

## TBLA - Bass Unlimited Debuts 2019 Painting

By: Ramona Moore

Local artist Linda Boren presented her 2019 painting at the Toledo Bend Lake Association Poster Unveiling and Auction held on April 4, at Cypress Bend Resort. The Unveiling signals the start of TBLA's 17th Annual Fundraiser that will culminate with the Bass Unlimited – Back A Great Fighter Banquet on Friday, May 10 at Cypress Bend Pavilion.

The crowd of over 120 guests gathered in the Grand Ballroom, which was professionally decorated by Lauren Moore and the talented staff of Nichols. Cypress Bend prepared a delicious variety of hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages. Rhonda Dean welcomed the guests, and Calley Gentry sang the National Anthem.

Ms. Dean introduced Ms. Boren, along with Gerald and Vicki Mitchell, this year's poster sponsors. Ms. Boren and the Mitchells dropped the veils to reveal the original painting and signed poster #1.

The painting, titled "Fifty Years of Vision", honors the 50th anniversary of Toledo Bend Lake. Linda created a colorful collage of significant places and sites around the Lake. Ms. Dean thanked Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell and presented them with signed poster #2. The Mitchells presented Ms. Boren with a plaque of appreciation for creating the lovely painting and being this year's poster artist.

In addition to the poster sponsor, many organizations and people were instrumental in making the Gala a huge success. Ms. Dean recognized Poster Coordinators Eddie and Gina Pastureau for organizing this year's Poster Unveiling and acknowledged these sponsors:

- Gold Sponsors – Cypress Bend Resort; Nichols, Inc.; Toledo Town Realty; Town of Many
- Silver Sponsors – Judge Stephen Beasley, Leah V. Byles, DDS; Buddy Wood, State Farm Insurance; Warren Meadows Funeral Home
- Bronze Sponsors – Sheriff Ronny Richardson; Tim and Rhonda Dean, Mitchell's Barber Shop, Eddie and Gina Pastureau, Randy and Deb Pennington, Ben and Myra Smith

Auctioneer Kevin McDonald took the podium and energized the crowd, prompting the highest bids possible for all four of the following pieces of art.

The first piece to be auctioned was the signed and framed poster #1. Bidding closed at \$475 with Ben and Myra Smith placing the winning bid.

Next the bidding began for the original oil painting from which the 2019 poster was printed. The winning bid went to Randy Rolland of Cypress Bend Resort for \$900.

Then two original paintings provided by former poster artists JoAnn Cason (2018) and Don Edwards (2017) were auctioned. Ms. Cason's original painting titled "Blackwater Swamp" sold to Randy Rolland of Cypress Bend Resort for \$550. Mr. Edwards' original was titled "Bluegill", and the winning bid of \$1600 placed by Gerald and Vicki Mitchell won the piece.

Artist Linda Boren was present to sign and personalize purchased posters. The posters will be available for purchase at the Nichols store in Many and Mitchell's Barber Shop in Zwolle.



Photo Caption: "Randy Rolland of Cypress Bend Resort placed the highest bid on artist Linda Boren's original painting titled "Fifty Years of Vision". (Photo by Calley Gentry)



Photo Caption: Randy Rolland of Cypress Bend Resort placed the winning bid on JoAnn Cason's original painting "Blackwater Swamp". (Photo by Calley Gentry)



Photo Caption: "Ben and Myra Smith placed the highest bid on the signed number 1 poster; pictured with artist Linda Boren." (Photo by Calley Gentry)



Photo Caption: "Gerald and Vicki Mitchell placed the highest bid on Don Edwards' original painting 'Bluegill'".