



Toledo Bend Lake Association Newsletter

Dedicated to Serving Toledo Bend Lake

TOLEDO BEND LAKE ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 1031, MANY, LOUISIANA 71449

www.toledobendlakeassociation.com

APRIL 2016 ISSUE

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7, 2016

**Member Social/Poster
Unveiling, 7:00 p.m. at
Cypress Bend Resort**

April 15, 2016

**Annual BU Banquet
5:00 p.m. at Cypress
Bend Park**

April 19, 2016

**Board of Directors
6:30 p.m. at SCOA**

It's April, the culmination of our annual Bass Unlimited – Back A Great Fighter fundraising events and we are nearing the end of another record year for the 2015 – 2016 Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Program, our signature conservation program for conserving big lunker bass weighing 10 lbs. or greater. Many of you have and will put numerous hours into planning and completing our TBLA events and I want to thank all of you who have donated your time, talents and money in making our organization the best volunteer Lake Association in the U.S.
President, John Toliver

April Membership Social – Poster Unveiling -- The April, general membership social/Poster Unveiling is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2016, in the Grand Ballroom at Cypress Bend Golf and Conference Resort, 2000 Cypress Bend Pkwy., Many, Louisiana 71449, on beautiful Toledo Bend Lake. Light finger food refreshments will be served and a cash bar will be available. Kyle Martinez, a representative of the poster sponsor, Interstate Building Materials of Many, Louisiana, as well as Poster Artist Eddie Pastureau who will sign and personalize the numbered posters will attend this much-anticipated event. The first numbered framed poster as well as the framed original painting from which the poster was created will be auctioned by Auctioneer Kevin McDonald, beginning at 7:30 p.m. In addition, two pieces of original art by previous Bass Unlimited Poster artists—Noah Bounds and Ron Kidwell will also be auctioned.

14th ANNUAL BASS UNLIMITED – Back A Great Fighter Banquet and Auction -- Friday, April 15, 2016 (Rain or Shine). At Cypress Bend Park Pavilion - \$50 per ticket and includes a 3-meat barbecue and open bar and door prize ticket.

- 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. **Social Hour**
- 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Dinner Hour**
- 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. **Auction/Raffles**
- 8:00 – 8:30 p.m. **End Silent Auction and Close Drop Boxes**
- 9:45 – 10:00 p.m. **Grand Raffle drawing for 1st two guns**

The Banquet is a much anticipated event in the Toledo Bend Lake area where good friends and family gather to contribute to the organization by purchasing prize tickets for drop boxes, win door prizes, and purchase TBLA memorabilia, including the new annual caps, visors, t-shirts, towels and cups. In addition, many enjoy the anticipation of winning silent auction items, and everyone waits anxiously to bid on items at the live auction and to see if their ticket is drawn for the raffle prizes at the end of the auction. This year, the organization is trying something new for its grand prize raffle — a 52-gun weekly raffle! The night of the banquet, guns will be awarded for two winning tickets drawn from the box of raffle tickets sold. These tickets will be returned and every Friday night for the next 50 weeks, from April 22, 2016 through March 31, 2017, another winner who holds a ticket with the numbers drawn from the Louisiana Pick 3 Lottery on Friday night will be selected.

Tickets must be purchased prior to the banquet—no tickets will be sold at the door and only ticket holders will be admitted. For Banquet tickets, call Gaynell Goodeaux at (318)256-0501 or Dayna Yeldell at 318-315-1002.

Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Program update - The 2015-2016 TBLA Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Program runs from May 18, 2015 through May 19, 2016. As of March 21, 2016, 110 lunker bass, weighing 10 lbs. or greater, have been registered in the program. Only 53 lunkers were registered at this time last year. Check the big fish out on our Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Facebook page. Last year, 28 lunkers were caught between March 22 and May 17 the end of the 2014 - 2015 season. Hence, given continuation of the number of fish that have been caught this year, we could easily go over 120 lunkers caught and replicas awarded.

TBLA Board of Directors actions – The Board addressed the following at the March 15 meeting:

- Agreed to terminate Newell’s Fishing World as an official Lunker Bass weigh station.
- Approved Holly Park Marina, located at the Patroon Bay Bridge, 3000 Carters Ferry Rd E, Milam, TX 75959, to be established as an Official Weigh Station to replace Newell’s in that area.
- Approved a \$1,000 grant to fund two \$500 4-H scholarships to be awarded to 2016 graduating senior Sabine Parish Louisiana 4-H Club members.
- Approved a \$500 grant to the Toledo Bend Baptist Resort Ministries to help fund the May 14 and 15 children’s activities during the Toledo Bend BASS Elite Tournament at Cypress Bend Park.

Toledo Bend sets new record level of 174.36 msl recorded at the dam -- Toledo Bend Reservoir, operated by the Sabine River Authority of Texas and the Sabine River Authority, State of Louisiana reached a record level high of 174.36 feet mean sea level (msl) at 6:00 a.m. on March 10, 2016, the aftermath of the major rain event which dropped 18 inches of water directly over Toledo Bend. Areas surrounding the Lake, particularly to the North, North East and East, received even more rain from March 9 -12. Many of us on the upper part of the lake believe the water level was even higher. On Wed. morning March 9 an SRA Advisory #2 was issued stating the Reservoir was at 172.29 ft. msl. and in addition to running one generator, flood gates at the dam would probably be opened when the lake reached around 172.35 ft. msl. Advisory #3 issued at 2 p.m. stated that at 11:30 a.m. nine flood gates had been opened 2-3 ft. high. As water levels rose, advisories indicated the nine gates were periodically raised 1-2 ft. to increase flow out of the lake to protect the integrity of the dam. Advisory #11 stated that at 6 a.m. Thurs. March 10, the lake had reached the record level of 174.36 ft. and nine gates were opened to 22 ft. high. Subsequent water release reached a record high up to 207,644 cubic feet per second (cfs). The highest the gates had been opened before was 11 ft. with a flow of 99,000 cfs. Afterwards, the Reservoir began to recede and as of 3 p.m. Mon. March 21 the Reservoir was at 172.28 ft. with the gates raised at 1 – 2 ft. releasing 11,144 cfs.

Despite rumors, at no time during the increased level of the lake was the dam in danger of collapsing primarily due to managing the release of water through the spillway gates and protecting the integrity of the dam. However, record flooding occurred down river, inflicting severe damage, loss of property and closing roads including I-10. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who have been and are still impacted by the flood events throughout the area. I emailed what I considered to be key advisories and news releases, urging TBLA members and others to take heed and react accordingly. I hope none of you received severe flood damage.

Thanks to TBLA member Randy Pennington for initiating and writing the following article, in collaboration with fellow anglers John Gillard, Darold Gleason, Matt Loetscher, Jerry Thompson, and Derek Mong. TBLA and The Sabine Parish Tourist Commission support this timely and appropriate article and hope to have it published in The LakeCaster and Louisiana Sportsman.

“Respect, It’s a Fishing Thing”

By TBLA Member and Angler Randy Pennington

Well folks, the 2015 #1 bass lake in the United States, according to Bassmaster Magazine, is in full Spring swing and rockin! Along with the regular steady stream of crappie, catfish, bream, and white bass anglers, people are coming in droves from all over in search of that dream of a lifetime Toledo Bend Lunker bass. Toledo Bend Lake Association, the Sabine Tourism Commission, the Louisiana Sabine River Authority, and the numerous local businesses around the lake are extremely grateful for this wonderful windfall in tourism and the

economic benefits it brings to the Lake area. We are at times, however, experiencing some unfortunate and unintended negative consequences with the increase in lake traffic. There has been a noted decline in fishing and boating etiquette.

The following guidelines are applicable to everyone on the Lake—locals and visitors alike. No individual has permanent rights or privileges to any part of the Lake. The most that we can all expect is a cushion of respect and courtesy around that single spot where we are fishing. There are two major areas for focus—at the launch and on the water.

At the launch:

- When launching and loading, if possible, use only your parking lights--turn your tow vehicle headlights off during low-light conditions throughout the entire process.
- Fully prepare your vehicle and boat prior to entering the launch and access lane. Get all your gear, lunches, drinks, life jackets, etc., stowed and ready.
- Move the boat on and off the bank or the dock at the launch as quickly as possible. Many sites have limited bank access and docks for boat parking.
- If you have mechanical problems with your rig, clear the launch for others by moving the boat and trailer to a parking slot or other area for diagnosis and repair.
- Park your tow vehicle carefully. Be sure not to block anyone in, don't cut off additional parking spaces, and do not impede the parking area traffic flow.
- Pay the launch fees if warranted. Most of the launches on the lake require a fee, and many are on the honor system.

On the water:

- The National standard right of way is that a vessel “not on plane” has the right of way, period. Be mindful of your wake effect on a stationary or slow moving vessel in proximity.
- Stay clear of the area where others are fishing. If you see someone catching fish, don't run to that spot and start casting in the same water as the person fishing or start circling and fishing heavily on a tight perimeter. The rule of thumb is that if your boat is closer than two casting lengths of another boat, you are encroaching on them.
- Too many boats in an area spook fish. Multiple boats in a small area can spook the fish to the point where they won't bite as well or at all.
- Pass quietly with a wide berth. If you see a vessel that is stationary or moving slowly with the trolling motor down and rods in hand, they are most likely fishing. If you need to pass by, please take a wide berth, or use your trolling motor and move quietly past before starting your big motor again.
- Show fishermen on shore and docks the same courtesies shown those on the water!
- Most importantly, be highly aware of anyone in distress ... either falling out of the boat, health problems, mechanical issues, whatever. You and they will be glad you helped them out.

Yes, most of this is just “Golden Rule” stuff, consideration and respect for your fellow anglers and their personal space. The lunkers, big sacks of fish, and tournament money are all very lucrative and fun. When you think about it, though, none of those are worth the risk of confrontations that can lead to accidents, conflicts, or even injury or death. In the meantime, maybe all of us can be respectful of others, share the beautiful resources, go home happy, safe, and sound, and be able to fish Toledo Bend many times in the future. Now get out there and do your “fishing thing” on the Bend!

If you have any questions or comments relative to the contents of this Newsletter, please contact me at jtoliver@soft-spec.com or call me at 318-256-2401. John Toliver, TBLA President

TOLEDO BEND LAKE ASSOCIATION 2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR APPLICATION

Name (include spouse): _____

Business Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

2016 Dues – Please check one: Individual (\$10.00) Couple (\$15.00)

Business 1 yr. (\$25.00) Business 10 yrs. (\$200.00)

Please indicate method of payment: Cash Check Number * PayPal Date _____

*Make check payable to: TBLA or Toledo Bend Lake Association and be sure to mark it as 2016 dues. Bring to our meeting or mail to: Toledo Bend Lake Association, P.O. Box 1031, Many, LA 71449. You can also pay your membership dues through PayPal by clicking on the Pay Now icon on the Contact/Join Us page of the TBLA website at www.toledobendlakeassociation.com.