

## **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 October 11. We will meet at Oak Ridge Marina. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm. See you there.

## **LIVE RELEASE BOAT Makes Impact at McDonald Tournament**



Volunteer members of the LFSA manned the Live Release Boat during the three day Big Bass Splash. We are happy to report that the record 30 plus over the slot bass caught were successfully returned to the lake. LFSA would like to recognize all the participants in the tournament on how well they handled the bass in their live wells. Mother Nature gave us a break with the days being much cooler, making it less stressful on the fish.

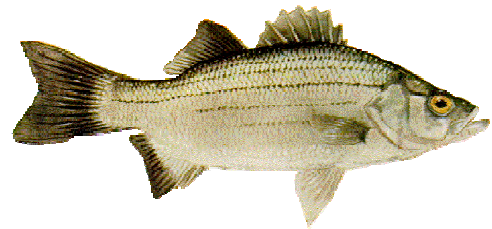
For the first time the LFSA informational booth was set up with a video showing anglers the proper method of fizzing a bass as well as proper handling techniques. Members Bruce Allen, Jim Leggett and Randy Bunch manned the booth.

Manning the Live Release Boat were: Friday, Sandra Livingston, Jim Leggett, Dan Silcox and Pam Bowden; Saturday, Dick Walker, Jim Leggett, David Waddell and Ron Bowden; Sunday, Larry Lewis, Gene Bass, Dick Walker and Richard Nipp. The willingness of these volunteers makes it possible for the LFSA to support the many tournaments held each year.

The LFSA would also like to thank the Quitman Boy Scouts who were our fish runners for Saturday and Sunday.

## **Sand Bass Love Them or Hate Them. Follow-up**

During the September meeting of the LFSA, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Biologists updated our members on the current state of sand bass in Lake Fork.



To be sure that everyone was on the same page the TP&WD representatives gave a brief description as well as a life history of the white bass.

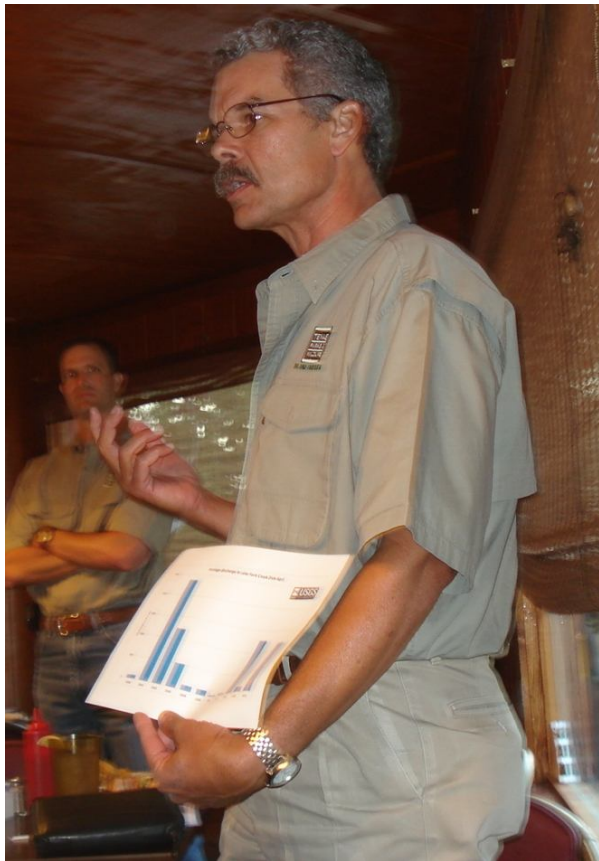
Like other true basses, the white bass dorsal fin is clearly double, separated into spiny and soft-rayed portions. White bass are silvery shading from dark-gray or black on the back to white on the belly. Several incomplete lines or stripes run horizontally on each side of the body. Adults resemble young striped bass, and the two are often confused. However, striped bass have two distinct tooth patches on the back of the tongue, and white bass have one tooth patch. Striped bass have two sharp points on each gill cover, as opposed to white bass which have one, and the second spine on the anal fin is about half the length of the third spine in striped bass, whereas it is about two-thirds the length of the third spine in white bass. White bass are active early spring spawners. Schools of males migrate upstream to spawning areas as much as a month before females. There is no nest preparation. Spawning occurs either near the surface, or in mid-water. Running water with a gravel or rock substrate is preferred. Females rise to the surface and several males crowd around as the eggs and sperm are released. Large females sometimes release nearly a million small eggs during the spawning season. After release eggs sink to the bottom and become attached to rocks, hatching in 2-3 days. Fry grow rapidly, feeding on small invertebrates.

(Sand Bass continued)

The current population explosion of white bass in Lake Fork can be attributed to the heavy rains and high water the lake experienced in 2008 and 2009. During the natural spawning time for white bass, the many creeks feeding into Lake Fork were over flowing. This provided an almost perfect spawning environment.

White bass may grow eight or nine inches during the first year. Adults are usually found in schools. Feeding occurs near the surface where fish, crustaceans, and emerging insects are found in abundance. Gizzard and threadfin shad are the preferred food items. White bass more than four years of age are rare.

As to TP&WD plans for the white bass in Lake Fork, there are none. Biological studies show that there has been no impact on the large mouth bass population in the lake. There are no plans to increase the catch limit or reduce the keeper size. Neither alternative would have a measurable impact on the white bass population. The expectation is as a result of the current drought conditions, spawning conditions will be extremely poor for the next couple of years and that will impact the population more that changing regulations. In the mean time if you want to hook a youngster on fishing, take him or her out on the lake and get them into a school of white bass and sit back and watch them have fun. And remember, the white bass are almost as good as crappie when it comes to eating them.



Kevin Storey Biologist with TP&WD addressing LFSA members.

## **Button Bush Round Two**

TP&WD has approached the LFSA about participating in another planting of button bushes around the lake. Earlier this year we jointly planted 1,000 seedlings in various low population areas around the lake. While some of the plants have survived, many died as a result of the heat and dryness. TP&WD has found a supplier that can provide more mature plants that are in pots. Again LFSA plans to assist in purchasing a quantity of these plants and will be trying to establish these aquatic plants. The hope is they will provide protection to young bass fingerlings during the spawn next spring. Anyone interested in being a part of the planting team can contact LFSA through our website [www.lakeforksa.com](http://www.lakeforksa.com).

### **LAKE FORK SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION FISHING FOR FUN INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT & FISH FRY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2011 OAK RIDGE MARINA**

#### **FOOD ~ FRIENDS ~ FUN**

OPEN FISHING	6:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
WEIGH-IN	11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
FISH CLEAN/FRY	12:00 p.m. -1:00 p.m.

LUNCH SERVED 1:00 P.M.  
Fish, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Hush Puppies & Dessert

AWARDS & MORE 2:00 P.M.

#### **TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

Fish for Bass (paper tournament - catch, measure, record & release), Crappie, Bream, Catfish, Sand Bass and anything else interesting you catch; bring to weigh-in. Prizes for big fish and largest stringer in each category.


Bring your lawn chairs and a cooler with your favorite beverage. Socialize with LFSA members & invited prospective members. Learn more about the LFSA!

**~ PLEASE RSVP ~  
SIGN UP AT THE NEXT LFSA MEETING  
OR CALL VICKI LEGGETT 903-388-2200**

## **Remember to Fish Friendly**

Lake Country Neighbors  
Presents



"Thank Goodness I'm Not A Pig"  
Pig Roast benefiting 

If you are looking for a good time you might want to check out the Lake Country Neighbors Hee Hawg pig roast benefiting the 4-H. The LFSA will have an informational booth to acquaint attendee with who we are and what we do. Also, LFSA members will be teaching kids the finer points of casting. Mark your calendar for October 15 and come out to the Rains County Fair Grounds.

### ***Support our Member Guides and Merchants***

The Sportsman's Association is made up of Guides, Merchants and Home Owners. Our guides and merchants are important to the economic well being of Lake Fork. Encourage your friends and neighbors to schedule their next fishing trip with one of these member guides and be sure to patronize these merchants.

**Gary De's Guide Service**  
**Gary DeArmond**  
903-569-7345  
[garygonefishin@suddenlink.net](mailto:garygonefishin@suddenlink.net)

**"Bassin' with Bubba Guide Services**  
**Don Hampton**  
903/383-7748 or 902/360-6994  
[www.bassinwithbubba.com](http://www.bassinwithbubba.com)  
[fishnews@lakefork.net](mailto:fishnews@lakefork.net)

**Loomis Lodge and Guide Service**  
**Rick Loomis**  
903/383-3050  
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**Fishin Trav**  
**Melvin Travnichek**  
903-878-2390  
[fishintrav@peoplescom.net](mailto:fishintrav@peoplescom.net)

**Fisherman's One Stop**  
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7933 W FM 515  
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Email: [foslf@peoplescom.net](mailto:foslf@peoplescom.net)  
Website:  
[www.ets-systems.com/fishermansonestop/index.htm](http://www.ets-systems.com/fishermansonestop/index.htm)

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Website: [lakeforkpropsnmore.com](http://lakeforkpropsnmore.com)

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**Danny Silcox**  
903-765-3611  
[dsilcox@lakeforkoutdoors.com](mailto:dsilcox@lakeforkoutdoors.com)

**Micheal's Marine/Guide Service**  
**Micheal Rogge**  
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