



B.A.S.S. Nation of Virginia Conservation Director's Report

November 5, 2023

- Attended the Bassmaster Classic in Knoxville TN. Met with Gene Gilliland, National Conservation Director at Bassmaster, for director crash-course; aided with backstage fish care; and swabbed fish with Blotchy Bass Syndrome for research by the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency.
- In June 2023, our BASS Nation of Virginia contribution from the Conservation funds was put into action with the first run of stocking F1 Largemouth Bass into Lake Gaston. A total of 115,000 bass were released.
- Provided reviews and comments to three submitted Appalachian Power Company (Appalachian) requests on proposals to develop areas along the shoreline of Smith Mountain Lake that is classified as a Resource Protection Area (RPA) under the requirements of the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for the Smith Mountain Pumped Storage Project (Project) as a member of the Habitat Technical Review Committee.
- Provided review and comment as a member of the Smith Mountain Project Aquatic Vegetation Technical Review Committee Annual Report.
- In July the Mecklenburg High School Anglers club participated in a conservation project where they transplanted Willow Grass from Eastland Creek to Mill Creek.
- The Brunswick Academy Fishing Club was a recipient of one of the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame 2023 Grant. Lake Gaston, spanning the North Carolina/Virginia border, will benefit from the efforts being spearheaded by the Lawrenceville, Virginia-based Brunswick Academy Fishing Club. Club members will build fish habitat structures and with the advice of aquatic biologists and conservation officers from both states, they will place them in locations in both the North Carolina and Virginia sides of the lake. The structures will provide a sustainable environment to ensure cover against predators and promote healthy feeding and growth for the lake's bass population.
- Attended the EPA's 2023 Environmental Education Grants Webinar on October 12, 2023
- The Foothills Youth Anglers club has received permission from the Corps of Engineers and DWR to build and place fish habitats in Philpott Lake in 2024. Building materials have been donated, but we will be seeking grants to aid with this conservation project, as well.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melanie W. Barrow".

Melanie W. Barrow