

STARS & STRIPES

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JIM HENDERSON: ON DECK

As one of my passions - football - ends for another season, a second resumes - fishing.

I've been fortunate to indulge that "other" passion in some exotic locales: tarpon in Costa Rica, salmon in Alaska, halibut in British Columbia, smallmouth bass in Ontario, Canada.

Over Mardi Gras I checked off another entry on my bucket list: largemouth bass fishing in Mexico.

The country has some of the most productive such lakes in the world like Guerrero, El Salto, and Comedero. About six years ago another was added to that list by damming up the Presidio River. Lake Picachos was created at the cost of six abandoned villages. The 24,000 acre impoundment is about 45 minutes from Mazatlan and offered one of the most unique experiences I've ever enjoyed.

The bass at this point are not harvested. The catch and release program and an abundant forage base of Tilapia, crayfish, Nile perch, and freshwater shrimp have produced a lake in which the bass are healthy, feisty, and protected by a lake full of flooded timber and trees.

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We fished over, under, around and in them constantly and once around the tombs of a flooded and abandoned cemetery.

Each day the fishing began at 6:30 AM and concluded at 6:30 PM with an hour and a half off for lunch and a refreshing siesta. In the four days we fished my partner and I boated 401 fish including 81 the morning of our departure. Because the lake is so young, it boasts numbers more so than trophies. But in the next few years it'll produce both.

In all it was a most memorable week. The months ahead before Saints training camp opens will enable me to fish private lakes in Mississippi, salt water in Delacroix, bottom fish with the grandsons off Santa Rosa Beach, the lake on a family camp near the Adirondacks, and a foray to Saskatchewan in July for pike and lake trout with my son.

When the Saints tee it up again in late July you can have my fishing pole when you pry it from my hot, sunburned hands. And it'll probably have to be.



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| <p>Reveille at Oak Alley 1K & 5K Run/Walk Saturday, March 21, 2015 Historic Oak Alley Plantation Vacherie, Louisiana</p> <p>Race Information: www.NOLArunning.com</p> | <p>Reveille at Oak Alley Run/Walk</p> <p>Presented by  SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER OF THIBODAUX REGIONAL</p>  |
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Jaci Gravois of Paulina
Brenda Dumas of Vacherie
Jeremy Laiche of Paulina

Each won a \$50 Visa Gift Card by entering last issue's contest drawing.

Thank you for reading this publication of Stars and Stripes!

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Please return by April 30, 2015 to be eligible for this drawing.
Winners will be announced in the next quarterly publication of Stars and Stripes.