called it a night. No other participants were turned away due to the ramp predicament. Congratulations, Jon McKee, on a nice win! It was the first for him since 2016 and the 15th win of his career on the lake since he started these contests in 2004.

2018 Big Bass Fishing Tournament Winners

August

Final 2018 WOLA Big Bass Tournament Results



Arlen Bailey 4lbs 13oz

Fifteen participants fished for three hours on Wednesday, August 15, each trying to hoist the final Big Bass Tourney Trophy Plaque for the summer. Some big bass came to the party. In fact, the four top bass that were officially weighed in for the night totaled 15lbs, 7oz! All fish were released unharmed. Here's the final results:

1st Place went to Arlen Bailey with a 4lb. 13oz. bass

2nd Place finisher was Zach Theiler, with a 3lb. 14oz. bass

3rd Place went to John Diggle with a 3lb. 11oz bass

4th Place went to Jon McKee with a 3lb. 1oz. bass



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place



4th Place

July 2018 Tourney Recap

Ronnie Pollitt, Avery Grebner, Alexander Pasquini

July Winner Ronnie Pollitt, Big Bass 4.5 lbs.



A beautiful evening for fishing on White Oak Lake on Wednesday, July 18... About 20 anglers participated in this month's contest, 12 boats in all. Slow night until later in the contest when the big 'uns started biting... Tournament Director Ronnie Pollitt scored his first WOLA Tourney win with 4.5 lb. bigmouth. Two other big bass were weighed in, (shown above with Ronnie on the left), Avery Grebner, son of new member Coach Jared Grebner, with a 2 lb. 12 oz. largemouth (middle), and Alexander Pasquini with a nice 3.4 lb. largemouth bass (far right in photo). Nice job young anglers!

Everyone agreed that the bass are getting bigger (shiners feeding program is showing positive results) and more frequent. Thanks again to Ronnie Pollitt for running these events this year. Has anyone caught a Muskie lately? If so, please report weight and length to Mark Melody, Lake and Fish Committee Chairperson. We are curious if they are still around...and how they are growing.

This year's LAST Big Bass Tourney will be held Wednesday, August 15th from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Look for details and rules on the website under Fishing Tournaments in the Member Activities section.

June 2018 Tourney Recap

In June, after postponing the event on its original date due to lightning probabilities in the area (and it ended up coming – a lot!), 14 fishermen went at it, once again, the following Wednesday evening after a front moved through the area the day before. It turned out to be another tough-bite tourney, but **Member guest Mark Leaver** took home the coveted WOLA plaque with a 3.9 lb. bigmouth. He caught it off the dam in about 15 feet of water. He was the guest and boat mate of Ronnie Pollitt...



A special shout-out to Tourney Director Ronnie Pollitt for taking two nights out of his June free time to coordinate this one! Thanks also for posting the WOLA Big Bass signs and removing them promptly after the events!

June Champ Mark Leaver

May 2018 Tourney Recap

The WOLA Big Bass Tournament in May was held after a front went through and the bite was slow. 17 anglers participated during the evening and just a few weighed in fish. **Arlan Bailey** ended up with the biggest bass, a 1.4 oz. largemouth. He has dominated the series the last two years. Way to go, Arlan!



May Winner Arlan Bailey
