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Strollin’ With Stroman

By Dean Stroman

With Lake Fork’s water level being low, you can see why it is so hazardous to run the main lake channels. If you don’t know the lanes, you can be in trouble quickly. Be cautious! Fork is a lot safer during low water (you can see the stumps). During normal water level the stumps are under water.

Fork’s baitfish during low water conditions during the fall will migrate to the creek channels when that first cold norther hits. This will trigger the baitfish population to move to deeper water areas. Creek channels and ledges will start stacking up with shad, bar fish, white bass, and channel cats. Schools of bass and crappie will not be far behind. Bass will start gorging, preparing themselves for colder water conditions. That is the time to break out the tail kickers and jigging spoon type baits and catch some big numbers of bass. You will have to put up with white bass and bar fish when using spoons and tail kickers. If they get too bothersome, switch to ½ oz. 6 in. swimbaits in shad and bar fish patterns and you just might catch Mrs. Big!!

Jig fishing can also be rewarding for Fork’s biggest. Black and blue jigs with Biffle Bugs as jig

(See Strollin’ — Continued on Next Page)
Strollin’ With Stroman

trails pitched around heavy timber and creek channels from the back end to the mouth of most major creeks can produce some wall hangers. Deep cranks are also very effective in deep or shallow water. A lot of time you need to feel the lure bouncing off the bottom and then you reach the ledge or creek channel. Hang on! Remember… where you catch a good bass there will be others close by. Fish the area thoroughly.

If you are planning a trip to Fork, give me a call at 903-383-7214 (landline) or 903-850-5083 (cell) or email me at dstroman@peoplescom.net. I’ll be happy to help you out with some pointers. If you are wanting a guided trip, I still have openings for fall and winter trips. I’m also now booking trips for Lake Monticello and Welsh. The spawn is soon to be on these two lakes. Good Luck and Good Fishing!

Dean is sponsored by Gene Larew, Legend Boats, Mercury Marine, Mossy Oak, Century 21 Lake Country, Easy Step Systems, Custom Angle Moby Rods and Brass n’ Blades Lures.

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For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director

visit our website: www.wishtofishfoundation.com
Game Warden Field Notes

The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports.

--Looters Need Tans, Too-- The Leon County Sheriff’s Office turned to a local game warden for help finding a trouble-maker they had dealt with in the past. The subject was believed to be in possession of stolen firearms. After a short search, the warden located a truck belonging to one of the men being sought, and a felony search warrant was served at that residence. The search proved fruitful, netting several stolen items. More information was received that led to two more houses being searched. At both residences, stolen items were found, ranging from firearms to a tanning bed. Several drug-related items were also seized during the investigation.

--Grass is NOT Always Greener-- TPWD game wardens, Texas Department of Public Safety, Smith County Sheriff’s Office, Tyler Police Department, FBI and the U.S. District Attorney’s office were all involved in the raid of a marijuana growing operation north of Tyler. The bust resulted in the seizing of more than 700 plants. Although no suspects were apprehended, DPS has several leads based on both the Smith County wardens’ knowledge of the area as well as contacts made while checking hunters near the property.

--Bump, Set, Spiked-- A Shelby County game warden observed a vehicle stopped in the middle of a county road and decided to conduct an investigative and welfare traffic stop. When the vehicle was pulled over, the driver got out after he saw the police lights had been activated. He seemed disoriented and showed signs of intoxication. While the game warden was back at his vehicle running the driver’s information, the man got back in his vehicle and proceeded down the road. A pursuit then occurred, lasting nearly 20 minutes and 15 miles through Shelby County. The chase finally ended when the vehicle was spiked. Multiple local law enforcement agencies assisted in the investigation. (See Game Warden.... Continued on next Page)

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pursuit and spike deployment. The driver was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated and evading arrest with a vehicle. It was later discovered that the suspect had a warrant in Montgomery County for DWI.

--Okie Dokie Smokie-- A Bosque County landowner experiencing poaching and theft problems called his local game warden for help. After meeting with the landowner and touring his property, the warden was just about to return to his patrol activities when he observed a pickup truck at one of the landowner’s gates. The truck drove out and traveled down two county roads before hitting Highway 56. The vehicle had only headlights on, no taillights, so the warden conducted a traffic stop. The driver couldn’t provide a driver’s license or any documentation for the truck, but a records check on the driver revealed he had two outstanding warrants for theft. After further investigation, it was revealed the truck was stolen out of Oklahoma and the driver had intentionally installed Texas license plates and window decals which belonged to other vehicles. A search of the truck uncovered three pipes, one containing methamphetamine. Cases pending.

--The Abominable Snowman-- A game warden received a call with information about two Yeti coolers for sale on Craigslist. The warden and a DPS Criminal Investigation Division officer reviewed the listing and found the coolers pictured to be consistent with the description of two stolen coolers. The next day, the two officers contacted the seller, posing as possible buyers, and made arrangements to meet. When the officers inspected the coolers, they found the exact markings matching the missing property. When interviewed, the seller quickly admitted to taking the coolers and gave the location of the remaining stolen property. A total of six Yetis were recovered with an estimated value of $3000. The individual was handed over to Willacy County investigators for processing.

--Love Bites-- Two game wardens from Starr and Zapata County patrolling Falcon Lake had just finished seizing multiple illegal trotlines when they decided to check on a couple that was bank fishing near the boat ramp. Upon contact, the wardens discovered the male had an active protective order against the female. When the protective order was confirmed, the woman was arrested and transported to the Zapata County Jail.

--Bright Lights, Bowtie City-- A Montague County game warden was traveling down Highway 81 in Bowie, having just dropped off his boat. On his way, an oncoming vehicle began flashing its bright lights rapidly, so the warden

Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 4-B)
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Randy Oldfield - Lake Fork Guide
Men Take Center Stage in the Kitchen

By Sue Hampton

Today’s families try to balance the household chores. As a result, you’ll find more men in the kitchen creating culinary delights.

Perhaps your man is not as adept with the tools of the kitchen, and creating a four-course feast is a frightening event for him. A quick and easy appetizer may boost his spirits. Have him try this recipe! Bubba did!!! You will love it!

**Bacon-Wrapped Shrimp With Onion Marmalade**

12 shrimp (about 1 pound), peeled, with tails left on
12 thin slices smoked bacon
1-1/2 cups Onion Marmalade (see below)

Prepare a grill. The temperature should be medium-high. Clean and devein the shrimp. Wrap bacon tightly around each shrimp. Preheat the oven to 500° F. Place the shrimp on the grill and cook them for 5 minutes. Turn them over and cook an additional 5 minutes. The bacon should be browned and crisp. Make sure the shrimp do not catch on fire from the bacon drippings igniting. Remove the shrimp to a sheet pan and place them in the preheated oven to finish cooking for 4 minutes, or until the bacon is cooked. Serve two shrimp with ¼ cup of marmalade per person as an appetizer.

**Marmalade**

2 large red onions (about 1-1/2 pounds)
2 large yellow onions (about 1-1/2 pounds)
4 bunches scallions, green part only
3 tablespoons olive oil
1-1/2 cups balsamic vinegar
1/4 cup brown sugar
Kosher salt to taste
Freshly ground pepper to taste

Peel the onions and trim the root ends. Stand each onion on its root end and slice through the center top to bottom. Continue thinly slicing each half in this fashion to produce thin, semicircular julienne slices. Slice the green part of the scallions into thin slices. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add all of the onions and scallions and toss to coat with oil. Sauté until onions begin to soften. Cover the pan and cook until they are wilted. Remove the lid, increase the heat, and add the vinegar. Cook until the vinegar reduces by one half, stirring occasionally. Add the sugar and stir well. Taste the mixture; it should be sweet and sour. Onions have different amounts of natural sugar at different times of the year, so the amount of sugar may need to be adjusted to taste. Reduce to low heat and continue cooking the mixture until the liquid is almost absorbed and the marmalade is thick, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and serve. Store any extra in a jar in the refrigerator; it will keep up to a week.

Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours!
Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 5-B)

turned around and initiated a traffic stop. After stopping, the female front passenger instantly got out of the vehicle and began yelling that they were trying to find the WinStar Casino, located across the Red River in Oklahoma. She said she told the driver to flash the bright lights so someone would stop and give them directions. After the warden explained they were an hour away, he decided to check the vehicle, discovering multiple open containers of alcohol. The driver did not have any identification in his possession, and a records check came back invalid. It was determined the driver had given one of the aliases he had used in the past. The driver then admitted to just bonding out of Tarrant County Jail four hours prior, and that he did not possess a valid driver’s license. He was arrested and charges of failure to ID, open container and no driv-er’s license were filed.

—Pursuit of the Man— A Cameron County game warden was stopped at a red light when he observed a male sprinting across a busy intersection with a black purse in his hands. After a short vehicle and foot pursuit, the warden was able to detain the individual. Within a minute, a Brownsville police officer showed up in pursuit of the vehicle for theft of a woman’s purse. The purse was found, and the subject was booked for theft.

—Family Tides— The U.S. Coast Guard called for help to find a boater who had run aground and was not sure of his exact location. The marooned man thought he was near the mouth of the Arroyo Colo-

rado, but before an exact location could be determined, the stranded boater’s cell phone died. Two Cameron County game wardens began looking for the vessel, but the U.S. Coast Guard helicopter ultimately located it. Aboard the vessel were three kids and two adults. One of the adults had a preexisting medical condition, but all parties were okay. The wardens waited with them to guide a salvage vessel to the area and assist with removing the boat from the sand bar. All parties involved were exhausted but fine.

—Buried Treasure— Buried deep in a Polk County thicket lay an elaborate marijuana grow site with an irrigation system and food and shelter for the people tending the plants. After the site was spotted from the air, the Polk County narcotics team moved in on foot to secure the scene. Polk and Trinity County game wardens assisted the Polk County Sheriff’s Office in collecting nearly 9,000 marijuana plants from the site. No one has been charged at this time.

—Game Warden’s in Town— When a large group of dove hunters spread out along the bank of a large pond in Montgomery County saw a game warden approaching, one hunter yelled at the others to get another hunter inside a nearby house. As the game warden checked the hunters for the appropriate licenses and hunting techniques, he saw milo grain spread along the bank of the pond and found that one hunter’s shotgun was not plugged. The warden issued citations for hunting muffing dove over bait with an unplugged shotgun and without completing a hunter education course. The cases are pending.

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