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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **22 ANNUAL GEORGIA STATE BASS FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP™ SETS NEW RECORD!**

If you ask Jason Menninger and Kevin Brumfield what they think about West Point Lake, you probably hear, "fantastic!" These two bass fisherman set a new total weight record the 22 year old event with 43 pounds and 4 ounces for the two day Georgia State Championship, they led it start to finish. They were rewarded with \$35,000 in cash and were crowned the Champion of Champions.

This tournament featured 302 teams, all top five finishers in tournaments from around the state during the year. "This tournament is truly a contest among the best fisherman in the state of Georgia" said Danny Ellrich, owner of the event. "The team who best figures out our lakes fall pattern will be the winner" Even Ellrich was shocked by the two day performance of 43+ pounds. "We have two day tournaments in the spring that are over 50 pounds, but this much weight in the fall is outstanding, our lake is so healthy right now"

The key to the team's success was a willingness to keep the boat moving and not get locked into one area, said Menninger, who is from Gainesville. "We never really thought we could go back to an area and catch fish. We kept trying new water." Kevin Brumfield who lives in Cumming and fishes regularly with Menninger, said another key was their ability to keep fish on the hook. "We were lucky enough to make good on all our big bites", he said. "That's what pushed us to win this thing."

A first day bass of 8 pounds anchored their 23 pound sack. The second day saw a 7.10 monster as part of that days 19+ pound weight. "We had 12 rods on the deck and every one got thrown at every rock you could imagine." A few years ago on Lake Lanier, their home lake, they won the Camp Sunshine Benefit tournament. "This is probably the biggest tournament in Georgia, but Camp Sunshine is probably the second biggest", Menninger said. "We wanted to win the two biggest tournaments in Georgia, so this kind of on our radar a few years ago". The Camp Sunshine tournament is now being held at West Point Lake out of Highland Marina Resort. Look for these two to try to win that one again!

For more information about the tournament, visit the website or call Danny at 706-882-3437.

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Kevin Brumfield (L) and Jason Menninger (R) displaying their trophies and the \$35,000 cash prize after winning this year's Georgia State Bass Fishing Championship™