



## Bass Fishing the Brazos River below Lake Whitney

This isn't the same muddy Brazos River that we cross in the Houston area.

For about two years, the fishing on this stretch of the Brazos has suffered from too much generation by the Army Corps of Engineers, which made it just about unfishable. According to local guide Chris Shafer, the fishing in the past year has really picked up and Richard at Dick's Canoes says that the fishing has been great.

You will have the opportunity to catch a bass grand slam: largemouth bass, Kentucky spotted bass and smallies – no Guadalupe in this river. Drift down the river, casting close in to the banks, to the brush piles and submerged stumps and branches and to the submerged grass lines. Structure, structure, structure is what it's all about. While I'm sure the bream fishing is good in here, the greatest attraction is large bass. The record smallie in the river is 7lbs; largemouth over 4 lbs are not uncommon. For you carp chasers, there are plenty of them in the river, but they're plenty spooky.

You should plan on casting large deer hair poppers and Boone Spoon Fat Frogs, which means you'll have to leave those 3 and 4 weights at home.

There are two options with this trip: Float the 8.6 miles from the Whitney Dam down to Dick's Canoes at Ranch Road 2114 or put in at Dick's Canoes and paddle upstream

as far as you want and fish. Richard at Dick's says that most of the fish are in the lower 3 miles and the river is slow enough to allow a comfortable upstream paddle.

The water in front of Dick's Canoes is good fishing for a half mile stretch with easy paddling up and down the river. If you get there early on Friday or want to stay over to Sunday, it would be nice leisurely fishing. The stretch from Dick's to the next take out is 13 miles and too long to tackle as a fishing trip.

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### Never Been



This is a pretty typical largemouth bass.

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### Dates

May 22, 2010

Meet at Dick's Canoe and start shuttle at 7:30 am

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### **Location**

We will be fishing the Brazos River below the Whitney Dam, near the town of Laguna Park and very close to the Lake Whitney State Park:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?sourceid=navclient&q=lake+whitney,+texas&ie=UTF8&spilit=0&gl=us&ei=irLoSaP0JuHInOfS6vyYBg&ll=31.865968,-97.369423&spn=0.050297,0.076218&z=14>

There are two Corp of Engineer parks by the dam, one on the south side and the other on the north side.

The section of river we will be floating starts at the Corp of Engineers, Riverbend Park at the north side of the base of the Whitney Dam and we will take out at Dick's Canoes at the Ranch Road 2114 bridge crossing. There's a picture on this page showing the landing.

It's about a 3.5 hour drive from Houston to the meeting place, if you don't break too many speed laws. It's Hwy 6 most of the way, with plenty of small towns and speed traps. Plan accordingly.

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### **Cost**

You pay your own way for transportation, lodging, meals, guide if you so desire, and flies.

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### **Where to Stay**

Motels:

**Czech Inn** – West, TX - <http://czechinnofwest.com/>

114 Melodie Drive, IH 35 Exit 353

West, TX 76691

Phone: 254-826-0900

I noticed this hotel right at the IH35 exit that you take to go to Dick's Canoes. I don't know if it's any good, but it's only about 20 minutes away from the launch and it's cheaper than the other alternatives

### **Dick's Canoes Cottage**

I have booked May 21 and 22 at the Cottage at Dick's Canoe. There are comfortable accommodations for five, three spaces remain. The cottage is very nice with a fully equipped kitchen. They provide eggs and some very obscenely tasty pastries. No coolers in the house.

Phone: 254-622-8364

<http://www.dickscanoe.com/cabin.html>

**Little Rocky Lodge** – Laguna Park, TX - <http://www.littlerockylodge.com/>

I stayed here years ago when it was still owned by local guide Chris Shafer. It's changed hands, but it was nice when I was there.

Phone: 888-205-1511

Lake Whitney State Park -

[http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lake\\_whitney/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lake_whitney/)

John Staigerwald stayed here when we did this outing last July. He said it was nice and convenient.

### **Meeting Point**

We will meet at **Dick's Canoe** near the river crossing at RR 2114 at **7:30 AM** and shuttle to the Whitney Dam put in location. Here's a Google Map link for the location -

[http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s\\_d&saddr=&daddr=31.811408,-97.29695&hl=en&geocode=&mra=mi&mrsp=0&sz=18&sll=31.810884,-97.297137&sspn=0.003009,0.004764&g=whitney+dam,+texas&ie=UTF8&t=h&z=18](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=&daddr=31.811408,-97.29695&hl=en&geocode=&mra=mi&mrsp=0&sz=18&sll=31.810884,-97.297137&sspn=0.003009,0.004764&g=whitney+dam,+texas&ie=UTF8&t=h&z=18)

The club will pick up the shuttle cost for those club members who arrive at the scheduled meeting time.

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### **Safety**

Your **safety** is paramount, so make sure that you ask questions before the outing if you are undertaking an activity for the first time. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the right gear and are physically prepared to safely participate in the outing. You should be aware that there will be airboat traffic on the river while we're fishing, so be prepared to move your boats when you hear that horrible noise coming up or down the river. It doesn't seem to bother the fish.

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### **What to Bring**

- Rods 3 to 8 weights with floating lines
  - Leaders – 6-7.5' – Bass leaders, or 0X-1X
  - Tippet - 8-12 lbs; nothing dainty.
  - Polarized Sunglasses
  - Hat with a brim
  - Rain gear
  - Gallons of sunscreen
  - Water
  - Lunch
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### **TFF Waiver**

Print, fill out, and bring the TFF Waiver with you to save time.

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### **Flies**

Fat Frogs, Deer Hair poppers, and anything that will attract bass.

Harry can use a Miss Prissy if he wants to – someone's got to catch the little bass.

Carp flies if you think you can catch them.

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### **Access**

Army Corps of Engineers Park below Lake Whitney Dam – for down stream float

Dick's Canoes at Ranch Road 2114 – for upstream float and fish in the vicinity

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## **Guides, Canoes and Shops**

Chris Shafer

**254-836-8864**

[www.brazosriverfishing.com](http://www.brazosriverfishing.com)

Dick's Canoes at Ranch Road 2114

**254-622-8364**

Ask for Richard

<http://www.dickscanoe.com/>

Reservations are required for kayaks and canoes.

Shuttles are \$20 per person; we should coordinate a group shuttle to save some money on this rate.

There is a \$6 take out fee here, whether you shuttle or not.

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