



April 23, 2017 – Beloit, WI

The Rockford Hawg Hunters Bass Club's 28<sup>th</sup> annual 'Rock River Open' bass tournament was won by the team of Joe McMinn and Dru Appelhans with a winning weight of 12.17 pounds Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The tournament was held out of Wooton Park in Beloit with thirteen registered teams and 26 contestants participating. The first place team finish earned \$450.00 weighing in a mixed bag of five keeper large and small mouth bass exceeding the 14-inch minimum size limit.

The team of Peter Schmeling and Adam Smith took second place weighing in 3-small mouth bass at 5.92 pounds taking home a \$250.00 prize. The third place team of Josh Pink and Brett Yahnke weighed in 3-small mouth at 5.52 pounds and a \$125 prize. Big fish honors for the day went to the team of Chad Poff and Greg Jones with a nice small-mouth weighing 3.40 pounds and winning the \$130.00 cash prize.

A total of twenty three (23) Large and Small Mouth bass averaging 2.08 pounds were weighed in the competition with all fish being released live immediately after weigh-in. The contestants had calm conditions but a little high water. Most teams reported catching bass that were just under the minimum size limits. Tournament sponsors included radio station **Q95.3 (The Bull)**, **D&S Marine, Inc. (Roscoe, IL)**, **Waste Connections Midwest Division**, **Culprit Baits**, **Bush Gardens Bar & Grill (Belvidere)**, **A-All Animal Control**, **Lured Inn Outdoors**, **It's a keeper bait**, **Fox Valley Supply**, **NITROOrthopaedics**, **Robert C. Bell Insurance**, **AC Slayer Extreme Reel Tuning**, **Boots Upholstery and Dave's Bait & Tackle (Crystal Lake)** among others. Portions of the proceeds from this event go to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The Rockford Hawg Hunters would like to thank all participants and sponsors for their support and look forward to another great event next spring on the Rock River.



1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners Joe McMinn and Dru Appelhans



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winners Peter Schmeling and Adam Smith

The Rockford Hawg Hunter Bass Club meets the second Thursday each month at Bush Gardens Bar & Grill 622 S State St, Belvidere, IL and is affiliated with FLW/TBF and the Wisconsin Bass Federation. Active club members can improve their angling skills and knowledge and the club seeks to provide a means by which the sport of bass fishing can be enjoyed in a friendly, competitive, and sportsman-like manner. Club Tournaments are held on Northern Illinois, South/Central Wisconsin bodies of water such as the Mississippi River, Madison Chain, Lake Geneva and Big Green to name a few. Go to:

<http://www.basshawg.com/index.htm> for more information.





2017 Rock River Pictures

