

Sisters woman is a bass ace

By **Jim Cornelius**
News Editor

*Up this morning
Before the sun
Fixed me some coffee and
a honey bun
Jumped in my pickup
gave her the gas
I'm goin' out to catch a
five-pound bass
— Robert Earl Keen*

Sheila Brand knows all about what it takes to catch a five-pound bass. She's an ace bass angler, and folks in Central Oregon know it. Sheila was named Female Bass Angler of the Year for 2015 by the Central Oregon Bass Club.

Bass anglers earn such honors in competitions that compile points based on the weight of fish caught (they are later released). Sheila is one of five women in the club of 30 members. She placed eighth in the overall

standings.

Sheila shares her passion for bass fishing with her husband Wyatt.

"My husband has been great as a teacher," she said. "I basically owe it all to him as far as my success this year."

Bass fishing is all about technique. Some anglers keep mum about their tackle, but not Sheila — she's happy to tell you she has mastered the Green Pumpkin Senko. Because in bass-fishing, it's not so much the tackle you use — it's how skilled you are at using it.

Bass-fishing requires finesse, patience, and good feel. That's especially true in night tournaments, which turned out to be Sheila's favorites this year.

"Your sight's gone and you're basically going by feel — which is what bass-fishing is; by feel."

Sheila's biggest tournament catch this year was a 4.5-pounder.

"My biggest bass I've ever caught was a 5.5-pounder," she said.

Her husband landed a 7.4-pounder this year.

The club stages eight or nine tournaments each year. Anglers are scored on the point total for their best six tournaments. Sheila took top honors in her and Wyatt's first full year with the club.

The Brands enjoy the camaraderie and the competition (including competing with each other). There's a lot of strategy involved in successful bass-fishing, and they love the challenge.

It's a passion Sheila would love to share. She notes that the club meets the first Tuesday of every month at Abby's Pizza in Bend at 7 p.m. Anyone is welcome to



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sheila Brand is the top female bass angler in Central Oregon.

come and check out the club and its activities.

women out there," Sheila said. "Husbands — bring your wives out!"

"I'd love to see more

bump ahead. congratulations!

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