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www.legendoflakefork.com
When It Comes To Thanksgiving, Bubba May Be The Turkey Full of Grace

By: Don Hampton

Bubba isn’t an individual that is asked to say the grace much when it comes to meals. Don’t get me wrong Bubba considers himself religious and is always thankful to the “Good Lord” for all his blessings. But, come on people, Bubba is Bubba!

If Bubba is asked to say the grace, you never know what kind of thanks you may hear. If he is really hungry you might hear, “Good bread, good meat, God Bless, let’s eat, AMEN!” If he is really hungry and not feeling like a bear just out of hibernation and in a good mood you might hear, “Rubby dub, dub, bring on the grub, Yeah God, AMEN!” But, if Bubba has had a snack just before meal time, like tasting the turkey as he is slicing it, get ready for a long winded grace like you’ve never heard before. During these blessings he would have a country revival preacher squirming in his seat. During this course you might hear Bubbette throw in four or five AMENS. Not because she’s filled with the spirit or that she agrees with what Bubba is saying, but rather because she’s trying to shut him down. This is something one can really expect to hear at Thanksgiving at Bubba and Bubbette’s home.

Each year at Thanksgiving and Christmas, Bubba is the designated turkey smoker. He does smoke a mean turkey and all his relatives think he is the best and his smoked sweet potatoes and oyster dressing are culinary delights also. The bad part of this is that the cook tastes his cooking before he will serve it. If you thought this would spoil his appetite, you are wrong. This just puts him at the table not being hungry as a bear and it being Bubba’s household the Thanksgiving blessing belongs to him.

The beginning and the end of his grace are book worthy. It is just all of those things in the middle that will have you starving before the last AMEN. Believe me when he says, “AMEN”, there is a chorus of “AMENS” around the table!

He will start by thanking God for all the blessings he has bestowed on his family and friends. He asked him to bless this great country we live in and for all the soldiers that defend our freedom and way of life. He will thank God for the food they are about to partake of and that he will nourish it to the goodness of their bodies, but then Bubba will say thanks for everything he feels important.

He is liable to start off by thanking the “Good Lord” for Lake Fork and all of the good lakes he has fished throughout the year. He’ll be thankful for his sharp hooks, strong line, and prized possessions such as his rods and reels. He’ll put in how much he appreciated the fish biting and that they might on his future trips be as hungry as some of his kinfolk are getting at the table during his blessing. He will thank the Lord for his boat, motor, electronics and as always for his pickup truck. He’ll be thankful for the weather, the tournaments he won, the great guide trips he has been on, and on, and on, and on! Sometimes during these blessings Bubba would run down the EVEREADY Bunny! I do believe he would stretch them out more if he wasn’t afraid his food would get cold!

Bubba is pretty smart in a sense the way he explained it to me. He said, “I’ve got a captive audience! No matter how long I say grace, none of my kinfolk are going to get up and leave a table full of good vittles!”

When Bubba finally says “AMEN”, I think the chorus of “AMENS” is basically because everyone’s so glad he’s finally come to an end, but probably to drown out Bubba putting in a P.S.

Bubba always finishes his prayer with sincere thanks. He is thankful for his life, his wife, his family and friends, for the great country we live in, and that all may be blessed with the Lord’s spirit. Isn’t that something we all should put in our prayers!

“Happy Thanksgiving from our home to yours!”
TPWD Reminds Hunters about Proper Deer Carcass Disposal

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reminds hunters throughout the state to properly dispose of carcasses from harvested deer to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases in deer. This is particularly important for harvested mule deer taken inside the Chronic Wasting Disease Containment Zone, which covers portions of Hudspeth and El Paso counties, and the surrounding High Risk Zone.

“Because many hunters process their own deer, they are key players in slowing the spread of diseases such as CWD,” said Ryan Schoeneberg, Big Game Program Specialist with TPWD. “One possible way that disease can spread is by the transportation and improper disposal of carcass parts.”

Deer can become infected with CWD if they come into contact with other infected deer or an environment contaminated with CWD prions. While CWD prions are found ubiquitously throughout the body of an infected deer, they are known to accumulate in the brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, and lymph nodes.

CWD was first found in Texas in Hudspeth and El Paso counties two years ago and the disease appears to be limited to those remote areas thanks in large part to hunter diligence, restricting unnatural movement of deer, and ongoing measures to monitor and sample for evidence of the disease. Hunters who harvest deer in the Containment Zone are required to present the unfrozen head of the deer to a designated check station within 24 hours of take in order to have tissue samples removed for CWD testing. Additionally, hunters in this area should not take whole deer carcasses out of the Containment Zone, or carcass parts that contain brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, or lymph nodes, according to Shawn Gray, mule deer program leader for TPWD.

“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 it is not possible to bury the inedible carcass parts on the ranch or take them to a landfill.”

Hunters are urged to follow these safe handling recommendations:

- **Proper Carcass Disposal**
  - Avoid cutting through bones, spine, or brain when processing deer carcasses.
  - If processing harvested deer in camp or at home, place carcass parts in trash bags and properly dispose of them through a trash service or landfill.
  - For taxidermy work, use a licensed taxidermist to assure proper carcass disposal.

- **Safe Parts to Transport**
  - Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spine or head attached.
  - Hides or capes from which all excess tissue has been removed.
  - Antlers, including antlers attached to skull plates or skulls cleaned of all muscle and brain tissue.

For more information visit: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd/
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Warden John Thorne has been named Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). Thorne received the honor at the organization’s 55th annual conference, held this year in Bar Harbor, ME.

NASBLA established its Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year program in 2000 to acknowledge the nation’s outstanding marine enforcement officers. Sponsored by Revere Supplies, the award is presented at three levels – state, regional and national. This year, 43 officers across the country were nominated for the national award.

In conferring the honor, NASBLA noted that Thorne is the “go to guy” with TPWD when it comes to boating while intoxicated/boating under the influence (BWI/BIUI) enforcement. He is also one of the agency’s few trained drug recognition experts.

Thorne has filed or been directly involved in the filing of some 80 BWI/BIUI cases during his 12-year career with the state. Last summer, he and a less-tenured warden filed five BWIs in a single day.

“Not only is Warden Thorne a master at identifying and arresting BWI violators, he can clearly and convincingly articulate the facts of the case,” says Cody Jones, TPWD’s Boating Law Administrator Cody Jones. “His professionalism in handling these cases has resulted in an amazingly high conviction rate.”

Thorne worked with local prosecutors to implement and streamline a protocol for issuing search warrants for blood on those who refuse to provide a specimen. During the summer of 2013, he created an easy-to-understand guide to aid officers in BWI/BIUI enforcement. With guidelines and examples of properly prepared paperwork, the guide provides officers with something to double-check during arrests.

Each summer, Thorne coordinates water safety saturation patrols on Cedar Creek Lake, a water body covering 33,000 acres and surrounded by 14 heavily populated municipalities. He also patrols the lake every weekend during the warmer months. Jones said that these efforts have been particularly effective in preventing accidents and removing intoxicated operators from the lake.

“John’s dedication and enthusiasm is contagious to other wardens who patrol with him and learn from his efforts and examples,” said Jones.

About NASBLA

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories. NASBLA offers a variety of resources, including training, model acts, education standards and publications. Through a national network of thousands of professional educators, law enforcement officers and volunteers, the organization affects the lives of over 76 million American boaters. To learn more about how NASBLA continues to make the waterways safe, secure and enjoyable, visit http://www.nasbla.org. For more information, contact the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators at 859.225.9487.
Whooping Cranes Beginning Their Fall Journey to Texas

Endangered whooping cranes are arriving early at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge this year. The first two birds were reported at the refuge in mid-September, and since then two more have joined them. The bulk of the whooping crane population remains north of the state at this time.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has developed the Texas Whooper Watch program (http://tpwd.texas.gov/whoopingcranes/) to help track the movement of these endangered birds across the state, as well as monitor whooping cranes that might spend the winter in locations not associated with the national wildlife refuge. Texas Whooper Watch is a volunteer program that is part of TPWD’s Texas Nature Trackers program. In addition to tracking the big birds in Texas, the program will help the agency learn more about whooping cranes and their winter habitats within the state.

Since beginning their slow recovery from a low of 16 birds in the 1940s, whoopers have wintered on the Texas coast and near Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Recently though, several groups of whooping cranes have expanded their wintering areas to include other coastal areas and some inland sites in Central Texas. This year, biologists expect the bulk of the whooping cranes to start arriving in Texas in late October or early November. Texas Whooper Watch helps improve the accuracy of surveys on the wintering grounds, as the growth of the flock has made traditional census methods more difficult. Whoopers usually follow a migratory path through North and Central Texas that includes cities such as Wichita Falls, Fort Worth, Waco, Austin, and Victoria. During migration they often pause overnight to use wetlands for roosting and agricultural fields for feeding, but seldom remain more than one night. The typical sighting (71 percent of all observations) is fewer than three birds, but last year Texas had multiple sightings of larger groups including one of 19 individuals. Whooping cranes can also be seen roosting and feeding with large flocks of smaller sandhill crane.

Whoopers are the tallest birds in North America, standing nearly five feet. The cranes are solid white in color except for black wing-tips that are visible only in flight. They fly with necks and legs outstretched.

Citizens can help by reporting sightings of whooping cranes and by preventing disturbance of cranes when they remain overnight at roosting and feeding locations. Sightings can be reported to whoopingcranes@tpwd.texas.gov or 512-389-TXWW (8999). Observers are asked especially to note whether the cranes have colored leg bands on their legs. Volunteers interested in attending training sessions to become “Whooper Watchers” may also contact the TPWD at whoopingcranes@tpwd.texas.gov or 512-389-TXWW (8999).

Additional information, including photos of whooping crane look-alike species, can be found at http://tpwd.texas.gov/whoopingcranes/ and at http://www.whoopingcrane.com/report-a-sighting/.
Fall Fishing on the Fork

“Fall is rapidly approaching Lake Fork and I see great things happening in the near future for this awesome pond. The leaves are starting to fall and the cooler air temps are sneaking in which means the water temps will slowly sink ushering in some fantastic bass fishing through the month of November. There should be plenty of days where the fish will bite from daylight to dark, especially if it is cloudy. In my opinion, it’s time to hawg hunt.

The lake will have started stabilizing from the annual turnover and water clarity should improve with each passing day. The early part of the month will see lake temps in the low 70’s but by month’s end, the upper 50’s will be the new norm. This sends a biological signal to the Lake Fork bass that winter is rapidly approaching and it’s time to feed up. Now it’s game on. As the water temps approach the mid 60’s, bass will head to the banks in search of shad, congregate on main lake points, ridges, humps and road beds with bar fish and sand bass in mind. Now’s the time to cover some water and find out which pattern best suits your style of fishing. Being as several patterns should be in play, it’s also a great time to explore your weaknesses and spend time fishing patterns that you aren’t so comfortable with.

Many of my clients have never used a drop shot and it is one of the most awesome tools available to all anglers. Study the technique on YouTube and then give it a whirl. If jig fishing isn’t your strong suit, tie one on and fish it until you get bit. Your next question will be, “Where do I look?” Both of these techniques will work both shallow and deep. Try a lighter jig and fish the outside edges of the grass, for example, until something marvelous happens. The same goes for the drop shot. It can be worked as well on the outside edge of the grass along with timber, road beds, pond dams and deep humps. Black/blue is always a good color for the jig and a watermelon red Zoom trick worm is a great starting point for the drop shot. You will never know what you can learn until you try it.

Other options still apply during this juncture in the season. The top water bite will materialize and this encases Yellow Magic’s, Zara Spooks, buzzbaits and fast moving frogs. These will work early and late and sometimes all day long. Main lake points will need to be the starting spot as well as secondary points. As the shad move to the backs of the creeks, just follow them back to maintain the action. Don’t overlook moving baits at this time of year. Spinnerbaits, chatterbaits, swimjigs and rattletraps will harvest some of the monsters you are searching for. Shad patterns always work well and you might try dark colors if the clouds set in. The deep bite is my all time favorite during November. The lake will be settled down and the fish will start to group up in search of food. The mouths of major creeks is the obvious gathering spot and

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

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Fish Friendly
9th Annual Berkley Big Bass (Continued from Page 5-A)

$500 for the hour but also a Skeeter TZX 190 powered by a Yamaha 150, Humminbird Electronics and Minn-Kota trolling motor.

The heaviest bass over the slot was caught by Jeremy Parker from Independence, Missouri weighing 9.69-pounds. “I couldn’t fish the first day of the tournament because I was fishing one on Toledo Bend,” he commented. “I didn’t want to miss this because I love fishing Lake Fork, so I decided to drive on up on Saturday night and register and just sleep in my truck before going back home.” His decision paid off for him. Jeremy caught his winning bass also on a Berkley 10” Plum Pow-erworm. His catch won him $500 in the hour and the grand prize of a 2014 Skeeter ZX 200 powered by a Yamaha 200 SHO, and equipped with Humminbird Electronics and MinnKota trolling motor.

Andrew Marks of Berkley addressed the crowd before the presentation of the checks and prizes, and thanked everyone for their continued support of this event and for choosing Berkley/Sible products for their fishing needs. Marks stated,” This event is always a learning experience for us. The feedback we receive helps us with product development, research and marketing. It also gives us a clearer idea of what our customers want from Berkley in the future. We look forward to seeing everyone next year.” Highlights of the tournament will be re-capped in the WFN Network. For show times, follow the WFN link on www.BassChamps.com.

From the youngest to the oldest, everyone had a great time at the Berkeley 9th Annual Big Bass Tournament.
November is Customer Appreciation Month

We appreciate all of our terrific customers, so we’ve made November Customer Appreciation Month! Enjoy fabulous fall fishing on Lake Fork. Take advantage of our low room rates and bargains on your favorite gear!

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November is “Super Slab” Month

By Terri Moon

It’s here – November – probably my very favorite month to fish! The crappie starts their fall migration up the creeks, and just like in the spring, the first fish coming through are generally the biggest.

The falling water temperatures will trigger the fall feeding frenzy. They will be following the baitfish so keep a close eye on that depth finder and watch for balls of shad. A really good graph will show you if the fish are following these shad and at what depth they are moving through. This will take a lot of the “guess work” out of how deep you need to be fishing. Just because you caught crappie at 20 ft. yesterday doesn’t mean they will bite at that depth today. These depths will even change throughout the day. So, it’s necessary to keep checking your graph for any changes in depths of these active fish. I sure appreciate my Lowrance HDS units. They are my number ‘one’ piece of equipment for targeting crappie – especially this time of year!

Another reason these fish can be at different depths in different areas of the lake is because of the lake “turning over.” This process will work its way around the lake. So, if you are fishing in an area that’s not producing fish and you notice a lot of brown foamy bubbles on the surface, you’re probably in an area where this is taking place. It’s best to just go try another area with clearer water and better oxygen levels.

The baits that have been working for us have been Lake Fork Tackles ‘Live Baby Shad’ in ‘Electric Chicken’ or blue & pearl or Bobby Garland’s ‘Black Gum’ (black & pink) or chartreuse – also, Bob Young’s ‘Ghost’ (grey w/blue) or ‘Slick Willie’ (chartreuse w/blue tail.)

For the rest of your crappie fishing needs, check with Lake Fork Marina. They have got a great assortment plus some great “holiday gift” available for the fisherman in your family. Probably the coolest “holiday gift” available at Lake Fork Marina this year has to be the new “Easy Step System.” Oh my goodness – has this ever been a lifesaver for me and my customers. With the drastically low lake levels this year, we no longer have boat slip availability – so needless to say, loading people in and out of the boat has been a major issue until now!! This is a ladder with a hand rail that attaches to the front of your boat trailer. So, no more crawling in and out of the boat – “PRICE-LESS”!! For more info on these, call Ken or Dana Donahue at Lake Fork Marina @ 903-765-2764. It’s always a bonus to come across something that makes life easier!

So, in my opinion, this has to be the best “holiday gift” idea available this year!

I hope you all get the chance to get out and enjoy Fork’s great fall fishing. Also, be extra careful with the low lake levels.

I want to send a big “thank you” to James and Jody at Popes Landing for coming to my rescue and finding room for my boat in one of their slips. It’s tremendously appreciated!

Also, “Happy Birthday” to my brother John of Long Jack, MO., and niece Echo Burkhart. Miss and love you both! My best to you all!!!
Wish to Fish Foundation Trip (Continued from Page 7-A)

Two and the line broke. We all wished we could have seen that fish. But as we all know disappointment on Lake Fork only lasts until the next bite and it wasn’t long for Kira until disappointment turned to smiles and laughter. Her brother Nate and mom and dad may have been a little envious of her because she not only caught the biggest fish of the trip but also the most. This may have been because of all the special attention the program directors were showing her. Not to be left out mom, dad, and Nate caught some good fish during the trip. All of the catfish caught on the trip were filleted, bagged and iced down for the family to take home and have a fish fry of their own in fond memories of their trip.

Lunch on the pontoon boat consisted of Subway sandwiches and pizza delivery by Program Secretary, Sue Hampton. After lunch was completed fishing and fun resumed until it was time to get off the water.

Kira’s trip ended with dinner at A.J.’s Fish House (another great sponsor of the Wish To Fish Foundation). After dinner Kira’s trip ended with fond farewells and new friends for life.
OAK RIDGE MARINA TO GIVE AWAY $1,000 IN CHRISTMAS CASH PROMOTION

Would you like some cold hard cash for Christmas? That’s exactly what you can win when Oak Ridge Marina gives away $1,000 to one lucky customer in December.

From November 1st through December 13th Oak Ridge Marina will be giving entry tickets to customers for every $10 spent for a chance to win the $1,000 cash prize! Smaller prizes will also be awarded including more cash, fishing tackle, t-shirts, hats, free meals, free motel stays and more.

For every $10 spent in the tackle store or restaurant, every customer will be entered into the drawing for a chance to win. The drawing will be held on December 13th at noon, immediately following the breakfast with Santa event which starts at 8 am.

Winners need not be present to win, but are encouraged to come by for some fun with Santa and his helpers while they give away prizes and are available for photos. This promotion is made possible by the generous sponsorship of: Cartoons To Go, ClownCo, Dobyn’s Rods, Hag’s Tornados, Lake Fork Area News, Latson’s Office Supply, LFB Lures, M-Pack Lures, Rains County Leader, Reel Time Rods, Rod Sox, Santone Lures, Shimano, Stick Jackets, and The Fisherman’s Guide News.

Oak Ridge Marina is located at 2919 W. State Hwy 154, Quitman, TX 75783, just ¼ mile south of the 154 bridge on Lake Fork. Phone 903-878-2529 for details.

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THE FISHERMAN’S GUIDE NEWS
November
Page 10-A
"The Fisherman’s Guide, News You Can Use"
EXTENSIVE REFURBISHMENTS. Comfortable home on 2 corner lots. New paint throughout, ceiling popcorn removed, like-new carpet, repainted cabinets, garage & storage bldg. New light fixtures, A/C serviced. Great floor plan with 2142 sq. ft, heated & cooled, wb fireplace, two living areas (can be offices), two eating areas, large utility room, 3 BR, 2 Baths. Chain link fence for the animals, large shade trees, 2-car garage, storage bldg. Don’t miss viewing this one. $139,900.

WANT YOUR OWN PRIVATE LAKE? This 9.23 acre tract has a beautiful lake, best guess is 3.5 to 5 acre lake. May have some springs, owner says still had water in last drought. Gorgeous views, nice wooded property, pretty drive up with planted cedars. Home is doublewide manufactured, owner says 32x40, 2048 sf. Nice kitchen with prep island, gas stove, breakfast area, wet bar, lots of space. Wood burning FP. Dining has large windows that overlook scenic lake view. 4 BR, 2 Bath, Master has garden tub & separate shower. Near Lake Fork, about 6 miles from public boat ramp. Beautiful property, great location. $154,000.

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. Appraised and Priced at $535,000

AFFORDABLE WATERFRONT ON LAKE FORK. Plenty of space to roam around. Beautifully finished log siding home with covered back deck. Inside is tasteful with wood walls and ceilings, rock fireplace. With 1510 sf living area it’s a really great place for permanent or weekend living. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, living/dining, kitchen, carport, storage building. Situated on one of the great fishing areas of Lake Fork, this one is ready for you. Some furniture available for purchase. You need to take a look at this one! $149,900

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 hook 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

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