

The Winds Roared but the Anglers Prevailed at the Texas State Bass Tournament on Lake Amistad

Sam Scroggins
Tournament Director

It all began in 1955 when founder Earl Golding was a young outdoors writer for the Waco Tribune-Herald. Lake Whitney was newly impounded and for months Earl had listened to boasting and arguments around central Texas about who was catching the most fish from this new lake. Earl decided that there was only one way to settle the unsubstantiated claims, so he suggested a fishing competition to his Editor. The Editor agreed and Earl invited 75 teams from across the state to take part in the one-day competition at Lake Whitney to name the best fisherman. A month later, 73 teams showed up for the event and a new competitive sport, "tournament bass fishing", was born. In the weeks to follow, Earl received numerous letters and phone calls from fishermen across the state that had heard about the competition and wanted to be invited the next year. Seeing that something much bigger was on the horizon, Earl opened up the competition and organized what is now recognized as the forerunner to every bass tournament in the world: **The Texas State Bass Tournament**.

On April 14 & 15, 2007, the 52ND Annual Edition of the historic Texas State Bass Tournament was held on Lake Amistad on the Texas/Mexico border. Over 190 anglers gathered at Del Rio to participate in the 2007 Tournament. The anglers participate in one of six highly competitive tournament Divisions, and optionally share their team weights in a Bass Club Top 6 format. No cash prizes are awarded. The main prize at hand is a plaque that provides undisputed claim to the title of Texas State Bass Fishing Champion for the coming year.

On the initial day of competition, anglers were greeted with harsh north winds in excess of 30 miles-per-hour. Over night, the nasty north winds subsided, but then they became almost as strong from the south on the second and final day. Nevertheless, many anglers overcame the winds flip-flopping fury and pulled together some great stringers of fish.

Tom and Travis LeBlanc (Houston) took top honors in the Team Division with 47.78 pounds. They were closely followed by Rick Shock (Victoria) and Jim Poole (San Antonio) with 43.75 pounds.

Ray and Amanda Murski (Meridian) captured the Couples Division title with 47.89 pounds. They were followed in second place by the 2006 State Champions, Bill Wilcox (Burlson) and Barbara Potts (Ft. Worth) with 41.72 pounds.

The Individual Division was won by Bruce Benedict (Del Rio) with 23.22 pounds. Ricky Watson (Mansfield) was a close second with 22.70 pounds.

The Senior Team Division was won by Richard Hudson (Del Rio) and William Thaxton (Del Rio) with 16.25 pounds. They were followed by Norman Terry (Jacksonville) and Don Jones (Whitehouse) with 14.42 pounds.

Pedro Gutierrez and Pedro Gutierrez Jr. (Eagle Pass) topped the Adult/Boy Division with 29.09 pounds. Randy and Clay White (Haslet) took second with 24.58 pounds.

Jay Hakala and Mary Hakala (San Antonio) dominated the Adult/Girls event with 26.19 pounds. Mike Murski and Lauren Murski (Dallas) claimed second with 14.19 pounds.

The Top finishers in each Division are listed at the end of this Release.

Emma Boutte' of Burleson took top honors in the Big Bass competition with a 9.68 pounder. Clay White of Haslet, Texas, a youngster in the Adult+Boy Division, came in second overall and won the Boy's Big Bass competition with an 8.13 pound lunker. Not to be out-done by the boys, Lauren Murski of Dallas, a young lady in the Adult+Girl Division, took third place overall and won the Girl's Big Bass competition with an 8.04 pounder.

The Brush Country Bass Anglers of South Central Texas lead the Bass Club Top 6 competition from start to finish and took top honors with a total team weight of 125.13 pounds. They were followed in second place by the Arlington Bass Club with 110.36 pounds, and in third place by the Fielder Road Baptist Church Bass Club, also of Arlington, with 84.32 pounds.

In other activities, three new members were inducted into the Texas State Bass Tournament Hall-of-Fame. The Hall-of-Fame was formed in 1998 to honor those deemed as Legends of the State Tournament. The new inductees are Buddy Pannill of Fort Worth, and Emily Shelton of Lufkin. Their names will be displayed at the Texas Parks & Wildlife Freshwater Fishing Center in Athens, Texas along with the 49 other members who were previously bestowed with the honor.

The Tournament's 2007 Sponsors are Strike King Lure Company, Nitro Boats, Sewin' Sam's Outdoor Wear, Waypoint Marine, and the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce.

The Tournament Committee has announced that the 53rd Annual Texas State Bass Tournament will be held at Sam Rayburn Reservoir in 2008. Details will be forthcoming in early 2008.

More information about the Tournament is available at www.texasstatebass.com.



TEXAS STATE BASS TOURNAMENT

2007 Team Division Champions

Place	Total Fish	Total Weight	Champions
1	10	47.78	Tom LeBlanc (Sugarland, TX) & Travis LaBlanc (Houston, TX)
2	10	43.75	Rick Shock (Victoria, TX) & Jim Poole (San Antonio, TX)
3	10	42.52	Jimmy Johnson (Victoria, TX) & Jared Poole (San Antonio, TX)
4	10	41.39	Bruce Fisk (Azle, TX) & Dan Dale (Ft. Worth, TX)
5	10	38.86	Tim Blanchette (Blessing, TX) & Ted Sprencel (Victoria, TX)
6	10	37.02	Paul Roehr (Grand Prairie, TX) & Bill Lee (Keller, TX)
7	10	34.92	Bobby Murray (Fort Worth, TX) & Mark Murray (Runaway Bay, TX)
8	8	34.17	Danny Reaves (Shelbyville, TX) & Rollie Reaves (Decatur, TX)
9	9	32.21	Leonard Watson (Fort Worth, TX) & Wendell Bond (Burleson, TX)
10	10	31.80	M. C. (Marvin) Sims (Yantis, TX) & Bill Sims (Southlake, TX)
11	7	30.80	Dan Kessler (Fort Worth, TX) & Scott Johnson (Arlington, TX)
12	10	30.01	Michael Biggs (Ft. Worth, TX) & Ed Parten (Kingwood, TX)
13	9	28.78	Charlie McFarland (Burleson, TX) & Dale Rabe (Arlington, TX)
14	10	27.75	Chris Nunnelae (Lantanna, TX) & Terry Bellon (Frisco, TX)
15	10	27.25	Charlie Ford (Arlington, TX) & Gary Vick (Mansfield, TX)
16	10	26.44	Roy Carlson (Burlson, TX) & Randall Boyd (Westlake, TX)
17	9	26.19	J. D. Taylor (Arlington, TX) & Brian Cope (Southlake, TX)
18	7	25.76	Carl Wengenroth (Del Rio, TX) & Charles Stewart (Del Rio, TX)
19	7	22.29	Kevin Nowell (Arlington, TX) & Steve Hinchey (Keller, TX)
20	10	22.22	Mike McBurney (Sunnyvale, TX) & Gary Baldwin (Longview, TX)



2007 Individual Division Champions

Place	Total Fish	Total Weight	Champion
1	7	23.22	Bruce Benedict (Del Rio, TX)
2	10	22.70	Ricky Watson (Mansfield, TX)
3	8	22.31	Don Waddington (Granbury, TX)
4	8	16.31	Mike G. Davis (Katy, TX)
5	8	14.41	Dick Murray (Aledo, TX)
6	4	10.34	Cecil B. Dressendorfer (Huntsville, TX)
7	2	5.42	Ken Hubbard (Austin, TX)
8	2	4.57	David Holder (Spring, TX)
9	1	1.67	Robert Thompson (Spring, TX)
10	0	0.00	Dan Wilson (Pilot Point, TX)



2007 Couples Division Champions

Place	Total Fish	Total Weight	Champions
1	10	47.89	Ray R. Murski (Meridian, TX) & Amanda K. Murski (Meridian, TX)
2	10	41.72	Bill Wilcox (Burleson, TX) & Barbara Potts (Ft. Worth, TX)
3	10	37.46	William Polster (Riesel, TX) & Anna Polster (Riesel, TX)
4	10	36.94	Gary Barcroft (Emory, TX) & Jacki Barcroft (Emory, TX)
5	10	33.05	John Boutee' (Burleson, TX) & Emma Boutte' (Burleson, TX)
6	9	22.13	Larry Ledbetter (Ft. Worth, TX) & Laurel Ledbetter (Ft. Worth, TX)
7	9	21.95	Allen Hendrickson (Houston, TX) & Ruby Hendrickson (Houston, TX)
8	7	13.30	Kenny McCullough (Arlington, TX) & Stephanie McCullough (Arlington, TX)
9	5	12.43	Tony Dougherty (Azle, TX) & Nancy Dougherty (Azle, TX)
10	5	12.38	Gary Lane (Justin, TX) & Julie Lane (Justin, TX)
11	7	12.08	Robert Moore (Ft. Worth, TX) & Sherry Moore (Ft. Worth, TX)
12	2	6.78	Wiley Collins (Arlington, TX) & Martha Collins (Arlington, TX)
13	2	5.32	Clarence Steward (Haltom City, TX) & Norma Steward (Haltom City, TX)
14	3	4.92	Lindy Ellason (Houston, TX) & Sylvania Ellason (Houston, TX)
15	2	3.57	Thomas O'Pry (Milam, TX) & Donita O'Pry (Milam, TX)



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2007 Senior Team Division Champions

Place	Total Fish	Total Weight	Champions
1	5	16.25	Richard Hudson (Del Rio, TX) & William Thaxton (Del Rio, TX)
2	6	14.42	Norman Terry (Jacksonville, TX) & Don Jones (Whitehouse, TX)
3	6	12.07	Bill Boyd (Bedford, TX) & Hoyt Fincher (Ft. Worth, TX)



TEXAS STATE BASS TOURNAMENT

2007 Adult/Boy Division Champions

Place	Total Fish	Total Weight	Champions
1	10	29.09	Pedro Gutierrez (Eagle Pass, TX) & Pedro Gutierrez, Jr. (Eagle Pass, TX)
2	7	24.58	Randy White (Haslet, TX) & Clay White (Haslet, TX)
3	8	22.84	John Barns (Dallas, TX) & William Barns (Dallas, TX)
4	9	22.24	Robert Urbanovsky (West, TX) & Corbin Urbanovsky (West, TX)
5	7	14.07	Bret Stafford (Belton, TX) & Shane Stafford (Belton, TX)
6	2	7.69	Rene Ornes (Laredo, TX) & Rene Ornes, Jr. (Laredo, TX)



TEXAS STATE BASS TOURNAMENT

2007 Adult/Girl Division Champions

Place	Total Fish	Total Weight	Champions
1	10	26.19	Jay Hakala (San Antonio, TX) & Mary Hakala (San Antonio, TX)
2	4	14.19	Mike Murski (Dallas, TX) & Lauren Murski (Dallas, TX)
3	7	12.89	Jeff Mergele (St. Hedwig, TX) & Katie Mergele (St. Hedwig, TX)

2007 Texas State Bass Tournament

Bass Club Totals

Place		Sat. Net	Sun. Net	Total Weight
1	T6-Brush Country Bassmasters			
	Shock, Rick Poole, Jim	17.30	26.45	43.75
	Blanchette, Tim Sprencel, Ted	21.80	17.06	38.86
	Johnson, Jimmy Poole, Jared	21.21	21.31	42.52
	Total:	60.31	64.82	125.13

Place		Sat. Net	Sun. Net	Total Weight
2	T6-Arlington Bass Club			
	Ford, Charlie Vick, Gary	13.40	13.85	27.25
	Wilcox, Bill Potts, Barbara	20.80	20.92	41.72
	Fisk, Bruce Dale, Dan	24.41	16.98	41.39
	Total:	58.61	51.75	110.36

Place		Sat. Net	Sun. Net	Total Weight
3	T6-Arlington Fielder Road Baptist			
	Carroll, Johnny DeLaPaz, Freddy	9.59	6.91	16.50
	Kessler, Dan Johnson, Scott	23.50	7.30	30.80
	Roehr, Paul Lee, Bill	17.71	19.31	37.02
	Total:	50.80	33.52	84.32

Place		Sat. Net	Sun. Net	Total Weight
4	Westside BC Ft. Worth			
	Nowell, Kevin Hinchey, Steve	12.69	9.60	22.29
	Taylor, J. D. Cope, Brian	16.18	10.01	26.19
	Total:	28.87	19.61	48.48