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**"The Fisherman's Guide,  
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"Lines To Get Hooked On"**

**2 Sections**

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**Free**

**Vol. 16**

**December, 2014**

**No. 184**



David Roulston (ctr) was fishing Lake Fork with guide Lee Livesay (lt) and friend Vangeli Gelekas when he caught ShareLunker #558 weighing 13.88-pounds.

## Lake Fork Produces First Toyota ShareLunker of 2014/2015 Season

By Don Hampton

David Roulston from Frisco, Texas started off the 2014/2015 Toyota ShareLunker season in a big way. On Thursday, November 20th at approximately 1 p.m. fishing Lake Fork, he caught a lunker bass weighing 13.88-pounds, measuring 26.75-inches in length, with a girth of 20.5-inches.

David was fishing in 25-feet of water using a Carolina rigged Zoom Baby Brush Hog when this lunker could

not resist the temptation of biting. Mr. Roulston was fishing with his friend Vangeli Gelekas, owner of [bassmanager.com](http://bassmanager.com), (See Lake Fork Produces... Continued on Page 4-A)



David's ShareLunker was a Florida/Northern cross strain and released back into Lake Fork on November 25th.



Greg Middleton caught this nice Lake Fork bass weighing 11-pounds 12-ounces while fishing with guide J W Peterson on October 30th.



## Bubba Claus sworn in to replace Santa for East Texas lake areas

By Bubba B. Tuff

Well boys and girls Santa's contract has been renegotiated and it directly effects Lake Fork, Bob Sandlin, and Lake Tawakoni areas.

Due to the influx of new homeowners and the overwhelming amount of tourism to the lake areas, Santa regrets to inform us he will no longer be the bearer of good tidings. His contract has been renegotiated by the State of Texas Fairies and Elves Local 101.

Set forth in the new contract, Santa's responsibilities will no longer include the Lake Fork, Bob Sandlin, Lake Tawakoni and East Texas area. Cookie breaks will be shortened to assure satisfactory work ethics and quality.

In a press release to "The Fisherman's

Guide News", sent out November 26, 2014 Santa's replacement was named. Everyone can rest assured we will be in good hands. The replacement for the lake areas will be his third cousin, Bubba Claus.

Bubba Claus is originally from the South Pole. There he attended Equator High and went on to further his education by attending night school majoring in Chimney Dropping and Fire Safety.

"I share the same goal as my cousin Santa. I will deliver toys to all the boys and girls at the lakes and in the East Texas area," said Bubba Claus in an interview with "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use."

In the interview, to relieve concerned parents, the differences in the method of delivery were dis-

cussed at great length. Bubba Claus assured, "Christmas would be better'n' ever and jus' doggone good!"

The differences in delivery will include the following:

\* There will be no danger of a Grinch stealing your Christmas. On Bubba's sleigh he has a loaded gun rack and a bumper sticker that reads: "These toys insured by Smith and Wesson."

\* Instead of milk and cookies, Bubba Claus prefers that children leave a Bud Light and fried crap-pie, and hushpuppies on the fireplace mantel.

\* When Bubba Claus' sleigh lands on your roof, do not be alarmed by the sound of barking. Bubba Claus's sleigh will be pulled by floppy-eared flying coon dogs instead of reindeer.

(It seems Santa once loaned Bubba his reindeer and now Blitzen's head overlooks Bubba's fireplace.)

\* No longer will you hear "On Comet, on Cupid, on Blitzen, on Donner." Instead in a southern drawl you will hear, "Buedro, Jake, Snake, Goober, Gomer, less' git 'er done!"

\* For that night only and for Bubba Claus the local speed limits will be waived. Also, in accordance with local tradition, Bubba's bumper will have a sticker on it saying "Made in Texas by Texans, So Don't Mess With Bubba!"

\* Bubba Claus does not wear a belt. If the children are present when he bends over to put the presents under the tree, make sure they turn their heads.

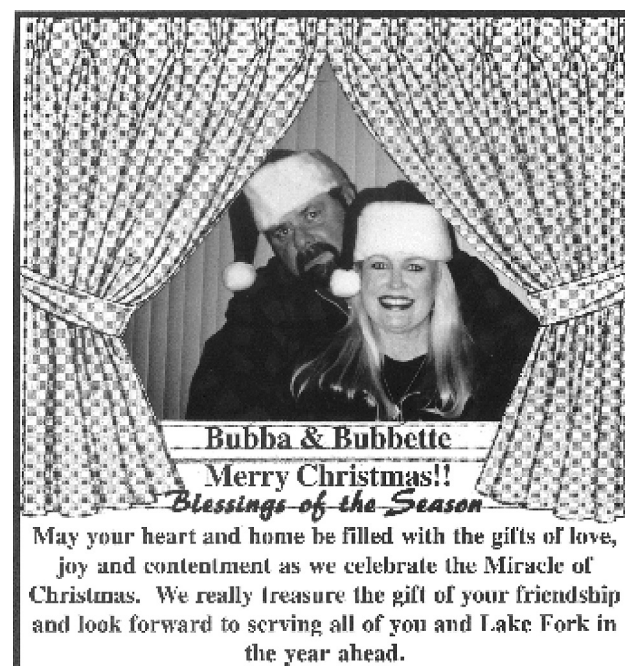
\* Out of respect for Bubba, the tradi-

tional Christmas songs like "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" and "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" will be replaced by "Bubba Shot The Jukebox" and "Grandma Got Ran Over By A Reindeer."

After extended negotiations it was determined by all agencies involved, Bubba Claus would definitely fit and exceed the slot. Thus he

was judged a "Keeper"!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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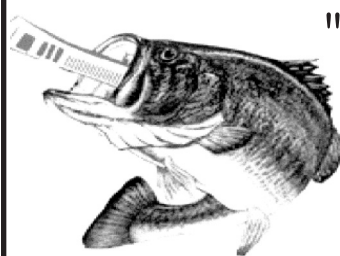
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## Lake Fork Produces First Toyota ShareLunker of 2014/2015 Season (Continued from Page 1-A)

(bass anglers may want to check this website out), and Lake Fork guide Lee Livesay is responsible for putting him on his catch. Mr. Roulston's lunker was a Florida/Northern cross strain and released back into Lake Fork on November 25th.

David's ShareLunker was the 558th lunker to be entered into the program and the 257th to be caught and entered from Lake Fork. His catch definitely puts him in the running for "Angler of the Year". The angler that catches the season's largest entry is named "Angler of the Year". Last season's winner of this title was Randall Claybourne from Tulsa, Oklahoma with a 13.86-pound lunker that was also caught on Lake Fork. The "Angler of the Year" will receive a G. Loomis Rod, Shimano Reel and PowerPro line combination. If the "Angler of the Year" is a Texas resident, that person also receives a lifetime Texas fishing license.

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

All anglers entering fish into the Toyota ShareLunker program receive a free replica of their fish, a certificate and ShareLunker clothing and are recognized at a banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.

Prizes and funding for the banquet are provided by Toyota, which also provides a Tundra pickup truck for use in picking up and returning the majority of lunkers and their offspring.

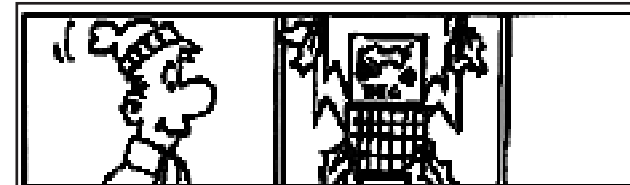
ShareLunker catches can be reported 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the season, by calling (903) 681-0550. If poor cell phone service prevents use of the voice number, anglers can leave a phone number (including area code) at (888) 784-0600. That number is also monitored 7 days a week, 24 hours a day during the season.

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.texas.gov/sharelunker](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/sharelunker). The site also includes a searchable database of all fish entered into the program along with pictures where available.

Information on current catches, including short videos of interviews with anglers when available, will be posted on [www.facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram](http://www.facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram). "Like" this page and you can receive notification and photos of catches as soon as they become 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.



In Denmark, the Christmas door decorations known as flokkastranga also have windows and doors to pop open, and serve as an Advent calendar.

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## TPW Commission Recognizes Employee Achievement

Several Texas Parks and Wildlife Department employees and programs were recognized recently at a TPW Commission meeting. Awards included the Shikar-Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award, the Outstanding Leadership Award from the State Agency Council to the Governor's Commission for Women, the Community Leadership Award and the John Covert Watson Award for Vision.

Game Warden Craig Hernandez won the Shikar-Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award in September, marking the 35th year this award has been presented to a Texas game warden.

Hernandez has served with TPWD since 2002, when he began his career as a warden in Hunt County. He was promoted to lieutenant at the Game Warden Training Center last September. Hernandez's achievements include being a master firearms instructor, a Glock armorer, a member of the TPWD dive team, a member of the state-wide critical incident team and a trained Reid interview techniques interviewer. Hernandez is also active with the youth in his community and assists with local hunting and fishing events.

The Commission also recognized retired game warden Kris Bishop, who won the Outstanding Leadership award from the State Agency Council to the Governor's Commission for Women on

Sept. 24. During her tenure as a game warden, Bishop paved the way for future female wardens by serving 10 years as the only female warden in Galveston County and by becoming the first female Assistant Chief of Fisheries Enforcement and the highest ranking female warden in the state.

In 2004, Bishop led the effort to gain an amendment to the then 19-year-old Texas Administrative Code to increase civil restitution fines that violators are charged with when they illegally kill wildlife. The TPW Commission acknowledged her recommendations and passed the new restitution values, which were adopted into law and remain in place today.

Last year, Bishop was awarded the TPWD Director's Life Saving Citation for saving a drowning and hypothermic victim who had been thrown from his boat in early January on Lake Bastrop. Bishop retired this past summer after 22 years of service. The Texas Master Naturalist Program also received recognition for its Community Leadership award, which it received at the 31st Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards in September. The program was recognized for its contributions to the environment and local communities throughout the state, particularly the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area in North Texas. The program, which aims to improve

the public's connection to our state's natural resources, has certified more than 9,000 Master Naturalists, resulting in more than 2.4 million hours of volunteer service across the state.

Finally, the Commission also recognized TPWD Buffalo Soldiers program coordinator Luis Padilla, who received the John Covert Watson Award for Vision presented by the Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin this September. The award, named after the architect who dedicated himself to the restoration and protection of Westcave Preserve, aims to honor visionaries who connect children to nature. The Buffalo Soldiers program works with youth in Austin and across the state to share the story of the first black professional soldiers, removing barriers to outdoor recreation by drawing personal connections between youth audiences and Buffalo Soldier history.

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## December Fishing on the Fork

"Imagine that, December is already here. Now is the time to start planting the seeds regarding the new Shimano reel that you might wish for or the ever so awesome G. Loomis fishing rod. Big bass are yet to be caught and these tools will fit the bill perfectly. Some of you may have put the boat into winter storage already but there will still be plenty of warm December days to attack the rod bending hawks that await you in the depths. With Lake Fork falling at a steady pace at this point, bass fishing may be the best it's ever been on Fork heading into the end of the year.

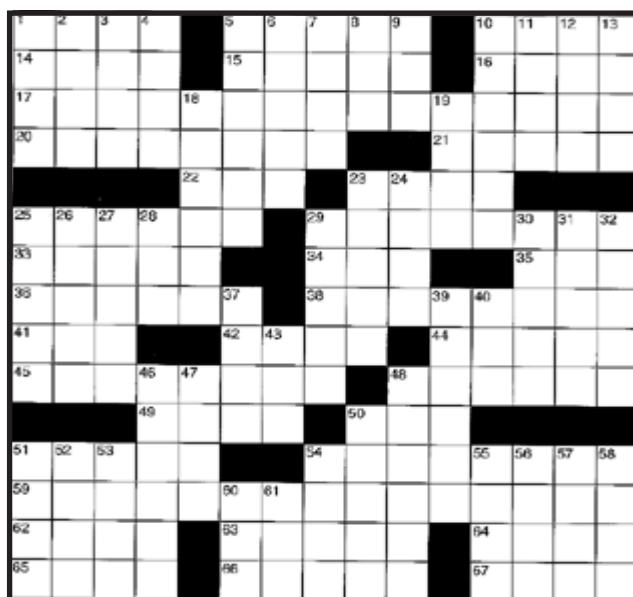
Main lake water temps are currently running about 56 degrees and this should fall toward the 50 degree or slightly lower mark by the start of the new year. This means one thing, fish will be-

gin to group up in deep water and continue feeding up for the winter. As I see it right now, large bass are gorging on small sand bass and barfish and this shouldn't change for the next few weeks. Add crappie into the mix, and there will be days when the feast will happen on the main lake points, humps, ridges and the mouths of major creeks. This is evident by the trip that I had two days ago where we had three large bass in the eight pound range and right in the middle of these toads were crappie. I managed to catch four of them on a jigging spoon and watched as crappie anglers close by landed doubles at will. Big bass are storing up the calories over the coming weeks and it's time to break out the jigging spoons, flutter spoons, A-rigs and weightless flukes.

Let's talk strategy. Good electronics will play a key roll in the search of these groups of vagabond green fish and the best place to start your search will be at the mouth of the major creeks, Birch, Penson, Mustang, Williams, Wolfe and Dale. Focus on the shad and scan for hooks that are surrounding the clouds of bait. All these bass will be suspended so target these fish with a flutter spoon if the wind is an issue or a weightless fluke if the water is calm. Count the bait down to the level that you marked them at the rate of a second per foot. At



that point, twitch the fluke or rip the spoon. Stay in touch with the shad and see what happens. If this doesn't pan out, we will move our "Hunt for Red October" out to the ridges, humps and points. Here, you will start to see sand bass on the bottom and the green fish will be mixed in. The A-rig could be a big player here with any shad looking bait attached to the chandelier. Make a long cast and let it sink to the bottom. Start reeling it slow and wait for the rod to load up. Jigging spoons, flutter spoons and flukes will also work based upon their mood. You might also try a C-rig with a brush hawg. Standard colors apply, keep it simple.



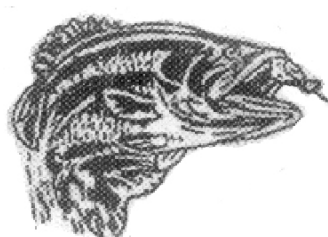
### CLUES ACROSS

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Statute law                    | 38. Cyclic                        |
| 5. Rub off                        | 41. Mineral                       |
| 10. Female parent                 | 42. Region                        |
| 14. Razor or jackknife            | 44. Attack (obsolete)             |
| 15. Sea wreckage                  | 45. Curriculum                    |
| 16. Asian nation                  | 48. Feeling                       |
| 17. Weather report                | 49. Otherwise                     |
| 20. Needles                       | 50. Plump for                     |
| 21. Matters                       | 51. Capital of Guam               |
| 22. _____ student, learns healing | 54. Weightlessness                |
| 23. _____ Alto, California city   | 59. In a gloomy manner            |
| 25. Performs a dance              | 62. Wings                         |
| 29. System                        | 63. Contests                      |
| 33. Bitter chemical               | 64. Invests in little enterprises |
| 34. Bank feature                  | 65. Pats                          |
| 35. A Dalton (Physics)            | 66. Nasty manner                  |
| 36. Limits                        | 67. Measuring instrument          |

### CLUES DOWN

- |                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Adolph Simon _____, New York Times | 30. Move                              |
| 2. Strip                              | 31. Domestic helps                    |
| 3. Cloudy                             | 32. Measuring rods                    |
| 4. From pentane (Chemistry)           | 37. Compass pt. one point S. of S.E.  |
| 5. Endings                            | 39. Motionless                        |
| 6. Disliked                           | 40. Paddle                            |
| 7. Turkish leader title               | 43. Fixed charge                      |
| 8. Sift                               | 46. Optical devices                   |
| 9. Mental object                      | 47. Jai _____, sport                  |
| 10. Sheepskin                         | 48. Purplish red                      |
| 11. Weapons system                    | 50. Exhibited                         |
| 12. Injure                            | 51. S. American armadillo             |
| 13. & &                               | 52. Sicilian city                     |
| 18. Kind                              | 53. As fast as can be done, abbr.     |
| 19. Robust                            | 54. Anagram of iacs                   |
| 23. Plate for Eucharist               | 55. Thomas _____, American cartoonist |
| 24. _____ Mater, one's school         | 56. Italian Island                    |
| 25. Gulf of, in the Aegean            | 57. Berth                             |
| 26. Wing shaped                       | 58. Indian groom                      |
| 27. Alloy of nickel and copper        | 60. Wife                              |
| 28. Braggart                          | 61. 007's creator                     |
| 29. Puzzles                           |                                       |

Answers on Page 21-A



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

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## Annual Winter Trout Stocking Under Way

Throw your rod and reel in the car and take the short drive to your local fishing hole, because it's time once again for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's annual winter rainbow trout stocking.

TPWD's popular rainbow trout stocking program kicked off Tuesday, Nov. 25, and will continue through March with the first deliveries of fish to lakes in the department's Neighborhood Fishin' program.

Since the '70s, the department has been stocking rainbow

trout each winter in small urban lakes, state park lakes and popular river tail-races, providing Texans a simple and economical opportunity to go fishing.

During the next few months TPWD will be stocking upwards of 286,000, 9 to 12-inch hatchery-reared rainbow trout in 142 neighborhood and state park locations across Texas. Locations such as Brackenridge Park in San Antonio, Bullfrog Pond in Austin, Bob Sandlin State Park in Mt. Pleasant and Arena Park Pond in

Marshall are some of the locations used by the program in years past. This year, the program is adding Grover-Nelson Pond in Abilene as a new Neighborhood Fishin' lake.

Anglers who frequent the popular Guadalupe River trout fishery near New Braunfels are reminded of new regulations this year in the special trout zone 800 yards downstream from the Canyon Dam release to the east bridge on Hwy 306. For rainbow and

(See Winter Stocking...  
Continued on Page 16-A)

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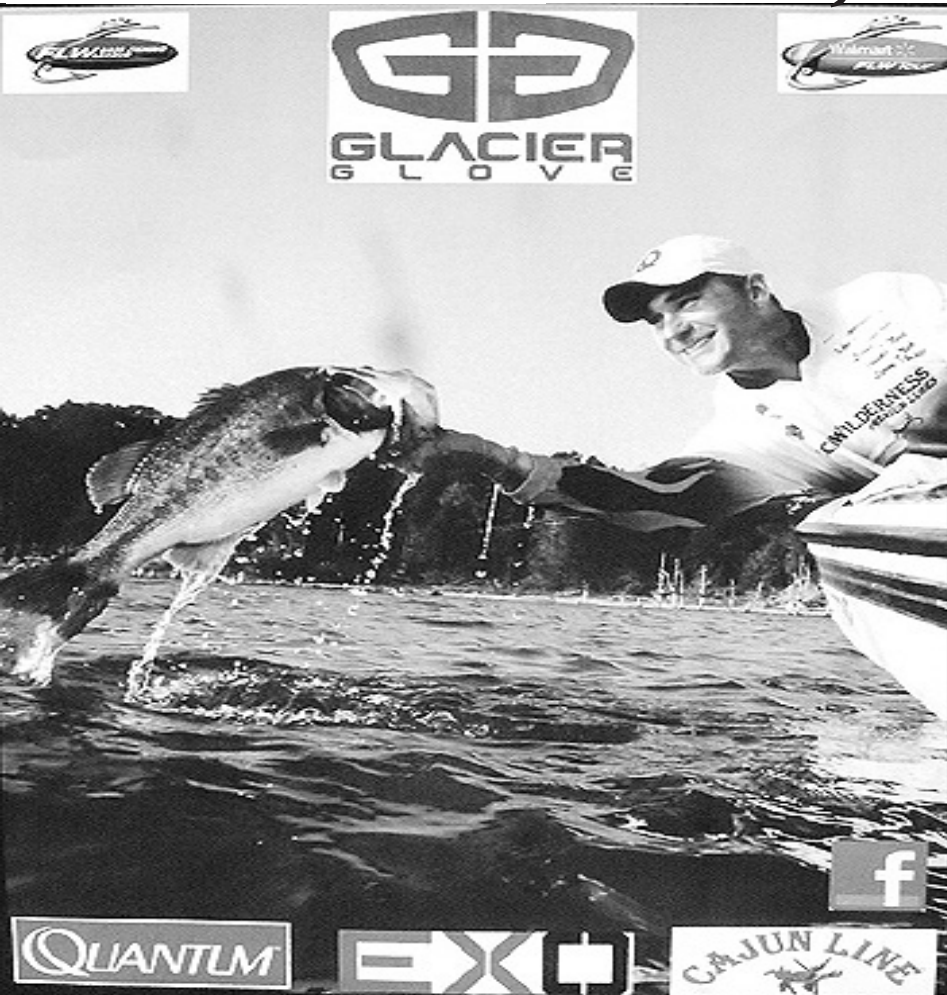
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# "The Moon Report"

## December Cold Water Crappie

By Terri Moon

I can't believe this year is winding down already but it's been an awesome year of fishing! In November with the dropping temperatures and steadier cold fronts, the crappie have started bunching up.

The fish we're catching have been from 16 to 24 ft in 20 to 35 ft. of water. Pay very close attention to your depth finder for suspended fish and this will let you know how deep you need to fish.

Now as far as fun fishing, I've been playing with Bobby Garland's "Slab-Slayer" by Gene Larew. The 3-inch version has been producing some really nice crappie. On cloudy days I'm using a black w/chartreuse and on brighter days an orange w/chartreuse. The "Cajun Cricket" is also catching some nice crappie. These are all available at "Lake Fork Marina" who also has all of your crappie fishing needs. So, if you are looking for Christmas gift ideas, they have got it all!

We're also having some fun catching the



bar fish (yellow bass). They have been holding in about 30 ft. of water on the humps and ledges. We are using "Joe Spaits Flash-tail Spoons" in bar fish color or the blue/chartreuse color and bouncing them off the bottom. The bar fish tend to hit as the bait falls so be ready and have some fun!

I hope you all have a great holiday season and a BIG "THANK YOU" to all who fished with me in 2014!

I want to wish you all the best for the coming year! Be safe on the water!

Well, I know there is colder weather coming – but, if you find a day when the wind isn't blowing, bundle up and get out there and have some fun. There is still fish at the bridges and they are also showing up on

the main lake points.

My best to you all and I hope you have a great holiday season!

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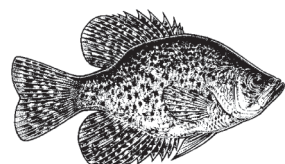
J.P. Braden & Valerie Karber  
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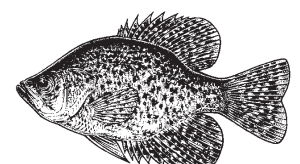
Jeff Love, PA., with son in law  
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## TPW Commission Authorizes New Yoakum Dunes Wildlife Management Area in Panhandle

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission recently approved acceptance of a land donation to create the new 14,037-Acre Yoakum Dunes Wildlife Management Area in Cochran, Terry and Yoakum Counties near Lubbock, providing a refuge for the threatened lesser prairie chicken and other native grassland birds and wildlife. It's the first new WMA in Texas since the 2006 donation of the McGillivray and Leona McKie Muse Wildlife Management Area in Brown County. Acquisition of land for the WMA was made possible through a partnership between The Nature Conservancy of Texas, The Conservation Fund and Concho Resources, Inc., an oil and gas company operating in the Permian Basin of Texas and New Mexico that donated \$400,000 to The Conservation Fund towards land acquisitions for the WMA. The donation leveraged \$1.2 million in federal

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program funds.

"Conserving the lesser-prairie chicken all comes down to habitat, and the new Yoakum Dunes Wildlife Management Area will provide vital breeding and nesting habitat for the species in a critically important part of its range" said Ross Melinchuk, TPWD deputy executive director for natural resources. "It would not have been possible without federal wildlife grant funds and support from private partners."

In 2007, the Nature Conservancy of Texas began purchasing land that would become the Yoakum Dunes Preserve, using federal grant funds. The conservancy has acquired 10,635 acres, which the commission approved to accept as a donation to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The department has acquired tracts totaling 3,402 acres contiguous with the TNC holdings. The recent com-

mission vote clears the way for the conservancy to transfer its holdings to TPWD in order to establish the Yoakum Dunes Wildlife Management Area.

The primary impetus for the WMA is conservation of the lesser prairie chicken, whose historic shinnery oak/midgrass prairie habitat has been fragmented by agriculture, oil and gas development, and other land uses. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the bird as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act in May, 2014. (See TPWD's lesser prairie-chicken web page for more information.) Besides the prairie-chicken, the new WMA will also provide important habitat for a wide range of indigenous wildlife, including Texas horned lizards, quail and mule deer.

The partners emphasized that although the new WMA is a major achievement, private landowner

(See TPW Commission ...

Continued on Page 22-A)

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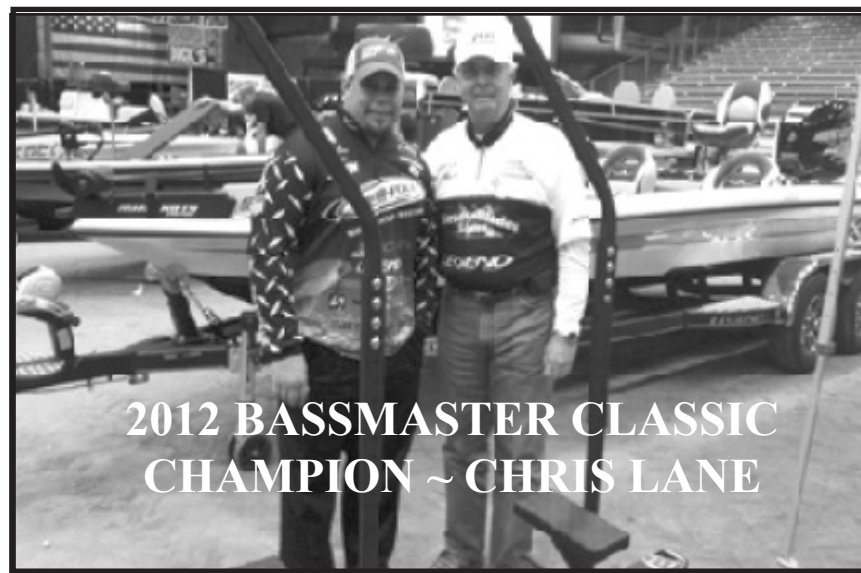
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## Boat Show Season Starts in January

By Don Hampton

Beginning in January of each year, boat manufacturers, marine dealers, tackle companies and sporting good distributors gear up to show their new products at tackle and boat shows across the nation. The audiences that attend these tackle and boat shows are sportsmen and women concerned with the products that add more enjoyment to their recreational and sporting times.

Catering to an attentive audience at the

right time of the year is the key to success for these shows. With spring just around the corner anglers and sportsmen start to prepare for their weekends and time on the lakes and reservoirs, whether it be a family outing, planning their tournament schedule or just a weekend of good fishing with their buddies.

Sportsmen attending the shows can learn fishing techniques from the pros, see new merchandise being introduced into the market, or find that boat of their dreams. With all the

booths and exhibits set up targeting the angler, time just slips away.

In many cases anglers and sportsmen attend these shows to plan their yearly vacation, fishing trips or sport outings.

At most boat or tackle shows one will find lakes, reservoirs, and vacation spots with booths attempting to promote and bring more revenue to their area.

Kicking off boat show season is the busiest time for "The Fisherman's Guide News" and we are glad to see

(See Boat Show Season...  
Continued on Page 19-A)

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## Texas State Parks Finally Flaunting Their Fall Foliage

A reluctant autumn with warmer than usual temperatures finally gave way recently to the season's first major cold front, signaling to Texas flora that it's time to don their colorful foliar cloaks. More than 90 Texas state parks offer leaf-peepers of all ages a safe and family-friendly setting in which to enjoy the show.

As the season's first cold fronts slide southward, fall insinuates itself first upon the Panhandle plains and mountains of West Texas, where towering cottonwood trees in such scenic places as Palo Duro Canyon and Davis Mountains display a fluttering, golden wardrobe to brighten the canyons and creekbeds. Reports have been coming in recently from a number of state parks in northeast, east and central Texas that the leaves are changing. At Caddo Lake and Guadalupe River state parks, majestic bald cypress trees are lighting up the water with reflections of their rust-colored needles. The sweetgums and hickories in Caddo Lake's

woodlands are showing some color. Hardwood forests in deep East Texas state parks, such as Daingerfield and Martin Dies Jr., are sporting leaves of gold, burnt orange and crimson.

Northwest of San Antonio, the state's relict population of bigtooth maples and other hardwoods at Lost Maples State Natural Area are showing fine sartorial splendor. Richard Treece, the park's lead interpretive ranger, strongly advises park visitors to visit Lost Maples during weekdays to avoid long lines of traffic on State Highway 187. To see Treece's latest updates on the changing fall foliage, visit: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/lost-maples/foliage-reports>.

In North and Central Texas, park staff at Cleburne, Dinosaur Valley, Meridian and Lake Mineral Wells are experiencing an eye-popping fall foliage display. "Lake Mineral Wells may have the most variety of species, including cedar elm, cottonwood, pecan, red oak, blackjack

oak and post oak," says Jane McFarland, interpretive specialist in Waco. "Visitors should make a point to see one of the largest American elm trees in Texas on the Cross Timbers Trail."

Inks Lake and other Hill Country state parks' limestone and granite hilltops, ridges and canyons depend on such species as cedar elm, Texas red oak, black-jack oak and flame-leaf sumac for fall color that makes for a stunning contrast with greenery of live oaks and the plentiful ashe junipers (cedar). Even poison ivy, Virginia creeper and such native grasses as big and little bluestem, and bushy bluestem add to nature's dazzling autumn show.

For fall foliage photos and updates at your favorite state parks, look online for postings on their Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/texasparksandwildlife>.

To see Texas State Park fall foliage images, visit: [http://tpwd.texas.gov/news-media/news\\_images/?g=fall\\_foliage](http://tpwd.texas.gov/news-media/news_images/?g=fall_foliage)



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## November 16 Will Be Recognized Each Year as World Falconry Day

Falconry associations worldwide, including members of the International Association for Falconry and Birds of Prey and the Texas Hawking Association, celebrated World Falconry Day November 16. "The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Hawking Association have been working together for 33 years to keep falconry vibrant in Texas," says Steve Oleson, THA president.

Falconry, according to Oleson, is "a hunting tradition defined as 'taking quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of trained birds of prey.'"

State regulations provide the legal framework which allows individuals to practice falconry in the state. Texas law requires newly permitted falconers to serve a two-year apprenticeship, learning from a more experienced falconer. After that, permit holders are free to practice their sport any time of the year. Falcons may be used to hunt ducks during the regular waterfowl season plus an extended season: January 26 to February 9.

"This year marks the fourth anniversary of the Nov. 16, 2010 recognition of falconry as a living human heritage by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)," Oleson says.

The UNESCO action recognized falconry as a part of the world's "Intangible Cultural Heritage" that is worth preserving. Other examples of intangible cultural heritage include: the tango, Azerbaijani weaving, and Chinese calligraphy.

The IAF determined that November 16 would be remembered each year as World Falconry Day so that people may become more aware of falconry and its place in world culture.

"The Texas Hawking Association is a conservation-oriented organization that encourages the wise use of raptors in the sport of falconry," Oleson says. "Formed in 1970, THA has served as an important communication forum for falconers and worked closely with TPWD to establish the falconry permit program for Texas and continues to work with the agency on issues important to birds of prey and their habitat."

Archeological work indicates that falconry developed in the Mideast about 8000 BC. People knew how to train a hawk before they knew how to write. It has existed all this time because each generation cared enough about it to tell the next generation how to get a wild hawk to hunt with a person, for their mutual benefit.

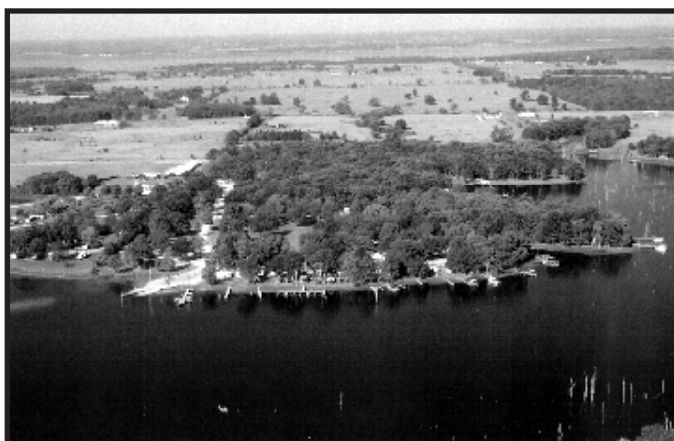
Virtually a forgotten form of hunting, the sport was revived following World War II. About 300 Texans are involved in falconry.

"Preserving falconry," Oleson continues, "involves maintaining not only the traditional culture that builds practical skills of empathy with animals, but also the conservation of raptors and their prey through preservation of natural habitats. That's why we encourage falconry within the context of sustainable use of wildlife."

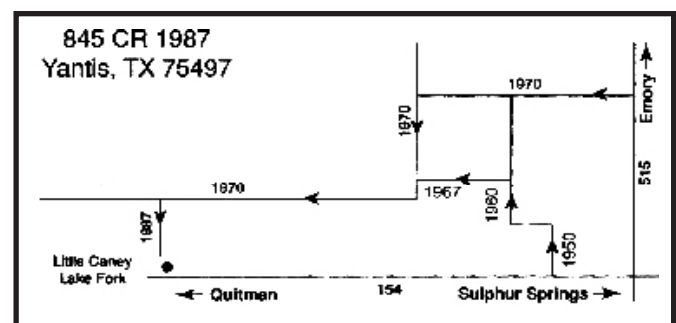
He said the state and national associations also promote ecological studies and veterinary research on birds of prey. In addition, the two groups support domestic breeding of raptors for falconry, including such species as Peregrine falcons, Goshawks, Saker and Gyr falcons and all other species of raptors across the world that may be used for falconry and hunting.

"The legal framework and positive regulatory relationship we have with TPWD plays an important part in sustaining falconry through the evolution of American culture," Oleson concludes. "The apprentice/sponsor program is vital, because it ensures that the complex skills and knowledge required to practice falconry is passed on to the next generation of falconers."

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## Winter Trout Stocking (Continued from 7-A)

brown trout, the length limit in this zone is a 12-18 inch slot. Trout 12 inches and less or 18 inches or greater in length may be retained. The daily bag remains five trout and only one trout 18 inches or longer may be retained. From the easternmost bridge on FM 306 downstream to the second bridge crossing on River Road, there is an 18-inch minimum size limit, and a one trout daily bag. Harvest of trout in these special zones is by artificial lures only. "Rainbow trout are great fish to catch for the fishing experience, and they can be caught on many types of gear," said Carl Kittel, A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery program director. "For those that like to eat fish, the rainbow trout is also an excellent fish to eat."

Catching these hungry fish can be easy, making the experience ideal for both novice anglers and kids. The fish will bite almost immediately after stocking and typically will take a variety of baits, from whole kernel canned corn or commercial soft bait to artificial flies and even small spinnerbaits.

Fishing gear can be as basic as an inexpensive spincast rod and reel combo, a small plastic bobber, a fishing weight and a hook. It's also a good idea to carry along

a pair of needle-nosed pliers to help remove hooks, and a five gallon bucket, small ice chest or a fish stringer to keep your catch. Be sure to keep fresh trout cold on ice or refrigerated.

All anglers 17 years of age and older must have a valid freshwater fishing license as well as a freshwater stamp.

For more information about the winter trout fishing program, including tips and the 2014-2015 trout stocking schedule listed by city or county, visit: <http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/troutstocking>

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Trevor Taylor caught this nice Lake Fork hawg while fishing with guide David Ozio. Weight not provided. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo David Ozio Guide Service)



John Norman caught this nice 9-lb. Lake Fork hawg while fishing with guide J.W. Peterson. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo J & J Lake Fork Guide Service)



James Mason caught this nice Lake Fork hawg while fishing with guide David Ozio. Weight not provided. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo David Ozio Guide Service)

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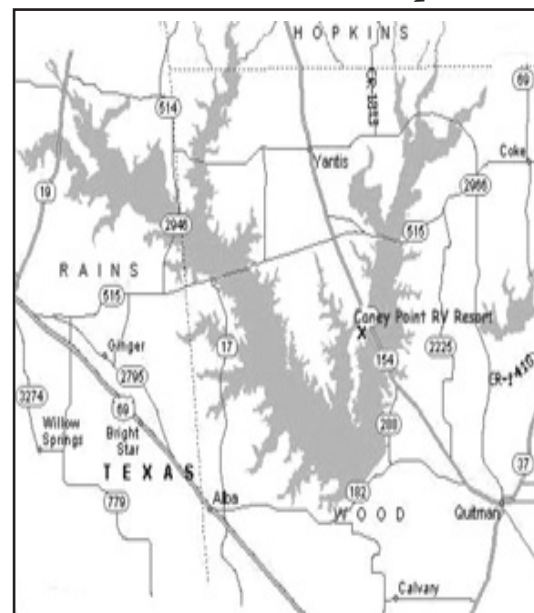
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## "Pack of Knowledge" Bladed Jigs Basics

By Andrew Grills

If you happened to follow the Bassmaster Elite Series tournament results this year, you noticed that one lure dominated the first few events of the season. We had an unusually cold spring across most of the country, and this very effective cold-water lure stepped back into the limelight. I'm talking about bladed swim jigs, or "chatterbaits". A chatterbait can be one of the toughest lures to gain confidence in because you don't get a lot of bites on it.

It's more of a quality over quantity compromise.

The chatterbait became wildly popular for the first few years of its existence. Tournament anglers and guides were clamoring to get their hands on them as huge tournament stringers were coming out of bodies of water like Lake Okeechobee and the California Delta as a result of this bait. Then, it wasn't long until you just didn't hear that much about them anymore. Those of us here on Lake Fork know that the chatterbait never lost it's big fish appeal.

One thing about the chatterbait that I cannot fully explain is it's ability to trigger strikes from big fish... really big fish. I have seen quite a few 9 and 10 pound fish caught on this lure. It definitely is not the technique for catching under the slot tournament fish, however. I believe there is something to the vibration of the bait that intimidates small bass, but triggers bigger fish to attack.

I like to throw a chatterbait in colder water, but it can work great during the summer as well. I prefer to fish it in stained or off-colored water because it just seems a little too gaudy in clear water. Wind blown areas where fish should be active, or where surface clarity is broken up are good areas to look for, but I have caught plenty of fish on it when there was no wind at all. The

presence of aquatic vegetation such as hydrilla is always a huge bonus, although fish will still eat them in areas where there isn't any grass at all.

Bladed swim jigs are most commonly thought of as a shallow water presentation, but this year some heavy models have emerged to fish on deeper, offshore structure. For fishing cold water on Lake Fork, the 3/8 ounce and 1/2 ounce models cover all the bases. A 3/8 ounce chatterbait is perfect for depths down to 4ft, and the 1/2 ounce size is great for fishing down to 8ft or when implementing a faster retrieve.

The most important part of a chatterbait in my opinion, is the type of trailer you add to the lure. The original chatterbaits come with a twin tail trailer that may work fine, but there are some better options out there. I like to use a Swimming Senko, a LFT Swimming Slug, or a LFT Live Magic Shad. I know fishermen who have good results using Super Flukes or Sweet Beavers as well. I have seen many occasions in my guiding experience where the trailer choice made all the difference.

Rod, reel, and line choice are also very important when it comes to this technique. I prefer to use a 7ft medium/heavy rod with a fast tip. Its important not to go too heavy in my opinion be-

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



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## Boat Show Season Starts in January (Continued from Page 13-A)

it come. With help from friends, guides, marina owners, Chamber of Commerce, Lake Fork Sportsman Association, and in some cases family, we try to reach as many avid anglers and tourists as possible. Coming up in the New Year you can find our publication at the Houston Boat Show, Temple/Belton Boat Show, Austin Boat Show, Ft. Worth Boat Show, Oklahoma City Boat Show, Longview Boat & RV Show, and the new Mesquite Boat & Tackle Show. Also look for us at Tulsa Boat & Tackle Show, St. Louis Boat & Sport Show, and Indianapolis Boat Show, and at Bassmaster Classic in February and March is just as busy.

Each year guides from Lake Fork also travel all over the nation not only promoting themselves and their sponsors, but also Lake Fork as the premier big bass trophy lake. At the boat and tackle shows the guides are also called upon to give fishing seminars. In each case while instructing and informing, the guides conduct themselves with a professionalism that is an additional credit to Lake Fork.

If you are planning a trip to a boat or tackle show, be sure to take the children. This is the perfect time to introduce them to the love of fishing. At each show there is a Kid Fish program.

Each year numerous boat and tackle shows are scheduled in all areas of the United States. If you would like to attend one, the trip is well

worth your time, with enjoyment provided for the entire family. You might even find a copy of "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" there, making you feel right at home.

If you are a guide, marina owner, or business owner and you are going to a Boat, Tackle, Outdoor Show and would like to have copies of "The Fisherman's Guide News" to pass out in your booth or if you would like more exposure to your business and advertise with us, call me at 903-360-6994 or email; fishnews@lakefork.net

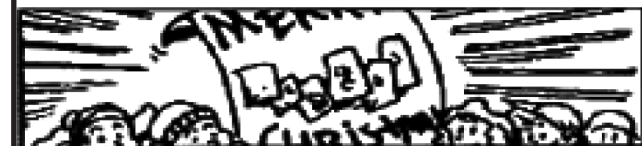
### Practice Safe Boating



The German prince, Albert, after his marriage to Queen Victoria, brought the custom of decorating a Christmas tree to England and German immigrants brought it to America.



Traditionally, the Three Wise Men were known as Melchior, Gaspar and Balthasar, but the gospel of Matthew mentions neither their names nor how many they were.



On a snowy day, give children a piece of poster board and let them cut pictures from old Christmas cards to make a Christmas poster for next year.



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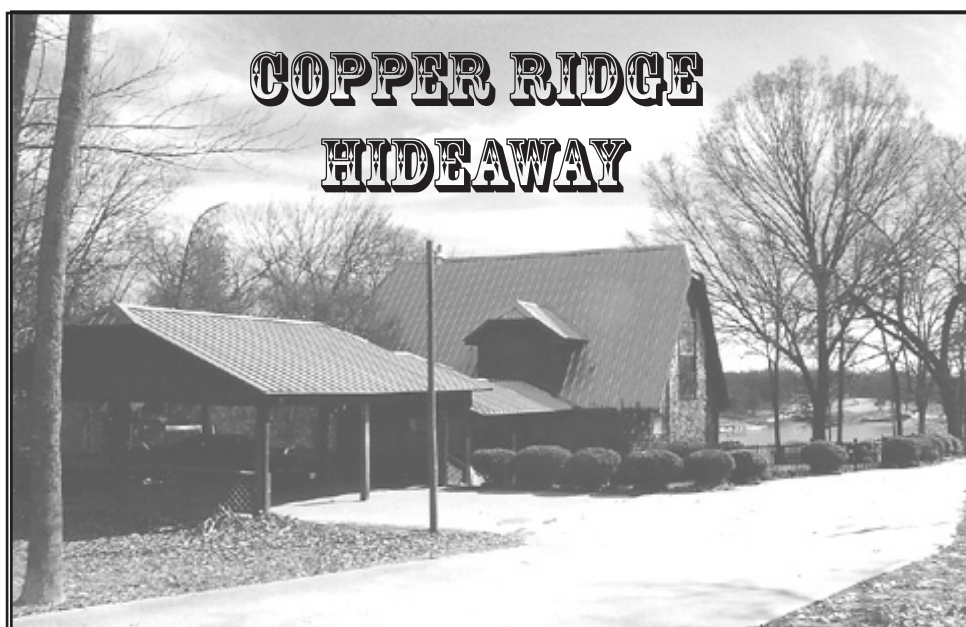
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## December Fishing on the Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

There are other patterns that will work during this time of the year, one being the jig and craw trailer fished on the creek bends where wood is present. Black and blue is my fav, especially on cloudy days. If the water is fairly clear, switch to watermelon red front to back. Work it slow, especially through the roots of the trees. Sunny afternoons during this season can also be a gold mine. Chatterbaits and traps are the go to baits worked shallow and be sure to focus on the 2:00 to 5:30pm window. Water warms during the afternoon and the fish will move up for a free meal. Pay attention to

any bird activity and they will lead you to the bass.

December/January is also a great month to catch numbers on the power plant lakes. If cabin fever has set in, give me a call and we can wear them out where the water temps are summer like. I fished one of these lakes this past week and had 33 one day by myself and 61 the next day with a couple of guide clients. A ton of fun to say the least. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in December 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 December and some in January. 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](mailto: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 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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George Dykman caught this nice Lake Fork hawg while fishing with guide David Ozio in November. (Weight not provided)




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## Pack of Knowledge *(Continued from Page 18-A)*

cause you don't want to take the lure from the fish when they hit. If I use a real stiff rod, I feel like I miss a few I should have caught. A 6.4:1 ratio reel is my choice because it has a medium speed retrieve. With high speed reels it can be difficult to slow the bait down enough, and a slow speed reel doesn't take up enough slack on hookset. As for line, 15 pound fluorocarbon is what I prefer because it allows the bait to have more action and will let it fall a little faster. I will step up to 20 pound fluorocarbon in heavy timber. The fluorocarbon is important because it has a much more sensitive feel to it, and you need to feel the blade "chattering", even at super slow retrieves.

Hopefully this infor-

mation gives you some ideas to try this winter as you fish. There was a time I had zero confidence in bladed swim jigs. For the longest time I just couldn't seem to get a bite on one. However, because I listened to some wiser fishermen, the chatterbait has become one of my favorites.

Andrew is a professional guide on Lake Fork and is sponsored by Skeeter Boats, M-Pack Lures, and reel Time Rods.

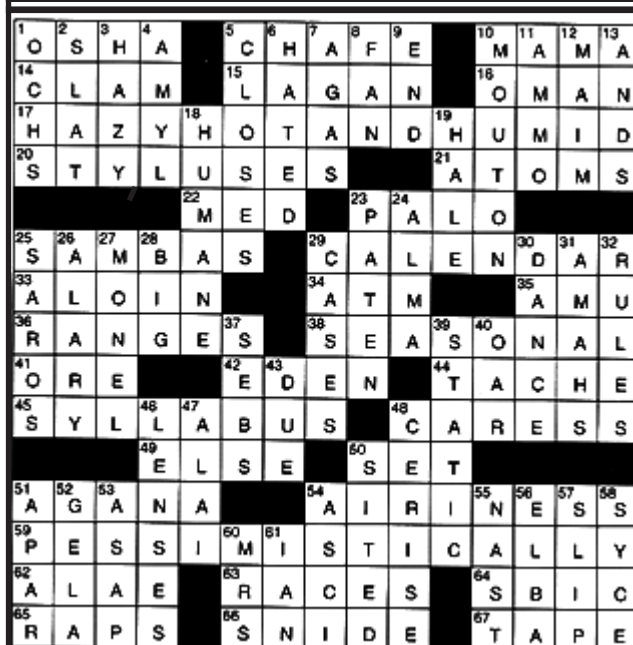


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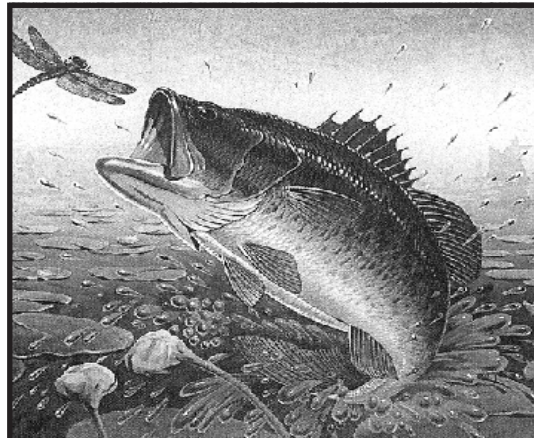


### Christmas Season Word Find

See how many words relating to Christmas Day that you can find and circle throughout the puzzle below.

|             |           |             |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| ANGELS      | DONNER    | PRESENTS    |
| BLITZEN     | FROSTY    | RUDOLPH     |
| CANDY CANES | LIGHTS    | SANTA CLAUS |
| CAROLERS    | MANGER    | SNOW        |
| COMET       | MISTLETOE | STOCKINGS   |
| DANCER      | ORNAMENTS | TREE        |
| DASHER      | PRANCER   |             |

D T S A N T A C L A U S  
A S C A N D Y C A N E S  
S T M A N G E R E H S B  
H O R N A M E N T S N R  
E C C M I S T L E T O E  
R K A A N G E L S E W R  
D I R P R E S E N T S U  
O N O C B L I T Z E N D  
N G L O P R A N C E R O  
N S E M L I G H T S G L  
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## TPW Commission Authorizes *(Continued from Page 11-A)*

conservation is essential to recover the lesser-prairie chicken. TPWD and four other states within the bird's range are cooperating in a range-wide plan led by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which provides funding and incentives for private ranchers and other landowners to conserve habitat.

It will take a few months to complete the land transfer from TNC to TPWD and create the new WMA. In June, Brandon Childers, formerly at Black Gap WMA, started work as the new biologist and WMA manager at Yoakum Dunes. For the next year or two, he will lead depart-

ment efforts to complete baseline surveys to assess natural and cultural resources, begin habitat management practices such as brush control and water improvements to benefit the lesser-prairie-chicken and other grassland wildlife, and plan public use opportunities on the WMA.

In coming years the agency plans to offer public recreational use of the WMA, including hunting, birding and other compatible recreation. However, decisions about what degree and how much of the WMA may be open to the public won't be possible until after on-site resources are fully assessed.

Once the new WMA

is created after the land transfer, TPWD will eventually create a Yoakum Dunes WMA web page with more information for the public, including a phone number to contact. In the meantime, questions about the new WMA or landowner assistance for wildlife conservation can be addressed to the Panhandle/High Plains Wildlife District of the Wildlife Division.



The custom of hanging up mistletoe at Christmas dates back to the Druids, an ancient people of Britain.

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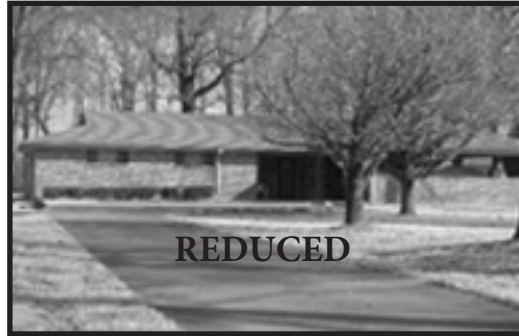
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**EXTENSIVE REFURBISHMENTS.** Comfortable home on 2 corner lots. New paint throughout, ceiling popcorn removed, like-new carpet, repainted cabinets, garage & storage bldg. New light fixtures, A/C serviced. Great floor plan with 2142 sq. ft. heated & cooled, w/b fireplace, two living areas (can be office), 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.



**EXTRANICE 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



**COUNTRY LIVING ON 1.422 ACRES** just east of Lake Lydia. Pretty setting with circle asphalt drive, lots of trees, storm shelter, well for irrigation and Fouke Community water. Showcase ready and tastefully decorated. Spacious living area with w/b stove. Redone with lots of cabinets and eating bar. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, utility room, Separate office can be 3rd bedroom with extra large closet adjacent. Dining is refreshing with great views, opens to back patio and covered patio. Property has beautiful shade trees, a garden, small workshop. Must see this one, you'll be pleasantly surprised. \$88,000



**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 32x64, 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**



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



**PRETTY WATERFRONT SETTING** on Lake Holbrook. Extremely nice, clean 3 bedroom, 2 bath waterfront home. Large living/dining and kitchen area with kitchen bar. Beautiful trees, screened porch, deck overlooking the lake, storage building and fishing pier. This home is a great place to come, relax for the weekend or perfect for a permanent home. Come take a look at this great place on the water. Everything is ready for you to move right in and start enjoying. Reduced to \$149,900.



**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



**BEAUTIFUL SETTING ON 10 ACRES.** Drive into the wooded area and follow the circle drive with large hardwoods surrounding. Some pasture at the back. Far back is a nice size pond, probably 1/4 acre or more. The 3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home needs new carpet. Recently added and additional living are with wood burning stove and total new kitchen cabinets and counters. Very large utility room is an addition as well. Carport and a few storage buildings on the property. This is a good, secluded place for someone who wants their privacy. \$115,000.

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