

It's Not What You Catch, It's What You Bring to the Scales Team Geiss Finish with a Flurry in Fall Classic Win

There are a lot of things that go into a tournament win besides just catching fish. This includes scouting or pre-fishing, reacting to the weather, boat preparation, line and lure prep, finding 'em, catching 'em, culling 'em, and not the least of which is live well management. While some anglers struggled with one or more of these steps, Team Geiss put them all together to finish the season with their second win, by bringing 7 bass to the scales weighing 11 ½ pounds. Their creel was anchored by a hefty 3.13 pounder Don Jr. caught on a jigNpig which also earned them lunker bass honors. Don and Don Sr. caught some of their fish on Senkos, but it was a late tourney adjustment that closed the deal for Team Geiss; when amidst the overcast skies and impending storm front Don noticed some surface activity with just an hour or 2 to go in the tourney. They threw out some topwater baits and landed the last few fish of their creel, while the rest of the field struggled to figure out what the fish wanted to bite.

Newcomers Greg Mitchell and Dave File figured out enough to bring 4 keepers to the weigh-in weighing almost 6 pounds, which held up for second place. They caught theirs on Texas-rigged pumpkin colored worms and a Finesse Shad. But it's the "five-pounder" that didn't make it to the scales that may have cost them a higher finish. They landed this behemoth bass early in the morning, and didn't like how cramped it looked in their small livewell. So they chose to put it on their metal stringer over the side of the boat. Bad choice! Ol Larry flared and broke open that stringer and headed for open water never to be seen again. Tim Prendergast and Jack Kinney didn't have any livewell issues. They managed to land 3 keepers on Senkos, weighing over 5 ½ pounds, which held up for third place. But the livewell woes don't end there. Unfortunately there was another team out there (and you know who you are) who was a little too cavalier while bagging their bass, and let one jump out of their livewell back to freedom in Lake Picatinny.

Don Geiss Jr.'s late surge in the Fall Classic also catapulted him up in the coveted 2011 Angler of the Year standings, from 3rd to 2nd place. First place went to repeat winner Tom Hartigan who finished 7 points ahead of the pack. However, Don did bring home some additional year end hardware of his own – his 19" smallie caught on Swartswood Lake held up for the Big Tourney Bass of the Year for 2011.

So the Picatinny Bassmasters concluded another successful season of six tourneys marred with some difficult weather and some challenging off-post fisheries. But to man, this author is willing to bet they would all say they are a little wiser for it all. Lake Picatinny proved resilient as its bass population rebounded from the winter drawdown. Lake Denmark wasn't so fortunate, as its bass population took an obvious hit. But with the assistance and finances of the PR&GA, CWC and Picatinny Garrison command, a robust restocking plan will have Lake Denmark pack to its fertile self in no time! Lake Picatinny is due for one last drawdown between October and December of this year. So it is not closed to fishing for the remainder of the year. But you can still join us for a Pickerel tourney on Lake Denmark on Sunday, 2 October, from 0700-1300 hrs; or get out there and unlock the secrets of one of NJ's public waters!

Picatinny Rod & Gun Assoc.
Fall Classic
When: Sunday 11 Sep 2011, 0600-1200 hrs
Where: Lake Picatinny

RESULTS

	<u># Bass</u>	<u>Total Weight</u>	<u>Big Bass</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Don Geiss Jr.				12
Don Geiss Sr.	7	11.51 lbs	3.13 lbs	10
2. Greg Mitchell & Dave File	4	5.93	2.28	8 8
3. Tim Prendergast & Jack Kinney	3	5.61	3.02	6 6
4. Fred Coppola & Dexter Gabbard	2	2.71		4 4
5. Tom Hartigan & Sal Longo	1	1.56	1.56	3 3
6. Click Schreck & Mark Keck	1	1.17	1.17	2 2
7. Vince Morris & Taylor Armstrong	-	--	--	1 1

Lunker Bass – Don Geiss Jr., 3.13 pound Largemouth