



-BANG A DRUM- FOR FORT DRUM

By Burnie Haney - Staff Writer

On April 25th the NYBCF held the first annual Bang a Drum for Fort Drum fishing event launching out of Oneida Shores Park in Brewerton, NY.

The majority of the soldiers, including one husband and wife team, were just coming back from a 14-month tour in Iraq. When the soldiers arrived they were provided hot Dunkin Donuts coffee and donuts courtesy of Truax and Hovey and the New York BASS Chapter Federation. As they worked their way through the sign in, Rob Goffredo from Gander Mountain handed out goody bags with a hat, t-shirt, and soft plastics and baits from Challenger Lures. Additionally each soldier received a brand new rod and reel combination to use, provided by Gander Mountain.

The soldiers were paired up with New York BASS Chapter Federa-

tion anglers and one local walleye angler who came to help out and show his support. The fishing day started around 8:15 am and anglers came back to weigh-in at 1:00 p.m. Before weighing in, the soldiers and boaters enjoyed a nice lunch of hot dogs, chips, cookies, and soft drinks that were provided by Patrick Grady of Luck O' the Irish Guide Service.

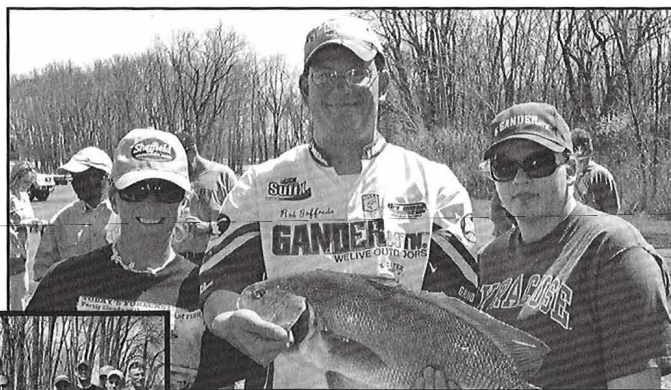
The winning drum was an absolute giant, weighing in at 16.60 lbs, was taken by the team comprised of the 2008 NYBCF Angler of the Year, Randy LaManche and his boat partner, Andy Raley. LaManche's bait of choice was a green pumpkin tube fished in 12-14' of water and he noted that the behemoth of a drum was mixed in with 10-12 smallmouth bass. The 2nd place fish weighed 8.78 lbs. and was caught by the team Gander Mountain fishing man-

ager, Rob Goffredo, Vanessa Lee, and Brittany Westmoreland. Goffredo also used a green pumpkin tube dragged along the bottom to catch his fish. Both anglers caught their fish within the last hour of the event and both commented that they felt the drum were just starting to bite (due to warming water) as it was time to head in.

The event was an absolute blast, and everyone commented on what a wonderful time they had. Next year should be even bigger and better! We want to thank all the boaters, volunteers, and those organizations who donated products and items for prizes and raffles: Gander Mountain, Luck O' the Irish Guide Service, Truax and Hovey, Lucky Craft, PEMCO Contracting, and Secret Weapon Lures, Plano, and MTO lures. **FL**



1st Place



2nd Place

