

# BASSMASTER ELITE SERIES



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THE



ELITE



**St. Johns River**  
**April 18-21**  
**Angler Profiles inside**  
**Schedule of Events page 19**

The top ten Elite qualifiers wave to crowd at Palatka Riverfront Stage in the 2022 AFTCO Bassmaster Tournament

A Publication Of  
**PALATKA DAILY NEWS**



Photos by Greg Walker/Palatka Daily News correspondent

Left: Elite angler Cliff Prince boats a bass in the BASS 2022 event on the St. Johns River. Right: Legendary Rick Clunn approaches the scales on Championship Sunday with his winning creel in the 2019 Bassmaster Power-Pole Elite tournament at Palatka Riverfront.

# The Bassmaster Elite series is returning to the Palatka Riverfront April 18-21 after a one-year absence.

By Greg Walker

Daily News correspondent

Sponsored by Mayam Tire Co., Bassmaster promises phenomenal fishing and excitement for spectators and bass fishing enthusiasts.

“We are so glad that BASS is returning to our riverfront,” said Julie Linton, Chamber of Commerce vice-president of Tourism. “Not only is it a big boost to our economy, but Putnam County receives national attention from television coverage.”

The Chamber reported 2022 brought a total of \$1.9 million to the county.

“We are anticipating another good total this year,” Linton said. “We have everything in place and we are ready for the Elite’s arrival,” she said.

It is the first time since 2018, the Bassmaster Elite Series has not chosen the St. Johns River to begin its season in Florida, opting instead to open its 2024 season at Toledo Bend Reservoir on the Louisiana-

Texas border Feb. 22-25. The series starts the Florida season on the Harris Chain of Lakes in Leesburg April 11-14, which will leave the 95 Elite anglers little rest time before meeting the challenges on the St. Johns River.

Crowds attending the 2022 event will remember the suspense brought by John Crews of Salem, Massachusetts as he held on Sunday’s final day to complete a wire-to-wire, four-day victory, collecting the \$100,000 prize.

Probably the most outstanding story in Elite history was written on the St. Johns River in 2019 when the then-72-year-old legendary Rick Clunn of Ava, Missouri set a record weight when he came from eighth place on Championship Sunday to take the win with a four-day total of 98.14 pounds.

Our hometown Elite angler, Cliff Prince, will certainly have fans supporting and wishing him well for the St. Johns River event. Prince has

had some impressive finishes with his best being a fourth placement in 2020.

“The winner of this event will have to be moving around,” Prince said. “By that I mean he won’t succeed with one pattern this time of year. John Crews didn’t win in 2022 by sitting on one spot or using a certain lure.”

In a local tournament last Saturday, anglers were discussing the upcoming Elite event and pretty much concurred with Prince’s remarks.

“The Elite guys won’t win the tournament fishing just the river,” said Brian Sousa of St. Augustine, the co-winner of the Saturday event.

“They will have to go to the tackle box,” added Chad Willoughby of San Mateo.

Other Florida Elite anglers include Bernie Schultz of Gainesville, a veteran of 30-plus years on the circuit.

By comparison, John Cox of

Debary, a mere youngster; however, has two wins in his total of 86 tournaments fished, and a six-time Bassmaster Classic contender. Cox said he knows this river well, from the area of Astor to the north of Palatka. Some may remember him as the Wolfson Children’s Hospital Bass Tournament champion in 2014.

The tournament no doubt will have its surprises, and spectators should enjoy each day hoping to see their favorite angler in the limelight.

The anglers will be trailering in their sleek bass rigs on Sunday night in preparation for the three pre-fish days of Monday through Wednesday.

During tournament days from Thursday through Sunday, the pros will launch at safe light from City Dock with a 3 p.m. weigh-in. The public is welcome to attend both.



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# APRIL 18-21

## Watch the pros take off and weigh in daily!

### Takeoffs:

7 a.m.  
Palatka City Dock

### Weigh-ins:

3 p.m.  
Palatka Riverfront Park

All times and activities are subject to change.

## Outdoors Expo opens at noon on Saturday and Sunday (April 20-21)

Live weigh-ins with Bassmaster Elite Series pros

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**Matt Arey**

Residence: Shelby, N.C.  
 Birthdate: 3/2/1981  
 B.A.S.S. events: 52  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 2 (2021)  
 Career earnings: \$515,500  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 14  
 Signature technique/strength: Shallow-water power fishing  
 Home waters: Lake Wylie  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Champlain  
 Career highlights: After a long career with FLW that saw him win the co-angler division of the Forrest Wood Cup in 2006 and three events as a pro, Matt made the move to the Elites in 2019. Since then, he has managed seven Top 10s.

Career earnings: \$269,065  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 8  
 Signature technique/strength: Throwing a spinnerbait  
 Home waters: Pickwick Lake  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Cumberland  
 Career highlights: In 2017, Justin won the Forrest Wood Cup, becoming only the third angler in FLW history to win the Cup in their rookie season. In his first season on the Elites, Justin finished second at the 2021 Bassmaster Elite at St. Lawrence River.

**Todd Auten**

Residence: Lake Wylie, S.C.  
 Birthdate: 3/14/1966  
 B.A.S.S. events: 191  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 2 (2020)  
 Career earnings: \$771,942  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 24  
 Signature technique/strength: Power fishing  
 Home waters: Lake Wylie  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake St. Clair  
 Career highlights: Todd has fished more than 190 B.A.S.S. events dating back to 1996. In that time, he's amassed 40 Top 20 finishes, including five second-place finishes. Auten was PAA Angler of the Year in 2011.

**Justin Atkins**

Residence: Florence, Ala.  
 Birthdate: 3/3/1990  
 B.A.S.S. events: 52  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2018 Bass Pro Shops Central Open #4 at Logan Martin Lake  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 0

Bassmaster Classic best finish: N/A

**Drew Benton**

Residence: Panama City, Fla.  
 Birthdate: 5/10/1988  
 B.A.S.S. events: 105  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
 Most recent tournament win: 2023 Marathon Bassmaster Elite at Lake Murray

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 7  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 4 (2023)  
 Career earnings: \$1,004,746  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 9  
 Signature technique/strength: Sight fishing  
 Home waters: Lake Eufaula (Alabama) & Lake Seminole  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Travis  
 Career highlights: Benton was the 2018 Elite Series Rookie of the Year and has 11 Top 10 Elite finishes, including two wins, in his career.

**Stetson Blaylock**

Residence: Benton, Ark.  
 Birthdate: 8/27/1987  
 B.A.S.S. events: 88  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2019 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Elite at Winyah Bay

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 3 (2020, 2022)

Career earnings: \$878,684  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 15  
 Signature technique/strength: Deep-water structure fishing  
 Home waters: Lake Ouachita  
 Favorite place to fish: Chickamauga Lake & Nickajack Lake  
 Career highlights: At 21, Stetson became the youngest pro ever to win an FLW event at Lake Norman in 2009.

**Scott Canterbury**

Residence: Odenville, Ala.  
 Birthdate: 5/12/1976  
 B.A.S.S. events: 70  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 4  
 Bassmaster Classic best

finish: 3 (2023)  
 Career earnings: \$626,446  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 16  
 Signature technique/strength: Flipping  
 Home waters: Logan Martin Lake & Coosa River  
 Favorite place to fish: Ozark lakes in the spring  
 Career highlights: In just his first season on the Elite Series, Scott won the 2019 Bassmaster Elite Series Angler of the Year title. In five seasons, Scott has six Top 10 Elite finishes.

# Good Luck, Anglers!

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**Brandon Card**

Residence: Salisbury, N.C.  
 Birthdate: 7/25/1986  
 B.A.S.S. events: 132  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 7  
 Bassmaster Classic best

finish: 9 (2020)

Career earnings: \$863,048

Years as a full-time pro angler: 13

Signature technique/strength: Offshore power fishing

Home waters: Norris Lake

Favorite place to fish: Falcon Lake

Career highlights: The former University of Kentucky angler was the first Bassmaster College Series angler to qualify for the Elite Series. Brandon won the 2012 Bassmaster Elite Rookie of the Year award.

**Hank Cherry**

Residence: Lincolnton, N.C.  
 Birthdate: 2/8/1974  
 B.A.S.S. events: 125  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 4  
 Most recent tournament win: 2021 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Huk

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 8

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 1 (2020, 2021)

Career earnings: \$1,469,753  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 12  
 Signature technique/strength: Jerkbait  
 Home waters: Lake Norman  
 Favorite place to fish: Florida  
 Career highlights: Cherry is only the fourth angler in the history of the Bassmaster Classic to win the event in back-to-back years, joining Rick Clunn (1976-77), Kevin VanDam (2010-11) and Jordan Lee (2017-18).

**Jason Christie**

Residence: Dry Creek, Okla.  
 Birthdate: 11/3/1973  
 B.A.S.S. events: 113  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 8  
 Most recent tournament win: 2022 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Huk;

2022 Guaranteed Rate Bassmaster Elite at Chickamauga Lake

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 10  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 1 (2022)

Career earnings: \$1,933,099

Years as a full-time pro angler: 16

Signature technique/strength: Spinnerbait & flipping

Home waters: Lake Tenkiller

Favorite place to fish: Lake St. Clair

Career highlights: Jason is a Bassmaster Classic champion, a five-time Elite Series champion and also has a second-place finish

in the Angler of the Year race to his credit (2017).

**Joey Cifuentes III**

Residence: Clinton, Ark.  
 Birthdate: 8/23/1988  
 B.A.S.S. events: 22  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 2

Most recent tournament win: 2023 Gamakatsu Bassmaster Elite at Lake Seminole; 2023 AFTCO Bassmaster Elite at Lake

St. Clair

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1 (2024)

Bassmaster Classic best finish: N/A

Career earnings: \$342,060

Years as a full-time pro angler: 7

Signature technique/strength: "I am trying to think of something I'm good at ..."

Home waters: Greers Ferry Lake

Favorite place to fish: New York

Career highlights: Joey won not one, but two tournaments in his inaugural season on the Bassmaster Elite Series.

**Rick Clunn**

Residence: Ava, Mo.  
 Birthdate: 7/24/1946  
 B.A.S.S. events: 496  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 16

Most recent tournament win: 2019 Power-Pole Bassmaster Elite at St.

Johns River

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 32  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 1 (1976, 1977, 1984, 1990)

Career earnings: \$2,681,442

Years as a full-time pro angler: 50

Signature technique/strength: "Trusting my intuition over intellect."

Home waters: The Ozark lakes

Favorite place to fish: Lake Powell

Career highlights: Rick is a four-time Bassmaster Classic champion who also won the Bassmaster Angler of the Year title in 1988, U.S. Open in 1983 and 1986 and the Redman All-American in 1988. In 2024 Rick will be fishing his 50th season as a Bassmaster pro.

**Brandon Cobb**

Residence: Greenwood, S.C.

Birthdate: 12/28/1989

B.A.S.S. events: 64

B.A.S.S. wins: 2

Most recent tournament win: 2019 Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest

benefiting Texas Parks & Wildlife Department; 2019 Bassmaster Elite

at Lake Hartwell

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 8 (2023)

Career earnings: \$773,306

Years as a full-time pro angler: 10

Signature technique/strength: Topwater fishing

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Home waters: Lake Hartwell  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Hartwell  
 Career highlights: Brandon won two events during his rookie year on the Elite Series.



**Keith Combs**

Residence: Huntington, Texas  
 Birthdate: 12/10/1975  
 B.A.S.S. events: 141  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 3  
 Most recent tournament win: 2022 St. Croix Bassmaster Central Open presented by Mossy Oak Fishing at Sam

Rayburn Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 9  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 9 (2016)  
 Career earnings: \$1,424,392  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 16  
 Signature technique/strength: Cranking  
 Home waters: Sam Rayburn Reservoir  
 Favorite place to fish: Sam Rayburn Reservoir  
 Career highlights: An Elite angler since 2011, Keith has won three events and earned an astounding 55 Top 20 finishes in B.A.S.S. tournaments.

Santee Cooper Lakes  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 9 (2021)  
 Career earnings: \$728,905  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 6  
 Signature technique/strength: Shallow-water power fishing & sight fishing  
 Home waters: Lake Talquin & Lake Seminole  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Champlain  
 Career highlights: Drew earned 2019 Bassmaster Elite Rookie of the Year honors after notching five Top 20 finishes and three Top 10s. Drew earned a century belt alongside his victory at Santee Cooper Lakes in 2022 after weighing in a total 105-5.



**John Cox**

Residence: DeBary, Fla.  
 Birthdate: 12/12/1985  
 B.A.S.S. events: 83  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
 Most recent tournament win: 2019 Basspro.com Bassmaster Eastern Open at Chickamauga Lake  
 Bassmaster Classic quali-

fications: 6  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 5 (2023)  
 Career earnings: \$692,646  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 14  
 Signature technique/strength: "I like to be able to touch the bottom where I'm fishing."  
 Home waters: St. Johns River, Harris Chain & Kissimmee Chain  
 Favorite place to fish: New York

Career highlights: John earned an Elite Series invitation through two Opens divisions, finishing second in the Central Opens and fourth in the Eastern Opens points standings.



**John Crews**

Residence: Salem, Va.  
 Birthdate: 6/11/1978  
 B.A.S.S. events: 227  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
 Most recent tournament win: 2022 AFTCO Bassmaster Elite at St. Johns River  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 13

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 6 (2020)  
 Career earnings: \$1,655,577  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 22  
 Signature technique/strength: Versatility  
 Home waters: Smith Mountain Lake  
 Favorite place to fish: Love fishing any new lake  
 Career highlights: John has been an Elite Series angler since the series launched in 2006. He has 28 Top 10 finishes in B.A.S.S. events, including two Elite Series wins, the most recent being the 2022 Elite at St. Johns River.

fications: 2  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 18 (2020)  
 Career earnings: \$336,282  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 14  
 Signature technique/strength: "My real strength is crappie fishing!"  
 Home waters: Lay Lake  
 Favorite place to fish: Up North  
 Career highlights: Clent first qualified for the 2016 Elites after his first full season in the Opens. After switching back to FLW in 2018, he won the Forrest Wood Cup. Clent returned to the Elites in 2019 and has notched two Top 10 Elite finishes.



**Will Davis Jr.**

Residence: Sylacauga, Ala.  
 Birthdate: 9/28/1992  
 B.A.S.S. events: 13  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
 Most recent tournament win: 2023 Whataburger Bassmaster Elite at Lay Lake; 2023 TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation

Championship  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 2  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 40 (2023)  
 Career earnings: \$174,013  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 2  
 Signature technique/strength: Current fishing  
 Home waters: Lay Lake & Coosa River  
 Favorite place to fish: Lay Lake  
 Career highlights: Will earned his invitation



**Clent Davis**

Residence: Montevallo, Ala.  
 Birthdate: 12/30/1985  
 B.A.S.S. events: 70  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic quali-



**Drew Cook**

Residence: Cairo, Ga.  
 Birthdate: 5/30/1994  
 B.A.S.S. events: 68  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2022 Guaranteed Rate Bassmaster Elite at

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to the Elite Series via a win at the 2022 B.A.S.S. Nation Championship and followed it up by winning the 2023 B.A.S.S. Nation Championship, becoming the first-ever Nation champion to win back-to-back. In between championships he won the 2023 Bassmaster Elite at Lay Lake.



### Greg DiPalma

Residence: Millville, N.J.  
 Birthdate: 8/6/1982  
 B.A.S.S. events: 95  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 23 (2020)  
 Career earnings: \$345,825  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 6  
 Signature technique/strength: Creek fishing  
 Home waters: Maurice River  
 Career highlights: Greg has amassed 14 Top 20 finishes in B.A.S.S. competition.



### Bob Downey

Residence: Detroit Lakes, Minn.  
 Birthdate: 10/20/1987  
 B.A.S.S. events: 42  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2019 Basspro.com Bassmaster Central Open at Grand Lake

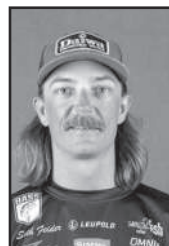
Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 3  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 17 (2023)  
 Career earnings: \$357,530  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 5  
 Signature technique/strength: Shallow-water power fishing  
 Home waters: Minnesota/Wisconsin — too many lakes and rivers to name!  
 Favorite place to fish: Mississippi River  
 Career highlights: Bob qualified for the Elites via the Central Opens after winning the 2019 Bassmaster Central Open at Grand Lake. In his first four seasons, Bob has earned eight Elite Top 20s.



### Timothy Dube

Residence: Nashua, N.H.  
 Birthdate: 10/28/1993  
 B.A.S.S. events: 0  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: 0  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1 (2024)  
 Bassmaster Classic best

finish: N/A  
 Career earnings: N/A  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 1  
 Signature technique/strength: Flipping & frogging  
 Home waters: Lake Winnepesaukee  
 Favorite place to fish: St. Lawrence River  
 Career highlights: Timothy qualified for the 2024 Bassmaster Elite Series via the 2023 B.A.S.S. Nation Championship.



### Seth Feider

Residence: New Market, Minn.  
 Birthdate: 10/16/1984  
 B.A.S.S. events: 109  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 3  
 Most recent tournament win: 2019 Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship at Lake

St. Clair  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 6  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 4 (2020)  
 Career earnings: \$1,055,018  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 8  
 Signature technique/strength: Deep small-mouth fishing  
 Home waters: Lake Minnetonka  
 Favorite place to fish: St. Lawrence River  
 Career highlights: En route to winning 2021 Angler of the Year honors Seth notched four Top 10 finishes and never placed lower than 29th the entire 2021 season.



### Austin Felix

Residence: Eden Prairie, Minn.  
 Birthdate: 7/11/1984  
 B.A.S.S. events: 57  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2022 Guaranteed Rate Bassmaster Elite at Lake Oahe

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 4  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 22 (2023)  
 Career earnings: \$493,153  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 9  
 Signature technique/strength: Northern smallmouth  
 Home waters: Lake Minnetonka & Lake Mille Lacs  
 Favorite place to fish: New York  
 Career highlights: A former collegiate national championship angler for the University of Minnesota, Austin earned the 2020 Bassmaster Elite Series Rookie of the Year title and snagged his first Elite win in 2022 at Lake Oahe. In four seasons, Austin has earned nine Top 10 Elite finishes.



### Jacob Foutz

Residence: Charleston, Tenn.  
 Birthdate: 6/9/1998  
 B.A.S.S. events: 39  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2017 Carhart Bassmaster College Southern Conference

Regional presented by Bass Pro Shops  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 39 (2018)  
 Career earnings: \$184,688  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 3  
 Home waters: Chickamauga Lake  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Erie  
 Career highlights: Jacob won the 2017 College Classic Bracket while competing for

Bryan College, earning a spot in the 2018 Bassmaster Classic. Jacob qualified for the Elite Series through the 2021 Southern Opens and has earned four Top 10 Elite finishes since then.



### Marc Frazier

Residence: Newnan, Ga.  
 Birthdate: 2/20/1993  
 B.A.S.S. events: 44  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 2  
 Bassmaster Classic best

finish: 26 (2022)  
 Career earnings: \$270,687  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 4  
 Signature technique/strength: Cranking  
 Home waters: West Point Lake  
 Career highlights: Marc qualified for the Elites in 2020 by finishing fourth in the Bassmaster Opens Angler of the Year standings as well as fourth in the Central Opens rankings.



### Kyoya Fujita

Residence: Minamitsuru, Yamanashi, Japan  
 Birthdate: 4/2/1996  
 B.A.S.S. events: 16  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
 Most recent tournament win: 2024 Gamakatsu

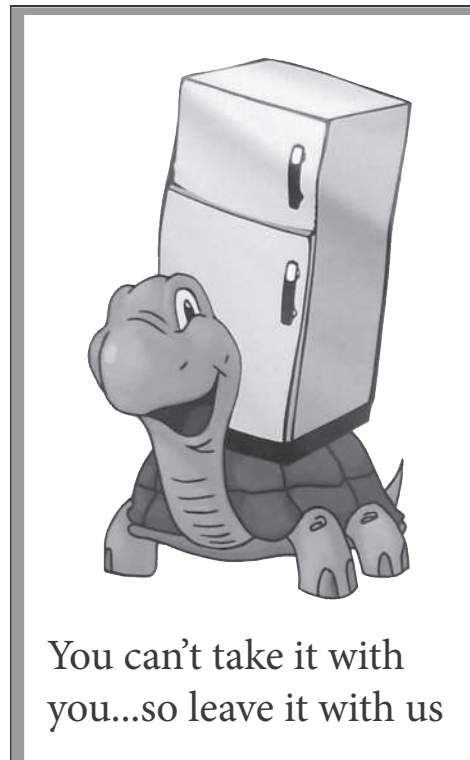
Bassmaster Elite at Toledo Bend  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1 (2024)  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: N/A  
 Career earnings: \$380,426  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 7  
 Signature technique/strength: Finesse fishing  
 Home waters: Lake Kawaguchi (Japan)  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Nanairo (Japan)  
 Career highlights: Kyoya has won every major tournament title in his home country of Japan, including six wins and four Angler of the Year races. In two Elite Series seasons, Kyoya has already captured two Elite wins, most recently at Toledo Bend with a 100-plus-pound bag.



### Cooper Gallant

Residence: Bowmanville, Ontario, Canada  
 Birthdate: 10/30/1997  
 B.A.S.S. events: 23  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2022 St. Croix Bassmaster Southern Open

presented by Mossy Oak Fishing at Cherokee Lake  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 2  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 52 (2023)  
 Career earnings: \$201,159  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 3  
 Signature technique/strength: Finesse fishing  
 Home waters: Rice Lake, Lake Scugog &



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## Kawartha Lakes

Favorite place to fish: Lake Ontario  
Career highlights: After almost qualifying for the Elites in 2021, Cooper finished second in the Opens overall Angler of the Year and third in the Southern Opens standings to qualify in 2022. Cooper qualified for the 2015 Bassmaster High School National Championship, where he was a member of the first team to represent Canada.



### John Garrett

Residence: Union City, Tennessee  
Birthdate: 11/27/1995  
B.A.S.S. events: 42  
B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
Most recent tournament win: N/A

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1  
Bassmaster Classic best finish: 42 (2017)  
Career earnings: \$169,161  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 1  
Signature technique/strength: Offshore fishing  
Home waters: Pickwick Lake & Kentucky Lake  
Favorite place to fish: Lake Hartwell  
Career highlights: Fishing for Bethel University, John won the 2016 Bassmaster College Series Classic Bracket. In 2023 he earned four Top 5s en route to qualifying for the Elite Series via the 2023 Bassmaster Opens EQs division.



### David Gaston

Residence: Sylacauga, Ala.  
Birthdate: 9/16/1996  
B.A.S.S. events: 39  
B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
Most recent tournament win: N/A  
Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1 (2024)

Bassmaster Classic best finish: N/A  
Career earnings: \$126,463  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 2  
Signature technique/strength: Shallow water  
Home waters: Lay Lake  
Favorite place to fish: Lake Martin  
Career highlights: After competing at the high school level, David began competing in the Bassmaster Opens after graduation and has notched eight Top 30s in B.A.S.S. events. He earned an Elite invitation via the 2022 Bassmaster Central Opens.



### Robert Gee

Residence: Knoxville, Tennessee  
Birthdate: 1/19/1999  
B.A.S.S. events: 9  
B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
Most recent tournament win: N/A  
Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 0

Bassmaster Classic best finish: N/A

Career earnings: \$33,090  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 1  
Signature technique/strength: Offshore fishing  
Home waters: Fort Loudon/Tellico Lake  
Favorite place to fish: Lake Gunterville  
Career highlights: Robert qualified for the Bassmaster Elite Series after fishing just one season of the Bassmaster Opens. He netted four Top 20s to place fourth in the 2023 Bassmaster Opens Elite Qualifiers division.



### Wesley Gore

Residence: Clanton, Ala.  
Birthdate: 8/30/2000  
B.A.S.S. events: 21  
B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
Most recent tournament win: N/A  
Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 0

Bassmaster Classic best finish: N/A  
Career earnings: \$52,158  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 1  
Signature technique/strength: Deep cranking & offshore fishing  
Home waters: Lake Mitchell  
Favorite place to fish: Lay Lake  
Career highlights: Fishing the 2023 Bassmaster Opens Elite Qualifiers division, Wesley earned two eighth-place and two 11th-place finishes en route to qualifying for the 2024 Elite Series.



### Buddy Gross

Residence: Chattanooga, Tenn.  
Birthdate: 8/18/1972  
B.A.S.S. events: 48  
B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
Most recent tournament win: 2022 SiteOne Bassmaster Elite at Harris Chain

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 3  
Bassmaster Classic best finish: 20 (2022)  
Career earnings: \$511,100  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 9  
Signature technique/strength: Offshore fishing  
Home waters: Chickamauga Lake  
Favorite place to fish: Tennessee River  
Career highlights: Buddy is a two-time FLW Tour winner. During his rookie campaign, Buddy won the 2020 Bassmaster Elite at Lake Eufaula. In 2022 he picked up his second blue trophy at the Elite on Harris Chain.



### Jeff Gustafson

Residence: Kenora, Ontario, Canada  
Birthdate: 9/19/1982  
B.A.S.S. events: 50  
B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
Most recent tournament win: 2023 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Toyota

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 1 (2023)  
Career earnings: \$798,700  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 11  
Signature technique/strength: Using electronics  
Home waters: Lake of the Woods  
Favorite place to fish: "Anywhere with some biting fish!"  
Career highlights: In 2023 Jeff became the first Canadian angler ever to win the Bassmaster Classic.



### Greg Hackney

Residence: Gonzales, La.  
Birthdate: 9/1/1973  
B.A.S.S. events: 222  
B.A.S.S. wins: 6  
Most recent tournament win: 2018 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Elite at Sabine River presented by Econo Lodge

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 18  
Bassmaster Classic best finish: 5 (2008)  
Career earnings: \$2,820,463  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 21  
Signature technique/strength: Power fishing  
Home waters: Louisiana Delta  
Favorite place to fish: In the South  
Career highlights: Greg is a three-time Elite Series champion (Sam Rayburn 2006, Cayuga Lake 2014, Sabine River 2018) and the 2014 Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year.



### Justin Hamner

Residence: Northport, Ala.  
Birthdate: 3/21/1991  
B.A.S.S. events: 39  
B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
Most recent tournament win: N/A  
Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 2

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 4 (2022)  
Career earnings: \$223,302  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 4  
Signature technique/strength: Jerkbait & LiveScope  
Home waters: Lake Tuscaloosa  
Favorite place to fish: Lake Champlain  
Career highlights: Joining the Elites in 2021, Justin finished second in the Rookie of the Year standings. In three seasons he's earned six Top 20 Elite finishes.



### Ray Hanselman

Residence: Del Rio, Texas  
Birthdate: 3/25/1973  
B.A.S.S. events: 73  
B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
Most recent tournament win: N/A  
Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 2

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 44 (2020)  
Career earnings: \$418,183  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 7

Signature technique/strength: "Whatever they're biting."  
Home waters: Lake Amistad  
Favorite place to fish: Port O' Connor  
Career highlights: Before joining the Elites in 2017, Ray won four straight FLW Costa tournaments in 2015. He earned his spot in the Elites through the 2016 Bassmaster Central Opens.



### Jamie Hartman

Residence: Greenbrier, Ark.  
Birthdate: 10/27/1972  
B.A.S.S. events: 76  
B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
Most recent tournament win: 2019 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Elite at Lake Gunterville;

2019 Bassmaster Elite at Cayuga Lake  
Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 3  
Bassmaster Classic best finish: 18 (2021)  
Career earnings: \$718,567  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 23  
Signature technique/strength: Decision making  
Home waters: Oneida Lake  
Favorite place to fish: New York  
Career highlights: Jamie earned his first two Elite Series titles in 2019 on Lake Gunterville and in his home state of New York at Cayuga Lake.



### Matt Herren

Residence: Ashville, Ala.  
Birthdate: 1/8/1963  
B.A.S.S. events: 169  
B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
Most recent tournament win: N/A  
Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 10

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 7 (2010)  
Career earnings: \$1,182,644  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 21  
Signature technique/strength: Flipping  
Home waters: Neely Henry Lake  
Favorite place to fish: Lake Champlain  
Career highlights: Matt won the Toyota Texas Bass Classic championship in 2016. This veteran Elite Series angler has earned 67 Top 30 finishes.



### Derek Hudnall

Residence: Zachary, La.  
Birthdate: 8/15/1980  
B.A.S.S. events: 71  
B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
Most recent tournament win: N/A  
Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 33 (2019)  
Career earnings: \$345,354  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 9  
Signature technique/strength: Weightless wacky worm



Home waters: Atchafalaya Basin  
 Favorite place to fish: St. Lawrence River  
 Career highlights: Derek qualified for the Elites after a stellar season on the 2018 Bassmaster Opens. Since 2019, he has earned seven Top 20 Elite finishes.

**Cody Huff**



Residence: Ava, Mo.  
 Birthdate: 3/17/1997  
 B.A.S.S. events: 34  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 3  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 24 (2020)

Career earnings: \$245,981  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 5  
 Signature technique/strength: Fishing deep  
 Home waters: Bull Shoals Lake  
 Favorite place to fish: Bull Shoals Lake  
 Career highlights: Cody followed up his 2019 Bassmaster College Classic Bracket victory and a successful career at Bethel University by winning the 2021 Bassmaster Central Opens Angler of the Year title. In two seasons on the Elite Series he's netted three Top 10 finishes.



**Mike Huff**

Residence: Corbin, Ky.  
 Birthdate: 4/4/1990  
 B.A.S.S. events: 63  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 49 (2020)  
 Career earnings: \$255,717  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 6  
 Signature technique/strength: Flipping  
 Home waters: Laurel, Cumberland & Cherokee lakes  
 Career highlights: Mike had two Top 20 finishes during his rookie campaign on the Elite Series, including seventh at the 2019 Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship (Lake St. Clair). He followed that up with two more Top 20s in 2020 and 2021, finishing second at the 2020 Bassmaster Elite at Chickamauga Lake.

**Mike Iaconelli**



Residence: Pittsgrove, N.J.  
 Birthdate: 6/17/1972  
 B.A.S.S. events: 274  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 8  
 Most recent tournament win: 2019 Basspro.com Eastern Open at James River  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 20

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 1 (2003)  
 Career earnings: \$2,782,540  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 29  
 Signature technique/strength: Power fishing & finesse fishing  
 Home waters: Tidal Delaware River  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Champlain  
 Career highlights: Mike is the only angler in Bassmaster history to have won at every adult tournament level, including the Bassmaster Classic (2003), Bassmaster Angler of the Year (2006), B.A.S.S. Nation Championship (1999) and a Bassmaster Kayak Series tournament (2021).

**Taku Ito**



Residence: Chiba, Japan  
 Birthdate: 3/29/1987  
 B.A.S.S. events: 44  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2021 Farmers Insurance Bassmaster Elite at St. Lawrence River  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 4 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 7 (2022) Career earnings: \$534,733

Years as a full-time pro angler: 11  
 Signature technique/strength: Smallmouth finesse fishing  
 Home waters: Tone River (Japan) & Chickamauga Lake  
 Career highlights: In just four seasons on the Elite circuit, Taku has established himself as a star.



**Carl Jocusen**

Residence: Toowoomba, Australia  
 Birthdate: 9/22/1984  
 B.A.S.S. events: 114  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2019 Cherokee Casino Tahlequah Bassmaster Elite at Lake Tenkiller

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 2  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 39 (2023)  
 Career earnings: \$504,636  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 15  
 Signature technique/strength: Jig fishing  
 Home waters: Chickamauga Lake  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Havasu  
 Career highlights: After requalifying for the Elite Series through the 2018 Bassmaster Opens, Carl earned his first blue trophy in 2019 on Lake Tenkiller, becoming the first Australian to win an Elite event. Since that win, he has earned nine Top 20 Elite finishes, including second at the 2020 Bassmaster Elite at Santee Cooper Lakes.

**Chris Johnston**



Residence: Otonabee, Ontario, Canada  
 Birthdate: 7/13/1989  
 B.A.S.S. events: 55  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2020 SiteOne Bassmaster Elite at St.

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Lawrence River

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 5 (2022)

Career earnings: \$813,571

Years as a full-time pro angler: 8

Signature technique/strength: Flipping a jig & sight fishing

Home waters: Lake Ontario

Favorite place to fish: Lake Ontario

Career highlights: After a successful career with FLW, Chris kicked off his Elite Series campaign with two second-place finishes at the St. Johns River and St. Lawrence River in 2019. In 2020, Chris became the first Canadian to capture an Elite title, and in 2021 he placed second in the Bassmaster Elite Series Angler of the Year standings. He followed this up by placing third in the 2022 AOY standings.



### Cory Johnston

Residence: Cavan, Ontario, Canada

Birthdate: 5/20/1985

B.A.S.S. events: 56

B.A.S.S. wins: 1

Most recent tournament win: 2021 Basspro.com Bassmaster Northern Open

at 1000 Islands/

St. Lawrence River

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 11 (2021, 2023)

Career earnings: \$707,180

Years as a full-time pro angler: 9

Signature technique/strength: Sight fishing

Home waters: Rice Lake & Tri Lakes (Canada)

Favorite place to fish: St. Lawrence River

Career highlights: Cory has established himself as one of the fiercest competitors on the Elite Series, amassing 22 Elite Top 20s in just five seasons. In 2021, he claimed his first B.A.S.S. victory at the Bassmaster Northern Open at St. Lawrence River/1000 Islands and followed up in 2022 by becoming the first angler in Bassmaster history to earn a century belt with all smallmouth at an Elite event on the same fishery.



### Jonathan Kelley

Residence: Old Forge, Pa.

Birthdate: 10/12/1995

B.A.S.S. events: 25

B.A.S.S. wins: 0

Most recent tournament win: N/A

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 0

Bassmaster Classic best

finish: N/A

Career earnings: \$93,705

Years as a full-time pro angler: 3

Signature technique/strength: Power fishing

Home waters: Oneida Lake

Career highlights: After expanding the Coastal Carolina University fishing team, Jonathan qualified for the Bassmaster College Series National Championship four

times. Jonathan laid claim to the 2021 Bassmaster Northern Opens Angler of the Year title, netting two Top 10 finishes to earn his Elite invitation.

### Steve Kennedy

Residence: Auburn, Ala.

Birthdate: 4/19/1969

B.A.S.S. events: 196

B.A.S.S. wins: 3

Most recent tournament win: 2017 GoPro

Bassmaster Elite at Dardanelle presented by Econo Lodge



Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 11

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 2 (2017)

Career earnings: \$2,034,113

Years as a full-time pro angler: 20

Signature technique/strength: Swimbait & jig

Home waters: Lake Martin

Career highlights: Steve is a veteran Elite Series pro with 33 Top 10 finishes in B.A.S.S. competition, including three Elite wins (Clear Lake 2007, West Point Lake 2011, Lake Dardanelle 2017)



### Kenta Kimura

Residence: Hirakata, Osaka, Japan

Birthdate: 2/7/1982

B.A.S.S. events: 89

B.A.S.S. wins: 1

Most recent tournament win: 2022 St. Croix

Bassmaster Northern Open presented by Mossy Oak Fishing at James River

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 2

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 45 (2023)

Career earnings: \$462,299

Years as a full-time pro angler: 13

Signature technique/strength: Topwater

Home waters: Lake Biwa (Japan)

Favorite place to fish: Lake Champlain

Career highlights: Kenta earned his way onto the Elite Series via the 2020 Bassmaster Central Opens. In 2022 Kenta posted seven Top 20s in Elite and Opens events, including a win at the Northern Open on the James River, and in 2023 he posted three Top 10s in Elite derbies.



### Koby Kreiger

Residence: Alva, Fla.

Birthdate: 9/13/1968

B.A.S.S. events: 122

B.A.S.S. wins: 1

Most recent tournament win: 2002 Northern Open #2 at St. Lawrence River

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 60 (2003)

Career earnings: \$430,037

Years as a full-time pro angler: 20

Signature technique/strength: Topwater

Home waters: Lake Okeechobee

Career highlights: Koby spent 18 years on the FLW Tour and has won the Bassmaster Northern Opens Angler of the Year title twice.

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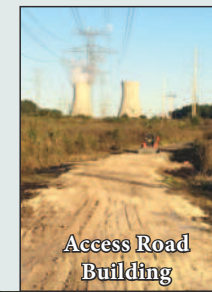
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**Caleb Kuphall**

Residence: Mukwonago, Wis.  
 Birthdate: 5/18/1983  
 B.A.S.S. events: 42  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
 Most recent tournament win: 2021 Berkley Bassmaster Elite at Lake

Guntersville  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 2  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 12 (2023)  
 Career earnings: \$437,150  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 5  
 Signature technique/strength: Jig fishing  
 Home waters: Mississippi River  
 Favorite place to fish: Tennessee River  
 Career highlights: In his second year on the Elite Series, Caleb won the 2021 Bassmaster Elite at Lake Guntersville by the second-largest margin in Elite Series history (17-14). Caleb followed that up in 2022 by earning a century belt en route to a second-place finish in the Elite at Santee Cooper Lakes.

**Logan Latuso**

Residence: Gonzales, La.  
 Birthdate: 10/6/1993  
 B.A.S.S. events: 40  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 0  
 Bassmaster Classic best

finish: N/A  
 Career earnings: \$152,351  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 2  
 Signature technique/strength: Shallow-water power fishing  
 Home waters: Atchafalaya Basin  
 Favorite place to fish: Venice, La.  
 Career highlights: Logan has fished the Bassmaster Opens since 2014. In that time, he earned 16 Top 30s and finished one spot away from earning an Elite invitation twice. Logan finally received his Elite invite by finishing third in the 2022 Central Opens standings.

**Jordan Lee**

Residence: Cullman, Ala.  
 Birthdate: 6/30/1991  
 B.A.S.S. events: 62  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
 Most recent tournament win: 2018 GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by DICK'S Sporting Goods

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 1 (2017, 2018)  
 Career earnings: \$1,137,389  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 10  
 Signature technique/strength: Flipping  
 Home waters: Lake Guntersville  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Guntersville  
 Career highlights: Jordan is a two-time winner of the Bassmaster Classic and one of

only four anglers to win back-to-back Classics. In 2014 he won the Bassmaster College Series Classic Bracket Championship.

**Shane LeHew**

Residence: Catawba, N.C.  
 Birthdate: 12/2/1988  
 B.A.S.S. events: 52  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5  
 Bassmaster Classic best

finish: 28 (2020)  
 Career earnings: \$461,428  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 10  
 Signature technique/strength: Shallow water  
 Home waters: Lake Norman  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Champlain  
 Career highlights: A former junior world bass fishing champion, Shane joined the Elite Series in 2019 after a successful career in collegiate fishing and five years as an FLW Tour pro. In five seasons fishing the Elites, Shane has earned 12 Top 20 finishes, including a fourth-place finish at the 2022 Bassmaster Elite at Lake Fork that also earned him a century belt.

**Brandon Lester**

Residence: Fayetteville, Tenn.  
 Birthdate: 4/7/1988  
 B.A.S.S. events: 140  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
 Most recent tournament win: 2022 St. Croix Bassmaster Southern Open presented by Mossy Oak

Fishing at Kissimmee Chain; 2022 Whataburger Bassmaster Elite at Pickwick Lake  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 8  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 6 (2019, 2023)  
 Career earnings: \$1,192,967  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 10  
 Signature technique/strength: Versatility  
 Home waters: Tims Ford Lake  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Champlain  
 Career highlights: Brandon has three Top 10 Bassmaster Classic finishes (Knoxville 2019, Guntersville 2020, Knoxville 2023) and 47 Top 20s in B.A.S.S. tournaments. In 2022 Brandon had wins in both Elite and Bassmaster Opens tournaments and finished second in the Bassmaster Angler of the Year race.

**Lee Livesay**

Residence: Longview, Texas  
 Birthdate: 7/3/1985  
 B.A.S.S. events: 66  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 4  
 Most recent tournament win: 2022 St. Croix Bassmaster Central Open

presented by Mossy Oak Fishing at Ross Barnett; 2022 Simms Bassmaster Elite at Lake Fork  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 4  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 8 (2020)  
 Career earnings: \$810,356  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 6  
 Signature technique/strength: Frogging & topwater  
 Home waters: Lake Fork  
 Career highlights: Lee has claimed three Elite Series victories (Chickamauga Lake 2020, Lake Fork 2021, Lake Fork 2022). At the 2021 Elite at Lake Fork his final-day catch of five bass weighing 42-3 was the third-heaviest, single-day weight in B.A.S.S. history.

**Wes Logan**

Residence: Springville, Ala.  
 Birthdate: 6/23/1994  
 B.A.S.S. events: 48  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2021 Whataburger Bassmaster Elite at Neely Henry Lake  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 1  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 23 (2022)  
 Career earnings: \$372,157  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 7  
 Signature technique/strength: Grass fishing  
 Home waters: Coosa River  
 Career highlights: In his second year on the Elite Series, Wes claimed his first career victory on his home lake at the 2021 Bassmaster Elite at Neely Henry Lake. He followed that with a second-place finish at the very next Elite event at Lake Guntersville.

**Ed Loughran III**

Residence: Richmond, Va.  
 Birthdate: 8/18/1970  
 B.A.S.S. events: 82  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1  
 Bassmaster Classic best

finish: 12 (2021)  
 Career earnings: \$324,364  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 15  
 Signature technique/strength: Shallow cranking  
 Home waters: James River  
 Career highlights: Ed finished his rookie season in 2019 with three straight Top 30 finishes. Since his rookie year, he has earned seven Top 20 Elite finishes.

**Bill Lowen**

Residence: Brookville, Ind.  
 Birthdate: 12/3/1974  
 B.A.S.S. events: 184  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2021 Guaranteed Rate Bassmaster Elite at

Pickwick Lake  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 11  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 4 (2016)  
 Career earnings: \$1,594,345  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 18  
 Signature technique/strength: Shallow water  
 Home waters: Ohio River  
 Career highlights: Bill is a veteran angler who had three runner-up finishes in Elite events (Old Hickory Lake 2008, Clear Lake 2010, Chesapeake Bay 2015) before capturing his first blue trophy at the 2021 Bassmaster Elite at Pickwick Lake.

**Scott Martin**

Residence: Clewiston, Fla.  
 Birthdate: 10/9/1975  
 B.A.S.S. events: 57  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2024 St. Croix Bassmaster Open at Lake Okeechobee presented by SEVIIN

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 3  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 19 (2022)  
 Career earnings: \$325,964  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 24  
 Signature technique/strength: Versatility  
 Home waters: Lake Okeechobee  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Champlain  
 Career highlights: At the 2024 Bassmaster Open at Lake Okeechobee, Scott set the record for the all-time heaviest winning total in a three-day Bassmaster event as well as the heaviest one-day, five-fish bag ever weighed in during a Bassmaster Opens competition.

**Trey McKinney**

Residence: Carbondale, Ill.  
 Birthdate: 2/25/2005  
 B.A.S.S. events: 9  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 0  
 Bassmaster Classic best

finish: N/A  
 Career earnings: \$84,690  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 1  
 Signature technique/strength: Pitching a jig  
 Home waters: Lake of Egypt  
 Favorite place to fish: Anywhere in Idaho  
 Career highlights: Trey qualified for the Elite Series after fishing just one season of the Bassmaster Opens, where he netted four Top 10 finishes to place third in the EQs standings.

**Mark Menendez**

Residence: Paducah, Ky.  
 Birthdate: 9/28/1964  
 B.A.S.S. events: 271  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 3  
 Most recent tournament win: 2009 Elite Series - Diamond Drive at Lake Dardanelle

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Best of luck  
to those  
participating  
in this month's  
tournament.



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Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 6  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 12 (1997)  
 Career earnings: \$1,404,535  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 32  
 Signature technique/strength: Cold water & jerkbait  
 Home waters: Kentucky Lake  
 Career highlights: Mark held the B.A.S.S. Big Bass record from 1997 to 1999 for a 13-9 largemouth.



#### Ben Milliken

Residence: Omaha, Neb.  
 Birthdate: 6/28/1989  
 B.A.S.S. events: 9  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2023 St. Croix Bassmaster Open at Toledo Bend  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 1 (2024)  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: N/A  
 Career earnings: \$83,884  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 1  
 Signature technique/strength: All of them  
 Home waters: Prairie View Lake  
 Career highlights: Ben qualified for the Elite Series via the 2023 Bassmaster Opens Elite Qualifiers division. He captured three Top 10s en route to qualifying, including a win at Toledo Bend where he weighed in a total of 77-14 — the third-largest total in a three-day Open at the time.



#### Brock Mosley

Residence: Collinsville, Miss.  
 Birthdate: 8/21/1988  
 B.A.S.S. events: 115  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2023 Folds of Honor Bassmaster Elite at Sabine River

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 5 (2021)  
 Career earnings: \$810,718  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 10  
 Signature technique/strength: Power fishing  
 Home waters: Okatibbe Lake  
 Career highlights: After qualifying for the Elite Series through the Bassmaster Opens in 2015, Brock has notched five second-place finishes (St. Lawrence River 2017, Lake St. Clair 2017, Pickwick Lake 2021, Sabine River 2021, Chickamauga Lake 2022).



#### Paul Mueller

Residence: Naugatuck, Conn.  
 Birthdate: 4/17/1984  
 B.A.S.S. events: 90  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
 Most recent tournament win: 2020 AFTCO Bassmaster Elite at St. Johns River

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 2 (2014)  
 Career earnings: \$764,037  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 12  
 Signature technique/strength: Cranking, drop shot, hair jig & electronics  
 Home waters: Candlewood Lake  
 Career highlights: Paul is the 2014 B.A.S.S. Nation national champion. Paul has won two Elite titles (Lake Lanier 2019, St. Johns River 2020).



#### David Mullins

Residence: Mt. Carmel, Tenn.  
 Birthdate: 12/17/1981  
 B.A.S.S. events: 98  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2016 Bass Pro Shops Southern Open #3 at Douglas Lake

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 4  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 10 (2022)  
 Career earnings: \$780,413  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 11  
 Signature technique/strength: Cranking  
 Home waters: Cherokee & Douglas lakes  
 Career highlights: David qualified for the Elite Series through the 2013 Opens and has been a solid performer ever since. In 2020, he finished second in the Bassmaster Angler of the Year points standings.



#### Bryan New

Residence: Saluda, S.C.  
 Birthdate: 2/21/1990  
 B.A.S.S. events: 45  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
 Most recent tournament win: 2021 AFTCO Bassmaster Elite at St. Johns River  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 3  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 9 (2022)  
 Career earnings: \$511,741  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 4  
 Signature technique/strength: Junk fishing  
 Home waters: Lake Murray  
 Career highlights: Before coming to the Elite Series, Bryan had 44 Top 10s in FLW-sponsored events. After winning the first Bassmaster Open of the 2020 season, he registered for all of the Opens in a bid to qualify for the Elites.



#### Kyle Norsetter

Residence: Cottage Grove, Wis.  
 Birthdate: 4/24/1986  
 B.A.S.S. events: 12  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 0  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: N/A  
 Career earnings: \$69,560  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 3

Signature technique/strength: Dedication  
 Home waters: Madison Chain  
 Career highlights: In his first season fishing the Bassmaster Opens, Kyle earned two Top 10s, including a third-place finish at the 2022 Central Open at Sam Rayburn.



#### Brandon Palaniuk

Residence: Rathdrum, Idaho  
 Birthdate: 11/3/1987  
 B.A.S.S. events: 153  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 6  
 Most recent tournament win: 2021 Basspro.com Bassmaster Northern Open at James River

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 13  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 2 (2013)  
 Career earnings: \$2,025,388  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 14  
 Signature technique/strength: Versatility  
 Home waters: Lake Coeur d'Alene  
 Career highlights: Brandon earned Bassmaster Angler of the Year honors in 2017 and again in 2022. In his stellar Elite Series career, he has five Elite wins: Bull Shoals (2012), St. Lawrence River (2013), Sam Rayburn (2017), Lake Champlain (2020) and Santee Cooper Lakes (2020).



#### Luke Palmer

Residence: Coalgate, Okla.  
 Birthdate: 10/22/1990  
 B.A.S.S. events: 63  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2023 AFTCO Bassmaster Elite at Santee Cooper Lakes  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 5  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 6 (2022)  
 Career earnings: \$612,683  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 6  
 Signature technique/strength: Flipping & pitching  
 Home waters: Lake Texoma & Lake Eufaula (Oklahoma)  
 Career highlights: Luke captured his first Elite win at the 2023 Bassmaster Elite at Santee Cooper Lakes and followed that with a second-place finish at the Bassmaster Elite at Lake St. Clair.



#### Logan Parks

Residence: Auburn, Ala.  
 Birthdate: 6/8/1998  
 B.A.S.S. events: 18  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 0  
 Career earnings: \$33,580  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 1  
 Signature technique/strength: Fishing offshore  
 Home waters: Lake Martin

Career highlights: Competing for Auburn University, Logan won the Bassmaster College Team of the Year in 2021 alongside partner Tucker Smith. He and Smith also won the Bass Pro Shops Amateur Team Championship the same year, capturing a million-dollar prize in the process.



#### Kyle Patrick

Residence: Cooperstown, N.Y.  
 Birthdate: 7/1/1997  
 B.A.S.S. events: 27  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2023 St. Croix Bassmaster Open at Lake of the Ozarks

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1 (2024)  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: N/A  
 Career earnings: \$86,150  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 1  
 Signature technique/strength: Power-finesse fishing  
 Home waters: Cayuga Lake  
 Career highlights: The 2023 Bassmaster Opens season saw Kyle capture a win at Lake of the Ozarks. This win helped him ultimately place 10th in the Bassmaster Opens Elite Qualifiers points standings, netting him a ticket to the 2024 Elite Series.



#### Chad Pipkens

Residence: DeWitt, Mich.  
 Birthdate: 8/23/1983  
 B.A.S.S. events: 146  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2014 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Northern Open #3 presented by Allstate at Lake St. Clair

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 6  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 24 (2021)  
 Career earnings: \$807,999  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 11  
 Signature technique/strength: Isolated target fishing  
 Home waters: Lake Erie & Lake St. Clair  
 Career highlights: Chad qualified for the Elite Series through the 2012 Bassmaster Northern Opens and has been the Northern Opens points leader twice. Chad has 32 career Top 20 finishes in B.A.S.S. tournaments, including a 10th-place finish at the 2023 Bassmaster Elite at Sabine River.



#### Clifford Pirch

Residence: Payson, Ariz.  
 Birthdate: 10/22/1975  
 B.A.S.S. events: 123  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 8  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 13 (2015, 2018)  
 Career earnings: \$975,166

Years as a full-time pro angler: 23  
Signature technique/strength: Jig fishing, drop shotting & sight fishing  
Home waters: Roosevelt Lake  
Career highlights: An outstanding Western pro, Clifford won the U.S. Open Championship three times and was a two-time FLW Tour champion. Clifford joined the Elite Series in 2013 and, in that time, has amassed 28 Top 20 finishes, including two finishes of 15th or better in 2023.



#### Jacob Powroznik

Residence: North Prince George, Va.  
Birthdate: 9/10/1978  
B.A.S.S. events: 96  
B.A.S.S. wins: 5  
Most recent tournament win: 2021 Basspro.com Bassmaster Central Open at Lewis Smith Lake

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 8  
Bassmaster Classic best finish: 5 (2015, 2018)  
Career earnings: \$994,415  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 10  
Signature technique/strength: Sight fishing  
Home waters: James River  
Career highlights: Jacob requalified for the 2022 Elite Series after winning the 2021 Bassmaster Opens Angler of the Year title in a season where he captured three Top 10s. In addition to his 2021 Opens victory, Jacob

has four other B.A.S.S. titles (Buggs Island Reservoir 2005, Toledo Bend 2014, Bays de Noc 2014, Pokegama Lake 2017).



#### Cliff Prince

Residence: Palatka, Fla.  
Birthdate: 1/14/1970  
B.A.S.S. events: 139  
B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
Most recent tournament win: N/A  
Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 3  
Bassmaster Classic best

finish: 34 (2015)  
Career earnings: \$595,004  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 16  
Signature technique/strength: Versatility  
Home waters: St. Johns River  
Career highlights: Cliff qualified for the 2012 Elite Series through the Bassmaster Southern Opens.

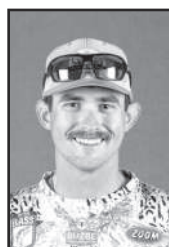


#### Jay Przekurat

Residence: Stevens Point, Wis.  
Birthdate: 6/21/1999  
B.A.S.S. events: 33  
B.A.S.S. wins: 3 (two as an Opens co-angler)  
Most recent tournament win: 2022 Guaranteed Rate Bassmaster Elite at St.

Lawrence River

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 2  
Bassmaster Classic best finish: 7 (2023)  
Career earnings: \$384,733  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 3  
Signature technique/strength: River fishing or clear-water smallmouth  
Home waters: Wisconsin River system  
Career highlights: En route to winning 2022 Bassmaster Elite Series Rookie of the Year honors, Jay became the youngest angler ever to win an Elite Series tournament and earned a smallmouth century belt with a four-day total of 102-9 in a historic victory at the 2022 Bassmaster Elite at St. Lawrence River.



#### KJ Queen

Residence: Catawba, N.C.  
Birthdate: 8/21/1996  
B.A.S.S. events: 38  
B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
Most recent tournament win: N/A  
Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 2  
Bassmaster Classic best

finish: 27 (2023)  
Career earnings: \$204,482  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 3  
Signature technique/strength: Sight fishing  
Home waters: Lake Norman  
Favorite place to fish: Lake Guntersville in March  
Career highlights: KJ fished for Bethel University, where he qualified for five B.A.S.S.

and five FLW college championships and captured the 2019 Team of the Year title in the Bassmaster College Series with partner Dax Ewart. He qualified for the 2021 Elites through the Eastern Opens and has posted two Top 10 Elite finishes.



#### Alex Redwine

Residence: Blue Ash, Ohio  
Birthdate: 8/27/1999  
B.A.S.S. events: 28  
B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
Most recent tournament win: N/A  
Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 0  
Bassmaster Classic best

finish: N/A  
Career earnings: \$104,751  
Years as a full-time pro angler: 3  
Signature technique/strength: Great Lake smallmouth & river systems/current  
Home waters: Ohio River & Brookville Lake  
Favorite place to fish: Lake St. Clair  
Career highlights: Alex joined the Elite Series after finishing second in the 2021 Bassmaster Northern Opens and finished his rookie campaign strong, posting three consecutive Top 30s to end the season. In 2023 he had two finishes of 12th place or better, including a sixth-place finish at the 2023 Bassmaster Elite at Lake Champlain.

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**Tyler Rivet**

Residence: Raceland, La.  
 Birthdate: 6/14/1994  
 B.A.S.S. events: 66  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2023 SiteOne Bassmaster Elite at Lake Okeechobee

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 3  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 21 (2023)  
 Career earnings: \$539,658  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 6  
 Signature technique/strength: Punching, frogging & LiveScoping  
 Home waters: Lake Boeuf  
 Career highlights: Tyler captured his first blue trophy at the 2023 Bassmaster Elite Series season-opener at Lake Okeechobee.

**Matt Robertson**

Residence: Kuttawa, Ky.  
 Birthdate: 4/16/1986  
 B.A.S.S. events: 47  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2020 Basspro.com Bassmaster Eastern Open at Cherokee Lake  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 5  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 7 (2021)  
 Career earnings: \$394,119  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 4  
 Signature technique/strength: Offshore  
 Home waters: Kentucky Lake  
 Career highlights: Matt has qualified for the Classic three different ways — through the Bassmaster Team Championship, through the Bassmaster Opens and through the Bassmaster Elite Series Angler of the Year points standings. Matt joined the Elite Series in 2021 and has netted six Top 10 Elite finishes in that time.

**Cole Sands**

Residence: Calhoun, Tenn.  
 Birthdate: 9/5/1996  
 B.A.S.S. events: 23  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1 (2024)  
 Bassmaster Classic best

finish: N/A  
 Career earnings: \$117,534  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 2  
 Signature technique/strength: Grass fishing  
 Home waters: Chickamauga Lake  
 Career highlights: Cole won the 2020 Bassmaster College Series National Championship when he and partner Conner DiMauro set a three-day record catch of 84-12. He is a four-time College National Championship qualifier and competed in multiple Bassmaster College and High School Classics as well as the 2019 College Classic Bracket.

**Pat Schlapper**

Residence: Eleva, Wis.  
 Birthdate: 4/18/1983  
 B.A.S.S. events: 33  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 3  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 45 (2021)  
 Career earnings: \$247,682  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 3  
 Signature technique/strength: Electronics  
 Home waters: Chetek Chain of Lakes  
 Career highlights: Pat joined the ranks of the 2021 Elites after double-qualifying by winning the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship and finishing third in the Bassmaster Eastern Opens Angler of the Year standings for 2020.

**Bryan Schmitt**

Residence: Deale, Md.  
 Birthdate: 3/3/1981  
 B.A.S.S. events: 53  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 3  
 Most recent tournament win: 2022 Guaranteed Rate Bassmaster Elite at Mississippi River  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 3  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 2 (2023)  
 Career earnings: \$665,959  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 9  
 Signature technique/strength: Swim jig  
 Home waters: Potomac River  
 Career highlights: Bryan finished first in the 2019 Bassmaster Eastern Opens Angler of the Year standings. Bryan has seven Elite Top 10s, including victories at the 2021 Bassmaster Elite at Lake Champlain and the 2022 Bassmaster Elite at Mississippi River as well as a second-place finish in the 2023 Bassmaster Classic in Knoxville.

**Bernie Schultz**

Residence: Gainesville, Fla.  
 Birthdate: 9/4/1954  
 B.A.S.S. events: 363  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 9  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 11 (1991)  
 Career earnings: \$1,238,595  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 30-plus  
 Signature technique/strength: "Anything shallow." Home waters: Orange Lake & Rodman Reservoir  
 Career highlights: Bernie is a veteran Elite pro with 60 Top 20 finishes in B.A.S.S. tournaments, including eighth at the 2023 Bassmaster Elite at Lake Murray.  
 Did you know: Bernie is a man of many talents. He not only has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in illustration and design, but he also has an extensive vintage tackle collection.

**Hunter Shryock**

Residence: Ooltewah, Tenn.  
 Birthdate: 8/2/1988  
 B.A.S.S. events: 92  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 4  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 25 (2020)  
 Career earnings: \$533,586  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 6  
 Signature technique/strength: Shallow-water fishing  
 Home waters: Chickamauga Lake  
 Career highlights: Hunter has nine career Top 10 finishes with B.A.S.S., with two finishes of sixth place or better during the 2023 Elite season, including a second-place finish at Lake Murray.

**Bryant Smith**

Residence: Roseville, Calif.  
 Birthdate: 2/20/1991  
 B.A.S.S. events: 16  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 1 (2024)  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: N/A. Career earnings: \$134,658  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 6  
 Signature technique/strength: Flipping any kind of grass  
 Home waters: "Technically Folsom Lake, but I've always considered Clear Lake my real home lake."  
 Career highlights: In his rookie Elite season, he earned two Top 10s and also broke a 25-year-old B.A.S.S. record during the 2023 Bassmaster Elite at St. Lawrence River.

**John Soukup**

Residence: Sapulpa, Okla.  
 Birthdate: 2/3/1982  
 B.A.S.S. events: 28  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 0  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: N/A  
 Career earnings: \$79,093  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 3  
 Signature technique/strength: LiveScoping with a jerkbait & shallow-water flipping  
 Home waters: Keystone Lake  
 Career highlights: After notching two Top 10s in 2022, John qualified for the Elite Series via the overall Bassmaster Opens Angler of the Year standings. Despite having a rough Elite season in 2023, John netted another two Opens Top 10s during the 2023 Opens season.

**Caleb Sumrall**

Residence: New Iberia, La.  
 Birthdate: 5/20/1987  
 B.A.S.S. events: 70  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifi-

cations: 3  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 16 (2022)  
 Career earnings: \$424,555  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 7  
 Signature technique/strength: Flipping, pitching & punching  
 Home waters: Atchafalaya Basin  
 Career highlights: Caleb joined the Elites after winning the 2017 B.A.S.S. Nation Championship. He had a breakout season in 2021 with two Top 10s and a seventh-place finish in the Bassmaster Angler of the Year standings.

**Gerald Swindle**

Residence: Guntersville, Ala.  
 Birthdate: 12/17/1969  
 B.A.S.S. events: 317  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2011 Bass Pro Shops Southern Open #1 at

Kissimmee Chain  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 20  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 3 (2005)  
 Career earnings: \$2,444,046  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 26  
 Signature technique/strength: Jig fishing & junk fishing  
 Home waters: Lake Guntersville  
 Career highlights: Gerald is a two-time Bassmaster Angler of the Year, claiming the title in 2004 and 2016. He has 58 career Top 10 finishes in B.A.S.S. competition, including a third-place finish at the 2022 Bassmaster Elite at Lake Fork where he captured a century belt in the process.

**Frank Talley**

Residence: Temple, Texas  
 Birthdate: 11/11/1974  
 B.A.S.S. events: 58  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2020 NOCO Bassmaster Elite at Lake Guntersville

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 2 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 22 (2021)  
 Career earnings: \$388,423  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 6  
 Signature technique/strength: Spinnerbait around wood cover  
 Home waters: Lake Belton  
 Career highlights: Frank captured the 2018 Bassmaster Central Opens Angler of the Year title. His first Elite Series victory came at the 2020 Bassmaster Elite at Lake Guntersville.



**JT Thompkins**

Residence: Myrtle Beach, S.C.  
 Birthdate: 1/15/2002  
 B.A.S.S. events: 29  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2022 St. Croix Bassmaster Northern Open presented by Mossy Oak

Fishing at Upper Chesapeake Bay  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 24 (2023)  
 Career earnings: \$160,841  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 1  
 Signature technique/strength: Tidal shallow power fishing  
 Home waters: Winyah Bay  
 Career highlights: In 2023 JT won the inaugural Bassmaster Elite Qualifiers Angler of the Year title. With a 48th-place finish as his lowest of the season, JT netted an impressive four Top 10s during the 2023 Bassmaster Opens season, along with an additional two Top 20 finishes.

**Patrick Walters**

Residence: Summerville, S.C.  
 Birthdate: 8/30/1994  
 B.A.S.S. events: 77  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 5  
 Most recent tournament win: 2023 Minn Kota Bassmaster Elite at St. Lawrence River

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 10 (2021)  
 Career earnings: \$1,009,338  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 6  
 Signature technique/strength: Versatility  
 Home waters: Santee Cooper Lakes  
 Career highlights: in 2020 and more recently set a record for heaviest 20-fish total of smallmouth weighed in at the 2023 Elite at St. Lawrence River with a total of 105 pounds.

**Joseph Webster**

Residence: Hamilton, Ala.  
 Birthdate: 12/3/1974  
 B.A.S.S. events: 32  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 0  
 Bassmaster Classic best

finish: N/A  
 Career earnings: \$122,063  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 8  
 Signature technique/strength: Offshore  
 Home waters: Pickwick & Lewis Smith lakes  
 Career highlights: Joseph earned his way onto the Elite Series via the Bassmaster Central Opens. He's competed in 32 B.A.S.S. events total, capturing 13 Top 30 finishes.

**Kyle Welcher**

Residence: Opelika, Ala.  
 Birthdate: 2/12/1993  
 B.A.S.S. events: 43  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 3  
 Bassmaster Classic best

finish: 2 (2022)  
 Career earnings: \$500,687  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 6  
 Signature technique/strength: Flipping & frogging  
 Home waters: Chattahoochee River  
 Career highlights: Kyle showed a consistent and dominant 2023 Elite Series season, ultimately earning him the 2023 Bassmaster Angler of the Year title. En route to his AOY victory, he had two Top 10 finishes, three additional Top 20 finishes and did not place lower than 44th the entire season.

**Clark Wendlandt**

Residence: Leander, Texas  
 Birthdate: 3/1/1966  
 B.A.S.S. events: 141  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 6  
 Bassmaster Classic best

finish: 11 (1998)  
 Career earnings: \$827,791  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 32  
 Signature technique/strength: Power fishing  
 Home waters: Lake Travis  
 Career highlights: Clark joined the Elites in 2019 after an incredible career with FLW where he was the three-time FLW Angler of the Year, a four-time FLW Tour winner and an 18-time qualifier for the Forrest Wood Cup. In 2020, Clark earned three Top 10 finishes en route to winning Bassmaster Angler of the Year honors.

**Alex Wetherell**

Residence: Middletown, Conn.  
 Birthdate: 12/4/1992  
 B.A.S.S. events: 37  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 0

Career earnings: \$139,918  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 2  
 Signature technique/strength: Bladed jig  
 Home waters: Candlewood Lake  
 Career highlights: Alex won the 2010 Junior Bassmaster World Championship and 2015 B.A.S.S. Nation Eastern Regional. In 2016 he began competing in the Bassmaster Opens, winning the Northern Opens points race

**Brad Whatley**

Residence: Bivins, Texas  
 Birthdate: 7/1/1980  
 B.A.S.S. events: 65  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 2  
 Bassmaster Classic best

finish: 44 (2021)  
 Career earnings: \$297,943  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 6  
 Signature technique/strength: Flipping & cranking  
 Home waters: Lake O' The Pines  
 Career highlights: Brad has had a solid career with 19 Top 30s in B.A.S.S. events. In 2022 he overcame a medical condition that forced him to take a hardship for multiple events midseason before he returned to post a Top 30 finish at Lake Oahe. He would go on to post another Top 30 finish at the 2023 Elite event at Lake Okeechobee.

**Jake Whitaker**

Residence: Hendersonville, N.C.  
 Birthdate: 3/31/1992  
 B.A.S.S. events: 64  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 0  
 Most recent tournament win: N/A  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 3

Bassmaster Classic best finish: 30 (2020)  
 Career earnings: \$409,889  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 6  
 Signature technique/strength: Shallow-water power fishing  
 Home waters: Lake Hartwell  
 Career highlights: Jake is a two-time Bassmaster College Classic Bracket competitor who won the 2014 Bassmaster College Series National Championship while fishing for UNC-Charlotte.

**Tyler Williams**

Residence: Belgrade, Maine  
 Birthdate: 11/30/2001  
 B.A.S.S. events: 21  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2023 St. Croix Bassmaster Open at Watts Bar

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1 (2024)  
 Career earnings: \$92,552  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 1  
 Signature technique/strength: Catching bass  
 Home waters: Santee Cooper Lakes  
 Career highlights: Tyler qualified for the Elite Series via the 2023 Bassmaster Opens Elite Qualifiers division. He earned four Top 10s en route to qualifying, including a win at Watts Bar Reservoir.

**Jason Williamson**

Residence: Aiken, S.C.  
 Birthdate: 9/16/1980  
 B.A.S.S. events: 204  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
 Most recent tournament win: 2010 Elite Series - Pride of Georgia at Clarks Hill Reservoir

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 5  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 11 (2020)  
 Career earnings: \$1,307,014  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 18  
 Signature technique/strength: Jig & swimbait fishing  
 Home waters: Clarks Hill Lake  
 Career highlights: Jason is a two-time Elite champion (Lake Amistad 2009, Clarks Hill Reservoir 2010). He earned a century belt at the 2008 Elite Series - Lone Star Shootout when he caught 118-2 in four days at Falcon Lake.

**Matty Wong**

Residence: Honolulu, Hawaii  
 Birthdate: 2/26/1988  
 B.A.S.S. events: 22  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 1  
 Most recent tournament win: 2021 TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Championship on the

Ouachita River  
 Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 1  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 54 (2022)  
 Career earnings: \$110,500  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 3  
 Signature technique/strength: Big baits & finesse  
 Home waters: Lake Wilson, Castaic Lake, Lake Casitas & California Delta  
 Career highlights: A native of Hawaii, Matty won the 2021 B.A.S.S. Nation Championship to earn his invitation to the Elite Series. During the 2023 Elite season, he earned two Top 10 finishes, including a third-place finish at the Sabine River.

**Chris Zaldain**

Residence: Fort Worth, Texas  
 Birthdate: 9/11/1984  
 B.A.S.S. events: 135  
 B.A.S.S. wins: 2  
 Most recent tournament win: 2015 Toyota Angler of the Year Championship at Sturgeon Bay

Bassmaster Classic qualifications: 8  
 Bassmaster Classic best finish: 12 (2019)  
 Career earnings: \$1,172,287  
 Years as a full-time pro angler: 13  
 Signature technique/strength: Swimbaits & finesse  
 Home waters: Lake Ray Roberts  
 Favorite place to fish: Lake Fork  
 Career highlights: Chris has been an Elite angler since 2012 and has 26 Top 10 finishes in B.A.S.S. events, including 11 Top 3 finishes.



Archives/Palatka Daily News

Photos from the BASSMasters Elite 2022 event on the St. Johns River.

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# Palatka Daily News



**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Thursday, April 18, 2024**

<i>Event Description</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Launch	7:00 a.m.	City Dock
Food Vendors	12 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Riverfront Park/100 Block
Weigh-In	3:00 p.m.	Riverfront Park
Live Music <sub>(Restaurant &amp; Bar)</sub>	5:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Velchoff's Corner

**Friday, April 19, 2024**

Launch	7:00 a.m.	City Dock
Food Vendors	12 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Riverfront Park/100 Block
Beer Tent	12 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Riverfront Park/100 Block
Weigh-In	3:00 p.m.	Riverfront Park
Live Music <sub>(Restaurant &amp; Bar)</sub>	5:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Velchoff's Corner

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**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**  
**St. Johns River - Palatka, FL**

**Schedule of Events**

**Saturday, April 20, 2024**

Military and First Responder Appreciation Day - Show your ID card and get a Bassmaster hat

<i>Event Description</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Launch	7:00 a.m.	City Dock
Food/Beverage Vendors	12 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Riverfront Park/100 Block
Beer Tent	12 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Riverfront Park/100 Block
Kids Zone <small>Shows, Hands-On Fun &amp; More</small>	Noon -3:00 p.m.	St. Johns River Center
B.A.S.S. Expo <small>Prizes, Demos, Vendors &amp; More</small>	Noon -5 p.m.	Riverfront Park
Bass Cash Dash	Approx. 2:30 p.m.	Weigh-In Stage
Weigh-In	3:00 p.m.	Riverfront Park
Live Music <sub>(Restaurant &amp; Bar)</sub>	5:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Velchoff's Corner

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**

B.A.S.S. Member Appreciation Day - Show your member card and get a Bassmaster hat

<i>Event Description</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Launch	7:00 a.m.	City Dock
Food/Beverage Vendors	12 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Riverfront Park/100 Block
Beer Tent	1 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Riverfront Park/100 Block
Kids Zone <small>Shows, Hands-On Fun &amp; More</small>	Noon -3:00 p.m.	St. Johns River Center
B.A.S.S. Expo <small>Prizes, Demos, Vendors &amp; More</small>	Noon -5 p.m.	Riverfront Park
Bass Cash Dash	Approx. 2:30 p.m.	Weigh-In Stage
Weigh-In	3:00 p.m.	Riverfront Park
Live Music <sub>(Restaurant &amp; Bar)</sub>	5:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Velchoff's Corner



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