

Board of Directors

Jim Mifflin
President
Harry Stafford
Vice President
Ted Dove
Secretary
Mitzie Galligan
Treasurer
Eason Dowden
Dan Battarbee
Ramona Moore
Chuck Soileau

TOLEDO BEND ALERT

June 2019

Toledo Bend Citizens' Advisory Committee

To Educate and Activate

www.tbacac.net

tbacac3@gmail.com

Next TBCAC SOCIAL 7:00 - 8:30PM Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Our Next TBCAC Quarterly Membership Meeting and Dinner will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at the **Sabine Council on Aging – Toledo Town Location (SCOA)** located on Hwy. 191, 3/4 miles north of the Hwy. 6 Toledo intersection. The SCOA is located next to the DAV. Socials are held quarterly on the 2nd Tuesday of the designated month.

The guest speaker for that meeting will be Warren Founds, executive director of the Sabine River Authority of Louisiana. Warren will provide a progress report on the spillway repair project and answer questions about any other issues that members may have regarding governance of the lake. The June social entrée will be beef brisket with brown gravy. Please bring complimentary side dishes and desserts and join us for good food, fellowship, and updates on TBCAC. For more information, contact Jim Mifflin at (318) 586-7897.

2019 Calendar of Meetings: Be sure to “*save the date*” for the upcoming 2019 Socials:

June 11

September 10

November 12

Meetings/Socials begin at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there and bring a guest!

TBCAC Officers for 2019-2020:

At the last TBCAC Board of Directors meeting on April 18, 2019, the following officers were elected for the 2019-2020 term: Jim Mifflin – president, Harry Stafford – vice-president, Ted Dove – secretary and Mitzie Galligan – treasurer.

Board Meetings: The Board normally meets on the 2nd Thursday of even numbered months at 2:00 pm at the SCOA-Toledo Town location. However, the next board meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2019, at 5:00 PM, just prior to our June membership meeting/social. The Board welcomes all members to attend these meetings. Please contact TBCAC president Jim Mifflin if you are interested in attending that board meeting and he will provide directions to the meeting location. The detailed minutes of all Board of Directors meetings are posted on the TBCAC website at www.tbacac.net.

Lake Level as of 5/30/2019: The lake level for Toledo Bend is reported to be 172.29 feet mean sea level (msl), as measured near the dam by the National Weather Service automated gauge. The lake level on May 30 last year was 169.94 msl. Up-to-date reservoir elevations and releases may be obtained from the Toledo Bend Project offices on a 24 hour per day basis at (337) 286-5253 and (409) 565-2273. For the most current lake levels, go to www.srala-toledo.com and click on the National Weather Service link.

Sabine River Authority (SRA/LA) Updates:

Toledo Bend Project Joint Operations Group Makes Decision on Lake Level Variance

As reported in the TBCAC April newsletter, the contractor retained by the Sabine River Authorities of Louisiana and Texas to repair the spillway had to curtail operations for over three months. This project delay was caused by above normal precipitation in December, January and February which required use of the spillway to keep the lake level below 172.5 feet mean sea level (msl).

The SRA of Louisiana and Texas had hoped to complete the repair project while operating within the normal operating pool levels of 168 feet msl to 172 feet msl. Because of the long delay in the project, the SRA's had discussions with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) about the possibility of obtaining a variance to operate the generators at a level below 168 feet msl in order to create a safeguard in having to spill water if further large rain events occur while the project continues. The contractor has resumed repairs and now expects to complete the project by mid – October 2019.

On April 3, 2019, the Toledo Bend Project Joint Operations Group (TBPJO) made a request of FERC to lower the reservoir, through continued hydroelectric generation, to approximately 165 feet msl, through the duration of the spillway repairs. On April 8, 2019, that variance was approved by FERC.

Since communications with the TBCAC Board of Directors, the president of the Toledo Bend Citizens' Advisory Committee (TBCAC) has had discussions with the executive director of the SRA of Louisiana and the chairperson of the TBPJO Board of Directors (which includes representatives from both the SRA's of Louisiana and Texas). The TBCAC president stated to both officials that it is clearly always the position of TBCAC to operate the reservoir within the FERC Operating License, which means normal operations between the 168 feet msl and the 172 feet msl. Although finishing the spillway repairs is important and a variance in power generation below the 168 feet msl might help to avoid further spills, in the event of above normal rainfall, TBCAC believes that power generation below the 168 feet msl should occur only as absolutely necessary and not automatically to the 165 feet msl.

Even with continuous generation, the lake level depends on inflow levels. April and May, by historical analysis, are typically months with heavy rainfall and higher inflow rates. June – August are months with historically lower precipitation and lower inflow rates. For example, if the lake level is 167 feet msl in June, then the SRA's should consider not continuing power generation under the variance granted by FERC unless there is a forecast of a significant rain event.

On April 9, 2019, at a TBPJO Board of Directors meeting, the TBCAC president outlined the TBCAC's position on the FERC variance. The chairperson of the TBPJO Board of Directors had the same feeling that the FERC variance should not be construed as necessarily a need to lower the lake all the way to the 165 feet msl. The TBPJO Board of Directors voted, per the operating variance granted by FERC, to continue power generation below the 168 feet msl as necessary and to monitor inflow levels and weather patterns to keep the lake level as close to normal parameters as possible.

The lake level on April 9, 2019, was 169.6 feet msl after seven months of continuous generation. At the publication of this newsletter, the lake level was 172.29. The current FERC temporary variance does not allow power generation below the 165 feet msl. The actual lake level that will be reached between now and mid-October, with this temporary FERC variance, basically depends on “mother nature” and the good judgment of the SRA officials.

Due to heavy rainfall in late April and early May, the lake level went above 173 msl and SRA had to comply with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission spillway operating guidelines and open the spillway gates in mid-May. As of the publication of this newsletter, 5 gates are open 1 foot.

TBCAC will continue to monitor SRA operating procedures and keep our citizens informed.

Update on Water Sales

No specific proposed water sale is currently planned.

Petition to Reduce Bass Retention Limits on Toledo Bend Reservoir

As reported in the TBCAC's April newsletter, a petition was presented to the SRA/LA at their Board of Commissioners meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2019. The petition was started by a concerned lake citizen on the change.org website. In about one month, the petition garnered over 4,000 signatures.

The current daily retention limit is 8 bass of at least 14" length. The petition calls for a reduction to 5 bass of at least 14" length. The supporters of the petition feel this change will improve the average catch rate by increasing the overall fish population.

Villis Dowden, Biologist Manager for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries indicated to the Commissioners that scientific population studies conducted in three-year intervals show that the bass population in all size categories within the reservoir has not changed significantly since 2000 when the retention limit was 10 bass of at least 14" length. Studies seem to indicate that the recreational harvest is not a significant factor affecting the bass population. Weather conditions, including annual rainfall and lake habitat condition, are far greater factors than the annual recreational harvest of bass.

At the April 25, 2019 SRA/LA Board of Commissioners Meeting, there was much discussion among the commissioners as to whether they would vote on a resolution to support a reduction in the bass retention rate. The majority feeling of the board was that the bass retention limit should be more appropriately in the purview of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. None of the commissioners would move to vote on the resolution and the resolution was tabled.

TBCAC 2019 Membership Renewals

We thank you for your loyal support of the Toledo Bend Citizens' Advisory Committee (TBCAC). Your support enables us to continually monitor proposed legislative proceedings or planned governmental actions that could affect the communities surrounding Toledo Bend Reservoir. The article in our February 2019 newsletter regarding the workings of the Louisiana Water Resources Commission is an example of how TBCAC researches issues relating to the preservation of Toledo Bend Reservoir. The February newsletter also has a list of our accomplishments for 2018. The February newsletter can be accessed at www.tbcac.net.

The TBCAC will support public agencies when they act in the best interests of our communities and vigorously oppose them when they do not.

It is very important that we maintain a large membership since there is always strength in numbers.

Soon, we will be purging our membership list which is used to mail out our newsletter. We do not want anyone to miss out on news related to the Toledo Bend area. We urge everyone to renew their membership as soon as possible.

If you are not sure if you have paid your 2019 dues, please contact our treasurer Mitzie Galligan at (318) 590-0975. A renewal application is also attached below. We sincerely hope we can depend on your continued support.

TBCAC Adopt-A-Road Program – Trash Pick-Up

The Toledo Bend Citizens' Advisory Committee (TBCAC) has held two Adopt-A-Road trash pick-ups this year. The first pick-up was on Saturday, February 16, resulting in 26 bags of trash collected. The second pick-up was on Saturday, March 23, as part of the parish-wide Trash Bash. That trash pick-up resulted in 9 bags of trash collected.

TBCAC will hold their next trash pickup on Friday, June 14 and we ask that you schedule this now to keep your calendar clear for this event. We will meet at 8 AM, at the intersection of El Camino Real and Highway 191 just north of the Beulah Baptist Church. TBCAC's responsibility is Highway 191 at El Camino Real heading south to the intersection of Highway 191 and Cypress Bend Parkway. Please make plans to join us on Friday, June 14 at 8 AM. The more people we have, the sooner we complete the roadway cleanup! Thanks.

Florida Bass Fingerling Stocking Program

Many TBCAC members are also members of the Toledo Bend Lake Association (TBLA). Therefore we are providing the following information that was printed in the TBLA May newsletter.

TBLA will purchase 55,000 Florida Largemouth Bass Fingerlings to be released into Toledo Bend Reservoir this year. These fingerlings will be delivered to Cypress Bend Park by American Sport Fish on Wednesday, June 5, 2019. Distribution of fingerlings will begin at 8 AM and will conclude by 12 PM (as the supply and weather holds out). The fingerlings will be dispensed to **TBLA members only** so that they may release them at locations within Toledo Bend Reservoir of their choosing. The fingerlings will be packaged in plastic bags with water and oxygen. Each member will be given a maximum of four bags of fingerlings to ensure that all fingerlings are released in a timely manner. Members will be required to provide adequate containers for holding their bags of fingerlings. Clean ice chests are recommended for this job. The bags will be large. A 48-quart ice chest will hold **ONE** bag. A 120-quart ice chest will hold two bags. Please do not show up without clean containers of adequate size, preferably with lids. The fingerlings will do much better when shielded from the sunlight. **These fingerlings are not cheap shiners that are easily replaced!** They are expensive fish that deserve special care and handling. Printed handling and release instructions will be provided.

Important Points To Remember

- Wednesday, June 5, 2019, Cypress Bend Park, 8 AM-12PM.
- **TBLA Members Only.** Membership Applications will be available on site. Members must sign participant sheet.
- Four bags per member.
- Clean containers large enough to hold bagged fingerlings.
- Lids needed for containers.
- printed instructions for handling and release.

Community Center Upcoming Events –

Movies in Many (free admission – cokes and popcorn \$1.00 each)

June 1 – Creed 2

June 15 – Dirty Dancing

Music in Many (ticket prices vary)

June 22 – Tennessee Mafia Jug Band

Other Local Entertainment & Events -

June 29 - Music on the Square at Historic Fisher Opera House (starts at 5 PM)

Remember: You can help us save money by providing your e-mail address as a means of receiving your copy of the newsletter. You can list your e-mail address with your dues, or drop us a line at tbcac3@gmail.com. Every newsletter that we can send out via e-mail helps to save \$\$.

Help Us Grow Our TBCAC Membership: If you know someone who is not a member, give them a membership form and ask them to join. The TBCAC is a Civic & Educational Organization, dedicated to making the lake and surrounding community a true “Sportsman’s Paradise” and the retirement destination of choice for people from all walks of life. **JOIN US TODAY!** *We need your support!* And visit our website at www.tbcac.net Questions? E-mail us at tbcac3@gmail.com.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For new members, or RENEWAL form for existing members.

Annual membership is \$20.00 per single, \$30.00 per couple. *Not tax deductible under IRS rules.*

Name:	_____	Spouse:	_____
Address:	_____	City, State:	_____
Zip:	_____	Home Phone	_____
		Lake Phone:	_____
Occupation:	_____	E-mail Address:	_____
Dues amount:	_____	Donation enclosed:	_____

* Providing an e-mail address allows us to quickly send you the Toledo Bend Alert electronically, keep you informed and save printing and postage costs.

With your paid membership, you’ll receive our periodic newsletter, the “Toledo Bend Alert.”

Make check payable to: TBCAC and Mail to: TBCAC, P.O. Box 983, Many, LA 71449.