

Landscape Artist's Original Artwork and First Poster Kick Off 2013 Bass Unlimited of TBLA Fundraising

Landscape artist Norma Godwin's poster, "View from the Porch," is already a hit among Bass Unlimited poster collectors and the general public. Her original artwork from which the poster was created and the poster numbered one sold for big bucks at the Poster Unveiling and Auction held Thursday evening, March 7, 2013, at Cypress Bend Resort. The event kicked off Toledo Bend Lake Association's (TBLA's) Bass Unlimited fund raiser. All moneys made from the fundraiser are used for projects to improve the Lake and surrounding community.



Artist Norma Godwin with her original painting, "View from the Porch," from which the 2013 TBLA Bass Unlimited Poster was made. (Photo by John Toliver)

Over one hundred TBLA Bass Unlimited (BU) 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 on beautiful Toledo Bend Lake. The Poster Unveiling and Auction has become a much-awaited annual gala and signals the start of TBLA's Bass Unlimited fund raiser which culminates with the Bass Unlimited Banquet.

The ballroom at Cypress Bend was decorated for the event by Debbie Nichols, owner of Nichols, Inc., and her talented staff. Beautiful floral arrangements made up of thistle, white hydrangea, and grapevine rose from tall vases to decorate the tables. These floral arrangements were surrounded by fishnets to project the essence of water with glass fish, driftwood, and candlelit boats. Ms. Nichols is also responsible for the beautiful color Poster Unveiling programs she had printed.



Ned and Gaynell Goodeaux, Ted and Carolyn Dove pose with Norma Godwin, 2013 Poster artist and the #1 poster. (Photo by John Toliver)

Mr. Ted Dove, President of TBLA, welcomed guests to the event and then introduced Mistress of Ceremony, Rhonda Dean, who, with husband Tim Dean, were 2013 Poster coordinators. Ms. Dean introduced this year's poster artist Norma Godwin and poster sponsors Ted and Carolyn Dove and Ned and Gaynell Goodeaux. The sponsors, along with the artist, lifted the cloths to reveal the original artwork from which the 2013 Bass Unlimited Poster was made, along with Poster #1, to rounds of applause. The poster features a view of Toledo Bend Lake from the porch of a home in a cove of the Lake.

Mrs. Dean thanked the Doves and Goodeauxs for their sponsorship and presented them with Poster No. 2, a tradition at the unveiling. Mr. Dove and Mr. Goodeaux each expressed their joy in living at the Lake and thanked all those involved in making the Unveiling a success.

In addition to the poster sponsors, other organizations and people have been instrumental in making the Poster Unveiling event a success by helping to underwrite the costs of the unveiling. Mrs. Dean recognized these sponsors by group. **Gold Sponsors** included Cypress Bend Resort; Conestoga-Rovers & Associates; Toledo Bend Lakeside Realty; Nichols, Inc.; and Town of Many. **Silver Sponsors**

were CASAIC Printing of Shreveport; Chuck Chumley of O’Neal Gas; Tim and Rhonda Dean; and Buddy Wood, Agent, State Farm Insurance. **Bronze Sponsors** were Frankie Howard, State Representative; Kyle Butler of Basic Trends Hair Salon in Hemphill; Carla M. Morgan, CPA, Hemphill; Margaret Zammit of In-Style Hair Design; Rivers Builders Supply; Ron and Jackie Williams; and Toledo Town Inn.

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. Spotters Mike Randolph and Randy Pennington helped point out bidders to McDonald.

The first piece to be auctioned was the signed and framed Poster No. 1. Bidding closed at \$400 with Mike Randolph winning the poster.

After bidding closed on the poster, auctioneer McDonald kept the bidding going at a high speed for the original oil from which the 2013 Poster was printed. This framed piece went to Ted Dove for \$750.

Former Poster artists Elaine Echels (2012 Poster Artist) and Don Edwards (2011 Poster Artist) were also present for the Unveiling and to present their original artwork for auction. Elaine Echels’ painting, “Fisherman’s Choice,” featured a deep lake background with two large bass and several smaller fish. It sold to Deborah Niswanger for \$475.



Mike Randolph displays Poster #1 after placing the winning bid of \$400 for the piece. (Photo by John Toliver)



Artist Elaine Echels poses with Deborah Niswanger who won her original artwork, “Fisherman’s Choice,” after placing the winning bid of \$475. (Photo by John Toliver)

Don Edwards’ painting, “In the Shadows—Woody,” spotlighted a colorful wood duck sitting on a stump with swamp flora in the background. This piece sold to Debbie Nichols for \$1,000.



Debbie Nichols poses with Artist Don Edwards and his original artwork, “In the Shadows—Woody,” after placing the winning bid of \$1000 during the auction. (Photo by John Toliver)

To complete the activities for the evening, Mrs. Dean thanked everyone for their hard work and expressed appreciation to all those who attended the unveiling for their continued support.

The 2013 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.toledo-bend.com/tbla. They will also be available at the Bass Unlimited Banquet and Auction on Friday, April 19, at the Cypress Bend Pavilion.