

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 January 11th. We will meet at Oak Ridge Marina. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm. See you there.

2011 LFSA Officers and Board of Directors



Pictured left to right

Dick Walker, Secretary; Larry Lewis, Vice President; Micheal Rogge, President; Sandra Livingston, Director; Sam Scroggins, Treasurer; Gary DeArmond, Director. Not pictured Arlan Jaeger, Director.



LFSA Annual Meeting and Dinner

President Micheal Rogge welcomed over 45 members and guests who enjoyed an evening of reflecting on our 2010 accomplishments. During the evening's program Micheal presented Larry Lewis and Bruce Allen with certificates of appreciation for their support of the Catfish Tournament. He also recognized the 2010 Board of Directors for their outstanding efforts throughout the year.

The Member of the Year Award was presented to Sam Scroggins for his many contributions during the year. Sam served as tournament director for the catfish and crappie tournaments as well as serving as Association Treasurer during the year.



President Micheal Rogge presenting Sam Scroggins with his Member of the Year Award.

LFSA Members Enjoying Dinner





LFSA Members Enjoying Dinner

2011 Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Count Lake Fork, Texas



Conducted by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

When:

Saturday & Sunday, January 8th & 9th, 7:00 am registration;
7:30 am departure. 8:00 am to 11:00 am official count hours

Where:

Oak Ridge Marina Café (903.878.2529) located at the southeast end of the Highway 154 bridge, on the east fork of the lake.

Everyone is welcome to participate on one or both days. The count is conducted from land and water. There is a particular need for boaters who are familiar with Lake Fork. Volunteers who have little or no experience identifying bald eagles will have an opportunity to learn from experienced spotters during the count.

Count Schedule: Volunteers should check in at the count headquarters by 7:00 am. We'll depart at 7:30 am in order to be in position by 8:00 am to begin the three hour count. Volunteers will return to headquarters before noon to submit the count for that day to the count coordinator.

Remember to Fish Friendly

Suggestions: While it's especially important for boaters to dress appropriately for the weather, those on the land should also be prepared to spend time outside while the count is being conducted. Volunteers are also encouraged to bring binoculars or a spotting scope to enable positive identification of all bald eagles spotted during the count.

Call or e-mail now to volunteer

(or for more information)

Count Coordinator Vincent Palmisano

832-233-0480 eagle1102004@yahoo.com

LFSA membership on the rise!

During 2010 the Association was fortunate to add a number of new members. To help you understand who LFSA is and how we came about, the following is a brief history of the Association.

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association A Brief History

By 1999 Lake Fork had more than proven itself to be a bass fishery of legendary proportions, bringing fishermen from across the country and around the world. This offered opportunities for business to grow and prosper all through the 1990s.

We had a lake that was handling the ever increasing fishing pressure it was under because of the successful and careful management by TP&W and their effective use of the slot restriction.

Then, in 1999 the unexpected happened and Lake Fork was hit by a bass virus. Reports spread quickly of fish dying off in large numbers and what was once the place to go bass fishing was now unfortunately becoming the place to avoid. The impact on business around the lake was dramatic and many businesses were suddenly facing very real financial jeopardy. Merchants organized in an effort to find ways to help promote more fishing tourism and called upon TP&W as well as politicians for economic help.

Some merchants felt what stood in the way of their business survival was the slot limit imposed by TP&W. Because of the slot limit, major professional bass tournaments had always passed on Lake Fork. Many merchants felt that bringing B.A.S.S. and other pro tournaments to Lake Fork would generate immediate business. The images of professional bass fishermen catching large bass would be broadcast coast to coast, and renew interest in Lake Fork. and bring back the fishing tourism. However, to bring the pros here would require waiving the slot restrictions.

Battle lines were quickly drawn, but only the merchants' side was organized. The other side of this issue amounted to little more than public opinion. Some individuals were calling TP&W to voice their opposition, but it became obvious that without an organized effort by individuals, their voices would fall on deaf ears, both at TP&W and with the politicians. Momentum was clearly on the side of those favoring the removal of the slot. Tension was building between those pushing for the removal of the slot and those who felt that it was the worst thing that could happen to Lake Fork.

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Rick Loomis, a full time guide on Lake Fork, sat in George Schwend's kitchen one morning and said "If something isn't done, the lake will suffer more damage than it may be able to ever recover from." Rick and George made a list of who could be approached to start to organize this public opinion. A series of meetings were held and support grew rapidly. Donations were made by those attending the meetings, but it didn't take long to realize that a serious legal fight would require significant funding. C. B. Hudson, a slot advocate, opened his checkbook and made a generous donation to support efforts to protect the lake. Legal counsel was engaged and quickly filed a lawsuit to stop the waiving of the slot limit restrictions. It was apparent to many of us that TP&W did not favor the removal of the slot, but were forced into their position by political pressure.

It was around the time of this lawsuit that the need became apparent to establish an association whose number one priority would be the protection of Lake Fork. Thus, the Lake Fork Sportsmen's Association was founded and thrives today. In an effort to find some solution the newly formed LFSA was invited to Austin to meet with TP&W. Both sides tried to find some common ground. The debate revolved around not really knowing what the impact would be to slot fish if they were dragged to the scales of a tournament to be weighed and later released back to the lake. Experts from both sides could not agree on what the mortality rate might be. There was no scientific data available to settle this issue. Both sides agreed to a study to be done at Lake Fork.

The results of a seven day study indicated a higher mortality rate than anyone had anticipated. With this data TP&W felt they had adequate information to end the debate and controversy once and for all. TP&W now had solid evidence that the removal of the slot would have a far reaching effect on the greatest bass fishing lake in Texas.

The LFSA having won its battle to retain the slot realized that steps needed to be taken to insure the safe return of all fish to the lake. A live release boat was acquired and has been serving fishing tournaments for several years, and this has successfully returned many under and over the slot fish to the lake.



The LFSA may have been born out of adversity, but survives today as an organization of dedicated sportsmen whose mission is to promote this great fishery, and stand ready to protect it if the need arises.

This information was taken from "**Lake Fork Sportsmen's Association, A Brief History**" written by George Schwend, a current and charter member of the Association. The entire history can be found on our website www.lakeforksa.com.

Christmas Sharing



With the holiday season upon us, it is time to think of those less fortunate than us. Again this year the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association Christmas Sharing Committee has placed donation boxes in the following locations around the lake:

LOCATIONS

Minnow Bucket	One in the tackle shop and one in the restaurant
Oak Ridge Resort	One in the tackle shop and one in the restaurant
East Fork Restaurant	
Yantis Restaurant	By the door
Fishermen's One Stop	By the door
Lands End Restaurant	
Big O Burger	
Verona's	By the entranceway
Lake Fork Resort	By the door
Restaurant	
Axton's Bass City	By the door
Rainswood Marina	By the freezer

Last year we were able to provide for twelve different families in Yantis area. Your donation of non-perishable food and new unused toys would be greatly appreciated. If you have a donation you can take it to any of these locations. In addition to your donations the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association will be providing \$500 worth of food.



Big Happenings at LFSA Merchant Member Oak Ridge Resort

Tracy and Barry Hatton continue to make improvements at Oak Ridge Resort. Since purchasing the Resort earlier this year the new owners have updated the restaurant and kitchen area. During the winter months they are serving breakfast, lunch and dinner on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. If you haven't tried them you are missing out on some great food and friendly atmosphere.

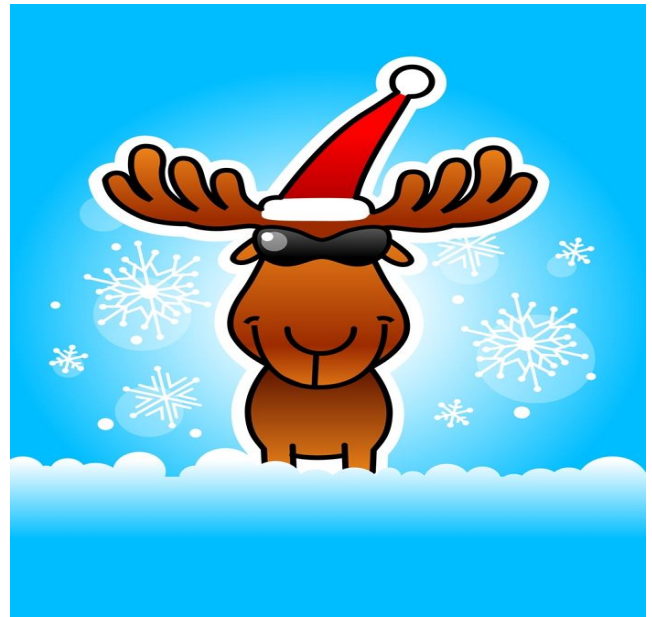
Now they have started a major renovation effort of their boat ramp.



A crew has dammed off the area surrounding the old ramp and are in the process of tearing out the existing concrete. When completed Barry says they will have a ramp that will accommodate two launches simultaneously.



It is just another example of Tracy and Barry's commitment to returning Oak Ridge Resort to a premier stop for fisherman on Lake Fork. If you are a Tournament Director you will want to keep Oak Ridge in mind for a future tournament.



The LFSA wishes you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year