



P.O. Box 126
Yantis, Texas 75497

**Newsletter
March 2010**

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 April 13th at Moser's Restaurant.

President's Report

President Micheal Rogge welcomed new members Jim and Vicki Leggett to the Association. Peggy York, Secretary of the Wild Turkey Federation, was welcomed as a guest and potential future member.

Micheal thanked our members for all of their help and support during the past several months. Our image in the community has never been higher. We are being seen as an organization who gets things done.

Yantis Catfish Classic on Lake Fork

The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association has begun planning for the Second Annual Yantis Catfish Classic on Lake Fork. Last year over 460 anglers competed for more than \$24,000 in prize money. This year's event is scheduled for July 24th and 25th and will have a guaranteed cash payout of \$26,000. Some of the new features for this year's tournament will include a payout for the top seven big fish; along with senior, female angler and youth divisions. There will also be seven hourly payouts. In the next few weeks we will be posting the entry form and rules on our website www.lakeforksa.com as well as placing entry forms at all area marinas and merchants. Plan now to be a part of this exciting weekend.

Will You Land the Prize?

The race is on to catch ShareLunker 500! Since the ShareLunker program began in 1986, more than 480 big bass have been entered in the program. In 2010 number 500 could be caught. The angler who catches the 500th entry will get something extra: \$500 for every pound the fish weighs.

A lunker is a largemouth bass that:

- Is alive and weighs 13 pounds or more
- Is caught between October 1 and April 30
- Meets official [ShareLunker entry rules](#)

One of the biggest factors that influences the survival of fish entered into the ShareLunker program is how those fish are handled and cared for prior to being picked up by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) employees.

David Campbell, ShareLunker program manager, offers the following tips for handling big bass to avoid injuring them.



1. Wet your hands before touching the fish.
2. Using your dominant hand, grip the fish with your thumb inside the mouth and your fingers locked on the outside of the mouth. **(Continued on next page)**

(Handling big bass to avoid injuring them continued)

3. Support the rear of the fish with your other hand placed beneath the fish just forward of the tail.
4. Lift the fish out of the water in a horizontal position using both hands for support.
5. DO NOT hold the fish by the lower jaw in a vertical position. This can dislocate or break the jaw, practically guaranteeing the fish will not survive, since it will not be able to eat.
6. Handle the fish only when putting it into a livewell or holding tank. Do not keep the fish out of water or keep removing it from the water for photographs. "Remember that the fish has to be in the water to be able to breathe," Campbell says. "The fish is already stressed by being caught and put into a different environment, and holding it out of the water increases the stress level. This may develop into a serious medical condition, and one to three weeks later, the fish may die. Taking photos is okay if everyone gets ready before the fish is removed from the water and is put back within thirty seconds."
7. If you must handle the fish, try to do so out of the wind and keep it out of water as little as possible. Wind can dry out the eyes very quickly and result in damage.

LIVE RELEASE BOAT



You asked for it, Live Release Boat training is scheduled to take place March 27th and April 17th. The training sessions will start at 1:00 pm at the storage facility. If you are not familiar with the location, the storage facility is located on Highway 154 next to Diamond Sports Marine. The topics to be covered are:

- Departure from Storage Unit
- At The Lake
- Returning to Storage Unit

If you have not signed up for one of the two dates please let me know as soon as possible at 903-473-9404 or e-mail dwa1ker@verizon.net (note the 1 in walker as actually the number 1)

Support our Member Guides

Gary De's Guide Service

Gary DeArmond Quitman 903-569-7345
e-mail: garygonefishin@suddenlink.net

Bassin' With Bubba Guide Service

Don Hampton Quitman 903-383-7748
e-mail: fishnews@lakefork.net

Stan Kuhn's Catfish Guide Service

Stan Kuhn Yantis 903-383-2921
e-mail: catfishguide@peoplepc.com

Loomis Lodge & Guide Service

Rick Loomis Yantis 903-850-1954
e-mail: rloomis@koyote.com

Mitchell's Guide Service

Mark Mitchell Sulphur Springs 903-438-0266
e-mail: mgs@suddenlink.net

Micheal's Marine/Guide Service

Micheal Rogge Yantis 903-440-0525
e-mail: microg@texascellnet.com

Lake Fork Outdoors Guide Service

Dan Silcox Alba 903-780-6595
e-mail: dsilcox@lakeforkoutdoors.com

Fishin Trav Guide Service

Mel Travnichek Yantis 903-335-1218
e-mail: fishintrav@peoplescom.net

LFSA Loses a Friend



Tommy Clyde "Tom" Brady

Many of you knew Tom Brady from his former association with Lake Fork and City National Bank in Quitman. Tom passed away this past weekend, losing his battle with cancer. Tom was a life long resident of Quitman. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Tom's family.