

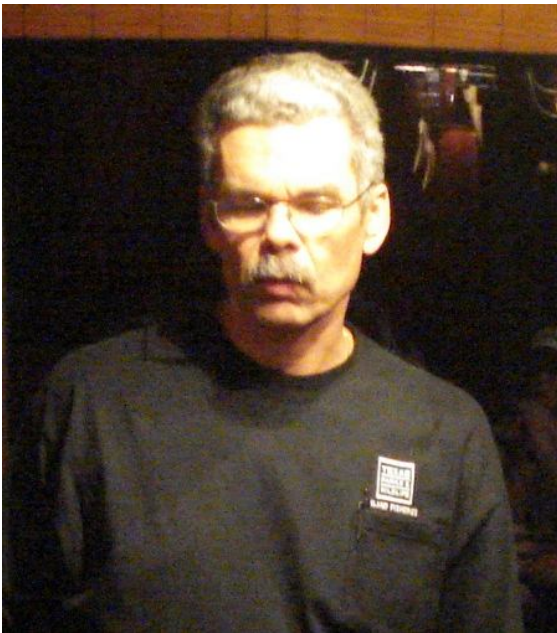
Mission of the Organization

- 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 March 8th. We will meet at Oak Ridge Marina. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm. See you there.

Kevin Storey Addresses LFSA



Kevin Storey, Biologist from TP&WD spoke at the February meeting of the LFSA. Kevin pointed out that until recent times Lake Fork has been a stable level reservoir. With the absence of rain and Dallas now pumping from the lake, Lake Fork is currently about 3 feet below pool. What this shows us is that much of the cover along the bank line is gone. For the lake to continue to be a world class fishery we need to provide cover for spawning fish. Kevin advised the membership of several options while the lake is drawn down. His suggestion is planting Buttonbush along the shore line.

Buttonbush is a woody shrub (3-10 feet tall) that occasionally grows into a small tree and can be found above water or in water up to 4 feet deep. It has shiny dark-green spear-or egg-shaped pointed leaves 3 to 6 inches long. The leaves are opposite or whorled in 3's or 4's along the stem.



Submerged portions of all aquatic plants provide habitats for many micro and macro invertebrates. These invertebrates in turn are used as food by fish and other wildlife species (e.g. amphibians, reptiles, ducks, etc.). After aquatic plants die, their decomposition by bacteria and fungi provides food (called "detritus") for many aquatic invertebrates. Buttonbush seeds are occasionally eaten by ducks but the bush itself is used for nesting by many bird species.

Flowers of Buttonbush are easily identified by their greenish-white tube flowers in dense ball-shaped clusters about 1 inch in diameter. Seed heads are brown.



At the conclusion of his presentation the membership voted unanimously to support the planting of Buttonbush. LFSA has committed to purchase 1000 Buttonbush seedling and plant them in areas needing cover. We hope to complete this project in the next few weeks.

Storey also advised the membership of a genetic study that will take place this year. TP&WD biologists plan an extensive study of 10 pound bass caught in selected reservoirs. Lake Fork has been identified as one of the study sites. Because of the Live Release Boat and our opportunity to handle some of the 10 pounders caught, the LFSA has agreed to help gather data for the study.

SRA's Butch Choate updated LFSA



Butch Choate spoke to the LFSA membership about the current status of the pump station. Dallas is currently testing the pumps on Lake Fork. At issue is the inability to pump at the manufacturer's rated capacity. Once these issues are resolved a pumping schedule will be determined. At this time it appears that under normal conditions Dallas would pump from Lake Fork during the winter months. While it is not in writing, Dallas plans to avoid any pumping during the spawn.

Butch also commented on the plans to plant Buttonbush. He stated that the SRA supports the LFSA's efforts. but cautions that common sense be used when planting near private use docks and boat ramps.

Quitman Pilot Club Chili Cook-Off

If you missed the Chili Cook-Off you missed a really good time. The LFSA "Pirates of the Chili-Bean were a big hit.



The Pirates of the Chili-Bean hijacked multiple prizes at the Chili Cook-Off in Quitman. We won the Best Showmanship Award, Best Overall Booth Award and the Rowdiest Team Award, and we took 2nd place for the Peoples Choice Award with about \$280 in tip jar collections. Our chili didn't take a top honor, but other contestants were coming to us for bowls of chili and putting money in our tip jar. That says something --- Thanks to all of the LFSA members who showed up and supported the team's efforts.



The Pirates holding up their booty!



Winning the Rowdy Award



The crew getting ready to serve up Chili



Pam and Lula getting into the spirit

Live Release Boat



The LFSA Live Release Boat is ready for another tournament season. Remember if you know of or are in charge of a tournament with 50 or more boats we will be happy to provide the LRB in support of your tournament. Contact Micheal Rogge to check availability. E-mail microg@texascellnet.com.



When will it be Spring????

2011 Emory Eagle Fest on Lake Fork



The inclement weather last week resulted in the postponement of the 16th annual Eagle Fest, which was scheduled last Saturday.

The postponement was announced early Friday morning by Rains Chamber of Commerce President Nan Satterwhite. In an emergency board meeting called by Satterwhite, the Eagle Fest festivity has been rescheduled for February 19.

The Fest will be held at the same location, the Rains High School. Time schedules for boat and barge tours remain the same. For more information, call the chamber office at 903-473-3913 or visit the Eagle Fest Website www.eaglefest.ezweb123.com.

Have you seen this character?



He has been known to impersonate LFSA President Micheal Rogge.

JESSE PARKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Presented By



The LFSA will be awarding a scholarship to a deserving graduating Senior from the Lake Fork area. Thanks to the work of Gary DeArmond, Cathy Bastyr, Carolyn West and Dick Walker applications are now ready to be distributed.

The LFSA has established the Jesse Parker Memorial Scholarship in honor of long time Lake Fork guide and businessman, Jesse Parker. The scholarship is in the amount of \$2000, payable at \$1000 a year provided all requirements are met.

The scholarship is open to high school graduating seniors. Preference will be given to students pursuing a career in the outdoors such as fisheries, biology, game warden, wildlife management etc. The purpose of the scholarship is to help insure that the outdoor experience will continue to be available for future generations to enjoy. The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association recognizes that this effort will require well-trained individuals.

Applicants will be selected from high schools in the immediate areas of Lake Fork (Wood, Rains and Hopkins Counties). In addition, close relatives of LFSA members (son/daughter or grandchildren) shall be given consideration, when appropriate.

A completed application is to be forwarded to the committee by April 15, 2011. The award will be based on applicants (1) showing the most need, (2) demonstrating civic involvement, (3) principal recommendation, (4) scholastic ability and (5) submitting a short essay about the applicant's love of the outdoors and perhaps their most memorable outdoor moment, experience or achievement.

Applications will be available from school councilors by March 1.

For further information or questions, please contact a Scholarship Committee Member:
Gary DeArmond: 903 569-7345
Cathy Bastyr: 903 383-3559
Carolyn West: 903 473-3718
Dick Walker: 903 473-9404

John Heimgartner Update



We are happy to report that John continues to make good progress from By-pass surgery. He is up and walking around and expects to be home in the next few days. John's wife Jo Anne wants to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

If you would like to send John a get well card it can be sent to Fisherman's One Stop 7933 West Highway 515 Yantis, TX 75497.

John we all wish you a speedy recovery.

Don't We Look Good!



The next time you see a LFSA member at a tournament you will have no problem identifying them. We will be sporting our new name badges. Thanks go out to Carol Boykin for her efforts in securing the badges and getting them distributed at the February meeting.