

## **TBLA'S BASS UNLIMITED BANQUET and AUCTION A BIG SUCCESS**

By Ramona Moore

Generous TBLA supporters braved the threat of rain to attend the 17th Annual Toledo Bend Lake Association's Bass Unlimited – Back A Great Fighter Banquet and Auction on Friday, May 10, at Cypress Bend Park Pavilion. The evening was the high point of TBLA's 2019 fundraising which supports projects that serve and benefit Toledo Bend Lake and the surrounding communities.

The evening began with guests browsing items available in the live auction, raffle drop boxes, silent auction, and TBLA merchandise. The stage area of the pavilion was decorated by Lauren Moore and the staff of Nichols. Emcee Ricky Yeldell welcomed the crowd, followed by 11-year-old Abby Shanley of Negreet, who sang The Star-Spangled Banner. Dinner was catered by the Brisket House of Jena, Louisiana.

TBLA dedicated the event to the memory of Mr. Glynn Carver, whose vision and leadership were instrumental in the development of Toledo Bend over its first fifty years. Linda Curtis-Sparks performed the dedication and presented the plaque commemorating the establishment of the Glynn Carver Memorial Scholarship Fund. The plaque was unveiled by his children Cathy Grigg and Curt Carver. This scholarship seeks to honor a true Toledo Bend giant and inspire future students to carry on his legacy to the Toledo Bend community and beyond.

Auctioneer Kevin McDonald took the stage and kicked off the evening's main event with the live auction. A highlight of the evening came when Harold Allen of Living the Dream Guide Service donated two guided bass fishing trips that sold for \$3000 each. He received a standing ovation.

Grand Prize Raffle Coordinator Bruce Rogers conducted the live drawing for the first two guns awarded in the 2019-2020 52-Gun Grand Raffle. Curtis Conkle of Conroe, TX won the Ruger American 6.5 Creedmoor in Go-Wild Camo, and Joe Cicardo of Zwolle, LA won the American Tactical 12 gauge over/under shotgun.

TBLA thanks the 2019 sponsors, supporters, and volunteers who graciously donated time, merchandise, money, and talents toward making this event a success. TBLA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and funds raised through this event will be put to work to support community projects around the Lake.

TBLA is grateful to everyone for making this banquet an event to remember, and we hope that you will put Friday, April 17, 2020, on your calendar for next year's banquet, as TBLA will be celebrating 50 years of dedication to Toledo Bend.



Photo Caption: Linda Curtis-Sparks announces the Glynn Carver Memorial Scholarship that TBLA will fund and award to deserving students around the Toledo Bend Lake area. (Photo by Calley Gentry)



Photo Caption: Cathy Grigg and Curt Carver are presented with a plaque honoring their father, Mr. Glynn Carver.



Photo Caption: More than 550 generous supporters braved the threat of rain for TBLA's Bass Unlimited – Back a Great Fighter Banquet and Auction. (Photo by Calley Gentry)



Photo Caption: The 2019 TBLA Volunteers for the Bass Unlimited Banquet.