

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



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

2 Sections

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Free

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No. 174



Randall E. Claybourne from Tulsa, Oklahoma caught the third Toyota ShareLunker to be caught on Lake Fork on January 12th. His lunker weighed 13.86-pounds, 25" in length with a girth of 21".

Lake Fork's Hot Even In Cold Weather

By Don Hampton

As all good anglers know timing is everything. Moon phase, barometric pressure, weather conditions, and water temperatures are all key factors in catching that large bass of a lifetime, and never leave out Lady Luck!

These are all factors Randall Claybourne from Tulsa, Oklahoma had in mind on January 12th when he was bass fishing on Lake Fork.

At approximately 11:20 pm while fishing by himself on the east arm of the lake in 15-feet of water Randall set the hook on the third ShareLunker to be caught on Lake Fork this season. His lure of choice was a jig-and-craw.

Mr. Claybourne's lunker weighed 13.86-pounds, measured 25" in length and had a 21" girth. His lunker was #552 into the TPWD Toyota ShareLunker Program

and the 256th to be caught on Lake Fork.

The fish was held for pickup at Lake Fork Marina, 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 Hideaway Harbor Mari-

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



Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Count was held on Lake Fork January 11th and 12th. The count was held from 8 a.m to 11 a.m. each day with 18 volunteers participating. This year's count was 28 bald eagles, 15 mature, 12 immature, and one identified as a bald eagle but could not be identified as a mature or immature. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)



Billy Sartin, Sartin Marine on Lake Fork made a good showing at the Texas Tackle, Hunting and Boat Show held at Mesquite Convention Center in January when his display and set up won "Best of Show".

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE A BUBBA, HE MAY KNOW MORE THAN YOU!

By: Don Hampton

Living in the heart of East Texas, all of us I am sure, know a Bubba or two.

Either that is the name they go by, it is their birth-name, or just a label they have been tagged with.

Regardless which the case may be, folks have just come to expect little from a Bubba.

Once upon a time Bubba was slang for an older brother or a nickname for someone that was like a brother. Now with the changing times and those dumb chicken fried steak commercials, Bubba's are being underestimated and not thought highly of in the popularity and intelligence field. I guess the general consensus is Bubbas' belong in the fields.

It may even come as a surprise but some of us Bubbas' have been to school and read some books, and know a degree is not only a measurement of weather, and yes some Bubbas' are even popular and well known.

For instance: There was a Bubba that bragged to his boss one day, "You know, I know everyone there is to know. Just name someone, anyone, and I know them."

Tired of his boasting, his boss called his bluff, "OK. How about Nolan Ryan?"

"Sure, Nolan and I are old friends, we have even bass fished together," said Bubba. So Bubba and his boss went to see Nolan at his house and knocked on the door. Nolan opened the door and shouted, "Bubba! Great to see you! You and your friend come right in and join me for lunch I'm about to serve up some of my great Nolan Ryan Beef!"

Although impressed, Bubba's boss was still skeptical. After they left Nolan's house, he told Bubba he thought his knowing Nolan was just lucky. "No, just name anyone else," Bubba said.

"Former President Bush," his boss quickly retorts.

"Yes, I know them," Bubba says, "Which one Jr. or Sr." And off they go.

At the Bush Home in Central Texas, George Jr. spots Bubba at the gate and motions him and his boss over, saying, "Bubba, what a surprise, I was just on my way to a meeting, but you and your friend come on in and let's have some pretzels and a cold drink and catch up on how the fishing is on Lake Fork. I've heard about them ShareLunkers being caught!" Well, the boss is very shaken by now, but still not totally convinced.

After they left the Bush's estate, he expressed his doubts to Bubba, who again implored him to name anyone else.

"The Pope," his boss replied. "Sure," replied Bubba, "I've been to Europe and have known the Pope a long time." So off to Rome they fly.

Bubba and his boss were assembled with the masses in Vatican Square when Bubba said, "This will never work, I can't catch the Pope's eye among all these people. Tell you what, I know all the guards so they'll let me just go upstairs and I'll come out on the balcony with the Pope."

Bubba disappeared in the crowd and headed toward the Vatican. Sure enough, half an hour later Bubba emerged with the Pope on the balcony. By the time Bubba returned, he found his boss had had a heart attack and was surrounded by paramedics.

Having worked his way to his boss' side, Bubba asked him, "What happened?" His boss could only look up and say, "I was doing fine until you and the Pope came out on the balcony and the man next to me asked who was that man on the balcony with Bubba?"

So the next time you think about underestimating a Bubba, you may just wish to look inside your own

heart and soul to see what makes you so judgmental.

Bubba's Rhyme to His Special Valentine

Bubbette you know these emotions in my heart for you I do feel... Honey Pie I luv ya more than my Pfluger Rod n Reel! And when I take ya in public with pride I do boast... Close to the same feelings I have for my new Legend bass boat! You still excite me like bass schoolin' and jumpin' in the lake... And I'll always know that parking my boat in your front yard wasn't a mistake! How do I luv ya, Bubbette? I really don't think I can count that high! But just the thought of it all just makes me sigh! I luv ya cause ya don't complain when I fish... I luv ya how ya don't complain when I break a dish! I luv ya for not hating my pretty bass boat... I luv ya for the times ya let me go make it float! I luv ya for letting me leave our warm bed, way before dawn... Jus' so I can try to get a "Fish On!" I luv ya cause you console me

when fishing is tuff... I luv ya because you let me collect all kinds of fishing stuff! I luv ya for letting me fish on the tournament trail... And especially for not rubbin' it in when in the competition I sometimes fail! I even luv ya when ya take away my winning checks and spend them at WalMart... Even when you make me push that broken wobblin' ole' cart! I luv ya for having my dinner ready for me after I fished hard all day... I luv ya for reminding me when I forget to pray! Ya know my lil' honey pie, by your side I'll always stay... And only to go fishin' will ever I stray!! So, Happy Valentine, ole' Love of Mine, This is your present... To you from me... my very own rhyme! And I sure hope you like it cause it cost me a lot of fishin' time... now if you'll excuse me, I'm going to stretch my line!!!

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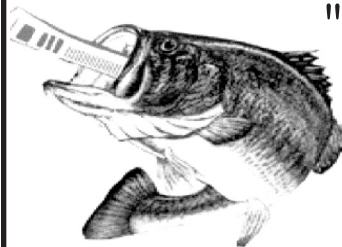
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Lake Fork's Hot Even In Cold Weather (Continued from Page 1-A)

na and The Minnow Bucket.

The month of January was one of the harshest we have had in years. Many anglers chose not to wet a line because of the weather and there were many times you would not see a boat on the water. We can only imagine how many lunkers over 13-pounds this reservoir would have produced had more anglers braved the elements.

Randall 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. At present time Randall holds that distinction, but as we all know there are larger ones swimming in Lake Fork just waiting to be caught.

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...

If you are coming to fish Lake Fork in the next few months, you can check out what the patterns were last year at this time by checking out all of our past issues on our website; www.fishguidenews.com



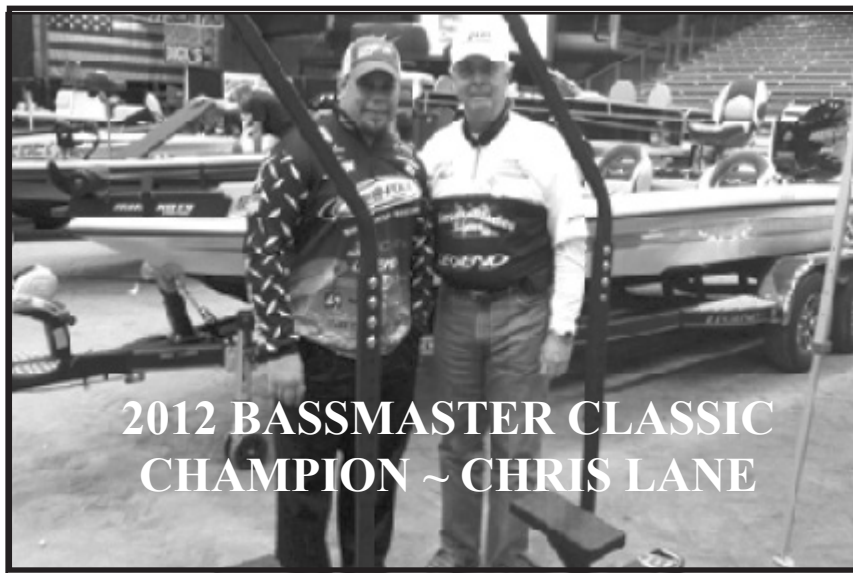
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Barry and Tracey Hatton, owners of Oak Ridge Marina on Lake Fork, hosted their Business Appreciation Night (aka Guide Night) on January 9th with a Chinese New Year Celebration to help kick off the 2014 Fishing Season. Guests were treated to a tremendous Chinese Buffet with all the fancy fixings, drinks and a special message fortune cookie. There was plenty of fun, food and prizes and everyone left with a free gift provided by Oak Ridge and Lake Fork Marina.

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Texas State-Fish Art Contest Seeks Entries

The Texas State-Fish Art Contest, headquartered at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC), reminds Texas teachers and students that the deadline for entries in the 2014 State-Fish Art Contest is March 31, 2014.

The contest is open to any student in public, private or home schools in grades K-12. Students must draw or paint any recognized state fish and write an essay about it. Complete contest details and entry forms can be found at www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishart.

New to the 2014 Texas State-Fish Art Contest will be prizes for the top 10 winners in each of the four grade categories courtesy of FishFlops®. Each of the top 40 Texas winners will receive official FishFlops® merchandise.

FishFlops® were created by Galveston teenager Madison Nicole Robinson and are available at Nordstrom. "We recognize the spirit of the Texas State-Fish Art Contest is to inspire young talented individuals to explore the limits of their creativity," said Madison Nicole, creator of FishFlops®. "We hope our brand will inspire the winners to take their artistic skills to the next level."

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) provides funds for prizes for first-, second- and third-place Texas winners in each of the four grade-level divisions. First place in grades 10-12 wins \$1,000;

second place \$750; third place \$500. Prizes in the K-3, 4-6 and 7-9 grade levels are \$100 for first; \$75 for second; \$50 for third. Student art from the Texas contest is featured on TTBC tickets. The next TTBC will take place on Lake Fork in May 2014.

Additional support for the Texas contest is provided by the William E. Armentrout Foundation and Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

The Texas State-Fish Art Contest is part of Wildlife Forever's State-Fish Art Contest. The TTBC also provides a travel allowance for Texas first-place winners to attend the national awards ceremony, which will be held August 15 and 16, 2014, in Columbia, South Carolina.

Wildlife Forever chooses one outstanding piece of artwork each year for the Art of Conservation Award, and a commemorative stamp featuring the artwork is produced for sale. Proceeds from sales of the stamp are used to fund conservation projects.

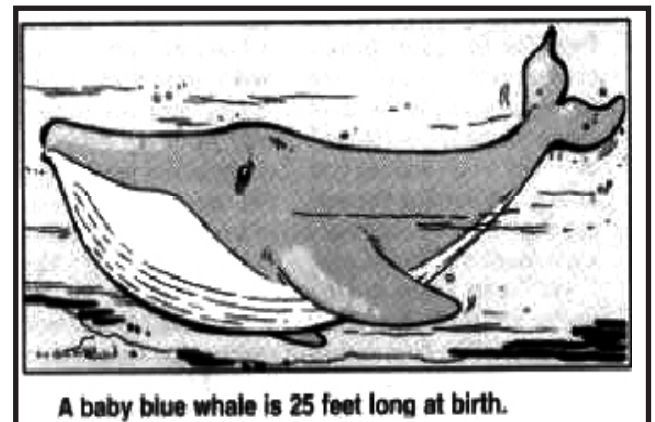
Educators who wish to have their students enter the contest can download the free "State-Fish Art Contest Lesson Plan" at www.statefishart.com. The interdisciplinary curriculum includes lessons and activities, a species identification section profiling each state fish, a glossary and student worksheets.

* * *

Located in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, Wildlife Forever is a non-profit multi-species conservation

organization dedicated to conserving America's wildlife heritage. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to "on-the-ground" efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and enhancement, land acquisition, research and management of fish and wildlife populations. www.wildlifeever.org.

Houston-based FishFlops® was born in 2006 when Madison Nicole Robinson created the first designs for the line of footwear now known as FishFlops®. Together with her father, Dan, FishFlops® seeks to encourage responsible outdoor recreation, conservation of natural resources and development of the artistic talents of today's youth. (www.fishflops.com)



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February Bassin' at the Fork

By John Tanner

February is "Hawg Time!" The pre-spawn period is here and the fish will be moving towards the staging areas close to the spawning grounds this month. This time of year a lot of fish will move into the staging areas and hang there to feed until they move up on the beds later on. The spawning usually doesn't begin until March but trust me, the fish will be holding nearby those early spawning areas and some big ones at that! I am so ready to catch some of those big ole pre-spawn female mamas! This is when the females will be at their heaviest body weights of the year. Some of the fish you catch will look like they are about to explode!

So with that said, let's talk about how to catch

'em. Here are the top three ways in my book for February pre-spawners. Cranking, spinner baiting and flipping... big line, big baits and big fish... sounds good to me! On the cranking end of things, lipless crankbaits and shallow to mid runners in red or crawfish patterns are a staple here on Lake Fork and other East Texas lakes this time of year. We were already catching fish on these types of baits last month as the fish are starting to move up into shallower water. The lipless crankbait is one of my favorites and this time of year the big ones will smash them.

Good ones to try are the Sebile Flatt Shad in Craw Perch or MattOrange/Yellow Crawdad. On the spinnerbait I like to roll the Talon Light in the ¾ ounce in chartreuse and white with tandem blades. For the flipping stuff, I like to flip the ½ ounce Talon jig and Berkley Chigger Craw for a trailer in black and blue or green pumpkin. I also like to flip and pitch a Texas rigged Berkley Havoc Pit Boss or Craw Fatty in the same colors rigged on a ½ ounce Tungsten weight and a 5/0 Mustad Mega Bit extra wide gap hook. By all means don't forget about swimbaits. Keep a 6-inch Berkley Hollow Belly swimbait rigged up for those early morning and late afternoon times. The big ones like it!

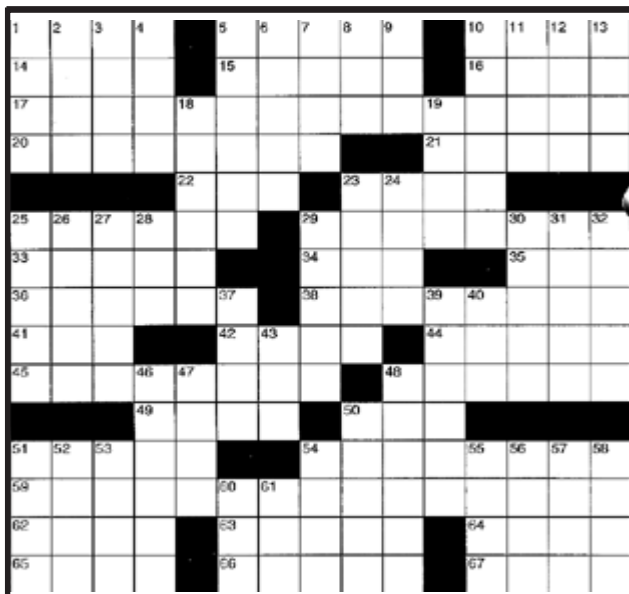
Good areas to try are the bigger creeks that tradi-



tionally have the earliest spawning activity. Glade Creek and Birch Creek are two of the best ones. With the water low this year, you may not have to go too far back to find them. Start on the main points and work a few pockets and secondary points in the larger pockets. Also fish along the channels leading into the pockets. Pay close attention to the bends in the channels as the fish tend to load up in the bends of the channels. The fish will be holding tight on the wood as a result of the

lower water levels. Run your crankbaits and spinnerbaits close to the bigger stumps and lay downs and even make

(See February Bassin'...
Continued on Page 20-A)



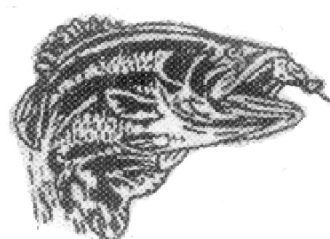
CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. ½ of famous couple | 41. Worked |
| 5. Arranged in a container | 42. American state |
| 10. Avoid | 44. Steadies |
| 14. Exude | 45. Algonquians |
| 15. Search engine | 48. Prettiest |
| 16. Makes older | 49. Smart |
| 17. Heard on March 20 | 50. Jewellery |
| 20. Tasty | 51. Hafez al-____, Syrian president |
| 21. Belongs to sun god | 54. Bode |
| 22. Act in concert | 59. "I'm always ____" |
| 23. Clock time | 62. Fish |
| 25. Carry off | 63. Causes to be heard |
| 29. Rental | 64. Sword |
| 33. Freshens | 65. Armor plating |
| 34. Near, against | 66. Anchor rope passes through this hole |
| 35. Company that rings receipts | 67. Phonograph record |
| 36. Artful | |
| 38. Type of delivery | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Linear unit | 30. Bless |
| 2. Anticipation | 31. Shenanigans |
| 3. ____ Pound, poet | 32. Max ____, Dadaist painter |
| 4. Imaginary numbers | 37. German river |
| 5. Young swan | 39. Perspicaciousness |
| 6. Expressed pleasure | 40. Tell on |
| 7. Herringlike fish | 43. Nestling |
| 8. Goddess | 46. States of matter |
| 9. Runs PCs | 47. German car |
| 10. Jean Paul ____, author | 48. Purplish red |
| 11. Caused by sporozoan parasites | 50. Staircases |
| 12. ____ diagram (Math) | 51. Hurt |
| 13. Heat units | 52. Do a dance |
| 18. Not at all | 53. Japanese beverage |
| 19. Pope John ____ | 54. Think (archaic) |
| 23. Central Chinese province | 55. In bed |
| 24. Churches | 56. Indian helmet |
| 25. Os | 57. Sheeps |
| 26. Columbian span | 58. 1 |
| 27. Bird genus | 60. Ordinal |
| 28. Increase motor speed | 61. Indian city |
| 29. Soul and calypso songs | |

Answers on Page 21-A



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Fish Friendly

Game Warden Named "Texas Wildlife Officer of the Year" by National Wild Turkey Federation

Game Warden Daniel Roraback has been named the 2013 Texas Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year by the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Director Carter Smith presented the award to Roraback at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting recently.

Roraback began his career with TPWD when he graduated with the 54th cadet class at the Texas Game Warden Training Academy in 2009. He is currently stationed in Red River County in northeast Texas.

As the president of the Pioneer Chapter of the National Wild Turkey

Federation, Roraback organizes numerous Jake events for local schools, as well as organizing trips for local youth to experience turkey, waterfowl and deer hunting.

As a warden in a county bordering Oklahoma, Roraback learned the various hunting and fishing laws of that state, and has teamed up with Oklahoma wardens on numerous occasions to enforce game and fish laws on the Red River.

Roraback has also been involved with cases including a range of crimes involving aerial permit violations, criminal trespass and animal cruelty. He also makes numerous hunting cases annually and

consistently maintains a high rate of conviction.

He was also selected to be a part of the department's highly specialized SCOUT team, serves as a Glock armorer and a role player for simunitions training.

The NWTF was founded in 1973 and strives to uphold hunting traditions and the conservation of more than 9.6 million acres of wildlife habitat. Since 2000, the NWTF has annually recognized game wardens from North America for enforcement activities related to wild turkeys. This marks the 14th year this award has been presented to a Texas game warden.

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"The Moon Report" February on Lake Fork

By Terri Moon

Well, looks like it might be another "crazy" year on FORK – "crazy" winds, "crazy" cold, and "crazy" fish patterns! If things weren't "crazy" enough on the water – it got even "crazier" off the water! I went to my Verizon store to see about an up-grade. While I was there I asked if they could transfer the numbers off my husband's phone to mine before I closed his number. He said he'd be happy to do that. WELL – guess what? All of Jerry's numbers came thru on my phone – BUT – he had "deleted my entire contact list in the process! I can't even begin to tell you what a "sick" feeling that will give you when you get that news! I'm still in disbelief! A lifetime of numbers just gone! But, where do they go? – "Alphabet Heaven"! You'd think they would be out there in cyberspace somewhere. If anyone has any miraculous recovery ideas – I would love to hear them!

In the meantime, if you by chance read this and know your number was in my phone, I would really appreciate you giving me a call so I can start rebuilding my phone list. I



must say this loss is right up there with losing all my waypoints when my depth finders were stolen! LOL! All I can say is that it's ANOTHER "lesson learned"! Now, wish I had better news as far as the fishing goes – but, January has been pretty tough. High winds and severe cold fronts have plagued us. Water temps are still in the mid 40's keeping massive schools of shad in 40 to 50 ft. depths. Last year at this time, water temps were in the mid 50's and the crappie had started their migration. So looks like it might be the 3rd to 4th week of February for things to start happening. We just need some consistent warmer days.

The fish we've been catching have been in 30 to 45 ft. depths. We're double rigging 1/8 oz. jigs a foot apart...pink w/ blue tail and gray w/black n'gray tail and bounce-ing these off the bottom. Also

we have been catching some on Bobby Garland's licorice/ chartreuse and Lake Fork Tackle's Live Baby Shad in blue/pearl and electric chicken. We are targeting main lake points and deep water creek channel bends and humps.

The white bass and yellow bass are biting the same baits in 25 to 35 ft. depths around the bridges and road beds. All of these baits are available at Lake Fork Marina.

This time of year I really appreciate my Lowrance HD5-12 to track the baitfish because the baitfish are the key to finding the crappie.

So, if you are having a tough time out there finding the fish, don't give up. It's gonna happen. We just need the water temp on an upward trend.

Wishing you all the best! Be safe on the lake!

TERRI MOON

LAKE FORK

CRAPPIE & BASS

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Parks and Wildlife Commission Approves Expansion of Zebra Mussel Rules

In the state's ongoing effort to combat the spread of invasive zebra mussels, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission recently approved expanding rules requiring anyone leaving or approaching public waters in 30 counties in Central and North Texas to drain their boats.

Anglers and boaters leaving or approaching public water will be required to take all reasonable steps to drain all water from their vessel, including live wells, bilges, motors, and any other receptacles or water intake systems. This applies to all types and sizes of boats, whether powered or not, personal watercraft, sailboats, or any other vessel used on public waters.

The new rule applies to all public waters in Archer, Bastrop, Bell, Bosque, Burnet, Clay, Comal, Comanche, Coryell, Eastland, Ellis, Erath, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Hamilton, Hays, Henderson (west of Highway 19), Hill, Johnson, Leon, Limestone, Llano, McLennan, Navarro, Robertson, Somervell, Travis, Wichita, and Williamson.

Similar rules are in effect for 17 counties in

North Texas -- Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Hood, Jack, Kaufman, Montague, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Stephens, Tarrant, Wise, and Young.

The Commission's actions also modified rules that affect participants in fishing tournaments holding off-site weigh-ins. The changes allow anglers participating in a fishing tournament confined to one water body during a single day to transport live fish in water from that water body to an identified weigh-in location, provided all water is drained from their vessels before leaving the weigh-in location. Anglers will be required to possess documentation provided by tournament organizers that would identify them as participants in a tournament.

The rules to add the 30 counties and the allowance for off-site tournament weigh-ins will take effect in late February or early March.

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.

Movement from one access point to another on the same lake during the same day does not require drainage and there is an exception for governmental activities and emergencies. Marine sanitary systems are not covered by the new regulations.

"Unfortunately, zebra mussel larvae, called veligers, are not visible to the naked eye," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries regional director based in Waco. "You could be transporting them on your boat and not even know it. This is why it's particularly important to always Clean, Drain, and Dry your boat and gear before heading to another water body."

Zebra mussels became established in Texas in Lake Texoma in 2009. Over the last two years, zebra mussels have been found in Lakes Belton, Bridgeport, Lavon, Lewisville, and Ray

(See Parks & Wildlife...Continued on Page 14-A)

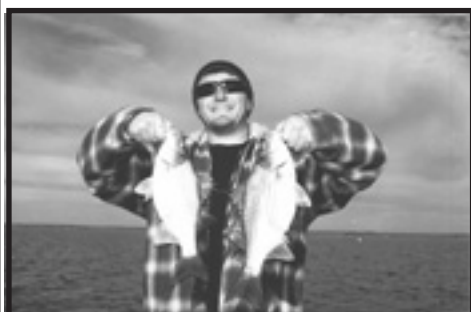


Stephanie Granger
Lakeland, FL.

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Johnny Davis
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Dewayne Baker w/sons Dillon &
Chance from Buda, TX.,



Mike McKinney, Kentucky, Tony Brown,
Tulsa, Malcolm & David Brown, Abilene



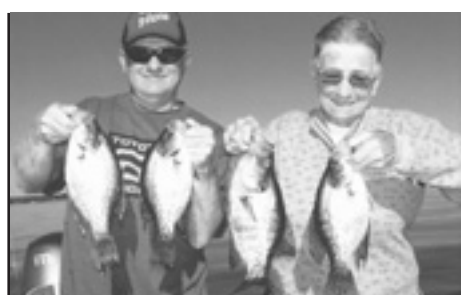
Audie Long
Dallas, TX.,



Barbara Sojourner & Cindy
Brady from Abilene, TX.,



Jimmy Marshall & buddy Ed
Allen, TX.,



Lynn Roller, Ft. Worth, with
mother Delores from Louisiana



Benny & Terry Weatherford,
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Texas State History Museum to Host Battleship TEXAS Exhibit

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department exhibit, "The Last of the Dreadnought Battleships," will open on Feb. 1 at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum and run through April 13. The exhibit pays homage to the Battleship TEXAS, which was commissioned 100 years ago.

The exhibit, which will highlight the history of the Battleship TEXAS in service to the United States Navy through World War II, will showcase 60 artifacts of the only surviving U.S. Navy vessel to have seen action in both world wars. Artifacts on view will include select pieces from the silver service presented to the battleship by the people of Texas, historical photographs and personal items from men who served aboard the TEXAS. A special listening station shares crewmember memories of service aboard the TEXAS during World War II.

The exhibit will be located in the Third Floor Rotunda Gallery of the Bob Bullock State History Museum, 1800 Congress Ave., Austin, Texas. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The museum will host special High Noon Talks

on the Battleship TEXAS on the first Wednesday of February, March and April.

The mini-exhibit is a cooperative effort of the Bullock Museum and TPWD's Curatorial Services, Exhibit Shop and Battleship TEXAS State Historic Site.

In 1948, the decommissioned TEXAS became the first battleship memorial museum in the U.S. and today is anchored in the Houston Ship Channel in LaPorte. TPWD took over management of the historic ship in 1983. In the early 20th century, fleets of armored attack warships guaranteed command of the seas. To keep up, the U.S. Navy replaced the 1892 Battleship TEXAS with a larger all-big-gun "super-dreadnought" version commissioned on March 12, 1914.

A little over 1000 men lived aboard TEXAS when commissioned; the number increased to over 1,800 during WWII. Texas's long history includes being the first U.S. Navy vessel to house a permanently assigned contingent of US Marines, the first US battleship to mount anti-aircraft guns, the first to control gunfire with directors and range-keepers (analog forerunners of today's com-

puters), the first to launch an aircraft from a catapult, and one of the first to use radar equipment in the US Navy.

The U.S. Navy transferred TEXAS to the State of Texas in 1948, and for over 65 years, the ship has been open as a public memorial at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, 3523 Independence Parkway South, LaPorte, Texas. Because of the Battleship's age, key structural areas are in need of repair. TPWD is currently making critical vessel repairs to the ship's "skeleton" so that the ship remains strong enough to hold herself up.

If you would like to find out more about volunteer opportunities or how you can support the TEXAS, visit the ship at the TPWD's Battleship TEXAS State Historic Site or online at www.texasstateparks.gov.

A Battleship TEXAS fundraiser - a music festival headlined by Texas singer-songwriter Robert Earl Keen -- will be held Saturday, March 15, at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site. To order tickets and for more information, please visit: <http://battleshiptexas.org>



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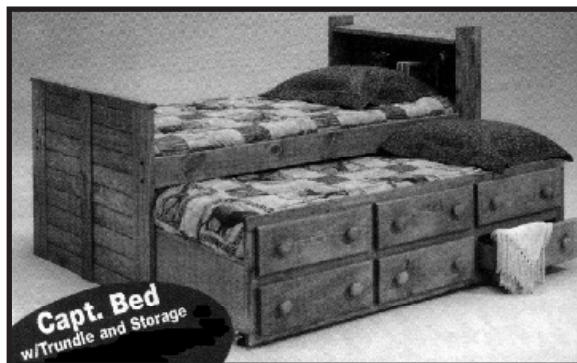


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Parks and Wildlife Commission Approves Expansion of Zebra Mussel Rules (Continued from Page 9-A)

Roberts. They can expand their range even farther by hitching a ride on trailered boats that have been immersed or moored in waters where they have established populations.

The zebra mussel is a small, non-native mussel originally found in Eurasia. It has spread throughout Europe, where it is considered to be a major environmental and industrial menace. The mussel appeared in North America in the

late 1980s and within 10 years had colonized all five Great Lakes and the Mississippi, Tennessee, Hudson, and Ohio River basins.

The rapidly reproducing mussels, can have serious economic and recreational impact to Texas reservoirs. They can clog public-water intake pipes, harm boats and motors left in infested waters by covering boat hulls, clog water-cooling systems, annoy boat-dock

owners by completely covering anything left under water, and make water recreation hazardous because of their sharp shells.

For more information on zebra mussels and how to clean, drain and dry a boat, visit <http://www.texasinvasives.org/>

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Larry Barnes to Speak 2014 FISH & WILD GAME DINNER LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH

The Lake Fork Baptist Church will have their annual Fish and Wild Game Dinner on Saturday, February 22, 2014 in the Family Life Center of the church at 9483 W. FM 515, Alba, TX 75410. The dinner will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Tickets are now on sale for \$7.50 per ticket. They will be first come, first served until all tickets are gone. Tickets can be purchased at the church business office or at Heavenbound Books, 310

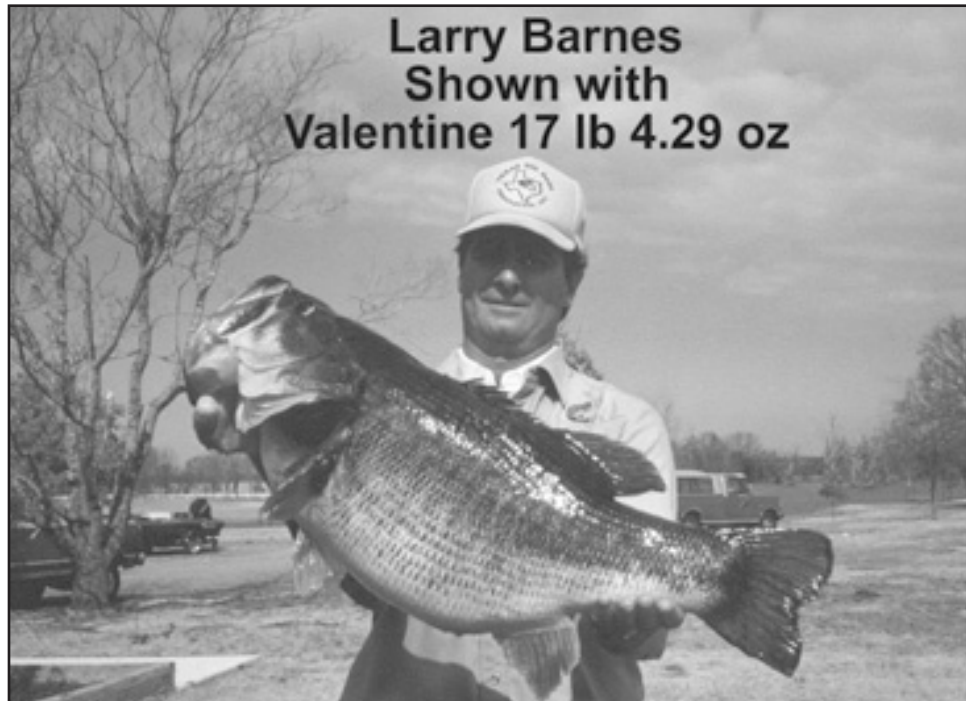
E Goode St, Suite B, Quitman, TX 75783. Door prizes, for both men and women, will include guided fishing trips, meals, cash & gift certificates, a new 12 gauge shotgun, and many other items. To date, the guided fishing trips on Lake Fork are being donated by David Strahan, JW Peterson, Gary Johnson, Roger Creason, John Tanner, Stan Kuhn and Kurt Kelley.

Entertainment will be provided by Billie Jo Russell. This is a young lady from our area who is going places in gospel and country music. Her debut album is gospel that goes right to your heart. She has opened for many well known country artists including Gene Watson, Linda Davis, Barbara Fairchild, Joe Stampley, and the legendary Ray Price. Recently she won the Texas Country Music Hall Of Fame John Ritter 2013 Showcase in Carthage, Texas. You will be blessed

by this singer and the message in her songs.

The speaker will be Larry Barnes, professional fishing guide. Larry started fishing Lake Fork in 1986 and became a professional guide on Lake Fork in 1992. On February 14, 1988 he caught the second largest bass in Texas history at that time. This bass was given the name Valentine in honor of the day it was caught. Valentine weighed in at 17 lbs. 4.29 ozs. As of today, it is still the 5th largest bass caught in Texas.

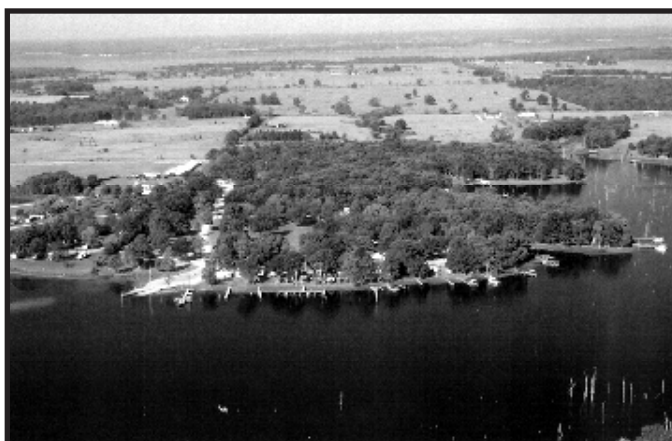
Larry has fished the B.A.S.S. and F.L.W. professional circuits. In 2012, he qualified for the FLW TBF Texas State Team. He won the 2012 FLW TBF Division Championship on the Red River which qualified him to fish the FLW-TBF National Championship on Grand Lake in 2013. Although now "retired" from guiding, Larry is still very active and will be fishing quite a few local tournaments. He has a counseling ministry and a drug rehab ministry that he has been involved in for many years. Larry will share some of his life experiences as well as his walk with Jesus Christ at the Fish and Wild Game Dinner.



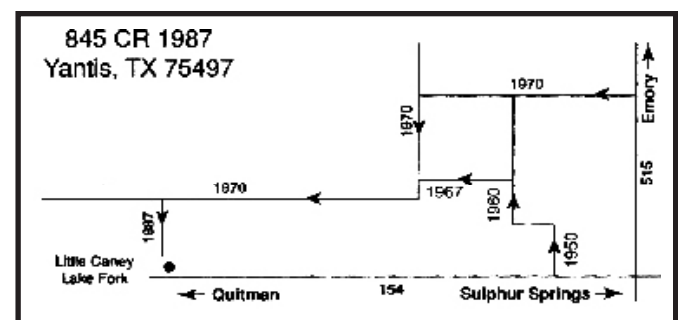
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Willie the Decoy Two-- Henderson County game wardens and two Cherokee County game wardens were patrolling for night hunters because calls were received from landowners about road and night hunting on a farm-to-market road in their area. Wil-

lie, the decoy deer, was put into action and the wardens barely had time to set up the decoy before the first shots rang out. One of the subjects said he was just shooting to get the deer to run back into the woods. Cases pending.

--Just 'Looking at Animals'-- A Leon County game warden received a call from the Limestone County Sheriff's Office about a driver of a green ve-

hicle who shot a deer from the road. The warden met with the person who called the sheriff, who said he was sitting in his deer stand when someone drove by, stopped, shot, drove down the road, turned around, and shot again. Then, the suspects got out and drug the deer from the property, loaded it up and drove off. Although the man was unable to get a license plate number,

the warden contacted the local police department thinking that the truck would be heading in their direction. The Mart Police Department found the truck with fresh blood in the bed and two loaded shotguns in the cab. The warden arrived at the suspect's residence in Mart, where evidence was collected and the shotguns and deer were seized. The man, his two sons, and

his young daughter were on a Sunday drive "looking at animals" when the violations occurred, the father said. Cases pending.

--Getting Schooled-- A McLennan County game warden received a call from a hunter to help locate a deer he shot while bowhunting. After further investigation, the warden found that the deer was shot on China Spring Independent School

District property and the hunter had been hunting on this property for some time without permission from the ISD. The large white-tailed buck had been seen on a few trail cams in the area and was being hunted by many in the area. The deer was found on an adjoining landowner's property a week later. Citation issued. Charges pending.

--Ruffled Feathers-- An Austin County

(Continued on Next Page)

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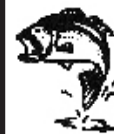
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Jan 11 - Twin Dikes Public
Feb 8 - Twin Dikes Public
Mar 1 - Twin Dikes Public
Apr 5 - Twin Dikes Public

Toledo Bend Division

Jan 25 - Sabine Inn
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

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North Texas Division
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Apr 6 - Lake Tawakoni
May 18 - Lake Lewisville
Jun 1 - Ray Roberts

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Mar 15 - Lake Fork
Apr 19 - Lake Fork
May 3 - Lake Fork

Dallas Division

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

Rayburn (Lufkin) Division

Jan 26 - Cassells Boykin
Feb 9 - Cassells Boykin
Mar 9 - Cassells Boykin
Mar 30 - Cassells Boykin
Jun 1 - Cassells Boykin

Longview Division

Feb 8 - Lake O' the Pines
Mar 15 - Wright Patman
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Apr 26 - Cypress Springs
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Apr 26 - Lake Palestine
May 10 - Lake Fork
Jun 7 - Lake Tawakoni
Jul 12 - Lake Fork

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Oct 11 & 12 - Lake Fork



game warden made contact with two hunters at a campsite after hearing a gunshot. The hunters claimed they did not see or shoot anything, but after the warden mentioned hearing a shot, the suspects changed their story and said they shot at a coyote with a shotgun. The warden looked around the area and found fresh dove feathers on a four-wheeler. The hunters were persistent that they only shot at the coyote. After further conversation, the hunter claimed he thought it was still dove season and admitted to shooting a dove. Citations were issued and the dove was seized.

--A White-Tailed Lie-- An Austin County game warden responded to a call at a local residence where a shot was heard. As he approached the house, he saw three men standing outside the garage looking at him. Two other men soon came out of the garage and shut the door. The men claimed they did not shoot anything and that they were not hunting. After talking with the men and hearing conflicting stories, the shooter was identified and the warden found a white-tailed doe hidden in the garage. Citations were issued, and the deer was seized.

--Smoking Through a Storm-- While on patrol during a winter storm in Callahan County, a game warden and deputy stopped to assist a man whose pickup truck had slid off the icy roadway, ending up on its side in a ditch. When the door was opened, a strong odor of marijuana escaped the vehicle. After a lengthy interview with the driv-

er in 10-degree weather, the man pulled a bag of marijuana out of his pants. The man was transported to jail and was charged with possession of marijuana and driving with a suspended license.

--Tag, You're It-- A Polk County game warden filed a citation on a local man for killing a white-tailed buck in Polk County and tagging the deer with his wife's license. The man explained to the warden that he had already killed a buck in an adjacent county and thought that if he used his tag on the deer in Polk County, he would be "tagged out." The warden pointed out that he misunderstood the antler restriction bag limit and found that he was not "tagged out" after all. Citations and warnings were issued to the man and his wife for hunting/allowing to hunt under the license of another, failure to tag white-tailed deer, and failure to complete harvest log.

--Too Much Fun Can Lead To a Lot of Problems-- A Val Verde County game warden received a call after midnight from a concerned landowner who feared that a rowdy group of hunters, who had just left his hunting ranch without paying for a big game hunt, had also committed hunting violations. The warden was able to track the group to a local hotel through tips he received, but when he attempted to make contact with them he found that they had been kicked out of the hotel due to disorderly conduct. He was finally able to make contact with the group in the county jail, when

they were being booked for discharging a weapon within the city limits and public intoxication. After several interviews, another trip to the ranch for evidence collection, and 12 hours and investigation, the game warden found that the group had been too inebriated to shoot straight and had not been able to harvest any deer. Multiple citations for no hunting license and lack of hunter education certification were issued. Cases pending.

--Dodging Traffic and Trouble-- Two Palo Pinto County game wardens were patrolling for night hunters when a call came over the radio about a suspect who had just run from Department of Public Safety troopers nearby. The wardens arrived on scene just as the subject ran his vehicle into the side of a DPS patrol car. The suspect played Frogger across four lanes of Interstate 20 and across the service road before he was captured. The wardens assisted with the search of the area to see if the subject had thrown anything out of his vehicle and found two pounds of crack cocaine and more than \$3,000 in cash.

--Game Warden in the Spotlight-- A Palo Pinto County game warden had just gotten into position to watch an oat field when a vehicle stopped in front of him. The truck's lights were turned off and a passenger got out, reached for a rifle from the bed of the truck and began shining the field with a green light. The man then returned to the

(See Game Warden...Continued on Page 21-A)

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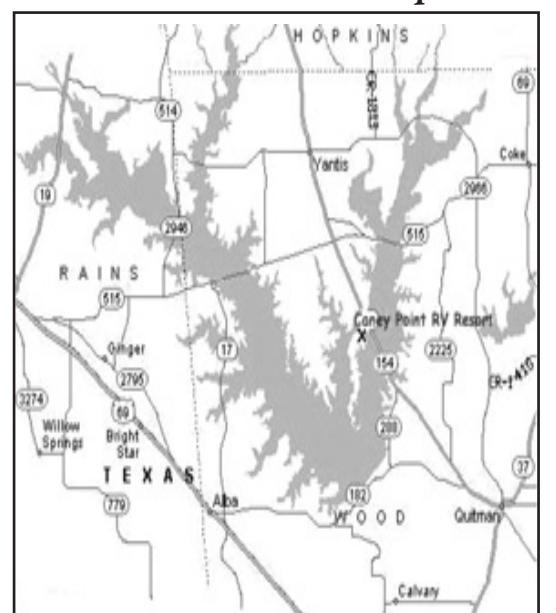
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"Pack of Knowledge" Spring Colors

By Tom Redington

Picking a lure color for bass fishing is never an exact science, but there are some basic rules of thumb that hold true most of the year. Spring seems to have its own rules though, possibly because crawfish are changing colors, bass key on different prey species, or because bass become more territorial with spawning. Regardless of the reason, following are some guidelines I've developed over the years—a system that is more complex than the "throw something red"

spring advice you'll get at most tackle shops.

In clear to stained water on a sunny day, I've found gold to be my best color. Not a whole lot of baits come in gold, but some old standbys like Lucky Craft lipless cranks, square bills, and Pointers are spring producers that are available in this faux 24 karat finish. The clearer the water, the better gold works.

In similar water but on a cloudy and/or rainy day, I prefer red or sexy shad colored hard baits. Especially in areas with a lot of grass, bright fire engine red baits seem to do best, possibly because this color is the polar opposite of the greenery, making it highly visible. Others postulate that crawfish often have a reddish hue this time of year and bass are keying on them. In any case, this is the optimum scenario I've found for red lures.

Switching to muddy water (approximately 1' of visibility or less), baits with a lot of bright orange excel on sunny days. Bright chartreuse color schemes are a good option as well.

Muddy water on a cloudy or rainy day is my least favorite option and I haven't found a magical color combo for it. Normally, I'll try chartreuse sexy shad as my first option here.

The rules above are what I typically use for hard baits, such as crankbaits, lipless cranks, and jerkbaits. For soft plastics and jigs, black and blue is hard to beat, especially early in the

season. As it gets closer to the spawn, I prefer soft plastics in watermelon shades for clear water and green pumpkin where it is more stained. If the sun comes out, either watermelon or green pumpkin with red flakes or purple flake mixed in are top options. Along the same lines, after bass have seen 1000 black and blue jigs, changing up to PB&J or some shade of green is often a good idea.

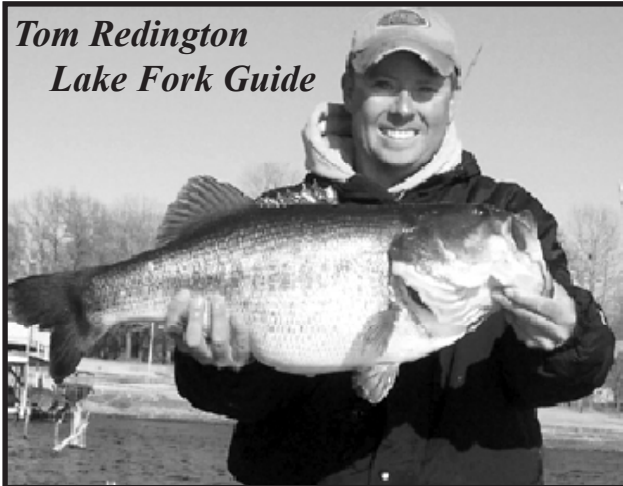
As a general rule, I fish clearer sections of the lake on windy days and/or dark days (overcast or rainy). Fish don't get as good of a look at your bait on these days and roam more, so covering water is normally the key. If I can find any grass, I launch super long casts with lipless cranks on my 8' Dobyns 804CB crankbait rod, hitting points and spawning flats. For the same reason everyone has gone to 8' deep cranking rods, an 8' trap rod is just as helpful and the rod is so well balanced, it is actually easier to rip baits free from grass with it all day than with a 7' rod.

When the wind stops and you get a bright bluebird day in the spring, the clear water bite gets really tough and I head for the mud. The bright light and low water visibility typically pins big bass tight to cover, so I go hog hunting with my Dobyns flipping stick and Lake Fork Trophy Lures jig & craw. Pitch it tight to stumps on creeks running through

(See Pack of Knowledge...

Continued on Page 22-A)

Tom Redington
Lake Fork Guide



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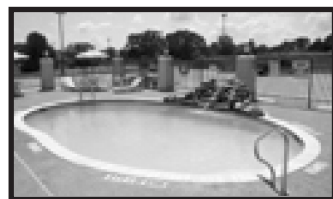
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Texas Host International Training Course

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is hosting the first Comprehensive Boat Accident Investigation course of 2014. This course provided by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) funded through a United States Coast Guard grant brings 60 law enforcement officers from all across the United States to one location to train on special techniques for investigating boating accidents.

"This course gives law enforcement officers the opportunity to develop their skills in boat accident investigation. The course also provides critical data to help shape boating safety regulations across the country," said Gary Haupt the Program Manager for the Accident Investigation Course for the NAS-

BLA BOAT Program.

This class is being attended by a very diverse group from federal, state and local jurisdictions from states as far away as Alaska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Florida, and Virginia and one international attendee from Canada. The instructor cadre includes Marine Patrol Officers from Missouri, Wisconsin, Florida and Texas.

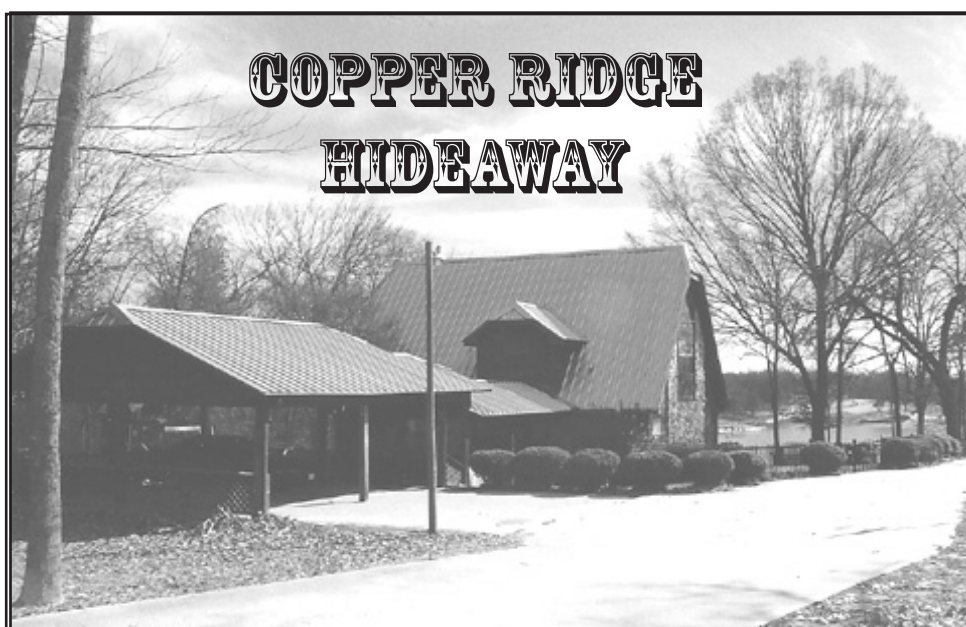
"The officers who complete this training receive a solid foundation in understanding the complexities of boating accident investigations because they'll have more confidence in conducting investigations because they'll have a better background. We are working towards a more consistent approach and this course provides a national training standard," said Assistant Commander Cody Jones, TPWD Texas Boat-

ing Law Administrator.

"In Texas, our game wardens will leverage this training within our STORM Team which conducts marine accident investigations and forensic reconstruction," said Col. Craig Hunter, TPWD Law Enforcement Director. "The goal is to improve water safety and reduce water related fatalities. Networking and training with this group of officer's helps us to improve what we do every day and we sincerely appreciate our partnership with the United States Coast Guard and NASBLA."

B-roll of training activities is available on request. Contact Whitney Bishop at (512)389-4531.

For more information go to <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us> or call (512)389-4624.



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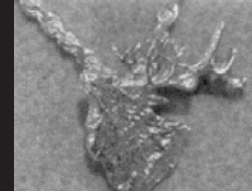
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February Bassin' at the Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

contact with the wood on the retrieve to trigger reaction strikes. Also pick up the flipping stick and flip the baits mentioned tight to the wood and keep your bait at the base of the stump as much as you can. Make repeated casts to the good looking trees. Sometimes it takes 5 or 6 flips to get the big ones to bite so be persistent and have patience. I would suggest flipping with 25 pound test 100% fluoro and I would crank and spinner bait fish with 20 pound. It may seem heavy to some but it is worth it when one

of those Lake Fork beast attacks your lure.

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 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.



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Dutch Oven Enchilada Recipe Wins Big in Outdoor Cooking Contest

An enchilada recipe won by a landslide in an outdoor cooking contest held on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Pinterest page. The winning recipe for Dutch Oven Green Chile, Chicken and Spinach Enchiladas got over 90 repins by Pinterest fans eager to add it to their collections.

The recipe was submitted by Victoria Serna from Denton, Texas who said she created it as a healthy twist on enchiladas.

"I love cooking in a dutch oven," said Serna, "There's a whole different way you cook outside."

Serna will receive free entry to a Texas Outdoor Family Workshop of her choice for up to six people.

As the founder of North Texas Kids Outside, an organization that helps connect families with the outdoors, Serna said she already has a family in mind with whom she would like to share her prize.

"Food is such a big part of the camping experience," she said. "Everyone can pitch in. It's a time to bond and get to know each other." All recipes submitted in the contest are featured on Pinterest and the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

Texas Parks and Wildlife has created a series of cooking videos on its YouTube channel. The dutch oven segments have proven to be especially popular with nearly 300,000 views.

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 17-A)

truck and continued down the road. The warden saw them shine their light on several fields before turning into a gate. After stopping the vehicle at the gate, the warden found a loaded rifle in the front passenger's lap. Another Palo Pinto County game warden arrived on the scene to assist and found that the back seat passenger was underage and drinking beer. The wardens also found a small amount of marijuana in the center console. Multiple charges are pending.

--Blood Trail Leads to Trespassers-- A Titus County game warden responded to a trespass call in Red River County when a landowner's wife discovered a blood trail on her property with ATV tracks running beside it. The warden visited the adjacent hunting camp and discovered a fresh-killed and tagged white-tailed doe. Two individuals were identified and admitted shooting the deer on their neighbor's ranch without consent. Citations were issued for possessing a white-tailed antlerless deer without a permit and criminal trespass. Cases pending.

--Is the Grass Greener on the Other Side?-- A Red River County game warden was patrolling for night hunting activity when a truck began spotlighting the barn the warden was sitting in. When the warden stopped the vehicle, the driver frantically tried to hide the ammunition from the .22 rifle he had stuffed beside his seat. The subject ended up sitting on the gun's magazine,

which was found when the warden had him exit the vehicle. The rifle still had a round in its chamber. The suspects came from Oklahoma and said they crossed the river to see what they could find. Cases were filed for hunting from a public road and for no hunting license. Cases pending.

--Slip of the Tongue--

A Real County game

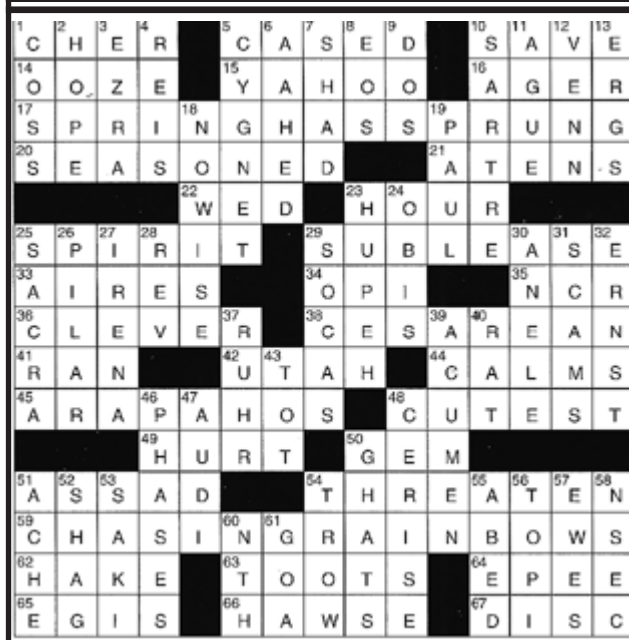
warden was talking to a hunter in a store parking lot about a nice buck in the bed of the hunter's pickup truck when the hunter admitted that his buddy shot it, but he put his tag on it. The hunter, realizing what he just told the game warden said, "I guess I'm in trouble now." Cases pending.

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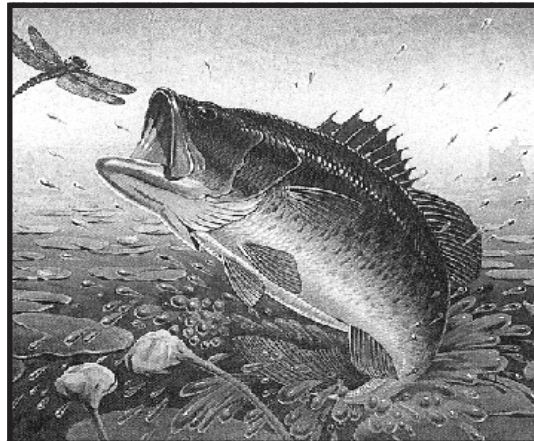
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ROCKS

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I R C F A C S A A P G T
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Pack of Knowledge (Continued from Page 18-A)

the flats or to any shallow staging cover you can find. You might not get a lot of bites on a tough day like this, but they should be the right ones. Later in the day, the sun will warm up the dark water quickly and square bills, bladed jigs and spinnerbaits catch fish that suspend near the surface next to stumps, docks poles and other vertical cover.

I use these guidelines only as a starting point. Exceptions are common, so if the fish aren't bit-

ing, keep experimenting until you find what works. For more fish catching tips, check out my website www.LakeForkGuideTrips.com, or follow me at www.facebook.com/tomredington-fishing 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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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



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