

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

President's Report

President Micheal Rogge welcomes several new members to our Association. Welcome Andy and Torrye Vinyard, Larry and Jacqueline Matthew and Harold Bredemeier.

President Rogge also reported that the Board of Directors met with US Bass Trails a new tournament coming to Lake Fork. Of major concern is the trailering of fish to a remote weigh-in site. We have expressed our concerns to the organizers and we will be watching their success closely. We did appreciate the fact that they shared there plans with us and also share our concerns for the well being of the fish.

Catfish Tournament Report

"The Yantis Catfish Classic" was a huge success!

The two-day Yantis Catfish Classic at Lake Fork concluded Sunday July 19 with the top prize and \$6400 being awarded to Tim Morrow (Lindale, TX) for a 16.15 pound blue cat caught on the first day of the tournament. Fred O'Brain (Hobbs, NM) took second place and \$3400 with a 14.3 pound flathead, the only one of its species that earned prize money in either day of competition. The 12.05 pound blue caught by Rhonda Howard (Mesquite, TX) on Saturday took third place for \$1400 and Tommy Redmon's (Yantis, TX) 11.25 pound blue took fourth for \$900. Rounding out the top five was Dean Hutchins (Alba, TX) with a 10.85 pound blue cat worth \$550.

The most active hourly winners were Stan Edmond (Cason, TX) who weighed in 2 fish for a total of \$700 and Roger Stroman (Emory, TX) with 3 for a total of \$600.



The event was presented by the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association and Ken Freeman Outdoor Promotions.

The Minnow Bucket Marina hosted the event and a total of 469 catfish anglers participated. Anglers competed individually for big fish with four hourly cash prizes and a bonus jackpot paid to the those catching the top five fish overall. The total payout for all hourly and tournament top finishers was \$24,750.

The Catfish Classic's major underwriters were the Bass Pro Shops (BPS) Big Cat Quest Tournament Trail, BankTexas, the Sulphur Springs Department of Tourism, and the Wood County Industrial Commission. Other major contributors included the City of Emory Tourism Board, the Rains County Chamber of Commerce, the Rains County Tourism Board, The Minnow Bucket Marina, All-of-Us & the Gorman restaurants of Quitman, Fisherman's One-Stop, Froggy D's Bait Shop, John's Tire & Auto, Lake Fork Marina, Lewis King Bait Company, Lone Star Dodge of Sulphur Springs, Loomis Lodge & Guide Service, Micheal's Marine & Guide Service, and S&A Sportswear. KMOO 99.9 FM served as the official radio station for the event.

Special thanks go out to our member volunteers who contributed there time and energy during the tournament.

You can get additional information and photos on our Web site, www.lakeforksa.com.

Tournament Time



One of the great things about having the live release boat at tournaments is it gives us the opportunity to tell anglers about our association and our mission. We also get a lot of questions about the Live Release Boat and our care of the Bass prior to releasing them back into the lake.

The most frequently asked question is how to "Fizz" a Bass. There are two accepted methods of Fizzing.

FIZZING Fish

Method 1 "Through the mouth"

The "Through the mouth" technique (our preferred method), but you must be careful or you could puncture the heart. If you have addressed the fish and feel that "fizzing" is needed hold the fish by the lower lip and look straight down its mouth, you will see the "crushers" in the back of the throat. Locate the horizontal line formed by the "crushers" and insert the needle just above the line (see photo). You will feel a slight pop when you have entered the bladder, submerge the fish under water and watch the gas bubble out. **You DO NOT NEED and SHOULD NOT let all the gas escape.** You only need to let enough gas out to allow the fish to stay upright on its own. If you allow all the gas to escape, the fish will not have any buoyancy and will lay at the bottom not being able to swim very well.

Next LFSA General Meeting

Our next meeting will be **August 11**, at the Lake Fork Deli on Hwy 17 beginning at 7:00. See you there.

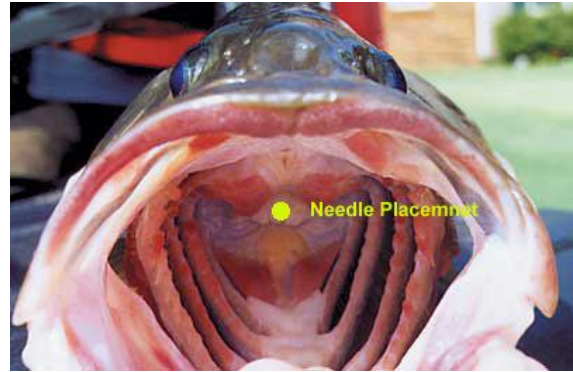


Photo of "Through the mouth" technique

Method 2 Through the side

The second technique is to "fizz" through the side of the fish. In this technique you need to be careful not to puncture the kidney or intestine. To complete this technique you will draw a vertical line from the notch formed by the dorsal fins to the anal vent. At the intersection of the lateral line and the line you have drawn you will move down to a point approx. 1/2 inch below the lateral line, at that point, you will lift a scale and insert a needle under the scale at a 45 degree angle towards the fish's head. As you insert the needle you will feel a pop when you enter the bladder, and hear the gas escaping. Hold the fish upside down under the water and watch the gas bubble out.

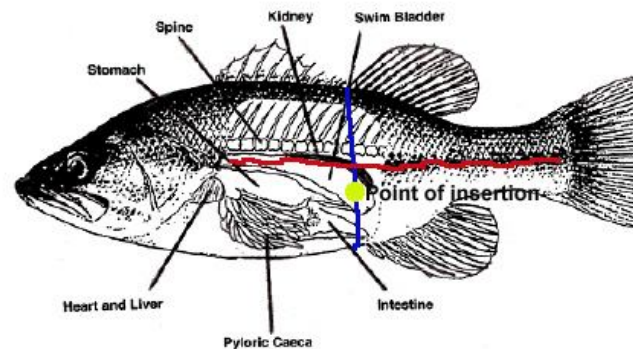


Photo of "Through the side" technique

Coming Events of Interest

Sponsored by:

Winnsboro Chamber of Commerce
September 12 & 13 Greater Northeast Texas Gun Show
and Outdoor Expo at the Winnsboro Auditorium.

LFSA
October 3 Second Annual LFSA Crappie Tournament