

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association
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Steve Jones of Dallas, Texas Wins the 2014 Lake Fork Catfish Classic

By Dick Walker

(June 22 - Quitman, TX)...Lake Fork's Sixth Annual Catfish Classic concluded on Sunday with Steve Jones of Dallas, Texas taking the \$5000 bonus prize for the largest fish weighed in the two-day Tournament. Jones landed his 13.15 pound channel catfish on Saturday.

Jones and all the other Tournament anglers competed individually for big catfish with cash prizes awarded for the four largest fish weighed each hour and bonuses paid to the those catching the largest seven fish overall. Including the hourly payout, Jones collected a total of \$6400 for his fish. This year's payout for all hourly and tournament top finishers was \$24,000.

Larry Jenkins of Dangerfield took second place and pocketed \$2,400 in hourly and bonus money for an 8.72 pound channel cat weighed during the fourth fishing hour on Saturday. Thomas Roedell of Moreland, OK captured third place and a \$1400 reward for his 8.28 pound channel cat that he caught on Sunday. Roger Stroman of Emory, TX placed fourth with a 7.96 pound channel worth a \$400 payday. Johnny Brown of Lindale pocketed \$300 for his 5th place 7.88 pound cat. Rodney Brantley of Sulphur Springs, TX followed in 6th place with a 7.57 pound catfish and rounding out the top seven was James Nugent of Weatherford, TX with a nice 6.92 pounder.

The most active hourly winner was Roger Stroman of Emory, TX with 6 fish weighed during the course of the two-day tournament. Joe Marler of Boyce, LA had 3 fish in the money. The top youth angler were Austin Alleman of Flower Mound, TX with a 5.49 pound channel cat. He was followed closely by Ross Brown of Lindale, with a 5.10 pounder. Priscilla Harmon of Lindale, TX took top ladies honors with 6.73 pounds. Joe Marler of Boyce, LA, topped all other seniors with a 6.15 pound channel.

The Lake Fork Catfish Classic was organized by the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association and Lake Fork Chamber of Commerce. Oak Ridge Marina served as its host. The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1999 to promote and help conserve Lake Fork as a world-class fishery. Its members are mainly lake-area homeowners, businesses, and guides. More information on the Association and its mission can be found on facebook and its web-site, www.lakeforksa.com.

The Lake Fork Catfish Classic's major underwriters are the Wood County Industrial Commission, and City National Bank. Other contributors included Brookshires of Emory, Fisherman's Inn, The Greater Quitman Area Chamber of Commerce, and Rains County Economic Development. KMOO 99.9 FM served as the event's official radio station.

The 2015 event is tentatively scheduled for June 20 and 21. Details and other information will be posted on the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association facebook page and web-site as they are developed.

More information on the tournament is available from Tournament Director Sam Scroggins at 903-763-2191 or scroggins@peoplescom.net.