

# Fish Tales

by Mike Brower

## Third Time Could Be the Charm !!

Last month the BFL Tournament season came to a close. It was possibly my worst 5 tournaments ever. I did not collect a check in 2010, even on the lakes I consider myself pretty good on. My total weight for five tournaments was one of the lowest ever -- 24 pounds. I never could get in a tournament frame of mind -- something always distracted me and that affected my fishing.

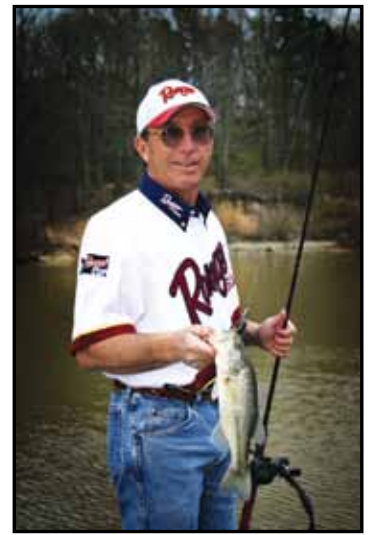
That said, I still finished the year in 11th place and qualified for my 19th BFL regional, held this year at Lake Texoma, which I think translated from Choctaw means "Sea of wind and BIG waves." I started practice in 20 mph wind and 4 foot waves, and by the end of practice they had risen to 6 ft plus, which makes for a miserable boat ride.

I found a small pattern on the third day and since fishing was tough, I hoped it could hold up. It was not a pattern to catch lots of fish, but it would produce some good ones. Well, the first day of the tournament started out with a nice stout northeast wind and it really set up perfect for me. I weighed in four fish for a total weight of 15 lb., 8 oz., and the day 1 lead. The second day I stunk it up pretty good. The wind

was non-existent and I struggled to catch one keeper for 1 lb., 11 oz., and I fell to 7th place. After a really bad day 2, I still made the cut to fish on day 3.

Day 3 started out like day 2, slower than Christmas, but around 9 AM, the wind picked up a little out of the SE and I moved to one of the areas where the good fish were on day 1. My no-boater and I picked up 2 fish apiece there and then we ran to another spot where I proceeded to lose a 3 lb. smallmouth and he caught a nice keeper.

To make a long story short, I finished the day with three and my no-boater had four -- he won the no-boat side. I moved up to 2nd and qualified for my 3rd All American. I am tickled to have joined a very small club of 3-time qualifiers. This year it will be back on Cross Lake in Shreveport, where it was in 2002 when I made my 1st All American. I don't understand why I can't make one when its in Michigan, Connecticut or Georgia. I make the ones that are within 2 hours of the house! LOL! So with it being close maybe I can figure a way to beat the slot limit and catch enough overs to bring home \$100,000 or do well enough so I don't look like a GOOB.



## Quack, Quack....BOOM!!

Gander Mountain will be having some pretty cool things over the next couple of months. Big buck and duck calling contests are in the works as well as other cool things, so keep an eye out.

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