



Toyota  
Texas  
Bass  
2009 Classic

October 16-18, 2009. Lake Conroe.



✱ Yep, this is pretty close to the actual size of a lunker.

# Big news for bass anglers.

Bass anglers love catching big bass. That's why Texas Parks and Wildlife's ShareLunker program has spent years working on the genetics and selective breeding of largemouth bass, or "lunkers," with the goal of improving the quality and size of fish stocked in Texas lakes. Sponsor dollars have always been relied on to help pay for this important fisheries program. Thanks to Toyota, our new title sponsor, for providing funding to help make Texas a better place to fish and enjoy the outdoors through their support of **Toyota ShareLunker** and many other outreach and conservation programs in Texas.



# Classic comes to Conroe for year 3

Event: Angling, entertaining, conserving are cornerstones of 'Texas' biggest fishing tournament

The world championship of bass fishing will make waves at Lake Conroe in the third annual installment of the Toyota Texas Bass Classic.

The Oct. 16-18 competition benefits Texas Parks and Wildlife's efforts to introduce young people and urban families to fishing and the outdoors. This year's event represents a stronger effort to do that.

Lake Conroe is a showcase for TPW's fisheries and habitat management efforts. Native vegetation is being planted in the lake to improve water quality, prevent erosion and provide high-quality habitat for fish and other wildlife. This habitat — food and shelter — for young bass is the cornerstone of largemouth bass production, increasing the survival and growth of fish that have the potential to become lunkers. During last year's ShareLunker season, Lake Conroe produced four such fish, one a new lake record 15.93-pounder. The fish was also the biggest bass caught in Texas last year.

"Our long-standing stocking, research and management programs, along with Florida largemouth bass, have been a huge success and have totally changed the landscape of bass fishing in Texas," said Dave Terre, TPW's chief of management and research for inland fisheries. "At one time a 13-pound bass was a rare occurrence. To get in the Texas top 50 now takes better than a 15-pounder. That's simply amazing.

"I look at Texas as a crossroads where the science of fisheries management intersects with the needs and desires of anglers — and the Toyota ShareLunker program and the quality of fishing on Lake Conroe are great examples of that."

One of the most important factors in developing a trophy bass fishery like Lake Conroe is



David Walker, left, and Kelly Jordon land a fish in last year's Toyota Texas Bass Classic, held on Lake Fork. The tournament moves to Lake Conroe this year, and accompanying events will be held in Montgomery. Photo by Professional Anglers Association.

letting bass grow to the age at which they can achieve maximum size. Anglers have almost complete control over this factor by proper handling of fish and by releasing them after the catch. The format of the Toyota Texas Bass Classic promotes bass survival by having all fish weighed in the boat as soon as they are caught, then immediately released.

The only exception to this is that each angler may retain one fish 21 inches or longer to be brought to the weigh-in each day for a special big bass contest. These fish will be cared for by TPW biologists and released after the weigh-in.

Daily weigh-ins at the tournament venue, Buffalo Springs Development in Montgomery, will have special significance,

because for the first time the tournament will produce a true world champion bass angler.

The field will consist of 60 anglers. Twenty of the anglers qualify for the event from the FLW Tour, FLW Series or BASS Elite. The other 40 anglers qualify from the three PAA Carrot Stix Tournament Series events in 2009.

The field will compete head-to-head for the title of world champion.

In addition to featuring the biggest names in professional angling, the Toyota Texas Bass Classic will also offer a full slate of family-oriented outdoor activities and entertainment. The Outdoor Adventure Area will feature an archery range, fishing activities, touch tank, ShareLunker display and other ex-

hibits. There will be a variety of food and beverages available at the on-site concession stands, and the city of Montgomery will present a fireworks display and concert by the Kyle Hunt Band on the evening of Oct. 16.

Activities at the Outdoor Adventure Area will continue all day Saturday and Sunday. Saturday night's concert will feature Pat Green and Zona Jones. Sunday's weigh-in and crowning of the new world champion will take place between performances by Julianne Hough and Josh Turner.

CBS Sports will broadcast a one-hour special on the Toyota Texas Bass Classic on Nov. 21. It will feature highlights from the three tournament days with a focus on the crowning of the 2009 TTBC world champion.



## TICKETS

Advance daily tickets are \$10 each through the tournament Web site, [toyotatexasbassclassic.com](http://toyotatexasbassclassic.com). Tickets purchased at the gate will be \$10 for Friday and \$20 each day Saturday and Sunday. Children 17 and younger will be admitted free with a ticketed adult.

## FUNDRAISING

A minimum of \$250,000 from the event will go toward a donation to benefit Texas Parks and Wildlife programs. "Our primary goal with this tournament is to raise funds and awareness for TPW's educational and conservation activities," said Dan Friedkin, TTBC co-founder and Texas Parks and Wildlife commissioner. In the past two years the Toyota Texas Bass Classic has provided \$500,000 to help fund TPW programs such as the Neighborhood Fishin' Program, the Texas State-Fish Art Contest and other youth and urban fishing and outreach efforts.

## SPONSORS

Title sponsor for the event is Toyota. Tournament partners are Dick's Sporting Goods, Audiovox, Evan Williams, MillerCoors, 100.3 KILT, SportsRadio 610, Phoenix Boats, Waste Management and the city of Montgomery. The tournament will be held at Buffalo Springs, a planned development in Montgomery.

## A change in the rules

**Tournament: No teams this year; weigh-in will stay on the water**

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic is a unique concept specifically formatted for conservation aspects. The field will consist of 60 anglers who have qualified from one of two different point systems.

Twenty of the anglers will qualify for the event by being a top 20 angler from a point calculation system derived from anglers fishing the FLW Tour, FLW Series, BASS Elite and all three Carrot Stix PAA Tournament Series events in 2009. The other 40 anglers qualify for the event by being in the top 40 of all three Carrot Stix PAA Tournament Series events in 2009. The field will compete for the title of world champion, cash and prizes of \$500,000 with the first-place winner getting cash and prizes worth \$250,000.

The official competition days, Oct. 16-18, will consist of 6 to 7 hours of fishing per day. All anglers will fish for two days. The top 10 anglers from the first two days will fish on the final day, Oct. 18. The winner will be based on the highest cumulative weight from all three days of competition. Each boat will consist of an angler and a trained official at all times. Each boat will have the official TTBC measuring board to determine if fish are over the 21-inch length limit. Each angler is allowed to have one bass in possession

that exceeds 21 inches in length. Each official will have an IGFA-certified scale to weigh the fish in the boat. Bass must be a minimum of 14 inches long to count toward weight for the tournament day. Once the bass has been weighed by the official the angler must release it.

The five largest fish caught (of at least 14 inches or longer) per day are scored and may count towards the five-fish cumulative weight per day.

## 2008 recap: Lake Fork

**Competition: Texans on winning team last year, beating large field**

Last year's Toyota Texas Bass Classic was a unique team-angling competition in which \$750,000 was awarded in prize money, including

\$250,000 to the winning team. A generous donation of \$250,000 was also given to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

On the last day at Lake Fork, fans were treated to an exciting day of fishing as the final five teams jostled for the top spot. The team captained by Kelly Jordon of nearby Mineola certainly had the crowd's support though. The team was comprised of Jordan, Lance Vick, also of Mineola, David Smith and David Walker.

Jordon and Vick both served as fishing guides on Lake Fork. Jordon has lived in Mineola for 12 years and was a full-time guide for seven years. He was instrumental in the founding of the event, along with TPW Commissioners Dan Friedkin and Donato Ramos. Vick has lived and been a guide in Mineola for 14 years.

Last year's unique bass-fishing tournament grouped 104 professional anglers into teams of four. The event combined the conservation aspects of Lake Fork's slot limits with certified observers and on-the-water scales, allowing anglers to weigh fish normally not allowed on a slot-limit lake. The field was cut to the top five teams after two days of fishing, and the remaining competitors fished Lake Fork on the final day.

The event was originally created to highlight the unique conservation methods of TPW on Lake Fork. The donation from the Toyota Texas Bass Classic was spread throughout several TPW initiatives including their Neighborhood Fishing Program, the Texas State-Fish Art Contest and "How to Fish" videos.



Chad Morgenthaler, center, and Matt Reed, right, try to net a fish during the 2008 Toyota Texas Bass Classic. Anglers will compete individually this year, not on teams, marking a change in the tournament's format. Photo by PAA.

# Pat Green on fishin'

Lone Star Outdoor News' Thomas Phillips recently spoke with Pat Green about fishing and music. Green, who grew up in Waco, will headline Saturday evening's concert at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic.

## Lone Star Outdoor News: You're playing at a bass tournament, so what's your favorite kind of fishing?

**Pat Green:** Really, how could you have one favorite kind of fishing? I love just how intensely personal it seems like bass fishing is, largemouth bass fishing is. You can drive your boat over to a little corner of the stock pond or of the lake or the river and go, "Hey, that looks like a good spot." And you throw a lure in there and you see if that's the spot. And if you're right, you catch something great. And if not, you know, no big deal, and you go find another place. And I love also going out on the big water (offshore), and there's nothing. Dropping a line down a couple hundred feet and see what's lurking around down there. Either one's fun. I guess what I think really about the big water is, you know, wow, there's stuff down there that could eat me. So yeah, it's fun.

## LSON: When was the last time you went fishing?

**PG:** The last time I went fishing was, gosh, it was this year. I haven't gotten to do a whole lot. We went down to Port Aransas and hit the reds a little bit.



Pat Green

## LSON: What's the biggest fish you've ever caught? Don't lie to me.

**PG:** I caught a wahoo down off the coast of St. Lucia that was 76 pounds. Was that 76 pounds? Check that. I don't know. A big wahoo. The biggest fish I've ever reeled in was that wahoo, and it was huge to me. I caught a big grouper one time that was about 50 pounds. That was freaky. That was like pulling a damn Volkswagen through the sand.

## LSON: You think you'll spend any time on lake Conroe when you're down there or will this be a working trip?

**PG:** No, I think they got me going out with somebody to go fishing, one of the pros. And that's gonna be funny. You know I'll set something wrong on the reel and give them a big bird's nest in there.\*

## LSON: You have a song, "West Texas Holiday." It's all about hunting. When can we expect a fishing equivalent from you?

**PG:** You know that's a great question. I don't know. (I've been) a huge fan of (Robert Earl Keen's) "The Five Pound Bass" my whole life, so obviously I'm lacking in that area.

## LSON: What's on your new album, *What I'm For*, that will appeal to bass anglers?

**PG:** I think the title track, "What I'm For," is, man, that's as good as I can do. As far as the everyman song, that's it. But I certainly love "Footsteps of Our Fathers," talking about the guys that I look up to the most, my family. And my parents were certainly everything to me growing up.

## LSON: What else about your bass fishing or fishing do you think all our readers would like to know?

**PG:** Well I think fishing is a lot like playing the guitar. People do what they want to do to relax and to enjoy themselves when they're not doing what they're getting paid to do.

I'm just lucky enough and so are those pros that go down there to the bass classic. I'm just lucky enough to get paid to do what I love to do.

\*Although a pro-amateur fishing event will be held, Green is not scheduled to participate.



**J**osh Turner, a South Carolina native, moved to Nashville to pursue a career in music while attending college at Belmont University. It was then he went through a classical training vocal program and met his wife, Jennifer. In December of 2001, Turner debuted at the Grand Ole Opry with the song, "Long Black Train." Two years later, he released his debut album *Long Black Train* that included the title track, which spent more than 40 weeks on the *Billboard* country charts reaching No. 13 in the rankings.

In early 2006, Turner released his second album that went platinum and featured top single "Your Man" that reached No. 1. He was considered for the Best Male Country Vocal Performance and Best Country Album awards at the 2006 Grammy Awards. His fourth album, *Haywire*, will be released next month.



**J**ulianne Hough's country music career is the latest chapter in her journey as a performer. She immersed herself in dance when she started studying performing arts abroad in London for five years as a teenager. The Utah native then elected to leave an international career to move to Los Angeles. She became well-known on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars," where she became a two-time champion.

But Hough always dreamed of a career in country music and would make regular trips to Nashville in her spare time. It was there that she recorded "Will You Dance With Me." The song peaked at No. 8 on iTunes's country charts despite never being released to radio. Last year, she released her debut album *Julianne Hough*. Since then she was named the Academy of Country Music's 2009 Best New Artist.

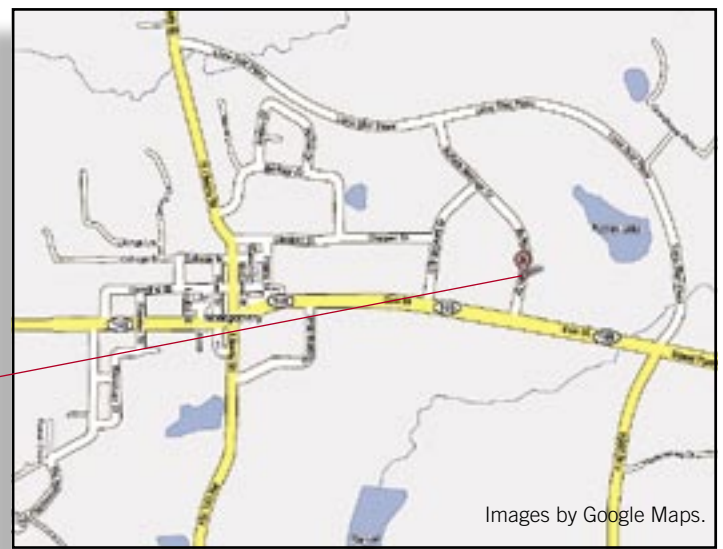
Photo by Andrea Barbe

## THE CONCERT LINEUP

**Friday:**  
Kyle Hunt Band at 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday:**  
Pat Green at 5 p.m.  
Zona Jones at 1 p.m.

**Sunday:**  
Josh Turner at 5 p.m.  
Julianne Hough at 1 p.m.



Images by Google Maps.

# DIRECTIONS

## FIND IT

Activities of the Toyota Texas Bass Classic other than the fishing tournament will be held at the Lake Conroe Event Office. The office is located off Texas 105, 1 mile east of Texas 149 in Montgomery.

### Event Address:

Lake Conroe Event Office  
200 N. Buffalo Springs Dr.  
Montgomery, TX 77356

### Coordinates:

LATITUDE: 30.3885  
LONGITUDE: -95.6832  
N 30° 23' 18.89"  
W 095° 40' 59.42"

### From Dallas (North):

Take I-45 South toward Conroe (approximately 200 miles). Take Exit 88 toward TX Loop 336. Turn right at TX Loop 336 W/TX 336 for approximately 1 mile. Turn right onto TX 105 W (approximately 12 miles) and follow signs to the event parking lot.

### From Beaumont (East):

Take TX 105 W toward Conroe (approximately 85 miles). Turn right on TX Loop 336 (approximately 6 miles). Turn right on TX 105 W (approximately 12 miles) and follow signs to the event parking lot.

### From Houston (South):

Take I-45 North toward Conroe (approximately 40 miles). Take Exit 87-TX 105 toward TX Loop 336. Turn left on TX 105 W for (approximately 12 miles) and follow signs to the event parking lot.

### From Austin (West):

Take US 290 East toward Conroe (approximately 85 miles). Turn left to merge onto TX 36 North (approximately 2 miles). Take the TX 36 Business Ramp and Turn right on North Park Street/TX 36 Business Ramp (approximately 1 mile). Turn left on East Blue Bell Road/FM 577 (approximately 1 mile). Turn left on TX 105 (approximately 24 miles). Turn right at TX 6 Business Ramp and Turn left at TX 515 SPUR (approximately 2 miles). Continue on TX 105 E for approximately 25 miles and follow signs to the event parking lot.



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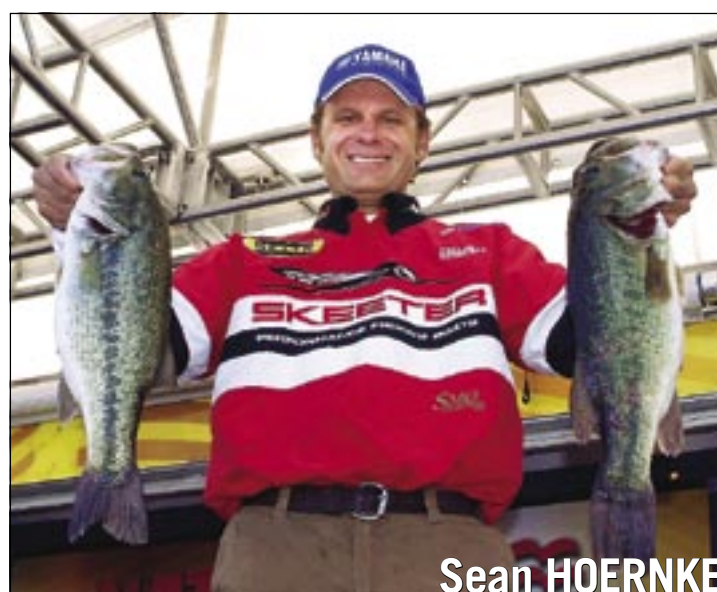
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# Texas favorites



Shinichi FUKAE



Sean HOERNKE



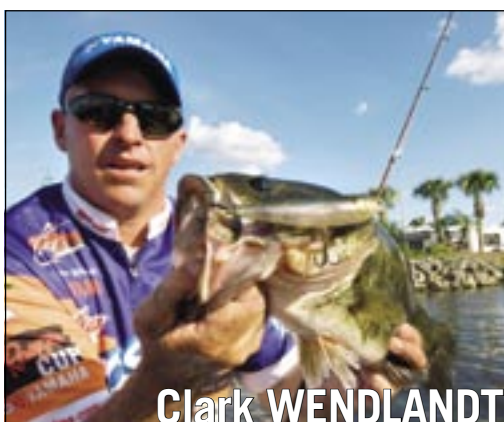
Todd FAIRCLOTH



Takahiro OMORI



Lance VICK



Clark WENDLANDT



Kelly JORDON

**TODD FAIRCLOTH**  
Jasper

BASS Events Won: 2  
FLW Events Won: 1  
PAA Events Won: 0  
Career Length: 13 years

Faircloth is a seven-time Bassmaster Classic Qualifier and a one-time FLW Championship Qualifier. He has 20 top-10 tournament finishes including wins at the 2008 Battle on the Border Pro and the 2006 The Rock Pro. He also finished runner-up at the 2000 Missouri Invitational and the 2002 Missouri Central Open.

**LANCE VICK**  
Mineola

BASS Wins: 0  
FLW Wins: 0  
PAA Wins: 0  
Career Length: 11

Vick did not finish the Toyota Texas Bass Classic in 2007, but he was on the winning team in 2008. The full-time Lake Fork fishing guide also has four top-10 finishes in his career.

**SEAN HOERNKE**  
The Woodlands

BASS Events Won: 1  
FLW Events Won: 4  
PAA Events Won: 0  
Career Length: 7 years

Hoernke is a two-time FLW Championship Qualifier. He has 17 top-10 FLW finishes, including wins at Sam Rayburn Lake in 1998, Red River, La., in 2003, Lewis Smith Lake, Ala., in 2006 and Lake Norman, N.C., in 2008. He also has four top-10 BASS tournament finishes including a win at the 2005 Central Open 3.

Sixty pro anglers will qualify for the Toyota Texas Bass Classic. The final field will be set in the days before the tournament.

**SHINICHI FUKAE**  
Mineola

BASS Events Won: 0  
FLW Events Won: 2  
PAA Events Won: 0  
Career Length: 5 years

Fukae is a four-time FLW Championship Qualifier. He has 14 top-10 FLW finishes including wins at Beaver Lake, Ark., in 2006 and Lake Okeechobee, Fla., in 2006. He also has one top-10 BASS tournament finish at the 2005 Northern Open 3, where he finished second. Fukae was named Japan's 2003 Bass Angler of the Year and saw early success in his rookie year on the FLW Tour when he became the first person to earn angler of the year titles in two countries when he was named 2004 FLW Angler of the Year. He also earned BassFan Rookie of the Year in 2004.

**TAKAHIRO OMORI**  
Emory

BASS Events Won: 6  
FLW Events Won: 1  
PAA Events Won: 0  
Career Length: 17 years

Omori is a six-time Bassmaster Classic Qualifier and winner of the 2004 Citgo Bassmaster Classic. He is also a six-time FLW Championship Qualifier. He has eight top-10 FLW finishes including a win at Lake Martin in Alabama in 2001. He also has 33 top-10 BASS tournament finishes, including six wins, with the most recent coming at the 2005 Central Open 2 and the 2005 Florida Citgo Bassmaster Tour Pro.

**CLARK WENDLANDT**  
Leander

BASS Events Won: 0  
FLW Events Won: 3  
PAA Events Won: 0  
Career Length: 17 years

Wendlandt is a four-time Bassmaster Classic Qualifier and an 11-time FLW Championship Qualifier. He has 33 top-10 FLW finishes including wins at Beaver Lake in Arkansas in 1999, Lake Murray, S.C., in 2000 and Beaver Lake in 2001. He also has 16 top-10 BASS including runner-up performances at the 1997 New York Invitational and the 1999 Megabucks Pro. He was crowned the FLW Land O' Lakes Angler of the Year in July for the third time in his career. He is the first angler to ever win the title three times (1997, 2000, 2009).

**KELLY JORDON**  
Mineola

BASS Events Won: 4  
FLW Events Won: 1  
PAA Events Won: 0  
Career Length: 13 years

Jordon was the team captain of the winning 2008 Toyota Texas Bass Classic team. Jordon is a seven-time Bassmaster Classic Qualifier and two-time FLW Championship Qualifier. He has four top-10 FLW finishes including a win in 2005 at Lake Okeechobee, Fla. He also has 27 top-10 BASS tournament finishes including wins at the 2001 Alabama Top 150 Pro, 2002 Alabama Tour Pro, 2004 South Carolina Citgo Bassmaster Tour Pro, and 2006 Capitol Clash Pro. Jordon is sponsored by Toyota.

# Toyota, ShareLunker lead to great things

Conservation: Texas bass, anglers benefit from program, funding

**A** child who participates in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Neighborhood Fishin' Program might not know it, but he has Toyota to thank for that outdoor experience.

Houston-based Gulf States Toyota is a long-time supporter of the TPWD and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, providing major funding for a variety of education, fish, parks and wildlife projects.

"We believe in what the TPWD stands for, in terms of conservation and environmental efforts," said JC Fassino, senior vice president of marketing for Gulf States Toyota.

The company recently became the new program sponsor for the state's ShareLunker program, which marks its 24th year this season. To date, 471 fish have been entered into the program. Those fish have come from 57 different public reservoirs and more than a dozen private lakes.

The Toyota ShareLunker program is open to anyone legally catching a 13-pound or bigger largemouth bass from public or private Texas waters between Oct. 1 and April 30. The entries are used in a selective breeding program at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. Some of the offspring from these fish are stocked back into the water body from which they were caught. Other ShareLunker offspring are stocked in public waters around the state in an attempt to increase the overall size and growth rate of largemouth bass in Texas.

Perhaps one of the highest profile events the company sponsors is the Toyota Texas Bass Classic.

"It's an important and fun event," Fassino said of the Bass Classic, which will be held Oct. 16-18 and partially televised Nov. 21 on CBS.



"We love what it means, and it fits in with what we do," said Fassino, whose company sells the well-received Tundra, a full-size truck that has pulled many a fishing boat.

The Professional Anglers Association-sanctioned event will be held at Lake Conroe. Sixty top anglers will compete for the title of world champion as well as \$500,000 in cash and prizes, with the first-place winner receiving cash and prizes worth \$250,000.

In addition to shining the light on the stars of professional angling, the Toyota Texas Bass Classic also will offer family-oriented outdoor activities and entertainment, including a fireworks display.

Musicians slated to perform during the

three-day event are the Kyle Hunt Band, country star Pat Green, Zona Jones, Julianne Hough and Josh Turner.

A minimum of \$250,000 from the event will be donated to TPWD programs.

"Our primary goal with this tournament is to raise funds and awareness for TPWD's educational and conservation activities," said Dan Friedkin, TTBC co-founder, TPWD commissioner and owner of Gulf States Toyota.

In the past two years, the Classic has provided \$500,000 to help fund such programs as the Neighborhood Fishin' Program, the Texas State-Fish Art Contest and other youth and urban fishing and outreach efforts.

For tickets or more information about



Left, Ricky Bearden caught the new Lake Conroe largemouth bass record Jan. 30. The fish weighed 15.93 pounds, and it was the heaviest bass caught in Texas during last year's ShareLunker season.

Above, the winners of last year's Toyota Texas Bass Classic hoist the trophy overhead.

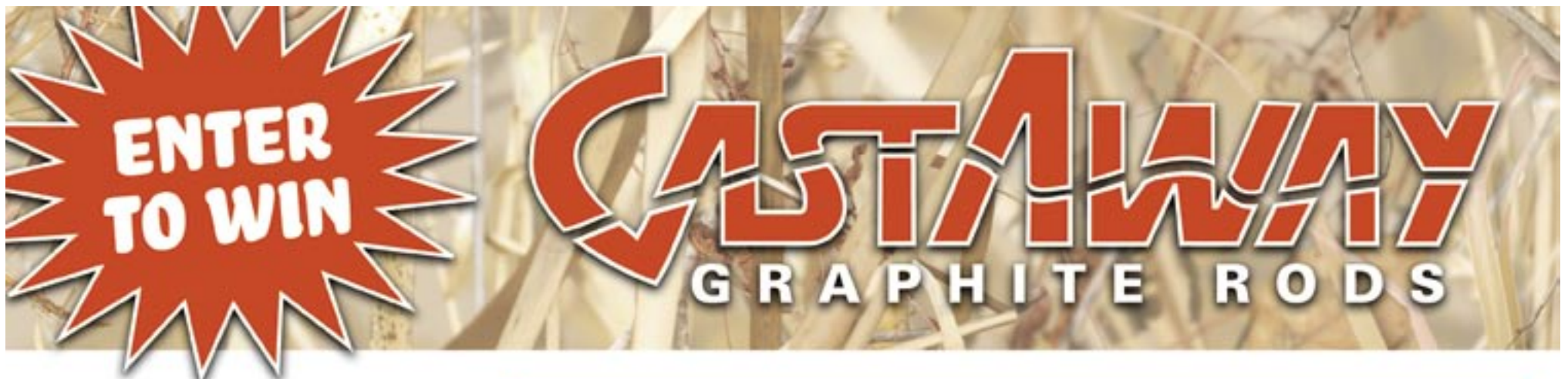
## Better for bass

The ShareLunker program has helped in the development of trophy largemouth bass fisheries in more ways than by better breeding. The fish have benefited from the ShareLunker program.

When the program began, little was known about the procedures needed to care for big bass. Early in the program, many entries died while at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department facilities. Over time better care has increased survival to the point that nearly all fish entered into the program survive to be used for spawning or returned to the wild. Even more importantly, proper fish handling techniques have been publicized as part of the program, so that anglers are now able to take better care of any fish they catch.

It takes eight to 10 years for a bass to grow to 13-pound size, so being tender with bass is crucial. A bass caught at 5 pounds could grow into a 15-pounder, but only if it survives being caught.

the Toyota Texas Bass Classic, visit [www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com](http://www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com). To learn more about the Toyota ShareLunker Program, visit [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/sharelunker](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/sharelunker).



Come by our booth at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic Oct. 16th-18th to enter a drawing for a **FREE** First Edition Skeleton SIC Castaway Camouflage rod. Drawing to be held at 1:00 p.m. Oct. 18th.

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- Denny Brauer, Pro Bass Angler

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-Cliff Pace, B.A.S.S. Elite Series Angler

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