



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

May 2016 ISSUE

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 5, 2016

Member Social/Blood Drive, 7:00 p.m. at SCOA
Toledo Town

May 17, 2016

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

May 22, 2016

Toledo Bend Lunker Bass
Replica Awards at Cypress
Bend Pavilion 2 p.m.

May 25, 2016

Fingerling Release
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Cypress Bend Launch
Parking Lot

Holy Toledo – We had a busy and very productive month of April, and it isn't over in May. Thanks to all of you who volunteered, donated to, and participated in our Bass Unlimited – Back A Great Fighter fundraiser. The 52- Gun Raffle, Poster Unveiling auction & sales, and the BU Banquet and Auction resulted in raising approximately \$60,000 to support our mission. Note below that we have a lot going on in May and need volunteers and participants in numerous fun events. I urge you to join us and enjoy the many activities going on at Toledo Bend and the surrounding area. **John Toliver, President**

May Membership Social & Blood Drive -- The TBLA May general membership social will be held on Thursday, May 5, 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 chicken enchiladas prepared by member Rhonda Dean. Please bring appropriate side dishes and desserts. Our program will be updating members on the Bass Unlimited – Back A Great Fighter fundraiser and membership feedback.

BLOOD DRIVE – May 5, 2016, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. TBLA is teaming up with the **LifeShare Blood Center** to hold a community blood drive prior to, during, and after our May social. LifeShare will set up their donor coach at SCOA Toledo Town Center and start taking donations at 5 p.m. ending at 9 p.m. If you wish to donate blood, you may want to come to SCOA early and then attend our carry in dinner and meeting. Anyone who donates blood is welcome to eat with us at 7:00 p.m. and stay for our meeting.

TBLA Volunteers needed for Sabine Parish 5th Grade “Take A Kid Fishing” event, May 3-5

TBLA volunteers are needed to assist in this event from 8 a.m. until noon at Cypress Bend Park. The three-morning sessions are hosted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Volunteers help the kids learn how to cast and fish. In addition LDWF conducts sessions on fish identification, bass fishing, and boat safety. If you wish to volunteer, contact Tim Dean at (318) 590-0599 or (520) 977-4664 or just be there.

TBLA Volunteers needed for Adopt A Road Trash Pickup on Sat. morning, May 7, 8 a.m.

We need a coordinator and at least 8 volunteers to help pick up trash along the two-mile stretch of LA Highway 191 north from Toledo Town to Lanana Bridge. **We will meet at the ice machine at Toledo Town at 8 a.m.** With the Bassmaster Elite Tournament on the Lake, May 12 - 15 we want the highways to look nice. The highway will be mowed the following week and it will be easier to pick up one piece of trash instead of 40 after they have mowed. Call John Toliver if you will coordinate or participate, 318-256-2401 or 318-332-5764 if you have questions.

Lunker Bass Replica Awards Sunday, May 22, 2-3 p.m. --TBLA will award the Toledo Bend Lunker Bass replicas at Cypress Bend Park Pavilion between 2 & 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 22nd, the last day of the Toledo Bend Sealy Outdoor? Big Bass Splash. Anglers who have registered their lunkers will be receiving an invitation letter in early May. If you want to see 140 or more lunker replicas at one time, don't miss this unprecedented event. At present we have a record 136 registered lunkers in our 2015-2016 Toledo Bend Lunker Bass Program.

Florida Bass Fingerling Release, May 25, 10 a.m. 1 p.m. -- LDWF and TBLA will conduct a public Florida bass fingerling release event on May 25th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cypress Bend Park launch parking lot. Local lake residents, property owners, and anglers are welcome to come by vehicle and pick up bags of fingerlings and release them in the Toledo Bend Lake only. We also plan to accommodate boat pick up. The number of bags will be limited to 4 or 5 per vehicle, depending on how many fingerlings we have. Come early or you may miss out if we run out. Call Ricky Yeldell at 318-315-1382 or 318-645-4755 for further information.

Bassmaster Elite Tournament May 12-15 – Come enjoy the weigh-in show and free family festival at the Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament, May 12-15, 2016, at Cypress Bend Park in Many, Louisiana. The Bassmaster Elite Series will once again return to the renowned fishery Toledo Bend Reservoir. The top professional bass anglers and their fans will head to Cypress Bend Park in Many, La. for four days of competition. Toledo Bend's designation as the No. 1 bass fishing lake in the nation by Bassmaster Magazine will have lots of eyes focused on what the pros can produce from Toledo Bend. It will be exciting to see, and perhaps play an important role for Toledo Bend to be named the No. 1 bass fishing lake for the second year in a row.

14th ANNUAL BASS UNLIMITED – Back A Great Fighter Banquet and Auction a GRAND Success By Pamela Toliver



Cypress Bend Park Pavilion on the #1 B.A.S.S. fishing lake, Toledo Bend, was the setting for the fourteenth annual TBLA Bass Unlimited—Back A Great Fighter Banquet and Auction on April 15, 2016. The event, coordinated by Ned Goodeaux, marked the culmination of Toledo Bend Lake Association's (TBLA's) major fundraiser for projects to improve the Lake and benefit the surrounding community.

More than 500 spirited TBLA members and Lake supporters gathered to enjoy the warm weather, the barbeque dinner, visit with friends, drop tickets into drop boxes in hopes of winning prizes, and bid on silent and live auction items. The stage area of the pavilion was decorated by the talented staff of Nichols, Inc., who hung netting, anchors, and signs on a background with a lighted TBLA sign as the centerpiece and placed greenery and plumes on the base to create an atmosphere of the Lake at night. This year, a dinner of barbeque brisket, chicken, and sausage was complemented by baked beans and potato salad and finished with blackberry cobbler provided by Maison Louisiane Catering of Natchitoches. The crowd was welcomed by Ricky Yeldell, Emcee for the evening, and John Toliver, TBLA President, who called for a moment of silence in memory of Debbie Nichols and Malcolm Williams, long-time supporters of TBLA and the banquet to whom this year's banquet was dedicated. Toliver then introduced Heidi Knight, a senior at Negreet High School, who sang a breathtaking a capella rendition of The Star Spangled Banner. After dinner, President Toliver introduced special guests, Carol and Will Newlin, President of the National Bass Unlimited Foundation, who donated their first Bass Unlimited Foundation poster for auction at the banquet. Emcee Yeldell then introduced Kevin McDonald, master auctioneer, who conducted the live auction for his 12th year; and he kicked off the auction by calling for bids on the poster. Villis Dowden, Ned Goodeaux, Ricky Yeldell, and Jason Brancamp served as spotters to identify bidders.

As part of the grand prize raffle, Raffle Coordinator Bill Galligan and Emcee Yeldell drew for two of the 52 guns—a grand raffle that's new and different this year. The lucky winners were Rita Villeneuve of Baton Rouge who won the Remington Versa max sportsman synthetic blued shotgun and Matthew Kebodeaux of Spring, TX, who won the

Remington 870 12 gauge shotgun. Additional winners will be awarded each Friday night from April 22, 2016, through March 31, 2017, to the person holding the ticket that matches the Louisiana Pick 3 lottery number. TBLA thanks the following 2016 major sponsors and supporters who graciously donated their money, time, and talents toward making this event a success:

- Toledo Town and Tackle for funding the TBLA caps
- Nichols for funding the TBLA caps and for decorating the stage
- Julian Foy Chevrolet Buick GMC for funding the visors
- Toledo Bend Lakeside Realty for the drink cups
- Sabine State Bank for donating the TBLA T-shirts
- Shelby Savings Bank of Hemphill and A / Real Estate Connection for the TBLA towels
- Coca-Cola for supplying soft drinks and Original Water & Air, LLC, for bottled water
- More than 50 businesses and individuals who sponsored tables
- The gracious individuals, organizations, and businesses that donated items for door prizes, drop boxes, and the silent and live auctions

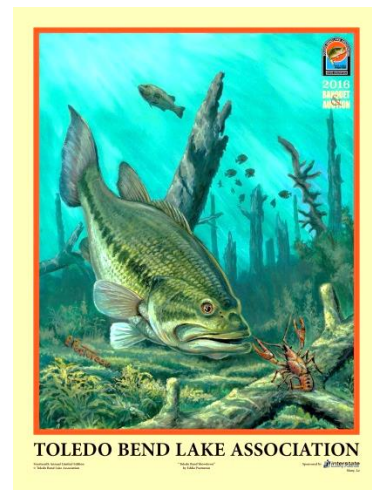
Without the support of all those who contributed to the event—whether through contributions of money or donations of goods, services, or time—we thank you.

Funds raised from this banquet will be used to meet the mission of TBLA which is to improve the quality of Toledo Bend Lake and the amenities surrounding it. TBLA has raised and contributed over \$750,000 to projects in and around Toledo Bend Lake Country since the first banquet held in 2003. See our web site at www.toledobendlakeassociation.com for more information on our projects and to join TBLA.

TBLA Poster Unveiling Kick-off For Bass Unlimited – Back A Great Fighter Event By Ramona Moore



Artist Eddie Pastureau, Poster Sponsors Kyle Martinez and Josh Garcia are shown with Kerney Briscoe and Liz McKinley who placed the winning bid of \$2000.00 for the original painting of “Toledo Bend Showdown.”
(Photo by Calley Gentry)



Artist Eddie Pastureau’s poster, “Toledo Bend Showdown,” is already a hit among TBLA Bass Unlimited—Back A Great Fighter poster collectors and the general public. His original artwork from which the poster was created and Poster Number One sold for big bucks at the Poster Unveiling and Auction held Thursday evening, April 7. The event kicked off Toledo Bend Lake Association’s 2016 Bass Unlimited—Back A Great Fighter fundraiser. All proceeds fund TBLA projects that improve the Lake and surrounding community.

Over one hundred TBLA 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. The Poster Unveiling and Auction has become an annual event and signals the start of TBLA’s major fundraiser culminating with the TBLA Bass Unlimited Banquet on Friday, April 15 at Cypress Bend Pavilion.

Decorations for this year's Poster Unveiling were provided by the staff of Nichols, including a portrait in memory of Debbie Nichols prominently displayed along with an arrangement of Calla Lilies, her favorite flower. The tables featured various arrangements, including distressed whitewashed lanterns filled with driftwood, candles and twinkling lights; floral arrangements with white and yellow flowers, ferns and pussy willows; and blue flat-bottom boats along with moss, boat paddles and cat tails. Nichols also sponsored and printed the Poster Unveiling programs prepared by Marlene Pitt.

Rhonda Dean welcomed guests to the event and introduced this year's poster artist Eddie Pastureau and poster sponsor Kyle Martinez of Interstate Building Materials. The sponsor and the artist dropped the veils to reveal the original oil painting from which the 2016 Poster was printed, along with signed Poster Number One. The poster features a bass contemplating a crawfish sitting on a log. An outline of Toledo Bend Lake is hidden in the picture.

Mrs. Dean thanked Mr. Martinez and Interstate Building Materials for its sponsorship and presented him with signed Poster Number Two, a tradition at the unveiling. Mr. Martinez expressed appreciation for the poster and their excitement over their sponsorship.

In addition to the poster sponsors, other organizations and people were instrumental in making the event a success by helping to underwrite the costs of the unveiling. Mrs. Dean recognized these sponsors by group.

- **Gold Sponsors:** Cypress Bend Resort, Nichols, Inc., and the Town of Many.
- **Silver Sponsors:** Leah V. Byles, D.D.S., Buddy Wood - State Farm Insurance, Judge Stephen Beasley, and First State Bank –Hemphill.
- **Bronze Sponsors:** Randy and Deb Pennington, Ben and Myra Smith, Toledo Town Realty, Warren Meadows Funeral Home, Big 4- Hemphill, Basic Trends Hair Salon- Hemphill, Toledo Town Inn, First Choice Real Estate Services, Tim and Rhonda Dean, Mitchell's Barber Shop-Zwolfe, Sheriff Ronny Richardson, and Rodrigues & Morgan LLC- Hemphill.

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.

The first piece to be auctioned was the signed and framed Poster Number One. Bidding closed at \$1100.00 with Ted and Carolyn Dove placing the winning bid. After bidding closed on the poster, auctioneer McDonald cranked up the bidding for the original oil from which the 2016 Poster was printed. This framed piece sold to Kerney Briscoe and Liz McKinley for \$2000.00. Next up for bid were original paintings provided by former poster artists Noah Bounds (2015) and Ron Kidwell (2014). Noah Bound's original acrylic, titled "Wood Duck Drake Study", sold to Terrell Ebarb of Market Basket for \$550.00. Ron Kidwell's painting titled, "Evening in the Cove" sold to Ben and Myra Smith for \$400.00.

To complete the activities for the evening, Mrs. Dean thanked the winners for their generous bids, expressed appreciation to all those who attended the unveiling for their continued support, and thanked TBLA members and others for their hard work to make the Unveiling a successful event. The 2016 Poster Sale began and Artist Pastureau was available to personalize and autograph purchased posters.

The 2016 Bass Unlimited Poster sells unframed for \$20 each and framed for \$40. They can be purchased at the Nichols store in Many, LA or through the TBLA web site, www.toledobendlakeassociation.com.

Toledo Bend Reservoir level was at 172.45 ft. msl. and receding, at 8:30 a.m. on April 25, 2016. Daily and historical Lake levels may be found at: http://www.toledo-bend.com/toledo_bend/index.asp?request=lake-level

For those of you who have not renewed your membership, this will be your last newsletter. If you want to keep up with what is going on at the Lake, please renew your members via the form below.

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