

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association
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Tim Morrow wins the 2009 Yantis Catfish Classic on Lake Fork.

By Sam Scroggins

*(Jul. 20, 2009 - Lake Fork, TX)...*The two-day Yantis Catfish Classic at Lake Fork concluded on Sunday with the top prize and \$6400 awarded to Tim Morrow (Lindale, TX) for a 16.17 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 Yantis Catfish Classic was presented by the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association (Yantis, TX) and Ken Freeman Outdoor Promotions (Selmer, TN), and it was hosted by the Minnow Bucket Marina. 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. A total of 469 catfish anglers participated.

The catfish tournament was closely linked with the City of Yantis and their fifth annual Catfish Day Festival. Activities in Yantis included a Catfish Day parade on Saturday afternoon following the tournament weigh-in. The Yantis City Council, who served as the Parade Marshals, led the procession through down-town Yantis aboard the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association Live Release Boat. Numerous anglers from the BPS Big Cat Quest Tour participated in the parade with their state-of-the-art cat-fishing craft and tow vehicles. At the conclusion of the parade, the tournament anglers and other area residents were treated to a traditional fish fry prepared by the Yantis Volunteer Fire Department.

The Yantis Catfish Classic was open to all anglers, but it is also a part of the BPS Big Cat Quest Tournament Trail. The next stop on the Trail is at Eufaula, AL on August 8, then at Bend Lake, IL on August 28. Following two other tournaments in September and early October, the Trail concludes with its national championship at Memphis, TN on the Mississippi River on October 24-25. The Big Cat Quest's major sponsors are Bass Pro Shops, Toyota Trucks, and Coca-Cola. More on the Big Cat Quest can be found at the Ken Freeman Promotions web site, www.kenfreemanpromotions.com.

The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1999 to promote and help maintain Lake Fork as a world-class fishery. It is comprised mainly of local homeowners, business owners, and guides, but it also has numerous members who

provide financial and service support from outside the immediate area. More information on the Association and its mission can be found on its web-site, www.lakeforksa.com.

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.

The 2010 event is tentatively scheduled for the last full weekend in July. Details and other information will be posted on the Freeman and Lake Fork Sportsman's Association web-sites as they are developed.

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More information on this press release is available by calling Sam Scroggins of the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association at 903-763-2191. His email address is scroggins@peoplescom.net.

The attached photos are self explanatory. All are credited to LFSA Secretary, Dick Walker.