

2019 – Bass Nation Qualifier – Lake Hartwell – Anderson South Carolina USA

This was my 3rd time competing in the Bass Nation Qualifier – this year held again at lake Hartwell – one of America's top Bass fishing venues. It was an honor to represent Namibia in this prestigious event against some of the best anglers in USA and around the world.

Lake Hartwell extends 49 miles (79 km) up the Tugaloo river and 45 miles (72 km) up the Seneca river at normal pool elevation, the lake comprises nearly **56,000 acres** (230 km²) of water with a shoreline of 962 miles (1,548 km). The entire Hartwell "Project" contains **76,450 acres** (309 km²) of land and water.

After about 30 hours of travelling, we arrived at the hotel, checked in and went straight to a tackle shop to source some additional baits/tackle. We then lodged with the contenders from SA in a lake house we rented for the pre-practice period..

Palmetto boat centre boat were kind enough to rent us a fully competition ready bass boats for the pre practice period.

Myself and Jurgen Geiger had 3 practice days to figure out the lake and try to establish patterns to catch bass . We worked well together on the boat and the entire trip and we were able to find different patterns to target largemouth and Spotted bass.

At registration we were booked into hotels with all 120 contenders. We were greeted by the Director of B.A.S.S Mr.Jon Stewart who did the tournament briefing and welcoming. The organization of this tournament is superb and professional. The accommodation and facilities that B.A.S.S provided us was top class.

The next day was official practice and BASS provided us a brand new professionally rigged Triton bass boat for the tournament. We were able to fine tune tactics and strategies during official practice.

I had a disappointing first day by only bringing in 2 fish out of the 5 bag limit. The next day I changed tactics and were able to bring to the scale a decent 5 fish bag.

I finished 56th in the boater division. Congratulations to my fellow angler Jurgen Geiger (Non-Boater) who finished in 19th place. putting Namibia on the map with the best out there.

Fishing such a big tournament as the boater was a huge experience for me, with valuable lessons learned and life long memories made.

I would like to thank Namibia Bass angling association for all the effort and personal time they put in to the sport of Bass Fishing, all our local sponsors, my family and friends who supported me and Jon Stewart and his professional team from BASS

Thinus Williams