

Toledo Bend Lake Association Holds Poster Unveiling

Kick-off For Bass Unlimited – Back A Great Fighter Event

Artist Eddie Pastureau's poster, "Toledo Bend Showdown," is already a hit among TBLA Bass Unlimited—Back A Great Fighter poster collectors and the general public. His original artwork from which the poster was created and Poster Number One sold for big bucks at the Poster Unveiling and Auction held Thursday evening, April 7. The event kicked off Toledo Bend Lake Association's 2016 Bass Unlimited—Back A Great Fighter fundraiser. All proceeds fund TBLA projects that improve the Lake and surrounding community.

Over one hundred TBLA supporters gathered to enjoy fabulous food and beverages, visit with friends, and view the art displayed for the auction in the Grand Ballroom at Cypress Bend Resort. The Poster Unveiling and Auction has become an annual event and signals the start of TBLA's major fundraiser culminating with the TBLA Bass Unlimited Banquet on Friday, April 15 at Cypress Bend Pavilion.

Decorations for this year's Poster Unveiling were provided by the staff of Nichols, including a portrait in memory of Debbie Nichols prominently displayed along with an arrangement of Calla Lilies, her favorite flower. The tables featured various arrangements, including distressed whitewashed lanterns filled with driftwood, candles and twinkling lights; floral arrangements with white and yellow flowers, ferns and pussy willows; and blue flat-bottom boats along with moss, boat paddles and cat tails. Nichols also sponsored and printed the Poster Unveiling programs prepared by Marlene Pitt.

Rhonda Dean welcomed guests to the event and introduced this year's poster artist Eddie Pastureau and poster sponsor Kyle Martinez of Interstate Building Materials. The sponsor, along with the artist, dropped the veils to reveal the original oil painting artwork from which the 2016 Poster was made, along with signed Poster Number One. The poster features a bass contemplating a crawfish sitting on a log. An outline of Toledo Bend Lake is hidden in the picture.

Mrs. Dean thanked Mr. Martinez and Interstate Building Materials for its sponsorship and presented him with signed Poster Number Two, a tradition at the unveiling. Mr. Martinez expressed appreciation for the poster and their excitement over their sponsorship.

In addition to the poster sponsors, other organizations and people were instrumental in making the event a success by helping to underwrite the costs of the unveiling. Mrs. Dean recognized these sponsors by group.

- GOLD Sponsors: Cypress Bend Resort, Nichols, Inc., and the Town of Many.
- Silver Sponsors: Leah V. Byles, D.D.S., Buddy Wood - State Farm Insurance, Judge Stephen Beasley, and First State Bank –Hemphill.
- Bronze Sponsors: Randy and Deb Pennington, Ben and Myra Smith, Toledo Town Realty, Warren Meadows Funeral Home, Big 4- Hemphill, Basic Trends Hair Salon- Hemphill, Toledo Town Inn, First Choice Real Estate Services, Tim and Rhonda Dean, Mitchell’s Barber Shop- Zwolle, Sheriff Ronny Richardson, and Rodrigues & Morgan LLC- Hemphill.

Mrs. Dean then introduced the auctioneer, Kevin McDonald, who took the stand and began the auction of the four pieces of art. He worked the crowd to prompt the highest bids possible for all four pieces.



The first piece to be auctioned was the signed and framed Poster Number One. Bidding closed at \$1,100.00 with Ted and Carolyn Dove placing the winning bid.

At left: Artist Eddie Pastureau and Sponsor Kyle Martinez are shown with Ted and Carolyn Dove, Auction winners of the 2016 TBLA Bass Unlimited—Back A Great Fighter Poster #1 “Toledo Bend Showdown”. (Photo by Calley Gentry)

After bidding closed on the poster, auctioneer McDonald cranked up the bidding for the original oil from which the 2016 Poster was printed. This framed piece sold to Kerney Briscoe and Liz McKinley for \$2,000.00.

At right: Artist Eddie Pastureau, Poster Sponsors Kyle Martinez and Josh Garcia are shown with Kerney Briscoe and Liz McKinley who placed the winning bid of \$2000.00 for the original painting of “Toledo Bend Showdown,” from which the 2016 TBLA Poster was made. (Photo by Calley Gentry)



Next up for bid were original paintings provided by former poster artists Noah Bounds (2015) and Ron Kidwell (2014). Noah Bound's original acrylic, titled "Wood Duck Drake Study", sold to Terrell Ebarb of Market Basket for \$550.00.



Above: Logan Verdin and Terrell Ebarb of Market Basket hold the original art "Wood Duck Drake Study" by last year's poster artist, Noah Bounds, after placing the winning bid of \$550 during the auction. (Photo by Calley Gentry)

Ron Kidwell's painting titled, "Evening in the Cove" sold to Ben and Myra Smith for \$400.00.



Above: Ben and Myra Smith pose with the original artwork "Evening in the Cove" by Ron Kidwell that they won for \$400.00 during the auction bidding. (Photo by Calley Gentry)

To complete the activities for the evening, Mrs. Dean thanked the winners for their generous bids, expressed appreciation to all those who attended the unveiling for their continued support, and thanked TBLA members and others for their hard work to make the Unveiling a successful event.

The 2016 Poster Sale began and Artist Pastureau was available to personalize and autograph purchased posters. The 2016 Bass Unlimited Poster sells unframed for \$20 each and framed for \$40. They can be purchased at the Nichols store in Many or through the TBLA web site, www.toledobendlakeassociation.com. They will also be available at the TBLA Bass Unlimited Banquet and Auction on Friday, April 15, at the Cypress Bend Pavilion.