

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



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

2 Sections

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Free

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No. 181

"Wish to Fish Granted for Laney!"



On Laney's "Wish to Fish" trip she caught the largest fish of the trip and according to her the most fish. A great day on Lake Fork!

By Don Hampton

On August 9th the 'Wish to Fish Foundation' was blessed to grant the wish for Laney Marie Rush from Fruitvale, Texas. Laney, now 13 years old was born with Cerebral Palsy and was adopted when she was an infant by Ann and Larry Rush. Doctors told them she would never walk, but she not only started walking at 2 she also could run. At age 3 she began testing for school and has al-

ways attended regular school and has been on the Honor Roll every year. She has been in "Gifted and Talented" since the second grade.

Laney's 'Wish to Fish' on Lake Fork was to target catfish. She loves to fish as much as she loves to eat them. Laney received a new rod n' reel, and along with her sister a fishing cap, and a 'Wish to Fish' T-shirt courtesy of the foundation, outfitting them for a complete day of fishing.

It was a fun filled day

for Laney and her family which also included mom and dad Ann and Larry Rush and her 14 year old sister Naudica Reese who was visiting for the summer.

The trip began at 6 o'clock in the morning with everyone enjoying a great breakfast at Oak Ridge Marina, (one of the many great sponsors for the foundation). When everyone had been fueled up for the day, everyone was ready to hit the water

(See *Wish to Fish*....

Continued on Page 4-A)



Tournament Director Bob Sealy with 2013 Lake Fork Big Bass Splash winner Don Atchley of Grandfield, Oklahoma with his 10.61 Bass. You could be the lucky winner this year!

Sealy Outdoors' Lake Fork Big Bass Splash

Anglers get ready for the Sealy Outdoor Lake Fork Big Bass Splash to be held on September 19th, 20th, and 21st, at Lake Fork

Marina. There will be plenty of family fishing and fun. Overall there will be \$500,000 guaranteed in cash and prizes with 1st Place

Overall winning a 2014 Triton 20XS Powered by Mercury Marine, equipped with Minn

(See *Sealy Outdoors*'....
Continued on Page 5-A)



2015 Toyota Texas Bass Classic Set for May 23-25 at Lake Fork

The 2015 Toyota Texas Bass Classic - an event which draws the world's top professional bass anglers -- has been set for Memorial Day weekend, May 23-25, at Lake Fork.

"After a world-record

setting event in 2014 we are very excited to return to Lake Fork in 2015," said Lenny Francoeur, tournament director. "The Quitman community has been so welcoming and the bass fishing at Lake

Fork is world-class. We can't wait to get back there next spring."

In addition to new dates, tournament officials announced the field size will

(See *2015 Toyota*....

Continued on Page 7-A)

"Bubba's boat is not rockin', so...don't come knockin'!!!!"

By Don Hampton

Bubba is the type of individual that doesn't like anything rockin' his boat, unless it is himself. A Lake Fork big bass on the end of his line, causing his boat to rock is what Bubba classifies as "really living"! But, Bubba hasn't been able to rock his boat as much as he would like lately.

It hasn't been from lack of desire because Bubba will fish in any type of weather, at any given time. His love of the sport is that strong. This desire for fishing is nearly as strong as his love and desire for Bubbette.

Why is Bubba so disheartened then? It all boils down to one reason: "Bubbette's Bubba Do List"!!

Usually by this time of the year Bubba has all of his "Bubba Do's" done. This year for one reason or should I say excuse or another, Bubba has been slackin' and fallen behind!! To keep Bubbette happy and stay on her good side, Bubba knows he better do this stuff first.

Bubba does try to postpone the inevitable whenever possible. Like when it is raining (and we all know there has not been much of that lately)...anyway, he will say, "Sugardumplin, I can't work in the yard with this rain coming down. So what do you say I just go fishin'?" Well, we all know Bubbette's response, she simply replies, "If you have the time and can fish in the rain, you can find the time to do some things around the house out of the rain!"

With Bubba, that is the final answer and the gos-

pel according to Bubbette. To keep from having a bologna sandwich rather than chicken fried steak, mashed taters and gravy, Bubba will do as suggested. (At least until Bubbette takes off for Wal-Mart).

Bubba does have an excellent attitude for doing his do's. He explained it to me and after hearing it, I do believe he has seen that movie "Karate Kid" way too many times.

When painting the house and sheds, he uses the up and down strokes, smooth and easy. This is a workout for his jigging technique. Raking leaves builds his casting muscles in his shoulders and arms. Bending over and picking up limbs: endurance for putting his trolling motor up and down. Pulling weeds: hook setting technique. When he is carrying out boxes, the distance between his two hands is the size of the fish he caught. Even when Bubba rinses the dishes for Bubbette, he practices his "Catch and Release" program.

Some of the chores that Bubba has to do, he is just "Lost in Space"!! Watching him on the riding lawnmower, you can see he is lost in a day-dream and you know there is water involved. You know in his imagination he is in his bass boat speeding down the lake to some secret spot he has. (Especially as fast as he can mow the lawn.)

Other chores Bubba really enjoys because as he explains it, "They are productive for catching fish!" One of these choice "Bubba Do's" is digging up the flower bed, or as Bubba thinks of it, "Procuring bait for the catfish and bream." No

red-wiggler or night-crawler is safe when he is out there with his shovel, hoe, and coffee can.

His best learning exercise he explained to me is putting up with Bubbette when he wants to go fishing. This teaches him "Patience" for when the bite is slow. I believe Bubbette may be learning this last lesson, having to put up with Bubba always wanting to fish.

Bubba and Bubbette have a good philosophy in life they live by quite simply: "Everything has a bright side if you look at it in the right light!"

THANK YOU!!

As we celebrate our 15th year in business we wish to send out a special thank you to all of our readers and advertisers. As we enter our 16th year representing this great reservoir our full commitment to promoting Lake Fork, the businesses, and informing and entertaining our readers will not falter or lessen. Our goal has not waived since our 1st publication in September 1999 and for this we have all of you to thank!



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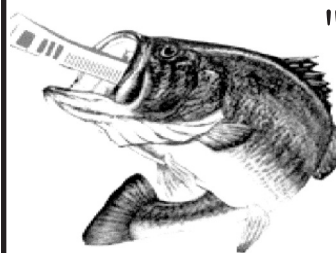
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"Wish to Fish Granted for Laney!" (Continued from Page 1-A)

and wet a hook. The family boarded the 26-foot Playcraft tritoon barge, captained by Director, Ken Gilbreath and assisted by Directors, Jake Dollison and Seth Gilbreath. The two 911 chase boats that accompany all trips were operated by Don Hampton, CEO /Founder and Gary Smith, Director.

Although the fish were not too cooperative, this did not put a damper on the fun. To keep from leaving the water lunch was served on the boat and consisted of a mix of Subway sandwiches, cold drinks and chips. Out of two par-

ty packs there were only two sandwiches left so you can be sure fishing builds the appetite.

Laney did catch the largest catfish of the day and was very excited and definitely had the bragging rights for the trip. Whether it was the heat or all of the excitement and fishing, Laney and her sister were worn out at the day's end.

We wish Laney all the success and health in life and may the good Lord watch over and keep her. To Ann and Larry, heaven holds a special place for you!

For more information on the "Wish to Fish Foun-

dation" visit our website at www.wishtofishfoundation.com. The program is open to any child ages 2 through 17, and their family, that has been diagnosed with a life threatening disease or involved in a life threatening accident. The program furnishes meals, lodging, snacks, all fishing material and baits for the family. If you should know of a family that has a child that meets this criteria, have them contact me at 903-383-7748, 903-360-6994 or email fishnews@lakefork.net or visit our website. (Also see ad on Page 11-B)



With busy "Wish to Fish" directors Laney and her family enjoyed a great day of catfishing on Lake Fork.



Fishing can get tiresome! Laney and her sister Naudica took advantage of the comfort on the pontoon boat to enjoy a nap to end the day!



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Sealy Outdoors' Lake Fork Big Bass Splash (Continued from Page 1-A)

Kota, Lowrance Electronics, Power Pole, Navionics, HydroWave, and Tournament Saver Pro; 2014 RAM Truck, plus \$7,000 in cash.

New for 2014- Twelve places will be paid in cash each hour of each tournament day beginning with the 7-8 AM hour and continuing through the 2-3 PM hour for the twelve single heaviest bass weighed in. Hourly updates will be broadcasted live on KMOO 99.9 FM.

Contestant(s) weighing in the first 2.50 exact weight bass each day of the tournament will win \$5,000 and the contestant(s) who weighs in the heaviest bass under the slot during the 3-day tournament will be awarded \$2,500. In addition, all contestants are eligible to win a 2014 Triton 18XS Bass Boat in the famous "Elimination Drawing". Enter by the "Early Bird" Deadline, September 3 and be eligible to win one of five \$200 Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Cards.

"You Can't Win if You Don't Play" Optional Bonus Games such as the Bonus Card "AKA" Insurance Card & Bonus Shirt Hours can win you additional cash.

Children ages twelve and under may participate in the Little Anglers Division and win Academy gift cards and ribbons for their winning catches of bass, catfish, crappie or perch. Are you a member of B.A.S.S. and want to win

some CASH? B.A.S.S. will be on-site at the event to qualify you for the B.A.S.S. CASH..... \$100 awarded to the current B.A.S.S. member with the largest bass from the 10-11 AM and 2-3 PM hour each day of the tournament. \$250 awarded to the current B.A.S.S. member with the largest bass in the Overall Top 5.

Registration will be at Lake Fork Marina in Alba, TX from 10 AM – 8 PM on Thursday, September 18th. Registration will continue each morning from 5 AM until 6 AM on days of the tournament. Tournament Entry Fees are \$160 for One Day, \$210 for Two Days and \$260 for Three Days: The Little Anglers Division entry fee is \$10 per Day.

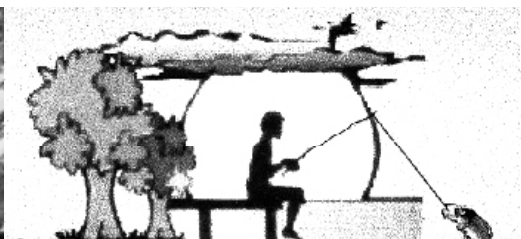
All participants and spectators ages 18 years of age and up can get in on the action. Come out to the tournament site, enjoy the festivities and get your free ticket for the Surprise Drawing beginning at 12 PM Sunday, September 21st. The Big Bass Splash is the Richest Amateur Big Bass Fishing Tournament as featured on National Geographic! Sponsors includes Triton Boats, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports & Outdoors, Minn Kota, Lowrance, Okuma, Tournament Saver Pro, Power Pole, Navionics, River2Sea, Texas Fish & Game, HydroWave, TH Marine, K2 Coolers, Vicious Fishing, Amphibia Sports, The Original Rod Sox, Wood County Industrial Commission,

City of Emory, Lake Fork Marina and Motel, Tiffany's Restaurant, and FishingWorld.com. For more information go to www.sealy-outdoors.com, call 888-698-2591 or stop by your local Academy Sports & Outdoors store for an official entry form.

If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please can contact Nicole Sealy at nicole.sealy@sealy-outdoors.com 409-382-3876 or 888-698-2591.



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September on the Fork! Look for deep trees!

By David Ozio

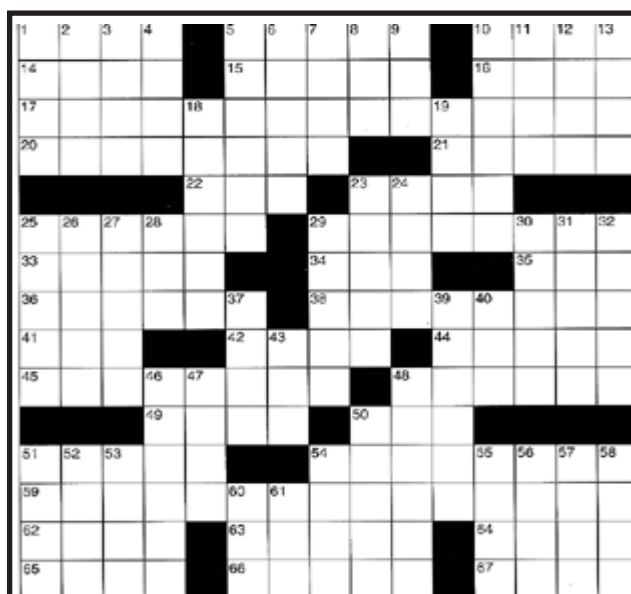
"Who would have thought that Lake Fork would have 86 degree water temps heading into September. This has been an interesting year to say the least. Looking forward into the start of the school year, weekend fishing may be slightly on the tough side as the Lake Fork monsters are starting to suspend, not only in open water but also in the deep trees. Now I'm not talking about the trees that you can see above the water but the hidden submerged timber that has many branches below the surface. The side imaging is the best way to find these fish hotels and then, once marked, idle over them with the down scan to reveal, not only the bass, but what level where they are seeking residence.

Once you have these super fish structures located, now comes the hard part. Place a marker buoy next to the tree and then back away and throw a C-rig or a Texas rig into the submerged branches and work it out slowly. I was doing this yesterday and just about had a giant take the rod clean out of my hands. This particular tree was in 26ft of water and most of the bass were about 15ft down. It was game on. I have found several other spots like this one and these hawks are easy to see on the Lowrance 12 Touch. If logging isn't your cup of tea, you will need to find deep locations where the bass are coming up to feed. This is insanely tricky due to the fact that it's all about timing. Example: I have one spot that I have made a living off of for the last two months and those fish have only been there from 2:00 to 4:00pm. Yet, on another spot, we picked up nine toads yesterday between 5:00 and 6:00pm. That just happens to be when they feed. The down imaging revealed where these bass were set up and the drop shot did the rest. Color didn't seem to matter. I caught them on plum and dark grape,... fish didn't seem to be picky. Cover as much water as you can looking at all the deep humps and long sloping points. If you see them there, it's feeding time in most cases. Now that the days are growing shorter, some fish



are beginning to show up shallow as a ten plus was caught out of the lily pads this past week. We have also caught some in the early morning hours on a small frog around various types of vegetation. Use any color frog you like as long as it's white or black. This pattern should grow stronger as we head to the end of September. Don't be afraid to venture to the very back of some of the major creeks. You might be mildly surprised with the result. Yellow magics or any dancing type of top water will also work well until the sun peaks above the trees. Once that happens, switch to a Texas rig worm and follow them out to the first break line.

(See September on ...
Continued on Page 20-A)



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Wild goat | 41. Brew |
| 5. Fares | 42. Way to adapt |
| 10. Blister | 44. Honey badger |
| 14. Wings | 45. Pilchards |
| 15. Give qualities or abilities to | 48. Most coherent |
| 16. Comfort | 49. _____ Blyton, children's author |
| 17. Executive's plum | 50. Securities market |
| 20. Element | 51. Thou _____ not |
| 21. Yellow-fever mosquitoes | 54. Least |
| 22. In a way, progressed | 59. Raider's success, at times |
| 23. Obstructs | 62. Hani |
| 25. Girdles | 63. Large long-necked wading bird |
| 29. Provitamin A | 64. Mother of Cronus |
| 33. Cathartic | 65. These (old English) |
| 34. Flower petals | 66. Patron saint of France |
| 35. Law | 67. Sole |
| 36. _____ Brown, TV character | |
| 38. Milled product of durum wheat | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Chases after | 32. Way to intoxicate |
| 2. Herbaceous plant | 37. Hindu symbol of a goddess |
| 3. Interior passage | 39. Prophet |
| 4. Give advice, explain | 40. Net |
| 5. In a way, negates | 43. Place for sleeping |
| 6. Provide feedback | 46. Letters of the alphabet |
| 7. Mild yellow Dutch cheese | 47. Monetary unit of Peru |
| 8. Hill (Celtic) | 48. In a way, fastens |
| 9. Female daredevils organization | 50. Citizen of Oman |
| 10. Order | 51. Clupeid fish |
| 11. Way to express praise for | 52. Impress deceptively |
| 12. This (Spanish) | 53. Arthur _____, Wimbledon champion |
| 13. Potter, mason, carpenter | 54. "_____ the Man" Musial, baseball player |
| 18. Way to entangle | 55. Trademark |
| 19. Military disguise | 56. Welsh for John |
| 23. Chicago mayor | 57. Sew up the eyelids of hawks and falcons |
| 24. Semitic language | 58. For carrying or serving articles or food |
| 25. Languages of Sulu islands | 60. Portable computer screen material |
| 26. Feather | 61. Before |
| 27. More sensitive | |
| 28. Informed about the latest trends | |
| 29. Events | |
| 30. Gentry | |
| 31. Spanish babies | |

Answers on Page 21-A



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2015 Toyota Texas Bass Classic (Continued from Page 1-A)

be refined from 50 contestants to 38 of the world's best professional anglers. The 2015 classic will invite the top 15 in 2014 Angler of the Year points from both the FLW Tour and Bassmaster Elite Series, 7 exemptions and defending 3-time champion Keith Combs. All 38 anglers will compete on Lake Fork for the first two days, with the field being reduced to the top 10 for the final round on May 25. The tournament will remain a non-entry fee event with all anglers receiving guaranteed prize money. Through a continued partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the classic will continue to focus on conservation and adhere to a strict catch, weigh and immediate release format. Over the last eight years, the TTBC has donated more than \$2 million to TPWD, an effort that will continue in 2015.

"We were proud to see the record-setting fish catches at the 2014 event," said TPWD's Dave Terre. "Those catches were a direct result of our progressive fisheries management practices, including special fishing regulations, fish stocking, and fish-habitat improvements with the Sabine River Authority. This tournament, including its unique catch-weigh-immediate release format,

gives us the opportunity to show the world just how good Lake Fork really is. We are thankful for the opportunity to do this again in 2015 and also for all the benefits this event provides to TPWD."

Anglers qualifying for the classic join a prestigious rank of past competitors. By drawing from the two major tours, the TTBC field consistently boasts the very best anglers in the world every year.

TTBC in 2014 was one for the record books, helping to show the world how amazing a fishery Lake Fork truly is. The previous record for a three-day, tour-level event was set in 2000 at the Bassmaster California Western Invitational on Clear Lake by Byron Velvick with 83 pounds, 5 ounces (15 fish). That record was broken eight times on the final round of the 2014 TTBC.

Keith Combs, the new title holder, reeled in a three-day weight of 110 pounds (15 fish). That broke the existing record by 26 pounds, 11 ounces. Additionally, two of the anglers - Combs and Stetson Blaylock -- entered the Century Club (more than 100 pounds). That had never happened at a three-day tour event. But Lake Fork is not your average bass fishery, and Combs' is not your average champion.

"It's a major career achievement just to qualify

to fish the TTBC, but to be a three-time champion against the best anglers in the world, and to set the world record last year, it's just amazing," said Combs. "I am so proud to represent my home state of Texas, but I am especially proud of the great things the TTBC does to raise awareness and funding for Texas Parks and Wildlife."

In addition to three days of world championship competition, TTBC organizers plan a full lineup of premier country music acts,



Human beings normally have 28 chromosomes; a goldfish, on the other hand, has 94.



Prairie dogs "kiss" by pressing their teeth against each other's face. The kiss enables each animal to tell whether the other belongs to the same family group.

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"The Moon Report"

September Crappie on Fork

By Terri Moon

Wow – where did the summer go? Sure seems to have flown by! We've been pretty fortunate temperature wise – but, our lake levels are really suffering. We are once again at dangerous levels. I'm finding huge trees 1 to 2 inches below the surface so extreme caution is highly advised!

This is when I really depend on my Lowrance to have these hazards marked to avoid any mishaps in the future. I'm really loving the down-scan imaging! I have the HDS-12 "Gen 2 Touch" and I must say the screen size will really spoil you! I have the HD5-7 on the front of the boat but it's getting to be too small for these "OLD" eyes! So, I'm going to give the HDS-9 a try next. If you have not seen these units, there will be Lowrance reps at the McDonald's Tournament the weekend of Sept 19th to answer any questions you might have about them.

I'm also depending on my Lowrance to help me locate the schools of bait-fish and the depths they are running to know what depths to target. We are catching crappie as shal-



low as 8 ft. and as deep as 24 ft. in 20 to 30 ft. of water. It just depends on the time of day or the amount of cloud cover and weather conditions. But, "all in all we've had a pretty good August. There were a few days that left me "scratching my head"! I've realized it's all subject to change daily. There are days they want the bait "dead still" and today, the bait had to be moving. So don't be afraid to change up your presentation if what you are doing isn't working.

We are having luck with the Gene Larew 1-1/2 shad in electric chicken or cricket color – also, Lake Fork Tackle's "Live Baby Shad in blue & pearl or chartreuse & pearl. We're putting these on 1/16 oz. jig heads with a #5 split shot about a foot above the bait. Nice crappie are showing up at the bridges, tree lines, brush piles

and deep water humps.

We are still finding the bream in 2 to 10 ft. Night Crawlers or crickets are working and also Gulp 1" minnows in chartreuse and white.

Thanks again to all the parents and grandparents who took the time to bring their kids and grandkids out for a day of fishing giving them memories for a lifetime! Also glad my mom and dad were able to come and spend a couple of weeks with me. I appreciate all their help and glad we caught some really nice fish while they were here. Congrats to my dad who broke his personal best in the crappie and bass division! You both did great!

Wishing my best to you all and be safe -- especially on the water!

Don't forget it's time to renew those fishing license!!

TERRI MOON

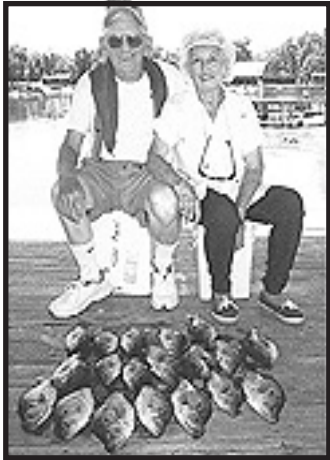
LAKE FORK

CRAPPIE & BASS

FISHING TRIPS

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GROUP FISH FRYS AVAILABLE



Not bad for a couple of hours.
Bob & Nova Carleton, Leesville, MO.

TERRI MOON
LAKE FORK
CRAPPIE & BASS
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GROUP FISH FRYS AVAILABLE



Brush Pile Day!



Bob & Nova Carleton
Leesville, MO.



Good job Mom! Nova Carleton
Leesville, MO.



My Dad Bob Carleton
Leesville, MO.



Way to go Pops! He got this giant
in on a 5-ft. Shimano Ultralite!



Thanks for your help!
Mom & Dad Carleton
Leesville, MO.



Raymond & Lucy Diaz,
granddaughters Alex, Caitlin &
Addyson, Abilene, TX.



Kathy & David Wilhite with son
Christopher
Terrell, TX.



Mark, Kim & David Bennett
Monroe, LA.



Mike Bailey with son Beau
Monroe, LA.



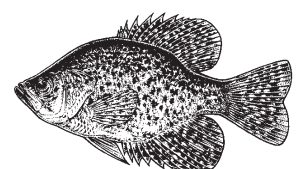
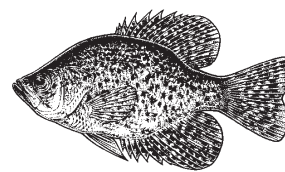
John & Belva Pittman
Marshall, TX.



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Toyota ShareLunker Season Begins October 1st

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will begin accepting entries into the Toyota ShareLunker program October 1, 2014.

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 by calling program manager at (903) 681-0550 or paging him at (888) 784-0600 and leaving a phone number including area code. Fish will be picked up by TPWD personnel within 12 hours.

Toyota became the new program sponsor effective September 1. The current season marks the 26th year of the program. To date 565 fish have been entered into the program. Those fish have come from 65 different public reservoirs and more than a dozen private lakes.

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 ShareLunker 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.

Anglers entering fish into the Toyota ShareLunker program will receive a free replica of their fish, a certificate and ShareLunker clothing and be recognized at a banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens in June 2015. In addition, if a Texas angler catches the largest entry of the year, that person will receive a lifetime fishing license.

For complete information and rules of the ShareLunker program, tips on caring for big bass 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.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible by a grant to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation from Gulf States Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of the Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of education, fish, parks and wildlife projects.

Official ShareLunker Rules

The program is limited to largemouth bass weighing 13 pounds or more. Fish must be weighed

on certified or legal-for-trade scales. Certified scales are scales that have been certified as accurate by the Texas Department of Agriculture, the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) or a commercial scales calibration company.

The program is normally in effect from October 1 through April 30. The fish must be legally caught in Texas waters.

A Texas Parks and Wildlife Department employee will be solely responsible for accepting a fish into the program based on the expectation that the fish will be able to survive and spawn.

Possession of the fish must be transferred to a designated Texas Parks and Wildlife Department representative within 12 hours after capture. The angler must sign a release absolving all sponsors, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department employees of any liability resulting from the loss or death of their fish.

Employees and families of program sponsors are not eligible for participation in the program. Anyone catching a fish that may qualify can call our toll-free, 24-hour pager at 1-888-784-0600 (Octo-

(Continued on Next Page)



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ber 1-April 30 only)
or (903) 681-0550.
**Tips for Proper
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of Lunker Bass**

Land the fish as quickly as possible. Playing a fish to exhaustion diminishes its chance of survival. If possible, refrain from using a dip net that has a mesh larger than 1/4 inch and /or is not a smooth mesh. When using a net, always make sure it is wet before it touches the fish. Avoid excessive handling or dropping of the fish while removing the hook. The fish will benefit from remaining in water (boat livewell or a large cooler filled with water) while the hook is removed with needlenosed pliers. Hold the fish vertically by the lower lip while it is in the water

so that the total weight of the fish doesn't rest on the lower jaw.

Take the fish to a marina or closest certified scales as soon as possible. Transport the fish in a properly aerated livewell or a large cooler equipped with an aerator.

Before removing the fish from the transport container, have the certified scales ready for weighing. Try to arrange to hold the fish in the marina's minnow vat after it is weighed.

To reduce stress when removing the fish from the transport container for weighing, move the fish as close as possible to the scales and holding vat before removal. If everything is ready before the fish is removed from the transport container, weighing time can be

less than one minute.

It is best to sedate the fish in the transport container before weighing or taking pictures. Marinas and bait shops can supply the recommended chemicals. Wet your hands before handling the fish. Lift the fish from the water vertically by clamping your thumb on the bottom lip. To raise the fish into a horizontal position, support the fish's weight by placing your off-hand under the fish just behind the anal fin. This method should also be used if the fish is not sedated. Don't roll back the lip in an effort to paralyze the fish. This can damage the lower jaw and hinder or prevent the fish from feeding after being released.

(See *Toyota ShareLunker*.
Continued on Page14-A)

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Powderhorn Ranch Becomes Largest Conservation Land Purchase in Texas History

A multi-partner coalition including the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Foundation recently announced the purchase of the 17,351-acre Powderhorn Ranch along the Texas coast in Calhoun County. The acquisition will conserve a spectacular piece of property that is one of the largest remaining tracts of unspoiled coastal prairie in the state. At \$37.7 million it is the largest dollar amount ever raised for a conservation land purchase in the state and represents a new partnership model of achieving conservation goals in an era of rapidly rising land prices. In years to come, Powderhorn Ranch is expected to become a state park and wildlife management area.

Safeguarding this natural treasure has been contemplated for more than 30 years by several conservation organizations and wildlife agencies including The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Along with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), these organizations are playing a critical role in the acquisition and long-term conservation of this property. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation is spearheading the fundraising for the \$50 million project, which includes the purchase of the property, habitat restoration and man-

agement, as well as a long-term endowment. "This transformational project will conserve irreplaceable wildlife habitat and will bring the people of Texas an exciting new recreational opportunity," said Dan Friedkin, Chairman Emeritus of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. "This historic investment is only possible because of this extraordinary public/private partnership and is a bold example of how landscape scale conservation projects can be achieved in Texas and beyond." Friedkin also serves as chairman of the Foundation's "Keeping it Wild: The Campaign for Texas" which includes funding for Powderhorn. The real estate transaction has been more than two years in the making. Powderhorn Ranch was previously owned by Cumberland & Western Resources, LLC, whose primary investors are conservation-minded citizens who sold the property below its market value to ensure its permanent safekeeping.

"The acquisition of Powderhorn Ranch will help define the next generation of conservation in Texas," said TPW Commission Chairman Dan Allen Hughes, Jr. "We are most grateful to the owners for affording us both the time to put this project together, as well as a discount on the purchase price in order to facilitate this transaction. The seller's commitment to a con-

servation outcome was instrumental in seeing this through to a successful culmination." A significant portion of the funding for the project is being provided by NFWF's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, which was created with dollars paid by BP and Transocean in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. NFWF has committed \$34.5 million over the next three years, making this the biggest land acquisition in the nation so far using BP spill restoration dollars.

"The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is proud to be part of this remarkable conservation effort along the Texas Gulf Coast. The size and diversity of species and habitat found on the Powderhorn Ranch make it an integral project in the overall recovery process of the Gulf from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill," said Jeff Trandahl, executive director and CEO of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. "The combined effort of so many groups exemplifies the tremendous cooperative effort necessary to protect and restore wildlife and habitat."

The Conservation Fund and The Nature Conservancy of Texas are each providing \$10 million in interim funding so the Powderhorn Ranch can be purchased in 2014. The two orga-

(See Powderhorn Ranch....Continued on Page 17-A)

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Toyota ShareLunker Season Begins October 1st (Continued from Page 11-A)

The fish should not be out of the water longer than 30 seconds. Persons taking pictures should have their cameras ready before the fish is removed from the holding container. Holding the fish out of the water two to three minutes, or holding it in a plastic bag without proper aeration, causes stress that can damage the eyes or cause a bacterial and/or fungal infection. Such damage could cause mortality even several weeks later. Note that stress is increased by extremes in temperatures and/or windy weather conditions.

Ideal water temperature for holding fish is 55 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, and the water tem-

perature should not be changed more than five or six degrees per hour. If water is aerated and treated with bacterial/ fungal retardant, low water temperature may not be crucial.

Call Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at the numbers below as soon as possible with your name, where the fish is located, a telephone number where you can be reached and when and where you caught the fish. Be sure to

include your area code when leaving a message on the pager. Every attempt will be made to collect the fish within 12 hours, sooner if possible.

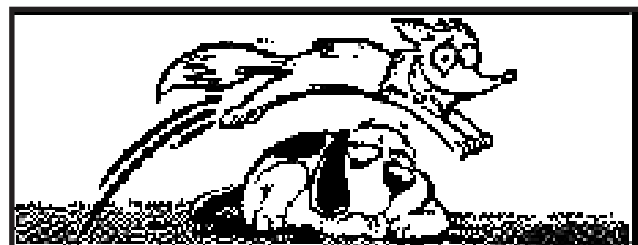
To request pickup of a ShareLunker (large-mouth bass 13 pounds or over, legally caught in Texas waters between October 1 and April 30), call (903) 681-0550 or page 1 (888) 784-0600 and leave a number, including area code.



Mark Spaeth was fishing Lake Fork with guide David Ozio when he caught this hewg. Weight not provided. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo David Ozio Guide Service)

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Big Bend Ranch Visitor Center Named for Bob Armstrong

The man who proved instrumental in helping the State of Texas secure a 212,000-acre West Texas ranch 25 years ago that doubled the size of the Texas State Park System overnight was honored recently at the Big Bend Ranch State Park headquarters.

Honoree Bob Armstrong, his friends and family, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department representatives gathered in August at the Saucedo Ranger Station in the ranch's interior for the renaming of the Visitor Center after the former Texas legislator and land commission, and the unveiling of a bas relief highlighting his contributions.

The 81-year-old Texan fell in love with the ruggedly beautiful ranchland in 1970 while on a hunting trip and spent the next 18 years as a Texas Parks and Wildlife

commissioner to purchase the property for a state park. In 1988, then TPWD land acquisitions chief Andrew Sansom negotiated the deal with ranch owner and oilman Robert Anderson to purchase the property for \$8.8 million. Sansom went on to serve as Texas Parks and Wildlife director.

Big Bend Ranch State Park, Texas' largest state park, now encompasses more than 300,000 acres of scenic Chihuahuan Desert landscape that is blessed with abundant springs and other water features, a collapsed volcano, mountains and miles of Rio Grande frontage.

Visitors can hike, mountain-bike, backpack, paddle, ride horses or explore the park by vehicle (the park has two- and four-wheel-drive roads). The park offers 238 miles of

multiuse trails and 70 miles of unmaintained dirt roads accessible to only high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicles. The Rio Grande area offers great day-use access. Visitors can float, fish and hike, or drive the scenic Camino del Rio (FM 170).

Primitive camping is available at vehicle-accessible, backcountry or equestrian sites. Lodging also is available at the Saucedo Ranch House and Saucedo Bunkhouse that are accessible by driving 27-miles of rugged, dirt road. Entry fees for persons 13 and older range from \$3 to \$5 a day.

For more information about Big Bend Ranch, call (432) 358-4444. To view Visitor Center images, visit: http://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/news_images/?g=armstrong_visitor_center

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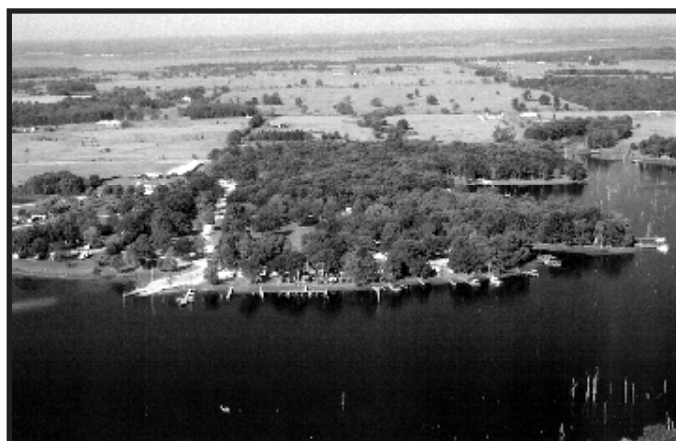
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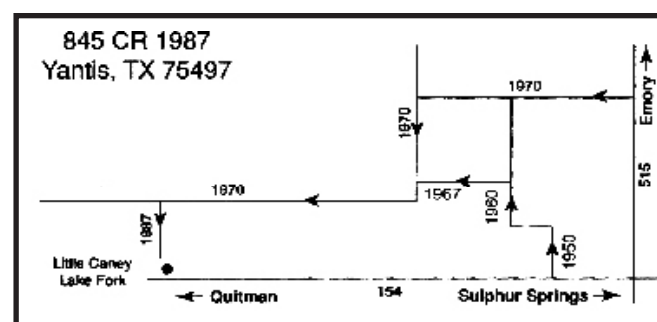
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Prospects Good for Dove Season in Texas

Most folks don't usually look forward to Mondays, but Texas dove hunters will be making an exception this year. The traditional September 1 dove season opening day in the North and Central Zones falls on Labor Day Monday.

Dove hunting this season should be good, according to wildlife biologists with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, as both mourning and white-winged dove populations are seeing an increase over last year.

In any given year, Texans shoot between 4-5 million mourning doves and Shaun Oldenburger, TPWD Dove Program Leader, doesn't expect that to change during the 2014-15 season.

"Based on rural and urban dove surveys by TPWD, the 2014 estimated breeding mourning dove population is about 26.55 million birds, which is a 5 percent increase over 2013 and nearly 8 percent above the long-term average (2004-2014)," said Oldenburger. "More than 90 percent of all mourning doves occupy rural habitats."

The 2014 combined white-winged dove breeding population is estimated at 6.61 million birds, which is also a 5 percent increase over 2013 and more than 12 percent above the long-term average (2008 - 2014). However, 80 percent of white-winged doves live in urban areas.

Texas harvests more mourning and white-winged doves than any other state in the country. From 2003 - 2013, Texas hunters bagged 1 out of every 4 mourning doves taken nationwide and

more than 80 percent of all white-winged doves.

With that level of activity, Texas dove hunting also carries a hefty contribution to the state's economy, with an economic output of roughly \$316 million.

Texas dove season is divided into three hunting zones to take advantage of migration trends across the state, and the season is split over two segments to maximize hunting opportunity. The first segment closes statewide this year on Monday, Oct. 20. The season will reopen Friday, Dec. 19 and run through Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015 in the North and Central Zones.

The South Zone opens Friday, Sept. 19 and runs through Monday, Oct. 20. The second segment will run Friday, Dec. 19 through Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015.

The Special White-winged Dove Area is restricted to afternoon only (noon to sunset) hunting the first two weekends of September. Hunting in this area will reopen concurrent with the South Zone on Friday, Sept. 19 and continue through Monday, Oct. 20, and then reopen Friday, Dec. 19 through Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015. During the early two weekends, the daily bag limit is 15 birds, to include not more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves. Once the general season opens, the aggregate bag limit will be 15 with no more than two white-tipped doves.

The daily bag limit for doves statewide is 15 and the possession limit is 45.

All hunters are reminded that licenses expire each

year on Aug. 31, so a new license for 2014-15 is needed prior to going dove hunting. Licenses may be purchased at most local sporting goods retailers, TPWD Law Enforcement offices, online through the TPWD website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/buy or by phone at 1-800-895-4248. Call center hours are Monday through Friday, 8 p.m. to 5 p.m. and there is a required \$5 convenience fee for each phone or online transaction. The online transaction system is available 24/7. For online and phone orders, a physical license will be mailed within three business days. During that time period, a transaction receipt will be provided via email that will be sufficient proof of hunting license that can be used for dove hunting, though it will not be allowed for the take of fish or wildlife that require a tag.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the new season can be found in the 2014-2015 Outdoor Annual, available at license retailers and online at www.txoutdoorannual.com. A new app now available enables hunters to carry the Outdoor Annual with them on their mobile devices. To download the free app, visit <http://www.txoutdoorannual.com/app> or search the iTunes App Store, Amazon AppStore or Google Play for Outdoor Annual - Texas Hunting and Fishing Regulations. The new app was developed by Texas Monthly Custom Publishing in partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is compatible with iPhones, iPads, Android smartphones and tablets.



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Powderhorn Ranch Becomes Largest Conservation Land Purchase in Texas *(Continued from Page 13-A)*

nizations will be reimbursed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, who will hold title on the property by the end of 2016, and will ultimately turn it over to TPWD. The project exemplifies a new model of funding conservation projects in Texas and is a demonstration of both public and private entities working together for the long-term benefit of Texas and its citizens. "The unspoiled and irreplaceable Powderhorn Ranch is now a significant property for all Texans, and a protected national treasure," said The Conservation Fund's CEO, Larry Selzer. "A unique and innovative collaboration among public and private organizations has preserved a critical coastal landscape of epic size and scale for generations to come."

The acquisition will protect in perpetuity unspoiled coastal land with forests of coastal live oak and intact wetlands. This range of habitats is perfect for public hunting, fishing, hiking, paddling and bird watching. These nature tourism activities currently bring hundreds of millions of dollars to the Texas coast. The property also includes thousands of acres of freshwater wetlands and salt marshes that offer vital fish and wildlife habitat, provide natural filtering to improve water quality and shield people and property from storm surges and sea level rise. From the 1950s to the early 1990s Texas lost more than 200,000 acres of coastal wetlands. The Powderhorn acquisition

helps combat this trend, protecting local economies, people and property as well as wildlife. The ranch includes more than eleven miles of tidal bay front on Matagorda Bay and provides habitat for hundreds of species of birds and animals, including the endangered whooping crane. The Nature Conservancy will hold a permanent conservation easement on the property and will provide habitat management for the first two years through a contract with the TPW Foundation.

"The Gulf of Mexico is the hardest working body of water in the country, but it desperately needs nourishment. We have steadily stripped away its natural defenses, endangering wildlife, nature and the millions of residents who live in coastal communities," said Laura Huffman, Texas state director for The Nature Conservancy. "This investment in Powderhorn Ranch protects the best of the last coastal prairies left in Texas and stitches together a network of protected lands that are vital to the resilience and health of the Gulf Coast."

The TPW Foundation has raised \$43 million toward the \$50 million project so far, including the NFWF commitment. Earlier this month, the Knobloch Family Foundation made a generous \$2 million contribution to support the acquisition.

"We are honored to help Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation purchase Powderhorn Ranch and safeguard this important piece of coastal

land," said Carl W. Knobloch, Jr., President of the Knobloch Family Foundation. "We share the Foundation's steadfast commitment to conserving America's ecologically critical open lands so they can be enjoyed for generations to come."

Additional contributions are welcome and interested donors can contact Anne Brown at the TPW Foundation for more information at 214-364-5362 or abrown@tpwf.org. Media link to press kit, videos, and photos: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/powderhornnews>

About the Partners:

Founded in 1991, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation is the non-profit funding partner of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The mission is to provide private support to help the Department manage and conserve the state wildlife, habi-

(See Powderhorn Ranch....Continued on Page 19-A)

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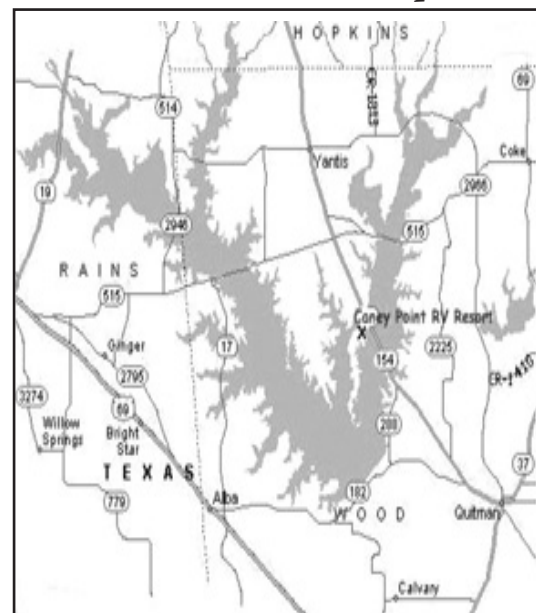
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"Pack of Knowledge" Targeting Schooling Bass

By Andrew Grills

September can be one of the most difficult months to consistently catch quality bass here on Lake Fork. The reason for this is because September is a transitional month. The days becoming shorter, cooler weather, and shad migration are factors that affect this change in bass behavior.

While it can be difficult to abandon

the typical areas and techniques that worked so well all summer, I find I have some of my most productive days targeting "schooling bass". Because fish are on the move, I try to be as well, watching for surface activity or birds. When we see a bird dive or a bass break the surface, it is often just the tip of the iceberg and a big time feeding frenzy is taking place below. In order to catch these schooling fish, I put my slow moving, bottom crawling techniques aside. This is the time to reach for moving baits that will appeal to bass from the surface, or even those suspended in the water column. There are quite a few presentations that will work. However, my favorites are a walking topwater bait, a soft plastic jerk bait, and a big spoon.

A Spook is a great choice for a walking topwater bait. There are many other brands that work as well, and some work better on certain days. I like to have a couple of sizes on hand in order to see which gets bit best, and to find out if there is potential to draw a big-

ger fish with the larger bait (even though it might not get as many bites). Many of us are tempted to fish these baits too slow, in order to entice a bass to bite, but I prefer a fast, erratic retrieve to get the fish to react out of impulse. I use 15lb monofilament line for this application.

Zoom's Super Fluke is probably the most popular soft jerk bait, and I use both the standard and magnum sizes. I will rig these weightless on an EWG hook with 15lb fluorocarbon line. A moderate retrieve with a twitch and pause cadence can be effective, keeping the bait on or just below the surface. I also like to deadstick them, and count them down to the suspended fish I see on my sonar. This is a great way to get down to the bigger fish.

Finally, a spoon is one of my favorite lures any time. It will work great for catching the better quality fish in the midst of

(See Pack of Knowledge ...Continued on Page 21-A)



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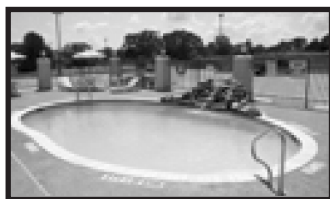
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Powderhorn Ranch *(Continued from Page 17-A)*

tat, recreations areas and cultural resources. Since its inception, that Foundation has raised more than \$90 million to help ensure that all Texans, today and in the future, can enjoy the wild things and wild places of Texas. Its current campaign, Keeping It Wild, aims to raise more than \$100 million in private funds for transformational projects that advance the state's proud traditions of conservation, stewardship, and outdoor recreation. Learn more at www.tpwf.org. Media contact: Laurey Peat, Laurey Peat + Associates, (214) 871-8787, lpeat@lpapr.com

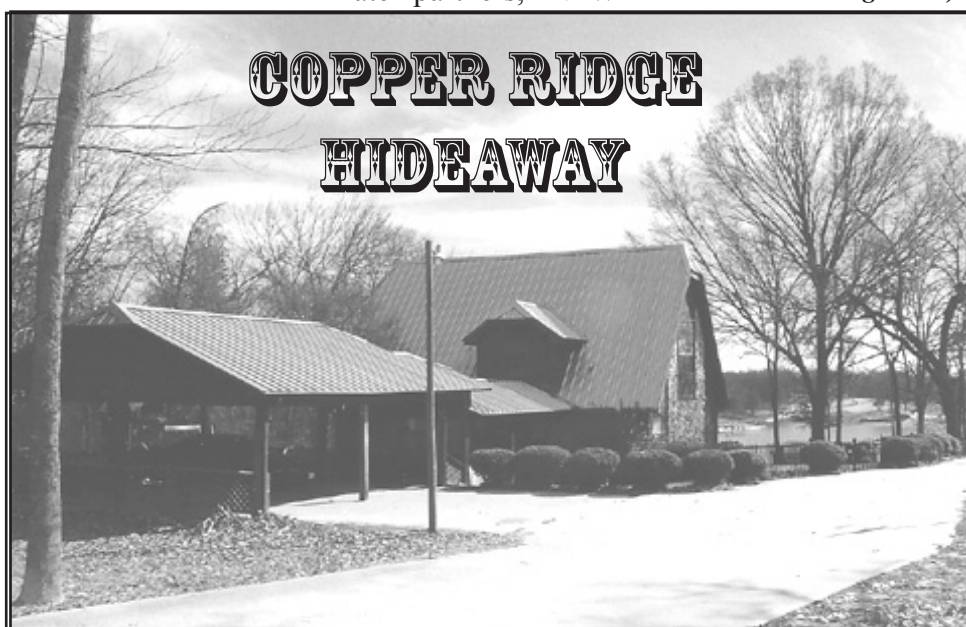
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's

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finds common ground between the public and private sectors to achieve positive conservation results. Learn more at www.nfwf.org. Media contact: Cheryl Irwin, (202) 857-0166, cheryl.irwin@nfwf.org

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(See Powderhorn ... Continued on Page 22-A)



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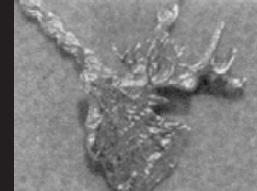
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September on the Fork! Look for deep trees! *(Continued from Page 6-A)*

This will help the bite for at least another hour.

September will be the month when the schooling activity should accelerate to full throttle. I am already seeing sand bass blowing up all across the lake and the huge green fish will be mixed in to the lot feeding on the small sandies and yellow bass. This is the time when the Alabama rig will shine along with the flutter spoon. Fire either of these into the schooling mix and let it fall through the flurry on slack line. Once you have counted it down to about ten, start winding it back at a moderate pace or twitching it slowly if it's the spoon.

You can experiment with the retrieve speed to see what they might want. You can start with 3 1/2 inch swimmin flukes on the outside of the A-rig and a five inch swimmin fluke in the middle. If the sand bass become a nuisance on the small baits, make all of them the five inch version. Stay with shad colors and success will come your way. The McDonalds Tournament is right around the corner so give me a call to get lined up for that event.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in September 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 August and some in September. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved ones who have dreamed 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 post my daily trip results on this page. I run a Skeeter FX with a Yamaha 250SHO and would like to thank Skeeter for making my office on the lake one of 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."



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Christian Miller caught this nice bass while fishing with Lake Fork Guide David Ozio. C.P.R.




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"Pack of Knowledge" (Continued from Page 18-A)

schooling activity. I let the spoon go to the bottom, then crank 3-5 times and allow it to fall back down. M-Pack Lures' Structure Spoon is one of my favorites. I like it because the unique weedguard gives us the liberty to fish it wherever the fish are without worrying about snagging. This just hit the market and is available at some of the marinas around the lake or at mpacklures.com.

As I mentioned earlier, there are a lot of ways



A hedgehog's heart beats 300 times a minute on average.

to catch schooling bass, these are just my favorites. Hopefully these tips will help you put a few more fish in your boat and give you an extra perspective during what can be a tough month to catch them.

If you would like to book a trip with me

you can reach me at 903-638-1170 or email me andrew@lakeforkguideandrewgrills.com or visit my web: www.LakeForkGuideAndrewGrills.com.

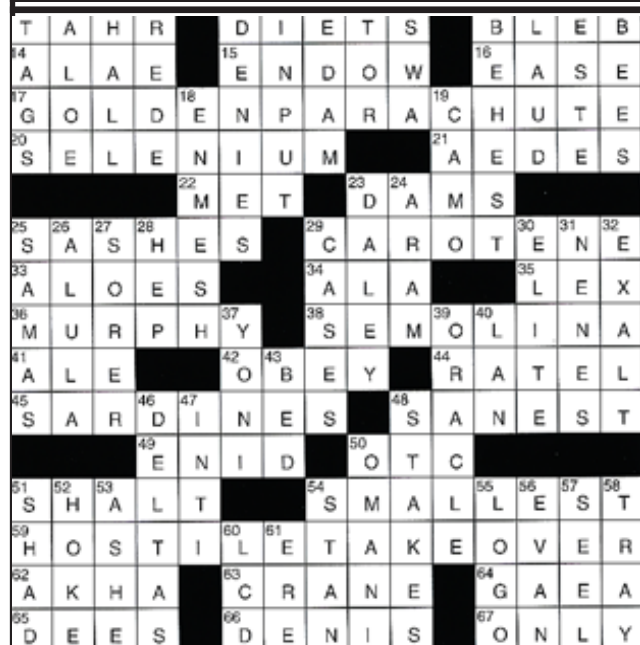
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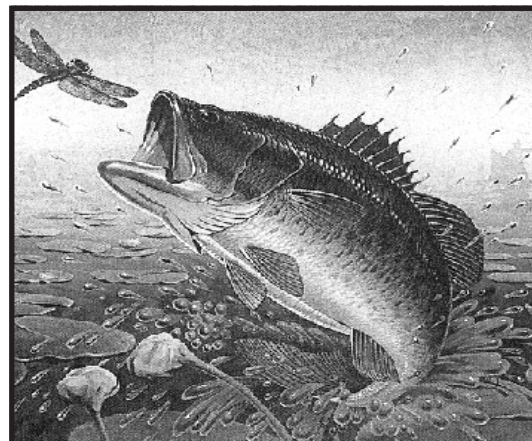
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Powderhorn Ranch (Continued from Page 19-A)

ing more than 193,000 acres of beloved natural lands across Texas, like at Big Thicket National Preserve, Fort Davis National Historic Site, San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, and along the Neches River and the Gulf Coast. www.conservationfund.org Media contact: Ann Simonelli, (703) 908-5809, asimonelli@conservationfund.org

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. To date, the Conservancy and its more than 1 million members have been responsible

for the protection of more than 119 million acres of land and 5,000 miles of rivers worldwide and the operation of more than 100 marine projects globally. In the Lone Star State, The Nature Conservancy owns more than 30 nature preserves and conservation properties and assists private landowners to conserve their land through more than 100 voluntary land-preservation agreements. With public and private partners, we have permanently conserved nearly one million acres across Texas. Visit The Nature Conservancy in Texas

46 wildlife management areas, three saltwater fish hatcheries and five freshwater hatcheries. TPWD game wardens and wildlife and fisheries biologists work in every Texas county, enforcing laws and encouraging management to conserve fish and wildlife. The agency has 11 internal divisions: Wildlife, Coastal Fisheries, Inland Fisheries, Law Enforcement, Legal, State Parks, Infrastructure, Communications, Administrative Resources, Human Resources and Information Technology. For more information, see the TPWD website (www.tpwd.state.tx.us) Media contact: Tom Harvey, (512) 389-4453, tom.harvey@tpwd.texas.gov



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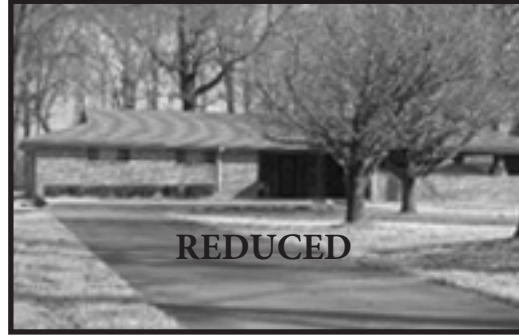
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EXTRA NICE LAKE FORK WATERFRONT home in small subdivision of approx. 21 houses. Home has large entry, living area, formal dining, heated & cooled sun room. Nice kitchen, breakfast bar, utility room with pantry. Master bedroom has large walk-in closet. 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. \$250,000



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