

## April Can be a Fickle Fishing Month

### Fred Coppola and Dex Gabbard Prevail at Lake Musconetcong

One day it is sunny and almost 80, the next day it's in the 40s cloudy and windy. And the fish can be as unpredictable as the weather. That's fishing in April! The PR&GA Bassmasters returned to Lake Musconetcong on Sunday for the first time since 1999. Unfortunately their timing could have been better. The two inches of rain that fell on northern NJ Saturday, made the water muddy and dropped the temperature almost five degrees, shutting down most of the fish in the process. Fighting 15-20 mph winds didn't help things for the 6 boats that braved the blustery conditions. But returning trail members Fred Coppola and Dexter Gabbard, found just enough bass willing to inhale their wacky rigged Senkos to pull victory from an otherwise difficult day. They landed two keepers measuring a combined 27 3/4". Fred's largest fish at 15 3/4" also stood up for tourney lunger.

Team Here Fishy Fishy (AKA Team Chase), managed to land one bass that earned them second place, in one of the toughest tourneys over the past 10-plus years that produced only 4 keeper bass among the field. Brian Chase caught his near 15 incher on a McStick suspending jerkbait. The final fish landed was by SFC Todd Rielly, an ROTC recruiter who fished with newcomer Charlie Faure and earned third place. Todd caught his 14 incher on his own custom made shallow running crankbait in a hand painted bream pattern. You can check out Todd's Crankbaits for sale on his website at [osscustombaits.com](http://osscustombaits.com).

In the end Lake Musconetcong was not nearly as cooperative as Lake Denmark typically is for the PR&GA anglers this time of year. It makes the Picatinny anglers all the more anxious for the dam restoration work to be completed on Lakes Denmark and Picatinny, so they can return to Home Sweet Home! But before then they will try their luck on Swartswood Lake just outside of Newton, NJ on Sunday 15 May. This will be another paper tourney, so anyone can fish, as long as one of the team members is a regular on the PR&GA tourney trail.

#### Picatinny Rod & Gun Assoc.

#### Offsite Tourney

When: Sunday 17 April, 0700-1300 hrs

Where: Lake Musconetcong, Netcong, NJ

#### **RESULTS**

	<u># Bass</u>	<u>Total Length</u>	<u>Big Bass</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Fred Coppola & Dex Gabbard	2	27.75"	<b>15.75"</b>	11 9
2. Vance Chase & Brian Chase	1	14.75"	14.75"	7 7
3. Todd Rielly & Charlie Faure	1	14"	14"	5 5
6. Don Geiss & Don Geiss Sr.	0	--	--	1 1
6. Tom Hartigan & Tom Hartigan Sr.	0	--	--	1 1
6. Click Schreck & Mark Keck	DNF			1 1

Lunker Bass – Fred Coppola, 15 3/4" Largemouth