MR. CRAPPIE HIMSELF, WALLY MARSHALL spent the weekend at Virgil Point on Hugo Lake hosting his annual Mr. Crappie tournament. This year's tournament was dedicated as the Walter White Memorial Tournament, where more than $12,000 in prize money was handed out to anglers from southeast Oklahoma and northeast Texas.

By Lyndol Fry HDN Outdoors

The big Mr. Crappie Walter White Memorial Tournament held Saturday, May 18 at Virgil Point Park was a huge success. Wally Marshall, "Mr. Crappie" said, "Walter would have been proud of our turn out."

More than 500 crappie anglers, parents and guests, including 138 kids carried off free prizes such as rods and reels, lures, Mr. Crappie fishing line, Dallas Cowboy and Bass Pro Shop hats and Wal-Mart prizes, just to name a few. Anglers and spectators also donated canned goods for the "Feed the Hungry" program.

David Hinkle, president of the Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the large crowd coming from southeast Oklahoma and northeast Texas. Don's Catfish Dock, Powderly, Texas, furnished a delicious lunch of hot dogs and pulled pork sandwiches.

More than 662 ice cream bars were given away just as the sun peeked out of the clouds and it started to get hot. Several members of the Hugo Buffalo football team and their coaches also helped out during this event.

The good news is that Wally Marshall handed out over $13,000 in prize money and a $1,200 two-man boat, battery and trolling motor which was won by a young angler. Many locals did not take advantage of a free sign up for $1,000 at Ed Wallace Ford on Friday night. They did not even have to enter the fishing part of the contest to be eligible. Wally was still shaking his head on Sunday morning. Talk about knocking a gift horse in the mouth. I said to him "maybe next year you can tell everyone to sign up for everything they can."

Here’s a list of some of the winners weighing in fish: first, second, third and tenth places: Randy Robertson, Rana Knight,

Smith Gallagher, Michael Wade, Bob Huskins, Dennis Douglas, Janelle Bashfield, John Parker, Dennis Williams, Weston Bates, Craig Bates, Dannell Smith, John Moffi tt, Steven Boling, Tracy Frost, James Griffith, Elvis Tucker, Tonya Horton, Gary Cannon, David Gibby, Stephanie Fox, Kaleb Fox, Nathan Bradford, Ricky Griffith, Jarrett Brasfield and Dillon Dawson who won $200 for the smallest crappie weighing .07 ounce.