

# 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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With very little time left in the Dodge Mega Bass tournament Robert Stover from Clifton, TX., brought this hawg to the scales weighing 10.65-lbs. This was the heaviest bass caught during the tournament winning Robert a new Dodge Ram Truck and a Skeeter ZX190, a package valued over \$60,000.

### 5th Annual Dodge Mega Bass Tournament

The 5th Annual Ram Mega Bass tournament was held on Lake Fork on April 7th and had a record number of anglers from over 24 States to cast for a chance to win one of seven Dodge Ram Pickup trucks given away and a brand new Skeeter boat. Robert Stover of Clifton, TX topped a field of 1,802 anglers to win the grand prize package valued at over \$60,000.

This is the richest one day hourly big bass tournament in the nation. Every hour a Dodge Ram pickup truck is awarded to the lucky angler that weighs in the largest bass of the hour. 2nd thru 15th places receives cash awards, and at the end of the day the person who caught the heaviest bass of the day additionally receives a brand new Skeeter ZX190 bass boat.

The morning began with overcast skies and fairly warm temperatures. An-

*(See 5th Annual Dodge....Continued on Page 4-A)*



Joe Bray from Marble Falls, TX., won the first truck of the Dodge Mega Bass tournament when he brought to the scales this nice Lake Fork bass weighing 9.24-lbs. and measuring over 24".

### It's Here! "Legend of Lake Fork"

By Don Hampton

There is going to be one lucky angler to take home a new 2013 Legend bass boat simply because their entry to the 9th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament was postmarked or received before April 30th.

Anglers should not be discouraged if they did not get their entries in early. There are still 3 more Legend bass boats to be given away and 7 places paid each hour of this three day tournament. 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. For the anglers that missed 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 entries 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.

*(See Legend of Lake Fork....Continued on Page 5-A)*

### Annual Wood County Kid Fish June 1st

By Don Hampton

Wood County Kid Fish will celebrate its 16th Anniversary of introducing children to the sport of fishing on Saturday June 1st. The first Saturday of June is the designated time for this event celebrating the first week of June being National Kid Fish Week. During this event no one participating in the event is required to have a fishing license and the event is free to all participating parents and children. This gives parents that do not usually fish an open opportunity to spend this time with their children and perhaps introduce the love of fishing to the whole family. For some of the children this will be considered their first tournament of many more to come in their lifetime. The love of fishing for these children could be accredited to Kid Fish.

Each year this event is hosted by the Wood County Sheriff's Department, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Sabine River Authority, and Gme Warden Peace Officer's Association and is held at Sabine River Authority Headquarters on Lake Fork. All are to be commended for their diligent hard work and the many hours they put in to make this event suh a success for our area children.

*(See Annual Kid Fish....Continued on Page 22-A)*



# Since Bubba Started Bass Fishing, Bubbette Thinks He Has A New Air About him!

By: Don J. Hampton

Bubbette isn't exactly sure when Bubba went from a catfish, crappie, and bream fisherman to a devoted full-time bass fisherman, but she can tell you Bubba stinks at both!

This doesn't mean that he is bad at the sport or that he doesn't bathe before fishing, it just means he smells like he's been fishing. Just like the saying you are what you eat, Bubbette believes he smells like what he fishes for!

When Bubba fished for catfish, crappie, and bream that wasn't so bad. At least then all he smelled like when he came in the house was fish. Bubbette didn't mind this because then she had plenty of fish in the freezer for her fish fries she loves so much. After he had cleaned the fish, put them in the freezer, bathed and the clothes were in the washer, the smell of his excursion was gone. One of Bubba's bass fishing trips brings back an odor that is indescribable, has a tendency to linger and is even harder to wash out.

Bubba read an article, (most likely written by one of the companies that makes one of his many scents, sprays, oils, and dyes he applies to his plastics), that said there is an enzyme created in the human body that is secreted through the pores that repels bass. Knowing Bubba as I do, I'm quite sure he had to study that story and look up some of the words in the dictionary before he grasped the true meaning. Once he did understand it he

accepted it as "The Gospel According to Bass Angling"! Now no piece of plastic he throws, whether weightless, wacky, Carolina, Texas, or Florida rigged, hits the water without being sprayed, dyed, oiled, or slicked with something really smelly.

Knowing how Bubba has to have stuff, he has them all!

He has enough dyes in his boat he could create a rainbow on a piece of plastic. He could make a piece of driftwood smell like a crawfish. He can even make a crawfish smell like a shad and on top of all of this, everyone of his rods smell like bread served in an Italian restaurant.

When Bubba walks through the door after one of his bass fishing trips or especially after a tournament, Bubbette swears he wears what he fishes! She pretty much has it pinpointed what he smells like when he walks in. She says, "He smells like an Italian crawfish boil in a Chinese fish market!" I've never smelled that, but I have had a whiff or two of Bubba after his fishing trips and I would have to agree with Bubbette's description.

"Not only has his smell changed," said Bubbette, "but he has changed. When he is fishing for the freezer he'll wear whatever he finds first, like an old T-shirt, old shorts, cut-offs, or jeans, but when he bass fishes, he has special attire!" She went on to add, "His shirts have all got embroidery on them and he has to have all his patches reflecting his conquests sewed on them and he leaves that part to me. If I don't have his newest one sewed on

before a tournament he says I jinxed him. There was a time when he wouldn't go in public wearing anything that had a patch on it! Now I can't get him out of them! Literally! Bubba even has to have cargo shorts and pants that match his shirts. Can the bass see all of this and does it make them want to be caught by a well dressed smelly fisherman?"

Well Bubbette, the answer to your question is probably "Blowing in the Wind", and that is the best place for Bubba's attire to air out! Don't be too hard on Bubba there are a lot of bass anglers out there that are the same way.

Bubba isn't that unique or different and he'll probably never be a "Legend", but one thing is for sure, he will always be driving one! Everyone knows that, "Bubba Needs Stuff!"



"The only two angels identified by name in the Bible are Michael and Gabriel, who appear in the Book of Daniel."



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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## 5th Annual Dodge Mega Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 1-A)

glers launched from all points on the legendary Lake Fork for their chance to cash in with just a single cast. Lake Fork being a slot lake, meaning that only fish 16" or less in length or 24" and over are legal bass to keep. All bass between 16" and 24" must be released immediately.

The first one to win a truck was Joe Bray of Marble Falls, TX. He weighed in the first bass

of the day over the 24" length limit. "I came up with a friend. We went to a creek channel that had a straight line of stumps. We decided to slide in behind there, and within about 30 minutes I got the bite." He was fishing a Carolina rigged watermelon red lizard with a chartreuse tail. Joe set the hook, but it didn't feel like a solid hook set to him. "I had 65# braid line on, and she tried to break it off!" Once they got the fish secured in the livewell, they started to make their way in to the scales. "I looked at my watch, and we had plenty of time so we didn't get in a hurry. When we pulled the boat up, somebody yelled 'You'd better hurry!' I thought I looked at my watch wrong, and lost a shoe trying to hurry in. Putting the fish on the scales, it registered at 9.24- pounds kicking off the first truck win of the day. "We went back out, and I caught one more over 21". I was sure glad we had a good early bite. We've had our ups and downs just like every other fisherman. This was a great day!"

With all of the cold fronts pushing in on the area getting bass over the 24" mark proved to be a daunting task to the anglers on the hunt. Short, fat bass under 16" panned out to big paydays for the bulk of the day.

Fourteen year old Cortland Curgus of Plano, TX and his father James came to Lake Fork, and by the suggestion of friend and fellow contender Rob

*(See 5th Annual Dodge....Continued on Page 9-A)*



2nd truck 14 yr. old Cortland Curgus



3rd truck Brent Cantrell



4th truck Robert Laird



5th truck 16 yr old Bryan Landers



6th truck Rob Hope



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## Legend of Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1-A)

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

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 Fishing 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](http://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.

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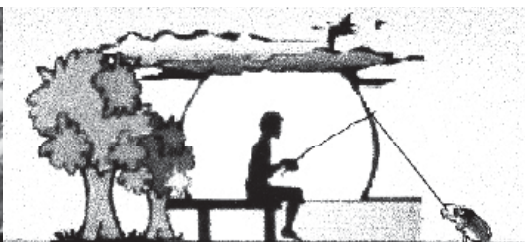


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## May Bassin on the Fork

By John Tanner

Greetings Anglers from the great Lake Fork. This is a great time of year to fish Fork. I know I say that a lot, but the month of May really is a good month to fish the big bass capital. The way the weather has been so far this spring, the spawn has been prolonged due to the fronts that have been pounding us. It seems like we have been hit by a front just about every week. These fronts will back the fish off a few days each time one comes through. However, the spawn should speed up and be done as soon as the weather stays warmer now that we are into May.

There normally are a lot of different patterns to choose from this time of year. You will have fish still spawning, guarding fry and post spawn fish eating shad. You will even have a good number of

fish start to filter out on some of the deep spots out in the main lake. In the mornings top waters and swim baits (Berkley Hollow Belly and Berkley Havoc Grass Pig) are good choices. Look for bait-fish activity on the banks and normally the bass will be there too. Look for the birds stacked on the shoreline on main lake points and you will be in the house!

After the shad bite is over, go out a little deeper and fish the trees on the points at the mouths of the spawning coves with drop shot worms (Havoc Bottom Hoppers) and Texas rigged soft plastics. Bluegill colored square bill crankbaits are an awesome choice this time of year as well because of the bluegill bedding activity that goes on this month. Bass love to eat bluegill and take advantage of the huge movement of gills to the shallows this time of year.

Yes there is always a lot going on during the month of May in the bass world. Take advantage of it and come on down to Lake Fork and catch some of the big bass this place is famous for. These Lake Fork fish are strong so a good stout rod is a must. I just love the new Fenwick Aetos rods. These things are incredible and I highly recommend them to any bass angler.

Thank you for reading this article and I hope it helps you catch more and bigger bass this month.



If you are in the area and are in the market for a Ranger Boat be sure and go to Diamond Sports Marine on Hwy 154. Tell 'em Tanner sent ya.

Hey for more info on Lake Fork check us out on the web at [www.lakeforkbassguide.com](http://www.lakeforkbassguide.com).

Please pray for our nation and our military service men and women. Also if you are looking for a Church to go to, check out Lake Fork Baptist Church on Hwy 515. Sunday school begins at 9:30 and church service begins at 10:30. It is a wonder-

ful place! If you have any questions go to the website at [www.lakeforkbaptist.org](http://www.lakeforkbaptist.org). Good fishing and God Bless. 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.



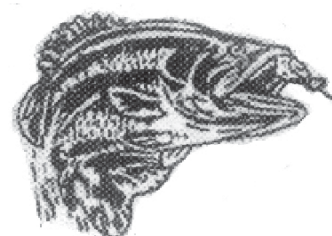
### CLUES ACROSS

- |                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Corpuscle count, abbr.       | 39. One and only             |
| 4. Wader                        | 40. Linda ____, actress      |
| 9. Snap                         | 41. Lymphoid tissue          |
| 13. Wings                       | 42. Heavy                    |
| 15. Tidal bore                  | 43. Body fluids              |
| 16. River                       | 44. Pages                    |
| 17. Spring event                | 46. Guardians                |
| 20. Develop without chlorophyll | 47. ____ Lilly, drug company |
| 21. Type genus of the Elopidae  | 48. ____ Landsbury, actress  |
| 22. Scarlett's home             | 51. Blimp                    |
| 23. Lines                       | 55. Spring handout           |
| 25. Glossy                      | 58. Veridical                |
| 28. Charge                      | 59. Stimulate                |
| 29. Bird genus                  | 60. Inclined plane           |
| 32. ____gate, lengthen          | 61. Spanish city             |
| 33. Commercial enterprise       | 62. Locomoted                |
| 34. Dude                        | 63. Mow grass                |
| 35. Acknowledgement             |                              |

### CLUES DOWN

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Compete                                | 28. Collections                        |
| 2. Defect                                 | 29. Walking                            |
| 3. Women's undergarment                   | 30. Musical composition                |
| 4. Any of several small Old World finches | 31. Recesses                           |
| 5. Large intestines                       | 33. Look                               |
| 6. Phil ____, former CIA                  | 36. Merchandising                      |
| 7. Matchstick game                        | 37. Accomplishes                       |
| 8. Before                                 | 38. Pearly                             |
| 9. Weight units                           | 44. Derived                            |
| 10. Root of taro plant                    | 45. Calendar month                     |
| 11. Tide                                  | 46. Inner Roman sanctuary              |
| 12. Changes                               | 48. Area unit                          |
| 14. Acting                                | 49. Christmas                          |
| 18. Eagerness                             | 50. Elysian                            |
| 19. Modern                                | 51. Web or camp                        |
| 23. Sounds                                | 52. A female domestic                  |
| 24. Dicot genus                           | 53. Vasco da ____, Portuguese explorer |
| 25. Inner circles                         | 54. Spot                               |
| 26. Acknowledgment                        | 56. European moose                     |
| 27. Gave color to                         | 57. Thai                               |

Answers on Page 21-A



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## Texas Game Warden Recognized by Texas Environmental Enforcement Task Force

The Texas Environmental Law Enforcement Association (TELEA) has recognized Texas game warden Sgt. Robert Waggett as the state's 2013 Environmental Investigator of the Year.

In presenting the award, the association noted that Sgt. Waggett has exemplified outstanding investigative skills and teamwork at an operational level. Working closely with the Houston Police Department Environmental Crimes Unit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and many local and county agencies, the sergeant has handled numerous investigations of major environmental polluters.

Based in Houston, Sgt. Waggett is a seasoned 20-year Texas Parks and Wildlife Department veteran.

Additionally, TELEA has recognized TPWD's contaminants laboratory staff, senior chemists Pamela Hamlett and Gary Steimentz, with the association's Environmental Investigator's Award in the non-commissioned category. Part of TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division, the two chemists were singled out for their work in advising field investigators in sampling procedures and protocols, along with the laboratory analysis and reporting of evidence used in numerous environmental crimes investigations.

"As we see more demand on water, the need for clean water for both people and wildlife becomes more important," said Grahame Jones, head of Special Operations in TPWD's Law Enforcement Division. "Our environmental crimes unit, made of Texas game wardens, is dedicated to protecting our environment, especially, our state waters. Sgt. Waggett, along with Hamlett and Steinmetz, are extremely dedicated and TPWD appreciates TELEA's recognition very much."

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## "The Moon Report"

It's time to look for post spawn!

By Terri Moon

It's amazing how many people think that when the crappie spawn is over, it's the end of the good fishing! In my opinion, the fishing is only gonna get better through May and June.

You just have to start checking different areas adjacent to where you found them shallow. Look for drop-offs, creek bends and timber in 12 to 20 ft. and by all means don't forget to check docks (especially the ones with brush piled under them with about 8 to 15 ft of water.) These areas might be out at the mouths of the coves or even secondary points. You might even find some just drifting with double rigged jigs along the rip-rap of the bridges, or around the timber near these drop-offs and breaklines. A lot of times the big females will suspend around the deep sides of the drop-offs.

Now, if there is something I can't say enough, it's "Use That Depth Finder" and if you have "Structure Scan", even better! It's an amazing tool for locating these post spawn crappie. Because you could spend all day "fishing" for that right spot, instead, find the right spot with the "Structure Scan" then start "catching fish!" (Thanks Lowrance for making my job easier!)

There are still some male crappie holding shallow guarding eggs and frye. We're catching those by slow roll-



ing roadrunners in 2 to 8 ft. of water. The deeper females we're catching on Lake Fork Tackle's 'Live Baby Shad' in chartreuse and pearl or 'Electric Chicken' in 12 to 20 ft.

Another reason I get excited about May and June fishing has to be "hands down" the bream fishing! They are still my very favorite fish to catch and eat! I think it's because it takes me back to fishing off my grandpa's dock on Lake Lotawana as a kid and how no one could cook it better than grandma! It's the "priceless memories" that count, not the numbers!

So, grab a bucket of crickets or some worms and get those kids and grandkids out to the lake and introduce them to fishing at its finest! Believe me, they will remember it probably the rest of their life. I don't think I've ever met anyone who didn't have a favorite "fishing memory!" I'm just really grateful I have so many!

One rule of thumb I use is I start looking for the bream in the same areas I found the crappie shallow and target 3

to 8 ft. of water around the new and full moon. Then back off to 8-15 ft. depths. You can use slip bobbers or tight-line with hook and split shot.

By the way don't be surprised if a big catfish comes your way. They like to eat what the bream eat too!

I hope all of you have a wonderful May. Stop by Lake Fork Marina and check out their new products arriving daily! Thanks Cameron for keeping on top of the latest and greatest!

I want to wish all of you a "Happy Mother's Day" and especially to my mom...you are "amazing!" Also, "Happy 83rd Birthday" – with much love! My best to you all!

**Parents  
Don't  
Forget  
Annual  
Kid  
Fish  
June 1st  
at  
SRA  
PARK**



## 5th Annual Dodge Mega Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 4-A)

Burns, decided to fish the tournament. "Our day started out poorly. We were fishing with Rob in his boat, and Rob slept in. I thought we were going to miss the tournament!" By the time they got on the water it was already 8 a.m. "Rob knows the lake, and he picked the spot." It was a creek branch, and with the boat sitting in 19' of water they were casting to the edge of the bridge. Cortland was using an Alabama rig. "In ten casts, we had a good mix of white bass and slot fish. Then I caught this one (2.53 lbs) and one 23-1/4". The trio had decided that they would weigh whatever they caught each hour, so they headed in to the scales. To their surprise, Cortland's fish held up as top fish of the 9:00 hour! So what is this 14 year old going to do with his brand new Dodge Ram pickup truck? "I'll have my learners permit by the end of the year, and my parents will use it until then."

Brent Cantrell of Wortham, TX. won the 10 a.m. hour by a mere 5/100ths of a pound. "The day started out real good. I was fishing the back of a creek with a Texas rig and had caught six or more

by around 8 a.m." Bringing in the biggest of his keepers under the slot, he checked to see what was leading that hour. "A 2.39 was leading at the time, so I went ahead and weighed in my fish." It locked in on the scales at 2.45 lbs, giving him the lead seat - but there was still a lot of time on the clock before that hour closed. "The last seven minutes were the most nervous ever for me. One guy came in after I did and weighed in a 2.40-pound bass. It was close!" Brent was awarded the new Dodge Ram truck, but decided to take the \$15,000 cash option. "I've already ordered my new Power Poles for my boat with it!"

Robert Laird and his wife Laura of Livingston, TX. have fished the Ram Mega Bass tournament every year since it began. "We didn't go far, just idled four or five hundred yards to this spot to the back of a cove where I had seen a bedding fish the day before." Tournament day was cloudy and overcast, and spotting the fish he was after was next to impossible. He used a weightless wa-termelon red fluke and just kept casting in likely areas. "She finally bit, and when I got her in I measured her.

She was 15 7/8" long, and weighed 2.11 lbs on my scales." He came in and considered weighing in during the 9am hour, but saw that a bigger bass had already come in that hour. "We waited until the 11:00 hour, and went ahead and weighed it, just hoping to get a check." The official scales locked in at 2.49 lbs, putting Robert in lead position for the hour. As the clock ticked down the final minutes, the tension and excitement continued to grow. When the scales were finally closed and the announcement was made that he had won the hour, his wife Laura could not hold her excitement any more. "Oh, my God!" she declared over and over. Robert and his wife are no strangers to tournament success. He won the Berkley Big Bass tournament last October and currently holds the Lake Livingston record for Black Bass at 13.19-pounds.

Another youngster took top honors for the 12:00 hour. Seventeen year old Tyler Landers of College Station, TX won a new Ram pickup truck weighing in a 2.59-pound catch. Fishing with his

*(See 5th Annual Dodge....Continued on Page 14-A)*



Audie Long, Dallas, TX  
Mike Bealer

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## 4th Annual World Championship Bass on The Fly Fishing Tournament

The 4th Annual World Championship Bass on The Fly Fishing Tournament will be held May 11, 2013 at Lake Fork Marina from 6:00am - 2:00pm. This unique tournament is exclusively for fly fishing anglers and only rods, reels, line & lures made for fly fishing can be used. There is no rod length or line weight limit for equipment. It is one of only two such events in the entire country!

Why would anyone want to fly fish for bass? Ted Warren, the tournament organizer, says "it's just like bow hunting for deer. It's more challenging and requires more skill and patience which brings a greater sense of accomplishment."

Another unique feature is that it is a Catch-Photo-Release tournament. Each participant will receive an ID card at registration which must be included in a picture of the fish on a metal measuring board before quickly returning the fish to the water. The Federation of Fly Fishers which endorses the tournament emphasizes conservation of our fishery resources. This is a bonus on Lake Fork because all the fish caught can be counted, including those in the 16"-24" slot! Winners will be determined by the total length of their five longest bass. Cameras and chips must be checked at registration before the tournament.

The tournament also has two divisions. One for those with fishing boats(Boater division) and one

for those who want to use kayaks, pontoons, float tubes, or fish from the bank (Non-Boater division). Previously, those in the non-boater division have done as well as those with boats. Safety and sportsmanship rules must be followed by all participants.

The entry fee is \$55/person, which includes \$5 for the big bass pot, and an additional \$5 for an optional big blue gill pot. The cash payout for each division is determined by the number of participants in each division. There is also a Club trophy awarded to the club or organization with the three longest fish. Entries received by May 1st are eligible for a drawing for a new Sage Largemouth fly rod and case. Approximately 45 participants are expected this year and entries have already been received from Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Colorado as well as Texas.

Additional activities include free hourly casting clinics, kayak demos, casting contests, vendor booths, and door prizes for participants. Prizes include the Sage rod, Rio line & leaders, TFO rods and hats, Skeeter tee shirts, People's waterproof phone protectors, Gypsy Jack bass lures, Buff sun gloves, Brothers flies, Ranger shirts, Scientific Angler line, discount certificates from Simms & Redington, and fly fishing merchandise from Cabela's and Bass Pro.

The tournament provides education, practices conservation and promotes fun fly fishing. More details and the registration form can be found at [www.bassonthefly.org](http://www.bassonthefly.org).



Thomas Triveno was fishing Lake Fork with new resident Marty Painter in April when he caught this hawg tilting the scales at 11.2-lbs. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo)

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www.bassonthefly.org

# 4TH ANNUAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BASS ON THE FLY FISHING TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013

6:00 am – 2:00 pm

LAKE FORK MARINA



## DIVISIONS:



BOATERS – 1 OR 2 MAN TEAM,  
5 FISH PHOTO TOTAL LENGTH

NON-BOATER (kayak, float tube, pon-  
toon, bank)– INDIVIDUAL, CATCH-PHO-  
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LEGEND | lej-ənd | noun A person or thing that inspires.

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## 5th Annual Dodge Mega Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 9-A)

dad Brian, they were not targeting big bass over the slot, only big fat ones under the 16" limit. "Tyler got sick the day before," Tyler's dad Brian recalled. "We almost headed home before the tournament." Deciding to tough it out, they launched the next morning and headed to their first targeted area. "We struggled, it was pretty tough. There were lots of people at the spot we had pre-fished. We moved around a lot." They went to an area in the back of a creek that intersected with a road bed. It was about 10' deep and laden with stumps. At 10:15 a.m., using a green pumpkin Texas rigged Zoom lizard, Tyler caught this 15-1/2" fish. "We knew we wouldn't make it back in time for that hour weigh in, so we listened to the radio to get an idea of what weights were getting in the money." Their scale said their fish weighed 2.1 lbs. "We decided to go in, but held back at the tanks waiting to see what was being weighed that hour before we decided to step across the line." The leading bass that hour was 2.48-pounds, and there was only 60 seconds left. "Chad told everyone that the bag weight added .2 lbs, so we decided to step across and weigh the fish." Weigh master Chad Potts announced that it was going to be close. Putting the fish on the scales, the numbers kept spinning then locked in at 2.59 lbs! "The last five seconds in the

hour, five or six others stepped across the line." Several of them were in the money, but Tyler's fish held to win the hour! His dad was so excited. "There were so many factors that made it so close for this not to happen. (1) We almost went home the night before; (2) We didn't think the fish was that big, and (3) if he caught it 45 minutes later he would not have won the truck!" Initially they took the cash option, but after discussing it with Mom they turned around and signed for the truck. Word quickly spread about Tyler's victory, and when he talked to his best friend he said: "You didn't really think I was coming home without a truck, did you?"

The day was beginning to come to an end. Only two trucks remained to be won. Rob Hope of Mineola, TX. won the sixth truck given away with his 2.65-pound catch. It was the closest truck win of the day, only winning by 2/100ths of a pound!

Then it was the final hour, and the last chance to weigh in the best catch you could. Last casts of the day were being made. The final weigh in had commenced. Joe Bray's 9.24 lb catch was looking good to hold up as big bass of the day, and Chris Woehl had the biggest bass of the hour at 2.70-pounds ready to win the last Dodge truck. The clock was ticking down for the final time.

Robert Stover of Clifton, TX who was fishing with his son Robert Jr. pulled in to an area they had never fished before to make their last casts. "We had fished a lot of different areas throughout the day, and had caught three or four in the slot." They were using a Texas rigged Lake Fork Tackle Hyper Worm. "We were looking for a spot that the wind was blowing into, and there weren't many boats in." They discovered that area, and at 2:15 Robert flipped his bait to just the right tree and a monster bass latched on. They quickly made their way to the weigh in and with only five minutes left on the clock weighed his 10.65-pound catch to win the hour, the truck and the Skeeter ZX190 bass boat - a package valued at over \$60,000! "Dad was just trying to hold the tears back. He was screaming and yelling," Robert Jr. recalled. "It was great! This has been a long time coming for my dad. He's been dreaming about it for a long time. I'm just glad I was here to witness it with him!"

There is no other one day bass tournament like it in the world. "There's nothing better than awarding these trucks, the boat and the cash prizes to all of these anglers," stated Chad Potts. "We would like to thank everyone who traveled here to Lake Fork to fish our 5th Annual Ram Mega Bass tournament and hope everyone had a great time."



Trailering allowed at all BLT tournaments. Fall tournaments are open to ALL ANGLERS!  
\$200 Early Entry Fee. \$30 Membership Fee for Division Tournaments. 80% Payback - 1 w/ 5

### 2013 FALL DIVISIONS

#### Fork Division

Sep 7 - Lake Fork (Pope's Landing)  
Oct 19 - Lake Fork (Pope's Landing)  
Nov 16 - Lake Fork (Pope's Landing)  
Dec 8 - Ray Hubbard (Bay View)

#### Dallas Division

Sep 8 - Cedar Creek (Log Cabin)  
Oct 6 - Cedar Creek (Log Cabin)  
Nov 16 - R Chambers (Gander Mtn)  
Dec 8 - Ray Hubbard (Bay View)

#### Garland Division

Sep 7 - Ray Hubbard (Bay View)  
Oct 5 - Tawakoni (WT City Park)  
Nov 9 - Tawakoni (WT City Park)  
Dec 8 - Ray Hubbard (Bay View)

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1st:	\$1,600	\$2,100	\$2,600	\$3,000
2nd:	\$1,200	\$1,250	\$1,300	\$1,500
3rd:	\$600	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,200
4th:	\$500	\$600	\$675	\$700
5th:	\$350	\$500	\$500	\$500
6th:	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$450
7th:		\$250	\$325	\$400
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10th:			\$200	\$250
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12th:				\$200

#### JUNE 29TH - LAKE FORK OPEN

LATE REGISTRATION/WEIGH IN - MINNOW BUCKET

#### JULY 13 - LAKE PALESTINE OPEN

LATE REGISTRATION/WEIGH IN - LAKE PALESTINE RESORT

#### AUGUST 3 - LAKE TAWAKONI OPEN

LATE REGISTRATION/WEIGH IN - HOLIDAY MARINA

#### OCTOBER 26TH - LAKE FORK OPEN

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Jaymie Tenpenny's first time fishing Lake Fork with a pink Pfluger rod n' reel was rewarded with catching this hawg weighing 11.95-lbs. C.P.R.



Jamie Thompson was fishing Lake Fork on 4/9/13 when he caught this pig weighing 8.96-lbs. and measuring 25" in length. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Pope's Landing)



Ron Peterson your Easy Step man was fishing Lake Fork in April when he caught this hawg weighing 9.34-lbs. and measuring 24.25" in length. C.P.R.

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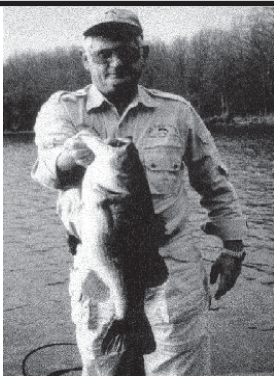
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## Regional Lone Star Land Steward Awards Honor Texas Conservationists *(Continued from Page 15-A)*

Supporting a remnant of the globally rare Silveanus dropseed prairie, Daphne Prairie is one of the most valuable ecological treasures in the state. Owned and operated by B.F. Hicks, the property has been in the Hicks family since 1839 and is one of the last unplowed prairies in northeast Texas.

Ongoing land management goals are continuing with conservation and restoration of 840 acres of native grasslands, including the 120-acre virgin prairie, using prescribed fire and rotational grazing.

A model citizen-scientist and conservationist, Hicks has hosted numerous groups for over 20 years, including researchers and plant ecology experts, university students, birding groups, Audubon and Master Naturalist chapters, as well as state and federal agencies including TPWD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. As a community leader, Hicks is past president of the Franklin County Historical Association. He also helped nominate more than 10 sites for inclusion in the Prairies and Pineywoods Wildlife Trail.

### Cross Timbers and Prairies - Thomsen Foundation, Montague County

Established in 1982 by Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Thomsen of Dallas and operated by Dr. Lisa Bellows, the foundation's mission is to provide research and education programs, with a focus on place-

based environmental education for students as well as educators. College students use the 600-acre property as an outdoor laboratory for classes in botany, zoology, wildlife conservation, environmental science and agriculture.

As a managed land deer permits (MLDP) cooperator, the Thomsen Foundation uses the program to teach students about controlling deer numbers, conducting surveys, and collecting harvest data.

In addition, prescribed burning, selective mowing, and restoration seeding have resulted in high plant diversity on the property, with more than 400 plant species recorded.

Adults visit the Thomsen property for programs on sustainable agriculture, habitat management and plant identification, and even star parties, taking advantage of the dark night sky. With a passion for the education of children, Dr. Bellows

holds workshops to introduce place-based teaching concepts to educators. The ranch hosts about 1,200 visitors yearly.

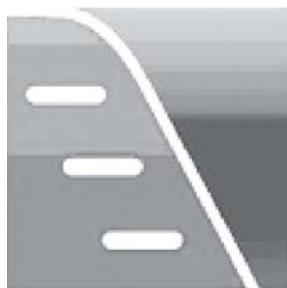
### Rolling Plains - JA Ranch, Armstrong and Donley Counties

Established in 1876, the 158,500-acre JA Ranch is the oldest continuously operated family cattle ranch in the Texas Panhandle. From the fading days of the Red River War to 21st century digital mapping of ranch features, wildlife and cattle movements, and management treatments, the JA has seen many changes during its 130 years.

Ranch operations emphasize ecosystem management focusing on the entire plant community. The goal is to benefit both cattle and wildlife by creating healthier habitats ranch-wide.

Owner Andrew Bivins understands the ecologi-

*(See Regional Lone Star.....Continued on Page 20-A)*



**"Chris Lane now has the ESS2 swing-away model on his New Legend 211-Alpha."**

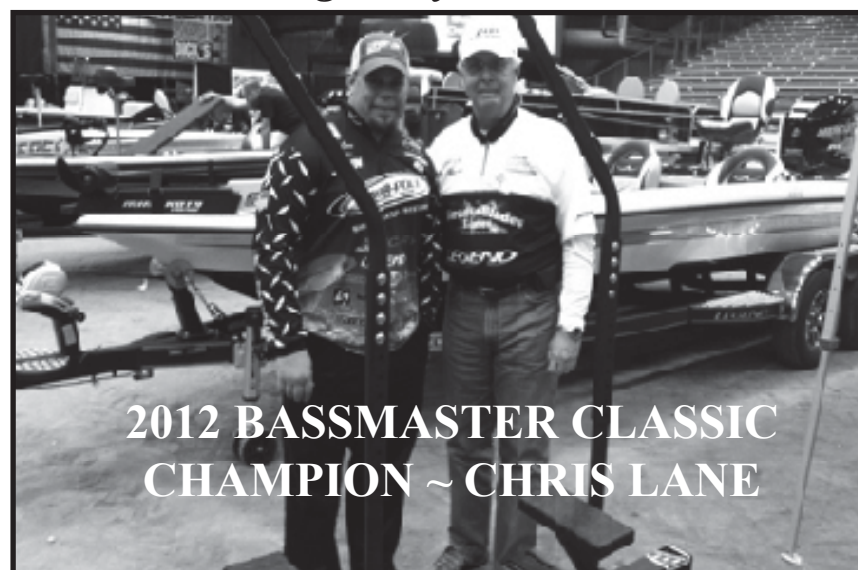
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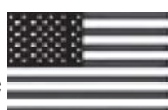


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# "Pack of Knowledge" Swimming Soft Plastic Jerks: A New Look for Spring

By Tom Redington

Jigs and soft plastics like worms and creatures probably catch more bass in the summertime than all other lures combined. When probing offshore structure, a casting jig, a football jig, a Carolina rig, a shaky head, a drop shot, or a Texas rig will work almost every day if fished correctly. Like so many other baits, just casting and mindlessly retrieving your bait in the standard way will produce mediocre results. Depending on the mood

of the bass and position of the fish relative to the structure, certain retrieves will trigger more bites than others. Following are some retrieves I use regularly, starting with slowest and moving to the most aggressive:

**Dead-stick:** How many times have you spent a couple minutes picking out a backlash, only to discover that a bass ate your bait while it was just sitting on the bottom? When the bite is tough, less action is more. Dead-sticking means simply letting the bait sit still on a slack line for extended periods. Sometimes 5 seconds is enough, while other days I'll let it sit in one place for a minute or more before getting bit. While dead-sticking sometimes works on the initial cast, normally I combine one or more of the other retrieves with it, such as a couple active hops followed by dead-sticking it in place for a while before moving it again. Fish will pick up the bait while it is sitting there and you'll either feel a tap, or your line will jump or just start swimming off to the side. Straight tailed worms like Lake Fork Trophy Lure's Hyper Sticks, Twitch Worms and Hyper Finesse Worms normally work best in these presentations. Since bass are studying your lure for a long time, I recommend using a low visibility line like fluorocarbon.

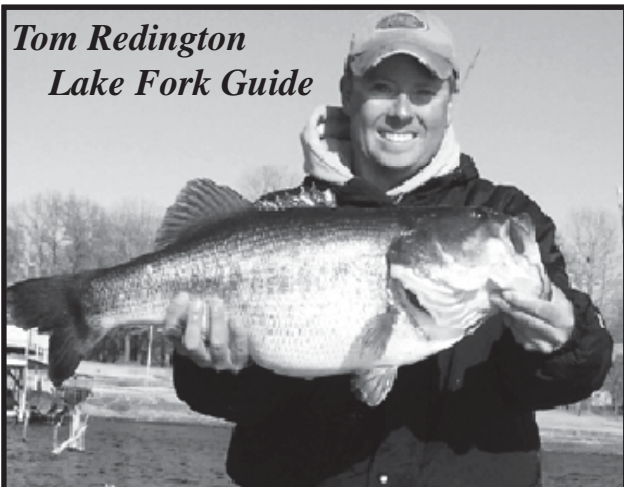
**Drag:** Dragging is very popular with football jigs

and Carolina rigs, but it also works with TX rigs too. A few years ago in the FLW Tour event at KY Lake, my co-angler was slamming big fish behind me while I couldn't get bit. Once I figured out that he was dragging his worm instead of hopping it, I started catching big ones. I switched to a 10" Fork Worm with a big sinker and just drug the bait along by keeping my rod low to the water. If I would pick the worm off the bottom, they wouldn't eat it. When bass are focusing on prey on the bottom, dragging is the way to go.

**Shake:** This is my favorite way to trigger bass to bite. By leaving just a slight bit of slack in my line, I'll rapidly shake my rod tip, making it move about 3" up and down. This movement is just enough to make the line barely tighten, but I snap the rod back down before the bait moves forward. You can practice this technique in a swimming pool, bathtub, or in shallow water. When done right, your bait will just squirm and wiggle but won't move forward. This retrieve was made famous on drop shots and shaky heads, but it also works very well on all worm rigs except a Carolina rig. Again, straight tailed worms like Hyper Finesse Worms and Hyper Sticks work best here. Making trailers like Fork Craws and Fork Creatures on flipping jigs and football jigs shake also triggers

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

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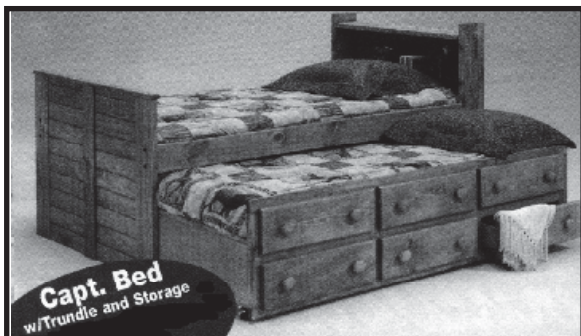
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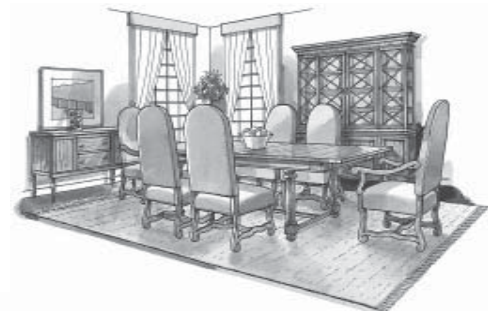
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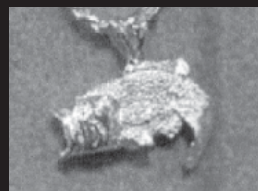
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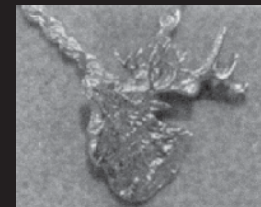
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## Regional Lone Star Land Steward Awards Honor Texas Conservationists (Continued from Page 17-A)

cal processes that formed the habitat and strives to sustain those processes through rotational grazing, conservative stocking rates, prescribed burning, and brush management.

Because of these practices, the ranch has seen a tremendous increase in plant diversity with plant communities shifting to sideoats and blue gramas, little and big bluestems, and higher forb abundance.

**Wildlife Management or Landowner Association - South Llano River Watershed Alliance, Edwards and Kimble Counties**

Formed in 2009, the South Llano River Watershed Alliance is an organization of landowners and interested stakeholders whose mission is to preserve and enhance the South Llano River and adjoining watersheds. Current president is Znobla Wooten; Dr. Tom Arsuffi serves as vice president.

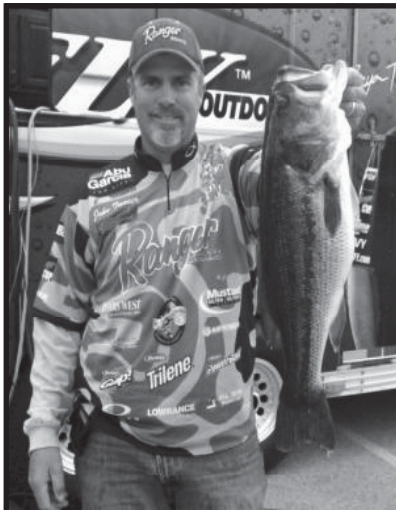
By encouraging land and water stewardship through collaboration, education and community participation, the alliance serves as an excellent model of how landowners and stakeholders can work together voluntarily to achieve mutual benefits. The alliance has worked closely with TPWD

on restoration of the Guadalupe bass, an effort aimed at ensuring a pure population of the state fish. In addition, the alliance has assisted TPWD with five watershed-based restoration projects through the Landowner Incentive Program.

To address the concerns of landowners facing challenges related to increasing public use along the river, the alliance organized

workshops to educate both users and landowners about river rights and ethics. This began the process of bringing partners together to establish the South Llano River Paddling Trail.

In 2011, following the devastating Oasis Pipeline fire that affected more than 8,000 acres of both upland and riparian habitat along the river, the alliance coordinated a workshop involving many partners to provide information and resources to landowners impacted by the wildfire.



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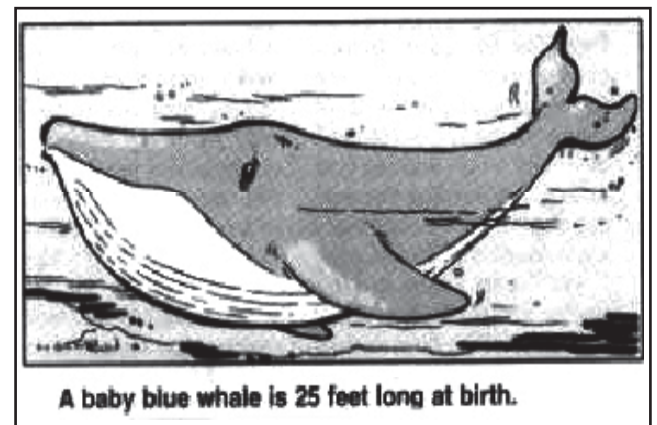
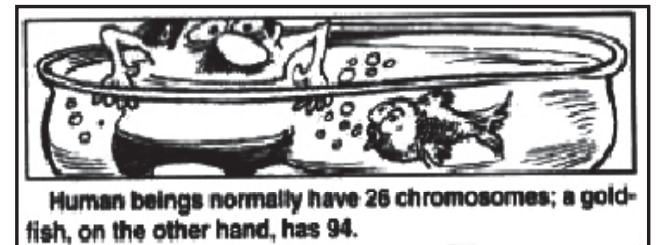
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## "Pack of Knowledge" (Continued from Page 18-A)

strikes. Apparently, a cowering, defenseless bait is too much for big bass to pass up. A tip heavy rod will kill your shoulder after a while with this technique so I've found the Dobyns Extreme DX744C to be my favorite for shaking jigs and worms, with its combination of balance and sensitivity.

**Slow Roll:** This is simply dragging without the stops. With heavy baits like football jigs and Carolina rigs, slowly reeling them along the bottom with action trailers like Fork Creatures and Hyper Freaks triggers strikes just like crankbaits, yet you can send these baits to the bottom much deeper than the deepest diving crank.

**Lift/Drop:** The classic worm and jig retrieve. Many days, a 6" to 2' lift and resulting fall back to the bottom is what the fish want. I normally start with this retrieve and adjust from here, mixing in some dead-sticking between

hops. This excels with action tail plastics, like ribbon tailed Fork Worms and paddle tailed Hyper Worms.

**Stroke:** Stroking is the energy drink guzzling cousin of the lift/drop. Instead of slowly pulling your lure off the bottom, leave a bit of slack in the line and explode it up 2' to 8' off the bottom with a

violent hook-setting motion. This rapid motion triggers bites from inactive fish. Furthermore, it excels for bass that are suspended off the bottom or sitting off the edge of drops. Stroking is a physically demanding technique, so using the right gear makes it a lot easier. (See Pack of Knowledge...

(Continued on Page 22-A)

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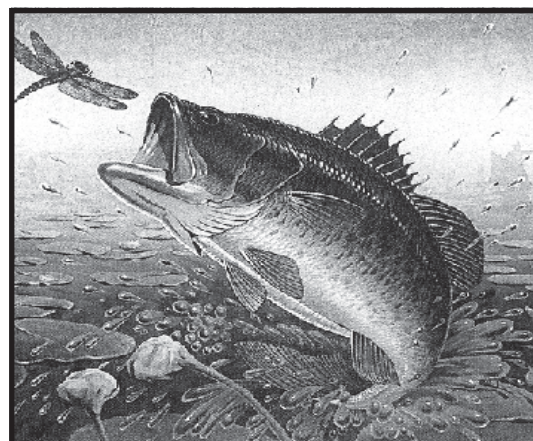
### Football Find

There are 14 football terms 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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FIRST DOWN  
FUMBLE  
GROUNDING  
HOLDING  
LATERAL  
OFFSIDE

PASS  
RUSHING  
SACK  
SAFETY  
SNAP  
TACKLE  
TOUCHDOWN

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E D I S F F O C A E T E  
F I E A L D K S P A N L  
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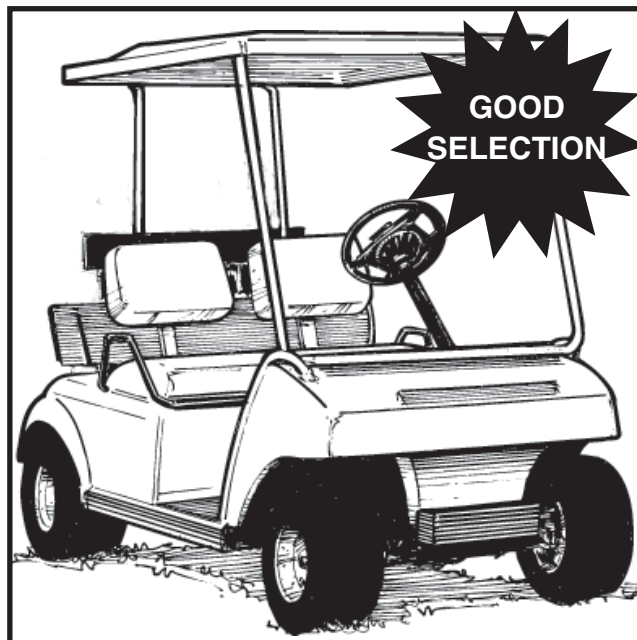
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**"Pack of Knowledge"** (Continued from Page 21-A)

Start with a low stretch line like fluorocarbon so you're moving the bait instead of stretching your line. Secondly, a long yet light and well balanced rod moves the lure a long ways without wearing you out. Again, the Dobyns Extreme 7'4" DX744C moves a ton of line, yet feels like an ultra-sensitive 6'6" rod in your hands, which explains why it is such a wildly popular model.



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Basically, this is a process of trial and error. Experiment with a variety of retrieves until the fish tell you what they want by biting your lure. If I can be of assistance, drop me a line at tom@lakeforkguidetrips.com or check out my website [www.LakeForkGuide-Trips.com](http://www.LakeForkGuide-Trips.com) for more info.

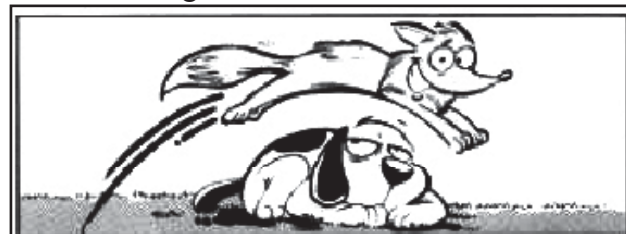
Tom Redington is a FLW Tour pro, host of TV's "Big Bass Battle" & a bass guide on Lake Fork. To make the most of your experience in the outdoors, he recommends the Boy Scouts of America, Lake Fork Trophy Lures, Dobyns Rods, Ranger Boats, Mercury Outboards, Diamond Sports Marine, Lucky Craft, Costa Sunglasses,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

**Annual Kid Fish** (Continued from Page 1-A)

This event is free to all children and their parents. If the children do not have their own fishing equipment, rod n' reels are furnished along with all bait and tackle. Cold drinks, refreshments, hot dogs and chips are provided for the parents and children.

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Parents mark your calendars for Kid Fish to be held at SRA Headquarters on June 1st. Share with your children the beauty of nature and the enjoyment of fishing.



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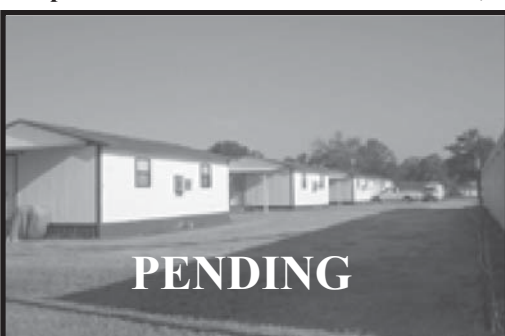
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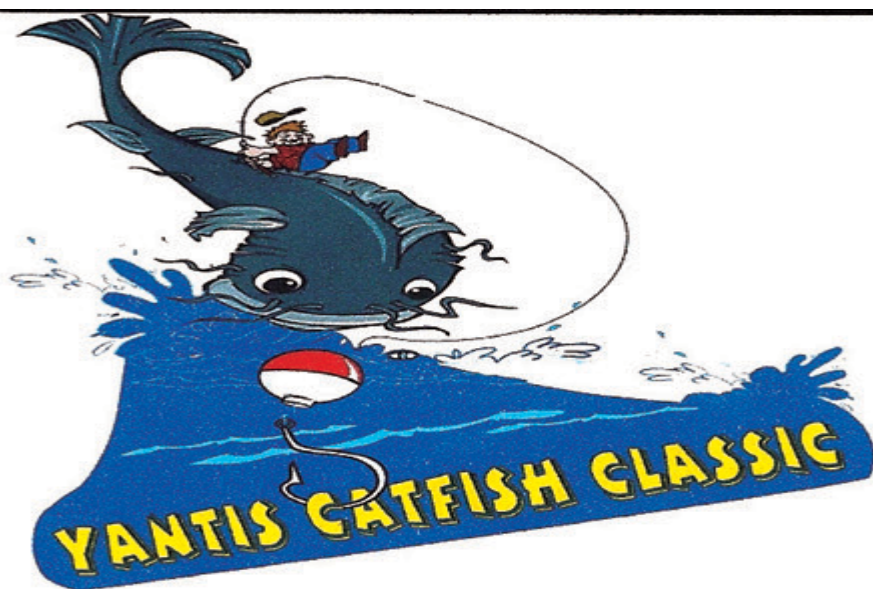
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