Shawn Hixenbaugh from Pecos, Texas was presented his 2014 Legend 211 Alpha by Randy Qualls, Legend Boats, Billy Sartin, Sartin Marine, and Don Hampton, Legend of Lake Fork for his catch during the tournament of a hawg weighing 10.29-pounds.

Gerald Holcomb from Tyler, Texas was presented his 2014 Legend 191 Alpha by Randy Qualls, owner Legend Boats and Don Hampton, Legend of Lake Fork for his 2nd place heaviest catch during the tournament of a hawg weighing 10.22-pounds.

Ronnie Ray from McKinney, Texas was presented with a 2014 Legend 199 Alpha, equipped with Mercury, Motorguide, Lowrance electronics for his heaviest bass under the slot weighing 2.64-pounds.

Steven Wood from Emory, Texas wasn’t lucky enough to get an hourly check during the tournament but he was lucky enough in the early entry draw to win a 2014 Legend 186 SCX bass boat.
“Have You Smooched The Pooch Today?”

By: Don Hampton

Everyone has a different expression or saying when they make a mistake or mess up. Some will use profanity; curse themselves, their equipment, the weather, the water, their friends or whatever they can think of at the moment to vent their anger and frustrations.

Bubba seems to be lacking when it comes to understanding that type of behavior. First of all you are not going to find him getting too stressed out in life. He loves it too much, because to him fishing is life. Second, if Bubba ever heard him come out with profanity in mixed company, not only would he have cause to hang his head in shame but he also might wake up with the taste of Ivory soap in his mouth.

Bubba does have his sayings when he makes mistakes. With his he can use them in mixed company and still not have to worry what that soap tastes like. His favorite saying when he makes a mistake or messes up is, “Well, I smooched the pooch that time!” Bubba doesn’t even have a dog anymore but he still finds himself SMOOCHING THE POOCH a lot and usually on a daily basis!

Bubba will be late coming home from a fishing trip and have a cold Bubbette and supper waiting and he’ll simply say, “Well, I smooched the pooch this time!” If he did badly in a tournament or on a fishing trip and you ask him about it, you’ll get the same answer. If he lost his keys or wrecked his truck, the answer would still be the same. If he sees or hears of someone else messing up he’ll say, “Well they smooched the pooch!” This is just Bubba’s laid back way of saying everything the hot heads say and express but in a simple, sensible, sociably acceptable way.

Bubba has a lot of other sayings in life he uses in place of profanity and that are inoffensive. “Ole Chips” is probably his most used one. He doesn’t like old chips because they are stale and tasteless. If he smashes his finger it’s, “Ole chips!” If he bends his license plate while backing up to the boat, it’s the same. If he misses a hook set on a big bass, it’s the same.

Now Bubba isn’t one to call names but on occasions he does express his dislike over someone’s behavior. For this he has an especially appropriate word I perfectly understood after he explained it to me. If he sees someone misbehave in a tasteless or unbecoming manner, he’ll simply say, “Well, there’s a real ashtray!” or “There’s someone acting like a real ashtray!”

Being the enquiring mind that I am when I heard Bubba say this the first time, I wanted to know his philosophy on this one. Believe it or not, Bubba is very philosophical. I came to this conclusion when he explained it to me.

He enlightened me by telling me, “Most ashtrays are always dirty. The sole purpose is for depositing cigarette butts in them and you always find an ash or two around them!” Well, that was descriptive enough for me so that I hope he never calls me an ashtray or says I’m acting like one!

Bubba is not a saint! You won’t find him trading in his bass boat to be walking on water in this lifetime. He does try to be as good a man as he can and not using profanity is one of his ways. Growing up his father was a backwoods Methodist preacher that taught him well that bad words made you a bad person. He also found out that a switch isn’t just something installed by electricians and that a belt isn’t just used to hold your pants up.

So take a lesson from Bubba and his upbringing. If you are in public with other people present and you get angry, keep it to yourself or modify it with pleasantries.

At least that way you won’t have anyone come up to you and say, “Ole Chip! You just smooched the pooch, and you’re acting like a real ashtray!”

---

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per-fast or ultra-slow retrieve is required to trigger
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the wind can almost double your casting distance.
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about as deep as you
can reach, even with
the magnum lures. For
extreme cases, "stroll-
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much deeper. Sim-
ply cast your lure well
past your intended tar-
get. Once your lure
hits the water, keep the
spool open and head
in the opposite direc-
tion with your trolling motor, free spooling
line as you go. By doing this, you can strip all
of the line off of your reel, effectively produ-
cing a 150 to 200 yard cast (for reference, a nor-
amal "long" cast is 60 to 80 yards). The process
is a bit time consuming, but you can catch fish
nearly 40' deep by strolling in certain situations.
For more fish catching tips, check out my web-
site www.LakeForkGuideTrips.com, or follow
me at www.facebook.com/tomredingtonfish-
ting 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 experi-
ence in the outdoors, he recommends the Boy
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INSURANCE CLAIMS

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INSURANCE CLAIMS
10th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

The 10th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Tournament could only be classified as a success with 1,145 entries into the competition representing 21 states.

Anglers came to compete for the guaranteed $300,000 in cash and prizes that were given away. With four 2014 Legend bass boats to be won the determination of the anglers was truly sincere as proven in the catch ratio.

With seven places being paid per hour, eight hours a day for the three day tournament, the action was far from slow. Lake Fork responded to the anglers showing just what a great fishing reservoir this is by giving up 29 bass over the 24” slot during the course of the tournament. The weight of the bass ranged from 7-pounds to 10.29-pounds.

In previous years in the tournament the average weight for the heaviest bass under the slot averaging between 2.61-pounds to 2.78-pounds. There had only been two exceptions to this average weight for the heaviest bass under the slot and with the weight of 2.64-pounds during the 9 to 10 o’clock hour. Mr. Ray’s fish held up during the course of the tournament not only winning him $500 in the hourly but also a 2014 Legend 199 Alpha, Mercury Motor, Motorguide Trolling Motor and Lowrance Electronics with an Easy Step System.

The heaviest over the slot to win a new 2014 Legend 211 Alpha bass boat was caught by an angler that had never been on Lake Fork before. Not all anglers were competing for Big Bass; some were fishing to be the first knocked out of sixth place in each hour winning them a $100 gift certificate from one of our local sponsors. Some became pretty efficient at this, winning more than a few times in the competition.

Besides the hourly paybacks anglers were competing to take home one of the 2014 Legend bass boats. Four of these boats are given away during the tournament; two for the two heaviest over the slot of 24”, one for the heaviest under 16” and one in a drawing from all early entries received on or before April 30th.

The Toyota Share Lunker Program is used in a selective manner to catch the state’s largemouth bass. Of those bass caught, offspring from these fish are stocked back into the water body. Some of the entries into the competition representing 21 states.

(Continued on Next Page)
Shawn Hixenbaugh, from Florida, but working in Pecos heard about the tournament and decided he and a friend would like to just come and fish Lake Fork in the tournament. They bought an old used boat, did a little fixing up on it to make it legal and drove up to enter the competition. “I never imagined that I could win this tournament and a new boat fishing out of this!” said Shawn. But as all fishermen know, it is not what you’re fishing out of; it is where you’re fishing, what you’re fishing, how you’re fishing and how lucky you are that counts. With Shawn it was all of the above. He weighed in a lunker weighing 10.29-pounds during the 1 to 2 o’clock hour on Friday and his weight held up during the course of the tournament winning him a 2014 fully outfitted Legend 211 Alpha, Mercury, Motorguide, and Lowrance Electronics with an Easy Step System.

The second heaviest bass over the slot and winning a 2014 Legend 191 Alpha equipped with an Easy Step System was caught by Gerald Holcomb from Tyler, Texas. Gerald’s bass weighed 10.22-pounds and was brought to the scales on Friday, the first day of the tournament during the 8 to 9 o’clock hour.

On the most part during the tournament it took at least a 2-pound or better bass to get in the money. The 29 over the slot were caught by Dylan Smith with a 8.54; Jared Borden with a 7.56; Gerald Holcomb with a 10.22; Glen Avery with a 9.43; Sam Trinca with a 8.61; Terry Stevens with a 8.52; Thomas Lombarch with a 7.00; Alan Smith with a 7.57; Shawn Hixenbaugh with a 10.29; Justin Burn with a 8.03; Dannon Thomas with a 8.42; Brian Spalding with a 8.37; Robert Feagan with a 7.72; James Crawford with a 7.18; William Gray with a 7.97; John Banks with a 7.84; David Bowell with a 8.81; Clifton McKay with a 7.52; Doug Haeussler with a 7.78; Jarod Brantley with a 8.55; Slagle McGuffee with a 8.27; Hunter McClendon with a 9.11; Derrick McClarley with a 9.39; Howard Shoemake with a 8.80; David Morris with a 8.77; Cameron Burger with a 8.04; Todd Truly with a 8.04; Sam Trinca with a 7.69; and Michael Burch with a 8.18.

This year celebrating our 10th Anniversary.

(See Legend of Lake Fork... Continued on Page 11-A)
Weather or Not? June fishing will be great!

By David Ozzo

Now let’s think this out. Is it possible it will snow in June? Can the wind still blow forty every day? After this horrendous winter and spring, anything is possible. I am going out on a limb and say that excellent weather and great fishing are on the horizon for the month of June and this month will be a great time to be on the water.

You can expect the post spawn, tired, worn out, females to start moving back off shore and set up shop on deep humps, ridges, tree lines and structure. The great thing about the month of June is that, unlike the late summer, these fish will be on the bottom and easy to catch. Early June will see them blending in with the sand bass and usually grouping up in the late afternoon. You can have a

fish catching blast by throwing a flutter spoon, tail kicker and maybe even an Alabama rig set up with small swimbaits. You will probably catch more sand bass than black bass but when you do connect with a green fish, it will most likely be one for the scales.

The most important tool at this time of the year is your electronics. This is the key to finding these large wads of active fish. I prefer the Lowrance 12 Touch because it delivers a crystal clear picture of what’s below, and when you master this marvelous piece of equipment, you can tell the difference between the black bass and the sand bass with no issue. It is especially good at displaying bass that are suspended in the branches of submerged trees. Pull up to any ridge, hump or point and idle back and forth to see if anybody is home. It’s that simple. Once you see some arches on the bottom, throw the troll motor over and get to work.

For the true trophy bass, tie on a jig of choice and work the aforementioned locations thoroughly once fish are spotted. If they are finicky, switch to a Carolina rig and scale the bait size down to 10XD at them or some other type of deep diving crankbait. A drop shot will work well also. If the bite gets really good, don’t be afraid to hurl a 10XD at them and work the aforementioned locations thoroughly once fish are spotted. If they are finicky, switch to a Carolina rig and scale the bait size down to 10XD at them or some other type of deep diving crankbait. Big swimbaits have been working well recently and I expect that pattern to improve toward the end of the month. Don’t forget to check all the submerged road beds that Lake Fork offers. Fish will stack up on these deep highways offering you the rod bending experience of a lifetime.

For the shallow water enthusiasts, lily pads are starting to blossom all across the lake. Tie on a Spro frog, Rage Tail frog or a buzzbait and cover some water. The pads offer shade for the bass and the water temps will still be cool enough to support these shallow fish which will feed on the bluegill who live under the pads. If they are not active, a Texas rig worm or small swimbait might do the trick to get these green gourillas going. In years past, I have had locations

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Answers on Page 21-A

(See Weather or Not... Continued on Page 20-A)

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Wildlife Experts Urge Safety for Bird Feeders

After a rise in calls about backyard bird illness, experts are advising people to regularly clean and maintain backyard feeders and birdbaths, use fresh feed and be cautious about storing feed for long periods. They also say landscaping with native plants that provide natural food and use less water. “Feeders mainly benefit people, they bring birds in and make it easier to see them. So when we feed birds, we have a responsibility to make sure that what we provide is healthy,” said Cliff Shackelford, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ornithologist based in Nacogdoches. “Native plant landscaping, such as with the Texas Wildscapes program, is like a feeder that cleans itself, consistently providing good, fresh food.”

Various diseases can develop in birds that congregate around feeders, including salmonella, avian pox, Aspergillus fungus, and parasitic protozoans. Bird seed can go bad after it’s been purchased, while it’s stored. Harmful fungi grow most rapidly in humid environments.

People should therefore be cautious about using seed that they’ve stored for weeks or months, especially in a warm, humid area. Also, research by the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 2003 shows that bird seed purchased for feeders can contain aflatoxin, a fungus by-product that can cause diseases and harm the immune system, making birds more vulnerable to normally non-fatal illnesses. Corn

(See Wildlife Experts....Continued on Page 20-A)

June

**Junes Post Spawn**

By Terri Moon

For those of you trying to find big schools of crappie, it’s still a little early. These crappie are just finishing up spawning and believe it or not we’re catching a few white crappie still loaded with eggs. The crazy weather has just started to warm consistently so we are still having to move around a lot!

The key factor this time of year is baitfish and structure. You need to be targeting mid range stump beds, brush piles and other submerged structure, like hydrilla beds, or creek channels.

This is a time when GOOD electronics are a “must.” The other “must” is paying close attention to them because if you don’t know what depth to target, you are wasting a lot of time guessing...when you could be catching!

When fishing structure in open water, I’ve realized what an important factor these depth finders play in a successful day of fishing! I’m still amazed at the detail of my Lowrance HDS units when set on the Downscan. It’s truly amazing! It is so detailed you can actually count how many fish are in the brush pile! So, if your fishing isn’t what you think it could be, you might want to consider upgrading because I’ve personally realized having quality equipment like “Lowrance” is “PRICELESS!”

The baits working for us right now are Bobby Garland’s Double Silver Rainbow, Blue Pearl, and Chartreuse with Red Glitter. They have been producing consistently at 16 to 21 ft. in 24 to 30 ft. of water. Now for my very favorite fish...the bream! I finally got a day off and went and caught me a load of some giant ones! There can’t be anything more fun. It was around the new moon and they were in 1 – 4 ft. of water. I used night crawlers and tightlined for them. I can’t wait till the next full moon. It should be “game on”! If you’re not catching them shallow, back off to 5 to 10 ft. depths.

I hope you all get the chance to get out and enjoy this beautiful weather we’ve been having because summers coming! I want to thank all in Missouri for making this year’s morel hunt a “memorable one”! It’s very much appreciated!

Also, Happy Anniversary to my Mom & Dad wishing you many more! Also, Happy Father’s Day to all and especially to mine, Bob Carleton of Leeville, MO.

I’m looking forward to this year’s “Skeeter Boat Owner’s Tournament” father’s day weekend. It’s always great seeing such a quality event come to Lake Fork! All your hard work is very much appreciated. My best to you all!
Defending champion earns third TTBC title in four years at Lake Fork

The world championship of bass fishing, the Toyota Texas Bass Classic was decided by a world record-breaking performance from two-time winner and defending TTBC Champion Keith Combs of Huntington, Texas. Combs broke the tour-level world record recently with a massing 110 pounds following three days of competition at historic Lake Fork. The previous record for a 5-bass-limit was set in 2000 at Clear Lake, California by Byron Velvick with 83 pounds, 5 ounces. Combs’ total over three days broke the record by a staggering 26 pounds, 11 ounces.

“To get 100 pounds in four days is a major accomplishment, and to do it in three is unheard of; it’s nothing about the angler but it’s a testament to this lake,” Combs said. “I wasn’t the only one here to crack 100 pounds on 15 bass, so that just tells you how strong and how well-managed this lake is.”

After standout performances from Combs in the first two days of TTBC competition, he entered Sunday with a four pound lead, however Stetson Blaylock, Russ Lane, Jason Christie and Randy Haynes overtook him and the lead spot saw multiple anglers in first place during an early morning flurry of big catches. Lane was the first pro to top 90 pounds, tallying 96, which was then quickly topped by Blaylock with a 93 while Combs sat at 88 pounds. Justin Lucas was the sixth pro to top 80 while Mark Rose added a couple weighers around 10 a.m. By noon, the top seven of the Tundra Ten were within 10 pounds.

As wind picked up around noon, the big six, seven and eight pounders that Lake Fork is famous for, started to show up. Combs bounced through several spots producing four or more catches at each.

“Midday, I got into a little rhythm but was only catching one fish per spot. I’d run, catch one, run again, catch one. I told my onboard judge, ‘I’m feeling it,’ and I got a little groove on,” said Combs. “I said to my judge, ‘It’s happening for me right now.’”

Combs was on track to collect his second Century Bag (100+ lbs) of his eight year career, recording 102 pounds and regaining the lead with an 8-8 (over 24 inches) in the afternoon. Blaylock made a late afternoon run with catch of 7-8, 4-8 and 5-12 within five minutes of each other, earning him the first Century Bag of his young professional career but it proved not enough to catch Combs. Blaylock finished second at 102 pounds, 8 ounces.

Combs’ world record performance also claimed two individual statistic awards, his 42 pound bag performance was the sixth pro to top 90 while Mark Rose added a couple weighers around 10 a.m. By noon, the top seven of the Tundra Ten were within 10 pounds.

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**10th ANNUAL LEGEND OF LAKE FORK OPEN BIG BASS TOURNAMENT FINALS**

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<tr>
<th>DAY 1</th>
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<td>7 - 8 Hour</td>
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<td>Dylan Smith 8.54</td>
<td>Terry Stevens 8.52</td>
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<td>David Cochran 2.03</td>
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**11th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament May 15, 16, 17, 2015**

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Sat. ~ 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed Monday
The 11th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament is set for May 15, 16, 17, 2015. As promised to the anglers, as we grow so will the paybacks and prizes. In next year’s tournament we will be paying 8 places per hour and it being our 11th Annual we will have 5 Legend boats up for grabs by the anglers. Four of the boats to be given away will be the same format, two for the two heaviest over the slot, one for the heaviest under 16”, one for the drawing on early entries received on or before April 30, 2015, and the surprise boat. The surprise being a new 2015 Legend 211 Alpha fully equipped for the first 11-pound bass weighed in. There will be more chances and many incentives for anglers to go home winners. Then again, you are always a winner when you fish on Lake Fork.

As in all of the Legend of Lake Fork Tournaments there is a drawing from all of the early entries to win a 2014 Legend 186 SCX. This year’s lucky recipient was Steven Wood from Emory, Texas.

One thing you always see at the Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament that you do not see at other tournaments is the Legend factory crew. Each tournament Legend Boats bring some of their factory crew to help not only with Legend boats but with all makes and models of boats that might have a problem while competing in the tournament. This year was no exception and they did an excellent job with keeping our anglers on the water and in the competition.

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Toyota ShareLunker Season Ends Quietly

After getting off to a fast start with three entries in November and December, the Toyota ShareLunker season sputtered to an end April 30 with a total of only nine entries. Low lake levels, unseasonably cold spring temperatures and windy conditions on many weekends combined to limit angler opportunities to catch big bass. But the fish were out there, and those who persevered will be rewarded with replicas of their catches and ShareLunker clothing at a banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center on June 7.

Two catches were new lake records. Ken Leonard of New Braunfels set the new mark for Lady Bird Lake in downtown Austin with Toyota ShareLunker 556, a 13.0-pounder caught March 18. The first ShareLunker from that water body, it was returned to the lake March 22. Casey Laughlin of Rowlett caught the new Lake Palestine record, a 13.22-pounder, during a Media Bass tournament February 1. It was returned to the lake February 7.

Four of the nine entries were caught by out-of-state anglers, proving once again the tourism value of Texas trophy bass fishing. That value was underscored time and again by the 50 professional anglers at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) on Lake Fork in May. Every angler in the world championship of bass fishing commented on the quality of bass fishing on Lake Fork in particular and the entire state in general. "Lake Fork is fishing better than any lake in Texas right now and probably the whole country," said three-time TTBC champion Keith Combs. "This event proved that it is still the best lake in Texas. Lake Fork is unbelievable! You really never know what you're going to catch. Every time I set the hook today, I thought it was going to be a 10-pounder. There aren't many places we fish on the pro tours where that happens."

Lake Fork produced three of the nine entries into the Toyota ShareLunker program during the season just ended, including the 13.86-pounder that earned Tulsa, Oklahoma, angler Randall Claybourne Angler of the Year honors for biggest bass. Lake Fork also produced the first catch of the season, a 13.29-pounder reeled in by Stephens L. Proctor of Pryor, Oklahoma, on November 21 and returned to the lake December 3.

Lake Athens, adjacent to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, produced two entries, both of which were pure Florida largemouth bass and therefore eligible to be spawned to produce fingerlings for stocking back into lakes producing entries. Time and the results of DNA testing on future program entries will tell if any of those fry grow up to become ShareLunkers themselves. One of the Lake Athens fish, Toyota ShareLunker 553, caught by Athens resident Frank Kirk, spawned three times, resulting in 117,425 fry. Kirk released the fish back into Lake Athens on May 5. The other, caught by Jason Hanson, was the second-largest entry of the season at 13.76 pounds. The fish was held for spawning but did not and was returned to the lake on May 12. Claybourne's fish, Toyota ShareLunker 552, was also pure Florida largemouth bass and spawned once, producing 26,015 fry. Claybourne released the fish back into Lake Fork on May 8.

A Toledo Bend Reservoir fish, 13.3-pounder Toyota ShareLunker 557, was caught by Lance Wakeland of Fenton, Missouri. Number 557 was returned to the lake March 25. Despite being covered up with boats and producing lots of big bass, Lake Austin managed to send only one fish to the Toyota ShareLunker program this season, a 13.19-pounder caught by Robert Whitehead of Austin. That fish, Toyota ShareLunker (See Toyota ShareLunker Season... Continued on 15-A)
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Defending champion earns third TTBC title in four years at Lake Fork (Continued from Page 9-A)

mane on Friday earned him the LEER Heavyweight Award (largest single day weight) while his 10 pound 14 ounce catch Friday won him the ATX Wheels Big Bass Award. Combs will receive a LEER Truck Cap and a set of premium ATX Wheels for his efforts.

“You really never know what you’re going to catch. Every time I set the hook today, I thought it was going to be a 10 pounder,” said Combs. “In your mind, there’s no doubt of the potential Lake Fork has on any cast. There aren’t many places we fish on the pro tours where that happens.”

The tournament remains a non-entry fee event, with all 50 competing anglers taking home guaranteed prize money. In addition, the TTBC continued its focus on conservation and adhere to strict catch, weigh and immediate release format that has earned the event national praise for its conservation efforts over the past eight years. The program highlights the efforts of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and after a $250,000 contribution at the end of the tournament, TTBC has given $2 million in donations to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to fund youth education and outreach programs.

Three days of world championship bass fishing also included performances from three of country music’s brightest stars. Little Big Town, Justin Moore and Pat Green entertained thousands of fans throughout the weekend. Free family fun was also a highlight of the event, with activities in the Bass Pro Shops Kids Zone and TPWD Outdoor Adventures Area.

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Toyota ShareLunker Season (Continued from 13-A)

er 555, died March 11.

Blake Eppinette of Downsville, Louisiana, caught 13.6-pound ShareLunker 550, a pure Florida largemouth bass, on December 27, 2013, from Lake Fork. It died two days later.

Anyone legally catching a 13-pound or bigger largemouth bass from Texas waters, public or private, between October 1 and April 30 may submit the fish to the Toyota ShareLunker program. Fish will be picked up by TPWD personnel within 12 hours.

Anglers entering fish 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 largest entry will be named Angler of the Year. If the Angler of the Year is a Texas resident, that person also receives a lifetime fishing license.

The number to call to report a ShareLunker catch is (903) 681-0550. If poor cell phone service prevents use of the voice number, anglers can leave a phone number (including area code) at (888) 784-0600.

Official ShareLunker weigh and holding stations have been established at a number of reservoirs; a list is at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spd-est/visitorcenters/tfrc/sharelunker/holding/.

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

Information on current catches, including short videos of interviews with anglers when available, will be posted on www.facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram. “Like” this page and you can receive notification and photos (See Toyota... Continued on 21-A)
Game Wardens Stress Water Safety

Since May 9, at least twelve people have lost their lives on Texas waters in boating or swimming accidents worked by Texas Game Wardens, an unusually high number of fatalities before the Memorial Day weekend. Game wardens and boater education experts are doing everything they can to make it a safe boating season, but could use a little help.

Last year in Texas, 146 accidents were reported by the U.S. Coast Guard, 31 of which ended with deaths. Statistics show many of these tragedies could have been prevented. Nearly 85 percent of boating accident victims were not wearing life jackets.

“The numbers speak for themselves,” said Cody Jones, TPWD Assistant Commander for Marine Enforcement. “Wearing a life jacket increases your chances of surviving on the water and can prevent your trip from turning into a tragedy.”

State law requires that a personal flotation device is available for each occupant of the boat, but only children under 13 years of age are mandated by the law to wear one while the boat or paddle craft is underway or drifting.

Despite this law, last year in Texas, more than 700 citations were issued for children not wearing a life jacket. It is mandatory for anyone born on or after Sept. 1, 1993 to obtain a boater’s education certificate before they can legally operate a vessel with a rating of more than 15 horsepower. Anyone supervising the operation of a vessel by another must be 18 years of age or older and exempt from the boater education requirement (born before 1993) or have a boater education certificate.

In 2013, 208 citations were issued in Texas to boaters who were intoxicated. And five of the state’s boating deaths in 2013 were alcohol-related, highlighting the importance of not drinking while operating a boat.

“If you want to drink before heading out on the water, remember to be responsible and assign a designated driver,” said Jones. “Wardens will be patrolling the waters and anyone found operating a boat while intoxicated will face possible arrest and time in jail.”

For information about boater education courses, visit: http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/boating/boater_education/internet_courses.html

Boaters with an online course certificate may receive a discounted rate from their boating insurance provider.

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“Pack of Knowledge” Going Where No Crankbait Went Before

By Tom Redington

Deep diving crankbaits are a mainstay for catching summer bass. These popular lures not only catch bass, but they often can trigger an entire school into feeding. Recent advancements in fishing tackle now make it possible to get baits even deeper, into places where bass have never seen a crankbait before. In deep summertime spots where bass normally have only seen jigs and worms, a few extra feet of depth with crankbaits allows you to show the bass something new. For proof, one need look no further than the record setting TTBC tournament on Lake Fork in May, as loads of 30 to 42 lb 5-fish limits came to the scales on deep divers. Following are tips to get your deep runners where they’ve never gone before.

**Rod:** This is basic geometry. The farther you cast a diving crankbait, the deeper it will run. Furthermore, basic physics dictates that longer rods cast farther than shorter rods. Accordingly, I start with an 8’ Dobyns 805CB cranking stick. Specifically designed for throwing deep diving cranks, this rod has enough tip to load and release like a slingshot on casts, yet it retains enough power to fight big fish at the end of 50 to 60 yard casts. Furthermore, it is a very sensitive rod that helps me decipher whether I’m bumping into clay, silt, rock, shells, grass, or wood. Bites are often very faint, so feeling the constant wiggle of my crankbait and setting the hook on any changes in the cadence is another key reason to use a sensitive rod like the Dobyns 805CB. With the new magnum sized deep cranks, Dobyns added an even stronger 806CB, which offers the same advantages for giant lures.

**Reel:** Regarding the reel, backlashes are killer on those casts to prevent tumbling, allowing longer casts and fewer backlashes. During the retrieve, the weight moves forward to steepen the dive angle, putting the lure in the strike zone quicker. Furthermore, the low thudding of the tungsten calls in active fish and triggers them to bite.

Recently, we’re seeing crankbaits in magnum sizes with huge bills, plunging them through the 20’ barrier and beyond. Lucky Craft’s Flat CB D20 is deadly on crappie. I specialize in jig fishing for bass (and crappie). I instruct in all the new fish catching techniques as well as the basics. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Excellent fly fishing and outstanding fishing trips on Private Lake Fork, due to its internal tungsten transfer system that sends weight to the back of the lure, Lake Fork Guide, Tom Redington.

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**Line:** No secrets here, small diameter fluorocarbon is the consensus choice. Drag from the air robs casting distance and drag in the water reduces diving depth. Therefore, I go with the smallest diameter line I can get away with. In addition, the denser fluorocarbon lines help get your bait slightly deeper than mono lines that float. At Fork, with monster bass and lots of timber, I go with 12 lb fluorocarbon. In more traditional situations, I’ll drop to 10 lb fluoro to get slightly deeper.

**Lure:** New technology and designs allow us to cast farther and make baits dive harder. For example, Lucky Craft’s Flat CB D20 is deadly on Lake Fork, due to its internal tungsten transfer system that sends weight to the back of the lure during casts to prevent tumbling, allowing longer casts and fewer backlashes. During the retrieve, the weight moves forward to steepen the dive angle, putting the lure in the strike zone quicker. Furthermore, the low thudding of the tungsten calls in active fish and triggers them to bite.

Recently, we’re seeing crankbaits in magnum sizes with huge bills, plunging them through the 20’ barrier and beyond. Lucky Craft’s SKT Mag 120 DR is almost 5” long and weighs 3.25 oz, diving down to 25’+. You’d expect these baits to be

(See Pack of Knowledge...Continued on Page 22-A)
A man arrested last fall for assaulting two Texas game wardens following a high-speed pursuit in Limestone County has been convicted of four felonies in connection with the case.

Two game wardens had been on routine patrol early on the morning of Oct. 5, 2013 in McLennan County looking for illegal road hunting when they attempted to stop a vehicle they had seen operating on a public road without headlights. The driver of the vehicle rammed the state vehicle the two wardens were in, but both vehicles were still drivable.

The driver of the suspect vehicle left the scene and the wardens gave pursuit. During that pursuit, someone in the fleeing truck shined a bright light into the eyes of the wardens and their vehicle went off the roadway, striking a culvert. Both game wardens were injured, one requiring hospitalization.

Taken into custody by local and state officers two days later was Teddy Wayne Davenport, 44. He was arrested in a wooded area two miles southeast of Teague in Freestone County and booked into the Limestone County jail, since the assaults had occurred in that county.

A Limestone County jury found Davenport guilty recently of four felony charges: Two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (a first-degree felony), burglary of a building (third-degree felony), felony evading arrest (third-degree felony).
Weather or Not? June fishing will be great! (Continued from Page 6-A)

where the bass stayed in skinny water like this all summer and into the fall. A little extra effort can pay huge dividends when everyone else is out on the main lake hunting for Red October. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in June searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in late June and some in July. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one’s who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409-782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/LakeForkGuideDavidOzio. I run a Skeeter FX with a Yamaha 250SHO and would like to thank Skeeter for making my office on the lake the best in the country. I would also like to thank G-Loomis, Shimano and Lowrance for making my job the blast that it is. A special shout out to H&W Marine in Tyler for all their help in keeping me on the water seven days a week, no issues. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. “Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”. I wish all of you a blessed day.

Wildlife Experts Urge Safety Cleanliness (Continued from Page 7-A)

and peanuts are more likely affected than other foods commonly provided at feeders.

This year, Shackelford said, there’s been a concerning increase in the number of people calling TPWD reporting dead birds, including blue jays, cardinals and doves. However, he said there are common-sense steps people can take to reduce risks to birds, including:

--Store bird seed in a cool, dry area. Try to use fresh food and avoid using seed that’s been stored at home for long periods. If you still have seed purchased last year, it’s safer to replace it.

--Regularly empty and clean bird feeders and bird baths with warm water and soap. No harsh cleaning chemicals are necessary.

--Change the water in bird baths regularly and eliminate any standing water on your property to help stop breeding mosquitos and related health concerns, such as West Nile Virus. In addition to a feeder, provide a natural “wildscape” using native plants. This will provide good cover and food for birds and butterflies, and it uses less water and costs less. See the Texas Wildscapes web pages for a wealth of resources.

--Consider putting out seed only during the colder months, for two reasons: during the warmer months, Mother Nature provides a healthier buffet naturally, and research has shown that harmful fungus and aflatoxin can grow on seeds during hot humid months.

For more information about how to protect birds from aflatoxin and other dangers, see the aflatoxin in bird seed web page of the Wild Bird Feeding Industry, a trade association for the wild bird and backyard wildlife feeding industry.
Toyota ShareLunker Season (Continued from 15-A)

of catches as soon as they become available.
ShareLunker entries are used in a selective breeding program at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens. Some of the offspring from these fish are stocked back into the water body from which they were caught. Other Share-

Lunker offspring are stocked in public waters around the state in an attempt to increase the overall size and growth rate of largemouth bass in Texas.
The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible by a grant to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation from Gulf States Toyota. Toyota is a long-time supporter of the Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of education, fish, parks and wildlife projects.

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men crankbaits. Anytime you’re looking for kick-
er fish out deep, monster crankbaits can deliver.

Retrieve: Crankbaits swing like a pendulum and surface tension from the water reduces diving depth. By holding your rod nearly straight down and keeping most of the line below the surface, you’ll reduce drag and achieve maximum depth. In addition, a moderate retrieve speed results in the maximum diving depth, although sometimes a super-fast or ultra-slow retrieve is required to trigger fish into biting. Although it can make for awkward boat positioning, holding so you can throw with the wind can almost double your casting distance. No matter how far you can cast, 20-25’ feet is about as deep as you can reach, even with the magnum lures. For extreme cases, “stroll-
ing” allows you to go much deeper. Simply cast your lure well past your intended target. Once your lure hits the water, keep the spool open and head in the opposite direc-
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tion with your trolling motor, free spooling line as you go. By doing this, you can strip all of the line off of your reel, effectively producing a 150 to 200 yard cast (for reference, a normal “long” cast is 60 to 80 yards). The process is a bit time consuming, but you can catch fish nearly 40’ deep by strolling in certain situations.

For more fish catching tips, check out my web-

Tom Redington is a FLW Tour pro, host of TV’s “Big Bass Battle” & a bass guide on Lake Fork. To make the most of your experience in the outdoors, he recommends the Boy Scouts of America, Lake Fork Trophy Lures, Dobyns Rods, Ranger Boats, Mercury Outboards, Diamond Sports Marine, Lucky Craft, Costa Sunglasses, Lowrance, & Power Poles.
The Fisherman’s Guide, News You Can Use

Don J. Hampton, Publisher/Owner
Member Texas Community

... have anyone come up to you and say, “Ole Chip! You just smooched the pooch, and you’re acting like a real ashtray!”

WOW! WHAT A BEAUTY! Enjoy a luxurious lifestyle here... in-ground swimming pool, boathouse with lift and fishing area, golf tee off mound, detached guest quarters that could be used for a business, den with full bath upstairs above garage, ceramic tile floors throughout living areas, carpet in bedrooms, sub-zero fridge, walk-in pantry, breakfast bar, blonde wood, wet bar, office at front, open and split floor plan, master bedroom at back with walk-in closet, jetted tub and shower stall, half bath outside at patio/pool area, fenced backyard, super great views, fruit tree orchard, almond and berry trees, no restrictions! $389,500

GET READY FOR SOME GREAT FISHING! Great area of Lake Fork, excellent boathouse with lift and fishing pier. Good water depth, great view. Very comfortable home, good floor plan. Open living, kitchen, breakfast bar and room, all w/ fantastic views of Lake Fork. Beautiful columns/thed entry, gorgeous custom kitchen, granite counters, large master opens to patio and hot tub. Master bath with jetted tub an separate shower. Office area off kitchen/garage and access to master bath. Sit on your covered patio and enjoy morning coffee and view. Two-car garage and two-carport. There is a scenic bridge across the back. $309,000

PRETTY WATERFRONT SETTING on Lake Hollbrook. Extremely nice, clean 3 bedroom, 2 bath waterfront home. Large living/dining and kitchen area with kitchen bar. Beautiful trees, screened porch, deck overlooking the lake, storage building and fishing pier. This home is a great place to come, relax for the weekend or perfect for a permanent home. Come take a look at this great place on the water. Everything is ready for you to move right in and start enjoying. Priced at $154,900.

LAKE LYDIA WITH EXCELLENT BOAT HOUSE AND SHOP. Home is 1800 sf with 3 BR 2 Bath, concrete drive, 2-car garage, carport and a 30x30 insulated metal shop with overhead door and half bath. Recently redone with oak cabinets, solid surface counters, stainless appliances, marble back splash and new flooring throughout. Lake Lydia is one of Wood Counties best kept secrets, approx. 80 acre private lake with a lake manager onsite. Enjoy your own boathouse with fishing decks. $179,000.

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

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. $139,000.

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

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

Lake Fork, 5200 FM 515
888-413-5200 903-474-2031
c21lake@verizon.net

Emory, 886 E. Lennon, Hwy 69
888-473-1222 903-473-1222
c21lakecountry@verizon.net

century21lakecountryrealty.com
Judy Stroman, Broker 903-850-5082
Shawn Hixenbaugh from Pecos, Texas was presented his 2014 Legend 211 Alpha by Randy Qualls, Legend Boats, Billy Sartin, Sartin Marine, and Don Hampton, Legend of Lake Fork for his catch during the tournament of a hog weighing 10.29-pounds.

Gerald Holcomb from Tyler, Texas was presented his 2014 Legend 191 Alpha by Randy Qualls, owner Legend Boats and Don Hampton, Legend of Lake Fork for his 2nd place heaviest catch during the tournament of a hog weighing 10.22-pounds.

Ronnie Ray from McKinney, Texas was presented with a 2014 Legend 199 Alpha, equipped with Mercury, Motorguide, Lowrance electronics for his heaviest bass under the slot weighing 2.64-pounds.

Steven Wood from Emory, Texas wasn’t lucky enough to get an hourly check during the tournament but he was lucky enough in the early entry draw to win a 2014 Legend 186 SCX bass boat.

We Look Forward To Seeing You At The 11th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament May 15, 16, 17, 2015 When We Will Be Giving Away More Cash & Prizes

Anglers For Their Participation in Making “The 10th Annual Legend of Lake Fork” Such a Huge Success

For More Information Call: 903-383-7748 or Email: fishnews@lakefork.net