



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

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JUNE 2016 ISSUE

June Membership Social -- The TBLA June 2 general membership social will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sabine Council on Aging (SCOA) facility, Highway 191 North of Toledo Town (29275 Hwy 191 N, Many, LA 71449). The main entree will be fried chicken. Please bring appropriate side dishes and desserts. At present, no speaker/program has been arranged.

Record Number 139 Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Replicas Awarded at Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash – By Pam Toliver



Anglers and their lunker bass replicas awarded at the Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Sunday, May 22, 2016. (Photo by David Maroski)

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2, 2016

Member Social

7:00 p.m. at SCOA
Toledo Town

June 21, 2016

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

The Toledo Bend Lake Association awarded 139 lunker bass replicas to anglers at the Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash at Cypress Bend Park on Sunday, May 22, 2016. This is the fourth year in a row that the record number of lunkers has been broken. This Lunker year, the fish were caught in Toledo Bend from May 15, 2015, to May 19, 2016. Mrs. Dinah Medine, Coordinator of the TBLA Lunker Bass Program, presented the replicas after the final weigh-in of the Sealy Outdoors tournament.

Among the 139 fish caught: 93 were in the 10-lb. class; 31 were in the 11-lb. class; 12 meet the 12-lb. class; 2 were in the 13-lb. class; and the largest fish weighed in at 14.16 lbs. Thirteen lunkers placed into the Top 100 largest reported bass caught on the Bend, and the anglers were awarded a Top 100 hat and certificate by Mrs. Linda Curtis-Sparks, Director of The Sabine Parish Tourist Commission.

Derek Mong of Many, LA, caught and registered three lunkers this year--while three fishermen—Darold Gleason of Leesville, LA, Dennis Blankenship of Pleasant Hill, LA, and Rudy Vaussine of Lake Charles, LA, caught and registered two lunkers each this year. Rudy caught his fishing from a pirogue. Ninety-eight LA anglers caught and registered lunkers, 36 were from TX, and 5 from out of state.

You can see photos of the anglers and their lunkers by going to the Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Program on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/Toledo-Bend-Lunker-Bass-Program-164436250355762/> and a list of them is posted on the Toledo Bend Lake Association's Website at www.toledobendlakeassociation.com. All fish caught and registered through the Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Program were tagged and returned to

the lake to spawn and be caught again. Fourteen (14) previously tagged fish were caught again this year. Scottie Lucas, scottiestaxidermy@yahoo.com, who produced each of the life-like replicas awarded by the Association, displayed all 139 reproductions on a single wall. He stated that he had reproduced well over a hundred 7.5 -10 lb. replicas of fish caught during the time period in addition to those awarded on Sunday, so there are many more lunkers to be caught. The TBLA Lunker Bass Program is the signature conservation program among many projects sponsored by the Toledo Bend Lake Association meet its mission: “to improve the quality of Toledo Bend Lake and the amenities surrounding it.”

TBLA thanks our Official Weigh Stations: Toledo Town and Tackle and Buckeye Landing in LA; and Fin & Feather Resort; Keith's Toledo Bend Tackle and Huxley Bay Marina in TX for supporting our Lunker Bass Program. In addition, TBLA thanks the Sabine River Authority-LA staff for helping with the set-up for the event and Bob Sealy - Sealy Outdoors for hosting our awards ceremony.

Congratulations to all 795 anglers who have earned lunker replicas since the program began in 1992 . . . let's keep the Nation's #1 bass fishing lake as designated by Bassmaster's Magazine booming with lunkers for next year's awards! We already have four Lunkers registered in our 2016 – 2017 year which started on May 20th 2016.



LDWF Partners with Elite Professional Anglers and Local Organizations for Unique Stocking Event on Toledo Bend – Excerpts from LDWF News Release



On Saturday, May 14, 2016, twenty-two B.A.S.S. Elite Anglers volunteered to team up with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to stock approximately 10,000 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings into Toledo Bend Reservoir during their fifth stop on the Bassmaster Elite Series tournament trail. This innovative stocking is part of the department's efforts to ensure consistent, quality fishing for Louisianans, now and in the future, with the hopes these fingerlings will grow to become the next generation of trophy bass.

The success of the renowned fishery is due in great part to the agencies and organizations involved in the management of the fishery. Since 1990, LDWF, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Toledo Bend Lake Association, Sabine River Authority and the Sabine Parish Tourist Commission have worked together to release more than 28 million Florida-strain largemouth fingerlings into the massive reservoir. In 2016 alone, LDWF will stock over 820,000 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings into Toledo Bend, continuing to rejuvenate the lake and increase catch rate.

The effectiveness of placing fast-growing Florida bass fingerlings into the lake is evident by the numbers of double-digit fish entered into the Toledo Bend Lake Association's Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Program. “That kind of success doesn't happen by accident. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and

Fisheries 'get it.' They know what they're doing and understand the impact and value of the resource they have here," explained B.A.S.S. Elite Angler and Toledo Bend Lake tournament winner Kevin VanDam who weighed in 20 bass during the 4-day Elite Tournament, weighing 96 lbs. 2 oz. (4.8 lbs. per fish). "Their stocking of Florida strain largemouth has really taken off and produced bigger bass here than ever before. As a result, the fishing is better, and Toledo Bend is a 'hot' destination for anglers all over the country."

Toledo Bend Bassmaster Elite Tournament Results, Top 5: – Kevin VanDam 96.13 lbs; Chris Lane 88.44 lbs; Ish Monroe 83.25 lbs; Keith Combs 82.69 lbs; Paul Mueller 81.75 lbs. – 100 fish over 4 days – 4.32 lb. average. No Toledo Bend Lunkers were caught during the tournament. At least two were reportedly caught and released during practice, but neither was submitted to a weigh station.

Members donate at BLOOD DRIVE – May 5, 2016. TBLA members donated 11 pints of blood to the **LifeShare Blood Center** at our May social. Thanks to all of you who donated. We plan to do this quarterly, hence our next drive should be at our August or September meeting assuming the donor share mobile is available.

TBLA Volunteers assist LDWF with Sabine Parish 5th Grade "Take A Kid Fishing Clinic." TBLA volunteers assisted in this event at Cypress Bend Park. The three-morning sessions (May 3 – 5) were hosted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Volunteers helped the kids learn how to cast and fish. In addition, LDWF conducted sessions on fish identification, aquatic invasive species, bass fishing, and boat safety. Thanks go to Tim Dean, our TBLA coordinator, and his team.

Thirteen TBLA Volunteers participated in the LA Adopt-A-Road Litter Pickup on Sat. morning, May 7th. They picked up over 30 bags of trash along the two-mile stretch of LA Highway 191 north from Toledo Town to Lanana Bridge. With this many volunteers we were able to cover the area in less than 1½ hours. This is a quarterly program, hence we will plan the next pickup for some time in August or early September.

Florida Bass Fingerling Release, May 25 -- LDWF and TBLA conducted a "by boat only" public Florida bass fingerling release event on May 25th at the Cypress Bend Park Launch and Boat Dock. Local lake residents, property owners, and anglers were welcome to come by boat and pick up bags of fingerlings and release them in the Toledo Bend Lake.

TBLA granted the 2016 Hemphill Hornets, TX High School Bass Fishing Club \$2,500: \$500 for jersey sponsorship displaying our logo and \$2,000 for higher education scholarships.

Toledo Bend Reservoir level was at 172.29 FT. MSL and receding, at 2:30 p.m. on May 25, 2016. Five flood gates are open 1 ft. high. Daily and historical Lake levels may be found at: http://www.toledo-bend.com/toledo_bend/index.asp?request=lake-level

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.