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

2 Sections

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Free

Vol. 14

April, 2013

No. 164



Donald Deville from Ville Platte, Louisiana caught this ShareLunker weighing 14.06-pounds fishing Lake Fork on March 20th, fishing 58 degree water in approximately 5-feet of water. His was TPWD/Toyota ShareLunker #547 and the 253rd to come from Lake Fork.

Louisiana Angler Lands Lake Fork ShareLunker

Donald Deville of Ville Platte, Louisiana makes regular visits to Lake Fork with friends and family to fish for big bass, but he had never landed a double-digit fish. That is until March 20.

The 14.06-pound largemouth bass he caught mid-morning of the group's first day on the lake is now Toyota ShareLunker 547 and the 253rd entry from Lake Fork. The fish was 25.75 inches long and 22 inches in girth. It was held for pickup at Lake Fork Marina, an official Toyota ShareLunker Weigh and Holding Station.

Deville caught the fish in five feet of 58-degree water using a Brush Hog. "It was about my third cast," Deville said. "I was fishing with one of my sons, and he threw on the left side of the stump, and I threw on the right. And I got the big lunker to bite."

Deville fought the fish for some time. "She didn't wrap on anything, but she took a lot of drag," he said. "Finally we saw her and how big she was, and we got really excited."

(See Louisiana Angler Lands.....Continued on Page 4-A)

Ram Mega Bass on Lake Fork April 7th

The Ram Mega Bass Tournament hosted by Bass Champs, Inc. is a one day, hourly big bass tournament that awards a Ram Truck for the heaviest fish every hour plus a Skeeter boat for the biggest bass of the day.

Cast out a bait, reel in a Truck!

On April 7th, 2013 Skeeter Bass Champs will be hosting the 5th Annual Dodge Ram Mega Bass Tournament on Lake Fork, a world renowned bass fishery. On that day, 7 (seven) Dodge Ram pick-up trucks, a Skeeter Bass boat, plus over 100 hourly checks will be awarded. This event is an hourly big bass event, meaning each competitor may weigh in a bass every hour during the day. The hours are from 8AM to 2 PM. The heaviest bass of each hour will win a new Ram Truck. The top 15 bass of each hour will win cash prizes ranging from \$500 for 2nd place each hour to \$150 for 15th place each hour. The person who catches the single largest bass of the day will receive a Skeeter ZX190 bass boat in addition to the Ram Truck. The total prize purse for the day is over \$225,000, making this event the richest one day hourly big bass event for amateur anglers in the world.

It's simple "Fish-o-Nomics." The potential return on investment doesn't
(See Ram Mega Bass.... Continued on Page 5-A)

9th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

The "Fisherman's Guide News" partnered with Randy Qualls and Legend Boats is proud to bring the 9th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament to anglers. You do not have to own a Legend boat to participate in the tournament, but you could take one of the four being given away home with you! As promised at the very first tournament, as we grow so will the payouts for the anglers.

The tournament will be held on May 17, 18, and 19th hosted by Lake Fork Marina on Highway 17N, 903-765-2764.

What draws the most interest having anglers ask the question, "Really?" is that one of the boats to be given away during the tournament is for the heaviest bass UNDER THE SLOT.

This year we have a guaranteed \$300,000 payback in cash and prizes to the competing anglers. Four new 2013 Legend Boats will be given away as grand prizes at the tournament. Two will be awarded to the two heaviest bass over the slot, one to the heaviest under the slot, and one for the early entry draw boat. All boats will be outfitted with Mercury Outboards, Lowrance Electronics, and Motor Guide Trolling Motors.

(See Legend of Lake Fork.....Continued on Page 9-A)

"Goodness Snakes Alive!"

By: Don J. Hampton

When it comes right down to it Bubba is not the bravest man in the world, especially when it comes to snakes. Believing in the Bible and "The Good Lord" like he does he believes that those belly crawling, scaly, forked tongue critters are just evil. When it comes to a snake crossing Bubba's path he would much rather choose a different direction or else go back the way he came at a very rapid rate of speed. Bubba has probably choked more snakes with trail dust than he has killed with his shotgun. He hates snakes so much he has even passed up some of his favorite fishing holes because a snake was there and it takes a lot for him to do something like that.

Now that you have an idea how Bubba feels about snakes, you can multiply that by ten and come up with how afraid Bubbette is of snakes. She won't even watch a television show where snakes are involved. She sees one in a movie and she is grabbing for the remote control faster than Bubba could run away from one.

Men are funny creatures though, and Bubba will be the first to laugh at himself. When women are present men are always brave. For one reason or another a man can mask his fear with so much macho bravado that women think of them as their sole protector. Such was the recent case of the snake on the flagpole.

Bubba had just left for work and hadn't gone more than five miles from the house when his mo-

bile phone rang. Bubbette was on the other end of the line in a panic. He couldn't understand a word she was saying in the first part of the conversation so he pulled his truck over to try and calm her down before proceeding any further down the road. He knew Bubbette was going to mow the yard while he was gone and the only thing he could figure out was that something was wrong with the riding lawn mower or else the house was on fire. It turned out to be neither.

When Bubba calmed Bubbette down enough so she could speak all she could say was, "Snake, flag pole, snake, big snake, flag pole!" Bubba knowing her like he does ciphered this out real well. He knew it was time for him to put on his macho brave hat and come to her rescue. Another thing that makes Bubba get brave when coming to Bubbette's rescue is he knows she will reward him with her delicious buttermilk battered fried chicken. Bubba will get real brave for some fried chicken.

Bubba got his courage up and told Bubbette he was coming back and would be right there to take care of the situation. He was not prepared for the sight he saw when he drove into his yard. All his fears of snakes were pushed aside by the comical scene he was greeted with.

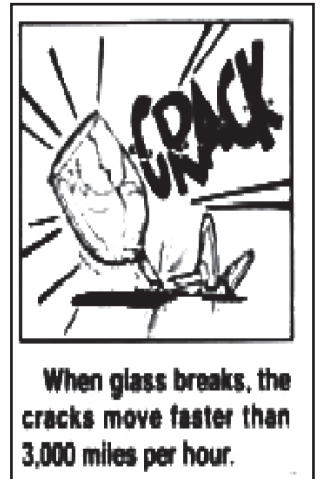
There was Bubbette standing on the seat of the lawnmower with his 410 shotgun in one hand and a hoe in the other. Bubba was smart enough on this occasion not to laugh.

When Bubba asked where the snake was Bub-

bette would point first with the hoe and then with the shotgun. Bubba was pretty quick to relieve her of the shotgun and in all of his bravado thinking how those belly crawling, scaly, forked tongue critters are just evil, tracked the snake down and shot it. I guess he probably shot it about twelve to fifteen times. Bubba likes to do things right and this way he figures he rid the world of a little evil.

Bubba walked back to Bubbette looking like the conquering hero returning from war with his gun on his shoulder. He probably would have been greeted as such if he hadn't said, "There ya go sug'dumplin, all taken care of! Oh yeah, what's for supper tonight and when you go to Wally World to pick up some chicken will you get me some more shotgun shells?"

Well, she got him the shotgun shells in case any more snakes showed up, but I think he had bologna sandwiches that night!



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Louisiana Angler Lands Lake Fork ShareLunker (Continued from Page 1-A)

Deville was not familiar with the Toyota ShareLunker program, but some members of his group were and advised him to take the fish to Lake Fork Marina to be weighed. "I'm really excited about the way Lake Fork Marina handled the fish and the care they took of the fish after we got it here," he said.

Deville said he intends to keep returning to Lake Fork as long as he is able. "Hopefully my grandchildren can enjoy that," he said.

The fish is the eleventh entry into the Toyota ShareLunker program during the current season. Average weight of the entries this season so far is 13.85 pounds, and the largest entry weighed 16.04-pounds and was caught on Lake Fork. Two 14-pounders and one 15-pounder have also been entered.

Starting off April, Lake Fork has thus far put four entries in the 2012/2013 TPWD/Toyota ShareLunker Program. On 12/12/12 Gary Sims from Gunter, Texas caught one weighing 15.02-pounds, on 2/2/13 Richard Scibek from Granbury, Texas caught one weighing 16.04-pounds, on 2/19/13 Mark Hall from Winnsboro, Texas caught one weighing 13.11-pounds and Donald Deville from Ville Platte, Louisiana on 3/20/13 weighing 14.06-pounds.

Anyone legally catching a 13-pound or big-

ger largemouth bass from Texas waters, public or private, between October 1 and April 30 may submit the fish to the Toyota ShareLunker program by calling the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 or paging (888) 784-0600 and leaving a phone number including area code. Fish will be picked up by TPWD personnel within 12 hours.

ShareLunker entries are used in a selective breeding program at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens. Some of the offspring from these fish are stocked back into the water body from which they were caught. Other ShareLunker offspring are stocked in public waters around the state in an attempt to increase the overall size and growth rate of largemouth bass in Texas.

Anglers entering fish into the Toyota ShareLunker program receive a free replica of their fish, a certificate and ShareLunker clothing and are recognized at a banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.

For complete information and rules of the ShareLunker program, tips on caring for big bass, a list of official Toyota ShareLunker weigh and holding stations and a recap of last year's season, see www.tpwd.state.tx.us/sharelunker. The site also includes a searchable database of all fish entered into the pro-

gram along with pictures where available.

Information on current catches, including short videos of interviews with anglers when available, is posted on www.facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible by a grant to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation from Gulf States Toyota. Toyota is a long-time supporter of the Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of education, fish, parks and wildlife projects.



Clara Barton was not just the nurse who founded the American Red Cross. She was also the first woman clerk in the U.S. Patent Office.



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Ram Mega Bass (Continued from Page 1-A)

get much better than this one day event. For a \$150 entry fee per person, anglers have a chance at 7 brand new Dodge Ram pick-up trucks and a Skeeter ZX190 bass boat. Ken Addington, an amateur angler from Texas, was the overall winner in 2012 after weighing in a 9.68 lb. largemouth. He took home a new Ram Truck and a new Skeeter Bass Boat. After the event, Ken was interviewed by the Bass Champs TV crew and he stated, "This is the coolest tournament of the year. There's no other event where you have the opportunity to win a truck every hour of the day and a boat at the end of the day." Mr. Addington continued, "It adds a whole new element to fishing. It's like you're literally fishing for vehicles. It's awesome!"

In 2012, over 1,700 anglers from all across the United States (27 states) recognized this amazing opportunity and made the trek to the little town of Alba, Texas in the hunt for gigantic bass setting all new participation records for this astounding event. Nationally televised on the World Fishing Network (WFN) the action and the elation of anglers as they hoisted their catch to the scales and later awarded top prize packages were caught on film. This year's event will be featured nationally on the World Fishing Network as well.

"We continue to strive to be the innovators and the leaders in the amateur bass fishing industry," stated Chad Potts, President of Bass Champs. "It is our goal to provide the best opportunities and platforms for all anglers of all ages in the amateur category while providing unparalleled paybacks. The Ram Mega Bass is open to all amateur anglers regardless of the brand of truck or boat they own. All of us at Skeeter Bass Champs would like to thank each and every angler who have come out and fished with us in the past. We look forward to seeing everyone on April 7th. This year's Mega Bass tournament is shaping up to be the biggest one yet."

For more information on the world's richest one day big bass tournament, click to <http://www.basschamps.com> or call 817-439-3274

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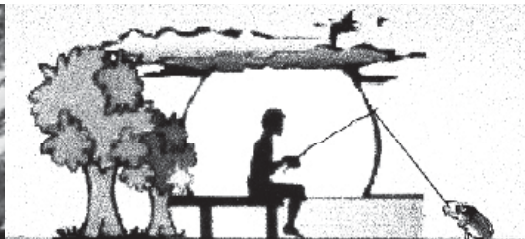
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April Bassin on the Fork

By John Tanner

Springtime is here and the bass are hitting the shallows! What a great time of year to fish here on Lake Fork. We had a pretty good number of bass spawn last month but there is still plenty of spawning action to go.

April is always a good month because more fish catching patterns come into play as spring rolls along. You have the fish that are hitting the beds and those who have spawned already and guarding fry.

With the lake levels being low look for fish to be holding tight to the trees in 4 to 10 ft of water. Now is the time to bring the flippin stick. Now you can finesse 'em too but for the big mama bass that will be up shallow for the spawn, you better

be ready when the action heats up and the big ones start biting. Berkley Chigger Craws and Berkley Havoc flippin baits like the Wide Load will be good ones to keep in your bag of tricks when looking for lunkers.

I have been using some new rods this year from Fenwick called the Aetos. These new rods are amazing and really feel great. The Aetos rods by Fenwick are super strong, light and super sensitive. Teamed up with one of the new Revos you have a winning combination.

Most of the major creeks along with the pockets on the main lake have spawning activity by the month of April. Flip the trees with the baits mentioned using 20 pound Berkley Trilene 100% fluorocarbon. While flipping I like to use a good stout hook. Mustad has come out with a new Denny Brauer Flippin Hook that is amazing. Give 'em a try. Other good choices for shallow bassin this time of year will be shaky head fishing using a Berkley Havoc Bottom Hopper in Shady Watermelon Candy and also using a Drop Shot with the same bait. Fish them tight to the trees and hang on. These rigs work better on days when the bass are a little on the finicky side. Good water depths will be 3 to 8 ft.

Yea April is a really fun time to fish Lake Fork as the big ones are in the shallows so come on



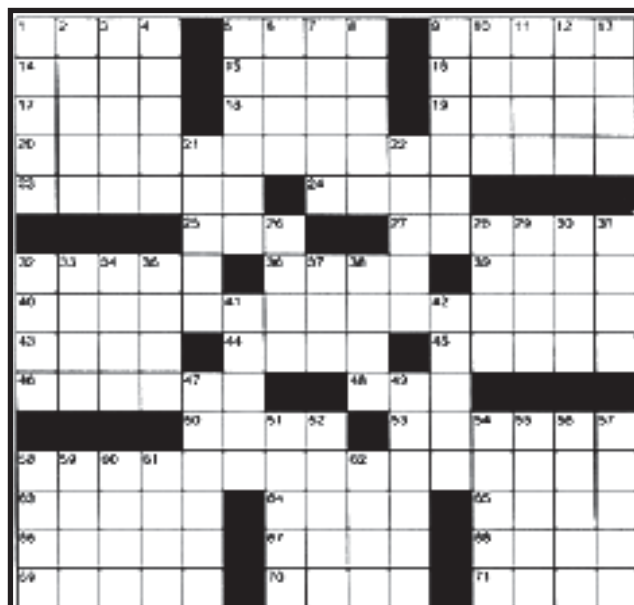
down and get in on the action. If you would like to book a guided trip, call 903-569-7451 or drop me an email at jtanner811@gmail.com. Or for more booking info, check us out on the web at www.lakeforkbassguide.com. While you are in the area be sure and check out our local Ranger Boat dealer Diamond Sports Marine over on Hwy 154. Tell 'em Tanner sent ya!

Please pray for our nation and our troops. Read John 3:16. Good Fishing and God Bless!

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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CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Scarlett's home | 43. George _____, American utopian |
| 5. Way to fix firmly | 44. This (Spanish) |
| 9. Bura | 45. Noses (informal) |
| 14. Not imaginary | 46. Artificial |
| 15. Exhibition | 48. Newspaper and billboard contents |
| 16. _____ Jong, author | 50. About aviation |
| 17. About the ear | 53. Rechristen |
| 18. Ship's captain | 58. Captive |
| 19. Elegant room where guests are received | 63. Young _____, reformers, circa 1900 |
| 20. Stalling business words | 64. "Pygmalion" author |
| 23. Bunch of cords fastened at one end | 65. Narrow ridges |
| 24. Quantitative fact | 66. Farewell |
| 25. Licenses drugs (abbr.) | 67. Thomas _____, British composer |
| 27. Stickers | 68. Methaqualone pill (slang) |
| 32. Ray | 69. Ranch workers |
| 36. Constellation | 70. Scorch |
| 39. Medicinal plant | 71. Iowa city |
| 40. 1981 Chevy Chase film | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Game fish | 33. Knot on a tree |
| 2. Sicilian volcano | 34. Computer system (abbr.) |
| 3. Forays | 35. Used for insect sterilization |
| 4. Elk or moose | 37. Special loved one |
| 5. Hail | 38. Caramide |
| 6. Caused to end, in a way | 41. Johann _____, Martin Luther's antagonist |
| 7. British scam artists | 42. "Hedda Gabler" author |
| 8. Affirm | 47. Skeletal structure |
| 9. Spanish money | 49. Artist, for one |
| 10. Ancient country in the Old Testament | 51. Bonheur and Parks |
| 11. Liver secretion | 52. Orange yellow (var.) |
| 12. Tom Cruise, for one | 54. City in northern Zambia |
| 13. Pompous or pretentious talk | 55. Ancient capital of Ethiopia |
| 21. Hark back | 56. George Gordon _____, Union general |
| 22. Mexican condiment | 57. Judges' journeys |
| 26. Expresses pleasure | 58. American state |
| 28. Affliction | 59. Ctenophores lacking tentacles |
| 29. Italian island | 60. Albanian river |
| 30. Perceive with attention | 61. Supplemented with difficulty |
| 31. Fashions, in a way | 62. Japanese characters |
| 32. Feeling or showing no doubt | |

Answers on Page 21-A



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Franklin Mountains State Park to Grow by More Than 600 Acres

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at a recent meeting approved the acquisition of approximately 658 acres to expand a state park in El Paso that already ranks as the largest urban park in the continental United States.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will purchase a parcel of land that straddles Loop 375, also known as Trans Mountain Road, to further extend the Franklin Mountains State Park's western reach into the surrounding high desert country. The acquisition will bring the state park's total acreage to more

than 26,000 acres.

The El Paso Public Service Board offered the desirable property to TPWD at a bargain sale price. The tract of undeveloped land will provide a buffer from pending new city growth and increase public recreational opportunities through the possible future expansion of the park's trail system.

After much land use discussion about the environmental impact due to encroaching development on the western flanks of the Franklin Mountains, the El Paso City Council this past summer agreed to the sale. The TPW Com-

mission's vote was the final action required to consummate the land deal.

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"The Moon Report"

April Crappie on Lake Fork

By Terri Moon

The worst thing about this time of year hands down has to be the cold fronts that move through about every 3 to 5 days bringing with it those 15 to 30 mile winds. Just when you think you've got it figured out, the morning temperatures drop to 30 degrees for several days and water temps drop 8 to 10 degrees and this results in some pretty tough fishing. I think it makes the fish as confused as me! But, it's amazing how critical water temperatures are this time of year. Just the difference between 58 degrees and 61 degrees can make or break your catch. But once those temps get back up in the 60's – it's "GAME ON".

I am targeting depths of 10 ft. and then working up to 2 ft. We are using slip bobbers with jigs or minnows depending on what they prefer that day. Also we are throwing road runners with Lake Fork Tackle's Live Baby Shad in chartreuse and pearl, golden shiner or blue and pearl. Water clarity and light conditions can change what they will bite best. In shallower water I use the 1/16 oz. Let the bait settle and reel just fast enough to



keep it off the bottom.

Also, when we're fishing shallow, I like to use a longer rod. It makes it easier to pitch a jig toward a stump instead of casting. The Shimano 5'6" and 6' Clarus and Convergence rods are perfect for this. I've teamed them up with the Shimano Sahara 500, and Sedona 500 reels – spooling them with 8 lb. Siege line.

Now for those of you who enjoy a "jigging rod" – look up Pro Angler Tackle on the web and check out their 6-1/2 and 8-1/2 ft. crappie rods. These are perfect for working those stumps when the crappie are holding tight to cover!!

By all means don't abandon the bridges. There will be another wave of crappie come through. Just pay real close attention to your depth finder to know what depth to target. They could be flat on the bottom or as shallow as 6 to 8 ft. It might not hurt to double rig your jigs at the bridges a foot or 2 apart. You just might catch them two at a time!

To add to the excitement this time of year, hang on tight to that rod cause you never know when a big bass or giant catfish is gonna grab hold of your bait! There is nothing more fun than this happening on ultralight equipment.

I'm hoping all of you have a wonderful spring and that you get the chance to get out and fish! Be safe out on the water and I hope once again you will consider releasing those "monster crappie" that are 16 inches and over so they can keep growing. This can give someone an opportunity down the road to catch a new lake record. That would be pretty cool! Better yet, if you are the one to catch that new record, do whatever you can to keep her alive – that would be the ultimate!

My best to you all!

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9th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 1-A)

Our office has been flooded with questions in regards to the tournament. For those anglers who may still have questions I will try to answer them all in this feature.

The tournament is a three day, hourly payback, individual big bass tournament. More than one contestant can fish per boat but each individual in the boat has to be a paid entry. First place each hour with heavy bass will receive \$500, second place \$400, third place \$300, fourth place \$200, fifth place \$175, sixth place \$150 and the first one knocked out of sixth place will receive a \$100 gift card or certificate from our sponsors. Anglers do not have to have a Legend boat to compete. There will be boats of all makes and models competing in the tournament. Only early entries received before April 30th qualify to be in the drawing for the draw boat. For the anglers that miss the early entry you can enter the tournament at tournament headquarters beginning on May 16, 2013. No checks will be accepted at that time. To enter at the tournament headquarters, hours will be Thursday, May 16th from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m., Friday, May 17th from 5 a.m. until 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, May 18th from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., and on Sunday, May 19th, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. All mail-in en-

tries should check in at tournament headquarters at the specified times listed above to receive weight bags and promotional gifts. Also on hand will be assorted sizes of TFO Rods anglers can purchase for \$50 each with no limit while supplies last.

Fishing hours for the tournament are from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day of the tournament with the first weigh-in hour being 7 to 8. Trailering is allowed and hourly updates can be heard three times per hour on KMOO 99.9 FM on your radio. The number of anglers per boat is only limited to the weight capacity of the boat. Each person in the boat must be a paid entry. Only three (3) bass can be in the possession of each angler at a time and they must have a means of separating their catch from other angler or anglers in the boat. The official measuring board will be the Chek-It-Stick and bass under the slot cannot touch 16" and fish over the slot must at least touch the 24" mark. Polygraph tests will be given each hour. Once the angler has entered the weigh-in line he or she has committed for that hourly weigh-in and as long as an angler is in a paid hourly position their boat and partners must remain at tournament headquarters until the hour is completed. All anglers must have a current Texas Fish-

ing License in their possession when they come to the weigh-in line. No dead fish will be weighed in. Each boat must be equipped with a throw cushion, working live-well, kill-switch, lights, horn, and current registration. All anglers must wear their Coast Guard approved life vest at all times the large motor is in operation. All protests must be turned in, in writing to tournament staff 15 minutes after the hour in which the infraction occurred. During the tournament all state and local laws apply. All of the day's catches must be released back into the lake by 3:00 p.m. of each day and anglers must be off the water by 8:00 p.m. each day of the tournament.

Anyone wishing to fish the tournament can pick up an entry form at most local businesses around the lake or go to www.legendoflakefork.com and download an entry form and rules. If in the rules and regulations you find you have another question, feel free to call "The Fisherman's Guide News" at 903-383-7748 or mobile 903-360-6994 and ask for Don or Sue.

If you are one of those anglers that plan ahead, you can go ahead and mark your calendars for the "10th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament" that has already been scheduled for May 16, 17, 18, 2014.



Zac Lowery
Granbury, TX.,

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TEXAS TRAILS BASSMASTERS OF LAKE FORK 26TH SEMI-ANNUAL OPEN BASS TOURNAMENT

The Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork bass club will be holding their 26th Semi-Annual Open Bass Tournament on April 27th, hosted by Oak Ridge Marina on Hwy. 154.

This progressive bass club is active in the Wish to Fish Foundation and Wood County Kid Fish each year, and would like to invite everyone to come out and fish with them.

This is a fund raiser tournament for the club that assists them in their youth, conservation, social and club functions. This is one club that truly supports, promotes, and protects Lake Fork. All of the directors on the board of "The Wish to Fish Foundation" are members of this club.

You will help with your support by coming out on April 27th and fishing their tournament. Fishing hours will be from 6 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. All contestants must be in line by 3:30 official time. It is an individual heavy stringer tournament. Entry fee is \$45 and \$10 for big bass which is optional. This is one club that holds tournaments on this great reservoir that pays

back to the anglers 80% of entry fees and 100% of big bass entries. There will be 10 places paid for heavy stringer, and 3 places for big bass.

Raffle tickets will be sold for prizes at registration and weigh-in. Ticket cost is \$1 each, 6 for \$5, or 12 for \$10. If you are not able to fish the tournament, come out and get in on the drawing, show your support and if you're one of the lucky ones, you will take home a nice prize. Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork have some really great sponsors and will have some great prizes to be given away.

Registration for the tournament will begin on Friday, April 26th from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. and again on Saturday, April 27th from 4 a.m. until 6 a.m. All contestants must register.

For those of you that might wish to send in an early entry see their ad on page 9-B or go to their website www.texastrails-bassmasters.com.

If you have been thinking of joining a bass club, you could not find a better one

to be a part of. Individual, husband and wife, or family memberships are welcome. If you wish to improve your fishing skills and learn new techniques, this is where you belong. This is one bass club that is known for no arguing or disputes. The top 3 winners of each tournament share their techniques, the bait they caught their winning stringer on and the depth and type of water their fish were caught in. As an added bonus, everyone can use good friends and in this club you will definitely meet some new fishing buddies.

Membership to join the club is \$30 per person. The club has one tournament per month with a two-day championship at the end of the year. Cost per person each tournament is \$25 entry, \$5 Big Bass (optional), with a \$5 progressive pot for a 7-pound or over big bass (also optional). Membership applications will be available at the tournament or go to their website and contact one of the officers.

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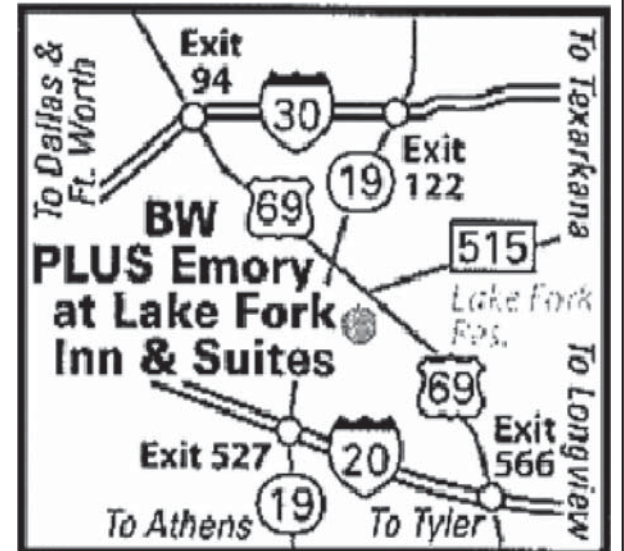
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Latest Zebra Mussel Test Results Reinforce Need to Clean, Drain, Dry Boats

The latest tests and monitoring looking for zebra mussels in North Texas lakes yielded mixed results.

While zebra mussel DNA was detected in Lakes Texoma, Ray Roberts, Lewisville, Bridgeport and Bob Sandlin, no zebra mussel populations could be confirmed by physical inspection in Lewisville, Bridgeport and Bob Sandlin.

"We know a zebra mussel population exists in Lakes Texoma and Ray Roberts," said Brian Van Zee, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's regional director of Inland Fisheries. "Our district biologists have looked for evidence of zebra mussel populations in Lakes Lewisville, Bridgeport and Bob Sandlin since receiving the DNA test results, but none were found. This is not uncommon, as the test is very sensitive and has been known to show positive results in several lakes where zebra mussels have never been documented. It's possible that the results are showing us that boat owners may be moving contaminated boats to these lakes, but that viable populations haven't developed."

Dr. Robert McMahon, Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Texas at Arlington, has been monitoring 14 North Texas reservoirs for the presence of zebra mussels using three techniques. One technique looks for zebra mussel DNA in the water, another uses a microscope to look for zebra mussel larvae (veligers) in the water, and the

third uses a submerged monitor to look for newly settled juvenile mussels.

"The DNA test results for Lakes Bridgeport and Bob Sandlin were very weak positives," McMahon said. "The results for Bob Sandlin were so weak as to almost be below the limit of detection."

"These results are a reminder that boaters need to take the necessary precautions before moving a boat from one lake to another," Van Zee said. "TPWD will continue monitoring these lakes for the presence of zebra mussels and doing everything it can to encourage boaters and anglers to Clean, Drain and Dry their boats before moving them to another lake. We encourage boaters and anglers to visit <http://www.texasinvasives.org/> to learn more about how they can help protect the waters they enjoy."

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is asking anyone transporting a vessel that has been used on Lakes Texoma, Ray Roberts, Lavon or Lewisville to another water body to take the following precautions. (1) Clean all vegetation, mud, algae and other debris from the boat and trailer. (2) Drain all water from the motor as well as the live-well, bilge, bait buckets and any other compartments or systems that hold water. (3) Dry the vessel and associated equipment for a week to 10 days during the months of May through October or for 15 to 20 days from November through April. These

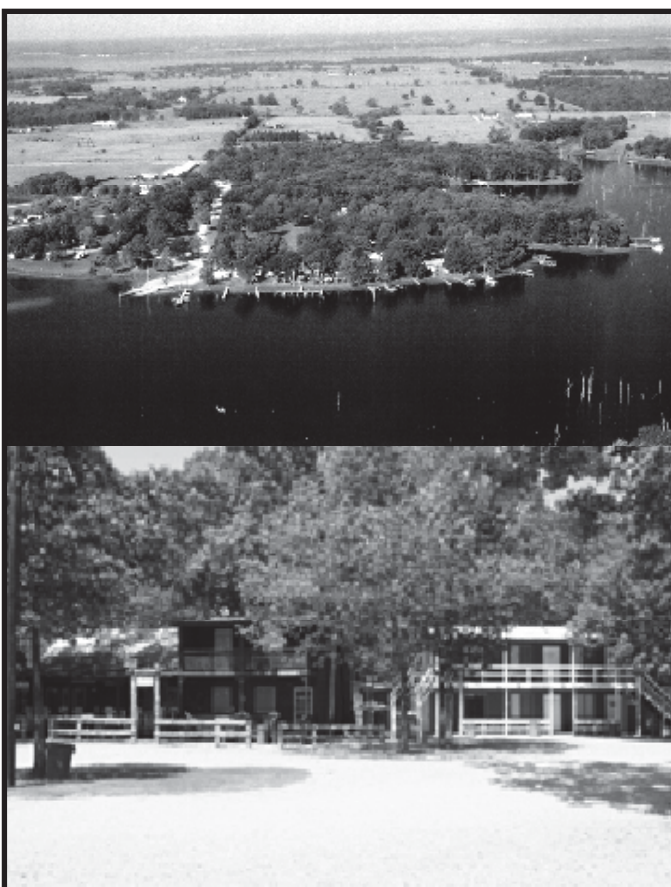
drying times are approximations, and conditions such as cooler air temperatures, higher humidity

(See Latest Zebra Mussel...Continued on Page 17-A)

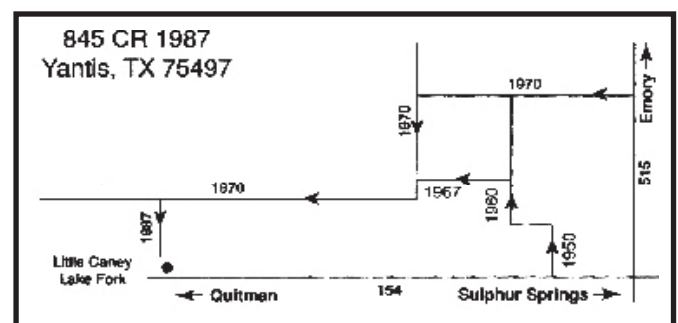


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Kathi Lowery from Granbury, TX., had her hands full when she caught this nice bass on a Shimano Ultralite while crappie fishing with guide Terri Moon.



Adam Dees from Lindale, TX., had enough for a big fish fry when he caught this monster on a jug line. Caught, Photo, Release to the Grease.



Audie Long from Dallas caught this nice bass on a Shimano Ultralite while crappie fishing with guide Terri Moon.

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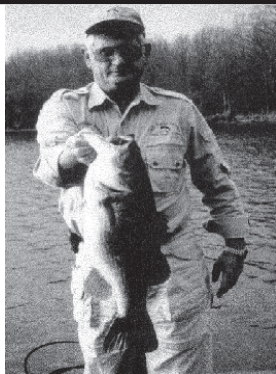
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Latest Zebra Mussel Test Results Reinforce Need to Clean, Drain, Dry Boats *(Continued from Page 15-A)*

and whether or not the vessel is kept in dry storage should be considered. These are the easiest preventive measures that boat owners can do to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels.

However, boats and other vessels that have been kept on a lake known to be infested with zebra mussels for an extended period of time may require additional cleaning procedures. Power-washing with water at least 140 degrees Fahrenheit and flushing the motor, bilges, live-wells and other raw water intake systems with 140-degree water will kill zebra mussels. To be effective the water coming out of the flushed systems needs to reach 140 degrees to ensure the entire system was exposed to water hot enough to kill the mussels.

If it is not possible to clean the internal systems or compartments using 140-degree water, the use of either straight vinegar or a chlorine bleach and water solution (one-half ounce bleach to one gallon water) can be effective at killing zebra mussels as long as the mixture is kept in contact with the mussels for a sufficient amount of time (20 to 30 minutes). Clean water should be used to flush the chemicals and dead mussels from the boat following treatment. Boat owners should check with their manufacturer to be sure using these chemicals will not void their warranty.

Large vessels with complex water intake systems

such as those used for cooling the engine, air conditioning or personal sanitation may require decontamination by a boat mechanic or marina.

A video showing how to decontaminate a boat can be viewed at <http://www.100thmeridian.org>.

Under the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Penal Codes, possession or transporting of zebra mussels in Texas is a Class C misde-

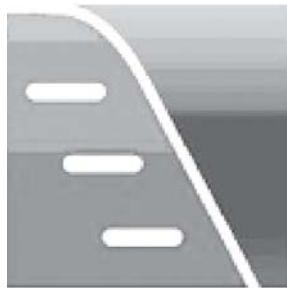
meanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$500 for the first offense. However, repeat offenses can be elevated to a Class B misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000, jail time up to 180 days, or both. If an individual is convicted a third time for this same offense it becomes a Class A misdemeanor which is a fine of up to \$4,000, jail time not to exceed 1 year, or both.



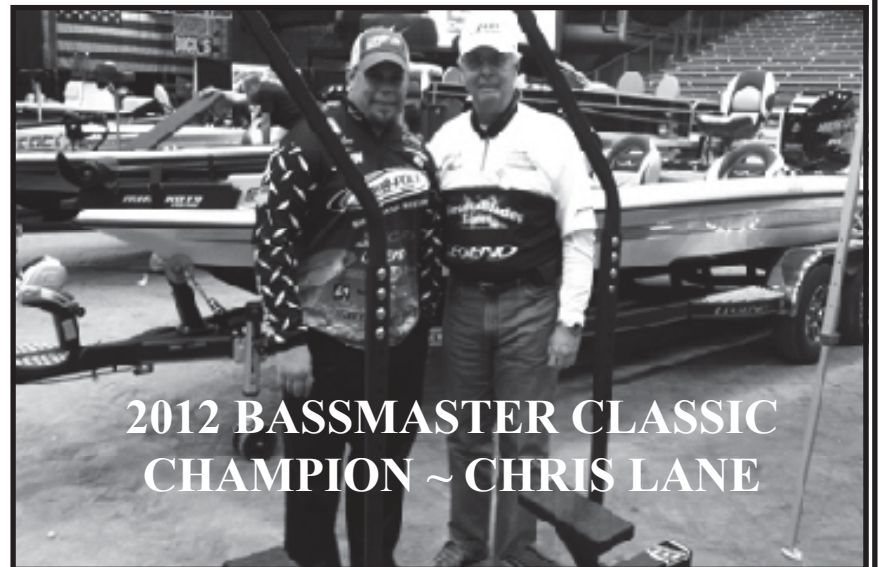
Prairie dogs "kiss" by pressing their teeth against each other's face. The kiss enables each animal to tell whether the other belongs to the same family group.



Reuters, one of the first news services to provide political, economic and general interest news to European newspapers, began its service using pigeons to carry messages between the terminals of telegraph lines.



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"Pack of Knowledge" Swimming Soft Plastic Jerks: A New Look for Spring

By Tom Redington

There's a time each spring when bass move up onto the flats and fixate on spawning. During this time, soft plastic jerkbaits like Hyper Sticks, Flukes, Senkos, Sluggos and Magic Shads have long been an angler's most effective tool. Either weightless Texas rigging or wacky rigging, the slow dying flutter of these baits catch suddenly selective bass that would run down a spinnerbait

or slurp a quick falling jig just a week prior. The problem is everyone crowds into the same pockets where the fish are and you can bet that 5 of the 6 boats in front of you are throwing the same lures.

Thankfully, there are now a number of new baits on the market that offer a new wrinkle to traditional favorites. With the addition of a swimbait tail to many of our favorite soft plastic jerkbaits, anglers add a swimming action while retaining the alluring shimmy when stopped. Sometimes the swimming motion between falls attracts bass to the lure; other times, the gently quivering tail of the bait on the drop gives enough of a different look to trigger fish to bite.

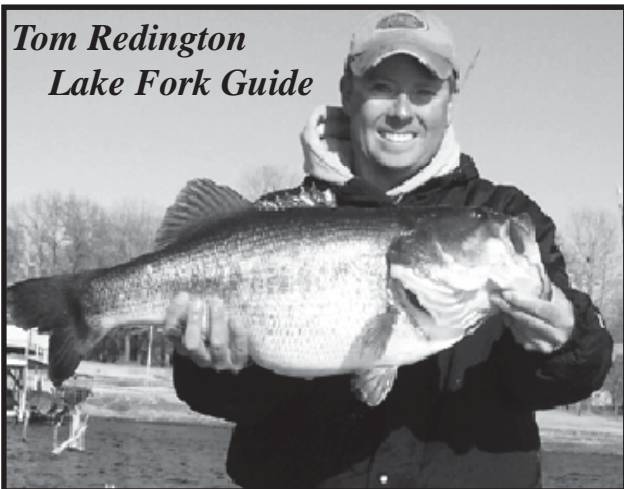
During the late-prespawn through the postspawn (water temps approximately 55-75), I use swimming soft plastic jerkbaits in shallow spawning areas, normally flats near the backs of pockets or creeks with hard bottoms. In addition, I catch big females moving in and out by fishing the first cover or structure outside the spawning area, such as secondary points, along deep or inside grass lines, and along creek channels running through spawning flats.

There are 2 components to a swimming soft plastic jerkbait's action (swimming and falling), and I experiment with both until dialing in on what the fish want. I typically start experimenting by cast-

ing my bait out and letting it drop to the bottom. After it settles, I'll swim it 6 to 8 feet forward, then let it fall to the bottom again, repeating this process all the way back to the boat. If bass are consistently hitting the bait during the retrieve, they're more active and I'll switch to a steady swimming retrieve with only an occasional 1/2 second pause. On the other hand, if all the bites are coming on the drop, that tells me the fish are more sluggish and I need to slow down. In this case, I'll only swim my bait 1 to 2 feet between drops, plus I'll let the bait sit on the bottom for 15 to 30 seconds between swims. The tougher the bite, the shorter the swims and the longer the pauses I'll use.

With the emergence of umbrella rigs, this category has really exploded, but I have a few favorites that work consistently well for me. If the fish are active or in stained to muddy water, I start with a boot tail version of the Live Magic Shad. This bait puts out a thump from its traditional swimbait style boot tail. In addition, all Live Magic Shad baits have a segmented body that starts the tail moving with the slightest twitch and keeps it swimming at ultra-slow speeds (often a key on cold spring days). If the fish are keying in on the

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



Tom Redington
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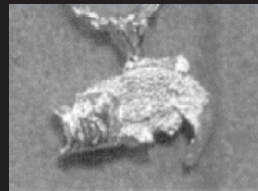
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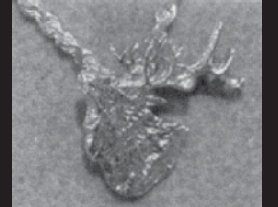
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Get Ready for Summer Fun at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center April 6

The annual Outdoor Fools Day event at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens has two goals: To let you know what's out there to enjoy, and to teach you how to do it.

Do you want to go camping? Kayaking? Fly-fishing? Cook gourmet campfire meals? Or maybe birding is your thing, or archery, or just learning about the animals that live in our woods and waters.

Outdoor Fools Day will help you develop your skills and increase your knowl-

edge in all those areas -- not by listening to someone talk about doing them, but by doing them yourself under the direction of a skilled expert.

Staff from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's State Parks Division will show you how to set up camp. Fly-fishing experts will help you tie a fly and catch a rainbow trout with it in TFFC's casting pond, and then a park ranger will help you clean it and cook it.

How to eat it you will have to figure out for yourself.

If learning to shoot a bow and arrow is on your list, the Lone Star Bowhunters will show you how and let you practice target shooting at life-size replicas of deer, turkeys and feral hogs.

Other stations will let you construct and shoot off a paper-and-duct-tape rocket using com-

pressed air; sample tasty foods cooked in a Dutch oven; see fish swimming in a glass-bottomed stream; touch a variety of salt-water creatures; see skins, tracks and skulls of predator and prey animals and learn how tracking dogs are used to locate wounded game.

In addition, live animal displays will let you get up close to reptiles and raptors. Wildlife on the Move will present reptiles from around the world at noon and 3:00 p.m. and give anyone who dares the chance to touch a 14-foot snake. The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center will present a raptor show at 1:00 p.m. and also conduct walk-around displays on the grounds. Regularly scheduled dive shows in which a diver hand-feeds fish will take place at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Outdoor Fools Day is sponsored by Wulf Outdoor Sports; Schneider Electric; FutureMatrix, Inc.; Citizens National Bank; First State Bank; Red Hat Rentals; Aaron's Sales and Lease; Best Western--Royal Mountain Inn; Holiday Inn Express--Athens; Super 8--Athens; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Friends of TFFC.



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

drop, the original Live Magic Shad with its flat tail has an enticing dying quiver as it drops. On the toughest of days, I'll go one step even subtler and switch to a Hyper Stick. Although it is more of a traditional soft plastic stickbait with a straight worm tail, the thin action segments in its body allow it to swim in an "S" pattern if rigged with the slots parallel to the hook. This finesse swimming action combined with a tail that erratically shimmies and darts on the fall is enough to trigger the most inactive of bass.

The final step is to match your tackle to get the most from these baits. I rig the 4.5" Live Magic Shads on a 5/0 swimbait hook (3/0 for 3.5" size) with a small 1/16 -1/8 oz weight built into the shank to help it run true. For the Hyper Stick, I stick with a traditional soft plastic jerkbait Texas rig, normally using a 4/0 off-set or wide gap hook without any weight to

maximize the fall time. In open water on clear lakes, dropping to 8 to 12 lb fluorocarbon will get you additional bites and be plenty strong to handle small to medium bass. For big fish in heavy cover, I upgrade to 15 to 20 lb fluoro. In general, if the fish are biting on the retrieve, you can go larger with your line,

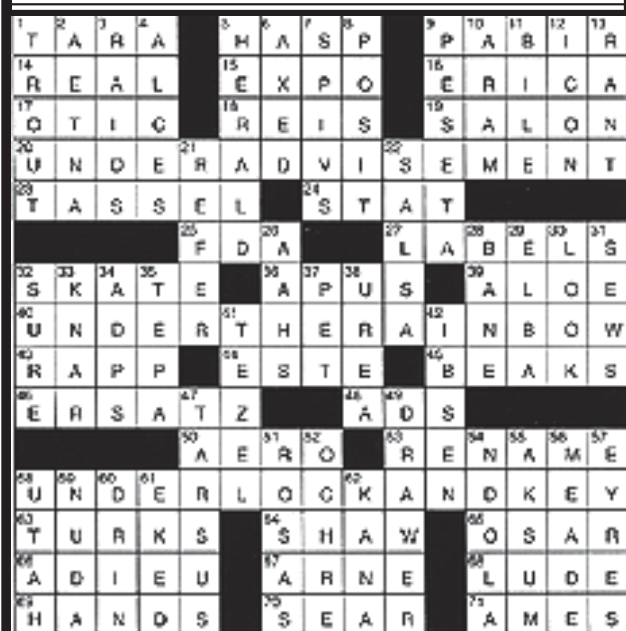
while you'll need to drop in size if they are studying it on the drop/bottom. Lastly, shallow fish in the spring are very wary and I find that long casts produce more fish, especially big bass. When I'm using smaller baits and lighter line, the 7'3" Dobyns Champion (See Pack of Knowledge... Continued on Page 22-A)

Just The Right Answers

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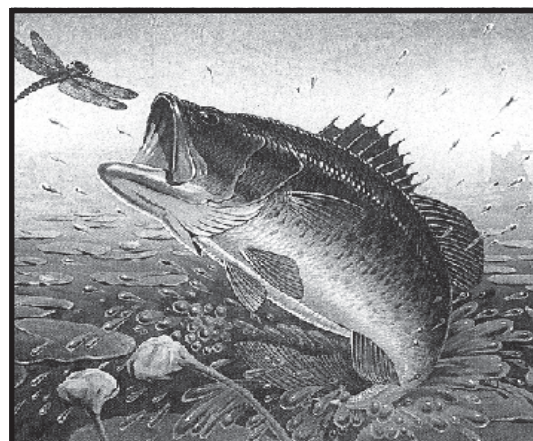
Health Search

There are 14 parts of the human body hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

ABDOMEN
EARLOBE
FINGER
HAIR
HEART
KIDNEY
KNEECAP

NOSE
PELVIS
SKIN
THROAT
TOENAIL
TONGUE
WRIST

A C E N K I N S R I A H
R W R I S T O E E N I A
I A H G E R E U G N O R
F Y E N D I K O N E M T
P E A L V S E B I O L E
E A R B O T L I F A I N
V E T O N E O M D B A D
L I R V E E C E S O N I
I M H E M R A T O M E K
S K T A O R H T E P O F
E S O K D U P G N A T I
N L N I B T E H O C H N
A O G E A R L O B E A G
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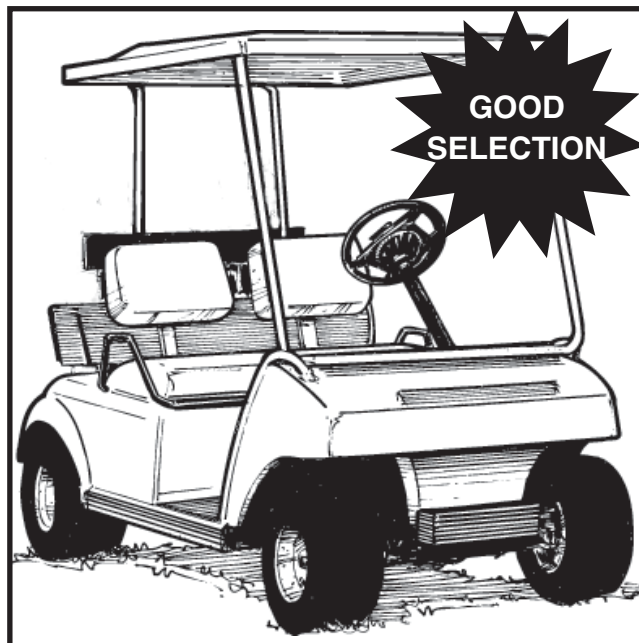
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Emory, Texas

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

733C has plenty of tip to launch lightweight finesse presentations a long ways. When I'm gearing up for big fish and need

to horse them out of thick grass or brush from a distance, the 7'6" Dobyns Champion 764C is the perfect blend of enough

tip to blast out the 4.5" sized baits and plenty of backbone to drive home the hook and winch them out.



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Fishing pressure is at its most intense levels in the spring. Show those pressured bass an update of your traditional favorites and I think you'll enjoy the results. If I can be of assistance, drop me a line at tom@lakeforkguide-trips.com or check out my website www.LakeForkGuideTrips.com for more info.

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.



Dick Fulk from Kansas, was fishing Lake Fork with guide Dean Stroman in March when he caught this hawg weighing 9.25-lbs. on a DD22. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo)



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LAKE FORK WATERFRONT. Fabulous 2128 sf. home with granite counters, tile floors, open living, dining and kitchen. Beautiful stone fireplace, high ceilings. Master bedroom with large open-type shower, and huge closet. Two bedrooms and custom bath on opposite side of house. Great view with large deck. Lot is irrigated with water from the lake. Single boathouse, gazebo, storage building, 2-car garage with work area. Large lot with concrete drive. This is a perfect lake home. **\$270,000.**



UNFINISHED HOME ON LAKE FORK. 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath home. 1-car garage is finished, Home interior is unfinished. Owner has flooring already purchased, some insulation, most wiring run. Needs light fixtures, kitchen cabinets, appliances, and all bathroom fixtures. Enjoy putting your own finishing touches. **\$49,000.**



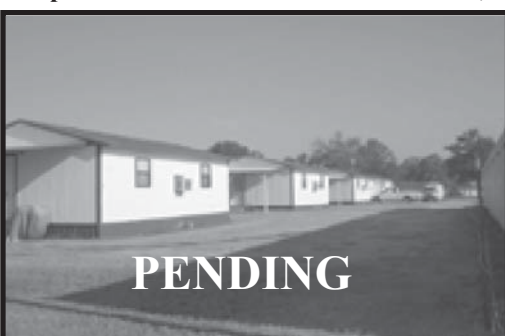
LIVING IN THE COUNTRY WITH ACCESS TO PRIVATE LAKE. Sitting on top of a hill on 2.99 wooded acres this beautiful home has stone FP with backdrop of Aspen wood, vaulted ceilings, open living, kitchen & dining. Custom Aspen kitchen cabinets, breakfast bar, separate dining area. Master suite has large Jacuzzi-type tub. Second bath has shower only, Aspen walls. Back covered patio and uncovered deck in back with a sense of no one around. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-carport. You'll be impressed with this like-new home. **\$135,900.**



ONE OF THE BEST VIEWS on Lake Fork. Beautiful deck overlooks lake. Boathouse is the envy and talk of many fishermen. Several catfish tournaments were won from this dock. Boat ramp, covered deck and an inside fishing hole. .662 acres + 2 acres leaseback. Formal dining, kitchen w/w breakfast bar, breakfast room with great lakeview. Large living area w/ bar, "heat-a-later" fireplace, office/study, large master. 2-car garage has 1/2 bath. Beautiful grounds, chain-link fenced area, drive in storage bldg, small carport & storage, gazebo for family fun. **\$350,000.**



LAKE FORK WATERFRONT in Little Caney Creek. Home appears to be in excellent condition with many new features. Has covered front and back deck to relax and enjoy the lake. Metal workshop for your tools, carport big enough for RV or Motor Home. Lots of places to store your equipment. Nice fishing pier where owners have caught big bass and crappie. **\$169,000.**



PENDING
Five apartments/cabins and 10 storage units. Great rental property in an area of rental shortage. Small apartments/cabins near Lake Fork (less than 1 mile from public boat ramp). These have living/kitchen combo, place for washer & dryer, 1 large bedroom and bathroom. Four of the units are 640 sf with carport, rent for \$475 per mo., Other is 480 sf without carport, rents for \$425.00 per month. There are 10 storage units that are 12x12 with concrete floors & electricity which rent for \$35 per mo. Apartments and storage units are metal and require little maintenance. The A/C and heaters have extended warranties. New exterior paint & electronic security system. Metal storage building & carport at south not included. **\$1400 Monthly Profit. \$154,000.**



LAKE FORK WATERFRONT built for entertaining with an inside hot-tub, concrete patio, screened porch. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath log home is a perfect lake home getaway. Set back in the woods, nicely landscaped, small pond in front, 2-car garage, concrete parking area. Private boat dock and neighborhood boat ramp for home owners use. There is a loft with inside circle stairway plus outside entry. **\$265,000.**

\$We have too many properties for sale to show here. To view these and ALL MLS PROPERTY LISTINGS, go to: www.c21lakecountryrealty.com

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