



Toledo Bend Lake Association

NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Serving Toledo Bend Lake

TOLEDO BEND LAKE ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 103, MANY, LOUISIANA 71449

www.toledobendlakeassociation.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

June 6, 2019

Monthly Membership Social
7:00 pm
SCOA Toledo Town

JUNE 2019 ISSUE

June Membership Social – Our Membership Social will be held on Thursday, June 6, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sabine Council on Aging (SCOA) facility, Highway 191 North of Toledo Town. We have no guest speaker in June but will instead bring a report to the Membership regarding the 2019 Bass Unlimited-Back A Great Fighter Banquet. The entrée for our meal will be fried chicken. Please bring a side dish or dessert and join us. At our last Membership Social Willis Dowden, Biologist Manager for the Inland Fisheries Division of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, presented a “State of the Lake” talk for our attendees. Mr. Dowden shared his department’s methods and findings regarding fisheries population sampling as well as creel data derived from angler interviews conducted at area boat ramps. The talk was informative and included the always popular question and answer session at its conclusion. We appreciate the interaction between our membership and area natural resource agencies.

Please be aware that memberships can be renewed for 2019 at the meeting by mail or online at our website. Inactive memberships will be removed from the TBLA Newsletter mailing list following the June mailout. We have emailed all inactive members to remind them of the need to renew their memberships. Many have renewed and we hope to see the remainder renew soon. TBLA has much work to do in the coming year and community support is vital to our success. If you have not yet renewed your membership, we urge you to do so now.

Lake Level – The Lake level is important to those with an interest in Toledo Bend. Real-time information on the matter can be found online at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uy?site_no=08025350 This information is updated every fifteen minutes.

The Sabine River Authority’s guidelines for opening and closing the spillway gates appears in their *Operating Guide Rule Curve* document. This document can be found at <http://www.srala-toledo.com/page.aspx?menuid=28>

2019 Bass Unlimited-Back A Great Fighter Banquet-Our recent fundraiser event was a success! Details regarding the event will be shared at our June 6 Membership Social but we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that made the event successful. Our thanks go to the BU Committee, the event support staff and all sponsors and supporters of our banquet. Thank you!

Florida Bass Fingerling Stocking-TBLA has purchased 55,000 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings to be stocked into Toledo Bend Reservoir. The fingerlings will be delivered to Cypress Bend Park by American Sportfish of Pike Road, Alabama on Wednesday, June 5, 2019. Fingerling distribution will begin at 7 AM.

Fingerlings will be made available only to TBLA members and must be released only into Toledo Bend. If your membership is not current or if a non-member wishes to participate, TBLA Membership Forms will be available onsite during the event. Members must sign a participant list and receive a copy of our Stocking Permit prior to receiving fingerlings. All participants will be given written instructions regarding the proper handling of the fingerlings during transport and release. Members participating in this event may arrive by boat or motor vehicle as they prefer.

Fingerlings will be placed into large, heavy-duty, clear plastic bags along with water and pure oxygen and the bags will be sealed prior to being handed over to members. These bags should remain sealed until time of release into the lake. Members will be given up to four bags each and should plan to provide proper containers for transporting the sealed bags. It is suggested to use clean ice chests or large tubs to prevent puncture of the plastic bags. Containers with lids or covers are recommended in order to shield the fingerlings from bright sunlight which may cause increased stress during transport. The sealed bags will be at least as large as a full tall kitchen trash bag. Large containers will be needed to transport them. Fingerlings will only be given to members that arrive with proper containers for the fish.

Fingerlings should be transported and released within two hours of being received. Release sites are to be chosen by Members but should provide adequate protective cover for the fingerlings in the form of substantial vegetation or a structure such as a dock or boathouse. The water containing the fingerlings will be colder than the lake water at any release site. The sealed bags should be placed into the lake, preferably in a shady location for at least 15 minutes to begin bringing the water temperature inside the bag closer to the lake temperature. After 15 minutes, the bags should be opened and a volume of lake water equal to 1/3 the volume of bagged water be allowed to enter and mix with bagged water for two minutes. This partial mixing should be repeated along with another two-minute wait. At that point, the bag contents should be emptied into the lake and the bag should be properly discarded.

Boating Safety – Several videos can be found online depicting boating accidents in which the boat operator is ejected from a moving boat, often during full-throttle, high-speed travel. In some cases, the operator was using a kill switch and the boat stopped immediately. In other cases, the operator did not use a kill switch and the boat continued to run at high-speed. In almost all operator ejection scenarios, a boat's steering system will be turned to one side resulting in a circular travel pattern which places the ejected persons in the path of the unmanned boat. This situation can be deadly! Runaway boats can fatally injure people and seriously damage property. The simple act of properly connecting the boat's kill switch to the operator can avoid making a bad day much worse. Please use your kill switch every time!

On the topic of Boating Safety, TBLA recently presented a \$2,500 check to the Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association (LWAA). This is a non-profit corporation administered by Enforcement Agents of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF). The LWAA supports and provides funding for several worthwhile causes and events across our State. The contribution from TBLA will be used to purchase t-shirts that will be distributed by Enforcement Agents through the "I Got Caught Wearing My Life Jacket Program". The program provides a t-shirt to youngsters (ages 17 and under) "caught" wearing their life jackets by Agents on patrol. The program uses positive reinforcement for good behavior coupled with an enduring reminder for the kids to hopefully form the life-long habit of wearing a life jacket while boating. The TBLA has funded this program for several years and includes this funding in its Annual Budget.



Photo credit: LDWF Enforcement Div.

TBLA Scholarship Awards - Our Association annually provides several scholarships to area high school seniors to assist them in their quest for higher education. This year, TBLA provided two \$1,000 scholarships to members of the Hemphill Hornet Bass Club. The Hemphill Hornet Bass Club is one of the local high school fishing teams sponsored by TBLA.

The Hemphill ISD faculty sponsors selected two deserving young men for this year's scholarships. Gray Bundy will be attending college in Nashville to pursue a career in songwriting. He plans to write some outdoor-related songs including ones about fishing at Toledo Bend. Trey Proctor will attend Ouachita Baptist University and plans to return home to become a game warden. Congratulations to these young men!

TBLA also recently awarded three \$1,000-dollar scholarships to worthy members of Sabine Parish 4-H. We look forward to hearing reports from these young people as they travel life's path.

TBLA members and sponsors should be proud of the positive impact that their support provides to our community.

Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Program



Photo Caption: Toledo Bend Lake Association awarded 42 lunker bass replicas to anglers on Sunday, May 19th at the Sealy Big Bass Splash.

The Toledo Bend Lake Association (TBLA) awarded 42 lunker bass replicas to anglers at the Toledo Bend Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash at Cypress Bend Park on Sunday, May 19. Dinah Medine, coordinator of the TBLA Lunker Bass Program, and TBLA President Ricky Yeldell presented the replicas to anglers from Louisiana, Texas, and Missouri. The largest fish was caught by Sean Kennon, of DeQuincy, LA, weighing in at 14.0 pounds, qualifying in the "Top 100" largest reported largemouth bass caught on Toledo Bend. Four of the fish caught and released were previously tagged fish in the TBLA Lunker Bass Replica program.

The Lunker Bass Replica program was initiated by the Sabine River Authority of Louisiana in 1992 and transferred to Toledo Town and Tackle in 1998. It was assumed by TBLA in 2005. Since its inception, approximately 950 lunkers have been caught, tagged, and released back to Toledo Bend Lake through this program.

The goal of the program is to encourage the return of trophy fish to the Lake by rewarding anglers with a replica bass for catching and releasing their Toledo Bend Lunker. TBLA hopes these fish will live, spawn, reproduce, grow and be caught again by another angler.

Photos of the anglers and their lunkers can be seen on the Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Program Facebook page, and a complete list is also posted on www.toledobendlakeassociation.com. This year's replicas were produced for TBLA by Scottie's Reproductions.

Congratulations to all the anglers who have earned lunker replicas.

(Editor Note) Many thanks to Dinah Medine for another job well done. Scottie Lucas Taxidermy did another great job on the replicas this year. Thanks, Scottie! A special thanks to Linda Curtis-Sparks and Wanda Rivers for their work in setting up the event. Thanks also go to Phil Medine and Dayna Yeldell for their assistance in transporting and distributing the replicas. We are grateful to Ramona Moore for her work on the Press Release found above. Good work by all!

2019 – 2020 52-Gun Raffle News – If you have any questions regarding the 52-gun raffle drawings, please contact Bruce Rogers by phone: 281-543-0184 or email: bruce.rogers@hughes.net

2019 – 2020 TBLA 52-Gun Raffle Winners			
Date of Award	Guns	Number	Winner
05/10/19	Ruger American 6.5 Creedmoor rifle	BU Drawing	Curtis Conkle
05/10/19	ATI Calvary 12-gauge over/under shotgun	BU Drawing	Joe Cicardo
05/17/19	Remington 870 Express 12-gauge shotgun	800	Bill McHan

Community Center Upcoming Events -

Movies in Many (free admissions, 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 -

Music on the Square at Historic Fisher Opera House – June 29, Starts at 5 p.m.

Now is the time to renew your TBLA Membership for 2019.

You can also help TBLA by asking a neighbor or friend to join us at TBLA. Please use this form to sign them up or to renew your membership for 2019.

TOLEDO BEND LAKE ASSOCIATION 2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR APPLICATION.

Name (including spouse): _____

Business Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone (home): _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

2019 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 2019 dues. Bring to our Social or mail to: Toledo Bend Lake Association, P.O. Box 1031, Many, LA 71449. You can also pay your membership dues through PayPal on the JOIN US page of the TBLA website at www.toledobendlakeassociation.com.