

NEWS RELEASE

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SAM RAYBURN RESERVOIR READIES TO KICKOFF 24TH FLW TOUR SEASON

High Water Levels and Wintertime Temperatures to Keep Pros Guessing at Tournament presented by Polaris

BROOKELAND, Texas (Dec. 27, 2018) – Fishing League Worldwide (FLW), the world's largest tournament fishing organization, is set to launch the 2019 FLW Tour season – the 24th season of the competitive Tour – Jan. 10-13, with the [FLW Tour at Sam Rayburn Reservoir presented by Polaris](#). Hosted by the Jasper County Development District, the tournament will feature 170 of the world's best bass-fishing professionals competing for a top award of up to \$125,000 and valuable points in hopes of qualifying for the 2019 FLW Cup – the world championship of bass fishing.

The FLW Tour has visited Sam Rayburn three times previously, with 2019 marking the 4th visit in FLW's 24-year history. When the Tour last visited the largest lake in Texas in 2014, FLW Tour superstar Bryan Thrift slowed way down – flipping and pitching a Texas-rigged Damiki Knock Out – to out-fish some of the biggest names in the sport and earn the sixth victory of his career. Thrift will be among the early tournament favorites for the upcoming event as well. The total purse for the FLW Tour at Sam Rayburn Reservoir presented by Polaris is more than \$860,000, including \$9,000 through 65th place in the Pro Division.

"It's always exciting to start another FLW Tour season, but it's really exciting this year to be kicking off the season in Texas," said local [FLW Tour pro Jason Reyes of Huffman, Texas](#), a three-time FLW Cup qualifier who has three top-10 finishes on Sam Rayburn in FLW competition.

"Sam Rayburn can be a bit intimidating if you haven't fished it before – 100,000 acres of lake that is full of grass and hydrilla and everything looks good. But, it is a lake of opportunity and the potential is there for 10+ pound bass and 30+ pound limits. You can really separate yourself if you can catch a bag like that."

Reyes said that the region has seen an influx of rain lately and the water levels are higher than normal for this time of year. The water temperature is currently steady between 53 to 55 degrees and with the fish still in their wintertime mode Reyes expects quite a few different patterns to be in play.

"The lake is fishing fairly well," Reyes said. "Depending on the weather, this tournament will be all about what happens the week before the tournament. We might see everyone out fishing in cold weather gear or we might see everyone in shorts and sweatshirts. The big question will be if the fish move up shallow."

"I don't think a guy will be able to win it from one spot – they're going to have to have multiple areas," Reyes continued. "Lipless crankbaits are always a big player on Rayburn this time of year. Carolina rigs, spinnerbaits, crankbaits and flipping a jig or soft-plastics will all produce as well. Both ends of the lake will be in play, and we'll be able to catch them fishing whatever our strengths are."

Reyes estimated that it would take a two-day total of 30 to 31 pounds for an angler to make the top 30 cut and fish the weekend. He predicted the winner would have a four-day total right around 72 pounds.

"This time of year, we can expect to see quite a few changes over the four-day tournament," Reyes went on to say. "We may see a guy show out with a huge limit on Day One or Two and then struggle to catch half of that the next day. It's going to be a fun tournament and a great fishery to kick off the 2019 FLW Tour season."



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Anglers will take off at 7 a.m. CST each day from the Umphrey Family Pavilion, located at 5438 Sam Rayburn Parkway, in Brookeland. Thursday and Friday's weigh-ins, Jan. 10-11, will be held at the pavilion beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday's weigh-ins, Jan. 12-13, will also be held at the pavilion, but will begin at 4 p.m.

Television coverage of the FLW Tour at Sam Rayburn Reservoir presented by Polaris will premiere in 2019. The Emmy-nominated "FLW" television show airs each Saturday night at 7 p.m. EST and is broadcast to more than 63 million cable, satellite and telecommunications households in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean on the World Fishing Network (WFN), the leading entertainment destination and digital resource for anglers throughout North America. FLW television is also distributed internationally to FLW partner countries, including Canada, China, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Portugal, Spain and South Africa.

The popular FLW Live on-the-water program will air on Days Three and Four of the event, featuring live action from the boats of the tournament's top pros each day. New for 2019, host Travis Moran will be joined by veteran FLW Tour pros Todd Hollowell and Peter Thiveros to break down the extended action each day from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. On-the-water broadcasts will be live streamed on FLWFishing.com, the FLW YouTube channel and the FLW Facebook page.

Prior to the weigh-ins each day FLW will host a free Family Fishing Expo at the Umphrey Family Pavilion from 2 to 6 p.m. each day. The Expo is a chance for fishing fans to meet their favorite anglers, enjoy interactive games, activities and giveaways provided by FLW sponsors, and learn more about the sport of fishing and other outdoor activities.

Also for youth, the FLW Foundation's Unified Fishing Derby will be held at the pavilion on Saturday, Jan. 12 from Noon-2 p.m. The event is hosted by FLW Foundation pro Cody Kelley along with other FLW Tour anglers, and is free and open to anyone under the age of 18 and Special Olympics athletes. Rods and reels are available for use, but youth are encouraged to bring their own if they own one. The 1st and 2nd place anglers that catch the biggest fish will be recognized Saturday on the FLW Tour stage, just prior to the pros weighing in.

As part of the FLW Tour's community outreach initiative, FLW Tour anglers will visit patients, guests and staff at the Brookeland High School, located at 187 Wildcat Walk, in Brookeland on Wednesday, Jan. 9 from 9-10 a.m. to introduce students to fishing and outdoor activities in their community. During the presentations the pro anglers will reinforce how science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) relate to outdoor activities and the life as a professional angler as well as discussing different career paths within the outdoor industry.

In FLW Tour competition, the full field of 170 pro anglers compete in the two-day opening round on Thursday and Friday. The top 30 pros based on their two-day accumulated weight advance to Saturday. Only the top 10 pros continue competition Sunday, with the winner determined by the heaviest accumulated weight from the four days of competition.

Throughout the season, anglers are also vying for valuable points in hopes of qualifying for the 2019 FLW Cup, the world championship of professional bass fishing. The 2019 FLW Cup will be on Lake Hamilton in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Aug. 9-11 and is hosted by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism and Visit Hot Springs.

For complete details and updated information visit FLWFishing.com. For regular updates, photos, tournament news and more, follow the sport's top anglers on the FLW Tour on FLW's social media outlets at [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FLW), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/FLW), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/FLW), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/FLW) and [Snapchat](https://www.snapchat.com/add/FLW).

About FLW

FLW is the world's largest tournament-fishing organization, providing anglers of all skill levels the opportunity to compete for millions in prize money in 2019 across five tournament circuits. Headquartered in Benton, Kentucky, with offices in Minneapolis, FLW and their partners conduct more than 290 bass-fishing tournaments annually around the world, including the United States, Canada, China, Italy, South Korea, Mexico, Portugal, South Africa and Spain. FLW tournament fishing can be seen on the Emmy-nominated "FLW" television show while FLW Bass Fishing magazine delivers cutting-edge tips from top pros. For more information visit FLWFishing.com and follow FLW at [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FLW), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/FLW), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/FLW), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/FLW) and [Snapchat](https://www.snapchat.com/add/FLW).

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EVENT SCHEDULE

MEDIA CONTACT:

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FLW Tour at Sam Rayburn Reservoir presented by Polaris Lufkin, Texas Jan. 10-13, 2019

Local Hosts:

- Jasper County Development District
1861 Beachrock Drive
Brookeland, Texas

Takeoff, Weigh-In Days 1-4, FLW Expo, FLW Unified Fishing Derby

- Umphrey Family Pavilion
5438 Sam Rayburn Parkway
Brookeland, Texas

Pre-Tournament Registration Meeting

- Rayburn Country Resort
2376 Wingate Road
Brookeland, Texas

FLW Community Outreach

- Brookeland High School
187 Wildcat Walk
Brookeland, Texas

Schedule:



Wednesday, Jan. 9

- 9 – 10 a.m. Community Outreach at Brookeland High School
- 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Angler Registration at Rayburn Country Resort
- 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Pre-tournament Angler Rules Meeting at Rayburn Country Resort
- 3 - 5 p.m. Marshal Registration at Rayburn Country Resort
- 5:30 p.m. Pre-tournament Marshal Meeting at Rayburn Country Resort



Thursday, Jan. 10

- 7 a.m. Takeoff at Umphrey Family Pavilion
- 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. FLW Expo at Umphrey Family Pavilion
- 3 p.m. FLW Tour weigh-in at Umphrey Family Pavilion



Friday, Jan. 11

- 7 a.m. Takeoff at Umphrey Family Pavilion
- 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. FLW Expo at Umphrey Family Pavilion
- 3 p.m. FLW Tour weigh-in at Umphrey Family Pavilion



Saturday, Jan. 12

- 7 a.m. Takeoff at Umphrey Family Pavilion
- Noon – 2 p.m. Community Outreach - FLW Foundation's Unified Fishing Derby at Umphrey Family Pavilion
- 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. FLW Expo at Umphrey Family Pavilion
- 4 p.m. FLW Tour weigh-in at Umphrey Family Pavilion



Sunday, Jan. 13

- 7 a.m. Takeoff at Umphrey Family Pavilion
- 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. FLW Expo at Umphrey Family Pavilion
- 4 p.m. FLW Tour weigh-in at Umphrey Family Pavilion



EVENT DETAILS

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WHAT: FLW Community Outreach – Brookeland High School

WHEN: Wednesday, Jan. 9, 9-10 a.m.

WHERE: Brookeland High School, 187 Wildcat Walk, Brookeland, Texas

NOTES: FLW Tour pros will visit students at Brookeland High School to introduce students to fishing and outdoor activities in their community. During the presentations the pro anglers will reinforce how science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) relate to outdoor activities as well as boating safety. The presentation will promote the sport of fishing and outdoor recreation and give the future anglers the information they need to “Get Outdoors. Go Fish!”

WHAT: FLW Tour at Sam Rayburn Reservoir presented by Polaris

WHEN: Thursday – Sunday, Jan. 10-13, 2019

WHERE: **Thursday and Friday**

Takeoff – 7 a.m. and weigh-in 3 p.m., Umphrey Family Pavilion, 5438 Sam Rayburn Parkway, Brookeland, Texas

Saturday and Sunday

Takeoff – 7 a.m. and weigh-in 4 p.m., Umphrey Family Pavilion, 5438 Sam Rayburn Parkway, Brookeland, Texas

NOTES: The FLW Tour on Sam Rayburn Reservoir presented by Polaris will visit East Texas for the first event of its 24th season. The tournament will feature 170 of the world’s best bass-fishing pros casting for a top awards of up to \$125,000 cash in the Pro Division and the event will premiere on the World Fishing Network (WFN) in 2019.

WHAT: FLW Community Outreach – FLW Foundation’s Unified Fishing Derby

WHEN: Saturday, Jan. 12, Noon – 2 p.m.

WHERE: Umphrey Family Pavilion, 5438 Sam Rayburn Parkway, Brookeland, Texas

NOTES: Come out to meet and greet FLW Foundation pro Cody Kelley and other FLW Tour anglers as they help area youth catch bass. The derby is free and open to area youth 18 years of age and younger and Special Olympics athletes. Rods and reels are available for use, but youth are encouraged to bring their own if they own one. All bait is provided by the DMF Bait Company.

WHAT: FLW Expo

WHEN: Thursday – Sunday, Jan. 10-13, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

WHERE: Umphrey Family Pavilion, 5438 Sam Rayburn Parkway, Brookeland, Texas

NOTES: Come out and meet some of the top FLW Tour pros to discuss fishing tips, techniques and tales of the big one that got away. Interactive activities and games will be available for fishing fans of all ages, including a casting pond, fishing demos and more. Prizes and giveaways will be awarded throughout the afternoons, leading into the weigh-in and the crowning of the champion of the 2019 FLW Tour on Sam Rayburn Reservoir presented by Polaris.

FLW TOUR SAM RAYBURN RESERVOIR FACTS & STATS

Previous Winning Totals

2014	Bryan Thrift	73-3
2012	Phil Marks	82-0
1998	Allen Head	73-6

Top-10 Total Weights

2012	Phil Marks	82-0
1998	Kevin Wirth	76-10
1998	Allen Head	73-6
2014	Bryan Thrift	73-3
2014	Mark Rose	70-2
1998	Mark Davis	67-14
2014	Greg Hackney	67-13
2014	Jason Meninger	66-13
2012	Keith Combs	65-11
1998	Mickey Bruce	65-10

Top-10 One-Day Limits

2012	Phil Marks	32-12
2014	Rick Cotten	25-15
2014	Andy Montgomery	24-11
2014	Jason Meninger	24-2
2014	Mark Rose	23-14
1998	Dion Hibdon	23-12
1998	Allen Head	23-4
1998	Tommy Ellis	22-4
1998	Dale Wilson	22-4
2014	John Cox	21-14

Big Bass Award Winners

1998	Ken Cook	10-8
2014	Mark Rose	9-0
2014	Jay Yelas	8-13
1998	Tommy Ellis	8-8
2012	Lamonte Loyd	7-11
2012	Keith Combs	7-5

Notes:

THRIFT'S LIMIT STREAK

* FLW Tour pro Bryan Thrift of Shelby, North Carolina, currently has weighed in 63 consecutive five-bass limits in FLW Tour competition – smashing the all-time professional bass fishing record of 57 set by Kevin Van Dam on the Bassmaster Elite Series. The previous all-time FLW Tour record was 50, set by pro Cody Meyer in 2014. Thrift will look to continue to extend his record this week at Sam Rayburn.

MARKS' MASSIVE LIMIT

*Pro Phil Marks' remarkable 32-pound, 12-ounce limit of Sam Rayburn largemouth that he weighed in on Day Four of the 2012 FLW Tour event at Sam Rayburn ranks as the heaviest limit ever weighed in FLW Tour competition and is the 21st heaviest limit in FLW Tour history. Greg Hackney's 39-pound, 11-ounce limit weighed in at Falcon Lake in 2008 remains the heaviest in FLW Tour history.

EVERYTHING'S BIGGER IN TEXAS

*There have been 46 limits weighing 30+ pounds that have been weighed in the 24 year history of the FLW Tour. Of those 46, 16 of them have come in Texas – the most from any state. California is #2 with 12 limits weighing 30+ pounds.



**PRO FIELD****MEDIA CONTACT:****JOSEPH OPAGER**

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**FLW Tour at Sam Rayburn Reservoir presented by Polaris
Brookeland, Texas
Jan. 10-13, 2019**

Name	City	State	Name	City	State
Jason Abram	Piney Flats	Tenn.	Tony Dumitras	Winston	Ga.
Randy Allen	Gilliam	La.	Luke Dunkin	Lawrenceburg	Tenn.
Scott Ashmore	Broken Arrow	Okla.	Dakota Ebare	Stephenville	Texas
Evan Barnes	Hot Springs	Ark.	Jon Englund	Farwell	Minn.
Clayton Batts	Butler	Ga.	Charlie Evans	Berea	Ky.
Bradford Beavers	Summerville	S.C.	Ron Farrow	Rock Hill	S.C.
Matt Becker	Finleyville	Pa.	Austin Felix	Eden Prairie	Minn.
Bob Behrle	Hoover	Ala.	Kevin Finley	Phoenix	Ariz.
Daryl Biron	South Windsor	Conn.	Mark Fisher	Wauconda	Ill.
Randy Blaukat	Joplin	Mo.	Tim Frederick	Leesburg	Fla.
Greg Bohannon	Bentonville	Ark.	Hunter Freeman	Monroe	La.
Terry Bolton	Benton	Ky.	Derek Fulps	Broken Arrow	Okla.
Bailey Boutries	Daphne	Ala.	Nick Gainey	Charleston	S.C.
Jay Brainard	Enid	Okla.	David Gaston	Sylacauga	Ala.
Christopher Brasher	Longview	Texas	Sam George	Athens	Ala.
Jimmy Brewer	Marshall	Texas	Matt Greenblatt	Port St. Lucie	Fla.
Aaron Britt	Yuba City	Calif.	Chad Grigsby	Maple Grove	Minn.
Grae Buck	Harleysville	Pa.	Brant Grimm	Church Hill	Tenn.
Miles Burghoff	Hixson	Tenn.	Buddy Gross	Chickamauga	Ga.
Tim Cales	Sandstone	W.Va.	Cody Hahner	Wausau	Wis.
Jonathan Canada	Helena	Ala.	Bradley Hallman	Norman	Okla.
Robert Case Jr.	Point	Texas	Chip Harrington	Olathe	Kan.
Todd Castledine	Nacogdoches	Texas	Dylan Hays	El Dorado	Ark.
Russell Cecil	Willis	Texas	Billy Hines	Vacaville	Calif.
Ryan Chandler	Hebron	Ind.	Jamie Horton	Centerville	Ala.
Glenn Chappellear	Acworth	Ga.	Jimmy Houston	Cookson	Okla.
Jason Christy	Dadeville	Ala.	Miles Howe	San Juan Capistrano	Calif.
Joey Cifuentes	Clinton	Ark.	Rex Huff	Corbin	Ky.
Sheldon Collings	Grove	Okla.	John Hunter	Shelbyville	Ky.
Ramie Colson Jr.	Cadiz	Ky.	Bill Hutchison	Bessemer	Ala.
Kyle Cortiana	Coweta	Okla.	Charlie Ingram	Centerville	Tenn.
John Cox	Debary	Fla.	Eric Jackson	Walling	Tenn.
Alex Davis	Albertville	Ala.	Rex Jaeger	Hamilton	Ohio
Darrell Davis	Dover	Fla.	Jim Jones	Big Bend	Wis.
Randy Despino	Colfax	La.	Rob Jordan	Flowery Branch	Ga.
Tommy Dickerson	Orange	Texas	Cody Kelley	Conway	Ark.
Jeff Dobson	Bartlesville	Okla.	Jay Kendrick	Grant	Ala.
Bradley Dortch	Atmore	Ala.	Rob Kilby	Hot Springs	Ark.
Josh Douglas	Isle	Minn.	Brad Knight	Lancing	Tenn.
Kurt Dove	Del Rio	Texas	Brian Latimer	Belton	S.C.
David Dudley	Lynchburg	Va.	Marty Lawrence	Mesa	Ariz.

Name	City	State	Name	City	State
Jeremy Lawyer	Sarcoxie	Mo.	Darrel Robertson	Jay	Okla.
Nick Lebrun	Bossier City	La.	Troy Roder	Brookeland	Texas
Wes Logan	Springville	Ala.	Zell Rowland	Montgomery	Texas
Richard Lowitzki	Hampshire	Ill.	Craig Rozema	Simpsonville	S.C.
Tim Malone	Kodak	Tenn.	Ryan Salzman	Huntsville	Ala.
Scott Martin	Clewiston	Fla.	Casey Scanlon	Lake Ozark	Mo.
Lendell Martin Jr.	Nacogdoches	Texas	Bryan Schmitt	Deale	Md.
Michael Matthee	Centurion	South Africa	Colby Schrupf	Highland	Ill.
Billy McCaghren	Mayflower	Ark.	Braxton Setzer	Montgomery	Ala.
Chris McCall	Palmer	Texas	Billy Shelton III	La Crosse	Va.
Johnny McCombs	Morris	Ala.	Charles Sim	Nepean, Ontario	Canada
Bill McDonald	Greenwood	Ind.	A.J. Slegona	Pine Bush	N.Y.
Brandon McMillan	Clewiston	Fla.	Blake Smith	Lakeland	Fla.
Jared McMillan	Belle Glade	Fla.	Derrick Snavely	Piney Flats	Tenn.
Chuck Medley	Owens Cross Roads	Ala.	Matthew Stefan	Junction City	Wis.
Jason Meninger	Saint Augustine	Fla.	Tyler Stewart	West Monroe	La.
Kerry Milner	Bono	Ark.	Chuck Stratton	Chaffee	Mo.
Kurt Mitchell	Milford	Del.	Wade Strelic	Alpine	Calif.
Tom Monsoor	La Crosse	Wis.	Mike Surman	Boca Raton	Fla.
Harry Moore	Valley	Ala.	Timmy Thompkins	Myrtle Beach	S.C.
Bob Morin	Seymour	Tenn.	Bryan Thrift	Shelby	N.C.
Troy Morrow	Eastanollee	Ga.	Rusty Trancygier	Hahira	Ga.
Brandon Mosley	Choctaw	Okla.	J. Todd Tucker	Moultrie	Ga.
Jim Moynagh	Carver	Minn.	Jim Tutt	Longview	Texas
Shawn Murphy	Nicholasville	Ky.	Andrew Upshaw	Tulsa	Okla.
Cody Murray	Nampa	Idaho	John Voyles	Petersburg	Ind.
Chris Neau	New Orleans	La.	Jacob Wall	Jacksonville	Ore.
Corey Neece	Bristol	Tenn.	Chad Warren	Sand Springs	Okla.
Ron Nelson	Berrien Springs	Mich.	Joshua Weaver	Macon	Ga.
Dicky Newberry	Houston	Texas	Joseph Webster	Winfield	Ala.
James Niggemeyer	Van	Texas	Kyle Weisenburger	Ottawa	Ohio
Larry Nixon	Quitman	Ark.	Chris Whitson	Louisville	Tenn.
Jordan Osborne	Longview	Texas	Andy Wicker	Pomaria	S.C.
Robert Pearson	Herndon	Va.	Scott Wiley	Bay Minette	Ala.
Pete Ponds	Madison	Miss.	Alton Wilhoit	Noble	Okla.
Hensley Powell	Whitwell	Tenn.	Joel Willert	Prior Lake	Minn.
Chad Randles	Elkhorn	Neb.	David Williams	Maiden	N.C.
Drew Ratley	Shreveport	La.	Austin Wilson	Citrus Heights	Calif.
Tom Redington	Royse City	Texas	Barry Wilson	Birmingham	Ala.
Matt Reed	Madisonville	Texas	Matt Wittekiend	Angleton	Texas
Clark Reehm	Elm Grove	La.	Tyler Woolcott	Port Orange	Fla.
Jimmy Reese	Witter Springs	Calif.	David Wootton	Collierville	Tenn.
Jason Reyes	Huffman	Texas	Gary Yamamoto	Palestine	Texas
Curtis Richardson	Belleville, Ontario	Canada	Andy Young	Isle	Minn.