



Bryan Scoggins won the 2nd Annual Hook N' Cook Sandbass Tournament held on Lake Fork on Saurday, August 10th with a total weight of 8.41-lbs.

#### 2nd Annual Hook N' Cook Lake Fork Sand **Bass Tournament Benefitting Wish To Fish**

By Don Hampton

Anglers complaining about all the sand bass showing up on Lake Fork had a chance to do something about it at the 2nd Annual Hook N' Cook Tournament held on Lake Fork. The tournament was hosted and sponsored by Fisherman's One Stop and benefitted the "Wish to Fish Foundation".

The number of participants weren't near as large as the numbers that complain about the this species on Lake Fork. This is the tournament to truly reduce those numbers and have a great time while doing it.

Each angler was allowed to bring their limit of 25 sandies over the 10" mark to the weigh-in, but they were responsible for separating their five largest for the winning weights. Fishing hours for the tournament were from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. with all anglers having to be

growing population of in line to weigh-in by 1 p.m. When all was said and done there were three giant ice chests filled with sand bass to be filleted by volunteers for a free fish fry that began at 5 p.m.

> The tournament paid five places for heavy stringer with 80% of all entries being paid back and three places for heaviest sand bass paying back 100% of those entries. Winning 1st place heavy stringer (See 2nd Annual....

Continued on Page 5-A)

### **AMATEUR BASS ANGLERS COMPETE FOR** \$500,000 GUARANTEED CASH & PRIZES



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Twelve places will be paid in cash each hour of each tournament day beginning with the 6-7 AM hour and continuing through the 1-2 PM hour for the twelve single heaviest bass weighed in. Hourly updates will be broadcasted live on KMOO 99.9 FM.

Contestant(s) weighing in the first 2.50 exact weight bass each day of the tournament will win \$5,000. In addition, all contestants are eligible to win a Triton 18XS Bass Boat in the famous "Elimination Drawing".

"You Can't Win if You Don't Play" Optional Bonus Games such as the Bonus Card "AKA" Insurance Card & Bonus Shirt Hours can win you additional cash.

Children ages twelve and under may participate in the Little Anglers Division and win Academy gift cards and ribbons for their winning catches of bass, catfish, crappie or perch.

Are you a member of B.A.S.S. and want to win some CASH? B.A.S.S. will be onsite at the event to qualify you for the B.A.S.S. CASH..... \$100 awarded to the current B.A.S.S. member with the largest bass from the 6-7 AM and 10-11 AM hour each day of the tournament. \$250 awarded to the

(See Amateur Bass Anglers Compete....Continued on Page 7-A)

### "When it came to Bubba slimming his stuff down all he did was spread it out!"

#### **By: Don Hampton**

We all know how Bubba is about stuff! It would seem he could never get enough when it came to anything to do with fishing! If you put him in any tackle store with only a dollar in his pocket, he would find something to buy, even if it was only a piece of jerky to eat on his next fishing trip. It would be a necessity according to Bubba.

Bubba in a tackle store can only be compared to a kid in a candy store. He's perfectly entertained walking up and down the aisles looking at everything, touching it, rattling it, and in some cases even smelling it. Just like that child in the candy store everything looks sweet to Bubba. If he sees something he really takes a liking to and doesn't already have, he has got to have a taste of that! It would seem his appetite and sweet tooth for fishing stuff would never be quenched! But, low and behold I do believe the times they are a' changin'!

One thing Bubba devoutly believes in is that too much work takes away too much time a person could be fishing! To him work is just something you have to do so you can go fishing!

This past month has not been Bubba's luckiest when it came to boats. He had a little accident in his and had to send it to the Boat Doctor for some TLC. This meant taking all his fishing stuff out of his boat and putting it in another boat that one of his good friends was kind enough to loan him. Well this took half a day to accomplish and when completed he decided this boat wasn't large enough to accommodate all his stuff, so he got on the phone calling all his buds looking for a bigger boat, until he got his new one back. Only Bubba could get someone to loan him a boat and sure enough he got a bigger and faster boat. This time to transfer all his stuff it took him the better part of a day. I knew the times were going to be changing when Bubba told me with perspiration soaking his shirt, "This is too much work! I need to put my fishin' stuff on a diet and slim it down some! It takes me longer to load a boat than it does to catch a stringer of fish!"

Most people would trim down their tackle by taking out what they don't use. That is the most logical way! But, not our Bubba! His first move is to go and buy some new plastic cases, and according to him, he has to have a couple of those new spinner bait cases made by Falcon and he thinks there is one they make especially for his buzz-baits. To get his crankbaits, lipless cranks, jigs, pigs, and everything else slimmed down he needs new cases for these too!

With all his new stuff he has now acquired to slim down his old stuff, Bubba is ready for the task at hand. Watching him do this was funnier than watching a tumble bug try to do its job on a rainy day! He didn't slim anything down he just managed to spread it out more.

Every lure he even considered discarding he had an even better reason for keeping it! He even justified it with some common sense fishing terminology. He would pick one up and study it closely and then come out with something like, "Oh, this would be good on a cloudy day!" or "They wouldn't be able to resist this if they are finicky!" The worst comment he could have made, just happened to be overheard by Bubbette! That was when Bubba said, "Oh, I forgot I had these!" Well, that was one comment he should never had made with Bubbettte anywhere in the vicinity! You might be able to say, that is when the stuff hit the man. Well she started going through his stuff and things got a little serious and Bubba's stuff might not have got deflated but he sure did! When she started picking up new lures still in the packages with the price tags quite visible she started calculating the cost while Bubba was calculating the risk of his health remaining in tack!

When it was all over Bubba was grounded like a teenager that kept the car out too late! He can still go fishing but under Bubbette's threat to his health he is restricted from buying any more fishing stuff for some time!

Bubba agreed to live with his newly imposed restriction, but he also told me he wasn't getting rid of any of his old stuff! After all, everyone knows Bubba needs stuff!



Human beings normally have 25 chromosomes; a goldfish, on the other hand, has 94.



"The Fisherman's Guide, *News You Can Use*" Don J. Hampton, Publisher/Owner Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

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"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

Dage 3-A



Dage 4-A

"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

September



#### 2nd Annual Hook N' Cook Lake Fork Sand Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 1-A)

with a weight of 8.41-pounds was Bryan Scoggins; 2nd place was Scott Spindle with a total weight of 8.07-pounds; 3rd place was Gregory (Drop Shot) Allen with a weight of 8-pounds; 4th place was Joshua Wendel with a weight of 7.85-pounds; 5th place was Scott Symes with a weight of 7.72-pounds; 1st place heavy sandie was won by Scott Spindle with one weighing 1.91-pounds; 2nd big sandie was won by Bryan Scoggins with one weighing 1.88-pounds; 3rd big sandie was won by Scott Symes with one weighing 1.84-pounds.



Over 400 sand bass were filleted at the 2nd Annual Hook N' Cook Tournament. The break between final weigh-in and the beginning of the free fish fry gave Wish to Fish Directors and volunteer's time to fillet over 400 sand bass brought in to the tournament. A special thanks goes out to Ken Gilbreath, Derk Wallace, and Kenny LaDuke for their tireless effort.

The true festivities began at 5 p.m. All anglers and anyone that wished to come was invited to Fisherman's One Stop for the free fish fry and if you think sand bass aren't really good eating, you definitely have another thought coming. Fisherman's One Stop was generous enough to furnish not only the cooks and help but also the potato salad, beans, hush puppies, cobblers, tea and all the fixin's and everyone was encouraged to BYOB. During the course of the dinner, the winners were presented their checks and there were drawings for sponsor gifts.

Now, aren't you really sorry you missed out? So if you are one that missed out, you have three choices here. You can quit your belly aching, you can go out on Lake Fork and catch some to eat, or you can make plans to attend the 3rd Annual Hook N' Cook Sand Bass Tournament to be held in August, 2014.



When it was all said and done and everyone had more than their fill and couldn't stand another bite there was still enough food and fish to feed a multitude. You would think someone had blessed two loaves and three fish. I do believe Bubba may have taken a doggie bag home!



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#### Lake Fork Late Summer September Bassin

By John Tanner

Greetings from Lake Fork the big bass capitol! Here we find ourselves at the end of summer already. This time of year can be puzzling to many anglers. Fishing can change every couple of days so let's discuss some patterns that might help you have more productive days on the lake.

As summer winds slow down and the change of season draws near, the fishing patterns begin to change. Weather patterns can take on a new look as September rolls in. We haven't had much rain and some hot weather came our way in the last few weeks of August. But normally this time of year, some cooler weather is on the way. This causes the surface layer of the water column to begin to cool. When this happens the lake will be-



gin the turnover process making the fishing a little tricky. It changes everything but you can use it to your advantage.

In my experience when the lake is turning over the bass will move up in the water column. At first you will see them suspended at a certain level all over the lake. We were seeing this a lot during the month of August out in the main lake. I could see a ton of shad just a few feet down on my Humminbird 1198 with tons of bass mixed in with them all across the main lake. This resulted in a huge number of schooling fish on most days making for some big fun on topwater baits like the Sebille slim stick.

This is pretty typical bass behavior for early September. If conditions do not change too much, we should still see a lot of this schooling activity this month mostly in the mornings and late afternoon depending on the weather on that given day. With a good number of fish moving up in the water column you will start to see a lot of activity on the points and even back in the creeks as the month rolls along. Once the shad start moving to the banks the bass will follow.

When the bass hit the points and the back of the creeks I like to use the top water baits early and then switch to shallow running crank baits and light weighted Texas rigged Berkley Pow-



er Worms. If there is some flooded vegetation around, by all means throw a frog. Either the hollow types or the buzz frog types like the Berkley Chigger Toad or the Stanley Ribbit frog. Stanley makes an awesome frog hook so don't forget to pick up a pack. The frog fishing usually picks up later in the month but can get good before that if the water continues to cool due to rain and or cooler air temps.

Well what about the main lake deep bite you say?



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There is always some deep fish out there somewhere. But if the lake is trying to turn over, the deep bite can be testy as a lot of the bass move up into a better comfort zone in the water column. Look for clearer water and not the stained foamy stuff. I always find more fish in clearer water this time of year. I tend to catch them a little shallower on the offshore stuff this time of year and many times they will be suspended up in the timber. Carolina rigged Berkley Havoc Bottom Hoppers rigged on a Mustad 3/0 mega wide gap hook with a one ounce weight with a 3 ft. leader is my go to search weapon on the deep stuff. I have been

(See Lake Fork Late..... Continued on Page 20-A)



#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

Dage 7-A

#### Amateur Bass Anglers Compete (Continued from Page 1-A)

current B.A.S.S. member with the largest bass in the Overall Top 5. Registration will be at Lake Fork Marina in Alba, TX from 10 AM – 8 PM on Thursday, September 19th. Registration will continue each morning from 5 AM until 6 AM on days of the tournament. Tournament Entry Fees are \$135 for One Day, \$185 for Two Days and \$235 for Three Days: The Little Anglers Division entry fee is \$10 per Day.

All participants and spectators ages 18 years of age and up can get in on the action. Come out to the tournament site, enjoy the festivities and get your free ticket for the Surprise Drawing beginning at 11am Sunday, September 22nd.

The Big Bass Splash is the Richest Amateur Big Bass Fishing Tournament as featured on National Geographic! Sponsors includes Triton Boats, Legend Boats, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports & Outdoors, Minn Kota, Lowrance, Okuma, Tournament Saver Pro, Power Pole, Navionics, Healthy Battery, River2Sea, Texas Fish & Game, HydroWave, TH Marine, K2 Coolers, Vicious Fishing, Amphibia Sports, The Original Rod Sox, Tour Star Products, Wood County Industrial Commission, City of Emory, Lake Fork Marina and Motel, Tiffany's Restaurant, and Fishing World.com.

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<u>September</u>



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# "The SeptemberMoon<br/>CrappieReport"<br/>onBy Terri MoonFork

"Hot and dry" pretty much sums up how things are around here. It's been a "scorcher" – lake levels are dropping 1 to 2 inches a day and we just passed the 5-3/4 ft. low mark. We haven't hit these low levels since 2011; so needless to say, extra caution should be taken if you are planning to fish Lake Fork. I still suggest Lance Vick's "Boat Lane" chip available at Lake Fork Marina. This is a must have -- especially if you're not familiar navigating Lake Fork. You can never be "too" careful especially with the lake being so low.

Now it may be too hot to fish the late afternoons, but we've had some really nice mornings and have caught some quality crappie – BUT – we've had to move around a lot to get them. We've been targeting 16 to 24 ft. depths except around the new or full moon where we found them as shallow as 6 to 8 ft.

Don't get discouraged if you happen to hit one of those days where no matter what you do they are just not gonna bite – it happens. But, remember you can go back to the same spot the next day



and it can be "game on." Also remember, a change in presentation could be the key to a successful day of fishing. I've found that on a tough day, a slower presentation has been more effective. Don't be jerking your bait around - just a light twitch and pause should trigger a strike. But, if the fish are hitting aggressively, definitely speed up your presentation. I just love it when they hit on the fall!

One thing I can promise you is that your presentation means 'nothing' if you are not fishing the right depth! If you were to ask any "serious" fisherman how important their electronics were to them, I believe you would find their depth finders at the top of their list of essential tools for a successful day of fishing. I can't even imagine a day on the water without my Lowrance! This HDS12 touch screen is just an amazing piece of equipment! If you haven't seen one, the Lowrance techs set up at the McDonald's Big Bass Tournament at Lake Fork Marina in September.

Keep a close eye on that depth finder – we are going to need to follow the baitfish when they start their fall transition. Watch for any changes in depths of the baitfish and adjust your casts accordingly. Check around bridges, brush piles and tree lines.

The colors of baits working for us have been Lake Fork Tackle's "Live Baby Shad" in electric chicken, blue/pearl and threadfin shad.

As far as the bream, we're still catching them in 6 to 12 ft. of water around the timber with night-crawlers, crickets or Mister Twister Grubs.

I'm ready for summer to wind down so we can enjoy Fork's Fall Fishing!!

My best to you all! Be safe on the water!



# Lake Fork Trophy Bass Survey\_\_\_\_\_

#### **By Kevin Storey**

After 10 years and 3 months we made the decision to put the Lake Fork Trophy Bass Survey to rest. The new has worn off and angler interest has gradually declined. These types of changes are common in volunteer surveys and most only last for a few years before organizers "pull the plug". There has also been some decrease in marina participation and we felt it made sense to bring the survey to a close. I apologize for having taken so long to make a formal notification although Monte Brown let you know in June when he retrieved the marina ledgers.

During the course of the survey, Lake Fork anglers have faced some tough fishing years which have been influenced by a couple of persistent droughts and limited amounts of "grass". Recently we have seen some promising signs. Trophy bass survey reports have been higher this spring (March – May) compared to last year. We are in the midst of doing a vegetation survey and so far we have seen more hydrilla this year than for many years. It is abundant north of the highway 515 bridge in Caney Creek and north of the 514 bridge in Birch Creek. Angler reports on the Internet are favorable and it would appear that things have improved on Fork. These changes have come at a great time with the Toyota Texas Bass Classic making its reappearance at Lake Fork in May 2014.

The Lake Fork Trophy Bass Survey has provided valuable information to TPWD on the bass fishery that our routine surveys cannot give us. Over the course of 123 months, over one third (34.5%) of measured entries were fish over 24 inches and 15.7% of weighed entries were 10 pounds or heavier. An average of 104.7 trophy bass 7 pounds and bigger were entered each month. Fish 10 pounds and bigger were reported an average of 13.8 fish per month.

Lake Fork may be ageing but this is still THE place to fish!

Thanks for all of your hard work in helping to promote the survey and again I apologize for having taken so long to give you the final summary.



There was one happy boy on Lake Fork in August when he caught this hawg while fishing with guide John Tanner. Name & weight not provided.



#### Dage 10-A

#### State Agencies Asking Texans to Share How Drought Has Affected Their Lives

What does your Texas drought look like? With more than 97 percent of Texas suffering from drought conditions, that's what the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) want to know. This coalition of state agencies today launched an interactive public awareness campaign inviting Texans to submit personal photos capturing what the drought looks like for them and how it has impacted their lives.

From now through September 30, Texans are invited to share their original photographs of the drought on Flickr, Instagram and other social media platforms. Photos should illustrate how the drought is affecting daily life--whether it is dry creek beds, withered crops, native plants flourishing in the dry climate or the innovative water conservation measures Texans are using to combat drought.

"This current Texas drought, which started in 2010, has proven in many ways to be our worst drought in history. In fact, it has surpassed the Dust Bowl of the 1930s," Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples said. "Every Texan has experienced the drought's ferocity in different ways and these agencies are joining forces to collect and share these stories with other Texans, as well as for the historical record for future generations

What does your Texas drought look like? With nore than 97 percent of Texas suffering from rought conditions, that's what the Texas Deartment of Agriculture (TDA), Texas Water Deelopment Board (TWDB) and Texas Parks and

> Texas' many diverse regions are each experiencing the drought in unique ways. This project aims to educate Texans on the critical nature of drought and water conservation. By providing the photographs, the public will help TDA, TWDB and TPWD garner an in-depth view of local drought conditions, ultimately helping manage and conserve the state's water resources.

> "At the Texas Water Development Board, we're well acquainted with the effects of drought on our state," said TWDB Executive Administrator Melanie Callahan. "It affects water supplies for cities and agriculture alike, and can devastate economies and natural resources. This photo campaign is a way for Texans to document how drought affects them personally. Showing the results of water shortages and ways to conserve are equally important parts of this story."

> According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, nearly the entire state of Texas is experiencing some form of drought, and more than 65 percent of the state is suffering from severe to exceptional drought. The state water plan dictates nearly 25 percent of our future water needs will be met through water

conservation.

"With the punishing drought our state has suffered, most people know how important it is to conserve water and plan to use it wisely, and dramatic photos showing the reality of drought certainly underscore that conservation is imperative," said TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith. "In poll after poll, Texans have consistently ranked water resources near the very top of public priorities. It's important for people in cities, and it's important for fish and wildlife, state parks and natural habitats--everything is connected. We all have a role to play in conserving water."

Photographs may be submitted to our Flickr group, "What does your Texas drought look like?" at http://www.flickr.com/groups/texasdrought. This is a public webpage that anyone with an Internet connection can view, even those who are not members of Flickr. The Flickr page above provides instructions on how to share photos.

Photographs also may be posted to Twitter or Instagram. Please use the hashtag #txdrought when sharing your photos. The campaign's Instagram account is texasdrought. Tag photos with date, location and include a short description. Additionally, you can email up to three photos to TexasDrought@yahoo.com, and we will post the pictures to our flicker page. All user-submitted photographs must be original content.

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**10th Annual Legend of Lake Fork** 

**Big Bass Tournament May 16, 17, 18, 2014** 



#### Dage 14-A

#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

September

#### Errors Noted in Texas Outdoor Annual Hunting and Fishing Regulations Booklet

Several errors in the 2013-14 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outdoor Annual could leave some hunters scratching their heads. The mistakes were uncovered after the booklet, considered the "go-to" summary of hunting and fishing regulations for Texas sportsmen, had already gone to press.

Probably the most glaring miscue that should provide hunters with a chuckle indicates a mule deer season and a pheasant season for Cass County in Northeast Texas. Neither game species have been documented in the wild there, much less in huntable numbers. However, the listing also indicates white-tailed deer and turkey seasons that are incorrect, and omits the squirrel season, which is much more serious.

The correct information can be found on the Outdoor Annual website area at http://tpwd.texas.gov/ outdoor-annual where the most updated information is always posted. This site has also been redesigned to improve usability and offer more interactive features. Most notably, the site supports mobile browsing so that the web pages now fit themselves to the size of any screen by automatically shuffling layout, resizing images and adjusting type size. The same content is used for all screen sizes, making it possible for users to read the same information and navigate pages on any device, from smartphone to tablet to desktop computer. The site now offers hunters the ability to search by county and see the regulations for that county or to search by animal and see seasons and regulations for that species. Anglers can also find regulations information more easily on the new site.

The accurate season information for Cass County is:

--Whitetail Deer--Archery Season: Sept. 28-Nov. 1; General Season: Nov. 2-Jan. 5 (Nov. 2-17, no antlerless permit required except on LAMPS or MLD



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--Squirrel--Oct. 1-Feb. 2 and May 1-31. Daily bag limit: 10.

--Turkey--Eastern Spring Season: Apr. 15-May 14. Bag limit: 1 (gobblers only).

Following the discovery of the incorrect information regarding Cass County, a line-by-line review of the County Listings portion of the Outdoor Annual uncovered additional errors, listed below.

Anderson -- The dates printed for the squirrel seasons are off by one day for the fall season and do not include the spring season.

--Squirrel -Oct. 1- Feb. 2 and May 1-31.

Bexar -Contains last year's dates, which are off by one day.

--Whitetail Deer/Rio Grande Turkey Archery: Sept. 28 - Nov. 1.

--Whitetail Deer/Rio Grande Turkey General Season: Nov. 2 - Jan. 5.

--Whitetail Deer Special Late General Season: Jan. 6 - 19.

--Spring Rio Grande Turkey Season: Mar. 15 - Apr. 27.

Carson -- Contains last year's dates, which are off by one day except for mule deer and pheasant (six days).

--Whitetail Deer/Mule Deer/Rio Grande Turkey Archery: Sept. 28 - Nov. 1.

--Whitetail Deer/Rio Grande Turkey General Season: Nov. 2 - Jan. 5.

--Whitetail Deer Special Late General Season: Jan. 6-19.

--Mule Deer General Season: Nov. 23 - Dec. 8.



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#### Texas Parks and Wildlife 2014 Budget Reflects Legislative Support

Funding to keep Texas State Parks open and provide grants for city and county parks, millions to aid the declining bobwhite quail and its grassland habitat, fisheries funding that benefits water resources, and dollars for conservation law enforcement are among the highlights of the 2014 budget approved recently by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

"Barring any catastrophic event like a hurricane, extreme drought or a wildfire, the state budget adopted by lawmakers means that no state parks will close due to lack of funding in the next two years," said Carter Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department executive director. "Further, the legislature also funded many of the critical requests for the fisheries and wildlife side of our business. We appreciate very much this support from state elected leaders for parks and conservation."

The department's fiscal year 2014 operating and capital budget totals about \$380 million, including about \$272 million for salaries, related benefits and operating expenses, about \$30 million for grants and close to \$75 million for capital items such as construction and computers.

The 2014 budget is an increase from the 2013 budget of \$357 million, but still below the \$423 million for 2011. The state budget bill also increased TPWD's employee count by 103 full time

equivalent (FTE) positions, to a total FTE cap of 3,109 employee positions for 2014.

The budget reflects overall funding approved by legislators in the state General Appropriations Act for the 2014-2015 biennium, which authorized additional funding requested by the agency in six exceptional items. That included, in two-year totals:

--For TPWD's first exceptional item requesting about \$18.9 million for state park operations, the final state budget included close to \$17.9 million. --For the request for \$11.9 million for capital budget priorities such as replacement vehicles and computers, the state budget included \$10.4 million.

--For the request for \$40 million for capital repairs and construction, the budget included \$8 million for Fund 9/fisheries and wildlife facility capital construction and \$11 million in bonds for repairs at any existing TPWD facility.

--The budget provided TPWD's entire request for \$13 million for important fish and wildlife funding. This includes \$4 million for quail habitat enhancement.

--The budget also included all of TPWD's request for \$15.5 million for local park grants to cities and counties across Texas.

--Regarding the request for \$3.7 million for state

data center cost increases and Information Technology needs, the budget provided a net total of about \$1 million (after adjusting for across the board data center reductions made elsewhere).

Lawmakers also provided other funding for the department, including (in biennial totals):

--Rider 27 allows the agency to carry forward up to \$5.5 million from 2013 into 2014. It also provides increased appropriations of up to \$2 million, if the agency is able to bring in revenue above the Comptroller's Biennial Revenue Estimate from sources such as state park fees and hunting and fishing license sales.

--Rider 41 provides \$2 million over two years for an interagency contract with Texas A&M University to help a species in decline: bobwhite quail. This will develop educational resources and programs to reestablish quail populations based on research-proven best management practices, plus fund various quail research efforts. In addition, as described above, lawmakers appropriated another \$4 million in exceptional item funding for quail habitat enhancement, making a total of \$6 million for quail in 2014-2015.

--Other riders will fund \$700,000 in capital con-

(See TPW 2014 Budget.... Continued on Page 17-A)

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#### Dage 16-A

#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

September



Kelly from Arkansas was fishing Lake Fork with guide Tom Redington on 8/23/13. It was his birthday but she got the present of this big hawg. (Courtesy Photo Tom Redington Guide Service)



Sonja Pinnell caught this nice bass weighing 9.2-lbs on 8/24/13 while fishing with her husband. Proving once again who the better "fishing person is!"



Kyley & Marley Phillips from Spring Hill were fishing Lake Fork with their grandfather Jim Bonds when they caught these nice crappie using a Lake Fork Trophy Baby Shad.



#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

Dage 17-A

#### TPW 2014 Budget (Continued from Page 15-A)

struction for cabins, bridges and trails at raised more than \$6.3 Fort Boggy State Park and visitor center improvements at Big Spring State Park.

--Rider 10 appropriates an estimated \$1 million over the next two years expected to come from sales of four TPWD conservation license plates (horned lizard, bluebonnet, deer and bass) that benefit state parks and fisheries and wildlife work. Since inception, the special-

ty license plates have million for conservation causes. --Lawmakers also al-

located \$5.2 million to replace a damaged helicopter needed for game warden operations and fish and wildlife survey work.

During the session, legislators also approved supplemental funding for TPWD using 2013 dollars. This includes \$5 million for state park capital re-

pairs, close to \$4.9 million for Bastrop State Park wildfire recovery, and \$889,000 in state park operating funding from motor vehicle registration opt-in donations approved in the previous legislative session.

Background detail on TPWD finances, including financial information for previous years, is available in links to budgets and strategic plans on the department website.



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# "Pack of Knowledge" Fork Tournament Fishing in the Fall

By Tom Redington

Fall is tournament season on Lake Fork, with thousands of anglers in big bass tournaments and regional team trail events. Because of the 16" to 24" slot limit that remains in effect for all tournaments, anglers' strategies are a little different on Fork than on most lakes. The vast majority of prizes for Fork tournaments are won by anglers with fish under 16", so I'll focus on those patterns,



214-683-9572 www.lakeforkguidetrips.com with a few bonus tips for an over.

During the fall tournament season (Sep-early Nov), numbers of bass are available in both the shallow and deep sections of Fork. As the water cools, many bass move back into creeks and onto the flats near creek channels chasing shad. At the same time, shallow main lake flats and points hold lots of bass, too. After spending most of the summer fishing deep water structure, the shallow fisherman can consistently catch bass in the fall, so begin your fishing there.

Start your search for productive areas with moving baits, and then switch to soft plastics to catch numbers from those areas. Keeping in mind that you're looking for bass that are 16" and smaller, downsized lures typically work best. Topwaters are a great search lure, and the smaller sizes of poppers and walking baits like Lucky Craft's Sammy & Lake Fork Trophy Lure's new Magic Popper are very productive. The Magic Popper has a subtle spit that works best on calm days, while the walking and splashing of a Sammy works great when there is more chop. A long rod with a soft tip helps a lot and I've fallen in love with the fiberglass Champion 704CB Glass model rod from Dobyns Rod. It has a whipping action

that launches small topwaters and cranks and the slow action of fiberglass lands a lot more fish that are barely hooked. Stories about how you landed a prize winning fish that was barely hooked sure beat those about how the "big one got away."

After the sun gets up and bass won't commit to surface baits, shallow crankbaits and lipless crankbaits work best. Bass are keying on small shad in autumn, so chrome or shad colors of small lipless crankbaits work all fall long. While the water stays warm, wider wobbling crankbaits like RC 0.5 & 1.5 square bill cranks move a lot of water and catch fish. Once water temps cool into the lower 60s, tighter wiggling cranks like the SKT Mini MR will garner more attention. And certainly don't forget spinnerbaits. A 1/4 oz spinnerbait with two silver blades and a translucent white skirt fools many bass in the fall, especially on windy banks. Finally, 1/4 and 3/8 chrome or shad colored lipless cranks quickly locate schools too, especially if you have some flooded grass. Cover water with these baits until you get a couple of bites in an area and locate a school.

Once you've found a few fish in an area, soft plastics will normally produce additional bass from the spot. Your #1 option is a wacky worm.

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





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Dage 19-A



### Lake Fork Late Summer September Bassin (Continued from Page 6-A)

loving the new Wedge Head sinkers by Stan- move up again. This battle goes on for a while ley. These things are super weedless and come through the brush and grass with ease. Once I get a deep school fired up with the Carolina rig I will switch to a football jig or even a 10" Berkley Power worm on a Texas rig. I like to mix it up a little to keep the school active.

The turnover process will usually go back and forth for a while as the weather patterns do the same. It will be hot for a while bringing a lot of the fish back out into deep water and then as cooler weather or rain mixes in the fish will

until everything settles down. The lake clears up as the turnover is complete later on in the fall. The trick is to watch the weather patterns and the shad locations. Find the clearer water with a ton of bait fish and then fish according to the weather patterns that day.

Thank you for reading this article and hopefully this will help you have more successful trips this fall. Lake Fork is loaded with big bass and thanks to the slot limit they reproduce every year and keep us having fun. If you



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to Lake Fork one to remember. You can also find me on face book under John Tanner. Please pray for our country, our troops and their families as well as the sick and the lost. Got Jesus?? Read Acts 1:8 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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#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

#### Page 21-A

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

Rig a Hyper Stick or Hyper Finesse Worm wacky style and cast it to the edge of grass and next to stumps, concentrating on points or along creek channels. If conditions are a little windier, the Hyper Finesse Worms and 4" Hyper Worms work better on a 1/8 oz jighead, fished shaky style. Fish these very slowly around areas where you've picked up fish with the moving baits and you'll be able to seine out more bass. When the bite is off and bass bury up in the cover a little more, or when they're holding just a skosh deeper, a finesse Carolina rig with 12 lb fluoro on a 7'4" Dobyns Extreme DX743 rod, a ¼ oz sinker and a 12" leader can be dynamite. Rig a Fork Baby Creature, Baby Ring Fry, or the Hyper Stick on the hook and you'll be in business. Finally, a 3.5" Live Magic Shad rigged on a weighted 3/0 Ultimate Swimbait Hook will catch neutral bass that are suspended around grass





As a flounder grows, the eye on its lower side moves gradually around to the upper side of its head. or stumps. I primarily like shades of green for these lures in clearer sections of the lake, with green pumpkin and watermelon shades being consistent producers. In murkier water, June bug, black blue, and black neon does well on Fork.

For a shot at a 24"+ over the slot bass, nor-

mally the largest bass are caught very first thing in the morning before the fish become pressured. Try a 10" Fork Worm on a TX or Carolina rig, or a <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> oz MPack Jig with a matching Fork Craw or Hyper Freak trailer early along creek chan-

(See Pack of Knowledge..... Continued on Page 22-A)



## **Breakfast Find**

Find the words dealing with breakfast foods hidden throughout the puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle.

BACON BAGELS BANANAS BUTTER CEREAL CHEESE				COFFEE DOUGHNUTS EGGS GRITS HAM HASH BROWNS				JAM JELLY MARMALADE OATMEAL ORANGE JUICI PANCAKES					
	C H A M E S	E A A G M A	R B G S T C	E S O M H L	AAEEAB	L A E M S H	L S R T N C	E A I U O J	M R T F U L	G S F I L L	E E C E E T	EEJSEK	
	O J E G W N	LDADSO	A E O M R C	S U G A R A	G Y N A D B	R G R W B B	E O A U U A	Y F W T P N	F J T N B A	E A Y S N	R O L L S A	A C N A P S	



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#### Dage 22-A

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

nels and on main lake points. Many of the biggest fish are caught while finesse fishing for unders though, so the best tactic in my opinion is to target lots of bites. In the fall, big bass are more random and may come on a small worm or crank after catching 5 dinks



double digit fish can happen on any cast. The early fall timeframe can be really hit or miss out deep. The lake normally turns is a FLW Tour pro. over during this time and the offshore bite is awfully tough for a few weeks. Once the lake settles down, drop shotting Hyper Finesse Worms, Carolina rigging Baby Ring Frys, and smaller Fork Flutter Spoons catch lots of unders and some overs too. With the thermocline gone after turnover, you can catch offshore fish anywhere from 8' to 40'+. In general, the brighter and calmer the day, the deeper you want to search. With the incredible maps and sonar units these days, you're wasting your time fishing unless you mark a good school on your screen. The newer maps show all the tiny humps and creek bends on Fork and Down Scan and Structure Scan on the Lowrance units clearly pick up fish buried in grass, standing timber and brush piles. Graph around until you find a good school and then go to work on them.

before it. That's the beauty of Fork-a

Best of luck to those of you tourney fish-

ForkGuideTrips. com for more info.

Tom Redington 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.



ing Fork this fall. If I can be of assistance, drop me a line at tom@lakeforkguidetrips. com or check out my website www.Lake-

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#### Page 23-A

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# LAKE COUNTRY

GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD. Beautiful wood floors and uniquely

textured walls, formal dining & large living area with bookcase

library, wb fireplace, access to outside covered patio. Great kitchen,

granite island & counters, tiled backsplash & floors, breakfast area

with half bath, large utility room 2-car garage. Downstairs master

bedroom, separate shower & tub, 4th bedroom/office. Upstairs is

media room, 2 bedrooms separated by full bath. Property sits on

NEW HOME ON 5.1 ACRES. Barely lived in for 6 months. Beautiful custom

work, approximately 12 ft. ceilings in living & dining. Formal dining area

has wood floors, living area has tile with stone fireplace. Open kitchen/ living area with breakfast bar and breakfast room. Kitchen has granite

ounters, tile backsplash, beautiful cabinetry, stainless appliances. Large master bedroom with laminate wood floors, tray ceiling. Master bath has

double lavatories, separate tub and shower, large walk-in closet. On opposite of home are 2 bedrooms with laminate floors, separated by bath.

2-car garage and sprinkler system. Sitting on 5.1 acres, there is room for a small man-made pond. Property is on a county-maintained road. A nice,

2 lots with RV carport, two shops/storage. \$249,000.



WATERFRONT QUALITY CONSTRUCTION THROUGHOUT by Lee Knight. Home is eclectic with gorgeous spectrums of grays and whites. Kitchen looks to be from a design kitchen magazine. Unique lighter-color granite counters & kitchen bar, top of line stainless appliances. Beautiful master bath with old-fashion foot tub, walk-in & sit-in masterfully designed, tiled shower. Open living/kitchen/ breakfast, formal dining. Hand-hewn wood floors, rock fireplace. View of lake from living, master bedroom, kitchen, breakfast area & media/office/2nd living area. Oversized 2-car garage long enough for bass boat, cabinets, counters & work station. Located on good, deep water, the 2-stall boathouse with lifts has fishing deck & granite cleaning station. \$420,000.



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 bedrooms, 2 bath, 2-carport. You'll be impressed with this like-new home. \$135,900.



ew place in the country. \$224,000

5ACRES WITH SMALL HOME. Some beautiful acreage on this property. Home is older and has original hardwood floors that are in good shape. Two bedrooms, one bath, good-sized living area, kitchen and small eating area. Utility room is in separate outside. There is a small 3-car carport. There is an easement road into the property and the 5 acres will have to be surveyed out of a larger tract. \$52,000



RESTAURANT, SMOKEHOUSE ON LAKE FORK. Seats approximately 84 with plenty of parking. The property sits on 2.7 acres with leaseback and old boat ramp to Lake Fork. This location has lots of potential. Nicely decorated in rustic décor. Fully equipped, clean kitchen, walk-in coolers, freezers, 2-smokers. Commercial septic, fully approved. Great location on Hwy 154, approximately 3500 cars per day travel this road. Located right on Lake Fork where there are many tournaments, weekend and holiday fishermen. Area has a large retirement community. This is a great opportunity. just walk-in and start serving. \$145,000



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