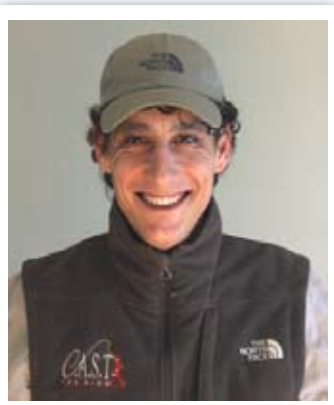


RUSS THETONIA

Event Director



Russ is currently a UPS driver from Greenwich, RI, and a former U.S. Freestyle Ski team member. He now also finds himself busy as a staff writer for www.BassResource.com.

He attended Dean Junior College in Franklin, Massachusetts. After college, he opened a moped business in Newport, RI, which he sold after making the U.S. Ski Team. In his work with the community and the U.S. Ski Team, he was fortunate to have spent time with disabled children from organizations such as the Special Olympics and the Maher center. His parents strongly encouraged their children's involvement in community efforts while growing up. After the skiing life subsided, there was a void that needed to be filled and he turned his focus back to Bass Fishing. Through the help of BassResource.com and owner Glen May, he was introduced to C.A.S.T.

Russ became involved with the C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation in 2005 and has made it his goal to spread the word to the entire North East. He also started an "Alumni Day" event, bringing the past event attendees back for a refresher course at the state fish hatchery. His goal is to have kids from the original event become involved with future events, bringing the program full circle. This has been particularly rewarding for Russ.

"I look forward, each year, to being a part of this organization," he stated. "The joy I take from being involved here is something I plan to protect and nurture for a long time to come. The joy we spread, to children and families who deserve it the most, is by far the most rewarding aspect of my life to date and I strongly encourage anyone reading, to get involved. I personally promise you it will change lives forever.....starting with your own".