

# MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

## Bass Bites

### FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



**JUNE 2018 EDITION** **CLUB ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005**  
**13 YEARS OF SERVICE TO FISHERMEN** **EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN**

### President's Perspective

*By Gary Grimes*



I missed the June 2018 Bartlett tournament for my annual trip to Red Lake, Ontario for some much cooler weather and fishing for walleye and northern pike. Since I don't have any firsthand reports of the tournament, I thought I would share some information about a problem our desert lakes have been experiencing the past couple of years.

Arizona has been knowingly dealing with golden alga problems for at least the past 5 years, but unknowingly this problem is likely to have existed for decades, explaining any number of localized fish kills on our desert lakes. Arizona is not alone in dealing with this problem, this is a

worldwide phenomena. The State of Texas has also experienced fish kills similar to Arizona, and has been working on the problem for years. Though no practical solution presently exists, efforts are ongoing to mitigate the problem. Here is some information that the Texas Parks and Wildlife has discovered.

#### Golden Alga Facts.

\* In Texas, the microscopic alga (an aquatic plant-like organism) *Prymnesium parvum* or *P. parvum* is commonly called Golden Alga.

\* Golden alga occurs worldwide, primarily in coastal waters. In Texas, fish kills have only occurred in inland waters with high salt or mineral content.

\* Golden alga was first confirmed in west Texas in 1985, although descriptions of fish kills as early as the 1950s in Texas resemble those caused by golden alga.

\* Through 2006, over 31 million fish were estimated to have been killed by golden alga in Texas. Most fish kills occur in fall or winter and are located in west and central Texas, west of IH-35.

\* All species of Texas fish may be affected, as well as

freshwater mollusks, crayfish, gilled amphibians such as tadpoles, and certain plankton species. Generally small bait fish die first.

\* Fish kills caused by golden alga may last for days, weeks or months and can change locations daily. Affected locations within a river or reservoir may change rapidly; sometimes only a portion of the reservoir or river is affected.

\* Research is ongoing to explore potential control or management actions. Some treatments have been effective on ponds and small reservoirs, but to date there is no effective tool to control golden alga in large reservoirs and rivers.

#### Recognizing Golden Alga Bloom.

Continued on page 2

**Monthly Breakfast Meeting**  
**Deer Valley Airport Restaurant**  
**702 W. Deer Valley Rd**  
**Phoenix, AZ**  
**1st Wednesday of Each Month 8:00 A.M.**



**"We Practice Catch and Release"**

\* Elevated concentrations (called blooms) of golden alga usually discolor the water, causing it to appear golden or yellow-brown. Foaming may occur when the water is agitated (for example, by wind action).

\* *P. parvum* produces toxins that can affect gill-breathing organisms including fish and freshwater mollusks. The most visible result of a fish kill caused by golden alga is dead and dying fish of all species and sizes.

\* Aquatic insects do not appear to be affected and may be alive during a toxic event. Large numbers of birds (including pelicans, cormorants, gulls, herons, and vultures) may be present and actively feeding on the dead and dying fish.

\* Dead fish may have bloody gills, fins, and scales and may be covered in mucus; dying fish may attempt to jump out of

the water, may not avoid predators, and may swim slowly and congregate near the shore. Fish also may seek refuge areas (springs, seeps, and other sources of freshwater) to avoid the effects of the toxins.

**Health Tips.**

\* The Texas department of State Health Services has stated that golden alga is not known to cause human health problems, but people should not pick up dead or dying fish for consumption.

\* Mammals and birds have been observed eating dead fish and drinking water within areas experiencing toxic golden alga blooms; no immediate harmful effects have been recorded. Complications, secondary infections or other effects may occur.

\* Be careful of spines and bones from dead fish on the shoreline. Puncture wounds can get infected. Swimming near dead fish is not recommended since bacteria levels associated with decomposition may be high.

The Midweek Bass Anglers' first experience with golden alga occurred in May 2017 at Apache Lake. The poor water conditions caused the fish to migrate to better water, which was located up river at the base of the Roosevelt Lake Dam. Daily water releases from Roosevelt delivered fresh, oxygenated, alga free water, which in turn attracted huge quantities of fish. The Midweek Anglers had no knowledge of the existence of the problem, but we certainly discovered this

was the only place on the lake where fish could be caught. Consequently, all 30 boats that were fishing the tournament were fishing the final mile before the dam, and we all caught fish. At the end of the tournament, as usual, we returned to Burnt Corral to weigh and release our fish. Unbeknownst to us, we released the fish into an area that had a high concentration of golden alga, resulting in the death of many quality largemouth bass. So we were catching fish in good water only to release them into bad water. As a result, the AZGFD has been communicating and coordinating with the various tournament groups that fish the Salt River chain of lakes in order to avoid this from happening again. This is why we pulled Apache, Saguario and Canyon lakes from our tournament schedule this year.

**Next Meeting  
Next Tournament**

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4 July** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Deer Valley Airport Restaurant** (just one mile north of I-101 at the intersection of 7th Ave & Deer Valley Road). We hope you will come early and have breakfast together.

The next club point tournament is scheduled for **Lake Pleasant on 18 July 2018**. Club launch headquarters, tournament hours, and weigh-in location will be announced.



**Tournament Report  
Lake Bartlett  
June 20, 2018**

Another hot day in paradise! OK, I know we fished this event one day before the first day of the summer; but that was no reason for Mother Nature to dump 100 plus degree temperatures on us - we are nice people! It was "a bit" warm but it was still bearable. I can hardly wait to see what the temps will be for our July tournament at Lake Pleasant. Alright that's enough pontification from me for this newsletter, about how warm it was fishing this tournament.

On to the "good stuff".

**Team Roger Root & John Hughes Pound Yellow Cliffs For 1st Place**

Taking home **1st Place**, Team **Roger Root & John Hughes** brought to the scales the winning creel of five bass weighing 11.81 lbs. Thanks to Roger's 3.58 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

**Roger Root:** We started up river from the second ramp area to the Yellow Cliffs. We tried reaction baits but did not have any luck. We changed to green pumpkin jigs and drop shots. The 3/8 oz jig worked best with a very slow presentation.

We moved back to our number one spot where my partner John Hughes caught our last keeper of the day on a green pumpkin jig in 20 feet of water. We caught around 35 to 40 fish and had our first limit of fish by 9:30 AM. We did stop by another spot with no luck and then our time ran out and it was time to go to the weigh-in. Thanks to all the Midweek Bass members and my partner John Hughes.

**John Hughes:** Hello, I am a new member of Midweek Bass Anglers Club. This year I have fished a total of three



**1st Place Overall  
John Hughes & Roger Root**

tournaments and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and camaraderie of the people in this organization. This week I had the privilege of fishing with Roger Root I was very impressed with his ability as a bass angler. I never asked him how old he was but I hope I'm doing half that good when I get to his age.

Jigs and drop shot rigs were our baits of choice. We fished the Yellow Cliffs along the east side of the lake and also a little "honey hole" he had tucked away in his memory. That's where I caught my fish that went to the weigh-in. I had a great time and learned a lot. Thanks again Rodger!

**Vern Ridgway & Warren Brackey Take 2nd Overall Popping On Top**

In **Second Place** the team of **Ridgway & Brackey** weighed five bass for a total weight of 11.56 lbs.

**Vern Ridgway:** Congrats to Brother Roger and John for placing 1st at the sixth event of the year held at beautiful Lake Bartlett, the "Hawg capital" of the west and special thanks to the weigh-in crew for another job well done.

At Bartlett lake, the Team of me and Warren Brackey placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. We teamed up and spend a day looking for some action on pre-fish Tuesday. We started in the river and pounded all the nooks and crannies all the way to the Yellow Cliffs, when we ran out of time.

On "game day" we decided to pick up at the Yellow Cliffs where we stopped on pre-fish day, after all, we did catch a couple of fish there. I think Warren caught the first couple of fish to start the show on a Baby Spook top water lure. I jumped in with a couple on a popper lure made by Rebel and once we had our first five fish we were able to cull out all five with a little better quality



**"I'll be right with you - take a seat."**

**Membership**

As of June 22, 2018 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of **102** dues paid active members.





**2nd Place  
Warren Brackey & Vern Ridgway**

fish using top water and dragging Senko worms in approximately 6-8 feet of water.

Warren is a great draw partner; I had previously drawn him at Alamo where we had some missed opportunities to shine at that tournament as well. This time we had a pretty good day, we just needed a "kicker fish" for bragging rights.

The "Bartlett jig" that had all the magic in January, failed to draw a strike during this tournament; I have a dozen for

### **Tournament Statistics**

Fifty-three men fished 6 hours each, bringing 135 bass to the scales for a total weight of 219.69 pounds with a 4.14 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.62 lbs. All fish but four were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.

sale if anyone wants them. Blessings, see you all at Lake Pleasant in July.

**Warren Brackey:** Another beautiful day in paradise and another very well run tournament put on by our MBA club staff and member volunteers.

Congratulations to Roger Root and John Hughes for their well deserved First Place finish, and to all who placed in this event. Also, major league kudos to our weigh-in team for another stellar job, and special thanks to all the member volunteers that shuttled anglers up the ramp and the fish back to the lake to fight another day.

It was my good fortune to be paired with Vern Ridgway for the second time this year. Vern and I fished the Alamo tournament in April where Vern's exceptional pitching and flipping skills earned us 1st Place Big Fish! They say that one of the best ways to learn how to fish better is to fish with the best, so I was truly looking forward to fishing another tournament with Vern, clearly one of MBA's best competitors.

Our schedules were very busy prior to the tournament, so we were only able to pre-fish the day before the event. We started up river and worked our way back toward the main lake. The fish were hungry, so it didn't take long to figure out what they were reacting to best. Along the way, Vern caught a 1.5 pound crappie on a swimbait, and at Yellow Cliffs he caught the biggest bass I

have ever seen at Bartlett Lake. I'll let Vern tell you the rest of that story!

You can probably guess where we decided to start fishing on Wednesday. Being second boat out, we figured we had a good shot at picking our spot on tournament day, and that's how it turned out. We fished the Yellow Cliffs area all day. We had a pretty good limit by 8 AM fishing primarily top water poppers and walkers, plus Senkos rigged Texas and Wacky style. We mixed in a few jigs and swimbaits from time-to-time, just to change it up some. My best fish came early on a clear Spook Jr. The majority of our fish ate 6 inch, Baby Bass Senkos. We caught a lot of little fish during the day. Our only cull as I recall came around 10 AM, and probably improved our bag nearly a half pound. We had fished this same spot at least three times that morning with good results. This fish picked up Vern's Senko and he immediately set the hook. (A valuable lesson here about when to set the hook, which Vern shared with me a few times that morning; "A wise man once told him, they ain't got no hands!"). He quickly got her to the surface where she thrashed around violently, throwing the Senko over Vern's head and into the water on the other side of the boat. I mistakenly thought she had thrown the hook as well. I turned back toward Vern and to my surprise he was still fighting the fish! Fortunately, my lightning fast netting reflexes reengaged and she was in the live well shortly thereafter. All's

well that ends up in the live well, right Vern?

It was a fun and very competitive event. Vern is a very knowledgeable, very experienced tournament angler, and a great guy to fish with. I think I may have even learned a few things out there watching him locate and catch all those big fish. It would be a pleasure getting paired with Vern again anytime.

**Team Gary Senft & Lou Hirlemann Mix Baits For 3rd Place Finish**

Team **Gary Senft & Lou Hirlemann** weighed five bass for 11.46 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

**Gary Senft:** The day started out slow for us catching only small bass. Lou and I kept moving a lot just trying to catch larger bass. We ended up the lake past the Yellow Cliffs in the river. The trick still was to keep moving back toward the



**3rd Place  
Lou Hirlemann & Gary Senft**

ramp. We caught all our fish on Baby Brush Hogs - watermelon candy, top water Ricos and buzz baits. Congrats to the winners. Thanks Lou for being a great non-boater - I had a lot of fun fishing with you.

**Lou Hirlemann:** It was great to see everyone again, and I was surprised how fast the line to weigh fish was moving. I fished with Gary Senft for the first time. I knew we would be around fish all day so I just wanted to do something different from Gary. He threw a few different baits throughout the day. I threw a buzzbait 90% of the day and caught all my fish on it. I had a great time making a new friend and telling and listening to fishing stories. See you all in a couple of weeks.

**Team Hobby Nelson & Rick Brown Play Game Of Ounces To Finish 4th Overall**

Taking home **4th Place**, Team **Hobby Nelson & Rick Brown** weighed five fish for a total weight of 10.87 lbs. Hobby's 3.42 lb bass also took **2nd Place Big Fish** honors for the team.

**Rick Brown:** When the pairings came out I was happy to see Hobby Nelson was back fishing with us, and even better that we would be fishing together. Hobby's first cast of the morning produced our first fish on a topwater bait. Each spot we moved to seemed to produce a fish or two, but even



**4th Place  
Rick Brown & Hobby Nelson**

without a limit most of them were so small we didn't even put them in the live well. After weeding through lots of small fish, Hobby caught our big fish 3.42 lbs on a crankbait. As we continued down the bank throwing crankbaits, Hobby mentioned that there were some fish under the boat. I picked up the trusty Carolina Rig, dragged it through the fish, and caught another nice one around 2.75 lbs. Like everyone else we continued catching little bass and only upgrading by ounces. I had a great time fishing with Hobby; hope to do it again sometime soon.

**Fred Krumsiek & Lawrence Dwonch Cull Bunches And Finish 5th**

A five fish limit weighing 10.56 lbs was enough to earn **Fred Krumsiek & Lawrence Dwonch** the **5th Place** money.

**Fred Krumsiek:** Hats off to Roger & John for their winning





**5th Place**  
*Lawrence Dwonch & Fred Krumsiek*

catch. Lawrence Dwonch and I had a good day on the water. We caught a lot of fish, some barely big enough to get their mouth over the hook. We started just south of the Yellow Cliffs. Lawrence caught a good fish on a jerk bait and that turned-out to be our only decent bass in about 3 hours. We moved further south and Lawrence caught our biggest fish (2.59 lbs) on a black and blue jig, and I caught a good fish on a drop shot rig using a custom worm in oxblood and red flack color with a blue line on the side. We caught our last 2 pounder on a drop shot across from the launch ramp; in some rocks on the east shore. Lawrence is a very experienced angler. He caught a lot of fish using four or five different techniques.

**Lawrence Dwonch:** We didn't pre-fish. Fred made a pre-fishing trip a couple of weeks before the tournament and caught a 4.6 pounder in one

location. He had his mind set on this area for starters. We were Boat 16 out and we hit his spot. Right away we started catching little rat bass. Small even for Bartlett. I mean tiny fish which is rare in my experience there. We had shad and fish busting everywhere. To bad they were all small fish grouped up.

After boating over two limits Fred finally gave up on landing that 4.6 pounder again. He was using a Senko and a drop shot; I was throwing a jig and crank and chatter bait. We finally made a move to one of my hot spots by the Yellow Cliffs. Shortly after, I found a good jerkbait bite and finally got out of the dink bag. We then moved to a rocky point on the main lake and I caught our big fish on a jig. Shortly after that Fred boated another cull with a drop shot, then the bite died down. Struggling in the heat we decided to look for more rocky points. Fifteen minutes before the end of tournament I said "Cast right there" and he ended up culling another dink with a drop shot. We needed one more good cull to possibly win it and ran out of time.

**Top Water Lures Early  
Earn Team Neil Burns &  
Craig Coy Craig's First  
Club Tournament  
6th Place Win**

Bringing five fish to the scales weighing 10.12 lbs was enough to earn **Neil Burns & Craig Coy** the **6th Place** honors

**Neil Burns:** I had the pleasure of fishing with newcomer Craig Coy; hope I didn't discourage him too badly. We started our day at the Yellow Cliffs area and most of our better fish came on top-water early in the day. After the morning bite, we threw jigs and drop-shots, caught lots of small fish, but struggled to upgrade to a more respectable size. Congrats to all the money winners and thanks for another well run tournament.

**Craig Coy:** I want to thank everyone at MBA, and especially Neil Burns who drew this rookie. This was the first tourney I've ever been in, and leaving the ramp pushed by a 200hp motor (my rig has a 3.5hp motor) I knew this was going to be a fun day.

We started the day with Neil using a top water lure and I tried a spinner that had worked for me earlier in the week. Neil got a couple of nice ones and I got a couple that went right



**6th Place**  
*Craig Coy & Neil Burns*

back in the lake. I will definitely be working on my top water skills. A little later Neil picked a spot and suggested I use my drop shot rod. I informed Neil that I had never done very well with drop shots, but with a couple of tips and a Morning Dawn Madness 6" worm I had a couple of bass in the boat. We came back to that spot later and I used a Cabela's 3" Grub Bluegill for a couple more fish. I think that one of those might have made our final five in the livewell. Also, on this day I had the top 18 inches of one rod snap off and I managed to crank a piece of stray line into another reel putting it out of action for the day. Thanks again to everyone for such an enjoyable experience. Looking forward to the next one.

**Team David Brakefield & Phil Brewer Fish Jigs For Better Bass And 7th Place Finish**

In **Seventh Place** the team of **David Brakefield & Phil Brewer** finished with 9.73 lbs for their five bass.

**Phil Brewer:** David Brakefield and I started on a round rock bank, close to deep water, in the Yellow Cliffs area. We had a limit in about thirty minutes on spinner baits and shad colored cranks. After about an hour we moved further up the lake and worked a flat with spinner baits, crank baits, and jigs. The jig bite produced the better fish using a half once football head with a Yamamoto hula grub in smoke glitter color. Between the two of us, we probably caught over



**7th Place**  
**David Brakefield & Phil Brewer**

thirty fish. It was a fun day just could not find a kicker.

**Team Jeff Mason & Howard Thomas Win Goon Fish Prize**

**Jeff Mason:** Wowser, imagine my disappointment fighting that fish to the boat thinking Howard Thomas and I had our kicker bass!

My thanks to Howard for netting the fish, taking the lure



**Goon Fish Pot**  
**Howard Thomas & Jeff Mason**

out, putting it in the live well, then taking it out of the live well. I didn't want anything to do with that slimy creature. Howard said he might be worth \$100, so it worked out. I hooked that catfish on a square bill crank bait in dirty water up the river.



**Weighing-In**  
**By Gary Martlage**  
**Tournament Director**

Another one in the record books! Bartlett fished well, and it seemed everyone had a good time. The weather cooperated, as it was ONLY 100 degrees at weigh-in time! Hey, it's a dry heat, right?

Again, I have to commend the weigh staff for another excellent weigh-in. Greg Prather said he doesn't have machines in his shop that run as smooth as our weigh-ins. Thank you to all volunteers who helped, including the drivers helping transport fish back to the ramp to be caught for another day. Everyone took care of their catch, as we had only 4 dead fish presented at the scales. Bartlett is a good fishery, except for the size of the fish. I guess catching fish all day beats fishing for five bites during a tournament. Competition was very close, even though the fish were small. At least we have a close fishery for our shortened summertime tournaments.

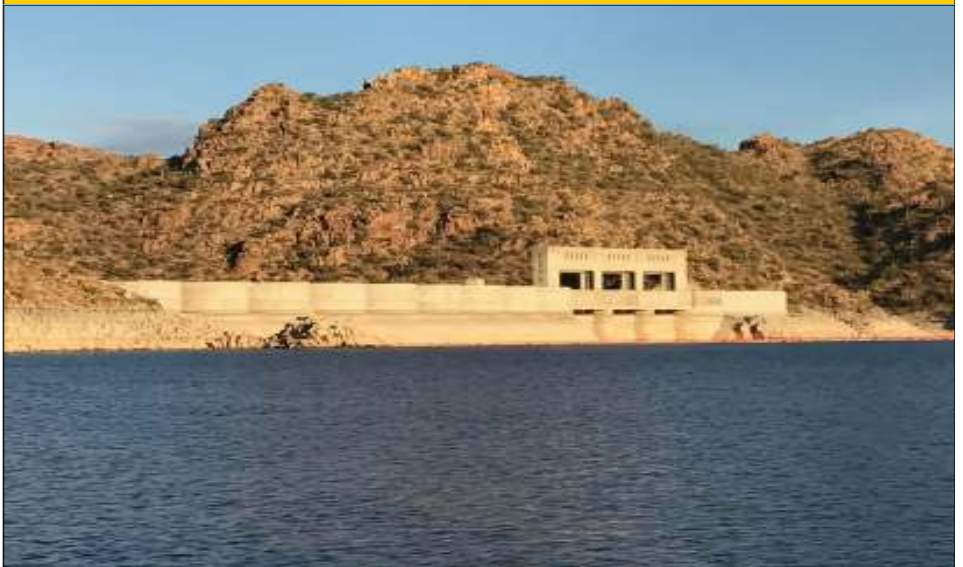
And now, a negative item about our derby. I was



approached by a contestant, commenting he saw not one, but three boats with the outboard motor running, NOT HAVING LIFE VESTS ON! Guys, this is a safety issue. You MUST have your life jackets on anytime the outboard is running. Automatic disqualification from the tournament and possible expulsion from the club would be in order. No protest was filed, but I personally would do it, as our rules are put in place for obvious reasons, including the safety of all members. I hope not to hear this comment EVER again!

Next month, we will be visiting **Lake Pleasant**, another metro lake that has been fishing better each year. The opportunity of catching a 15 pound sack, even breaking the 5 lb Pot, will come in play. It should be a great time so let's have a great turnout. See you all next month.

## Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett - June 20, 2018





# Photo Scrapbook - Lake Bartlett - June 20, 2018



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Midweek Bass Anglers  
Since the Last Newsletter**

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**Best Wishes and Happy Birthday**  
**Born in July**

- Ward Bell
- Ricky Boehm
- Joe Bonucci
- Todd Gentner
- Paul Iverson
- Gary Martlage
- Greg Prather
- Jack Shearer



**Midweek Bass Anglers 2018  
Tournament Schedule**

<b>17 January</b>	<b>Bartlett</b>
<b>21 February</b>	<b>Roosevelt</b>
<b>20-21 March</b>	<b>Havasu (1.5 Days)</b>
<b>18 April</b>	<b>Alamo</b>
<b>16 May</b>	<b>Roosevelt</b>
<b>20 June</b>	<b>Bartlett</b>
<b>18 July</b>	<b>Pleasant</b>
<b>15 August</b>	<b>Bartlett</b>
<b>19 September</b>	<b>Pleasant</b>
<b>17 October</b>	<b>Roosevelt</b>
<b>21 November</b>	<b>Alamo</b>