



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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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 4, 2016
Member Social

7:00 p.m. at SCOA
Toledo Town

August 16, 2016

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

AUGUST 2016 ISSUE

August Membership Social – The TBLA August general membership social will be held on Thursday, August 4th, 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 pulled pork prepared by Deb & Randy Pennington. Please bring appropriate side dishes and desserts. At present, we do not have a commitment from a speaker.

The following article is a news release from the Sabine Parish Tourist Commission.

Pros of the Pros on Toledo Bend



TOLEDO BEND LAKE COUNTRY, LOUISIANA – To say the “A.R.E. Truck Caps” Bassmaster Elite Series tournament out of Cypress Bend Park on Toledo Bend Lake was successful is a huge understatement. The tournament consisted of the Top 102 pro fishermen in the nation fishing a four-day event May 12-15, 2016. Kevin VanDam slammed the door on a wire-to-wire victory at the tournament with 21 pounds, 6 ounces of bass on Championship Sunday. The big bag gave him a four-day total of 96.2 pounds and his record 21st victory in a B.A.S.S. event. “There is no doubt that this is the best big-bass factory in the nation right now,” VanDam said from the weigh-in stage.

The Sabine Parish Tourist Commission's purpose of hosting the event along with the Sabine River Authority of Louisiana, the Louisiana Office of Tourism, and other businesses is the national exposure of Toledo Bend Lake and the economic impact during and following the event. The tournament was televised on ESPN 2 and ESPN Classic and will air again Sunday, August 7th and Sunday, August 14th at 9:00 a.m. on ESPN Classic. A beautiful aerial video of Cypress Bend Park, shot by local photographer Savannah Hall, was included in the show, and a still shot from that video is shown.

Bassmaster's website analytics showed 10.9 million page views and 529 thousand video plays for the week of the tournament. Fans followed the Bassmaster Elite LIVE show for 3 days which generated 191.2 thousand video plays with 5.2 million minutes of viewing time. Toledo Bend received 108 articles written on the event, 124 videos, 556 blogs, and 140 on-line photo galleries. Three television shows were also produced.

Approximately 15,000 attendees enjoyed the daily morning sunrise launch, daily weigh-in show, the Outdoor Expo, Keith Frank & the Soileau Zydeco Band, the Toledo Bend Wild Game Cook-off, dancers and demonstrators from the Choctaw-Apache Tribe and the Rising Sun Youth Group, and more. Not much in life is free, but there was no cost to attend.

Another very special inaugural event occurred during the tournament. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries brought 10,000 baby Florida hybrid largemouth bass that 22 professional Bassmaster anglers helped release into Toledo Bend. Anglers were asked to take bags of the 2 to 2½-inch-long fish in their personal boats and release them in spots with habitat that would protect the young fish. The event caught the attention of national press and it spread like wildfire.

B.A.S.S. fans are part of the sport--not just spectators. Bass fishing fans spend 5.3 billion annually on equipment, 4.3 billion on food and meals, and 2.0 billion on lodging, fishing an average of 67 times a year. Bassmaster Magazine has a readership of 40 million, and their research shows that Bassmaster television programs have 10 million viewers. By having this Bassmaster tournament event on Toledo Bend and in the State of Louisiana, exposure to one of Louisiana's great resources was provided to the nation. This tournament will greatly impact fishermen choosing to fish Toledo Bend for the next 18-24 months. The successful weekend tournament was one of nine on the Bassmaster Elite trail.

Toledo Bend Reservoir has been named Bassmaster's 2016 No. 1 fishing lake in the nation again for two years in a row. It's a historic title for the largest man-made body of water in the southern U.S., as the nationally ranked magazine has never given the honor out for the same lake twice.

TBLA Board Actions

TBLA Blood Drive in October -- Life Share will hold another blood drive at our October 6th member social so please come and donate if possible. They will set up and be ready to go at 5:30 p.m. and take donations throughout the meeting. Let's make this another successful drive.

TBLA Membership is at 462 and rising. About 90% of our memberships are couples/families. Hence we represent over 900 people who support making Toledo Bend Lake and its surrounding communities a better place to recreate or live near.

Board Member Nominations Election – 1st Vice President Gary Moore, the Election Committee Chairman, will accept nominations for new Board members through September 30th as per our By Laws. We will need to fill at least two positions if not more. Please let Gary know if you want to nominate yourself or someone else to serve on the Board. We need board members with good ideas and ways of doing things. For more information, contact Gary at (318) 256-2495 or gmoore07@yahoo.com

Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Program – At present we have 13 lunkers registered in the 2016 – 2017 Lunker Bass Program. At this time last year, we had 21 fish registered.

2017 Bass Unlimited Committee Members & Coordinators needed – BU Coordinator Deb Pennington still needs volunteers for the committee and especially someone to volunteer as a Coordinator for the following Committees: Audio; Data Control; Grand Prize Raffle; Live Auction; Master of Ceremonies; Personnel; Photographer; Printing; Prizes; and Volunteers. A successful BU-BAGF depends heavily on member volunteers and coordinators. Working on the committee is an enjoyable endeavor and we hope many of you will step up and help. Call Deb (318) 590-2349, if you would like to volunteer or have questions.

2016 BU Grand Prize Gun Raffle Winners – Weekly winners in July include: 7/1/2016 Ronnie Hinson - Remington 700 SPS synthetic blued 308 Rifle; 7/8/2016 Ticket not sold; 7/15/2016 Sue Kanieski - H&R Handi rifle 45-70 camo Rifle; 7/22/2016 Ticket not sold. Grand Prize Gun raffle winner names are posted weekly on the TBLA web site.

From John Toliver - My perspective on SRA Toledo Bend Water level management.

I have received several calls and emails asking me about the March flooding event, why the lake level was and is being kept so high and SRA lake level management. I'll explain it to the best of my knowledge.

First, recognize the two major purposes of Toledo Bend are power generation and recreation, both intended to be an economic stimulus and benefit to the area. Hence, the Sabine River Authorities focus on managing a lake level that revolves around generating power and maintaining a safe level and healthy productive fishery.

As much as anything, it has been Mother Nature with all the rain on the lake and Sabine River Basin, as well as north and south of here which have kept water flowing into the basin since 2013, culminating in a record level this year. The Basin reaches almost to Dallas and there are two lakes on the River above Toledo Bend, Lake Fork and Lake Tawakoni, both providing water to Dallas- Fort Worth area. Both of these lakes empty excess water into the river when needed and do not have requirements relative to power generation like Toledo Bend. When these lakes are full, and they have been since 2012, a lot of water is released from them during heavy rains. The vast majority of the Basin is in Texas. Toledo Bend is the major recipient of water from the entire basin. Hence what happens, or is happening, north of it has a significant impact on the amount of water in the lake. This, plus what is and/or could happen in the river basin below the Toledo Bend dam if water is released must be taken into consideration. Various agreements and requirements relative to managing the lake for power generation and recreation all create a complex decision process for managing 185,000 acres of surface water, as well as flow down-stream.

Toledo Bend is required to maintain a certain flow down the river, which in theory is what the normal flow of the river would be if the lake were not here. This flow is required to stop salt water intrusion up the river from the Gulf Coast as well as for aquatic and environmental concerns, plus providing water in the industrial canals for industrial use. This is generally done via a constant flow release pipe, plus water moving out of one or both generators. When one generator is down, as is currently the case, less water can be released on a continuous basis without opening any of the gates.

There is an agreement between the LA and TX SRAs and the power companies (Entergy & Cleco), to stop generation when the lake level reaches 168 ft. mean sea level (msl) in order to maintain a sufficient level of water in the boat lanes for safe boat operation and other recreational and economic reasons. However, the reservoir will reach levels below 168 feet msl due to evaporation in the heat of the summer. At levels below 168 ft. many marinas cannot operate their launch ramps and lose most of their business. Lakeside residents are deprived of the use of their docks and piers and the water is too shallow in the coves to run boats. The problem with low water levels is also compounded by the fact that most coves become infested with Hydrilla and Giant Salvinia.

I believe there has always been an intent and operational objective to maintain the lake between 168 and 172 ft. msl, Mother Nature allowing. There is a general agreement with Louisiana Division of Wildlife and Fisheries, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the power companies to maintain an effective spring level to promote sufficient spawning habitat and recreational fishing. Generally speaking, in January no power generation is allowed below 168.5 ft. msl; in February below 169.0 ft.; in March below 169.5 ft.; and in April below 170 ft. In May when the water level is normally increasing up to the 172+ ft. level, more water can be used for generation as they would like to keep the lake at this level through August, then begin to let it recede to the minimum 168 ft. level by October – December. Then the cycle starts again. A lot of this depends on the "normal" weather and rain fall patterns and there hasn't necessarily been a lot of normality in the past few years; i.e. 2010-2011 were abnormal drought, 2012-2014 more normal and 2015-2016 abnormally high rain fall.

When the lake is rising, the SRAs jointly consider all the factors on the lake, above the lake and what might happen if large volumes of water are released down river. It is very difficult to make decisions based on weather predictions. I live on the middle portion of the lake and might have 3 inches of rain at my home and a mile or two away, they might not have any or vice versa. The March rains this year put 18 or more inches of rain across the entire Basin from the Gulf to northern TX and LA as well as more outside the basin, all in 3-5 days, and we continued to have a lot of rain until July.

In early March, some think the SRAs should have started releasing water much earlier, based on the weather predictions. The lake was at 172+ ft. msl, and outflow was at a maximum without opening the spillway gates. When running two generators will no longer provide enough release to maintain or lower the lake, normal procedure is to open the gates at 172.5 ft. msl. In this case, only one generator was running, so they opened the spillway gates at 172.35 ft. and in incremental amounts as the inflow was historically increasing. The norm is to open gates to keep the water level below the top of the spillway at 175 ft., minimizing pressure on the gates and the dam. The top of the dam is 185 ft. msl, so the water level was well below the top of the dam and the dam was not in danger of collapsing. No one wants water levels to increase to the top of the dam and potentially cause the dam to collapse. When they began to open the gates, the inflow from the north was way above anything experienced before.

The March flooding, particularly downriver, was regrettably devastating to many. Since the first week of March, consistent rains kept the lake at or above the intended 172 ft. level through June. The May 27-28 major wind storm, with the lake at or close to

the 172 ft. level, caused significant damage on and around the lake. Mother Nature is often unpredictable, even when we think it can be predicted. Hopefully, as natural resource managers often must do after extreme weather events, we can learn from these unforeseen events and diminish damage under similar circumstances in the future.

Toledo Bend Reservoir level was at 171.2 FT. MSL and receding, at 11:30 a.m. on July 24, 2016. One generator is running for 12 hrs. a day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Current Flow is 174 CFS. All flood gates are closed. Daily Lake levels may be found at: <http://www.srala-toledo.com/>

“Movies In Many” at the Sabine Theater – “Frozen,” Sat. Aug. 13, 7 p.m.; “Jurassic World,” Sat. Aug. 20, 7 p.m.; “Bring Him Home,” Sat. Sept. 10, 7 p.m.; “Concussion,” Sat. Sept. 17, 7 p.m.

If you have questions or comments relative to the contents of this Newsletter, please contact me at jtolver@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