

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" "Lines To Get Hooked On"

2 Sections

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Free

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No. 162



"New improvement on Lake Fork that will be greatly appreciated!" This new walk-way and floating dock was recently installed at the Hwy. 154 Public Ramp. This was a much needed courtesy for fishermen and boaters. Concrete walks will be poured as weather permits. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)

**2013 Toyota Texas Bass Classic
Scheduled for Oct. 4-6 at Lake Conroe
World Championship of Bass Fishing Moves to Lake Fork
in Spring 2014 and features double event qualification**

Toyota Texas Bass Classic officials announced this year's dates for the World Championship of Bass Fishing, scheduled for Oct. 4-6, 2013 at Lake Conroe; and after five years at Conroe, the 2014 TTBC will return to Lake Fork, the inaugural host site, May 9-11, 2014.

"The City of Conroe has been an incredible

host over the past four years," Tournament Director Lenny Francoeur said. "We have an amazing partnership and we're excited to return to Conroe again in October. We are also excited to return to Lake Fork, an historic Texas bass fishery where the community was so welcoming the first time around."

Dave Terre, Chief of

Management & Research for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries Division added, "This year we will celebrate an unprecedented fifth consecutive year at Lake Conroe, an area where we've reached many milestones including record attendance, a first-ever over-

(See 2012 Toyota Texas....
Continued on Page 4-A)



We all know what a hard time Lake Fork Crappie Guide Terri Moon has had lately with the loss of her husband Jerry and the burglary of her boat the day after, but this was a shining moment for her! Jim Bayne, Shimano Canada's Fishing National Sales Manager, Phil Morlock, Director of Environmental Affairs SAC/SCL, and Tom Brooke, now retired from Shimano sent her a "Care Package" to replace some of what was taken. Terri was extremely happy, not to mention the UPS man being able to get all of the boxes off his truck. For all anglers interested there is going to be a Jerry Moon Memorial Tournament held on Lake Fork and the date and specifics will be announced.



2013 Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Count on Lake Fork was held on January 12 & 13. Over 30 volunteers counted 26 Bald Eagles and 3 Golden Eagles. Of the 26 Bald Eagles, the majority were immature and there was one active nest spotted. A good sign for the future.

Bubba Be A Poet And His Feet Show It "Cause They're Long Fellows"

By Bubba B. Tuff
"A Valentine Tradition"

Collards is green,
My dogs name is Blue,
And I'm so Lucky
To have a sweet thang
like you.
Yore hair is like Corn-
silk,
A-Flapping in the
breeze,
Softer than Blue's, and
without all them fleas.
You move like the
bass,
Which excite me in
May.
You ain't got scales,
But I luv you anyway.
Yo're as satisfy'n as
okra,
Jist a-fry'n in the pan
Yo're fragrant as snuff,
Right out of the can.
You have all Yore teeth,
For which I am proud,
I hold my head high,
When we're in a crowd.
On special occasions,
When you shave under
yore arms,
Well, I'm in hog heav-

en, and awed by yore
charms.
Still them fellars at
work,
They all want to know,
What I did to deserve
Such a purdy, young
doe.
Like a good roll of duct
tape,
Yo're there fer yore
man, to patch up lifes
troubles and fix what
you can.
Yo're as cute as a
junebug,
A-buzzing overhead.
You ain't mean like
those far ants, I found
in my bed.
Cut from the best cloth
like a plaid flannel shirt,
You build up my life,
more than a fresh load
of dirt.
When you hold me real
tight,
Like a padded gunrack,
My life is complete,
Ain't nuttin' I lack.
Yore complexion is
perfection,
Like new vinyl sidin'.

despite all the years,
Yore age, it keeps hi-
din'.
Me' n' you's like a
moon pie, with a RC
cold drank,
We go together, like a
skunk goes with stank.
Some men, they buy
chocolate,
For Valentines day,
They git it at Wal-Mart,
It's romantic that way.
Some men git roses,
On that special day,
From the cooler at
Brookeshires,
That's impressive, I'd
say.
Some men buy fine
diamonds,
From a flea market
booth
Diamonds are forever,
They explain, suave
and Couth.
But for this man, honey,
These won't do.
Cause yo're too special,
You sweet thang you.
I got you a gift,
Without taste nor odor,

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diamonds.....
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Bubba's Special Rhyme to His Special Valentine

Bubbette you know
these emotions in my
heart for you I do feel,
Honey Pie I luv ya
more than my Shimano
Rod n Reel!
And when I take ya' in
public with pride I do
bloat...
Close to the same feel-
ings I hav for my new
Legend bass boat.
You still excite me
like bass schoolin' and
jumpin' in the lake....
And I'll always know
that parking my boat in
your front yard wasn't
a mistake!
How do I luv ya, Bub-
bette? I really don't
think I can count that
high!
But just the thought
of it all just makes me

sigh!
I luv ya cause ya don't
complain when I fish...
I luv ya how ya don't
complain when I break
a dish!
I luv ya for not hating
my pretty bass boat...
I luv ya for the times ya
let me go make it float!
I luv ya for letting me
leave our warm bed,
way before dawn...
Jus' so I can try to get a
"Fish On!"
I luv ya cause you con-
sole me when fishing is
tuff...
I luv ya because you let
me collect all kinds of
fishing stuff!
I luv ya for letting me
fish on the tournament
trail...
And especially for not
rubbin' it in when in
the competition I fail!
I even luv ya when ya
take away my winning
checks and spend them
at Wal-Mart...
Even when you make
me push that broken

wobblin' ole' cart!
I luv ya for having my
dinner ready for me
after I fished hard all
day...
I luv ya for reminding
me when I forget to
pray!
Ya, know my lil' honey
pie, by your side I'll al-
ways stay..
And only to go fishin'
will ever I stray!!
So, Happy Valentine,
ole' Love of Mine,
This is your present...
To you from me... my
very own rhyme!
And I sure hope you
like it cause it cost me a
lot of fishin' time!
Now if you'll excuse
me, I'm going to stretch
my line!!!



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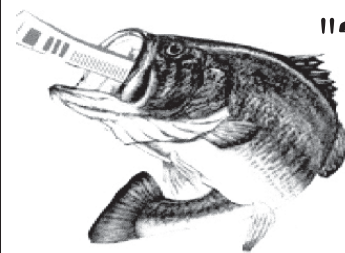
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2013 Toyota Texas Bass Classic Scheduled for Oct. 4-6 at Lake Conroe (Continued from Page 1-A)

time fish-off and helped raise over \$1.5 million for the TPWD youth and outdoor programs," Terre said. "Additionally, we're excited to be able to further increase the awareness of the state's great bass fisheries with a return to Lake Fork in 2014."

Currently, anglers qualify for TTBC through the Angler of the Year points race in the Bassmaster Elite Series, Walmart FLW Tour and Bass Pro Shops PAA Tournament Series, four sponsor exemptions and the prior year champion. With the 2014 move, anglers will qualify for both tournaments with the 2013 Angler of the Year races, adding an extra element of competition – missing out on the 2013 TTBC would eliminate an angler from the tournament until 2015.

"With having double event qualification, it makes each and every point available on each respective Tour that much more valuable," Francoeur said. "Anglers who compete at TTBC are the best of the best and to come here and win is truly something special. Earning the chance to compete in the event twice in one season is something we know will give the anglers extra motivation for this year."

Anglers that qualify for the Toyota Texas Bass Classic join a prestigious rank of past competitors. By drawing from all three major tours, the Toyota Texas Bass Classic field consistently

boasts the best anglers in the world. The 2012 TTBC anglers had a combined 177 total wins, 15 Angler of the Year wins, 15 world championship winners and almost \$75 million in prize money.

The 2012 tournament saw an unprecedented 11 anglers compete on the final day, and Bryan Thrift was crowned the Toyota Texas Bass Classic champion. With a dominating Sunday performance, Thrift bested second place angler Brian Snowden with a comeback for the ages, overcoming a final day deficit of 4 pounds, 12 ounces. Thrift won the 2012 TTBC by a staggering 9 pounds, 4 ounces for a total weight of 53 pounds, 4 ounces.

After a successful and delicious first year, TTBC officials are also pleased to announce the return of the TTBC BBQ Cook-Off. For the third year in a row, tickets to TTBC will be free and available at www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com later this year. The BBQ Cook-Off, daily tournament weigh-ins, outdoor expo and concerts will take place at the Lone Star Convention and Expo Center, making the Toyota Texas Bass Classic a destination for families, fishing enthusiasts and country music fans to enjoy. The 2013 concert lineup will be released later in the year, and last year's musical acts included country superstars Dierks Bentley, Gary Allan and Jake Owen.

Anglers will compete on Lake Conroe over three days, October 4-6, 2013, with the field being reduced to the top-10 for the final round on Sunday, October 6. The tournament will remain a non-entry fee event and all 50 competing anglers will receive guaranteed prize money. Through a continued partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), TTBC will continue to its focus on conservation efforts and adhere to a strict catch, weigh and immediate release format. Over the last six years, the Toyota Texas Bass Classic has donated over \$1.5 million to the TPWD, an effort that will continue again this year.

The Lone Star Convention & Expo Center is a state-of-the-art facility conveniently located minutes from Lake Conroe and The Woodlands and only 40 minutes north of Houston. The location offers easy access to event activities, local shops and restaurants. For more information visit www.thelonestar.org.

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic tournament functions are operated by the Professional Anglers Association with technical assistance and support from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries Division. Title sponsor for the event is Toyota. For additional information, visit toyotatexasbassclassic.com or call 1-866-907-0143.



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Edward Parten Tapped for Induction into Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame

Edward Parten of Kingwood, owner of a construction firm, has been selected as the 2013 inductee into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

He will be formally inducted into the Hall of Fame at a banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens on June 1.

Parten was a charter member of Texas Black Bass Unlimited and held several offices in that organization, including president, board member and political liaison. In the latter capacity he represented the interests of Texas anglers numerous times in testimony before the Texas Legislature.

Parten was also a member and officer in the Texas Association of Bass Clubs and was founder and president of the Sensible Management of Aquatic Resources Team, which advocated the use of mechanical control of nuisance aquatic vegetation instead of the use of chemicals. He also served as environmental director of the Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation, tournament director for the East Texas chapter of the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation and tournament director for Angler's Choice, and is a committee member of the Texas State Bass Tournament, the oldest bass tournament in the world.

Parten has long been an adviser to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), serving several terms on that organization's Freshwater Advisory Board. He worked with TPWD on such issues as possession limits, the freshwater fishing stamp and grass carp control. He also worked on fish habitat improvement projects on a number of Texas reservoirs and helped raise funds for projects at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

Honors Parten has received for his efforts include being named to the Texas State Bass Tournament Hall of Fame and Conservationist of the Year Award from the Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation.

"I am extremely honored and humbled at receiving this prestigious award," Parten said of his selection for induction into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. "It has been my great pleasure to be allowed to work with some of the greatest fisheries people in the country to help protect our environment, air and water quality, preservation of habitat, fisheries and leave behind a legacy for those generations of people who will follow us."

Philip Durocher, retired director of the In-

land Fisheries Division of TPWD and chair of the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame Committee, worked with Parten many times over the course of their careers. "I don't believe I ever went to a meeting anywhere in Texas to discuss important fisheries issues that Ed wasn't there," Durocher said. "We could always count on his help with a project or with the legislature. 'Big Ed' is certainly deserving of this honor."

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is housed at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. Its mission is to "recognize and honor those who have made a lasting contribution to freshwater fishing in Texas, and to foster a sense of appreciation, awareness and participation in the sport of fishing."

In addition to the Hall of Fame, the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center includes a visitor center, production hatchery, stocked casting pond, wetlands trail, fishing museum and dive theater. It is the home of the Toyota ShareLunker program, which uses selective breeding to increase the number and size of trophy bass in Texas public waters.



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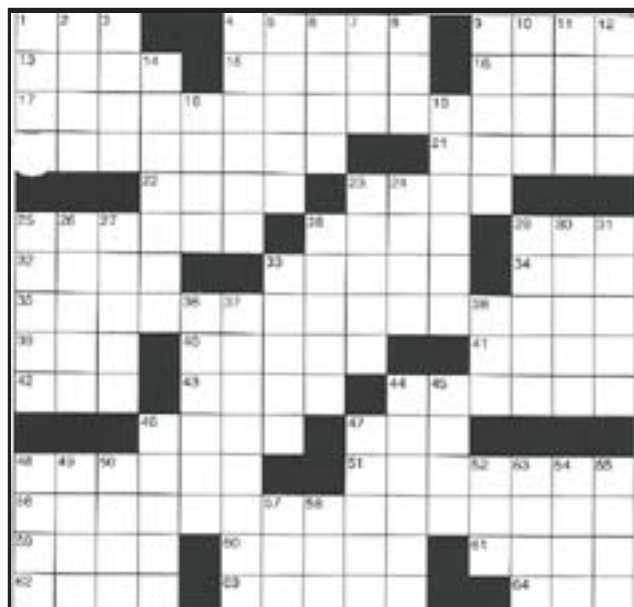
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February Bassin on Lake Fork

By John Tanner

Well here we go folks. We are already through January and it is February 2013.

Last year was a blast and I am so thankful to God for each blessing He gave and His mercy. I am really looking forward to this season. You know time is flying by and a few fish are already being caught up in the shallows on red lipless crankbaits and jigs. This time of year even though the water is cooler, a good number of fish will go ahead and move shallow in search of sun and forage. During the day baitfish and crawfish will inhabit the shallows along the weedlines up the lake and around the wooded points leading into the creek channels.



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Behave in a certain manner | 39. Side that is sheltered from the wind |
| 4. Drop-offs | 40. Infections |
| 9. Predatory whale | 41. Wings |
| 13. _____ Spelling, actress | 42. Very fast airplane |
| 15. Opus | 43. Dance music |
| 16. Born under Capricorn | 44. Progressions |
| 17. _____ of All, Whitney Houston hit (three words) | 46. Video or audio |
| 20. Aliens | 47. Peace (Latin) |
| 21. Yellow-fever mosquitoes | 48. Look at again |
| 22. Lyrics | 51. Copyreader's task |
| 23. Callous | 56. What singer Jessica Simpson thinks |
| 25. Bracket of brick or stone | 59. Eschequer |
| 28. Season | 60. Becomes more extreme |
| 29. Inexperienced young person | 61. Sweet potatoes |
| 32. Cain and _____ | 62. Quantitative fact |
| 33. Antelope of central Eurasia | 63. Music term |
| 34. Brew | 64. Bravo! |
| 35. 1968 hit by The Troggs | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Tip of Aleutian Islands | 29. St. _____ Girl, brand of beer |
| 2. Roy _____, lawyer | 30. Forearm bones |
| 3. Journey | 31. Bases of statues |
| 4. Yarn used in embroidery | 33. Beetle Bailey superior |
| 5. Sorrel horses | 36. Jewish state |
| 6. Hymenopterans | 37. Flower, bouncing Bet |
| 7. Haitian monetary unit (abbr.) | 38. Paddle |
| 8. Distress signal | 44. Opposite of masochist |
| 9. Looked, in a way | 45. Depart |
| 10. Image of the cross on which Jesus died | 46. Way to dye |
| 11. Grotto | 47. Tyrant flycatcher |
| 12. Belonging to a Greek goddess | 48. Reductions of military personnel |
| 14. Base | 49. Utter sounds |
| 18. Cycled or biked | 50. Passport endorsement |
| 19. Genghis Khan, for one _____ claims | 52. Your |
| 24. Seaweed, for one _____ | 53. Hebrew calendar month |
| 25. Names | 54. Gangrenous inflammation |
| 26. Double-reed instruments | 55. Issue in a jet |
| 27. Face with masonry | 57. By way of |
| 28. Savings events | 58. Portuguese monetary unit (abbr.) |

Answers on Page 21-A

Last month we received a good bit of rain and the lake actually came up a good bit. I would say nearly a foot. That means a lot as it floods more cover and makes the water higher along the weedlines. If we get another big rain like the last one, hopefully it will come up another foot. This will make it even better! I really look forward to this time of year as the fish begin to move more and more as we slowly head toward spring time.

Some of the biggest fish we catch all year is in late January and February. Use your red or crawfish colored lipless crankbaits as your search bait. Once you find an area where you are catching a few fish, go back through with the jig and flip every piece of cover you can see and fish down the edge of the grass if there is some in the area you are fishing. Fish will begin to group up a little and sometimes those mega giants hang out in pairs. On the lipless crankbaits go with the Sebille Flatt shad and on the jig, you know you have to throw the ole trusty Stanley Jig. For the jig trailer I like to use the Berkley Power Bait Chigger Chunk or Chigger Craw. Another good one is the new Berkley Havoc Pit Boss or the new Chunk. Black and blue on the jig is always a consistent fish catching color.

I need to tell you about some new equipment on



the market that I am so excited about. ABU Garcia, the reel of choice for serious anglers around the world, has redesigned and improved the Revo line of reels. Just when I thought they couldn't get any better, they hit the market with the best reels I have ever put in my hand. I have been using the SX model and man they are awesome. I can't wait to get my hands on one of the new Premiers either. They are lighter and cast a long, long way. They are simply a blast to fish with. I have these new

Revo reels mounted on the all new Fenwick Aetos rods. These new rods by Fenwick are incredible. Give these new rods and reels a try and you will see why I am so excited about these new additions to my Hawg hunting arsenal! I saw Hank Parker fishing with these new (See February Bassin'....

Continued on Page 20-A)



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Game Warden Named Texas "Officer of the Year" by Conservation Association

Texas Game Warden Ryan Hunter has been named Texas "Officer of the Year" by the South-eastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Director Carter Smith presented the award to Hunter at the quarterly meeting of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission recently.

Hunter began his career with TPWD on Jan. 4, 2010 as a member of the 55th cadet class at the Texas Game Warden Training Academy. Since graduation that summer, he has been assigned to Moore and Sherman counties in the Texas Panhandle.

As a state game warden, Ryan has encountered a variety of law enforcement scenarios.

"His strong work ethic, positive attitude and professional demeanor have served him well when working with fellow employees and constituents," Smith said of Hunter.

When a child was sexually assaulted, Hunter and his wife were called on to assist the Texas Rangers with the investigation. Ryan's wife volunteered as an interpreter and the couple provided temporary housing for the child until the family members could be located by Child Pro-

tective Services.

After recognizing that hunting and fishing violations were excessively high among the Burmese residents in his area, Hunter collaborated with the community to conduct outreach events dealing with hunting and fishing regulations in their native language. Since then, violations have declined substantially.

In another case, when he received information from a National Park Service ranger about possible illegal fishing activity on Lake Meredith, Hunter and the ranger were able to apprehend four individuals who had used a homemade gill net to catch more than 200 pounds of catfish, walleye and carp. After further investigation, the subjects were linked to an illegal fish selling/purchasing operation.

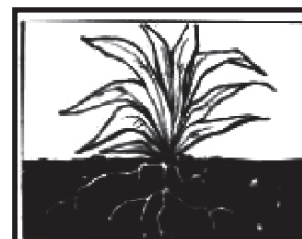
Hunter also handled a case involving the illegal sale of game animal meat. After working with other law enforcement agencies for several weeks, the suspect was brought to justice.

Warden Hunter has also been recognized as the Public Service/Involvement Officer of the Year by the Moore County 4-H for his community outreach efforts involving local youth.

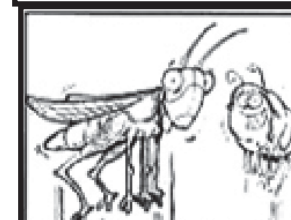
His efforts, along with other public service and

law enforcement personnel, helped bring to life a Law Enforcement Explorers Club for youth and young adults in the Moore County area.

A magna cum laude graduate of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Hunter is currently pursuing a master's degree in criminal justice-public safety.



Eighty five percent of a plant's roots are found in the top six inches of soil.



Grasshoppers can jump over twenty times their length. Fleas can jump eight feet. Humans could leap the length of a football field, if they had the same skill proportionate to their size.

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"The Moon Report" February Crappie on the Fork

By Terri Moon

Where do I begin? So much has happened in such a short period of time. I'm still trying to process it all! I think God knew it would take an "Army of Angels" to get me through this – and "he delivered!!!" I can't begin to "Thank You" all enough for all your kind words, thoughts, prayers and generosity. These were blessings beyond my "wildest imagination!"

From family – friends – and the entire fishing industry – thank you for wrapping your arms around me and lifting me up and getting me back on my feet! Also to all of you that I haven't met – I'm truly touched by your generosity and BIG hearts! There really are "ANGELS AMONG US." I'm sincerely grateful for all of Jerry's "lifetime" friends. You've meant so much to us both and sure appreciate you ALL looking out for me, and always being there for him.

Thanks to you all! I'm all set and have everything I need to get back on the water. I can hardly wait. All I need now is for the wind to lie down! Many blessings back to you all!

Now as far as the fishing goes – my plan of attack is to target 25 to 35 ft. one to four cranks off the bot-



tom. Nice crappie are being caught down the lake on the main lake points and deep water humps. Our water temperatures are on the rise around low to mid 50's – so keep your eyes open for the balls of shad – the crappie won't be far behind.

With the wind and rain we've had recently the water is pretty murky, so darker colors will be more effective, like black w/chartreuse or blue and pearl, or shad color. A slow presentation should be more productive.

Looks like we're going to have some nice days in February so don't miss out on the chance to get out and enjoy Lake Fork. I hope to see you out there!

Before I go I want to send prayers out to my mom who had to have emergency gall bladder surgery while down here helping me and thanks to everyone at ETMC Quitman for taking such good care of her. You are amazing Mom! Love, Thanks, and Best

Wishes!

P. S. A huge thank you to Pro Angler Tackle – "YOU ROCK!" Thanks for the gift basket you all sent. To all of you that were a part of being the first to come to my rescue and bless me with everything I needed to start over again – (and honestly, I just sat and cried, I was deeply touched by your generosity). I can never begin to tell you "Thank You" enough for all you've done! This was definitely the 'LIFT' I needed! I'm so excited to try all your tackle. I'll be back on the water very soon. I can't wait!

Check out proanglertackle.com. You won't believe the great products they carry!

Also, thanks to John Switzer of Lowrance and Tom Brooke and all of Shimano Canada "YOU ROCK!"
God Bless You All!

TERRI MOON

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\$1.33 million in Local Outdoor Grants to Benefit Texas Communities

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission on Thursday approved \$1.3 million in competitive grants for city and county parks across the state, funding 12 out of 35 funding requests.

Money for the 10 Outdoor Recreation Grants and 2 Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants comes from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Program funding is appropriated annually by Congress. TPWD is the pass-through agency for local governments in Texas.

The city of Belton in Bell County was granted \$100,000 to support its proposal to acquire 3.26 acres by donation and develop Nolan Creek, south/southeast to Confederate Park. The proposal includes trails, picnic tables, horseshoe court, exercise stations, two acres of open space, creek improvements for kayak/canoe use, amphitheater, landscaping, and interpretive signs.

Granite Shoals in Burnet County was granted \$100,000 to develop Quarry Park in the north area of the city on FM1431 and Phillips Ranch Road. The proposal includes trails, a tennis pavilion, wildflower gardens and an interpretive display.

The Sonterra Municipal Utility District southeast of Jarrell in Williamson County was granted \$100,000 to support its request to obtain 4.6 acres by donation and develop north and south parks in the east area of the district. The proposal includes game tables, picnic tables with grills, benches, playground, trail with solar lighting, community gardens with drop irrigation, trees and trash cans.

The city of Center in Smith County was granted \$100,000 to support its proposal to acquire 19.68 acres and further develop Center Park in the west area of the city on Roughrider Drive. The proposal includes walking and nature trails, pavilion/restroom with picnic tables and grills, open play area with landscaping and benches, lighted softball fields, playground, and interpretive signs.

Hays County will receive a grant of \$100,000 to support its proposal to acquire 31.5 acres and develop the Jacob's Well Natural Area north/northwest of Wimberley. The proposal includes the development of an outdoor classroom, three-acre natural area dedication, playscape, crushed granite trail, interpretive signs/kiosk, five picnic

tables, five benches, two wildlife/bird blinds, rain-water collection, two bike racks and native plant restoration.

The city of La Feria in Cameron County was granted \$100,000 to support its proposal to develop Unger Park on 330 S. West Street. The proposal includes one covered picnic unit with water catchment, two uncovered picnic tables made of recycled materials, multi-court, practice soccer field, basketball court with fence, playground equipment, climber, volley ball court, trail, three benches, barbeque pit, horseshoes, shuffleboard, four concrete sitting balls, walkway, exercise equipment, aquatic spray feature, solar and energy efficient security lighting, landscaping, native trees, drip irrigation and signs.

In northwest Corpus Christi in Nueces County, a grant of \$100,000 will be used to support acquisition of 12 acres and develop Lyondell Basell Park located on Haven Drive. The proposal includes a basketball half-court, playground, trail, exercise stations, picnic tables with grills, xeriscape area

(See 1.33 million.....Continued on Page 16-A)



Benny Weatherford with grandson

Benny Scott, Beebe, AR.

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Time to Begin Work on Texas State-Fish Art Contest Entries

Student artists across Texas in grades K -- 12 take notice: It's time to start preparing your entries for the 2013 Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest.

The contest is open to all students in public, private or home schools. Entry deadline is March 31 each year.

Contest rules, guidelines, entry information and details about the contest can be found at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishart.

Major support for the Texas division of the contest is provided by the Toyota Texas Bass Classic, which makes it possible for the top three Texas entries in each grade level to win cash prizes. Additional support for the contest is provided by the William E. Armentrout Foundation, Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center and Fish Flops.

The Texas first-place winner in grades 10-12 wins \$1,000; second place \$750; third place \$500. Prizes in the K-3, 4-6 and 7-9 grade levels are \$100 for first; \$75 for second; \$50 for third.

Funding from the Toyota Texas Bass Classic also provides a travel allowance for first-place Texas winners and their families to attend the national State-Fish Art Expo, which will be held July 12, 2013, at the Go Fish

Education Center in Perry, Georgia. Texas winners will compete with winners from other states for national awards at the Expo.

One outstanding piece of artwork each year is selected for the Art of Conservation Award, and a commemorative stamp featuring the artwork is produced for sale. Proceeds from sales of the stamp are used to fund conservation projects.

Educators who wish to have their students enter the contest can download the free "State-Fish Art Contest Lesson Plan" at www.statefishart.com. The interdisciplinary curriculum includes lessons and activities, a species identification section profiling each state fish, a glossary and student worksheets.

Located in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, Wildlife Forever is a non-profit multi-species conservation organization dedicated to conserving America's wildlife heritage. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to "on-the-ground" efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and enhancement, land acquisition, research and management of fish and wildlife populations.



Seth Larson from Dallas, Texas was fishing Lake Fork with guide Gerald Boudreaux when he caught this nice hawg weighing 9.7-lbs. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Boudreaux Guide Service)



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Big Bend Ranch State Park to Host Third-Annual Chihuahuan Desert Bike Fest

Big Bend Ranch State Park, located in the remote mountain country of far Southwest Texas, is set to host the third-annual Chihuahuan Desert Bike Fest, a challenging three-day mountain bike ride Feb. 14-16, at what many consider to be the up-and-coming premier mountain biking destination in the Southwestern U.S.

Bike Fest 2013, which is co-sponsored by Terlingua-based outfitter Desert Sports, will again feature three full days of guided rides through rugged, exigent desert terrain at the 300,000-acre plus state park, Big Bend National Park, and on the Lajitas Trail system. Numerous guided and unguided ride opportunities are scheduled each of the three days, led by veteran riders from Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. and Desert Sports/Big Bend Trails Alliance.

Highlighting the event's agenda again will be the signature, 58-mile EPIC ride (as designated by the International Mountain Biking Association) scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 16, onto which bikers can elect to extend an additional 12 miles (covering 70 miles total). There's also a two-day EPIC ride option, with an overnight stay and meals at the park's Saucedo bunkhouse.

There will also be daily forays along the state park's 30-plus-mile Rincon Loop, Chimney Rock Cut Across, Dome Loop and Contrabando trails, all of which are popular routes because of their single-track trails, vivid desert scenery, and historical points of interest.

In addition, park staff has added additional rides for this year's event, such as the Rock House Tour, a 21-mile course led by a park ranger that ventures off the beaten path to some of Big Bend Ranch's natural and cultural features like 100-plus-year-old ruins. And a "Geo-Ride" has been added, which is a self-guided geocache tour for bikers who like to use their GPS skills.

Water stations with drinking and potable water are located at various intervals along the trails for Bike Fest, and trained park staff and volunteers will be on hand for each ride. Even so, all riders should bring ample supplies of water, and do some advanced prep and training. Participants are encouraged to read the "Gear List" on the Desert Sports event website and be fully equipped before heading to Chihuahuan Desert Bike Fest: <http://www.desertsportstx.com/mountain-bike-event/suggested-gear-list/>

"We're telling riders to bring at least two or three liters of water per person, per day, sunscreen, and at least two self-sealing bike tubes, as a minimum," said Dan Sholly, deputy director of Texas State Parks. "This country is gorgeous, but it can be unforgiving if you're not prepared. It is critical to have tubeless bike tires or self-sealing tubes."

Although most of Bike Fest's rides are geared for advanced mountain bike enthusiasts, the park also offers shorter, ranger-led rides of 10-11 miles for strong beginner and low-intermediate level bikers

who have the conditioning to ride 11 miles of relatively flat terrain. A kid's ride is also scheduled for Friday and Saturday as well.

"While there are many challenging trails in the state park, there are also a number of double-track sections, which are great for beginning-level mountain bikers who are physically fit and equipped with appropriate gear and water," said Sholly.

The primary staging area for Chihuahuan Desert Bike Fest will again be the comfortable Lajitas Golf Resort and Spa, and Maverick Ranch RV Park, also in Lajitas. Both are strategically located along FM 170 near the event's daily trail head start and the state park's Barton Warnock Visitor Center.

Fun won't just be limited to the two-wheel variety; each evening there'll be live music, swimming, hula-hoop dancing, dining in Terlingua, and other activities. Bike manufacturing / company reps will also be on hand with a fleet of demo bikes for riders to try out on the trails. In all, last year, nearly 300 riders participated in Bike Fest, and more are expected for this year's event. Proceeds from Bike Fest will benefit the Big Bend Trails Alliance.

Advanced reservations for all overnight accommodations are highly recommended. For more information, to view a daily schedule of event rides, or to register for the Chihuahuan Desert Bike Fest, visit <http://www.desertsportstx.com> or <http://www.lajitasgolfresort.com>.



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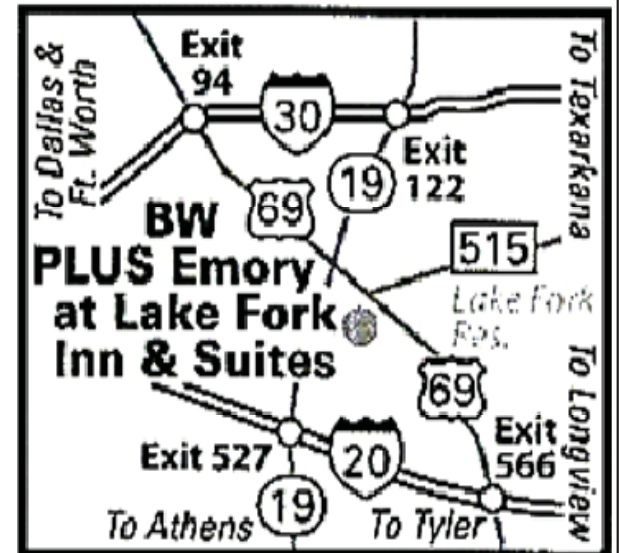
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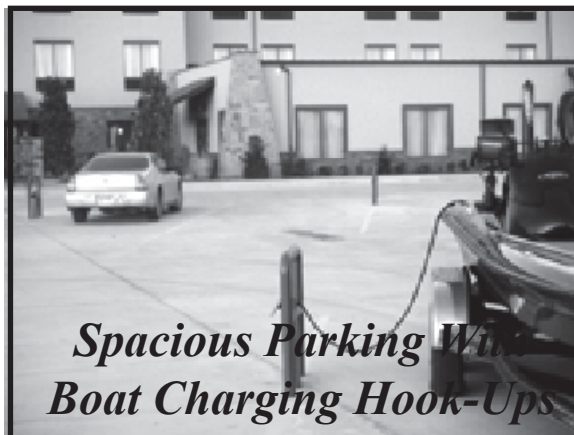
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Black bear activity on the upswing in the Hill Country and South Texas

Black bear activity in the Hill Country and South Texas along the Rio Grande from Del Rio to below Laredo is increasing, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists.

Though historically it has been very rare for bears to be sighted south or east of Val Verde County, in 2012 there were a dozen such sightings.

"This is likely a result of a growing number of bears in Mexico dispersing and searching for food after severe droughts and wildfires," says TPWD biologist Jonah Evans of Alpine, the department's bear coordinator. "Whether these sightings signify a permanent recolonization of Central and South Texas remains to be seen."

While black bears are native to all of Texas, in the early 1900's, heavy hunting and trapping completely eliminated them from the state. Currently, the only established breeding populations are in the Big Bend area of West Texas.

"Black bears are generally not a risk to humans," Evans says. "But they can become a nuisance if they gain a taste for human food, pet food, or trash. We've recently received several reports of bears tipping over and damaging deer feeders and a few raiding trash cans along the border."

Evans says the department's goal is for people and bears to coexist peacefully.

"By eliminating food rewards, we eliminate most of the problems," he says. "Many communities in bear country have effectively adapted to live with

bears, but it takes everyone working together and doing their part."

The most effective strategy is for residents along the border to secure their trash, bird feeders, and pet food, so bears don't become habituated to easy meals, Evans notes.

"This cannot be overstated," he continues. "The saying 'A fed bear is a dead bear' is absolutely true. If a bear becomes habituated and food-conditioned, there is little we can do to save it. It will likely have to be destroyed."

TPWD is asking for people to report all bear sightings. If a bear is causing a nuisance, TPWD will work with residents to secure attractants and may attempt to haze the bear. In extreme situations, the bear may be relocated. Biologists are also available to give talks and educational programs on living with bears. Since black bears are a threatened species in Texas, they cannot be legally hunted or harmed.

If you see a bear, please report it to Jonah Evans at (432) 837-2051 x228.

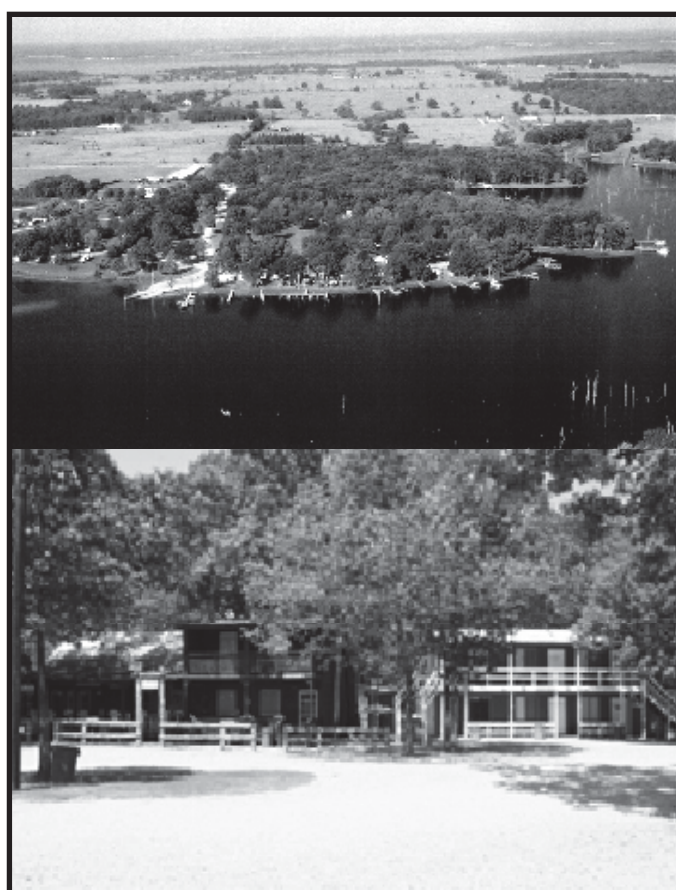
Bear activity reported in 2012 includes:

--Maverick County -- Jan. 26 -- Sighting
--Starr County -- July 30 -- Relocated
--Kimble County -- Aug. 6 -- Sighting
--Menard County -- Aug. 8 -- Sighting
--Schleicher County -- Aug. 8 -- Sighting
--Sutton County Aug. 12 -- Sighting
--Webb County -- Aug. 27

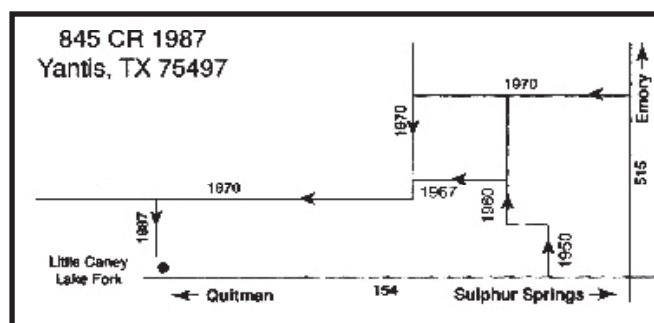
-- Killed on road by vehicle
--Uvalde County Aug. 31 -- Sighting
--Kinney County Sept. 25 -- Sighting
--Maverick County -- Oct. 14 -- Relocated
--Val Verde County -- Nov. 3 -- Sighting
--Edwards County -- Nov. 5 -- Sighting

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\$1.33 million in Local Outdoor Grants to Benefit Texas Communities (Continued from Page 9-A)

with setting, two acre natural open space, interpretive signs, drip irrigation and walkways.

The city of Bedford in Tarrant County will receive \$100,000 to renovate and further develop 68 acres in Boys Ranch Park at 2801 Forest Ridge in the north area of the city. The proposal includes fishing pier/dock, trail renovation and expansion, disc golf, overlook/interpretive area, picnic tables, sheltered playground, amphitheater renovation, lake dredging/restoration, riparian area plantings with low water irrigation and interpretive signs.

The city of Brownwood in Brown County has received \$100,000 to support the renovation and further development of 24 acres for the Camp Bowie Soccer Complex located in the south area of the city on Calvert Road. The proposal includes soccer/football fields, playground, pavilion, field irrigation, lighting for three fields, landscaping

and xeriscape garden with drip irrigation.

El Ranchito Park south of San Benito in Cameron County has been granted \$100,000 to support the development of the park. The proposal includes a softball/baseball field, soccer field, basketball court, trail, playground, sheltered picnic tables, benches, butterfly garden, landscaping, drip irrigation and interpretive signs.

Two Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants, which are given to municipalities with a population exceeding 500,000, were awarded to Fort Worth and Houston.

Fort Worth will receive a \$110,000 grant to support the development of the trailhead of Trinity Park located in the west central area of the city. The proposal includes trail connections, plaza, parking, pavilion, tables, benches, restroom enclosure, drinking fountain and program sign.

Houston in Harris County has been granted \$220,000 to support the development of Shady Lane Park located in the northern part of the city. The proposal includes a playground, plaza seating, benches, trail, play hill, stepping stone path, log tunnel, climbers, native plants, irrigation, park entry columns, landscaping, trash receptacles and program sign.

For more information about the grant awards or the recreation grant programs, see TPWD's grants Web page, phone the Recreation Grants Branch at 512-389-8224 or email: Rec.Grants@tpwd.state.tx.us.

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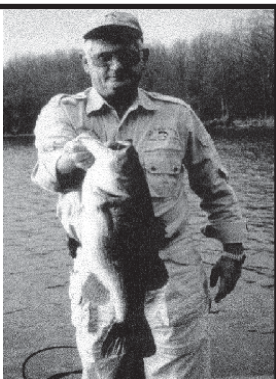
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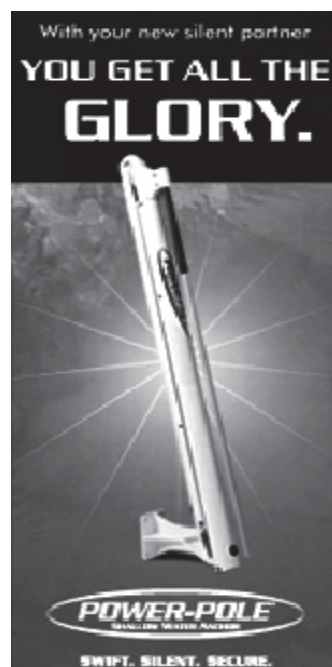
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Multiple Indictments Returned in State Game Warden Hostage Case

An Upshur County grand jury has returned multiple felony indictments, including two first degree counts of aggravated assault on a police officer, naming a father and son accused of holding a state game warden at gunpoint last October.

All the indictments stem from an Oct. 6 incident in which Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Warden Shane Bailey was disarmed and detained by two armed men while the officer was making a routine check for hunting law violations on private property in Upshur County.

The warden used his cell phone to call for help, and soon numerous local and state officers came to his assistance and ended the situation with no shots fired.

Lloyd Allen Crabtree, 51, a former county commissioner in Upshur County, was

named in five felony indictments, including three counts of aggravated assault on a peace officer (first degree felony); one count of taking a weapon from a peace officer (third degree felony) and one count of unlawful restraint with a deadly weapon (third degree felony).

Crabtree's son, Todd A. Crabtree, 28, was indicted on three felony charges: One count of aggravated assault on a peace officer (first degree felony); one count of taking a weapon from a peace officer (third degree felony); and one count of unlawful restraint with a deadly weapon (third degree felony).

The attorney for the two men notified them recently that arrests warrants had been issued and they turned themselves

in at the Upshur County Jail a short time later. They remained in jail in lieu of \$1.5 million bond each.

The incident last fall was investigated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Internal Affairs Unit and the Texas Rangers.

"We really appreciate the hard work on the part of our Internal Affairs officers, the Texas Rangers and Upshur County District Attorney's Office that went into this investigation," said Col. Craig Hunter, TPWD's Law Enforcement Division director. "While this case still has to make its way through the judicial process, we hope these indictments will send a strong message that incidents such as this one will not be tolerated by law-abiding Texans."



The sentence "the quick brown fox jumps over a lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet!

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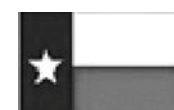
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"Pack of Knowledge" Jigs for Springtime Lunkers—Part I

By Tom Redington

For catching the largest bass that swim on your favorite waterway, it's hard to beat a jig in the winter and prespawn. Although it is such a simple bait, I've spent the better part of two decades trying to master it. I still miss more jig hits than I'd like, but the skills I've learned have resulted in many big bass for me, including my biggest ever, a 12 lb 5 oz prespawn bruiser. Furthermore, many of my best tournament stringers over the years

have come on a jig, so it is definitely worth investing the time to hone your skills with this bait.

I start by choosing a jig to match the depth and cover that I'll be fishing. While there are a number of specialized jigs to cover every application from fishing rocky shores to punching grass mats, I normally start with a general purpose flipping jig that allows me to fish both wood cover and to work deep weedlines. My preference is the Lake Fork Trophy Lures MPack jig. Its head is shaped to come through cover well, then rotate in a fish's jaws to almost always hook them in the roof of the mouth. In addition, a big strong hook is required when pulling monster bass out of heavy cover in the spring, and the magnum Gamakatsu hook on this jig is razor sharp and ultra-strong. With a strong rod, heavy line and a short pitch cast, jigs with inferior hooks will flex and not penetrate in the bony mouth of lunker bass. Depending on the day, I'll fish anywhere from a ¼ to ¾ oz size jig. I normally start with the ½ oz size, but I'll cover weight selection more in Part II.

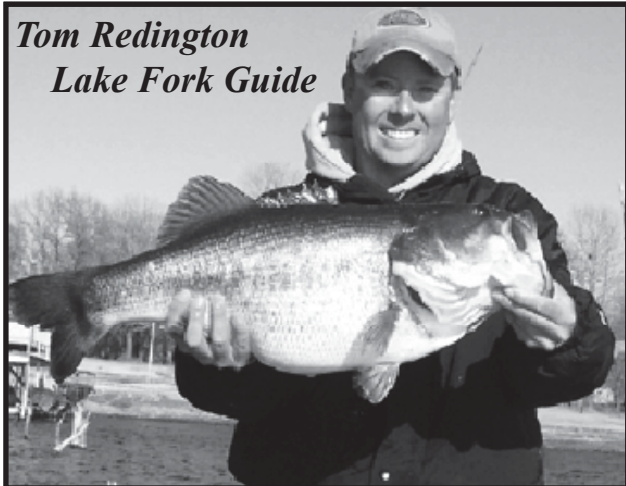
Once you have selected a jig, it isn't complete until you add a trailer. Your choice of trailer will alter the size, profile, color, drop speed, & cover penetrating ability of your jig. If I'm pitching to specific targets like stumps, docks, or laydowns, I want a streamlined trailer that will drop straight

down instead of gliding away from the target. Furthermore, streamlined baits hurry down and are more effective for bass that are relating to the bottom. When I want a streamlined trailer, I normally go with a Fork Craw and I'll remove the legs and antennae to make it more compact. Other times, the slower, gliding fall of larger, flatter trailers work well, especially for bass suspended in grass or wood cover. In addition, the flat surface allows you to skip jigs more effectively under docks and overhanging branches. Plastic pork chunk style baits like Pig Claws are the kings of gliding and skipping. To slow the rate of fall and get a lot of action, creature baits like Flippers or Hyper Freaks as a trailer give a jig ultimate action.

After making these choices, we come to always controversial topic of color. Although color sometimes makes a world of difference, in general, springtime jig fishing seems to be more about lure placement and presentation than hitting on the perfect color. In fact, in winter and early prespawn, I almost exclusively go with the traditional black and blue combinations. It'll work well in both clear and muddy water and on cloudy or sunny days. Once the water warms up later in spring, color seems to matter a bit more. In clearer water and on brighter days, try natural colors like pump-

(See Pack of Knowledge...Continued on Page 21-A)

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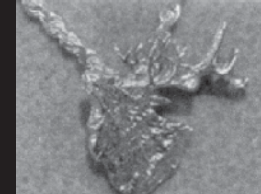
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February Bassin on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

weapons on his show the other day, and he was excited too. Give em a try!

If it is your first time out in a while, I would start my search by going up the lake into one of the creeks that traditionally have early spawning activity. Birch Creek is a good one to try and has a lot of spawning pockets with good points at the mouths of them. Another good area is Running Creek and of course the Glade Creek area. You would be surprised how shallow these fish get this time of year so get out there and cover some water. You may not load the boat with fish but you just

might catch the biggest bass of your life. Numbers usually increase as the month rolls along and we get on into mid February. The days are getting longer now so the afternoons sometimes can be when the best bite is on. On sunny days when the sun is shining on the banks all day you will have an increase in surface temps and it usually peaks during the mid to late afternoon. This is a key time to be fishing this time of year and a lot of times when you get the big bite you came to Lake Fork for. Be patient, fish hard and hang on!

Thank you for reading this article and I hope

it helps you catch more and bigger bass this month here on Lake Fork. If you have any questions about fishing or would like to book a guide trip with us and go after your trophy bass, call me at 903-569-7451 or drop me an email at tanner@lakeforkbassguide.com or jtanner811@gmail.com. Take a look at www.lakeforkbassguide.com for booking info and other

info on Lake Fork. Be sure to check out the cool fish videos and tons of photos and hey check out our other website www.tanneroutdoors.com. You can also find me on face book under John Tanner.

On February 23rd there will be a wild game dinner over at Lake Fork Baptist Church on Hwy 515 at 6:30 pm. Come enjoy some awesome food and listen to Tony Crow as he shares his incredible story. There will be a ton of door prizes including a bunch of guided trips here on Lake Fork. While you are in the area be sure and go by and visit our local Ranger Boat dealer Diamond Sports Marine over on Hwy 154. Tell em Tanner sent ya.

Please pray for our troops as they protect our freedom each and every day. Also pray for the sick and the lost. Until next time good fishing and God Bless. Read John 3:16.

John Tanner is a professional resident fishing guide on Lake Fork. He has been fishing Lake Fork since 1982. John is professionally sponsored by Ranger Boats, Ranger Trail Trailers, Mercury, International Precious Metals, Minn Kota Trolling Motors, Lowrance Electronics, Navionics, Berkley, ABU Garcia, All Star Rods, Tru Tungsten, Hambys Beach Bumpers, Mustad Hooks, Talon Lures, BTS Line and Lure, Diamond Sports Marine and Oakley Sunglasses.



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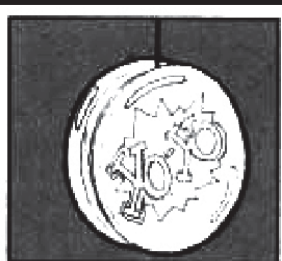
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"Pack of Knowledge" (Continued from Page 18-A)

kinseed, green pumpkin or watermelon. In dirtier water and on cloudier days, dark jigs in blacks, browns, and purples are often better, especially with a little splash of a bright color like chartreuse, red, or orange. Most folks meticulously match their trailer to their jig. While that often works well, I've had great results with some pretty obnoxious contrasting colors. For instance, a black blue jig with a green pumpkin or watermelon red trailer is one of my favorites, as is a peanut butter & jelly jig with a watermelon candy trailer. Experiment until you find what works for you on a given day.



The yo-yo is believed to be the second-oldest toy in the world. The name yo-yo comes from a Filipino expression meaning "come come".

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Now it's time to tie your jig on, and here's where technology makes jig fishing more efficient. New fluorocarbon and braided lines are much more sensitive and abrasion resistant, allowing you to feel light bites and then winch lunkers out of tight spots. In heavy grass and wood, 50 to 65 lb braid is hard to

beat. Unless I'm in dense cover, I prefer to tip my braid with a 6' to 9' leader of 20 to 30 lb fluorocarbon for reduced visibility to the bass. In open water situations, 10 to 20 lb fluorocarbon as the main line is nearly as sensitive as braid and stealthier, when ultra-
(See Pack of Knowledge... Continued on Page 22-A)

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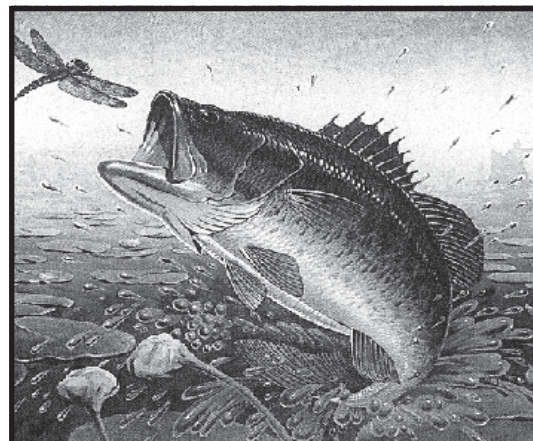
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The titles of 14 political officials are hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

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"Pack of Knowledge" (Continued from Page 21-A)

high abrasion resistance isn't required.

Finally, you'll need to rig this all up on a light-weight and sensitive rod & reel. I prefer high speed 7:1 bait casting reels because they are more efficient by allowing me to quickly reel in after working a stump and then fire to the next one. As

for the rod, I look for several attributes. A well-balanced stick allows you to fish it all day, and a sensitive rod with a fast tip will help detect those light bites (and the bites from the big fish are usually the lightest). Meanwhile, the rod needs to have a lot of power to pull out big fish, yet retain

enough of a tip to pitch or roll cast the jig accurately. Personally, I've found the Dobyns Extreme rods to be perfect for jig fishing because they are as sensitive as any rod I've ever used. While you don't need a sensitive rod for topwater or spinnerbait fishing, feel is paramount in jig fishing and this is the one category of rods that you should buy the best you can afford. I normally opt for the DX745 model, a 7'4" rod that's rated Mag Heavy. If the cover is lighter and I'm using fluorocarbon and smaller jigs, the slightly less

powerful DX744 model is a Heavy power rod and has enough tip to cast the lighter baits. In either case, 7' and longer rods really help make longer pitches and then give you more control over big fish to help land them once they're hooked.

Now that you're all rigged up, next month I'll dive into the wheres and hows of jig fishing. Until then, here's hoping you catch the lunker of your dreams. If I can be of assistance, please contact me at 214-683-9572 or e-mail me through my website, www.LakeForkGuideTrips.com.

Tom Redington is a FLW Tour pro, host of TV's "Big Bass Battle" & a bass guide on Lake Fork. To make the most of your experience in the outdoors, he recommends the Boy Scouts of America, Lake Fork Trophy Lures, Dobyns Rods, Ranger Boats, Mercury Outboards, Diamond Sports Marine, Lucky Craft, Costa Sunglasses, Lowrance, Navionics, & Power Pole.





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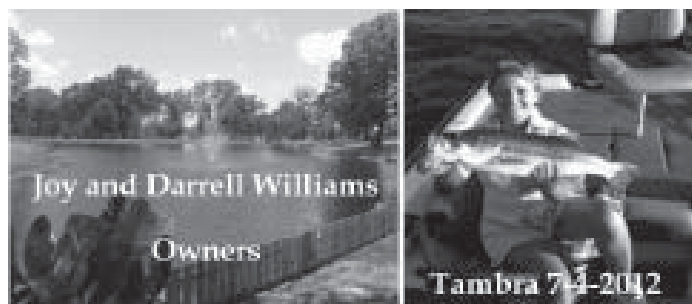
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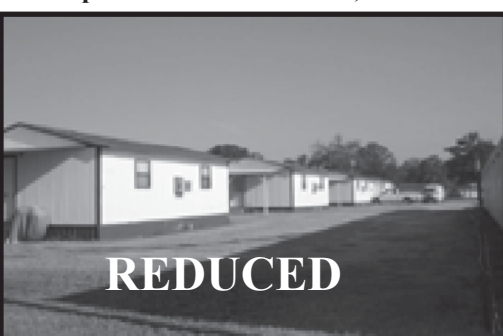
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