

Mission of the Organization

- Promote sportsmanship and the protection of natural resources
- Promote the quality of Lake Fork fishery and other outdoor recreational activities
- Promote the future of angling through youth programs
- Promote a spirit of cooperation with local, county, state, and federal governmental agencies, and other civic organizations for the purpose of improving Lake Fork and its surrounding communities
- Promote items of interest of the membership at large

Next LFSA General Meeting

Our next regular meeting will be September 14. We will meet at Oak Ridge Marina. We will be considering a change in our Bylaws at this meeting. Come early and enjoy the great food.

President's Report

Micheal welcomed State Representative Dan Flynn to our meeting.



Representative Flynn updated members on many of the legislative issues that Texas will be facing this year.

Lake Fork Catch Bodes Well for Coming Toyota ShareLunker Season

ATHENS—The 2010-2011 Toyota ShareLunker season start is only six weeks away—hard to believe in this August heat—but the big bass are already biting on Lake Fork.

Fishing in 20 feet of water off a main lake point, Cameron Burnett boated a 14.44-pound largemouth July 31. "It was about 8:45 p.m., just before dark," Burnett said. "On the third cast into the spot—BOOM!"

Burnett was using a Huddleston Deluxe eight-inch swimbait. The fish, 26.75 inches long, now swims in an aquarium at Lake Fork Marina, an official Toyota ShareLunker Weigh and Holding Station. Burnett plans to release the fish back into Lake Fork at a future date.



Cameron Burnett caught this 14.44-pound largemouth bass from Lake Fork at dusk on July 31. It is now in an aquarium at Lake Fork Marina pending return to the lake.

Toyota ShareLunker program manager David Campbell scanned the fish to see if it carried an electronic tag identifying it as a previous entry into the ShareLunker program. It did not.

However, had the fish been caught during the spawning season, Campbell said, it would probably have weighed about 15.5 pounds. That would have easily placed the fish on the list of 50 biggest bass ever caught in Texas. Lake Fork produced one such fish last season, a 15.61-pounder caught by James Quisenberry on March 22.

Lake Fork Catch Bodes Well continued

The Toyota ShareLunker program accepts entries into the program from October 1 until April 30. Fish must weigh at least 13 pounds and be legally caught in Texas waters, public or private, to qualify. They must be turned over to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in survivable condition within 12 hours of capture. The fish are used in a selective breeding program before being returned to the angler. To submit an entry, call program manager David Campbell at (903) 681-0550 or page him at (888) 784-0600 and leaving a phone number including area code.

Last season saw 33 entries into the program, which tied for the second-highest number ever. The upcoming season will mark the 25th anniversary of the program.

Anglers entering fish into the Toyota ShareLunker program receive a free replica of their fish, a certificate and ShareLunker clothing and are recognized at a banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. In addition, if a Texas angler catches the largest entry of the year, that person receives a lifetime fishing license.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible by a grant to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation from Gulf States Toyota. Toyota is a long-time supporter of the Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of education, fish, parks and wildlife projects.

Way to Go Girl!

Since the first of July eight year old Haleigh Mitchell of Quitman has been raising money for cancer research. Haleigh's goal was to raise \$1,000 by the end of her summer vacation. Since an article appeared in the Wood County Democrat she has achieved her goal. In recognition of her efforts the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association presented Haleigh with a check for \$1,000 to match her efforts. Haleigh plans to donate her money to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.



Shown are Association Treasurer Sam Scroggins (left) and President Micheal Rogge (right) presenting Haleigh with the check.

Lake Fork Trophy Bass Catches Looking Up

ATHENS—Anglers seeking to catch one of Lake Fork's legendary lunkers are off to a great start to the 2010 fishing season.

After declining big bass catches for the last six years in the Lake Fork Trophy Bass Survey, nearly as many 7-pound or bigger bass were reported caught from March through June as were reported during all of the 12-month period from March 2009 to February 2010. Anglers participating in the survey reported 733 big bass caught from March through June 2010 compared to 746 for the 12 months ending in February.

"This year's cold winter delayed the spawn, which pushed the peak of entries into April," said Kevin Storey, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries biologist in charge of managing Lake Fork. "As a result, this was the first year since the survey began in 2003 that the number of entries was higher in April than in March."

The big bass boom in late spring and early summer was good news for the fabled Lake Fork fishery, which is generally acknowledged to be one of the best in the world. The seven-year average of fish weighing more than seven pounds or measuring 24 inches or more in length is 1,519 per survey year. However, that number declined to its lowest level of 746 fish reported from March 2009 to February 2010.

"The decline could be real, or it could be due to dwindling interest in the survey," said Storey. "Reduced participant interest is a common cause of declining reporting rates in volunteer surveys such as this. The first year starts off with enthusiasm, and then people lose interest. We also considered whether the decline in numbers was due to erratic angling or changes in the bass population."

Fisheries biologists have started to rely on volunteer surveys such as the one on Lake Fork to track trophy fish because so few are collected using the traditional method of electrofishing, often called shocking. "Electrofishing doesn't do a very good job of collecting big fish," Storey explained. "It's done at night along the shoreline, generally in water five feet deep or shallower. Larger fish are seldom encountered in these areas."

Comparing the numbers of fish caught by electrofishing with those reported in the trophy bass survey illustrates Storey's point. During the seven-year history of the Lake Fork Trophy Bass Survey, combined catches in all spring and fall electrofishing surveys have yielded 3,137 fish, only three of which were 24 inches or longer, and 12 weighed seven pounds or more. In contrast, anglers have reported catching 11,141 fish seven pounds or heavier or 24 inches or longer in the same time period.

Lake Fork Trophy Bass continued

Storey said the figures show that TPWD's management of the lake with a 16- to 24-inch slot limit works. "Of the 11,141 fish reported in the survey, 83 percent were weighed, and of those, 15.6 percent weighed 10 pounds or more," Storey said. "Anglers measured the length of 64 percent of the fish, and one-third of those were 24 inches or longer. The slot limit is producing impressive numbers of fish above the slot, as it was intended to do. Lake Fork still has a remarkable bass fishery, as it has for over the last 25 years. No other lake in Texas comes close."

3rd Annual
LAKE FORK, TEXAS

CRAPPIE TOURNAMENT

October 2-3, 2010

The Minnow Bucket Marina

Watch for more details in the weeks ahead about the LFSA third annual crappie tournament. This year's tournament is sanctioned by the **Crappie Anglers of Texas**.



**Remember
September 1 is the time
to renew your fishing
license**

LIVE RELEASE BOAT



The Live Release Boat has a busy schedule for the next couple of months.

AUGUST 28

Lake Fork 3 Fish Summer Slam
Lake Fork Marina
Arlan Jaeger Captain
Bruce Allen Helper

SEPTEMBER 4

Media Bass
Minnow Bucket Marina
Sandra Livingston, Captain
Sue Parish, Helper

SEPTEMBER 11

Mad Dog Moore
Rainswood Marina
Bruce Allen, Captain
Sue Parish Helper

SEPTEMBER 17

McDonald Big Bass Splash
Lake Fork Marina
7:00 AM-11:00 AM
Stan Kuhn, Captain
Jim Leggett, Helper

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Dick Walker, Captain
Richard Nipp, Helper

SEPTEMBER 18

McDonald Big Bass Splash
Lake Fork Marina
7:00 AM-11:00 AM
Sandra Livingston, Captain
Gene Stowe, Helper

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Rick McDougal, Captain
Bobby Flippin, Helper

SEPTEMBER 19

McDonald Big Bass Splash
Lake Fork Marina
7:00 AM-11:00 AM
Dick Walker, Captain
Walter Serbon, Helper

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Bruce Allen, Captain
Sue Parish & Carol Boykin,
Helpers