

TBLA - Bass Unlimited Debuts 2018 Painting

By Ramona Moore

Favorite local artist JoAnn Cason presented her 2018 painting at the Toledo Bend Lake Association Poster Unveiling and Auction held on April 5, at Cypress Bend Resort. The Unveiling signals the start of TBLA's 16th Annual Fundraiser that will culminate with the Bass Unlimited – Back A Great Fighter Banquet on Friday, April 20 at Cypress Bend Pavilion.

The crowd of over 120 guests gathered in the Grand Ballroom, which was professionally decorated by Lauren Moore and the talented staff of Nichols. Cypress Bend prepared a delicious variety of hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages. Rhonda Dean welcomed the guests, and Donna Dziekan, senior at Negreet High School and member of the Gifted and Talented Program, sang the National Anthem.

Ms. Dean introduced JoAnn Cason, along with Justin Chance, representing Boise Cascade, this year's poster sponsor.



Ms. Cason and Mr. Chance dropped the veils to reveal the original painting and signed poster #1. (Photo by Calley Gentry)

The painting, titled “Shared Territory”, depicts a small secluded cove on Toledo Bend, highlighting native fish and wildlife residing in the cove, along with the outline of the lake hidden in the picture. Ms. Dean thanked Mr. Chance of Boise Cascade and presented him with signed poster #2. Mr. Chance presented Ms. Cason with a plaque of appreciation for creating the lovely painting and being this year's poster artist.

In addition to the poster sponsor, many organizations and people were instrumental in making the Gala a huge success. Ms. Dean recognized Poster Coordinators Eddie and Gina Pastureau for organizing this year's Poster Unveiling, and acknowledged these sponsors:

- Gold Sponsors – Cypress Bend Resort; Nichols, Inc.; Toledo Town Realty; Town of Many
- Silver Sponsors – Judge Stephen Beasley, Leah V. Byles, DDS; Buddy Wood, State Farm Insurance; Warren Meadows Funeral Home
- Bronze Sponsors – Toledo Town Inn; Sheriff Ronny Richardson; Tim and Rhonda Dean, Eddie and Gina Pastureau, Randy and Deb Pennington, Ben and Myra Smith

Auctioneer Kevin McDonald took the podium and began the auction. Mr. McDonald energized the crowd, prompting the highest bids possible for all four of the following pieces of art.



The first piece to be auctioned was the signed and framed poster #1. Bidding closed at \$575 with Market Basket at Toledo Town, represented by Ashley Ford, placing the winning bid.

Artist JoAnn Cason is shown with Ashley Ford - Store Manager and Melodie Tuttle – Assistant Store Manager representing Market Basket at Toledo Town. (Photo by Calley Gentry)

Next the bidding began for the original oil painting from which the 2018 poster was printed. The winning bid went to Gary Moore for \$1,025.



Ramona and Gary Moore are shown with artist JoAnn Cason and Justin Chance of Boise Cascade – this year's poster sponsor. (Photo by Calley Gentry)

Then two original paintings provided by former poster artists Don Edwards (2017) and Eddie Pastureau (2016) were also auctioned.



Mr. Edwards' original was titled "Sac-A-Lait". And the winning bid of \$1,400 placed by Gerald Mitchell won the piece.

Gerald and Vicki Mitchell with Don Edwards and his painting "Sac-A-Lait". (Photo by Calley Gentry)

Mr. Pastureau's painting titled "Don't Bug Me - I'm Fishing" sold to Doris Grimes for \$675.



Artist Eddie Pastureau pictured with Doris and the original artwork "Don't Bug Me - I'm Fishing". (Photo by Calley Gentry)

Artist JoAnn Cason was present to sign and personalize purchased posters. The posters will be available for purchase at the Nichols store in Many and Mitchell's Barber Shop in Zwolle.