

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



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

2 Sections

www.fishguidenews.com

Free

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No. 173



Blake Eppinette from West Monroe, Louisiana caught the second TPWD Toyota ShareLunker of the season fishing Lake Fork on 12/27/13. His lunker weighed 13.6-pounds, measured 25.825" and had a girth of 21.5".



When fishing warm water lakes, especially Monticello and Welsh, anglers should always be cautious of the fog banks. You may have clear visibility one moment and go around a point facing a wall of fog so thick you can't see the front of your boat. This is when a GPS with previous marked trails could be a life saver!

Lake Fork: Year End Review and What To Look Forward To!

By Don Hampton

In 2013, Lake Fork once again demonstrated just why it is known as the 'Big Bass Capital of Texas'. In the course of the 2012/2013 TPWD Toyota ShareLunker season there were twelve entries into the program out of all the lakes in our great state. Four of those were caught on Lake Fork and three of the heaviest for the season were caught on this great reservoir. Gary Sims from

Gunter, Texas started it off by catching a hawg weighing 15.02-pounds on 12/12/12. Richard Schibek from Granbury, Texas caught the heaviest of the season weighing 16.04-pounds which also won him the honor of TPWD Angler of the Year. One of our locals, Mark Hall from Winnboro, Texas caught a lunker on 2/19/13 weighing 13.11-pounds and that was followed by Donald DeVille from Ville Platte, Louisiana on 3/20/13 when he caught one weighing 14.06-pounds.

The TPWD Toyota ShareLunker Season begins on October 1st and runs thru April 30th of each year. Thus far ending 2013 Lake Fork is living up to its reputation and has two early entries. On 11/21/13 Stephen Proctor from Pryor, Oklahoma caught a hawg weighing 13.29-pounds and on 12/26/13 Blake Eppinette from West Monroe, Louisiana caught a lunker weighing 13.6-pounds. Blake was fishing in 30-feet of water using a Buckeye Mojo jig

(See Lake Fork....Continued on Page 4-A)



Bubba's shortcuts may have him eating coldcuts and maybe for a while!

By: Don Hampton

When it comes to getting a job done, Bubba doesn't fool around.

Bubette has remarked on several occasions that Bubba can accomplish more in one day than most men can in a week. Having worked alongside Bubba on several occasions I believe this whole-heartedly.

This isn't because Bubba is such a fast worker. It is simply because he believes every moment working unnecessarily is time lost on the lake fishing. With this in his mind at all times he has developed shortcuts to expedite all his chores.

When I say Bubba has shortcuts for his chores, I do not mean he does things like letting the trash pile up before taking it out so he'll only have to make one trip. No, Bubbette would not allow him to go to these measures. If the trash gets near the top of the container, it had better be out of the house. If not Bubba's boat won't be floating and he'll be in the doghouse. (I've seen him there on this point and it is not pretty.) He does have four outside trashcans he lets get full before taking to solid waste management, (the dump). This is one of Bubba's little shortcuts he can get away with. He has even convinced Bubbette it is time management and conserves on gas. I can see the logic in that!

Most all of Bubba's shortcuts have logic to them. For instance mowing the lawn, Bubba bought the widest cutting riding lawnmower he could

find. He also keeps the blades sharpened so they will cut well at high speeds. His chainsaw has the highest rpm's, and the longest bar and chain it can handle. This is so he doesn't have to make more than one cut when taking something down. When Bubba has to paint anything, he has the widest paintbrushes and rollers money can buy. Bubba has come up with one shortcut though that is requiring more thought on his part than usual. It is not making Bubbette a happy camper either.

Living in the country and having a virtual forest for a yard, Bubba is confronted with a leaf problem each year. Each year in December or January Bubba declares war on the fallen leaves. (Of course he does wait until almost the last one has fallen.)

He has the right tools for the job. His leaf blower could propel a 30' sailboat and his rakes have a 24" span, but this isn't enough for Bubba. He has tried everything to make this annual chore as simple as it could be. He has tried mulching, mowing, and even tried waiting it out hoping a wind storm would come up and blow them in the neighbor's yard. None of these methods pleased Bubba for simplicity sake though.

This leaf-war season Bubba came up with an all new plan. He would rake all of the leaves toward the back of his property, rake them away from his dogwoods and other trees and just burn them. This brainstorm of Bubba's might have worked if not for Mother Nature's rainstorms.

Not to be swayed in his determination to bring this task to an end Bubba put on his thinking cap. He concluded that if he could create a consistent hot flame, the leaves would burn. (Again we have logic.) Bubba went to his utility shed to get his diesel he kept for just such occasions only to find that he was out. He considered the gasoline for his over-sized riding lawnmower but soon discarded that thought. Bubba learned about playing with gasoline when he was a small child.

It was then that Bubba had a brainstorm that would have him eating cold sandwiches that night. With no diesel, cooking grease would work. Bubba knew where Bubbette had two gallons of used strained fish grease and if that didn't get the fire going, the pantry had some peanut oil in it.

Bubba then commenced to burn some leaves and to an extent his plan worked but it had two major flaws. One, every time Bubba would start a new fire the smell of the cooking grease would make him hungry and he'd have to stop for a snack or two, Bubbette had planned on using that grease to fry some catfish and hushpuppies for supper that night.

The first flaw Bubba could deal with by applying one of his shortcuts and carrying a sandwich in his pocket, but the second flaw in his plan had him eating that sandwich while sitting in the doghouse that night.

Bubba learned an important lesson here, you don't mess with Bubbette's stuff either.

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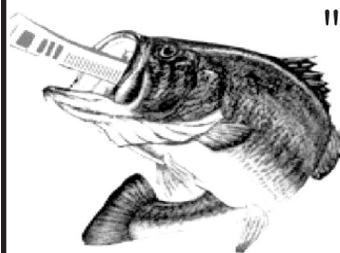
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Lake Fork: Year End Review and What To Look Forward To! (Continued from Page 1-A)

with a pocket craw trailer when he hooked into his lunker. His was lunker #550 to be entered into the program and the 255th to be caught on Lake Fork.

Lake Fork also had a lot of other historical catches in 2013. During the 5th Annual Dodge Mega Ram Tournament put on by Bass Champs in April, two teenage boys won in the hourly and drove home a new dodge truck. On April 6, 2014 Bass Champs will be hosting their 6th Annual Tournament, but this one will be the Ford Mega Bass Tournament and there will be a Ford truck given away each hour. This is the richest one day big bass tournament.

The "9th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament" that was held in May showed anglers love Lake Fork and fishing in May is great. During the course of the tournament 1,123 anglers representing 19 states and two countries came to participate. During the course of the tournament 23 over the slot bass were brought

to the weigh-in. A 3-pound even won the Legend 199-Alpha for the heaviest bass under the slot. Seven places per hour are paid in this tournament and the two heaviest over the slot win a Legend boat, the heaviest under 16" wins a Legend boat and one Legend boat is given away in a drawing from the early entries received before April 30th. Keep in mind this tournament is open to all makes and models of boats. It is not a Legend Owners Tournament... it is "The Legend of Lake Fork", our legendary lake. The "10th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament" is going to be bigger and better for the anglers. Alba Tractor has come on as a sponsor and for the first angler to catch a 10-pound even bass, they will be taking home a Kubota RTV-X1120 valued at \$17,178. The tournament will be held May 16, 17, 18, 2014 at Lake Fork Marina with registration and sign in starting on Thursday, May 15th. This tourna-

ment also benefits "The Wish to Fish Foundation", so you will also be fishing for a good cause along with the good pay-outs, prizes and fun.

Anglers can also look forward to the "Hook n' Cook" sand bass tournament in July hosted by Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork and Fishermans One Stop, Sealy Outdoor's Big Bass Splash in September and the Berkley Tournament in October. If you are looking for a tournament to fish on Lake Fork, check out our tournament page in the B-Section for the listings or watch for the advertisements.

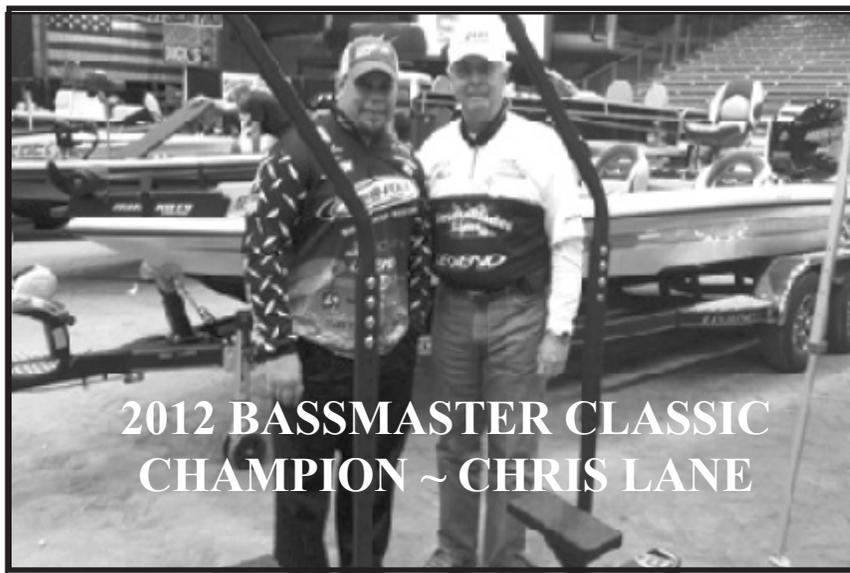
If you are looking to catch a ShareLunker, you have until April 30th to complete your task. Judging from the statistics and numbers, believe me, Lake Fork is your best bet.

See you on the lake or at the boat shows. Have a great New Year, Fish Friendly, and practice C.P.R. (Catch, Photo, Release)



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Public Comment Sought on Adding Counties to Rules Requiring Draining Water from Vessels

In the state's ongoing effort to combat the spread of invasive zebra mussels, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has approved for public comment a proposal to add 30 counties in North and Central Texas to the recently implemented rules requiring that all boats operating on public water be drained after use.

Additional counties being considered for vessel draining requirements are: Archer, Bastrop, Bell, Bosque, Burnet, Clay, Comal, Comanche, Coryell, Eastland, Ellis, Erath, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Hamilton, Hays, Henderson (west of Hwy 19), Hill, Johnson, Leon, Limestone, Llano, McLennan, Navarro, Robertson, Somervell, Travis, Wichita, and Williamson.

The water draining regulations were implemented December 10 and are in effect on all public waters in Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Hood, Jack, Kaufman, Montague, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Stephens, Tarrant, Wise, and Young counties. These same regulations are also in place on an emergency basis in Belton and Coryell counties.

The current rules require that persons leaving or approaching public water in the affected counties drain all water from their vessels and on-board receptacles. This applies to all types and sizes of boats whether powered

or not, personal watercraft, sailboats, or any other vessel used to travel on public waters.

Applicable in all areas where boats can be launched, the regulation requires the draining of live wells, bilges, motors, and any other receptacles or water-intake systems coming into contact with public waters.

Under the current rules, live fish cannot be transported in water that comes from the water body where they were caught and personally caught live bait can be used only in the water body where it was caught. The department is proposing to modify rules that affect participants in fishing tournaments that hold off-site weigh-ins. The proposed changes would allow anglers participating in a fishing tournament confined to one water body to transport live fish in water from that single water body to an identified weigh-in location, provided all water is drained before leaving that location. Anglers would be required to possess documentation provided by tournament organizers that would identify them as participants in a tournament.

Movement from one access point to another on the same lake during the same day does not require draining and there is an exception for governmental activi-

ties and emergencies. Marine sanitary systems are not covered by the new regulations.

Anglers are allowed to transport and use commercially purchased live bait in water provided they have a receipt that identifies the source of the bait. Any live bait purchased from a location on or adjacent to a public water body that is transported in water from that water body could only be used as bait on that same water body.

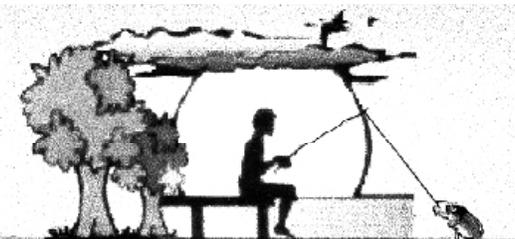
The public may comment on the proposed rules online at http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/feedback/public_comment/proposals/201401_water_draining.phtml.

Comment may also be made in writing to Ken Kurzawski, TPWD Inland Fisheries, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, by email at ken.kurzawski@tpwd.texas.gov, or in person at any of the following two public hearings. All meetings are set to begin at 7:00 pm.

--Tuesday, January 7 in Austin at TPWD Headquarters, Commissioners Hearing Room, 4200 Smith School Rd..

--Thursday, January 9 in Waco at the McLennan County Courthouse, Commissioners' Courtroom - 1st Floor, 501 Washington Ave..

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission is expected to take action on the proposed change at its November 7 meeting.



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January Bassin' "Crankin It Up"

By John Tanner

Happy New Year from the big bass capital! The New Year brings a lot of things into our lives. I am very thankful for last year's blessings. God has been so gracious to us. I look forward to this year and what it will bring. I look forward to some New Year bassin. I am ready to crank it up literally. This time of year you can catch some big mama bass cranking the miles of weed lines Lake Fork has to offer. With the lake levels being low the grass lines will hold a ton of fish and if it stays dry and the lake gets lower more and more fish will set up on the outer grass edges.

There are a lot of baits you can crank the grass with. Top choices in my Ranger Boat are lipless crank baits, chatter baits, shallow crank baits and

also Talon Spinner baits. On the lipless crank baits and shallow runners, good colors are... red, orange and sexy shad colors. You might even throw a fire tiger in the mix. On the chatter baits and spinner baits, white and chartreuse are great color choices. The jig bite can be good as well so have some half ounce Talon Football Head jigs on hand. These jigs work good on the edge of the hydrilla. Tip them with a Berkley 3" or 4" Chigger Craw and you will be in business.

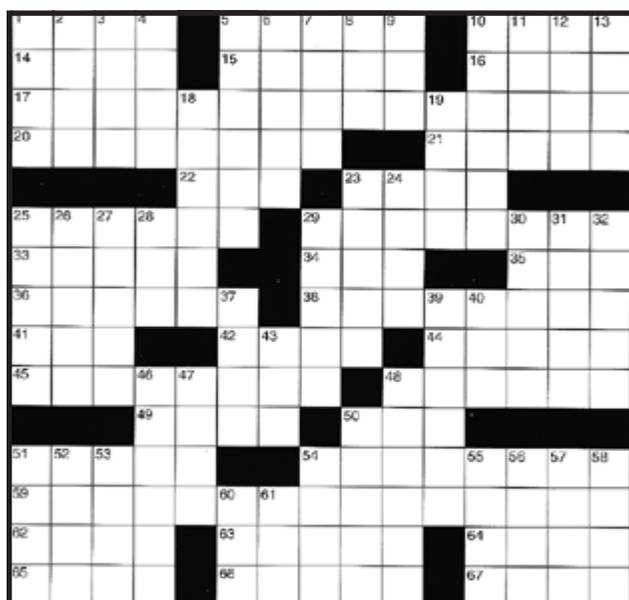
Now this time of year some really big fish pull up and winter in the grass beds so be ready with some big line. I like to use 20 pound test Berkley Trilene 100% fluorocarbon line on my ABU Garcia Revo reels and ABU Garcia Vendetta Rods. This stuff is awesome and will handle the big mamas.

While cranking the grass, roll your baits over the top and also down the edges of the weeds making contact with the grass and pulling it free as you make a steady retrieve with your lure. This technique will make for some big time strikes and sometimes they will stop it like a freight train! On the football jig, pitch it on the edges of the grass hopping it a few times as soon as it hits the bottom. The bass will bust it on the fall. This bite is fun and will produce some big uns! It can be chilly while fishing in January but those fish will be lying up in the grass getting some sun and eat-



ing well. You probably won't catch the numbers of fish you would say in the summer but the average size you catch this time of year will be impressive. So, that being said, hook up and come down to Lake Fork and get in on the action. There are a lot of really big bass caught in January every year.

If you would like to book a guided trip here on Lake Fork, call us at 903-569-7451 or e-mail us at jtanner811@gmail.com. For more info on fishing Lake Fork with us check us



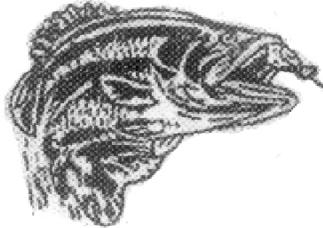
CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Type of citrus fruit | 41. Reptile genus |
| 5. Russian sour-grass soup | 42. Syngman _____, Korean president |
| 10. Intent | 44. More coherent |
| 14. Land of Israel | 45. Armed forces |
| 15. Indian city | 48. Changes |
| 16. Quick tempo (abbr.) | 49. Hebrew month |
| 17. Small gift | 50. They _____ |
| 20. Colors again | 51. _____ but goodie |
| 21. Knives | 54. Emergency exits |
| 22. Hymenopteron | 59. Holiday enhancement |
| 23. Fig or gum | 62. Peak |
| 25. Ropes | 63. Asian laborer |
| 29. Cerises | 64. Deprive of certain characteristics |
| 33. Healing agents | 65. One who digs up |
| 34. Former "Irish" football coach | 66. Ambiances |
| 35. Compass point | 67. Feline sound |
| 36. Spanish farm | |
| 38. Isolate | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Formerly Russia | 30. Stupid |
| 2. Rural vacation retreat | 31. Enroll |
| 3. Entwine | 32. Visionaries |
| 4. South American Indian | 37. Killer whale |
| 5. Backbones | 39. Dormant |
| 6. Short story (French) | 40. Tell on |
| 7. Snaps up | 43. Of she |
| 8. Part of nervous system (abbr.) | 46. More egotistic |
| 9. Vessel | 47. Days |
| 10. Beam | 48. Groupings |
| 11. _____ Romeo, car | 50. Mentally quick and resourceful |
| 12. Commoner | 51. Moonfish |
| 13. High rock piles (Old English) | 52. Crazy (Spanish) |
| 18. Restraint (informal) | 53. U.S. coin |
| 19. Selfish person | 54. British school |
| 23. Figure | 55. Visit poor areas for fun |
| 24. Garner | 56. Reasonable |
| 25. Type genus of the Laridae | 57. Inside |
| 26. Alar | 58. Arrange in a container |
| 27. Measuring instrument | 60. Shock treatment |
| 28. Time unit | 61. Also |
| 29. Patients | |

Answers on Page 21-A



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out on the web at www.lakeforkbassguide.com or www.tanneroutdoors.com. 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.

Fish Friendly

Boat Show Season Is Upon Us: Better Than ICAST in July!

By Don Hampton

Beginning in January of each year, boat manufacturers, marine dealers, tackle companies and sporting good distributors gear up to show their new products at tackle and boat shows across the nation. The audiences that attend these tackle and boat shows are sportsmen and women concerned with the products that add more enjoyment to their recreational and sporting times.

Catering to an attentive audience at the right time of the year is the key to success for these shows. With spring just around the corner anglers and sportsmen start to prepare for their weekends and time on the lakes and reservoirs, whether it be a family outing, planning their tournament schedule or just a weekend of good fishing with their buddies.

Sportsmen attending the shows can learn fishing techniques from the pros, see new merchandise being introduced into the market, or find that boat of their dreams. With all the booths and exhibits set up targeting the angler, time just slips away.

In many cases anglers and sportsmen attend these shows to plan their yearly vacation, fishing trips or sport outings.

At most boat or tackle shows one will find lakes,

reservoirs, and vacation spots with booths attempting to promote and bring more revenue to their area.

Kicking off boat show season is the busiest time for "The Fisherman's Guide News" and we are glad to see it come. With help from friends, guides, marina owners, Chamber of Commerce, Lake Fork Sportsman Association, and in some cases family, we try to reach as many avid anglers and tourists as possible. Coming up in the New Year you can find our publication at the Houston Boat Show, Temple/Belton Boat Show, Austin Boat Show, Ft. Worth Boat Show, Oklahoma City Boat Show, Longview Boat & RV Show, and the new Mesquite Boat & Tackle Show. Also look for us at Tulsa Boat & Tackle Show, St. Louis Boat & Sport Show, and Indianapolis Boat Show, and at Bassmaster Classic in Louisiana in February and March is just as busy.

Each year guides from Lake Fork also travel all over the nation not only promoting themselves and their sponsors, but also Lake Fork as the premier big bass trophy lake. At the boat and tackle shows, the guides are also called upon to give fishing seminars. In each case while instructing and informing, the guides conduct themselves with a professionalism that is an additional credit to Lake Fork.

If you are planning a trip to a boat or tackle show, be sure to take the children. This is the perfect time to introduce them to the love of fishing. At each show there is a Kid Fish program.

Each year numerous boat and tackle shows are scheduled in all areas of the United States. If you would like to attend one, the trip is well worth your time, with enjoyment provided for the entire family. You might even find a copy of "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" there, making you feel right at home.

If you are a guide, marina owner, or business owner and you are going to a Boat, Tackle, Outdoor Show and would like to have copies of "The Fisherman's Guide News" to pass out in your booth or if you would like more exposure to your business and advertise with us, call me at 903-360-6994 or email; fishnews@lakefork.net

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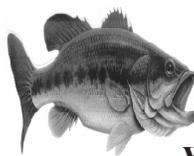
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"The Moon Report"
Boat Shows and Hook Setting

By Terri Moon

Once again I say it's hard to believe the year is over. Another awesome year of fishing we've had here on Lake Fork. We really lucked out weather wise in December...50-60 degree days...it just doesn't get much better than that.

I know January will bring cooler weather with not as many fishable days. So, it's time to check out all the boat and tackle shows in your area.

The growth of the crappie fishing industry over the past few years is just amazing! The tackle, the electronics and even the boats are finally putting the crappie fishermen in mind.

Just a few years ago almost all of us were in 14 to 16 foot boats. Most without any type of electronics, some didn't even have trolling motors. Now we are in longer, wider, deeper, safer, made for rough water boats. Even the saltwater center console boats are making their way into the crappie market. In these boats, the larger live wells and the open floor plans, the latest in elec-



tronics and trolling motors, are all becoming a part of the crappie fishing world.

Probably the fastest growing change I've seen is the amount of "four stroke" motors showing up among us crappie fishermen. Aren't they awesome? My Yamaha 115 "Four Stroke" has made a huge difference in my fishing (because of all the money I save in gas, it practically pays for itself), and they are so quiet. If you're thinking about a change, be sure and check out the Yamaha "Four Strokes" at your local boat and tackle show. Also while you're there, look at the boats that are available and give the dealers suggestions that would make their boat a "better" crappie fishing rig.

Good job Skeeter for getting involved in the crappie fishing world!

Next while you're there, when it comes to electronics there's only one word "LOW-RANCE". Be sure and check them out.

If you fish a lot or a little, be sure you see the latest MinnKota trolling motors available. It is amazing what these things can do!

With the way the temperatures have been on Fork recently the crappie are starting to bunch up. We have been catching them in 25 to 35 feet of water down on the main lake points and humps.

Bright colors have been working this month ... chartreuse w/blue tail, red w/blue tail, and powder blue w/red tail. Lake Fork Marina will have all the latest in crappie fishing baits, plus a whole lot more!

It's been a year of great memories and I can't wait to see what the New Year brings! All the best to you and your families. God Bless You!

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Rainbow Trout Coming to Tyler's Nature Center

The East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation (ETWWF) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will host two special fishing events in January 2014. Two thousand rainbow trout will be stocked into The Nature Center pond in Tyler, Texas to provide a free fishing opportunity for area youth and their adult fishing mentors. Event dates are January 4 and 11, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine.

Adult mentors should bring all equipment and bait necessary for fishing (see recommended equipment below). A limited amount of fishing equipment (and bait) will be on hand for those who cannot bring their own on a first-come--first-served basis. Adult mentors do not need to be experienced anglers. TPWD staff will be on hand to assist. "Anglers will have the choice of releasing their catch or keeping up to a limit of five fish per person to take home," said Craig Bonds, East Texas Regional Fisheries Director. "We also have fish-cleaning facilities courtesy of the East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation, and we will offer fish-cleaning demonstrations."

If you are a mom, dad, neighbor, grandparent, big brother, big sister, etc., and know kids who want to go fishing, this is a chance to make some great memories and introduce a youngster to the wonderful sport of fishing. Adults who attend these events must bring at least one child and mentor them while fishing. So round up your little fishing buddy and bring them out to The Nature Center for a great time!

--Recommended Equipment: A light-action rod and reel combination (one per child) with small fishing hooks, light line 12 lb. test or less, small bobbers (optional), and small split shot. For bait, bring salmon eggs, whole kernel corn, marshmallows, small worms, or prepared trout bait (Berkley PowerBait Hatchery Formula Chews or similar). Small rooster-tail spinners work well. If you intend to keep trout, please bring a stringer or small cooler.

--Special Rules: Fishing will be allowed only on Saturday, January 4, and Saturday, January 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Youth must be supervised at all times by their adult mentors. Parking will be allowed in designated ar-

reas only. Only rainbow trout (five per day) and channel catfish (one per day) may be kept by youth anglers only. No fishing license is required for youth or their adult mentors. Free to all participants. Pre-registration is not required.

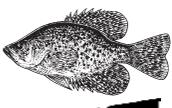
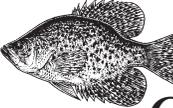
--Sponsorship: These special events are made possible by the members of the East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation and staff of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

--Other Activities: The Nature Center in Tyler has a series of outdoor hiking trails that may also be of interest to visitors. We invite you to explore these trails and also enjoy a day of fishing!

--How to Get Here: From ESE Loop 323 in Tyler, go southeast on University Blvd. (Spur 248). Take a right turn on F.M. 848 (Bascom Rd.). Go 0.2 mile and turn right at The Nature Center gate. Please park in main parking area and walk to pond using the concrete trail near the kiosk.

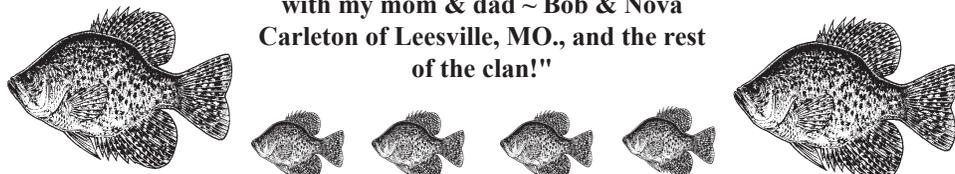
--Got Questions? Contact Mr. Craig Bonds, East Texas Regional Fisheries Director, (903) 566-1615, ext. 202, or Dr. Richard Ott, Fisheries Biologist, (903) 566-2161.




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Public Comment Sought on Use of Toxic Substances to Collect Nongame Wildlife

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is proposing an amendment to the Parks and Wildlife Code that would make it illegal to use noxious or toxic substances to disturb or collect nongame wildlife as well as prohibiting the possession of nongame wildlife collected using these substances.

The technique, often used to collect rattlesnakes, is commonly referred to as "gassing." Persons engaged in structural or agricultural pest control activities would be exempted from the rule. Using noxious or toxic substances such as gasoline or ammonia to force wildlife from burrows, dens, and other places of concealment has come under increasing scientific scrutiny as questions arise concerning negative ecological impacts to associated ecosystems, populations, and non-target species.

If the amendment is approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, Texas would become the 30th state in which the practice is partially or completely prohibited, including the four states sharing a border with Texas -- Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

Six meetings to allow for public input on this proposed amendment have been set for January: --Jan. 7: 7p.m. at Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, 9601 Fossil Ridge Road, Fort Worth. --Jan. 8: 7p.m. at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Regional State Parks Of-

ice, 14200 Garrett Road, Houston.

--Jan. 13: 7 p.m. at Lion's Field Adult and Senior Citizen Center, 2809 Broadway, San Antonio.

--Jan. 17: 10a.m. at The Center, Texas State Technical College, 300 Homer K. Taylor Drive, Sweetwater.

--Jan. 23: 9 a.m. at Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin.

Public meetings will also be held in San Antonio and Taylor. Dates, times, and locations for those meetings will be posted online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/meetings as they become available.

Comments regarding the proposed amendment may also be made online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/feedback/public_comment/ or submitted to Andy Gluesenkamp, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744; (512) 389-8722; email: andy.gluesenkamp@tpwd.texas.gov.

Current literature supports the conclusion that the use of noxious substances to collect or harass nongame wildlife negatively affects not only those animals that are being pursued, but other animals that co-inhabit or subsequently use a treated refuge. For instance, researchers investigating the effects of one-time "gassing" on gopher tortoise burrows (under variable exposure intensities and durations) demonstrated that the practice

resulted in significant mortality in four species of snake and one species of mammal. Laboratory experiments conducted on seven species of snakes, lizards, and toads in 1989 determined that a 30-minute vapor exposure produced a "dramatic and obvious" effect on the test subjects and resulted in a range of outcomes from short-term impairment to death. Other studies have shown a strong correlation between exposure to petroleum products and mortality in various species.

In addition, use of noxious chemicals to flush or capture wildlife is a demonstrable threat to species that use karst environments as habitat, which is of particular importance in Texas. Karst environments are typically created by the long-term chemical action of water on calcareous rocks such as limestone, which creates sinkholes, caverns, and other features that then become habitat for highly specialized aquatic and terrestrial organisms. Many of these species are extremely rare and several are currently considered threatened or endangered. Karst ecosystems and the species they host, by their nature, are fragile and especially sensitive to pollutants.

In addition to prohibition on the use of gasoline, or any other stupefying, noxious or toxic chemical or substance to take, harry, flush, or dislodge non-

(See Public Comment...Continued on Page 14-A)



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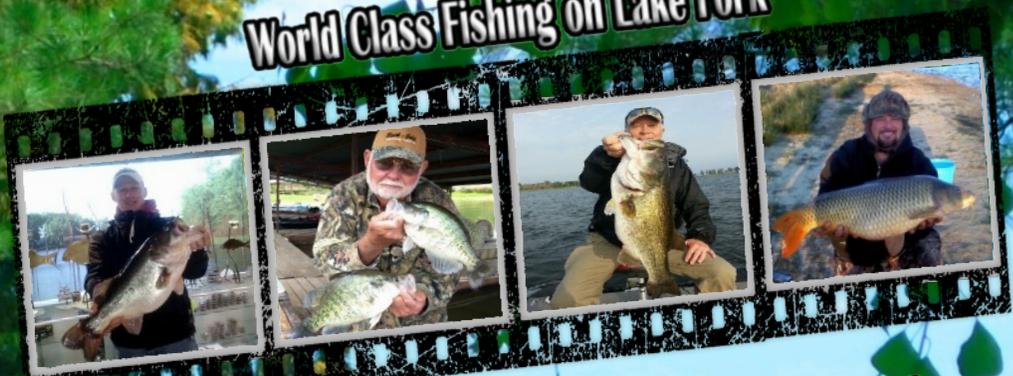


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Public Comment Sought on Use of Toxic Substances to Collect Nongame Wildlife *(Continued from Page 10-A)*

game wildlife, the proposed amendment would also prohibit any person from knowingly possessing wildlife that was captured as a result of the use of gasoline or another stupefying, noxious, or toxic chemical or substance. The department's reasoning is that if a specimen of nongame wildlife was collected by use of an unlawful method, no person who knows that the specimen was unlaw-

fully collected should be permitted to possess it. The proposed amendment also would create an exception for pesticides being used in accordance with labeling instructions by persons licensed under certain provisions of the Occupations Code or the Agriculture Code. The department has determined that the rules should not apply to persons licensed to conduct structural or agricultural pest

control activities. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission is expected to take action on the proposed amendment at its January 23 meeting.



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TPWD Game Warden Field Notes

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

--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 gillnet).

--Not so Squeaky Clean-- Two San Augustine County game wardens received information about possible road hunting -- including the description of a vehicle seen leaving the area shortly after the shots. The wardens searched the area and on a nearby dirt road discovered deer tracks on the road. Following the tracks, the wardens found a fresh blood-stained scene. Taking into account the totality of the circumstance and the wardens knowledge of local poachers, they hastily went to a residence less than two miles away. Upon arrival, the wardens saw a vehicle matching the description from the scene. The back of the truck looked as if it was freshly washed, but

the cleaning was not good enough to hide fresh blood and hair that was still noticeable. The wardens were given permission from the property owner to search the freezer and refrigerator inside the residence. Inside the refrigerator was a bag of still warm deer meat. The wardens located the suspects and confessions were obtained.

--Corny Excuse-- While patrolling the Trinity River during the opening day of teal season, Trinity County game wardens heard several shotgun shots coming from the other side of a hill covered in goat weed. The wardens walked in and found two dove hunters. The hunters were very surprised and immediately began walk-

ing towards the wardens. When asked for hunting licenses, the hunters were extremely nervous and had a hard time removing their licenses from the pouches. The wardens asked the hunters why they were so nervous and if there was anything they needed to know about. The hunters replied no and said the last time they were checked in this county they were hunting ducks with lead shot and received citations. While the hunters were speaking to a warden separately, the other warden began searching the area by the hunters' folding chairs. The warden found corn on the ground in the area where they were hunting. The hunters denied knowing any-

thing about the corn. Citations for hunting over bait were issued.

--Sleepy Hollow-like-- Two Van Zandt County game wardens received a tip about three individuals who had killed two large whitetailed bucks, still in velvet, at night with a spotlight. After interviewing the subjects, the wardens found out the two bucks were shot at night with a .22 rifle and their heads had been removed. Numerous cases against those involved are pending.

--Plan B-- While patrolling Lake Fork during early teal season, two Van Zandt County game wardens saw two boats with hunters shooting shore birds. Unable to make contact with the groups in the water, the war-

dens notified a Wood County game warden who was in the area in his Go-Devil boat. However, the Wood County warden's boat had developed mechanical problems earlier that morning, so he improvised and created another plan. After finding a willing duck hunter with a mud motor who gladly volunteered to take him to the group, multiple shore birds and one hen wood duck were recovered, and multiple cases were filed.

--Two-fer-- A Cherokee County game warden responded to a call regarding spotlighting

(See Game Warden... Continued on Page 20-A)

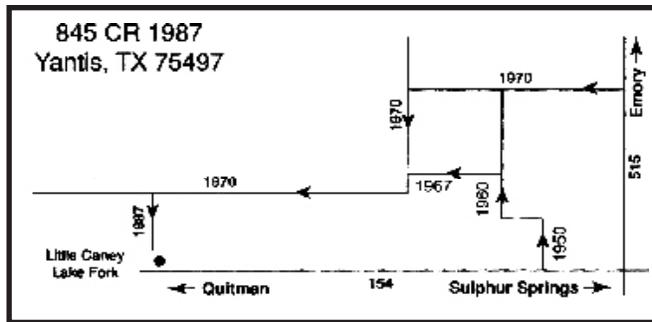
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Harlan Rogers from Quitman, Texas was fishing Lake Fork on 12/17/13 when he caught this nice bass weighing 8.25-pounds. Caught • Photo • Released (Courtesy Photo)



Todd Lee was fishing Lake Fork with guide John Tanner when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R. Weight not available.

Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Count

January 11th & 12th, 2014

We will be meeting at the OakRidge Marina Café each morning at about 7 AM so that we can be ready and in place by 8 AM for the start of the count which will last until 11 AM each morning.

The OakRidge Marina Café is located on Hwy. 157 about 1/4 mile from the 157 bridge.

We will have routes from the land as well as by water, so if you have a boat that could be used we would really appreciate it.



Please dress for the type of weather we may have and in Texas at this time of the year you never know.

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Toledo Bend Division
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Feb 22 - Sabine Inn
Mar 15 - Sabine Inn
Apr 12 - Sabine Inn
May 3 - Sabine Inn

South Louisiana Division
Jan 26 - Bayou Segnette
Feb 16 - Atch. Basin / Verrett
Apr 13 - Lake Pontchartrain
May 4 - Bayou Segnette
Jun 15 - Atch. Basin / Verrett

North Texas Division
Feb 9 - Lake Texoma
Mar 16 - Cedar Creek
Apr 6 - Lake Tawakoni
May 18 - Lake Lewisville
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Feb 9 - Cassells Boykin
Mar 9 - Cassells Boykin
Mar 30 - Cassells Boykin
Jun 1 - Cassells Boykin

Dallas Division
Feb 1 - Lake Tawakoni
Mar 8 - Lake Tawakoni
Apr 12 - Ray Hubbard
May 3 - Richland Chambers
Jun 14 - Cedar Creek

Longview Division
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"Pack of Knowledge" Not so obvious

By Tom Redington

Boat docks, lily pads, and laydown trees all hold a lot of fish. Problem is, everyone on the lake knows it and those places get peppered by baits. In the past, offshore structure like points and creek channel bends were the best way to avoid the crowds; however, these days even a novice can turn on his Lowrance and drive right to previously hidden deep water hideouts. Obvious spots produce bass when the crowds are light. On weekends or during a tournament, you can bet that if a spot looks good

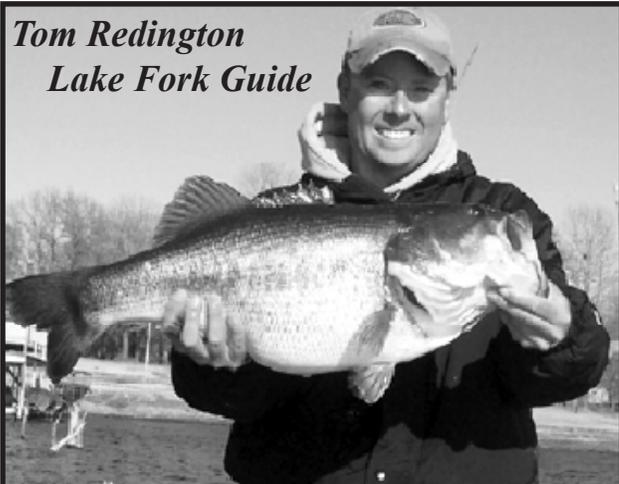
to you, it looks good to a lot of others too. As a result, fish in easily recognizable places get a lot of pressure and often stop biting...if you're even able to get on the spot amongst a crowd of other boats.

The holy grail of bass fishing, especially for tournament success or regular lunker catches, is finding something that most anglers overlook. As more anglers become proficient with new sonar and mapping technology, finding the unexploited becomes increasing difficult, yet the payoff is worth the hassle. Following are a few ideas on where to start your treasure hunt: Barren Spots on the Map: Does that big main lake point with a channel swing on the side of it look good to you? Yeah, the last 3000 guys on the lake thought so too. At the FLW Tour on Chickamauga this past summer, everyone knew it would be won on deep structure and it was going to fish small with big crowds on key spots. I went into practice and pretty much eliminated any spot that looked remotely fishy on my map. Instead, I spent hours graphing around large expanses of seemingly flat, featureless bottoms. In most cases, the maps were correct. However, over the course of 3 days, I found some fish holding spots in the middle of nowhere. While most of the field was fighting over the good looking areas, I had 3 key spots all to myself and rode them to an 8th place finish... by fishing the worst looking water in the lake.

Micro structure & cover: You don't need a 200' long point or a 10' channel drop off to hold bass. Subtle contour changes or small pieces of cover regularly hold a school of fish, or at least a quick keeper. Today's graphs are an awesome search tool for this. On plane, I'm always keeping one eye on my Lowrance sonar screen, looking for any subtle humps, ditches or drops not marked on my map. Some of my all-time best fishing spots are humps that slowly rise less than 3' in nearly 30' of water, or 1' deep ditches running through 8' flats. If I see one, it's very easy to mark a quick waypoint and come back to investigate further. When I'm off plane, StructureScan clearly shows isolated rock piles, fallen trees, sunken boats, isolated grass clumps and tons of other cover that few others find. Often, you can make 5 or 6 casts to one of these spots and catch an active fish or two. The "wrong water": In the spring, you'll find almost every boat beating the bank. In the summer on legendary structure lakes, all the boats will be out on the ledges. When creeks get big runoff and turn muddy, most anglers flee the area. Whatever the time of year, not all of the bass are in the same area doing the same thing. Go against the grain, figure out the fish, and you'll have virgin water the entire trip.

(See Pack of Knowledge...

Continued on Page 22-A)



Tom Redington
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Off-Duty Game Warden Shot While Hunting

An off-duty Texas game warden was shot Sunday evening, Dec. 29th while bow hunting on Cooper Wildlife Management Area in Delta County. Listed in stable condition in intensive care at Dallas's Parkland Hospital Monday, Dec. 30th, is Game Warden Chris Fried, 31, of Cooper, Texas. He was transferred to the hospital from Hopkins County Memorial Hospital in Sulphur Springs late Sunday. The warden suffered a gunshot wound to the upper right arm, with the bullet lodging in his chest.

Fried was wounded between 6:30 and 7 p.m. He was able to use his cell phone to call for help. A TPWD wildlife biologist reached him

first, did what he could to help him, and then went for additional help.

The 14,160-acre WMA is open for archery-only whitetail deer hunting by licensed hunters with a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Annual Public Hunting Permit.

The incident is being investigated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Internal Affairs and game wardens assigned to the Department's Criminal Investigation Division as well as the Delta County Sheriff's Office and the Texas Rangers. A game warden forensics team was on the scene Monday to gather data which can be used to reconstruct what occurred.

Fried is based in Delta County and has

been a game warden since June 2009.

Publisher's Note: From all of us here at "The Fisherman's Guide News", "Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament" and Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork", we wish you a very speedy recovery and for you to know that you and your family are in our prayers...



The Star-Spangled Banner was designated the national anthem by an Act of Congress in 1931, 117 years after it was written.



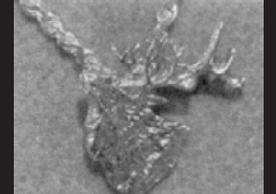
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TPWD Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 15-A)

and shots fired west of Maydelle. Recognizing the vehicle description, the warden found the vehicle, which was still in the area. After a brief interview of the two subjects in the vehicle, individuals the warden had previously filed on twice each for hunting violations, they admitted to shooting at a hog from the county road. Cases pending.

--Hunting in the Wrong Place-- A game warden from Dallam and Hartley counties and a Lubbock County game warden lieutenant received a call opening morning of pronghorn season about a hunter who shot pronghorn on their property in

eastern Dallam County. After a short investigation, the hunter was located hunting two miles north of the property he had permission to hunt on. The pronghorn was seized and charges were filed.

--Trouble with the Swerve-- A Hunt County game warden was patrolling for night hunters around midnight near a deer breeding facility when he saw a vehicle stop on the highway not far from him. The warden investigated further and saw the vehicle turn down a dirt road and begin driving along the high fence belonging to a ranch. He continued to follow the vehicle and saw that

County game warden met with the hunters, one of whom led him to his residence where his hunting license was stored. While checking the license, the warden noticed a cage in the man's backyard with a fawn inside. The man said he found the fawn "abandoned" on the side of the road and brought it home a few months back. Case pending.

--Underage and Under the Influence-- While patrolling for dove hunting violations, two Starr County game wardens saw a pickup truck leaving a ranch with two unrestrained juveniles riding in the bed. After contact was made, one of the wardens saw two open alcoholic containers in the cab of the truck, and detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage. After interviewing the driver and performing standardized field sobriety tests, the driver was placed under arrest for DWI with a child passenger under 15 years old (state jail felony) and was transported to the Starr County Jail.

--Hidden in Plain Sight-- After spending the morning checking fishermen on the Coletto Creek Reservoir, two Goliad County game wardens were headed to the field to check dove hunters in the area. The wardens found a newer model crew cab truck stashed suspiciously in the brush. A check of the vehicle identification number showed the truck to be stolen out of Houston. The case was turned over to the Goliad County Sheriff's Department.

(Continued on Next Page)



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it was being driven all over the roadway. A traffic stop was made and the warden found that the driver was intoxicated. He was unable to complete any sobriety exercises. At the jail, the driver blew a .175 on the Intoxilyzer. Case pending.

--Oh deer...-- After receiving several calls from dispatch about "peppering" from dove hunters, a Gillespie

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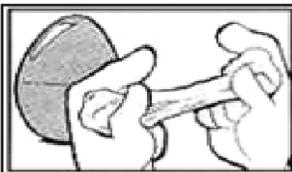
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--Caught in the Act--
 A Brooks County game warden and a Kleberg County game warden returned to a large ranch in southern Brooks County to locate a group of dove hunters the wardens believed to be in violation of the law. The wardens eventually found the hunters and observed them from the brush as they enjoyed their dove hunt past legal shooting time and with plenty of bird action. The wardens rushed in soon after and were running over chicken scratch to get to them. Once contact was made and everything was checked out, multiple citations were issued, including: baiting migratory birds; hunting with unplugged shotgun, no hunting licenses, hunter education; and waste of game of a javelina. Cases pending.

--Work in Progress--
 Bexar County game wardens were asked to assist Terrell County game wardens on a

hunting without land-owner's consent case involving two aoudad rams that were taken by four suspects caught on a game camera and the subsequent posting of their illegal hunt on Facebook. Terrell County arrest warrants were issued, and to date, three suspects have been arrested in Bexar County and a search warrant of one

of the suspect's residence yielded an aoudad ram skull. Bexar County game wardens are continuing to search for the fourth suspect in the case.



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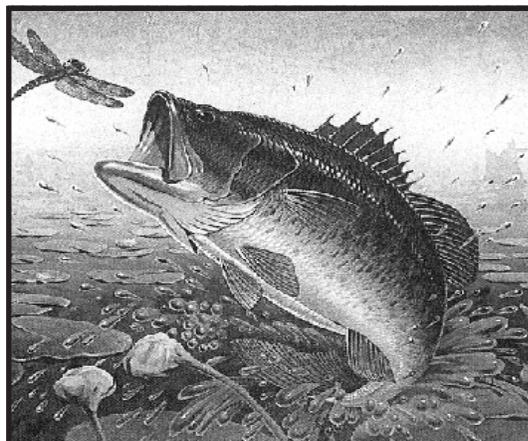
1	U	G	L	I	S	C	H	A	V	R	A	P	T		
14	S	I	O	N	P	O	O	N	A	A	L	L	O		
17	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	S	T	U	F	F	E	R
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62	A	C	M	E	C	O	O	L	Y	U	N	D	O		
66	H	O	E	R	T	O	N	E	S	M	E	O	W		

Winter Find

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

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| ANORAK | MUFFLER |
| BOOTS | PARKA |
| CARDIGAN | SCARF |
| EARMUFFS | SNOWSUIT |
| GLOVES | SWEATER |
| HAT | TURTLENECK |
| MITTENS | WOOL SOCKS |

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 W S C A R F N S C A F R
 A W R K O N A F L G E S
 T E F R U M U F F L E R
 E A F A P I R U K O W S
 S T L P A T U M I V T N
 V E C L G N F R F S I W
 O R A E O S F A R A U S
 T U R T L E N E C K S U
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 R G I A S N I F R R O I
 T S G W E O T F D O N R
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Fish Friendly

Pack of Knowledge (Continued from Page 18-A)

Bottom transitions: Hard bottoms are consistent bass producing locations, especially in lakes with lots of soft, muddy bottoms. In this case, gravel, rock or shell beds hold big schools. In lakes with lots of rock and hard bottom, transitions from one type to another (such as gravel to clay or chunk rock to ledge rock) are bass magnets. The best spots aren't noticeable by looking at the shore, lest everyone will know the transition exists. These transitions are easy to spot when the lake is down,

so make mental notes of where they are located for when the water comes back up to normal. Again, new sonar advances make finding these spots a lot easier. Use your StructureScan to find changes in bottom hardness (harder bottoms appear brighter and thicker, often producing a second bottom return or "double echo"), and you can actually see what size rocks are on the bottom in the side view. Having trouble setting up your graph and reading the Down and Side sonar? If so,

check out my instructional videos: <http://www.youtube.com/user/LakeForkBassPro>
 bigmouthed needle in an Everest-sized haystack. Most anglers fish a small stretch of the grass by wandering aimlessly, shrug their shoulders, and move on. It takes a lot of effort and skill to stay on the raggedy outside grass edge, often a high percentage area. If the fish are actually up in the middle of the grass flat, it can take hours of fishing to stumble on a good school through all the dead water. In this case, the grass bed is obvious, but finding the hidden jackpots takes a lot more persistence than most will invest.

check out my website www.LakeForkGuide-Trips.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.

The next time you're struggling to catch fish, keep in mind that you might have an "obvious" problem. For more fish catching tips,



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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.



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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



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