



A 2018 Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame Inductee

FRIENDS OF THE RESERVOIRS PARTNERSHIP
CONFERENCE

Overview of Projects

October 6, 2018

Carolyn West - President



*** Overview ***

Lake Fork has a legacy as a fishery of grand proportion. To support the legacy of this aging reservoir, Lake Fork Sportsman's Association (LFSA) has dedicated their membership, time and resources to

“Preserving the Legend of Lake Fork”

Working with the Sabine River Authority (SRA), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the surrounding area citizens, LFSA has an abundance of active programs.



*** Projects ***

Live Release Boat (LRB)



LFSA's Live Release Boat is staffed with members who work fishing tournaments and provide proper care of fish caught and weighed. These fish are diligently nurtured and released back into the lake.



*** Projects ***

Live Release Boat (LRB)

- **24' Tritoon with Yamaha 90 HP Motor**
- **Equipped with (3) 100-gallon aeriated tanks**
- **Captained and attended by trained LFSA members at all requested tournaments – 25 tournaments yearly**
- **Priority: Return fish to Lake Fork in a healthy state**
 - **Members trained to:**
 - ✓ **Fizz fish with extended air bladders**
 - ✓ **Maintain healthy tank environment**
 - ✓ **Release fish in prompt manner during and after tournaments**
 - ✓ **Assist tournament fishermen with proper fish handling**



***** Projects *****

Live Release Boat (LRB)

- **LRB also used for:**
 - **Eagle Fest**
 - **Eagle Count**
 - **Habitat Improvement Projects**
 - **Fingerling Release**
 - **Data Collection of bass received**
- **LFSA negotiating for second pontoon to be used for Research and Restoration**
 - **Will be donated to TPWD with co-usage by LFSA**



*** Projects ***

Largemouth Bass Data Collection



- **Coordinate data collection with TPWD of size and weight data**
- **Coordinate data collection of DNA samples from “overs” collected on the Live Release Boat**
- **DNA data provided valuable input for the Athens Hatchery and the utilization of Share a Lunker Bass for fingerling production**



*** Projects ***

Fingerling Survivability & Release Project



The TPWD Athens Hatchery annually provides pure Florida fingerling for stocking in Lake Fork to help maintain the genetics of the lake. LFSA and TPWD have taken steps to improve the survivability of those released.



*** Projects ***

Fingerling Survivability & Release Program

- TPWD and LFSA working to distribute fingerlings across Lake Fork
- LFSA
 - Contributed fiberglass fish-hauling tank to TPWD
 - Identified suitable boat ramps in proximity to habitat-rich areas
 - Instituted a bagging operation for the distribution of fingerlings by local volunteers allowing fish to be “hand delivered” to areas of heavy cover
- Project deemed “huge success” by TPWD
- Expanded program will include larger/wider distribution and more involvement from community
- The inclusion of the citizenry brought great enthusiasm toward TPWD and LFSA



*** Projects ***

Habitat Restoration – Native Vegetation





*** Projects ***

Native Vegetation – Button Bush



- **Joint effort with Yantis High School Agricultural Class, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Lake Fork Sportsman's Association**
- **Bushes grown in Greenhouse granted by TPWD and built by LFSA on Yantis Campus**
- **Over 1000 labor hours contributed to project**
 - **Planted in the greenhouse; moved outdoors for acclimation prior to planting in Lake Fork**
 - **Growth and maintenance by FFA Class and LFSA**
 - **TPWD selected areas for planting**
 - **Planting of bushes by students accompanied by TPWD and LFSA completing the cycle of their project**



*** Projects ***

Native Vegetation – Aquatic Plants

- First experimental effort completed in August 2018
- Grown in Yantis HS Greenhouse by FFA Class and LFSA,
- Plants provided by TPWD
 - Bulrush, Waterwillow and Waterlily
- Used individual pots inserted in flooded large tubs
- Transferred to Lake Fork and planted on shoreline
- Monitoring growth and survival rate
- Current observation includes success for Bulrush and Waterwillow but Waterlily is undetermined at this point
- Program will continue, if deemed successful
- Will distribute in various locations around Lake Fork



*** Projects ***

Complex Habitat Restoration





*** Projects ***

Complex Habitat Restoration Georgia Cubes

- **Sixty (60) "Georgia Cube Style" Fish Attractors placed in Lake Fork over last 5 years**
 - **PVC Pipe and tubing intertwined in 48" cubes**
 - **Twelve (12) locations with published GPS locations**
 - **Striving for "Fish City" concept with additional structures**
- **Subsequent monitoring revealed habitation of fish**



***** Projects *****

**Complex Habitat Restoration
Pond King – Honey Hole
Attractors**

- **Pond King grant through Friends of the Reservoirs**
 - **Twenty (20) Honey Hole Attractors**
 - **Placed in two (2) locations**
 - **LFSA added additional “Georgia Cubes” to Honey Hole locations to create Fish Cities.**
- **Subsequent monitoring revealed habitation of fish**



*** Projects ***

High School Tackle Program



2016 LFO Champions

- **Virtually allows students to fish**
- **Collect used rods, reels, lures, baits and accessories**
- **LFSA member refurbishes and returns to like-new condition**
- **Receives applications from seven (7) team sponsors and captains**
- **LFSA gifts full range of tackle to teams in need**
- **Program continues to thrive**

QUOTE: "I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO BE ON THE FISHING TEAM IF LFSA DID NOT SUPPORT ME WITH THEIR TACKLE PROGRAM"

"LFSA IS THE REASON I CAN FISH."



*** Projects ***

Questions?



*** Projects ***

Thank You!