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Dage 2-B

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

December

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Four thousand people a injured by teapots every year.



By Don Hampton

If you have been thinking of joining a bass club, you could not find a better one to be a part of. Individual, husband and wife, family memberships, and non-boaters are welcome. If you wish to improve your fishing skills and learn new techniques, this is where you belong. This is one bass club that is known for no arguing or disputes. The top three winners of each tournament share their techniques, the bait they caught their winning stringer on

fish were caught in. good friends and in this club you will definitely meet some new fishing buddies. Texas Trails Bass-

masters have been the official weight masters of the Wood County Kid Fish for the past 10 years and cations are some of the members able on line: www. are Directors for The texastrailsbassmas-Wish To Fish Foun- ters com or call Don dation.

The club's new year 7748 or starts in November. 7748 or email fish-All tournaments are news@lakefork.net held on Saturday except for the end of the year two day cham- joy the fellowship of pionship. Members vote on the dates and the lakes to be fished.

and the depth and Membership to join type of water their the club is \$30 per person. The club has As an added bonus, one tournament per everyone can use month with a two-day championship at the end of their year. Cost per each tournament is \$25 entry, \$5 Big Bass (optional), with a progressive pot for a 7-pound or over big bass (also optional). Membership appliavail-Hampton, 903-383-903-383-

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Strollin' With Stroman ____



By Dean Stroman

Bass fishing in East Texas in December can be feast or famine. Weekend traffic has slowed down with most people crappie fishing and bass getting little pressure. As long as water temperature stays above 52 degrees December bassing on Fork can be very rewarding if you are after that dream bass with shallow and deep water both producing. When water temperature dips below 52 degrees, the deep bite is when most wintertime action will take place.

Lipless cranks for shallow water bite is hard to beat with red shad starting to be the predominate color. Grass, points and sloping banks leading to deep water are some good starting areas. No matter what location you choose, stay close to creek channels. Bass will be following baitfish movement up and down creek channels. During weather change conditions, right after and during fronts, most activity will be in mouths of most major creeks and during Indian Summer days activities can be in back ends of major creeks.

The key to successfully catching big bass during changing winter season is to find the clouds of baitfish on your graph and stay with them most of the day. Sometime during the day, usually during the mid day to late afternoon period, there will be feeding activity that can last for several *(See Strollin.....*)

Continued on Page 7-B)



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3-B

Dage 4-B

TPWD Game Warden Field Notes

The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports.

-Your Lie Just Croaked – Two Tarrant County game wardens were checking a field on opening day when they found two men sitting around a stock tank with shotguns and a moving dove decoy set out. The father-son duo was contacted by the wardens and it was discovered that the father, who was from out-of-state, did not have a hunting license. The father told the wardens that he was not hunting dove, and that the shotgun and empty hulls by his seat were from shooting at bull-frogs. The wardens informed the man that he needed a license to hunt bullfrogs, as well.

–Trouble in the Field – A Shackelford County game warden was checking local fields for early hunters when he found a field with a high concentration of dove. After investigating the sunflower field further, the warden found wheat seed. Later that night, the warden came back to the field to confirm it was baited and found that wheat seed had been spread all the way around the field and in each mowed strip. The next morning, the shooting started and the warden made contact with a group who said they were surprised to see the bait. One subject was even more surprised that the nighthawk he shot was not a dove.

–Fishing in the Dark – Two game wardens received information including the time and place, that a Mexican commercial fisherman would be out on Lake Falcon picking up gill net. When the wardens checked the lake at the reported time, they saw a vessel without navigation lights operating in the dark. They moved in for a closer look, made contact with the vessel, and found a fisherman pulling in the last section of gill net. He was placed in custody for no commercial fishing license and possession of illegal fishing device (1,980 feet of gill net).

-Can I Keep Him? - A San Patricio County game warden received an Operation Game Thief call about someone keeping white tailed deer as pets. With the help of another San Patricio County game warden, they found the property where the deer were being kept. Hidden behind a trailer park on several acres of high fence with a mixture of fallow and axis deer were one doe, one buck, and one very young fawn whitetail. After the wardens talked to several neighbors, the property owner was located and questioned. He said that he knew the day would come when he would get caught. He claimed the oldest animal jumped in his pen and never left and the other two were brought to him to be cared for after they were found abandoned. A citation was issued for possession of white tailed deer without permits and the deer were relocated.

–Driving Dangerously – While driving through the Rio Grande Valley after working during opening weekend, a game warden stopped a vehicle in Brooks County that was being driven erratically and also had an expired registration. After the driver consented to a search, the warden found approximately 25 grams of cocaine for which the driver was arrested. -Prickly Situation – A game warden was contacted by U.S. Border Patrol about some peyote cactus they had found on a ranch. The federal agents were tracking illegal immigrants when they found three burlap sacks full of peyote, and the warden was contacted to help them dispose of it. The total weight of the peyote was 297 pounds with a value of almost \$24,000.

-Hot Tamale- A Val Verde County game warden received a call from the Del Rio Police Department about a small SUV that had a white-tailed deer in the back seat. The warden asked the woman about the deer and she said she needed it for tamales she was planning to make the next day. One case filed for possession in closed season and one case of DWI filed by the Del Rio Police Department.

-Guessing Game- An Ellis County game warden met a new farmer at a gas station who wanted his business card because he was having trouble with dove hunters on his properties. One day, the farmer called the warden with the license plate of a truck with two men inside who were shooting at dove while driving down the road. The warden drove to the location and picked up hulls on the road and proceeded to look for the truck. The truck was spotted just as it was turning into the driveway. After confronting the subjects about their hunt, the warden made a deal with them and said, 'T'll leave, but only if I can't guess what gauge shotgun is in the gun case in your backseat, and I'll bet in that camouflage bag there are low brass, Winchester #8 shot shells that are red in color." After puzzled looks and realizing the warden knew more than they thought he did, the two men confessed and multiple citations are pending.





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Strollin With Stroman (Continued from Page 3-B)

hours.

Most baitfish activity will be around creek channels and deep ledges. When you find wads of baitfish, jigging spoons, tail kickers and sidewinder spoons in ³/₄ ounces with chartreuse insert is all you need. When sand bass and barfish start biting, that's so much the better. This will trigger big bass to start feeding on them. That is the time to switch to $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce swimbaits in shad or barfish pattern 6 inch size. Sometimes a 7 to 8 inch model will also produce. Hang on! You could catch a fish of a lifetime on Fork on any cast fishing swimbaits in deep water. As for technique, throw out as far as you can and let the swimbait sink to the bottom and then slowly crank back in, just fast enough for the tail action to wiggle. Don't forget - do not set the hook when you feel fish bump the bait. Keep reeling until you are fight-



Traditionally, the Three Wise Men were known as Melchior, Gaspar and Balthasar, but the gospel of Matthew mentions neither their names nor how many they were. ing fish and then "rip lips."

Hope everyone has a great Holiday Season – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

If you are planning a trip to Lake Fork and need a guide, general fishing information or an updated fishing report to make your Lake Fork fishing experience a good one, you can call me at 903-850-5083 (cell) or 903-383-7214 (land line) or you can email me at dstroman@peoplescom. net. I am booking now for spring trips.

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In Denmark, the Christmas door decorations known as Alookastrangs also have windows and doors to pop open, and serve as an Advent calendar.



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On a snowy day, give children a piece of poster board and let them cut pictures from old Christmas cards to make a Christmas poster for pert year.



Page S-B

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

December

Holiday Food And Drink That Doesn't Break Your Budget

By Sue Hampton

During the holiday season, time spent around the dining table often makes the best memories. Whether your family's tradition is a bountiful brunch or turkey dinner with an abundance of side dishes, food serves as the highlight of holiday celebrations. However enjoyable, entertaining large groups can be costly.

If it's your turn to host a holiday feast this season, there are ways to prepare decadent dishes on a budget and still inspire "oohs" and "aahs" at festive meals. Try these simple tips:



These recipes are great for holiday entertaining. Everyone tries to save money during the holidays and I'm hoping these recipes will help you! *Visit the deli counter to take advantage of premade side dishes such as potato salads. You'll save on food-preparation time, as well as the cost of multiple ingredients.

*Store-brand items offer budget-friendly and flavor-rich alternatives to their name-brand counterparts. Store-brand canned vegetables and turkeys make a great addition to a holiday meal. *Encourage guests to bring an item to share, potluck style. You'll enjoy different cooking styles and create minimal costs for each attendee. *Look in the frozen food aisle for a variety of foods that pack the same nutritional punch at a fraction of the cost, such as frozen concentrated orange juice.

*Budget-conscious consumers who value good nutrition can save by purchasing frozen orange juice. A healthful drink on its own or in holiday punch, frozen concentrate orange juice also makes a nutrientrich and flavorful addition to holiday recipes. It has the same great taste as ready-to-drink orange juice and consuming just 8 ounces is an easy way to get up to 25 percent of your USDA daily recommended fruit and vegetable servings.

For a delicious, budgetfriendly holiday meal, try these recipes:

Orange Juice Biscuits ¹/₄ cup butter 1/3 cup frozen concentrated orange juice ¹/₂ cup sugar 2 cans biscuits

In saucepan, mix butter, orange juice and sugar together until melted. In muffin tin, put roughly about 2 tablespoons of mixture in each slot. Place a biscuit on top and cook according to directions on the biscuits can.

Orange Butter

1 cup butter $\frac{1}{2}$ cup orange juice

 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup powdered sugar

Beat butter until light and fluffy. Then add orange juice and powdered sugar. Mix until well blended.

Holiday Party Punch

1 can (6 oz.) of frozen concentrated orange juice

1 can (6 oz.) of frozen

concentrated lemonade 7 cups of water 2 cups of lemon-lime soda 4 scoops of pineapple

4 scoops of pineappie sherbet

2 scoops of vanilla ice cream

Mix frozen juices with water and choice of soda. Then combine with the pineapple sherbet to get frothy texture. Put in a large party bowl and add vanilla ice cream for a cool topping.

Merry Christmas Son,

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