

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

Vol. 15

December, 2013

No. 172



Stephen Proctor from Pryor, Oklahoma caught the first Toyota ShareLunker of the 2013/2014 Season fishing Lake Fork on November 21st. His catch weighed in at 13.29-lbs. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)

Lake Fork Once Again Has First Entry Into ShareLunker Season

By Don Hampton

Many anglers have the tendency to forget just how great Lake Fork is in December. It's a fact it is easy to get caught up in the holidays, stay in on cold days relaxing by the fireplace, or thinking the fish will not bite when it is cold. This kind of thinking could cause you to miss the catch of a lifetime.

What an incentive to catch a large Lake Fork Lunker on ultra-lite equipment while crappie fishing under the bridges. You not only catch a mess of crappie for a great fish fry but you just might be one of the lucky ones that also catch a Toyota ShareLunker weighing over 13-pounds. This is what Stephen Proctor from Pryor,

Oklahoma did on November 21st when he and his wife were fishing under Highway 154 N. Bridge on Lake Fork. Stephen was fishing with 4-lb. test on his crappie rig using a 1/16 jig with a Panfish Assassin, Chartreuse/Perch tiny shad. He was fishing in 17 to 18-feet of (See Lake Fork... Continued on Page 4-A)



Scott Marler from Shreveport, Louisiana was fishing Lake Fork when he caught this 22.65-lb. flathead on a Crappie Maxx Ultralight rod with Bass Pro bait cast reel using 20-lb test line. Scott was crappie fishing using minnows. Nothing like catching a fish that size on an ultralight.



Bubba Claus sworn in to replace Santa for East Texas lake areas

By Bubba B. Tuff

Well boys and girls Santa's contract has been renegotiated and it directly effects Lake Fork, Bob Sandlin, and Lake Tawakoni areas.

Due to the influx of new homeowners and the overwhelming amount of tourism to the lake areas, Santa regrets to inform us he will no longer be the bearer of good tidings. His contract has been renegotiated by the State of Texas Fairies and Elves Local 101.

Set forth in the new contract, Santa's responsibilities will no longer include the Lake Fork, Bob Sandlin, Lake Tawakoni and East Texas area. Cookie breaks will be shortened to assure satisfactory work ethics and quality.

In a press release to "The Fisherman's Guide News", sent out November 26, 2013 Santa's replacement was named. Everyone can rest assured we will be in good hands. The replacement for the lake areas will be his third cousin, Bubba Claus.

Bubba Claus is originally from the South Pole. There he attended Equator High and went on to further his education by attending night school majoring in Chimney Dropping and Fire Safety.

"I share the same goal as my cousin Santa. I will deliver toys to all the boys and girls at the lakes and in the East Texas area," said Bubba Claus in an interview with "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use."

In the interview, to relieve concerned par-

ents, the differences in the method of delivery were discussed at great length. Bubba Claus assured, "Christmas would be better'n' ever and jus' doggone good!"

The differences in delivery will include the following:

* There will be no danger of a Grinch stealing your Christmas. On Bubba's sleigh he has a loaded gun rack and a bumper sticker that reads: "These toys insured by Smith and Wesson."

* Instead of milk and cookies, Bubba Claus prefers that children leave a Bud Light and fried crappie, and hush-puppies on the fireplace mantel.

* When Bubba Claus' sleigh lands on your roof, do not be alarmed by the sound of barking. Bubba Claus's sleigh will be pulled by floppy-eared flying coon dogs instead of reindeer. (It seems Santa once loaned Bubba his reindeer and now Blitzen's head overlooks Bubba's fireplace.)

* No longer will you hear "On Comet, on Cupid, on Blitzen, on Donner." Instead in a southern drawl you will hear, "Buedro, Jake, Snake, Goober, Gomer, less' git 'er done!"

* For that night only and for Bubba Claus only the local speed limits will be waived. Also, in accordance with local tradition, Bubba's bumper will have a sticker on it saying "Made in Texas by Texans, So Don't Mess With Bubba!"

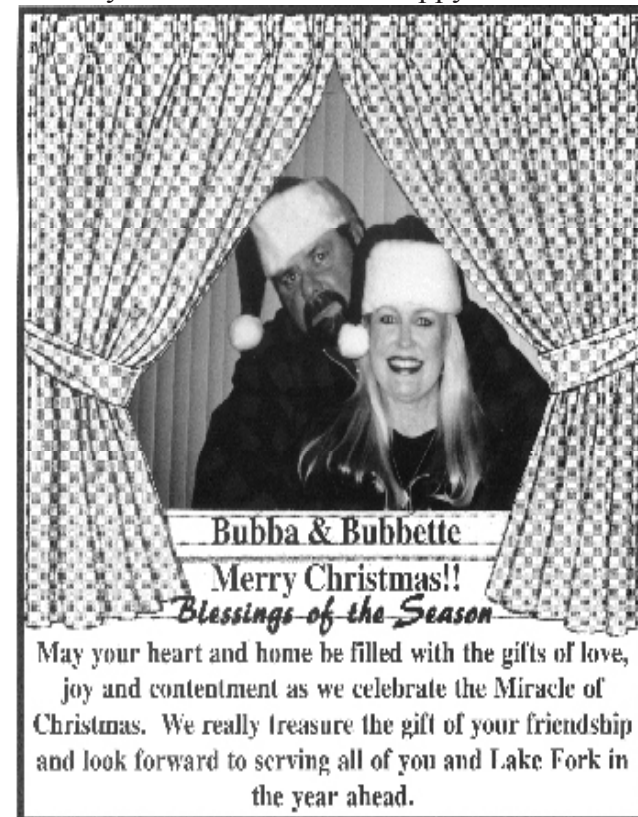
* Bubba Claus does not wear a belt. If the children are present when he bends over to put the presents under the

tree, make sure they turn their heads.

* Out of respect for Bubba, the traditional Christmas songs like "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" and "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" will be replaced by "Bubba Shot The Jukebox" and "Grandma Got Ran Over By A Reindeer."

After extended negotiations it was determined by all agencies involved, Bubba Claus would definitely fit and exceed the slot. Thus he was judged a "Keeper"!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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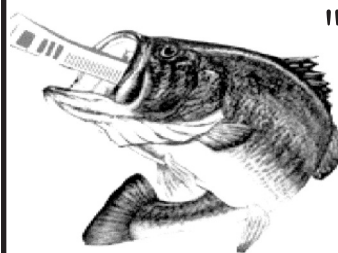
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Lake Fork ShareLunker *(Continued from Page 1-A)*

water when he got the big hit.

"I've caught some large bass while crappie fishing Lake Fork but when I finally got this one in I knew it was my personal best!" said Mr. Proctor. "I thought I was in trouble when it went around a pylon, but luckily she came back around without breaking my 4-lb. test line."

Stephen's catch was quite the accomplishment for any angler. His bass weighed 13.29-pounds, measured 25-inches in length, with a girth of 22-inches. His bass was number 549 to be entered into the program and the 254th to be caught on Lake Fork.

The fish was held for pickup at The Minnow Bucket, an official Toyota ShareLunker Weigh and Holding Station on Lake Fork where it was picked up by TPWD personnel. Other official ShareLunker Weigh and Holding Stations on Lake Fork are Oak Ridge Marina and Lake Fork Marina.

Stephen as other anglers entering a bass into the Toyota ShareLunker program receive a free replica of their fish, a certificate and ShareLunker clothing and are recognized at a banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. The person who catches the season's heaviest entry will be named 'Angler of the Year'. If that angler is a resident of Texas he or she will also receive a lifetime fishing license. The number to call to report a ShareLunker catch is

903-681-0550. If poor cell phone service prevents use of the voice number, anglers can leave their phone number and area code at 888-784-0600.

For complete information and rules of the ShareLunker Program, tips on caring for big bass, a list of official Toyota ShareLunker weighin and holding stations and a recap of last year's season, go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/sharelunker.com. The site also includes a searchable database of all fish entered into the program along with pictures where available.

A final note to all of you anglers: "If you want your name to be on the above mentioned website with a catch of 13-pounds or more, your best cast for this will always be on Lake Fork!" Fish Friendly, Bubba...



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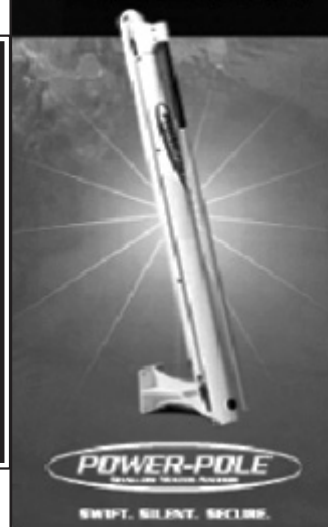
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Texas Game Wardens Receive National Maritime Accreditation

Texas Parks and Wildlife's game warden force has become only the fourth state conservation law enforcement agency to be accredited by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program.

"As the Texas Navy, our game wardens and the vessels they operate have an important role in maintaining the state's maritime security, in addition to their day-to-day work in enforcing our conservation laws," said TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith. "The training the wardens will receive by way of this accreditation will make these men and women and our coastwide fleet even more effective."

Though the Republic of Texas had a battle-hardened navy in the 1830s and 1840s, it was former Gov. George W. Bush who first referred to TPWD's modern fleet as the "Texas Navy." Since then, the department's fleet has grown to include 564 vessels, including two 65-foot Gulf of Mexico patrol vessels, 26 Safe-boats (a high-speed boat with an enclosed cabin that can be used in bays or the open Gulf) and a myriad of specialized vessels including 5 gun boats equipped with .30 caliber machine guns.

"For over 100 years, the TPWD game wardens have patrolled the land and waterways of

our great state, protecting public safety and preserving our natural resources," Gov. Rick Perry said. "They have set the gold standard for maritime operations, and this accreditation affirms their role as one of the nation's elite law enforcement and emergency response operations."

In addition to the game wardens who operate patrol vessels on the state's public waters, TPWD's Maritime Tactical Operations Group is a specialized unit made up of specially trained and equipped game wardens who can respond to critical waterborne incidents or other unique maritime operations.

"Now that our tactical maritime team has this prestigious accreditation, we will be working even more closely with the U.S. Coast Guard and other agencies with a maritime focus to protect the Texas coast for any contingency," Smith said.

In preparation for their accreditation, the Law Enforcement Division developed strict training and policies to facilitate training in a wide range of maritime functions, including boat crew member training, boat operator search and rescue, boating accident investigation, boating under the influence enforcement, officer water survival, tactical boat operations, pursuit and stop techniques and small vessel radiation-nuclear device detection operations.

"Effective partnering at multiple levels of gov-

ernment is the key to Homeland Security," said Rear Admiral Kevin Cook, Commander, 8th Coast Guard District. "Our relationship with Texas Parks and Wildlife is based on mutual concern for the safety and security of port operators and the maritime public. This accreditation further assures common standards of training and seamless integration between our organizations, which increases both organizations' overall readiness to respond."

The NASBLA accreditation is based on U.S. Coast Guard-recognized national standards for the training, qualification, credentialing and typing of maritime law enforcement and emergency first responders. The only other state law enforcement agencies with NASBLA accreditation are the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Massachusetts Environmental Police, and Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

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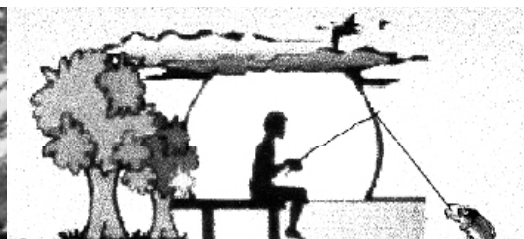
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December Bassin on Lake Fork

By John Tanner

Greetings from Lake Fork Texas, the big bass factory! This is the time of year when the big ones bite. We had a ShareLunker caught here on Lake Fork last month, and we are looking forward to more big fish to hit the scales. This is also a wonderful time of year to come to Lake Fork and catch those tasty crappie. Whatever you are after, Lake Fork is the place to catch 'em!

As for the bass fishing, you can catch them in both deep or shallow water. On the shallow side of things, look for bass along the creek channels and on points leading into the pockets and small creeks on the main lake. White chatterbaits tipped with a Berkley Havoc Sub Woofer is a

great choice this time of year. Another standby is the trusty ole black and blue Stanley Jig with a Berkley Power Bait Chigger Craw for a trailer. On the days they are not chasing the chatter-bait, flip the jig on the trees in 6 to 10 ft of water.

For the deep bass go with the Carolina rig using the Berkley Power Bait Wacky Crawler. Stanley football jigs and Alabama style rigs need to be part of your December arsenal as well. Look for the deep fish in 20 to 30 ft on main lake off shore structure. There are some really big bass caught this time of year so don't miss out.

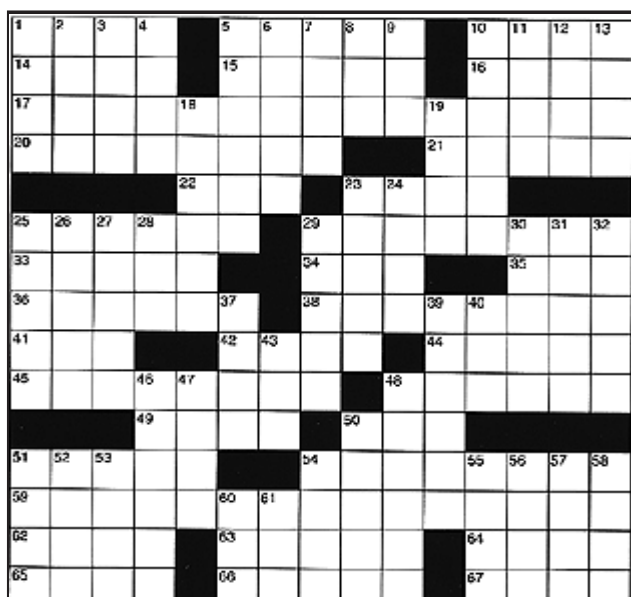
For more info on fishing Lake Fork with us check us out on the web at www.lakeforkbassguide.com or www.tanneroutdoors.com. I am very thankful to God for such an amazing lake and for Him to allow me to make a living here for all of these years. Let's remember our blessings, and as we head toward the time that we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, let's give Him the thanks and praise that He deserves. Without Jesus we would be lost. Do you know Him? You can! All you have to do is admit you are a sinner, ask Him to forgive your sins, and then ask Him into your heart to be your Lord and Savior and give you eternal life. If you prayed that prayer, I would love to hear from you and pray with you about your decision to follow Christ. You can reach



us at jtanner811@gmail.com or 903-569-7451. God Bless you and good fishing. Read John 3:16.

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

Talon Lures, BTS Line and Lure, Diamond Sports Marine and Oakley Sunglasses.



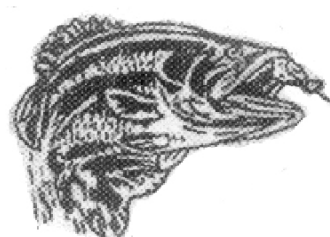
CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Statute law | 38. Cyclic |
| 5. Rub off | 41. Mineral |
| 10. Female parent | 42. Region |
| 14. Razor or juckknife | 44. Attack (obsolete) |
| 15. Sea wreckage | 45. Curriculum |
| 16. Asian nation | 48. Feeling |
| 17. Weather report | 49. Otherwise |
| 20. Needles | 50. Plump for |
| 21. Matters | 51. Capital of Guam |
| 22. _____ student, learns healing | 54. Weightlessness |
| 23. _____, California city | 59. In a gloomy manner |
| 25. Performs a dance | 62. Wings |
| 29. System | 63. Contests |
| 33. Bitter chemical | 64. Invests in little enterprises |
| 34. Bank feature | 65. Pats |
| 35. A Dalton (Physics) | 66. Nasty manner |
| 36. Limits | 67. Measuring instrument |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Adolph Simon _____, New York Times | 30. Move |
| 2. Strip | 31. Domestic helps |
| 3. Cloudy | 32. Measuring rods |
| 4. From pentane (Chemistry) | 37. Compass pt. one point S. of S.E. |
| 5. Endings | 39. Motionless |
| 6. Disliked | 40. Paddle |
| 7. Turkish leader title | 43. Fixed charge |
| 8. Sift | 46. Optical devices |
| 9. Mental object | 47. Jai _____, sport |
| 10. Sheepskin | 48. Purplish red |
| 11. Weapons system | 50. Exhibited |
| 12. Injure | 51. S. American armadillo |
| 13. & & | 52. Sicilian city |
| 18. Kind | 53. As fast as can be done, abbr. |
| 19. Robust | 54. Anagram of iacs |
| 23. Plate for Eucharist | 55. Thomas _____, American cartoonist |
| 24. _____ Mater, one's school | 56. Italian Island |
| 25. Gulf of, in the Aegean | 57. Berth |
| 26. Wing shaped | 58. Indian groom |
| 27. Alloy of nickel and copper | 60. Wife |
| 28. Braggart | 61. 007's creator |
| 29. Puzzles | |

Answers on Page 21-A



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1st Annual Grand Pelican Fest Big Bass Extravaganza

By Don Hampton
Tournament Director

In order to put on a truly grand big bass tournament for amateur anglers... what better location could be chosen than Grand Lake, Oklahoma and headquartered out of Wolf Creek Park in Grove?

Anglers can look forward to the 1st Annual Grand Pelican Fest Big Bass Extravaganza to be held on September 26, 27, 2014 to coincide with the Annual Pelican Festival.

Anglers can not only come to Grand Lake to fish for hourly cash and prizes, the possibility of taking home a 2014 Legend Bass Boat, but also bring the family to enjoy the festivities, hospitality and fun of the Annual Pelican Festival.

Big Bass Extravaganza partnered with Grove Chamber of Commerce and the Grand Lake Association, assure anglers and their families this is one event they do not want to miss. Many amateur anglers are familiar with BBE from their tournaments on Red River, Lake Conroe, and The Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament

with over 1,265 anglers representing 19 states and three countries coming to compete for the guaranteed cash and prizes.

This tournament will be paying five places each hour, eight hours each day of the two day tournament with the heaviest bass weighed in during the tournament taking home the "GRAND" prize of a 2014 Legend Alpha-199, powered by Mercury, Motorguide, and Lowrance Electronics.

The tournament will have over an \$84,000 guaranteed pay-out in cash and prizes along with extra incentives. Anglers can take a test ride in a Legend boat to qualify to win a Power Pole, purchase Temple Fork Outfitter Rods (\$189 value) for \$50 each, and best of all catch a tagged bass that could win them up to \$25,000. All boats, makes and models are welcome.

"We are thrilled to announce the partnership with the Grand Pelican Fest Big Bass Extravaganza and the Pelican Festival. These two events will bring thousands of people to Grove and Grand Lake and will make the Pelican Festival an even bigger family affair," said Tad Jones, Executive

Director of the Grand Lake Association.

Anglers wishing to get in on early entries can contact the Grove Chamber of Commerce, Grand Lake Association, go to our website: www.bigbassextravaganza.com or email fishnews@lakefork.net

1st Annual Grand Pelican Fest Big Bass Extravaganza is sponsored by: Grand Lake Association, Grove Chamber of Commerce, Legend Boats, Mercury Marine, Power Pole, Temple Fork Outfitters, and "The Fisherman's Guide News."



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"The Moon Report" Crappie and Many Blessings

By Terri Moon

Hard to believe this year is coming to a close! The year started with devastating loss – but thank goodness for all the blessings of family, friends, and even from people I've never met! They all have lifted me up and helped me through a really tough year. The kindness and generosity of this "ARMY OF ANGELS" has been truly overwhelming! Words can never express how grateful I am for all they've done and wish many blessings back to you all!

It's been another year of highs and lows – high temperatures and low water levels – good days of fishing and some really tough days! But, as the water temperatures fall to the 50's, it's time to look deeper for the crappie. They have been showing up on main lake points, deep water humps and around the creek channels. Really watch your depth finder for clouds of baitfish. That will in-



crease your odds of finding the crappie. The crappie can be 3" off the bottom or 3 ft. off the bottom. Just play around with the depths till you get it figured out. This is the time of year when I start double rigging jigs about a foot apart. I usually go to two 1/8 oz. jigs to speed up getting to the bottom.

The colors working for us has been Lake Fork Tackle's "Live Baby Shad" in Electric Chicken on a sunny day and on cloudier days we have been going to darker colors like red shad or "blue grass" (blue & green). We have been targeting 25 to 35 ft. depths.

If you want to catch yellow bass or white bass, we're finding them on deep water humps and road beds at 25 to 35 ft. deep.

You can catch them on the same crappie baits or the Tackle Factory's flash tail spoons. These are all available at Lake Fork Marina plus they have a great assortment of holiday gift baskets for the fishermen in your life! Also keep in mind the Lake Fork Regulation on crappie. From December 1st thru March 1st, there is not a size limit on crappie, but you are required to keep your first 25 caught as daily limit with no throw backs.

I sure hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and I especially want to thank all of you that have fished with me this year. It's been a lot of fun and I hope to see you again next year.

Best wishes to all and "Happy Holidays"!

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Texas Game Wardens "Like" End Result of Angler's Facebook Post

A South Texas man has pled guilty to nine charges of possession of oversized red drum, one charge of no saltwater fishing license, and one charge of exceeding the possession limit for red drum.

The investigation leading to the filing of charges against 30-year-old Luis Castro began with a Facebook post showing a man holding a large red drum with eight other oversize drum on display in the bed of a pickup truck. (The bag limit for redfish is three per day, and they must be between 20 and 28 inches. Only one redfish longer than that can be kept, and only with a properly completed redfish tag attached to it.)

On Nov. 1, game wardens in Cameron County were contacted about the Facebook picture, which had originally been placed on line by Castro's brother. Accompanying the image was the comment, "just for fun."

Game wardens ended up receiving mul-

tiple complaints regarding the Facebook post. TPWD dispatchers and game wardens were able to review records which eventually resulted in the positive identification of Castro and his place of employment.

On Nov. 6, game wardens interviewed Castro and obtained a signed written statement. Five days later, Willacy County Justice of the Peace George Solis issued an arrest warrant for Castro and game wardens arrested him the same day. Following arraignment, he was released with a court date of Nov. 19.

"Anglers on several social media sites were posting negative comments, and a day after the picture was originally posted, it was removed," said Game Warden Maj. Alan Teague. "However, the picture had been saved by many anglers and reposted."

Teague said the picture made it to fishing groups as far away as Florida.

"With tips from anglers and hard work

by our game wardens and dispatchers, we were able to track the individual to a city in South Texas," Teague said.

During sentencing, Justice of the Peace Solis noted how important recreational fishing is to the people in Willacy County which includes Port Mansfield. Before sentencing Castro, the judge pointed out that there are people in the county whose livelihood depends upon the quality and future of recreational fishing.

"It was an obscene number of fish that you caught," the judge said to the defendant. "We are all living paycheck-to-paycheck but none of us are going hungry. It was completely unnecessary to take that many fish."

Castro was fined \$2,600 and an additional \$2,645.91 will be assessed as part of the civil restitution.



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Candlelight Christmas Coming to Washington-on-the-Brazos Dec. 14

The historic Christmas traditions of Texas in the 1860s will transport visitors to a much simpler time at a day-long Christmas on the Brazos celebration at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14.

Free or low-cost holiday activities for all ages include period music, craft making, readings, food samplings and sale of artisan gifts, culminating in the park’s popular Candlelight Christmas event that features early Texas vignettes of frontier life in the decade before the Civil War. Visitors can enjoy music, musket firing dancing and a candlelit tour of Barrington Living History Farm.

Candlelight Christmas at the Barrington Farm offers guests a peek into the 1850s and fills their senses with the sights, sounds and smells of yesteryear against the backdrop of a star-filled sky. Experience smoke and flames from the wood fireplace and bonfire in the field; flickering lanterns and candlelit paths; and gunfire and cheers from a rowdy band of early Texas revelers. Visitors can enjoy a guided tour of the

historic home of the Republic of Texas’ last president, Dr. Anson Jones, as re-enactors recreate how that family would have enjoyed Christmas, including an appearance by a Santa Claus portraying a bygone era. The slave quarters also will be decorated in 1860s style. The tour culminates in a barn dance where visitors are welcome to join in.

The Candlelight Christmas evening event consists of one-hour guided tours for small groups beginning on the hour beginning at 5 p.m. and ending at 9 p.m. Advanced reservations are strongly recommended and can be made online by visiting Barrington.Farm@tpwd.texas.gov or by calling (936) 878-2214, extension 246. In addition to the standard entry fee, a \$2 per person for those 3 years and older will be charged. Among the many holiday activities occurring throughout the day will be: --Besides its regular tours, Independence Hall will host 19th century readings of popular Christmas literature will be at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. (fees apply) --The Star of the Republic Muse-

um will host “make-and-take” period crafts in its Discovery Room from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (regular entrance fees; no extra charge for the crafts) --The historic site’s Visitor Center will offer music, merchandise made by Texas artisans, samplings of local Texas fare. In a nod to the 21st century, a Christmas tree and Santa Claus will be there for photos (all free) --Barrington Living History Farm will be open for its regular tours from noon until 4 p.m. and then will close for one hour to prepare for its Candlelight Christmas event that starts at 5 p.m. --Visitors are welcome to bring food and drink onto the park but no glass bottles or alcoholic beverages are allowed.

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site is located off Highway 105 between Navasota and Brenham on FM 1155. Leashed pets are allowed in park, but are not allowed onto the farm site or inside buildings. Sites are accessible for the mobility impaired. For additional details, call (936) 878-2214, extension 246.



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These two anglers had a good showing after crappie fishing with Lake Fork guide Brad Williams. Released to the grease! (Courtesy photo Brad Williams Guide Service)



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Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail Maps Updated

Texas wildlife viewers and birders can now find the best spots to reconnect with nature through the newly revised Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail maps.

The three updated driving maps include new viewing sites, up-to-date site information and driving directions, community tourism contacts and GPS coordinates for each of the 332 sites.

Maps may be purchased by filling out and mailing in an online order form or from vari-

ous nature centers and tourism offices throughout Texas. Single maps ordered online cost \$5 each. These three maps are part of a nine-map Great Texas Wildlife Trails set that covers the entire state and the set may be purchased for \$25. Sales support the Great Texas Wildlife Trails program, map reprints and shipping costs.

Texas launched the nation's first ever birding and wildlife viewing trails with the original

coastal maps in 1996, and now the Great Texas Wildlife Trail system spans the entire state. Texas Parks and Wildlife has partnered with other organizations, communities, and site managers throughout the state to create these driving maps

"It's fantastic to now have these original three birding maps updated for visitors and locals alike," TPWD Nature Tourism and Paddling/

See Birding Trail Maps..Continued on Page 21-A

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Endangered Attwater's Prairie Chicken Needs Support

A spring morning on the Texas coast was once greeted with the haunting sound of male Attwater's prairie chickens calling from the short prairie grass. Today the few remaining patches of Gulf Coast prairie are nearly silent.

In abundant numbers, Attwater's prairie chickens once inhabited the tall grass coastal prairies from the coastal bend into Louisiana. But they have been slowly edged out by heavy grazing, farming and urban growth, as well as the spread of exotic invasive plants. Birds like the Attwater's prairie chicken that depend on the prairie, have declined with the loss of habitat.

Today, this species, a bird which may have been the inspiration for Native American dances, is dependent on captive breeding programs for its continued survival. Biologists say if this bird is lost in Texas, there would be no other populations from which it could be restored.

"Without the efforts of the zoos that are breeding this bird for release, the population could not sustain itself," said Mark Klym, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's coordinator of the Adopt-A-Prairie Chicken program.

"The Adopt-A-Prairie Chicken program is a great way for people to get involved directly in the effort to conserve this highly endangered bird," Klym said. "Reintroduction programs must work hand in hand with habitat restoration programs. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center has cer-

tainly been a leader in the reintroduction efforts."

Attwater's prairie chickens hatched in zoos are released at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge near Eagle Lake in Colorado County. There is also a population in Goliad County that was established with released birds from the zoos.

Concerned Texans can help with a tax-free donation to the Adopt-a-Prairie Chicken program through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For more information see <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/birding/apc/>.

Letter to the Editor

A brief account of a Lake Fork incident/accident which may alert other fishermen to the importance of maintaining their boating safety equipment.

On September 11 of this year, I had the bad luck to fall while trying to launch my boat from the public ramp on Hwy. 17 near Hwy. 515. It was a perfect day for crappie fishing underneath the Hwy 515 Bridge (west), but it seems that I had broken my left arm (humerus) and at 75 years young, I couldn't get out of the boat by myself. How fortunate it was that a TxDPS patrol car had someone pulled over on the bridge. It was also fortunate that I had my air horn in the boat. After a few blasts on the air horn and frantic waving of my right arm, Officer Vaughn drove over to the launch ramp and called an ETMS ambulance out of Quitman. Upon

arriving at the ramp, the two very capable ambulance attendants and Officer Vaughn were able to get me out of the boat and into the ambulance. I was taken to Trinity Mother Frances hospital in Winnsboro where Dr. Jorden fixed me up with a temporary cast and sling until I could get back to Fort Worth to my own orthopedic doctor. It's been a slow healing process, and I will probably not be able to fish until next spring at the earliest, but, at least, I will be back out there on my wonderful Lake Fork and drowning minnows again.

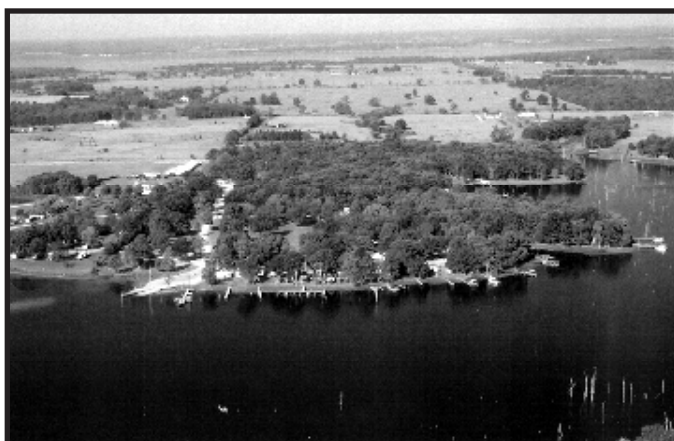
Incidentally, a good samaritan fellow fisherman was pulling his boat out as I was being loaded into the ambulance and graciously loaded my boat onto the trailer and parked it on the launch ramp parking area. I do wish I had gotten his name, but if he reads this, he will know who he is, and will know that I thank him very, very much.

Please, all you fellow fishermen out there, keep all of your safety equipment in good working order. You never know when you will have an emergency like mine, and your life preserver, flotation device, fire extinguisher, or air horn my just save your life, or at least signal for help. Also, it would be prudent to take your cell phone with you each time you are on any lake.

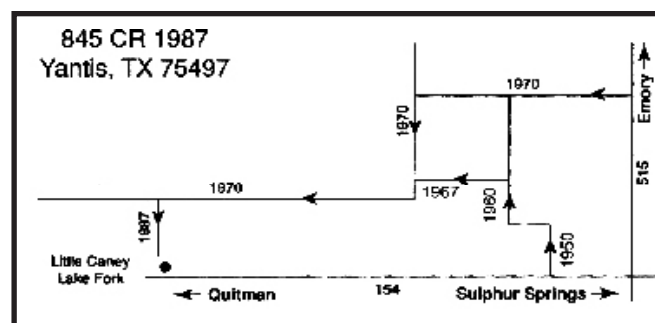
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Lake Fork winter crappie show up in numbers as this angler shows one of his caught fishing with crappie guide Brad Williams. (Courtesy Photo Brad Williams Guide Service)



Elliott LaBorde from Monroe, LA., caught this hawg while crappie fishing Lake Fork with guide Terri Moon. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Terri Moon Guide Service)



Bill Wallace from Ft Worth 84 yrs young still catching them as he did on Lake Fork with guide John Tanner. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo John Tanner Guide Service)

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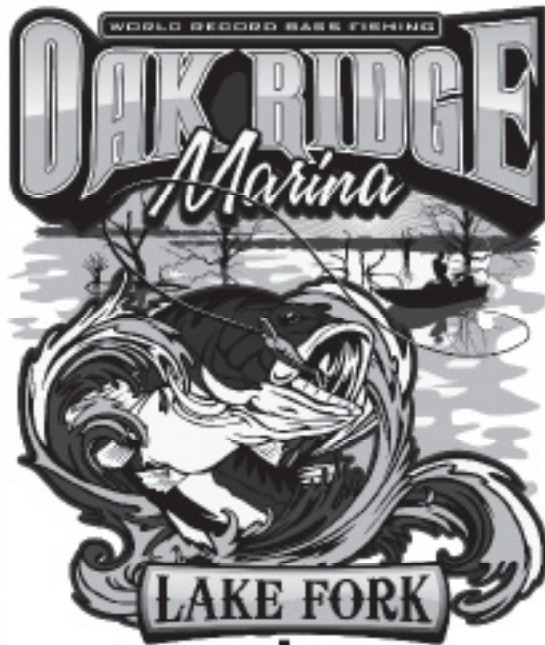
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"Pack of Knowledge" Power Finesse with Suspending Jerkbait

By Tom Redington

Mention suspending jerkbaits to most bass fishermen and it immediately conjures up images of fishing painfully slowly with long pauses and ultralight line on deep, cold, clear lakes. Like watching paint dry or grass grow. Boring. Sissy fishing. Check, check, and check. On plenty of lakes in the dead of winter, it's about the only way to get bit, but I find it excruciating even when the bite is good.

If you're part of today's ADD culture that won't read a 14 word Twitter message because

even that's too long, I have some good news for you. Suspending jerkbaits can be very productive when fished on big line and moved quickly. Did I mention that it catches big fish too? Matter of fact, one magical afternoon on Lake Fork, I caught 3 fish over 10 lbs with jerkbaits after getting skunked on other baits all morning.

In general, the colder, clearer, and deeper the water, the slower and more finesse you need with a jerkbait. In contrast, I look for several conditions that allow for success with bigger baits and bigger line while working quickly. Once the water approaches 60 degrees and higher, faster erratic movements with brief pauses usually produces more fish. Stained water makes bass less wary and you're not trying to call one up from 10' below like in clear water, so that also works in your favor. Finally, bass that are suspended around docks, standing timber, and grass beds are typically less finicky, plus bigger gear is needed to land these big fish.

Many suspending jerkbaits are made for finesse situations, so you need to start with a bait that will work well with heavier line. For example, a Lucky Craft Staysee 90 or Pointer 78XD are designed to get about 10' deep and deliver subtle movements on 6-12 lb test. On the other hand, a big bait with a wide erratic action like a Lucky Craft Pointer 100 SP (4" long, 5/8 oz) or Pointer 128SP (5" long,

1 oz) casts like a bullet and maintains great action on 15 to 20 lb fluorocarbon. The bigger line keeps these baits only 2' to 3' under the surface, which is usually optimal when fishing over grass, just under dock floats or through the tops of trees.

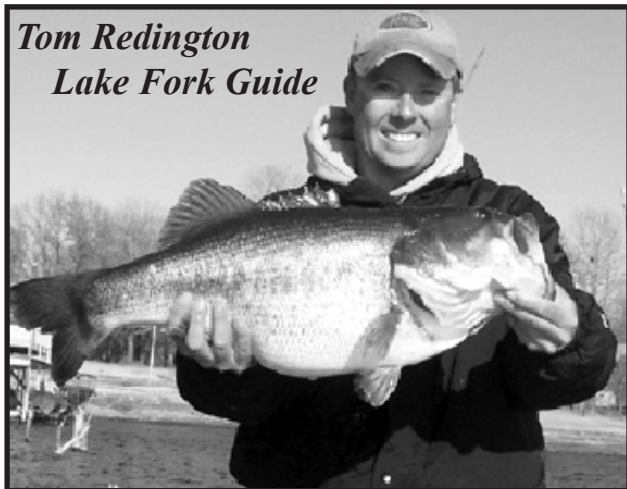
With heavy baits and big line, this isn't the place for a wimpy little rod. I use a 7' Dobyns Champion 705CB cranking rod for this. The mod fast action means the rod has a slow enough tip to allow bass to fully take the bait and helps keep the treble hooks from ripping out, yet it has plenty of power in the butt of the rod to fire out these beefy baits. Most importantly, this rod is very well balanced and light in the hand, something you'll appreciate after snapping jerkbaits along with your forearms and wrists for several hours.

The magic with jerkbaits comes from popping your rod tip with a bit of slack line, creating short erratic darts in a random mix of left, right, up, and down. The biggest error I see with jerkbaits is anglers pulling the bait on a tight line. Snap your rod straight down about 6" and pop it back up as soon as the line tightens, repeating this quickly. I'll experiment with my retrieve until I start getting bit, everything from 2 soft snaps with a 5 second pause to 5 crisp pops with a half second pause, often mixing it up throughout the cast.

(See Pack of Knowledge...

Continued on Page 22-A)

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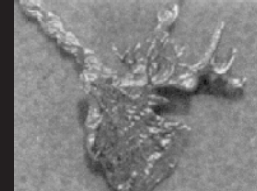
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Recent Films Boost Popularity of Archery

Characters such as Katniss Everdeen and elvish bowman Legolas, who play major roles in the popular upcoming films *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* and *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*, have helped spark a wave and renewed interest in the recreational sport of archery.

Since the movies began incorporating the sport with their characters, the popularity for archery has grown. One way that is evident is in the upswing in instructor course enrollment.

The Texas-National Archery in Schools pro-

gram has helped train more than 2,700 basic archery instructors, which include 1,600 classroom teachers. The instructors and trainers represent 161 counties, 63-percent, across the state.

The beauty of archery is that it can be done anywhere and there is more than one way to get involved. Archery ranges are available around the state and many host beginner's lessons.

Those interested in archery also can contact their city parks and recreation department, the county AgriLife Extension office, Junior Olympic Ar-

chery Development programs, or a local 4-H Shooting Sports archery club. The Texas State Archery Association's webpage also offers many resources.

Before heading to the archery shop, be sure to know whether you would like to do target shooting, hunting or bow-fishing. The recommended equipment will vary depending on what it will be used for. For informa-

tion about equipment, be sure to read the Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine article, "Young Robin Hoods," to help choose the proper gear.

If you are interested in starting a program in your community, contact Burnie Kessner at Burnie.Kessner@tpwd.state.tx.us or call (979) 862-7341. Also, visit the Texas National Archery in Schools Facebook page to see photos of past programs and more information.



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Another big bass caught on Lake Fork in November while fishing with guide John Tanner. C.P.R. Name not provided. (Courtesy photo John Tanner Guide Service)



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Birding Trail Maps (Continued from Page 14-A)

Wildlife Trails Manager, Shelly Plante says.

"Texas was the first state to create a coordinated driving trail of birding hotspots in the country. More than 40 states have now created similar trails based on the Texas model, and that success of the trail concept shows

that this was a resource that wildlife viewers wanted, valued, and could easily use."

For a video about

the new Great Texas Coastal Birding trail maps, visit: http://youtu.be/Y1qNt_7mkHw.

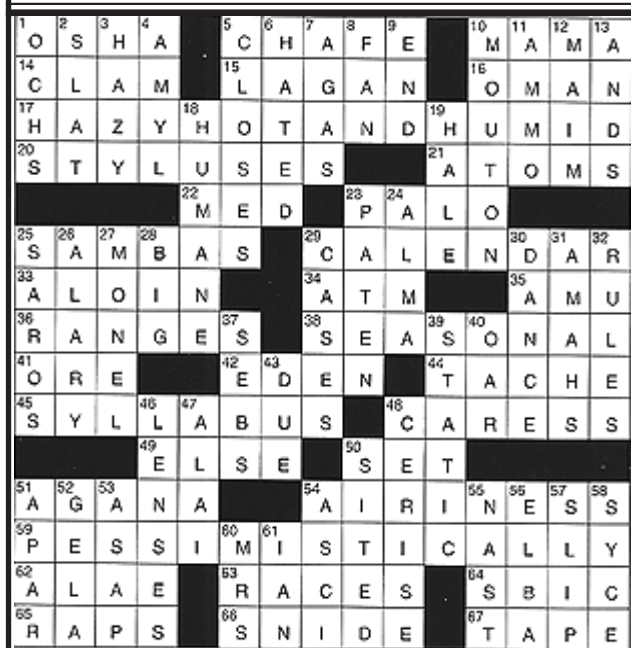


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In 1799, Congress established the nation's highest military title, General of the Armies of the United States, to honor George Washington, first commander of the Army, but he never received it. It was awarded posthumously by a special act of Congress in 1976.

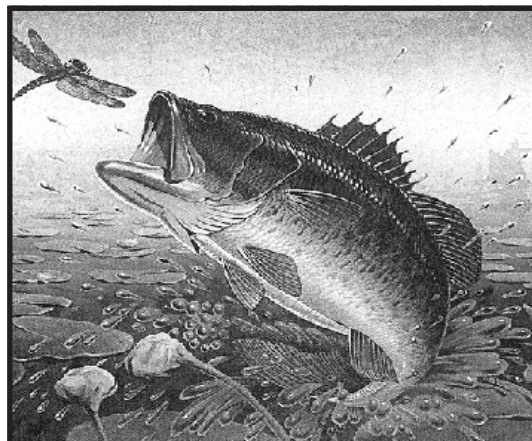


Many fishermen throw back the first fish they catch so as to appease unseen spirits

Search up, down and diagonally to find and circle each of the "high-flying" words in the puzzle below. Ready for takeoff?

FLYING	KITE	LIFT
AIRPLANE	SHUTTLE	HELICOPTER
JET	PILOT	COCKPIT
WINGS	BALLOON	
BIRD	GLIDER	

K W D B H N G S P D X E
I S I U I N R H F I E S
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E G J Y G I D S A O W U
I R L E P S T L O R G T
S F Y K T O P L O N L T
E E C A O R L F D R I L
D O S T I A H O N D D E
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Pack of Knowledge (Continued from Page 18-A)

Most of your strikes will come during the pause or as soon as you start moving again. Instead of sitting still a long time to lure in wary fish the way most people jerkbait, power fishing jerks with a quick wild motion often triggers reaction bites from fish that spurn more traditional offerings.

In some regions like the Ozarks or in northern smallmouth territory, jerkbaits are a staple lure. Other places, like here in East Texas, jerkbaits are pigeonholed as winter and early spring baits to use

on the toughest of days. That means power jerkbaiting is a presentation bass rarely see on many lakes.

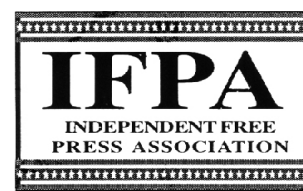
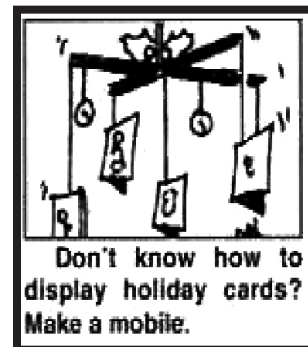
So where to try the power jerkbait technique? Basically, any area that is about 3' to 8' deep (or has grass, wood, or docks within 8' of the surface) where you've caught bass on a spinnerbait, topwater, crankbait, jig, worm or about any other bait is a potentially good spot. Like any other lure, jerkbaiting doesn't work every time. However, it often produces a couple extra bites from

a spot when they stop biting other baits, and sometimes bass will eat jerks all day when they turn their noses at common baits they've already seen 10 times in the past hour.

Just one more tool for your toolbox—a tool that many of your fishing buddies don't use enough. For more fish catching tips, check out my website www.LakeForkGuideTrips.com, or follow me at www.facebook.com/

tomredingtonfishing and www.twitter.com/Tom_Redington.

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, & Power Poles.



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BEAUTIFUL LAKE FORK HOME without the waterfront price. Home is not waterfront but includes a waterfront leaseback with 86 ft of lake frontage. Can build pier or boat dock for personal use. Impeccably maintained home sits on shady, treed lot. 3BR 2BA 1832 sf with plenty of upgrades. 12x29 storage, plus EZ GO electric golf cart. Across from Land's End Golf Club. \$199,000.



AFFORDABLE LAKE FORK WATERFRONT HOME has great lake views from screened porch that spans across the back of home. Features include large living room with wood burning stove, Berber carpet, triple pane windows and large bedrooms. Property has fruit trees and lots of mature shade trees. It also has 2 workshops to store all equipment. Public boat ramp across the road at Rainswood Marina. \$154,900.



BEAUTIFUL SETTING on 2.72 acres, This 3BR 2BA, with 2360 sf of living space has 2 living areas, separate office, large utility room, open kitchen, dining and living area, wood burning fireplace, plus a large sunroom to take advantage of the gorgeous treed property. Also there is a shop/storage building. Near Lake Fork, this property gives you the opportunity to live within 2 miles of a public boat ramp and fishing, but not have to pay the waterfront price. \$149,000.



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 counters, 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, new place in the country. \$224,000



Lake Fork Waterfront Acreage. Over 50 acres, 25.9 deeded and approximately 25 acres leaseback. This is really good waterfront property with lots of shoreline. Rare find on Lake Fork. Perfect for RV park, private get-away, subdivision, development. Priced at \$450,000



GREAT OPPORTUNITY to own a Marina on Lake Fork. This property has it all: 27-room recently refurbished motel, convenience store, cafe, tackle store, boat ramp, boat slips, swimming pool, 50+ site RV park with full hoop ups. Property has its own sewage treatment plant. There is 2 acres deeded with lots of leaseback, plenty of parking and room for expansion. Great area to hold tournaments, plus it's the first full service marina coming in from the Dallas metroplex. Asking only \$625,000



5 ACRES 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. \$42,000



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



LAKE FORK WATERFRONT built for entertaining with an inside hot-tub, concrete patio, screened porch. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath log home is a perfect lake home getaway. Set back in the woods, nicely landscaped, small pond in front, 2-car attached garage, concrete parking area. Private boat dock and neighborhood boat ramp. There is a loft with inside circle stairway and an outside entry. Reduced \$249,900.

We have too many properties for sale to show here. To view these and ALL MLS PROPERTY LISTINGS, go to: www.century21lakecountryrealty.com

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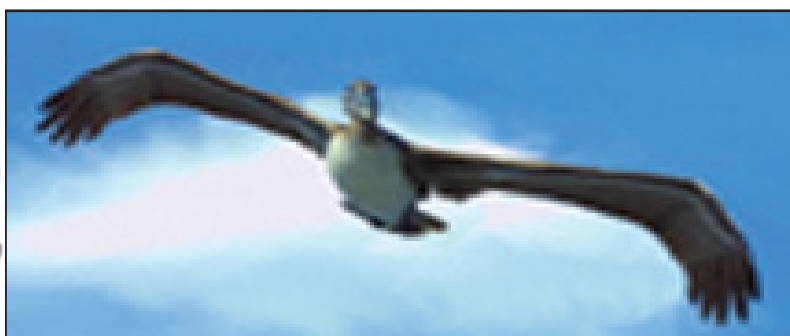
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