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*"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. 175



If you are wondering if Lake Fork has alligators or if they are out yet since the weather has been warming; the answer is yes to both! This photo of a 7-foot alligator was taken in Birch Creek on February 22nd. This is a small one compared to some that have been reported.



Toyota Texas Bass Classic Looking for Volunteers

Volunteer opportunities available at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic at Lake Fork

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) is seeking volunteers to help support the Texas sized outdoor music festival and world championship fishing event. The 8th annual TTBC is returning to Lake Fork, May 9-11, 2014. The event will host the world's greatest anglers as well as chart topping

country music performances. Fishing knowledge is not required and those who register now will receive an unforgettable experience. Along with the memories, volunteers will receive exclusive tournament gear; including an official TTBC t-shirt, hat, lunch, volunteer badge (serves as gen-

eral admission Friday, Saturday & Sunday) and a parking pass. Below you will find a list and brief description of the TTBC Committees. **ADMISSIONS/WILL CALL:** Admissions volunteers will be responsible for supporting the admissions (See Toyota Texas.... Continued on Page 4-A)



Tyler Evans, 10 years old from Normangee, Texas was fishing Lake Fork with guide John Morris when he caught this nice bass weighing 8.9-pounds. "Great Job Tyler!" C.P.R.



River, 4 years old (lt) and his brother Zane, 6 years old, had their first boat ride and bass fishing trip Bassin' With Bubba along with their grandfather Ken Gilbreath from Mineola. The big bass Bubba caught scared them some but the fast ride in the boat had them just wanting to ride around the lake.

Bubba Has Diagnosed Some Anglers With Having The "Bent Pole Virus"

By Don Hampton

Now, Bubba has been pretty hard on some anglers lately that think they own the fishing spots on the lake and asking about their mailboxes and such. If you are one of these anglers, don't expect an apology. He is more likely to just tell you to pull your panties up and quit being so sensitive. One thing he doesn't believe in is beating around the bush. He only beats around the bush when he is in the woods to scare the varmints and snakes away when he needs to squirt the dirt. When it comes to speaking his mind or voicing his opinion, there just isn't any gray area. This is because Bubba is what you might refer to as "Old School"! Heck most of the schools he went to have been torn down and new ones have been built.

Bubba believes fishing is to have fun and that everyone is on the lake to have fun and relax. Whether you are a guide, in a tournament, or fishing for the freezer, being on the lake trying to outwit the scaly critters is supposed to just be fun. Otherwise you are in the wrong place and with the wrong people. Just always keep in mind "Work is just something you have to do so you can go fishing!"

Some anglers have taken the "Mailbox" theory out of context though. Bubba claims these people are infected with the "Bent Pole Virus".

I really didn't know what this meant at first so I had to get Bubba to explain this one to me!

When he explained it to me I thought "Shucks, I know some of these infected 'Hookers'!"

Bubba simply stated, "Anglers infected with the Bent Pole Virus can be identified easily on the lake. When you catch a fish and your pole bends, just watch how fast you are surrounded and cut off. Sometimes I'm afraid to set the hook because I'm afraid I'll be surrounded like Davy Crockett at the Alamo! It is as if some anglers are playing 'Peek-a-boo, I see you.' Anglers with the 'Bent Pole Virus' are watching other anglers so they can jump in on them rather than watching their own electronics so they can improve their own fishing skills!"

Once I received a full understanding from Bubba on this wide spreading disease I just had to know if there was a cure for these hapless anglers. Bubba informed me the cure was in just two words, "Respect and Courtesy."

One thing I can say about Bubba is that in this case he is being very "Politically Correct." One of his best buds on the lake has another name for anglers with the 'Bent Pole Virus', he calls them 'Maggots' because they feed off others. So, Bubba is really being nice in comparison!

In most tournaments there is a rule that states, "No fishing within 25 yards of another boat without permission." Truly this rule should read, "No fishing within 25 yards of another angler's cast." With new longer rods for swimbaits and jigs, most anglers can cast well over 25 yards. You wouldn't

hunt that close to another hunter and a jig or swimbaits velocity in a cast is almost that of a bullet. Taking that into consideration, you anglers infected with the 'Bent Pole Virus' might wish to keep that in mind.

It is true that no one owns the public water. This applies to guides, homeowners with their docks and piers, tournament anglers, and freezer fishermen. If someone is sitting on your favorite spot or beat you to where you had plans to fish, find another until they move. Don't try to crowd them out or get on their fish! All of these lakes are large enough for everyone and the fish are not just in one place. Practice what Bubba said, "Respect and Courtesy."

If you do this, you will not have Bubba diagnose you with the 'Bent Pole Virus' or his buddy call you a 'Maggot' or be dodging a 1-oz. jig coming at you like a speeding bullet!



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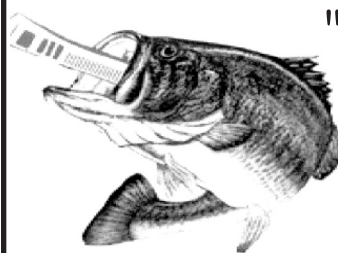
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Toyota Texas Bass Classic Looking for Volunteers (Continued from Page 1-A)

gate and assisting security to ensure that all spectators have the proper tickets for entry. Will Call volunteers will be responsible for staffing a ticket booth at the event entrance for ticket buyers to pick up previously purchased tickets. **MEDIA/PR:** Assist Tournament and PAA staff with the general operations of the Media Center and promotion of the Tournament, assist with sponsor requests and angler appearances. **TOURNAMENT OFFICE:** Assists Tournament Staff with answering the phones, greeting visitors, receiving and logging deliveries along with other administrative duties as requested by Tournament Staff. **TPWD OUTDOOR ADVENTURES AREA:** Assist the Texas Parks & Wildlife

Department (TPWD) with various activities in the TP&W Outdoor Adventures Area. **VOLUNTEER SERVICES:** Responsible for staffing the volunteer headquarters, handling uniform distribution and maintaining a comfortable working environment for the volunteers. "Volunteering is a great way to get in on all the action at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic. There's a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to make an event of this size work, and the volunteers are a major part of making it a success," said Lenny Francoeur, Tournament Director. "Volunteering also provides an excellent opportunity to connect within your community and join in on the support of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department."

About The Tournament: The Toyota Texas Bass Classic is a world-class bass fishing tournament, featuring the top 50 bass anglers in the world, along with a festival to include exceptional entertainment and a variety of family and industry activities. This three day event will take place May 9-11, 2014 at Lake Fork, Quitman, Texas. **Events / Entertainment:** Extraordinary live music and events that will appeal to the whole family. This will include a variety of games and activities at the Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Adventures Area, incredible food and a fishing industry expo featuring seminars and the latest in fishing equipment, gear and accessories. Merchandise will be available for purchase at the Tournament venue. **Charity:** Proceeds benefit the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. For more information on TPWD click here www.tpwd.state.tx.us Current sponsors: Toyota, Bass Pro Shops, Leer Truck Caps, HOLT CAT, Ugly Stik, Republic Services, Tellespen, ATX Wheels, Geico, Yamaha, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Brookshire's, TLC Radio, KYKX 105.7, 104.1 The Ranch & the Coca-Cola Company.

For additional information, visit www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com or call 1-866-907-0143.

For volunteer application, visit <http://www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/2014-TTBC-Volunteer-Application.pdf>

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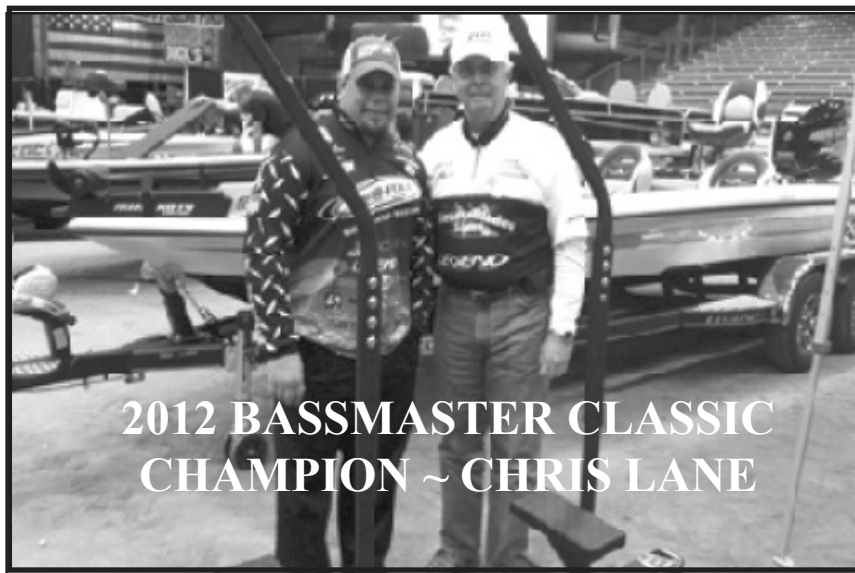
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Fork: Home to fascinating aquatic life

By Don Hampton

The long cold days of winter have taken their toll on me. Being born and raised in Texas, I do not care for drastic cold like we have had recently. I long for warmer weather, outside cookouts, and Spring and Summer fishing on Fork.

Recent trips on Lake Fork have got me thinking about some of the more interesting and unusual creatures that dwell in this greaty reservoir. This month, I would like to highlight two commonly observed species in Lake Fork that always tend to raise some eyebrows and I'm not speaking about the alligators. Learning everything you can about

the aquatic environment where you fish can go a long way to make you a more efficient and educated angler. At the very least, your aquatic knowledge will impress your friends at the cookouts.

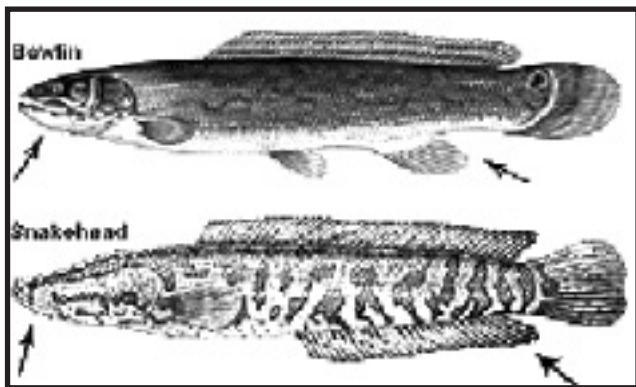
A common observation around many East Texas reservoirs in the summer months is the appearance of large "brain-like" creatures called bryozoans (*Pectinatella magnifica*). These animals can often be seen floating just below the surface in open water, or attached to timber or trotlines in the water. The sight of one of these "water-brains" evokes the imagination since they look like some alien creature from outer space. In reality they are completely harmless to both fish and humans.

Freshwater bryozoans are widely distributed in lakes and streams that do not contain excessive mud and silt and that are sufficiently rich in plankton. They consist of colonies of filter-feeding zooids, small organisms that look like coral polyps. Each zooid has feeding tentacles that sway slowly to filter the water and capture plankton. The colonies are clones of a founding member and they possess a gelatinous outer covering, the ectocyst. Bryozoans are spread throughout reservoirs by wind and waves. When colonies disintegrate in the fall, encapsulated buds called statoblasts are released and remain dormant until spring when new organisms develop and the cycle is repeated.

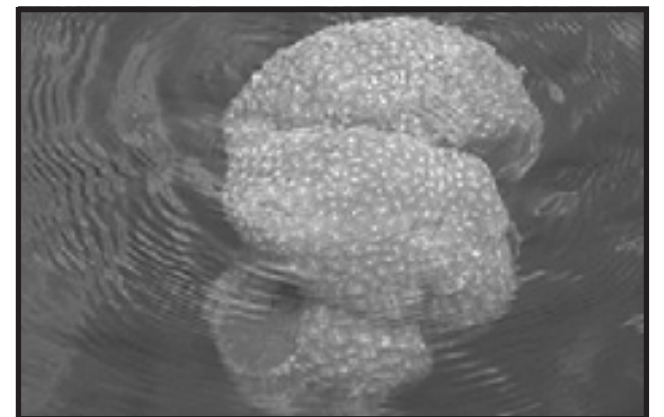
Freshwater bryozoans aren't the only misunderstood animal in Lake Fork. Several times a year, I receive phone calls from fishermen claiming they've caught a snakehead. Many of you are familiar with the invasive northern snakehead, a problematic species in many states along the East coast. Snakeheads are feared because of their prolific nature and their voracious appetite. Their ability to compete with and deplete native sport fish is a major concern in states like Florida. To date, no confirmed cases of snakehead have occurred in Texas waters. However, the threat still exists, and

(See Fork: home to

Continued on Page 7-A)



Comparison of the native bowfin (aka "grinnel") and the invasive northern snakehead. To date, there have been no confirmed cases of snakehead in Texas waters.



Freshwater bryozoan colony in Lake Fork. These harmless filter feeders are often observed floating close to the surface.



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March into the bass of a lifetime on Lake Fork

By: Bassin' Bubba

March is here but it seems winter just will not let go! Although we saw some 22 degree weather on the last of February and water temps dropped back down to the lower 50's this only hurt the fishing during the middle of the fronts. Before and after each front is truly some of the best fishing on the Fork. This is the time of the year when angler's dream catch of lifetime become a reality! Many anglers come to Lake Fork and catch the largest bass they have ever caught.

This is the time of the year regardless of the cold fronts pushing through, that the males and the large females have to move shallow because their biological clock just keeps ticking. This is the

time best for the angler when those large elusive females can be found in the shallows. The lake at present is 4.5-feet low and the bass are relating to the trees and logs as they do when we are under these conditions. They will also be relating to shallow grass areas. I've found that if you locate a spawning area on the west banks or areas that get sunlight most of the day, these are the most productive areas. If we get the rains we so desperately need and the lake rises, this could change things.

This month is always good on lipless crankbaits, spinnerbaits, floating jerkbaits, jibs, Texas rigs, and chatterbaits. The chatterbait rigged with a Lake Fork Trophy 3.5" swim minnow has really proven to be an enticer for the hawks. Pick yourself up one with a black blade, watermelon skirt and a watermelon red flake swim minnow as a trailer and just hold on! You would want to fish this on a 7' heavy rod with at least 17-pound test line. When you don't feel the bait vibrating because of grass in the blade, give it a quick jerk and the impeded grass will come off. As crankbaits go, red is the color on the Fork this time of year. Whether it be the crawfish pattern, red and white, or red and yellow. If you are throwing a shallow running crankbait I highly recommend the "Mistake" by Bomber. This crank comes in a variety of

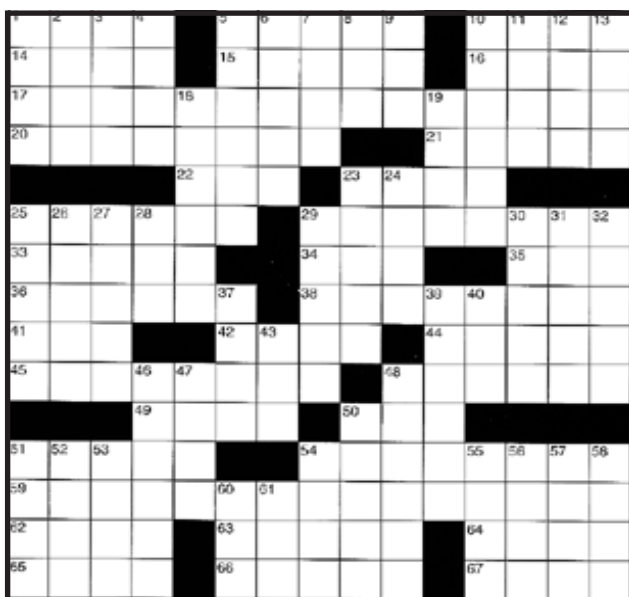


sizes. It is yellow on one side and red on the other. Don't ask me what this resembles to the bass or why they attack so ferociously, but they do eat it!

The weightless soft plastics play a big part as the month progresses. One great technique that is very effective this time of year is what I call the 'Double Dipper'. For obvious reasons you do not want to try this with anything less than 20-lb. test line.

Attach a 3-way swivel to your line, and attach an 18" and a 24" line from the two remaining outlets on the swivel.

(See March into.....
Continued on Page 20-A)



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Excluded from use or mention | 41. 7th letter of the Greek alphabet |
| 5. Athabaskan | 42. Round, red root vegetable |
| 10. Shop | 44. Punitive |
| 14. Central American association | 45. Sleeveless, apronlike dress |
| 15. Joints | 48. Most broken |
| 16. Stew with chickpeas | 49. Used up or exhausted |
| 17. Jay and the Americans' hit | 50. Way to create from raw stuff |
| 20. Exuded, in a way | 51. Mexican Indian |
| 21. Goddess of the hunt | 54. Can be cleaned |
| 22. Cablegram (abbr.) | 59. Beatles' hit |
| 23. Weather report | 62. Goods carried by a large vehicle |
| 25. Plates | 63. Rajah's wife |
| 29. "Masked" mammals | 64. "____ and the King of Siam" |
| 33. One who hauls | 65. Toni Morrison novel |
| 34. ____ Tan | 66. Cutting or thrusting weapon with a long blade |
| 35. Worthless message | 67. Radioactivity units |
| 36. With many branches | |
| 38. Plastic | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Toddlers | 29. Ouida |
| 2. Feel pain | 30. Way to state clearly |
| 3. Spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan | 31. Grandmothers |
| 4. Cold War enemy | 32. Hardy wheat grown in Europe |
| 5. Sports equipment | 37. Black |
| 6. Highest waterfall | 39. Indifference |
| 7. George ____ Australian prime minister | 40. 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet |
| 8. Monitor of financial markets (abbr.) | 43. Before |
| 9. Doctrine | 46. Program |
| 10. Game piece | 47. Concentrations |
| 11. Ancient Greek city | 48. Tried |
| 12. Waterfall (Scottish) | 50. One who enacts tribute |
| 13. Scarcely detectable amount | 51. Tools |
| 18. Rhythmic patterns | 52. Chinese dynasty |
| 19. Of an ode | 53. Short-necked river duck |
| 23. Plant of a clone | 54. Drunk (slang) |
| 24. Acid radical | 55. From a distance |
| 25. Throat illness | 56. ____ fide (Latin) |
| 26. Raccoonlike animal | 57. Scandinavian city |
| 27. Soul in Hinduism | 58. Geological times |
| 28. Fifth sign of the zodiac | 60. Wife |
| | 61. Cutting tool with a toothed blade |

Answers on Page 21-A



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Fish Friendly

Fork: Home to fascinating aquatic life (Continued from Page 5-A)

anglers think they've caught a snakehead. So far, all these reports have turned out to be bowfin (aka "grinnel"), a native predator fish in Texas and can destroy a spinner bait. The bowfin is truly a remarkable creature. It is a primitive fish that is the only species remaining in its family which dates back to the Jurassic period. These fish possess a lunglike gas bladder, which helps them survive in waters with low oxygen levels. They usually haunt sloughs, swamps, pools and heavily vegetated areas. Being a predator fish, they have been known to viciously attack a wide variety of

baits and lures. And, as any angler who has caught one can attest to, they are incredibly strong fighters. One of the defining characteristics of the bowfin is the presence of a prominent black spot near the base of the upper caudal (tail) fin. This spot is often surrounded by a yellowish "halo". From a distance, bowfin and snakehead may look similar. However, closer examination reveals some key differences. First, a snakehead has a lower jaw that extends well beyond the upper jaw, giving it an "underbite". A bowfin, in contrast, has a lower jaw that does not extend past the upper jaw.

Second, the snakehead has an anal fin on the underside of the body that is more than half the length of the long dorsal fin. In contrast, bowfin have a relatively small anal fin.

Even though there have been no confirmed reports of snakehead in East Texas, they may someday find their way to our part of the country. If you have any doubts about whether a fish you've caught is a snakehead or bowfin, you should check with your local TPWD fisheries biologist.

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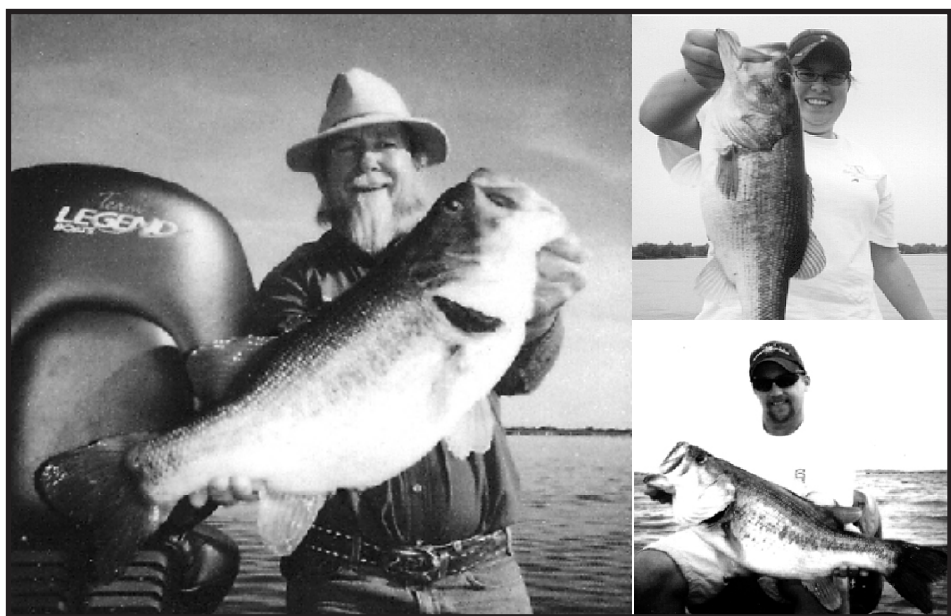


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"The Moon Report"

The "Ups" and "Downs" of Pre-Spawn

By Terri Moon

We finally had some 70 degree days and 50 degree nights that warmed some of the coves to the mid-50's – but, main lake temps are still in the mid to upper 40's. But, just this little bit of warm up has triggered the pre-spawn transition.

The male crappie are on the move staging up the creeks, seeking warmer water and following the baitfish. The "DOWN" side is that just when you've got them figured out, the bottom drops out with the weather! I can't believe it was 22 degrees this morning and supposed to be back in the 70's by the weekend for a couple of days then back down to the 30's and 40's for several days. It sure makes it tough to get a pattern going! You can definitely burn a lot of gas this time of year. Some 'stable' weather would be awesome!

Water temperature isn't the only 'HURDLE' this time of year. The "March winds" have begun! My mom and dad have been down from Truman Lake in Missouri for a couple of weeks and there has only been a couple of days even fishable because of the winds. But, when we did find some crappie, they were all big quality crappie!

I'm just so grateful the crappie are leaving the 40 to 50 ft.



depths. We've been checking the 20 to 30 ft. areas while constantly monitoring my Lowrance HDS12 to watch for any changes in depths of the baitfish and adjust your casts accordingly. Then as the water temps begin to rise to 55-60 degrees, start checking mouths of the coves in 12 to 20 ft. depths, around creek channels and isolated timber. Again, keep an eye on that depth finder. The crappie generally suspend 6 to 12 ft.

As the crappie move up, I will start down-sizing my bait. I go to a single 1/16 oz. jig like a Bob Young "Bad Shad" or a Bobby Garland "Black & Pearl Shad" and don't forget to throw Lake Fork Tackle's "Live Baby Shad" in "Blue & Pearl" (one of my favorite "Go To" baits).

I wish I could predict when the best time to crappie fish is – but, with the crazy weather patterns we've been having we are just at the mercy of the weather! Also water temperature is a main key factor. When it gets to 60 degrees "HANG ON!"

By the way, don't forget March 1st the 10 inch minimum goes back in effect. Try to be gentle with those that don't measure – they are our next seasons catch! I think this is gonna be an awesome spring. Hope you all get a chance to get out and enjoy Fork! BesureandcomebyLakeForkMarinaandseethe remodeling and updates. They've got everything you'd need for a day on the water and then some!

Before I go I want to send a shout out to my niece Stacey and her beau Kevin in Warsaw, MO. in their new venture of opening "The Roadhouse" Bar, Grill and Marina on the headwaters of the OZARKS (Just South of Hwy 7 and 65 on 83 Hwy. Their grand opening is March 15th for the opening day of 'Spoonbill Season'. Wishing you all the best! I know you will have some awesome food – can't wait to get there! If any of you fishermen are up Truman Lake way, be sure and stop in and see them – 31311 Warsaw Ave., Warsaw, MO. – 660-438-7227.

Many thanks to my mom and dad for all their help and support, Love ya!

My best to you all!

Urban Bobcat Study Underway in Dallas-Fort Worth Area

Researchers, wildlife managers and local government officials from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Utah State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Service-National Wildlife Research Center, and Welder Wildlife Foundation have begun a study on the ecology of bobcats in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The purpose of the study is to better understand how bobcats live with humans in highly urbanized landscapes.

"Bobcats have learned to thrive in urban areas and will always be a part of our urban wildlife community," said Derek Broman, TPWD urban wildlife biologist in Dallas. "The goal of this research effort is to answer important questions about urban wildlife to help DFW area cities and counties improve communication to their residents about how wildlife and people can co-exist."

Bobcats are the most common wildcat in North America. Not to be confused with the much larger mountain lion, bobcats typically weigh between 11 and 30 pounds and have a short tail, long legs, and large feet. Though reclusive and mostly active

at night, bobcats frequently leave cover to hunt before sundown and can be seen in a variety of habitats throughout Texas. In recent years, bobcat sightings have increased within the Metroplex.

The study area includes approximately 49,000 acres bordered by SH 183 to the north, SH161 to the east, SH180 to the south and Interstate 820 to the west. The area includes parts of Fort Worth, Hurst, and Arlington. Ten to 15 bobcats will be captured and fitted with global positioning system (GPS) collars so researchers can follow their movements and activities for one year.

Four bobcats - an adult female, an adult male, an adolescent male and an adolescent female -- have been fitted with GPS collars so far. The female has since been seen with two kittens that are approximately seven months old. Before being released, each bobcat is photographed and tagged to provide a catalog of images for future identification. Blood, hair, scat, and parasite samples are collected from the animals for analysis on genetics, diet, and pathogens.

In addition to learning more about the life of

bobcats in urban areas, researchers will also work with Texas Master Naturalist chapters to investigate the role that citizen science groups can play in complementing, supplementing or replacing field-based scientific investigations. Master Naturalists members will be trained in the identification and documentation of bobcat sign. Location data on bobcat sightings from Master Naturalists and other public resources, such as iNaturalist.org and the DFW Wildlife Hotline, will be compared to the GPS collar data to identify correlations and determine whether public participation through citizen science programs can provide a long-term, cost-effective method for urban bobcat monitoring in the Metroplex.

The Texas Master Naturalist volunteer program is coordinated by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and TPWD, with support from a variety of local organizations. Volunteers receive 40 hours of in-depth training in wildlife and natural resource management customized

(See Urban Bobcat...Continued on Page 14-A)



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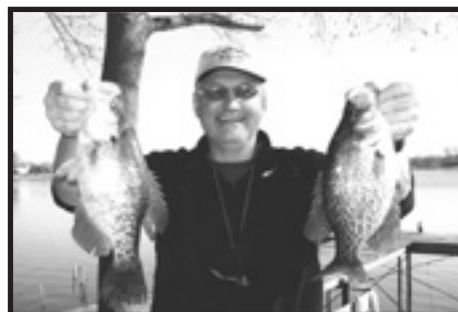
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Wild Turkey "Super Stocking" Project Under Way in East Texas

More than two dozen Eastern wild turkeys from Tennessee and Missouri will call the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area home thanks to the efforts of the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The birds were captured recently and transported to a TPWD facility in Tyler, where they were inspected, tagged with metal ID leg bracelets and fitted with GPS tracking devices. The transplanted turkeys then traveled to the Gus Engeling WMA an hour away and released into the wild as part of a "Super Stocking" initiative to restore this majestic bird on its historic range in East Texas.

The Gus Engeling WMA is among three sites identified for stocking this year. The "Super Stocking" plan calls for stockings of 80 turkeys on each site - three hens for each gobbler -- about 240 birds in total. By next week, nearly 100 turkeys will have been released thus far.

"It's the same old story," Hardin said. "The birds were essentially wiped out by subsistence and market hunting along with extensive habitat loss in the later parts of the 19th century, but with the help of the NWTF, we have been able to bring the birds back all across the country. Although more than 50 counties in East Texas were stocked during the 1980s and 1990s only 28 counties

are open for turkey hunting today. So we had to start looking at why we were not as successful in keeping the Eastern wild turkey population flourishing as other states in its historic range."

The NWTF's Texas State Chapter is playing a significant role in footing the bill for transferring the birds. Help with the gas bills and plane tickets have been a real boost, Hardin said. "We couldn't do what we do without NWTF volunteers and employees. This is all part of NWTF's new Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt Initiative. Hopefully, one of these days we'll have enough birds so we will not need to rely on other states for our Eastern wild turkey restoration efforts."

More Eastern wild turkeys are on the way. Alabama, Missouri, Kansas, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia are providing wild trapped Eastern turkeys for the Texas project. The states are compensated \$500 for each turkey they provide, the restitution is funded by TPWD's Upland Game Bird Stamp program.

Researchers will use the GPS transmitters to track movements of the birds, effectively "ground-truthing" the models biologists have created to identify preferred turkey habitat needs throughout the year. This data will help in assessing future stocking sites.

This restoration effort in Texas is unique," said

NWTF Assistant Vice President for Conservation Programs Tom Hughes. "It's an area where we helped with trap and transfer work in places years ago. Maybe there was a change in the habitat, you had less prescribed fire than was needed, too much rain or not enough. Whatever the reason, we are going back to the area and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is really committed to getting it right this time."

Hughes says it's an unusual circumstance in Texas, since most wild turkey populations did well following earlier trap and transfer efforts. "This one did too, for a while," said Hughes. "But, from our standpoint, we are still committed to making sure turkeys have the best chance they can for survival. We are still practicing what we preach and have been since 1973."

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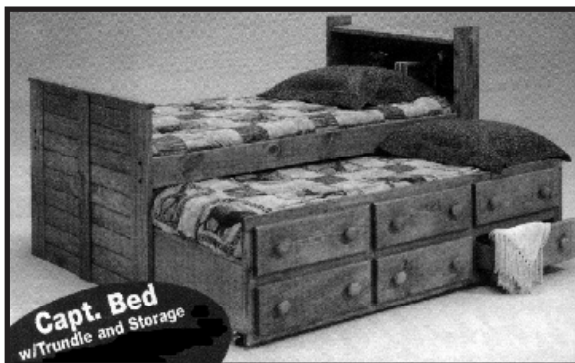


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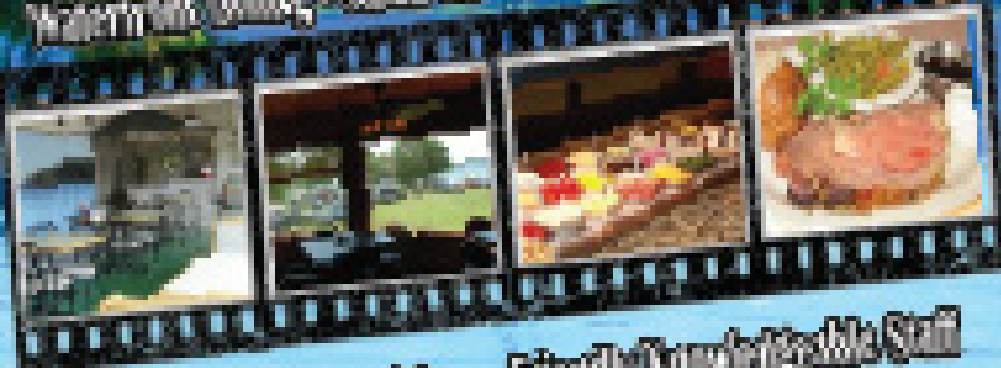
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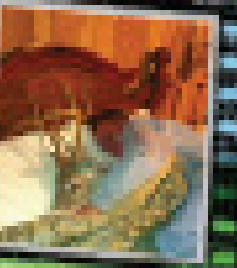
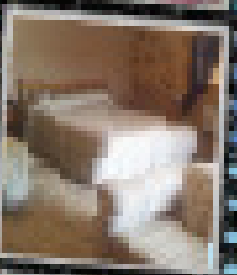
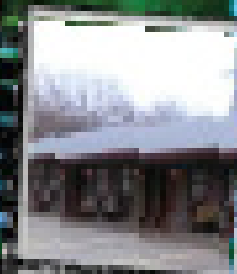
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Urban Bobcat Study Underway in Dallas-Fort Worth Area (Continued from Page 9-A)

to focus on local ecosystems. In return, volunteers provide at least 40 hours of service in the form of community education and demonstration projects, while pursuing a minimum of 8 hours of advanced training in areas of special interest. For more information, visit <http://txmn.org>.

The mission of the USDA-Wildlife

Services-National Wildlife Research Center is to provide federal leadership and expertise in facilitating co-existence of people and wildlife. The program's efforts help people resolve wildlife damage to a wide variety of resources as well as reducing threats to human health and safety. Funding for the WS Program is a combination

of federal appropriations and cooperator-provided funds. To learn more about Wildlife Services and its research arm, the National Wildlife Research Center, visit http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/.

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Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Restoration Efforts Continue

The continuation of the Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Restoration Project progressed with another successful relocation of almost 100 pronghorn recently.

The animals were captured from healthy populations around Pampa and moved to an area southeast of Marfa to supplement severely depleted pronghorn populations.

The relocation process was coordinated among the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University (BRI), Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Working Group, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, and USDA-Wildlife Services. Quicksilver Air, Inc. conducted the capture. The objective of the Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Restoration Project is to bolster pronghorn populations that have reached historic lows through translocations, habitat improvements, and predator management.

At least 17,000 pronghorn once roamed the West Texas region; today there are less than 3,000. The Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Restoration Program is a five-year \$1.4 million public-private partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation. To date, \$1 million has been secured.

Last year, 125 pronghorn were captured from the Dalhart area and released on ranches near Marathon. Currently, TPWD estimates about 80 percent of the transplanted pronghorn remain and reproduction was also high with a

fawn crop of over 70% in the Marathon area. The transplanted pronghorn and their offspring have significantly boosted the local population within the release area near Marathon, which had less than 50 animals prior to the translocation.

"We hope this population will continue to grow and become another source for pronghorn in the next few years to help supplement other herds in the Trans-Pecos," said Shawn Gray, TPWD Mule Deer and Pronghorn Program Leader.

"The release areas in 2013 and 2014 had favorable range conditions. We also spent months working with landowners to prepare each release site, including fence modifications and predator management. Trans-Pecos field staff and BRI students, headed by local Wildlife Biologists Mike Janis and Mike Sullins were instrumental in this effort" Gray stated.

For the 2014 transplant, Trey Barron, TPWD Wildlife Biologist stationed in Pampa spent endless hours coordinating with local landowners to obtain trapping permission and working on trap-site logistics. "Without Trey's dedication and local landowners support, this project would not have happened" said Gray.

At the capture site, workers took each animal's temperature to monitor stress, along with blood and fecal samples for disease surveillance. The pronghorn also received a mild sedative to minimize stress related to capture and transport. Ear

tags were attached for identification. Sixty six of the captured pronghorn were fitted with radio collars, including 53 GPS collars programmed to collect GPS locations every hour. One year post-release, the GPS collars will automatically drop from the animals and be retrieved by researchers to download and analyze the GPS data.

After processing, the pronghorn were transported by trailer to the release site southeast of Marfa.

"The capture could not have gone any smoother," said Dr. Louis Harveson, BRI director and Sul Ross professor of Natural Resource Management. "The pronghorn were in excellent shape and traveled really well."

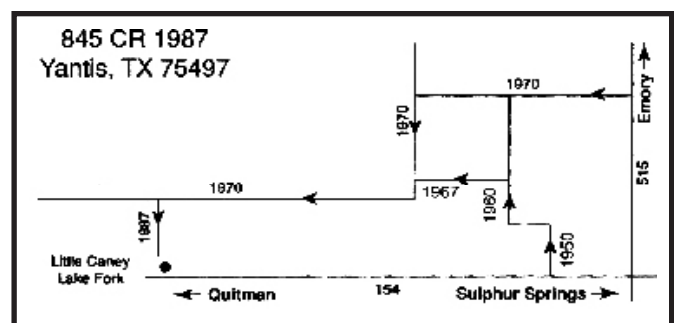
During the next year, the BRI and TPWD will closely monitor the translocated pronghorn to determine survival, reproductive productivity, fawn survival, habitat utilization, and movements. This research will help define the best management practices essential in growing pronghorn populations in the Trans-Pecos region.

"We sincerely appreciate all the cooperation and support from our partners and the Pampa and Trans-Pecos communities," stated Gray. "Their continued support will help ensure pronghorn herds will recover and continue to roam the desert grasslands of Texas."

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Texas State Parks Photography Contest Expands for its Second Year

Ready. Aim. Click! Grab your camera and head to one of more than 90 state parks and historic sites this spring to participate in the second annual Texas State Parks Photo Contest. With new categories added this time around, photographers of all ages have a chance to win.

Whether it's a photo from a weekend get together with friends, or even a "selfie," your playful moments at your favorite state park could be published in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine. Additionally, you could win a new HERO3+

Silver Edition GoPro© video camera from Whole Earth Provision Co., valued at \$300.

Photos must be entered between March 1 and midnight, April 14.

This year's categories will feature photos by kids (17 and under), photos by adults (18 years or older) and Instagram photos.

Whether you plan to enter the contest or not, Texas' state parks offer a wide array of locations to view and photograph yourself and others in the company of some of the state's most remarkable scenery, flowers, wildlife and landmarks.

Some state parks have scheduled photography events, including a photography workshop on March 15 at Ray Roberts Lake State Park- Isle du Bois unit, and a photo tour of Big Bend Ranch State Park on March 21 and 28.

For photography events, visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/photography>.

To enter the contest, visit: www.texasstateparks.org/photography and follow the links to the contest. Sign into Flickr (Yahoo), or

(See Texas State Parks Photography.....

Continued on Page 19-A)

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Lake Fork fishing was great for Team Bubba on Sunday, February 16th. Won't count the small ones but had two over 8-pounds, with one over the slot by a hair that measured 24 1/8" and weighed 8.6-lbs. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Ken Gilbreath)



Jim Pinnel was fishing Lake Fork in February while dodging an alligator and caught this nice hawg that tilted the scales at 9.1-pounds. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo)



Tal Moody caught his first double-digit bass fishing Lake Fork with guide John Tanner on January 30th. His bass weighed 10-lbs. 1-oz. Congrats Tal. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo John Tanner Guide Service)

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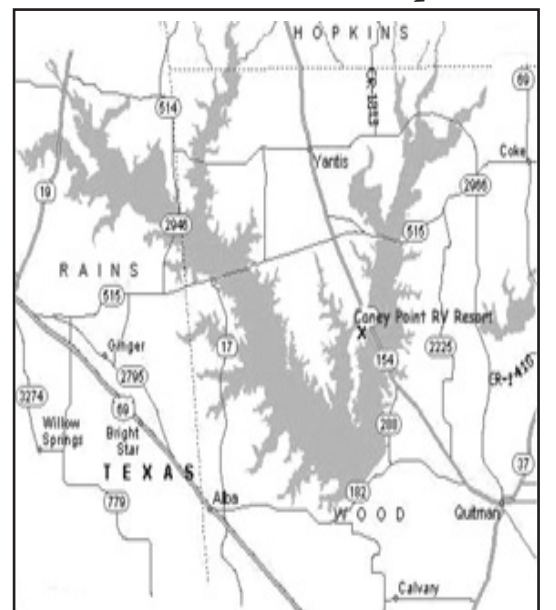
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"Pack of Knowledge" Spring Lipless Cranking Tips

By Tom Redington

It's no secret that lipless crankbaits are killer lures for prespawn bass. Amazingly, these obnoxiously colored and sounding lures have been catching big bass for decades, especially on grass lakes like Fork, Sam Rayburn, and Guntersville.

While lipless cranks produce a lot of strikes, they are notorious for fish swatting at them, following them, and worst of all, coming unhooked while fighting bass. To help correct these problems, following are a few tips on how to land more bites

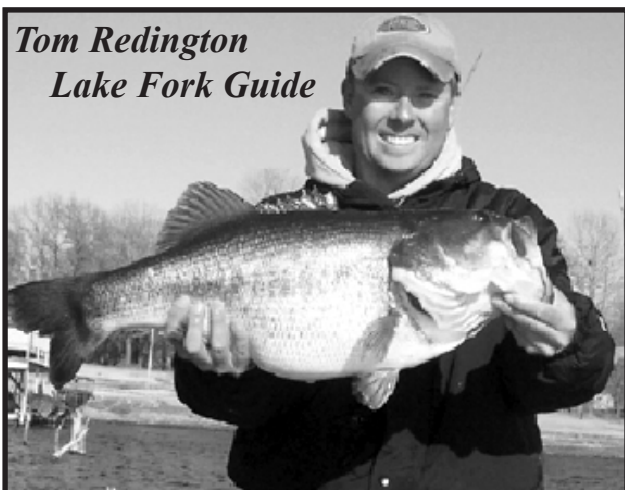
from one of my all-time favorite fishing techniques: Bait: Lipless cranks are not a secret, so bass see a ton of them in the spring and quickly become conditioned to traditional baits, so new designs often catch more than old favorites. In the past couple of years, Lucky Craft introduced the RTO lipless cranks with a dying shimmy on the fall and a flat head that creates a wider wobble than most lipless cranks. In addition, they created a GP version of their very productive LV series of baits, with a small blade on the underside of the lure. The extra flash and clack of the blade as it falls gives bass a totally different look, sound, and feel. Efficiency: Lipless cranks excel at both catching actively feeding fish and triggering inactive fish to bite, especially when ticking or ripped free from grass. Simply put, the more water you cover with them in a day, the more bass you'll put your bait in front of and the more bites you'll get. It's not simply a matter of the number of total casts in a day though. A retrieve that comes back to the boat with grass all over your bait is a wasted cast, and it hurts your efficiency. Rigging correctly to consistently tear the bait cleanly from submerged vegetation is imperative to maximize your success. Rod: Fiberglass rods maximize your landing percentage with lipless cranks because the slow bend allows bass to take the bait deeper and keeps them buttoned up when barely hooked. While I love the Dobyns 705CB GLASS for open water, the slow action of glass rods won't rip cranks cleanly from grass as well

as graphite. Furthermore, fiberglass has less feel, so your lipless crank is often substantially tangled in grass before you sense it, compounding the problem; therefore, I throw an 8' Dobyns 804CB graphite cranking rod. This rod has a mod-fast tip action but a stout butt section—enough tip to let bass take the bait and keep them hooked, but plenty of power to rip baits free of hydrilla with a sharp wrist snap. Since lipless crank fishing is somewhat physically demanding, I also like the fact that this rod is well balanced and light, allowing me to fish it all day. Finally, the 8' length allows for ultra-long casts to cover huge amounts of water. Line: In open water, 12 to 20 lb fluoro matched with a fiberglass rod is a great setup. Fishing around grass though, braided line's no stretch saws through grass and rips baits right out. Remembering that a bait fouled with grass is a wasted cast, being able to rip it free is key. Therefore, 50 to 65 lb braid is my choice around grass.

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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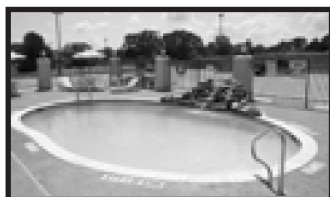
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Texas State Parks Photography Contest *(Continued from 16-A)*

for entrants who prefer to sign in with an existing Google account or Facebook account, there's a way to do that, too. Select "Join This Group" to be added to the "2014 Texas State Parks Photo Contest," then upload your entries. Don't forget to tag the state park or natural area where the photo was taken. Photos must be tagged with "17U" if you are under 17 years of age. Instagram entries must be tagged with the hashtag #MyParkPic and include the name of the state park where the photo was taken. The photo contest

is open to all photographers, except TPWD employees and their immediate family. Winners will be contacted on or about May 15 through their Flickr or Instagram accounts. For complete contest rules, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/parks/things-to-do/photo-contest-rules. For a complete park list, visit: www.texasstateparks.org.

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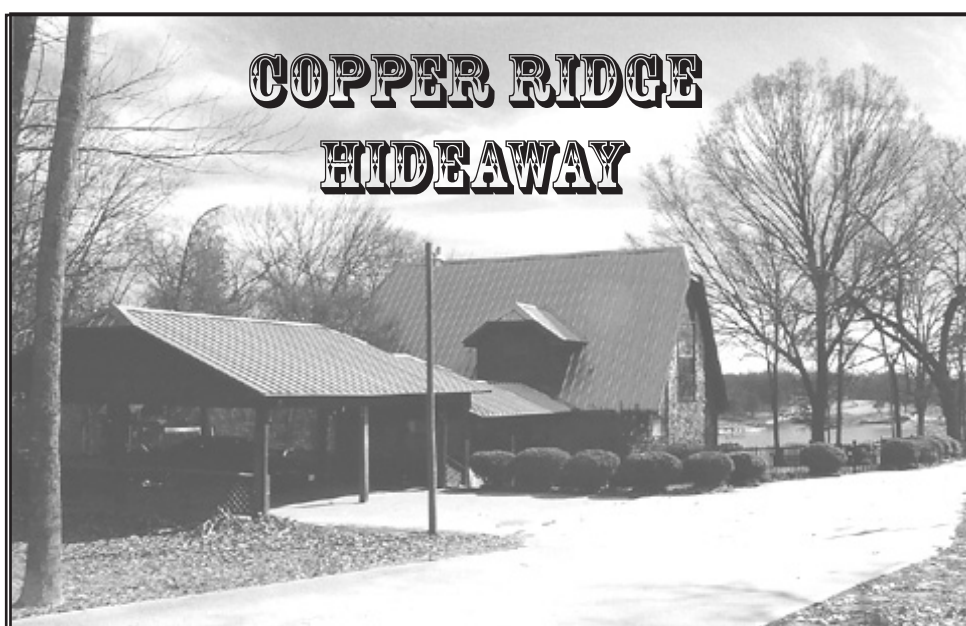
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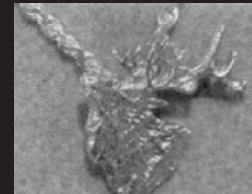
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March into the bass of a lifetime on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

At the end of each line tie on a 5/0 hook baited with a Lake Fork Trophy Swim Minnow. They have a new color that is green/gold flake with orange belly that has proven really effective. When you cast this out work it with slow jerks, wait and jerk again. This rep-

licates foraging bait fish and the hawks unload on them. Don't be surprised when you reel in two at a time. The larger females will usually be holding in 4 to 10ft. My best advice to my clients is don't worry about getting hung up. If you're not getting hung up, you're not fishing Lake Fork.

It's that time of year folks! The spawn is beginning and there are plenty of fat girls swimming shallow just waiting to do the line dance with you! Many thanks to all my readers, sponsors, and friends, I hope this article puts you on that lunker of a lifetime. If you catch that dream fish, email

me your pics and I'll have them put in the paper so you'll even have more bragging rights! If you would like to book a trip with me during the spawn, you can reach me at 903-383-7748 or on my cell 903-360-6994 or email fishnews@lakefork.net Have a great time and fish friendly!

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"Waterproofing" Texas game wardens

On February 11 and 12, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) game wardens were provided officer water survival (OWS) training in advance of the spring and summer water safety season. This training is part of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program catalog of nationally credentialed courses.

"Texas game wardens are by statute the primary law enforcement officers on the state's waters and that environment brings its own hazards," said Asst. Commander Cody Jones, Texas' Boating Law Administrator. "In the course of their duty, game wardens wear gear including their duty belt and ballistics vest that add an additional 18 to 20 pounds of weight to them. It's important that if they enter the water whether expectedly or unexpectedly they

know their capabilities and how to survive."

"Six of our game wardens have drowned in the line of duty and that's something we think about every day," said Colonel Craig Hunter, TPWD Director of Law Enforcement. "Game wardens are routinely on the water in very demanding

situations and this training will save lives."

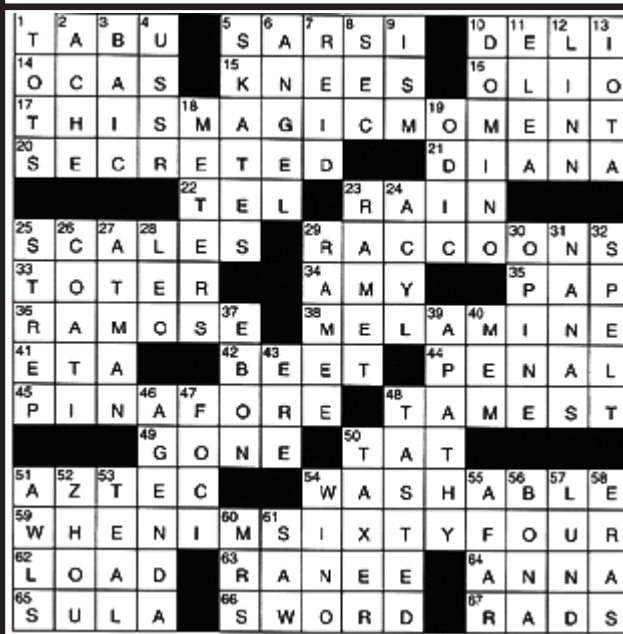
Twenty game wardens went through this two-day course, which included skills in surviving a water entry in uniform, disengaging from an assailant while in the water, water extraction techniques, and other lifesaving water skills.

Just The Right Answers

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Famous Women Word Find

There are several famous women's names hidden throughout the puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle.

ADDAMS
BARTON
CARSON
CURIE
EARHART
HUERTA

JONES
RIDE
ROOSEVELT
WALKER
WOODHULL

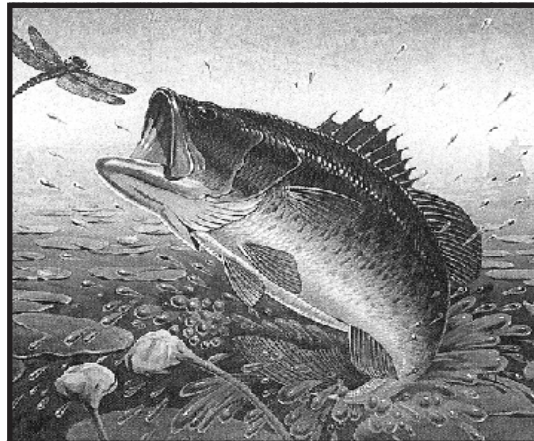
B E E S P I D H N T R S
N E O E G I I A T N O M
W A L K E R E D R U O R
A D D A M S N N E H S T
F C B A R T O N A U E C
D N O I R I D E H E V A
T E O C A N E T I R E R
U W O O D H U L L T L S
B E D S D S P G L A T O
M T D N J O N E S W M N
A O R H E A R H A R T F
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Three-time world welter-weight champion Jack Britton competed in a record 37 title bouts.



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Fly Fish Texas March 8 at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

Learn to tie a fly, cast a fly and catch a fish all in one day during the annual Fly Fish Texas event at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, Texas March 8.

Throughout the day, experienced fly-tiers will be demonstrating and teaching fly-tying in the Anglers Pavilion on a one-on-one basis. In addition, group instruction in beginning fly-tying will be offered in the Hart-Morris Conservation Center beginning at noon. Both are offered on a walk-up basis.

Beginning casting instruction will take place

all day in the Conservation Center parking lot, again on a walk-up basis. Scheduled sessions will teach single- and double-hand Spey rod casting.

For a complete schedule of activities and seminars, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc and click on the Fly Fish Texas link.

Vendors will be displaying and selling fly-fishing gear, and seminars will brief visitors on where and how to fly-fish in fresh and salt waters for a variety of species. The program will include presentations on fly-fishing the Llano River and Colorado's

backcountry canyons and high-meadow streams.

Other sessions will focus on caring for fly-fishing equipment, choosing a fly rod, fly-fishing for carp, tying flies for spring bass fishing, tying trout flies, tying flies to take advantage of fish senses and rigging for trout.

Kayaks and instruction on how to use them for fly-fishing will be available on the casting pond. Do-it-yourself fly-fishing for rainbow trout, sunfish and catfish will be available all day in TFFC's ponds and streams. Bass and rainbow trout fishing will be available in the fly-fishing pond at the end of the Wetlands Trail.

Food service will be available onsite, or attendees may bring a picnic. TFFC's regularly scheduled dive shows will take place in the dive theater at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and will be followed by tram tours of the hatchery.

Event sponsors include Sabine River Authority, Dallas Fly Fishers, Temple Fork Outfitters, Red Hat Rentals, Best Western Royal Mountain Inn--Athens, Friends of TFFC, Cripple Creek BBQ, Danny's Smokehouse Bar-B-Que, First State Bank and Super 8--Athens.

Show hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All Fly Fish Texas activities are free with regular paid admission to the center.



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EXTRA NICE LAKE FORK WATERFRONT home in small subdivision of approx. 21 houses. Home has large entry, living area, formal dining, heated & cooled sun room. Nice kitchen, breakfast bar, utility room with pantry. Master bedroom has large walk-in closet. This home is still like new, very well maintained. There is a workshop area just off the carport. Detached workshop in back yard. Irrigation/sprinkler system is from the lake. Boathouse has lift and small storage area.. Subdivision has its own boat ramp that is fully useable. Pretty area of Lake Fork, lots of trees, dogwoods. \$259,000



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.



BEAUTIFUL RUSTIC LAKE FORK HOME! This is the ultimate lake home on deep water. Lots of updates. 576 sf addition in 2007 includes master bedroom, huge walk-in closet and large master bath with gorgeous ceiling woodwork treatments. 704 sf garage and 208 sf work area also added in 2007. Spectacular views from living, kitchen and dining area. Wood burning fireplace in living area, attractive wood ceiling treatment in living, kitchen and dining. Fully finished basement includes fireplace, bath, and storage area. This would make a great guest room or game room. Loft overlooks din and living area. Large wood deck across the back with exceptional views of backyard and Lake Fork! Wood retaining wall, sprinkler sys large beautiful trees, gardens and concrete circle drive. Need to see this unique lake home on 1 and a half treed lots. Owner says he still has access to lake form boathouse!! Must see to appreciate all home has to offer. \$399,500



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



GREAT OPPORTUNITY to own a Marina on Lake Fork. This property has it all: 27-room recently refurbished motel, convenience store, cafe, tackle store, boat ramp, boat slips, swimming pool, 50+ site RV park with full hoop ups. Property has its own sewage treatment plant. There is 2 acres deeded with lots of leaseback, plenty of parking and room for expansion. Great area to hold tournaments, plus it's the first full service marina coming in from the Dallas metroplex. Reduced to \$525,000



CALLING ALL INVESTORS! House has been previously rented. Needs lots of work. Good opportunity for rental income or to own your own home. To be sold "As is, Where is". Only \$21,000



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. \$135,000



CHARMING LOG HOME IN DALE CREEK with leaseback adjacent to community boat ramp. Wooded setting with a pond adjacent to lot. Large living area open to dining and kitchen also wood burning fire. Master bedroom has entrance to bath from bedroom enclosed breezeway with sitting area to 2-car garage, porches and decks overlooking gazebo and treehouse. Extra storage building with dog run. \$145,000

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



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