



Newsletter August 2011

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 13. We will meet at Oak Ridge Marina. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm. See you there.

Family Fishing Tournament at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, City of Athens

If you want to have a fun filled day the LFSA encourages you to take your kids to the Fresh Water Fisheries in Athens. The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center's annual Bluegill Family Fishing Tournament will take place this year on Saturday, September 24. Numerous prize packages will be awarded, including an X-Box 360 with game, fishing equipment and gift cards from local businesses.

Sponsors of the event include the Lake Athens Property Owners Association, Aaron's Sales and Lease Ownership, Best Western Royal Mountain Inn, Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites – Athens, WalMart Supercenter of Athens, Cole Air Conditioning and Appliance, Chicken Express and First State Bank. Sponsors also include Cabela's, Morrison Supply Company and Brookshire's Grocery. Brookshire's will provide free bottled water to contestants.

The tournament awards prizes for the heaviest stringers of sunfish, but the event is really about adults and children having fun fishing together. Teams must consist of one adult 18 years of age or older and one child under 18 years of age. Each team can weigh in a maximum of four fish. Multiple teams can fish from the same boat, making it possible for both parents to partner with different children and still fish as a family. Team members are not required to be related. Teams may choose to fish either on Lake Athens, which is adjacent to TFFC, or in TFFC's ponds and streams, some of which have been stocked with bluegills.

Anglers who plan to fish on Lake Athens are advised to check lake and boat ramp conditions before going to be sure water levels will permit launching. Contact the City of Athens, (903) 675-5131.

All species of sunfish or bream (except largemouth bass) are allowed; for information on identifying them, see <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/aquaticspecies/inland.phtml>.

Pre-registration is required. Mail registration must be received by Wednesday, September 21. To download an entry form, go to http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/nonpdfforms/media/bluegill_flyer.doc.

To request a registration form by mail, call (903) 670-2222. You may register in person on the day of the event by going to the admissions booth at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center AFTER 7:00 a.m. A \$15 entry fee per team will be charged. The entry fee includes admission to TFFC. Fishing will take place from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the weigh-in at the Anglers Pavilion at TFFC at 2:30.

For more information or to request an entry form, contact Craig Brooks at (903) 670-2222.

Sand Bass Love Them or Hate Them. What is the Answer?

Sand Bass: Some see it as an added species to fish for at Fork, while others see it as the end of good bass fishing. LFSA member Bruce Allen provided some of the following thoughts at our August meeting. While you may not agree with his concerns, it is certainly something to think about.

Of the "I like them gang" it has been said that it is another species to catch, they are good to eat, and they help knock down the ever growing population of shad.

Of the "I hate them crowd" it is being said that I'd really like to catch a few bass without catching a hundred sand bass; these things are eating the baby crappie and bass.

One school of thought is that we need a change in the creel length and limit restrictions to make any kind of dent in their population. At a lower length and limit, we could encourage more "meat" hunters to come to Fork to clean up these fish. TP&WD has always had a special interest in Lake Fork. The fisheries guys are still stocking the lake heavily with Florida strain bass. So they must still have hopes for a record of some kind. If we can convince them that the sand bass may have an impact on the fry and young bass, perhaps they may be interested in changing the restrictions to help knock down the population.

Many of us who fish Lake Fork, and those who have businesses that derive most of their income from the good health of the lake have an interest in doing something now while it is still possible. Burying our heads in the sand and saying it is too late is wrong. Making an effort is all we can do. Perhaps we will be successful.

The LFSA wants to thank Bruce for expressing the concerns of many. Do we have an answer or plan, no not really. We have asked TP&WD to come to our September meeting to share any thoughts or ideas that they may have that could have an impact on the growing population of Sand Bass. They have accepted our invitation, so stay tuned and we will give you an update next month.

Micheal Rogge to step down as LFSA President

President Micheal Rogge announced at the August meeting that at the completion of his current term as president in December, he will not seek reelection to the LFSA Board of Directors. Micheal indicated that it was time for someone else to step forward and take the Association to the next level. During his time as president, the Association has had a dramatic growth in membership. The LFSA has sponsored a Catfish Tournament that has brought hundreds of anglers from all over the country to fish Lake Fork, making a positive economic impact on businesses around the lake. Under Micheal's leadership the LFSA has made contributions to many deserving organizations.

While he will no longer be in a leadership role, Micheal plans to remain active in the Association and will be available to help in any way possible to continue our positive influence in the community.

Thanks Micheal for all you have done!

Support our Member Guides and Merchants

The Sportsman's Association is made up of Guides, Merchants and Home Owners. Our guides and merchants are important to the economic well being of Lake Fork. Encourage your friends and neighbors to schedule their next fishing trip with one of these member guides and be sure to patronize these merchants.

Gary De's Guide Service

Gary DeArmond

903-569-7345

garygonefishin@suddenlink.net

"Bassin' with Bubba Guide Services

Don Hampton

903/383-7748 or 902/360-6994

www.bassinwithbubba.com

fishnews@lakefork.net

LFSA Membership

The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association always welcomes new members. If you have an interest in fishing, boating or helping make our community a better place to live, a membership in LFSA might just be for you. For more information on membership or an application you can go to our website at www.lakeforksa.com or e-mail me at dwa1ker@verizon.net.

Remember to Fish Friendly

Fishin Trav

Melvin Travnichek

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Fisherman's One Stop

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