



Eleventh Annual TBLA Banquet and Auction a Great Success!

April 19, 2013



Beautiful Cypress Bend Park Pavilion on Toledo Bend Lake was the scene of the 11th annual TBLA BASS Unlimited Banquet and Auction on April 19, 2013. The event marked the culmination of Toledo Bend Lake Association's (TBLA's) major fundraiser for projects to improve the Lake and benefit the surrounding community.

More than 650 spirited TBLA members and community supporters gathered to enjoy a beautiful sunset and cool Spring weather, the traditional steak dinner, visit with friends, and bid on both silent and live auction items. The Banquet is a much-anticipated annual event where good friends, families, and lake supporters gather to contribute to TBLA's mission by purchasing banquet tickets, raffle tickets, prize tickets for drop boxes, and TBLA memorabilia. The crowd was welcomed by Ned Goodeaux, Banquet Coordinator, and Ted Dove, TBLA President, who asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the terror attack in Boston and for the town of West, Texas, as they heal from their tragedies.



Caption: The crowd overflowed the pavilion at Cypress Bend State Park.

During the evening, door prizes were given away, bids were taken for silent auction items, a live auction was conducted, and everyone waited anxiously to see if their ticket was drawn for the major prizes.

TBLA board member Mike Randolph served as Emcee of the banquet and introduced Kevin McDonald, master auctioneer, to conduct the live auction. Ricky Yeldell, Jarrett Thaxton, Sean Kinney, and Villis Dowden, all of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, served as spotters to identify bidders. Items sold during the live auction brought in \$13,240. Two "card raffles" added \$2,080, and the silent auction garnered more than \$2,500. A Hummingbird 898c high definition GPS/Sonar depth finder brought in more than \$2,000 as a special raffle. It was won by Keith Powers of Alexandria. The grand prize raffle for a 2013 Polaris Ranger 800 ATV Side by Side, valued at more than \$10,000, was won by Kevin Simmons of Stonewall.



Caption: Auctioneer Kevin McDonald (right) calls for bids on Don Edwards' Giclee Print of Cypress Trees in the Atchafalaya Basin. Live Auction Coordinator Jerry Lombard assists one of the Bassettes display the print.

TBLA recognizes our 2013 major sponsors and supporters who graciously donated their money, time, and talents toward making this event a success:

- Heritage Rowe Funeral Home and Memorial Lawn for donating the Hummingbird depth finder and Toledo Fiberglass for free installing it
- Toledo Town and Tackle for funding the TBLA caps
- Nichols for funding the TBLA caps and for decorating the stage
- First Choice Real Estate Services and Living the Dream Guide Service for funding the visors
- Sabine State Bank for donating the TBLA T-shirts
- Shelby Savings Bank of Hemphill and Toledo Bend Bi-State Alliance for the TBLA towels
- Budweiser and Coca-Cola for supplying drinks
- More than 50 table sponsors
- The gracious individuals, organizations, and businesses that donated items for door prizes, drop boxes, and the silent and live auctions

Without the support of all those who contributed to the event—whether through contributions of money or donations of goods, services, or time—we thank you.

For over ten years, TBLA funds raised through this annual banquet have helped support the Sabine River Authority, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and various organizations in communities surrounding the lake. TBLA has contributed more than \$650,000 with revenues from the banquet and sales of the annual Bass Unlimited Poster to numerous projects such as the following:

- Co-sponsored construction of public piers, boat launches, and boat lane markers around the lake
- Supported numerous youth endeavors to promote art, golf and fishing
- Sponsored improvements to community buildings and structures
- Sponsored the Lunker Bass catch and release fish replica program
- Purchased Wood Duck boxes to promote wildlife habitat and enhancement
- Provided funds to SRA-LA toward purchase of barges and boats to service the lake and assisted SRA with channel markers
- Volunteered and donated to BassMaster Elite Tournaments

Our goal is to provide financial and volunteer assistance to maintain and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors to Toledo Bend Lake and to perpetuate it as a world class fishery and recreational resource. See our web site at www.toledobendlakeassociation.com for more information on our projects and community involvement and to join TBLA.



Caption: This group of enthusiastic volunteers gave of their time and talents to work on the 2013 Bass Unlimited Banquet.