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

2 Sections

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No. 183



Jeremy Parker from Independence, Missouri won the Berkley 9th Annual Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork with this bass weighing 9.69-pounds on the second day of the tournament. His catch netted him a \$500 hourly check and a Skeeter ZX 200 powered by a Yamaha SHO and MinnKota trolling motor.



Joshua Derden from Denton, Texas won in the Berkley 9th Annual Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork for the heaviest bass under the slot with his bass weighing 2.57-pounds. His catch netted him a \$500 hourly check and a Skeeter TZX 190 powered by a Yamaha and MinnKota trolling motor.

9th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

The 9th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament presented by Bass Champs, Inc. was held on Lake Fork at Lake Fork Marina on October 18th and 19th. Ten places per hour for the two days of the tournament were paid for the heaviest bass weighed in during each hour. For the angler catching the heaviest bass over the 24" inch slot that angler was guaranteed to be taking home the grand prize of a 2014 Skeeter ZX 200 powered by

a Yamaha 200 SHO, equipped with Humminbird Electronics and MinnKota trolling motor. For the heaviest bass under the 16" slot the winner would be acquiring a 2014 Skeeter TZX 190 powered by a Yamaha 150, equipped with Humminbird Electronics and MinnKota trolling motor. The tournament drew over 901 anglers to Lake Fork to compete with some anglers coming from as far away as Missouri and Iowa. Chad Potts, President of Bass Champs, Inc.

stated, "I'm excited to see this event continuing to grow each year. Anglers could not have asked for better weather. It was cool in the early morning hours but turned out to be beautiful days in the mid 80's. I was glad to see we avoided any bad storms, and once again had a great turnout again." Potts continued, "I would like to thank Berkley for their continued support of this event and grass

(See 9th Annual Berkley...
Continued on Page 5-A)



Kira Green from Pittsburg, Texas had her Wish to Fish on Lake Fork granted on Saturday October 4th. She won the bragging rights for not only catching the biggest fish of the trip but also for losing the biggest when first bit of the trip...the fish was so big it broke her new rod furnished by "The Wish to Fish Foundation". (See Story on Page 7-A)

Mule Deer Hunters Reminded of CWD Testing Requirements

Wildlife officials are reminding mule deer hunters and landowners in far West Texas about the testing protocols required in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Plan. The plan includes mandatory check stations for susceptible species like elk and mule deer taken inside the CWD Containment Zone, which covers portions of Hudspeth, Culberson, and El Paso counties. A map of CWD zones can be found on the department's website at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/cwd>.

The management plan was implemented after CWD was detected in tissue samples from two mule deer in far West Texas during the summer of 2012. Those were the first cases of CWD detected in Texas deer. Four more CWD-positive mule deer were detected during the 2012-13 season, but no new CWD-positives were detected last hunting season. Over 600 tissue samples have been collected for CWD testing purposes from hunter-harvested deer and elk from the Trans Pecos ecoregion the past two hunting seasons.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and TPWD will also use the CWD check stations in a cooperative effort to monitor for bovine tuberculosis (TB) in Texas. The tissue samples used for this effort would be the same samples currently collected as part of the ongoing CWD monitoring effort.

Hunters taking mule deer inside the Containment Zone during the 2014 general mule deer

hunting season, Nov. 28 - Dec. 14, are required to submit their harvest (unfrozen head) for CWD sampling at a check station within 24 hours of take.

"We recommend hunters in the Containment Zone and High Risk Zone quarter deer in the field and leave all but the quarters, backstraps, and head at the site of harvest if they are unable to bury the inedible carcass parts as deep as possible on the ranch or take them to a landfill," said Shawn Gray, Mule Deer Program Leader for TPWD.

Mandatory check stations will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 28 - Dec. 15. Stations will be located in Cornudas at May's Café (on US 62-180) and in Van Horn at the Van Horn Convention Center (1801 West Broadway).

Hunters who harvest deer in the Containment Zone outside the general season under the authority of MLDP (Managed Lands Deer Permits) will need to call TPWD at (512) 221-8491 the day the deer is harvested to make arrangements to have the deer sampled for CWD.

In addition to protocols within the Containment Zone, TPWD has established check stations for voluntary CWD sampling for susceptible species like elk and deer harvested in other parts of West Texas. Biologists have been collecting mule deer harvest data in the region since 1980 and this year CWD sampling will once again be offered in addition to age and weight measurements.

Voluntary check stations will be established at the following locations during the first three weekends of the general season, Saturday through Monday (Nov.

29-Dec.1, Dec. 6-8, and Dec. 13-15), from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday:

--Midland at Naturally Fresh (Deer Processor) (1501 Elwyn)

--Bakersfield at Chevron Station (south of I10; Exit 294)

--Sanderson at Slim's Auto Repair (823 West Oak; Intersection of US 90 and 285)

--Alpine at Hip-O Taxidermy (east side of town on US 90, across from Dairy Queen)

All deer brought to the check stations this season will be aged as part of disease surveillance. Additional biological information such as antler measurements and field dressed weights will also be collected as time allows.

"CWD has not been detected anywhere outside of the Hueco Mountains," said Dr. Bob Dittmar, wildlife veterinarian with TPWD. "But adequate surveillance in that part of West Texas depends on check stations and we appreciate the cooperation and active participation of hunters and landowners in this effort."

For more information on CWD, please visit TPWD's website at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/cwd> or at the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance website, <http://www.cwd-info.org>.

Information on Bovine TB can be found on TAHC's website, http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/cattle_tb/cattle_tb.html



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Big Time Texas Hunts Winners Announced

Thirteen lucky sportsmen are making special plans for hunting season as winners of this year's Big Time Texas Hunts. The hunters were selected by random computer drawing from applicants in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department program.

All told, hunters bought 68,174 Big Time Texas Hunt entries during this year's sales period. This generated \$640,825 in gross revenue to support wildlife research, habitat management and public hunting.

The winner of this year's Big Time Texas Hunts crown jewel, the Texas Grand Slam hunt package, which includes four separate guided hunts for

Texas' most prized big game animals; desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope and mule deer is Buddie Gunter of Corpus Christi.

Gunter said he has been entering Big Time Texas Hunts for several years and is looking forward to taking his son with him on the hunts.

"Fortunately I'm self-employed and pretty flexible so I can make it work," he said. "I'm looking forward to taking my son with me and having a good time. That desert bighorn is a once-in-a-lifetime deal so that's going to be awesome."

Following are the winners of this year's Big Time Texas Hunts. --Texas Grand Slam-- Buddie Gunter,

Corpus Christi, TX --Premium Buck Hunt-- Thomas Archer, Bastrop, TX --Exotic Safari-- John Klee, Swansea, IL --Whitetail Bonanza-- Scott Shimek, Pearland, TX; Richard Sims, Arlington, TX; Matthew Hrcir, Tomball, TX; Keith Mack, Winnsboro, TX; Gregory Fox, Sweeny, TX; Charles McCall, Broken Arrow, OK --Big Time Bird Hunt-- Nancy Beaulieu, Beaumont, TX --Gator Hunt-- Ron Lott, Tyler, TX --Texas Waterfowl Hunt-- Donald Wilson, Houston, TX --Wild Hog Adventure-- William Kabela, Port Lavaca, TX

All winners have been

notified. Entries for next year's Big Time Texas Hunts will go on sale May 15, 2015.

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Fish Friendly



Lake Fork crappie guide Terri Moon caught this hawg while crappie fishing in October. Her comment was, "Oh what fun on a Shimano 5ft. ultralite!" C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Terri Moon Guide Service)

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9th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament *(Continued from Page 1-A)*

roots tournament anglers. They are a great partner."

Berkley baits made a great showing on Lake Fork along with Mother Nature. Anglers did not have to face high winds and white caps and a dense fog bank like last year. Perhaps the weather along with water being pulled from Lake Fork had the adverse effect on the bite. This became quite evident when the large bass this reservoir is known for did not show up at the scales. On the first day only one bass over the 24" slot came to the scales, but there were a lot of 1 and 2-pound-

ers. Anglers were able to fish the main points and deep structure of the open lake without being tossed but the large bass remained illusive. Only two bass over the Lake Fork 24" slot were weighed in during the course of the tournament. One was brought in during the first hour of the tournament and the winning bass was caught on Sunday. More than a few anglers reported their hearts being broken by bass that didn't quite reach the 24-inch mark or exceeded the 16-inch mark.

The winning bass under the slot was weighed in on the second day of the tournament. Joshua Derden from Denton, Texas brought his catch weighing 2.57-pounds to the scale in hopes that it

would hold up for the grand prize for the heaviest bass under 16-inches. "I think the last few hours of the tournament hoping my fish would hold up as the heaviest under the slot, was the longest hours of my life," said Joshua. Joshua caught his prize winner on a Berkley 10" Plum Powerworm. His fish held up as the heaviest bass under the slot winning him not only the 1st Place check of

(See 9th Annual Berkley....Continued on Page 19-A)



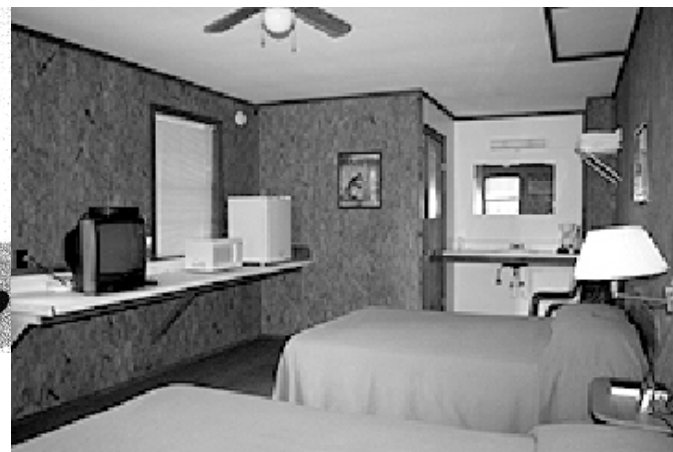
Jeremy Parker explained to the anglers he caught the winning fish on a Berkley 10" Plum Colored Powerworm.



Chad Potts listened like he believed every word of Fish Fishburne's fish tale of the one that got away!



Andrew Marks, Pure Fishing, thanked all the anglers for participating and making the 9th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament such a huge success.



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"Pack of Knowledge" *The Barfish Connection*

By Andrew Grills

I've never tasted the meat of a yellow bass, although I'm told by many of our local fishermen that they are delicious. Lake Fork is full of these little guys and I know for a fact that they are a delicacy for big largemouth as well.

Although adult yellow bass (or "Barfish" as they are commonly referred to) only average a half pound in weight, they

are considered big forage. I always pay attention to the bigger forage such as gizzard shad, juvenile white bass, and yellow bass because big meals are what the biggest bass are looking for. A bass weighing ten pounds or more managed to grow to that size by being effective at capturing big prey, and an eight inch yellow bass is the perfect size.

I believe big bass feed on yellow bass every chance they get throughout the year. However, Fall is the season that yellow bass and largemouth bass cross paths here on Lake Fork. This pattern seems to be at its peak during the month of November.

I start to notice yellow bass covering deep water structure during the month of October. They can be easily identified because they always seem to be right on the bottom (when present on structure), and will position tightly in vast schools. Often, they stack on top of each other, and can almost look like aquatic vegetation growing three or four feet from the bottom because they school so tightly. When I see them show up, I know the bigger largemouth are soon to follow.

The areas I often find yellow bass are

submerged roadbeds, long tapering points, and offshore humps. They seem to prefer depths in the fifteen to thirty foot zone and group up better on brighter days. When I see what appear to be largemouth on my graph near yellow bass schools, I am confident that they are likely going to be big!

After seeing this scenario on your electronics there are a variety of techniques you can use. I haven't had much success on lures that have the realistic yellow bass imitating paint jobs that we often see on various crankbaits and spoons. However, I target these big largemouth with big flutter spoons, Carolina rigged magnum flukes, or umbrella rigs.

It is important to pay attention to the yellow bass because when they are schooled up on a spot, the largemouth will be there too at some point, if they aren't already. I hope this helps you catch a few more big fish this Fall. Be sure to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Andrew is a professional guide on Lake Fork and is sponsored by Skeeter Boats, H&W Marine, Tyler, M-Pack Lures, and Reel Time Rods.



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Wish to Fish Foundation Trip For Kira Green

By Don Hampton

On October 4th "The Wish to Fish Foundation" had the extreme pleasure of treating Kira Green, her mother Mindi, father Ernest and 17 year old brother Nate to her wish to fish on Lake Fork.

Kira is 12 years old and attends school in Pittsburg, Texas. At 18 months old her parents Mindi and Ernest found out she had Type 1 Diabetes. She wears an OmniPod which is beneficial for additional insulin delivery, to check blood glu-

cose or adjust insulin settings as needed. The Pod automatically primes itself and performs a series of safety checks to prepare for insulin delivery. Unlike an insulin pump with tubing, you have the flexibility of wearing your Pod anywhere you take injection. With just a push of a button and virtually no pain, the cannula is automatically inserted and insulin delivery begins.

The family arrived on Friday and were furnished lodging at 515 Scenic Cabins, (one of the program's great sponsors) in the lodge supplied with snacks and beverages.

On Saturday the day began with breakfast at Oak Ridge Marina. Program directors for this trip were Scott Fruge', boat captain, Susie Hubbell, and 911 chase boats were driven by Gary Smith and myself.

After breakfast was completed we all launched and headed



One of Kira's exciting moments of the trip was when she got to drive the pontoon boat. She got her turn to be in the driver's seat.

for our favorite catfish hole. After anchoring down and getting the poles set out the excitement began. Kira no sooner got her pole in the water than something hit and the fight was too much. Whatever type of fish bit her hook, it was a really big one. She was unable to control it and the new rod she was presented by the Foundation broke in

(See Wish to Fish....Continued on Page 21-A)



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Fall Fishing on the Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

your electronics should show you right where the bass are positioned. In years past, huge balls of shad would be the tipoff that big bass are close. Break out the flukes in a shad pattern; fish it around the masses of bait. Start with a weightless fluke if wind is not an issue and tie on a magnum fluke if you desire to catch the grand daddy. Count these baits down at a fall rate of about one foot per second. If you saw the bait ball at twelve foot, start twitching it once you reach the count of twelve. Good things will happen. Most of these fish will be suspended in deep water, 18-30ft. Focus strictly on the bait, don't let

the depth bother you. For bass that you find stacked on the bottom, a big jig will wreak havoc on the big boys and a Carolina rig will clean up the rest. Standard colors apply as long as it is watermelon red on sunny days. Dark purple baits work well on cloudy days. If you notice the bait piled up near the bottom, you might want to break out the tail kicker or twin spins. They will truly do the heavy lifting.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in November 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 November and some in December. 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/LakeFork-GuideDavidOzio>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I run a Skeeter FX21 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.



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Debbie Emsinger caught this nice Lake Fork hawg while fishing with guide David Ozio in October. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo David Ozio Guide Service)



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Glynn Dyess with son in law Greg McRaney & his brother Bryan McRaney, Bassfield, MS.,



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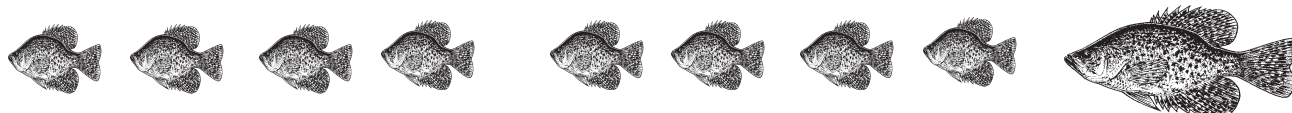
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Dedication of New Bird Blind Set for Davis Mountains Nov. 14

The public is invited to a 3 p.m. ribbon-cutting for a newly constructed bird blind at Davis Mountains State Park on Friday, Nov. 14 being dedicated to the Francell family, which has played a major role in Texas land conservation efforts.

The \$36,000 solar-powered, white adobe structure that mimics the historic Indian Lodge's Southwest style of architecture replaced an older bird blind in the Montezuma Quail Viewing area. The bird blind is expected to be popular with birders who visit the state park to see the wide variety of bird species, including the Montezuma quail typically

found in the region.

"We are pleased to dedicate the new bird blind to the Francell Family, in recognition of our gratitude and appreciation for their continuing efforts to conserve the wild places of Texas," says Texas State Parks Director Brent Leisure. "Here, Davis Mountains State Park visitors will be able to observe the many bird species that make the park their home, or their rest stop."

Davis Mountains State Park is a designated Globally Important Bird Area (GIBA), recognized for the number of documented resident and transient bird species. Birders, who for decades had

become accustomed to seeing the original bird blind consisting of four posts and a bench, can now observe some of the park's documented 365 species from comfortable stools protected from the elements.

The new bird blind features large, slanted windows cooled by sun-powered ceiling fans in the screened-in viewing area. Solar power also keeps water trickling through a stone water feature beneath almost a dozen bird feeders.

Davis Mountains State Park and Indian Lodge are located four miles north of Fort Davis on Highway 118 North. For more information, contact the state park office at (432) 426-3337.

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Pair Convicted in Illegal Deer Breeding Operation

The latest chapter in a decade long series of criminal and wildlife disease investigations involving a former South Texas deer breeder ended recently when a Corpus Christi area couple pleaded guilty to 50 charges of Unlawful Possession and/or Sale of Live Game Animals.

Frank Thomas Shumate, Jr., 51, and Kalub Rogers Shumate, 31, were each assessed \$14,127.50 in fines and agreed to surrender the ability to apply for a deer breeder permit or a hunting lease license for all time. Mr. Shumate also agreed to surrender his hunting license through the end of the 2015 license year and Ms. Shumate through the end of the 2017 license year.

The criminal cases were adjudicated in the office of Hon. Caroline Korzekwa, Karnes County Justice Court Precinct. 2.

Retired San Antonio attorney Rene Barrientos served as special prosecutor in the case with approval and support from the Karnes County Attorney. He also coordinated a global agreement in Travis County District Court to resolve a pending civil case against Ms. Rogers and recover \$34,080 in restitution related to expenses incurred by TPWD staff while conducting a deer herd inventory inspection and disease sampling at a deer breeding facility permitted to Ms. Rogers. Investigation into Mr. Shumate's deer breeding activities began in March 2004 and led to multiple charges

in three counties. Two years later, his deer breeder violations resulted in 10 convictions on criminal charges in Jim Wells County, 5 convictions in Nueces County and 5 convictions in Webb County. As a result of these findings, Mr. Shumate agreed to relinquish his Scientific Breeder's Permit and liquidate all deer held in captivity in his deer breeding facility in Nueces County.

In advance of losing his deer breeding privileges, Mr. Shumate allegedly initiated a plan to have a new deer breeding facility permitted in the name of Kalub Rogers on his property in Karnes County, where he then transferred more than 100 deer from his Nueces County facility. Over time the TPWD Special Operations Unit received numerous reports that Mr. Shumate was reportedly still in the deer business and was buying and selling deer for which he was not legally authorized by TPWD. An investigation revealed that Mr. Shumate conducted sales of at least 78 white-tailed deer from Ms. Rogers' deer breeding facility to ranches for release into the wild for stocking purposes since September 2010. Mr. Shumate received a minimum of \$171,466 in payments for white-tailed deer he unlawfully sold, which according to records submitted to TPWD, were transported from Ms. Rogers' deer breeding facility. The investigation further indicated that Kalub Rog-

ers was holding a deer breeder permit in her name on behalf of her husband Frank Thomas Shumate Jr.

Ms. Rogers' facility came under additional scrutiny in 2012, initially as a result of a delinquent annual report required of all permitted deer breeding facilities. Criminal charges were filed when a subsequent herd inspection and inventory revealed significant irregularities and discrepancies, including 162 inventoried deer that were missing from the facility. During the herd inspection, TPWD wildlife biologists noted the remaining deer in the facility to be in poor condition and numerous decayed deer carcasses were observed throughout the pens. The observation of 142 deer of unknown origin was cause for additional concern and tissue samples from several deer were tested for both Chronic Wasting Disease and Bovine Tuberculosis. Neither disease was detected.

"Unscrupulous actions by these two individuals are not only a threat to all the law-abiding deer breeders who are carefully monitoring and managing their facilities, but also to the state's free-ranging deer, which can be exposed to unnecessary disease risk from these illegitimate activities," said Mitch Lockwood, TPWD Big Game Program Director. "Captive and free-ranging deer are too important to our state to have them compromised by the actions of a few."

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