

President:

Jeff Granger
 (682) 465-1622
 jeffgranger71@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Jim Phillips
 (817) 444-7480
 Newsletter7656@aol.com

Recorder:

Elaine Barnes
 (817) 444-7938
 Cb73eb@netzero.net

Treasurer:

Jim Justus
 (972) 296-6343
 jjustus@wbhq.com

Tournament Director:

Tim Johnson
 (214) 205-1998
 tjgrind@swbell.net

Assistant Tournament Director:

Roger Malone
 (817) 727-3687

Herschel Smith
 (817) 444-7938

Membership Director:

Mark Wendler
 (817) 528-0293
 markwendler@qtrailer.com

Sergeant-At-Arms:

Mike Fulkerson
 (940) 399-9833
 bigbassmike@embargmail.com

Webmaster / Newsletter:

Donna Gwin
 (817) 457-6292
 donna_gwin@yahoo.com

Board-Members-At-Large:

Claude Barnes
 Carole Coggins
 Gerald Coggins
 Joe Donato
 Linda Koch
 Daniel Perry

Board Member Emeritus:

James Bayless
 Carl Koch
 Danny Leatherman
 David Mulcahy



Celebrating 27 Years

Web site: <http://www.bcfw.org>

March 2010

Prez Says

I want to start out by saying we have had an interesting month to say the least. There are a few things that I want to say in this letter that everyone needs to read...so...let's get right to it.

This last month's fishing tournament was at Palestine and on Thursday we recorded the largest amount of snow that this area has ever seen in one day. The problem that we were facing was whether or not to cancel the tournament. I received phone calls supporting having the tournament and not having the tournament. I told everyone that the decision was in the sole hands of the tournament director. This decision was not based on those that already had hotels booked or those that were going anyway. This tournament was based on the facts of TXDot telling us the roads were clear and the problems of rescheduling . . . 100+ members . . . making sure ALL the members know that it would be canceled . . . rescheduling for a later date, we have some members that schedule their work week and vacation to match up with our tournament dates . . . so with all those factors in place, the tournament director decided to have the fishing tournament. I, as well as the board, feel this was the right decision and fully stand behind his decision. I understand if someone is upset because they could not get their boat out of the garage/carport, scared they could hit some ice and slide in the ditch . . . But . . . each person should make his/her decision for every tournament of whether it is safe for him/her to get there/fish. Please . . . if you disagree . . . call me, talk to me, I will listen, but I just don't want anyone causing a major problem with this club.

Next – the tournament. We had a tough and excellent tournament. I say it that way, because I did not get a bite and others didn't either...BUT...Bobby McCullough tore their butts up. He found not only one great fish, but two really good fish to go with it. 10.42 lb kicker that finished a 20.59 lb sack was over 9 lbs BIGGER THAN second place. Excellent job Bobby! Second and third place were not small sacks either...11.47 lbs and 11.22 lbs. I would be willing to bet that both 2nd place Richard Murray and 3rd place Tim Johnson probably thought they had the tournament won until they saw Bobby with a huge grin. Congratulation to all that caught fish and Great Job to all!

I also want to thank Hershel Smith for Chairing the St. Jude's Committee. Also serving on the committee are going to be: Jim Phillips, Mark Wendler, and Carl Koch. These are the people that are going to need our help in putting on an even better tournament than last year. Just a teaser . . . we are looking very hard at getting Squaw Creek . . . keep your fingers crossed.

Happy March birthdays to Dan Davenport, Bart Gavit, Bob Aldert, Monte Coon, Elaine Barnes and Tuesday Fulkerson!

Next tournament will be on Nacona and the launch is the public ramp by the dam. I was told it is the "DAM RAMP" (that is not the bad word that I just used). I hope that everyone that can come has a great time. This lake is known for big fish and I predict that there will be some big ones caught.

Remember...life jackets and kill switches save lives,

Jeff Granger
 President, Bass Club of Fort Worth

- ❖ Next Meeting is March 4th, Coors Hospitality Room, Meacham exit off I-35W. We have a speaker from Tailgate Locks.
- ❖ We would like to thank the speaker from Double Z Bait Company for talking to us in February.
- ❖ Audit of the treasurer's books was successfully completed. No errors found.
- ❖ We presented the check for \$12,000 to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.
- ❖ Hershul Smith agreed to head up the committee for 2010, with Mark Wendler, Carl Koch, Tim Johnson and Jim Phillips helping. You can contact any one of them to see what you can do to help.
- ❖ Johnny Reyes announced that he will donate a portion of proceed from flooring sales to the St Jude's fund, and has already donated \$100 in proceeds. Please contact Johnny for details on this program. It sounds like a good deal all around.
- ❖ The North Texas Team Challenge is coming up. We need ten good fishermen to represent our club this year. Mike Pannell is coordinating this one, so let him know if you are able to participate.
- ❖ There was discussion about changing our 'Top Six' to 'Top Ten' when membership exceeds 100 members, something to think about.
- ❖ Dan Davenport announced that the Federation is hosting a charity tournament on Squaw Creek, right now the date is May 1^{5th}, but since that is also our club tournament date, he will check on extending it to include May 1^{6th} also. Team tournament format, \$200 entry fee.
- ❖ Check the link to the Federation web site. We have several members in the top standings after the Stillhouse/Travis tournament, and in the Whitney/Limestone tournament, David Mulcahy took 1st place big bass, 2nd place tournament on Limestone, as well as other members in the top 10 places.
- ❖ Jim Phillips is now coordinating speakers for meetings, so if you know anyone wanting to speak at one of our meetings, point him in Jim's direction.
- ❖ Remember to ask Mark Wendler for your Bass Club of Fort Worth windshield sticker when you renew your membership, membership fees did not change; they are \$25 for single and \$30 for family memberships.
- ❖ Gerald Coggins has the men's six pound pot, Elaine Barnes has the one for the ladies.

BASS Federation News

If you need any information regarding the BASS Federation, contact David Mulcahy (817) 219-3359 or James Bayless (817) 996-0680. You may still join for the 2010 season. You must also have a regular membership to BASS.

Horses Patoot

And yet another new contestant, and a new assistant tournament director that shows up late for weigh-in? Congratulations to Hershul Smith, our February winner!

DATE February 13, 2010 LAKE PALESTINE

55	FISHED TOURNAMENT				
3	ANGLERS HAD 3 FISH LIMIT	8	FISHERMEN CAUGHT		
16	FISH WEIGHING	67.92	LBS.	AVERAGE WEIGHT PER FISH	4.25 LBS.

TOURNAMENT

1 st	MCCULLOUGH,BOBBY	20.59 LBS.
2 nd	MURRAY,RICHARD	11.47 LBS.
3 rd	JOHNSON,TIM	11.22 LBS.
4 th	BARNES,CLAUDE	7.45 LBS.
5 th	GOSSETT,DONNIE	6.25 LBS.
6 th	LEATHERMAN,DANNY	4.14 LBS.
7 th	POUNDS,DANNY	3.54 LBS.
8 th	JOHNSON,MATT	3.26 LBS.

BIG BASS

1 st	MCCULLOUGH,BOBBY	10.42 LBS.
2 nd	MURRAY,RICHARD	7.29 LBS.
3 rd	GOSSETT,DONNIE	6.25 LBS.

HEAVY STRINGER OF THE YEAR MEN'S
MCCULLOUGH,BOBBY 20.59 LBS.

HEAVY STRINGER OF THE YEAR WOMEN'S
COGGINS,CAROLE 3.11 LBS.

BIG BASS OF THE YEAR MEN'S
MCCULLOUGH,BOBBY 10.42 LBS.

BIG BASS OF THE YEAR WOMEN'S
COGGINS,CAROLE 3.11 LBS.

TOP TWENTY

		POINTS	WEIGHT
1 st	BARNES,CLAUDE	217.00	17.47
2 nd	MURRAY,RICHARD	210.00	14.29
3 rd	JOHNSON,TIM	208.00	13.74
4 th	TALKINGTON,CURTIS	197.00	6.48
5 th	MURRAY,MIKE	196.00	4.21
6 th	ALDERT,BOB	195.00	3.87
7 th	MCCULLOUGH,BOBBY	194.00	20.59
8 th	WILLIAMS,RANDY	193.00	3.48
9 th	COGGINS,CAROLE	191.00	3.11
10 th	GOSSETT,DONNIE	190.00	6.25
11 th	LEATHERMAN,DANNY	189.00	4.14
12 th	POUNDS,DANNY	188.00	3.54
13 th	JOHNSON,MATT	187.00	3.26
14 th	REYES,JOHNNY	184.00	3.53
15 th	PERRY,DANIEL	182.00	3.19
16 th	BROWNING,MIKE	180.00	2.83
17 th	BALDREE,RICK	177.00	1.97
18 th	BARNES,ELAINE	172.00	0.00
	BAYLESS,JAMES	172.00	0.00
	COGGINS,GERALD	172.00	0.00

NEXT TWENTY

		POINTS	WEIGHT
18 th	FULKERSON,MIKE	172.00	0.00
	GERATH,BJ	172.00	0.00
	GRANGER,JEFF	172.00	0.00
	GWIN,DONNA	172.00	0.00
	HANCOCK,MARK	172.00	0.00
	JUSTUS,JIM	172.00	0.00
	KERBAUGH,BRIAN	172.00	0.00
	KOCH,CARL	172.00	0.00
	KOCH,LINDA	172.00	0.00
	MALONE,ROGER	172.00	0.00
	MCLAIN,CHRIS	172.00	0.00
	MULCAHY,DAVID	172.00	0.00
	REEDER,RANDY	172.00	0.00
	SMITH,HERSCHEL	172.00	0.00
	SMITH,RODNEY	172.00	0.00
	WENDLER,MARK	172.00	0.00
	WENDLER,TRACY	172.00	0.00
	WOOD,MIKE	172.00	0.00

LADY ANGLER

		POINTS	WEIGHT
1 st	COGGINS,CAROLE	191.00	3.11
2 nd	BARNES,ELAINE	172.00	0.00
	GWIN,DONNA	172.00	0.00
	KOCH,LINDA	172.00	0.00
	WENDLER,TRACY	172.00	0.00
6 th	JOHNSON,JENNIFER	20.00	0.00
	JUSTUS,KIM	20.00	0.00
	SMITH,JULIE	20.00	0.00

BASS FEDERATION

		POINTS	WEIGHT
1 st	MCCULLOUGH,BOBBY	194.00	20.59
2 nd	BAYLESS,JAMES	172.00	0.00
3 rd	KOCH,CARL	172.00	0.00
4 th	MULCAHY,DAVID	172.00	0.00
5 th	SMITH,HERSCHEL	172.00	0.00
6 th	WENDLER,MARK	172.00	0.00
7 th	HURTADO,JOE	162.00	0.00
8 th	PANNELL,MICHAEL	162.00	0.00
9 th	GOFF,STAN	84.00	0.00
10 th	DAVENPORT,DAN	20.00	0.00

NEXT TOURNAMENT
NOCONA 6:00 AM TO 3:30 PM March 13, 2010

NAME	PALESTINE			
	# FISH	BIG BASS	WEIGHT	
	16	10.42	67.92	
MCCULLOUGH,BOBBY	3	10.42	20.59	100
MURRAY,RICHARD	2	7.29	11.47	99
JOHNSON,TIM	3	5.70	11.22	98
BARNES,CLAUDE	3		7.45	97
GOSSETT,DONNIE	1	6.25	6.25	96
LEATHERMAN,DANNY	2	2.88	4.14	95
POUNDS,DANNY	1	3.54	3.54	94
JOHNSON,MATT	1	3.26	3.26	93
ALDERT,BOB				78
BALDREE,RICK				78
BARNES,ELAINE				78
BAYLESS,JAMES				78
BIRCHFIELD,DALE				78
BRETT,SAM				78
BROWNING,MIKE				78
BURTON,MICHAEL				78
COGGINS,CAROLE				78
COGGINS,GERALD				78
DONATO,JOE				78
FARQUHAR,RONNY				78
FULKERSON,MIKE				78
GAMBLIN,CHRIS				78
GERATH,BJ				78
GRANGER,JEFF				78
GWIN,DONNA				78
HANCOCK,MARK				78
HURTADO,JOE				78
JUSTUS,JIM				78
KELLY,SCOTT				78
KERBAUGH,BRIAN				78
KOCH,CARL				78
KOCH,LINDA				78
MALONE,ROGER				78
MCCULLOUGH,WAYNE				78
MCLAIN,CHRIS				78
MORELAND,JIMMIE				78
MULCAHY,DAVID				78
MURRAY,MIKE				78
NELSON,KEVIN				78
PANNELL,MICHAEL				78
PARHAM,TIM				78
PARHAM,WES				78
PERRY,DANIEL				78
REEDER,RANDY				78
REYES,JOHNNY				78
SMITH,BILL				78
SMITH,HERSCHEL				78
SMITH,RODNEY				78
TALKINGTON,CURTIS				78
WENDLER,MARK				78
WENDLER,TRACY				78
WILLIAMS,RANDY				78
WOOD,MIKE				78
MULCAHY,CODY				78
PRAZAK,KEITH				78
SMEDLEY,DON				78

March Events:

- March 4th – Membership Meeting – Coors Hospitality Room.
- Speaker from Tailgate Locks

- March 13th – Club Tournament – Lake Nocona, public launch by the dam.

- Nocona is a big **largemouth bass** lake. It starts in the spring and goes through summer. Spring fish are normally shallow, building nests in the cattails or under boat docks. Tube baits fished slowly can land a big bass. When fishing spawning beds, remember catch and release. She deserves the opportunity to reproduce and after all, she will be bigger next year! Early spring along the dam is a surefire producer. After the spawn, aquatic vegetation starts to grow and bass move out of the shallows to the edges of the vegetation. This is a good time to wacky worm or throw soft jerk baits. On into summer, top water baits and buzz baits will produce lots of action early and late.

- There is standing timber uplake and in Farmers Creek. Although amounts vary, this lake usually has around 100 acres of milfoil and 25 acres of floating pondweed, as well as many boat houses. These features furnish excellent cover for fish. Rip-rap along the dam provides excellent habitat for bass and sunfishes. In early spring and winter, big bass can be caught deep on rocky ledges off the face of the dam.

- March 17th – St Patrick's Day

- March 18th – Executive Board Meeting – Sammie's BBQ Restaurant.

March 2010

Tournament Trail

March 13th on Lake Nocona

Backup Lake is

Launch is Joe Benton Park

State Regulations is 14" Minimum for Largemouth Black Bass

You can weigh:

Largemouth 14" and over

Smallmouth 14" and over

Spots 14" and over



Joe Benton Park Public Ramp

- Located just west of the dam off FM 2953. From Nocona, take FM 103 north, turn west on FM 2634 and then north on 2953.
- One boat ramp available
- No fee required
- Open all year
- Operated by North Montague County Water Supply District (940) 825-3282

Tim Johnson, our Tournament Director, would like to remind everyone:

- Running lights must be on until dawn. This violation is grounds for disqualification and a State law.
- Stay out of: NO BOAT AREAS; 1st time Warning; 2nd time disqualification.
- You must be at least 50 from swim areas and cannot tie up to buoys.
- Please observe NO WAKE AREAS.
- Also, it helps to pay for the tournament well before weigh-in. At the meeting is ideal, but before the weigh-in starts cuts down on the mayhem during.
- If you pre-pay for a tournament at the meeting and find you cannot make the tournament, contact any club officer before 8:00 PM the Friday before fishing to carry over fees to the next tournament.
- If you leave the tournament early, either sign out at the mailbox or let someone know you are leaving.
- Weigh-in is at 3:30 PM unless changed. Make sure the tournament director or assistant knows you are on time, especially if there is a line to weigh fish.
- Rule #16: There is a 3 fish limit, unless lake rules demand less. Each contestant must bring no more than 3 fish to weigh-in. Fish shall be in weigh-in bags or containers with sufficient water to keep the fish in good condition until they are released. Failure to do so shall result in a 1 pound penalty.

Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)



OTHER NAMES

Black Bass, Green Trout, Bigmouth Bass, Lineside Bass

DESCRIPTION

Largemouth bass grow 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm) during their first year, 8 to 12 inches (20 to 30 cm) in two years, 16 inches (40 cm) in three years. They are usually green with dark blotches that form a horizontal stripe along the middle of the fish on either side. The underside ranges in color from light green to almost white. They have a nearly divided dorsal fin with the anterior portion containing nine spines and the posterior portion containing 12 to 13 soft rays. Their upper jaw reaches far beyond the rear margin of the eye.

LIFE HISTORY

Except for humans, adult largemouth bass are the top predators in the aquatic ecosystem. Fry feed primarily on zooplankton and insect larvae. At about two inches in length they become active predators. Adults feed almost exclusively on other fish and large invertebrates such as crayfish. Larger fish prey upon smaller bass.

In Texas spawning begins in the spring when water temperatures reach about 60°F. This could occur as early as February or as late as May, depending on where one is in the state. Males build the nests in two to eight feet of water. Largemouth bass prefer to nest in quieter, more vegetated water than other black bass, but will use any substrate besides soft mud, including submerged logs. As in Guadalupe bass, once the female has laid eggs in the nest (2,000 to 43,000) she is chased away by the male who then guards the precious eggs. The young, called fry, hatch in five to ten days. Fry remain in a group or "school" near the nest and under the male's watch for several days after hatching. Their lifespan is on average 16 years.

Immature largemouth bass may tend to congregate in schools, but adults are usually solitary. Sometimes several bass will gather in a very small area, but they do not interact. Largemouth bass hide among plants, roots or limbs to strike their prey.

HABITAT

Largemouth bass seek protective cover such as logs, rock ledges, vegetation, and man-made structures. They prefer clear quiet water, but will survive quite well in a variety of habitats.

DISTRIBUTION

Largemouth bass were originally distributed throughout most of what is now the United States east of the Rockies, including many rivers and lakes in Texas, with limited populations in southeastern Canada and northeastern Mexico. Because of its importance as a game fish, the species has been introduced into many other areas worldwide, including nearly all of Mexico and south into Central and South America.

OTHER

Two subspecies of largemouth bass exist in Texas: the native *Micropterus salmoides salmoides* and the Florida largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides floridanus*, which has been introduced into many Texas lakes. The largemouth bass is by far the most sought-after fish in Texas. When anglers were asked to "name the fish you prefer to catch in freshwater in Texas", they chose largemouth bass three to one over striped bass, four to one over white bass, nearly five to one over channel catfish, and nearly ten to one over flathead catfish and white crappie. Because of the strong interest in largemouth bass fishing, there are hundreds of bass angling clubs in Texas devoted to fishing and conservation. Bass fishing adds greatly to the Texas economy each year and largemouth bass are highly prized for their value as food. Because of the species' popularity, it has been introduced into many waters in which it did not originally occur. As with nearly all aquatic species, pollution and drought are the biggest threats to the largemouth bass population.