Becky Marler from Shreveport, Louisiana was crappie fishing Lake Fork with her husband Scott when she caught this hawg weighing 10-lbs.14-ozs. Her big bass measured 25.5” with a girth of 22” and was released back into the lake after weighing and measuring. C.P.R.

Steven Wood from Emory, Texas caught this really nice Lake Fork hawg weighing 12.76 lbs. and measuring 27.5” in length on a Carolina rigged watermelon red brush hog in 24’ of water on 8/28/15. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Lake Fork Marina)

Wood County Game Warden Kurt Kelley was recognized as the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers’ Texas Officer of the Year at a recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting. TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith presented the award. (See Story on Page 7-A)

By Don Hampton

If you missed the 3rd Annual ‘Hook and Cook Sand Bass Tournament’ held on August 8th, you missed out on a really good day for a good cause. The tournament was hosted out of Fisherman’s One Stop and John Heimgartner and his crew did just an excellent job feeding the multitude.

The whole purpose of the tournament that benefits “The Wish To Fish Foundation” on Lake Fork is to not only deplete the growing population of sand bass on the lake but to also show a lot of skeptics the can win big like the pros! Overall there will be $500,000 guaranteed in cash and prizes. Five places will be awarded for the five single heaviest bass weighed in over the 3 day tournament. First Place will take home a 2015 Triton 20 TRX powered by Mercury and equipped with MinnKota, Lowrance, Navionics and Power Pole, a 2015 Ram Truck, plus $7,000 cash; Second Place will be awarded a 2015 Triton 19 TRX, powered by Mercury, equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance, a 2015 Ram Truck, plus $2,000 cash; Third Place will hook on to a 2015 Triton 18 TRX powered by Mercury, equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance plus $1,000 cash; Fourth Place will win $8,000 cash; Fifth Place $6,000 cash.

By Don Hampton

Every angler likes to hear a big splash on the end of his line when he is bass fishing but here is a big splash that will really get your heart pumping! Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash will be held on Lake Fork on September 18, 19, 20 hosted out of Lake Fork Marina on Hwy. 17.

This is one tournament where amateurs can win big like the pros! Overall there will be $500,000 guaranteed in cash and prizes. Five places will be awarded for the five single heaviest bass weighed in over the 3 day tournament. First Place heavy bass overall will take home a 2015 Triton 20 TRX powered by Mercury and equipped with MinnKota, Lowrance, Navionics and Power Pole, a 2015 Ram Truck, plus $7,000 cash; Second Place will be awarded a 2015 Triton 19 TRX, powered by Mercury, equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance, a 2015 Ram Truck, plus $2,000 cash; Third Place will hook on to a 2015 Triton 18 TRX powered by Mercury, equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance plus $1,000 cash; Fourth Place will win $8,000 cash; Fifth Place $6,000 cash.

This year in the Big Bass Splash, fifteen places will be paid each hour of the tournament.
Bubba has a lot of reasons to go fishing, but with Bubbette he sometimes makes excuses

By: Don J. Hampton

Bubba is never at a loss for a reason to fish! He must have at least a trillion reasons he should go fishing.

“Oh, it’s a little windy today. The plankton and baitfish will be on the windy shore and the bass will be in there feeding. I guess I better go see if I can catch a lunker or two,” Bubba will say. And that is a good reason for Bubba (in his own mind), to take off for the lake.

Bubba has also been known to say, “It is too hot to be working today and it’s always cooler on the lake, so I think I’ll go fishing.” It is never too hot for Bubba to go fishing.

The same holds true for all weather conditions. Never too hot, too cold, too calm, or too windy.

My favorite story to listen to from Bubba is when he slips into his Mark Scirto weather man mode.

If a storm is coming, he knows everything there is to know about it. He sounds so suave and debonair as he recites the barometric pressure and how it is either rising or falling and how the fish are going to really turn on. This applies both before and after a front or storm comes through.

I have come to a conclusion that Bubba knows fishing weather so well, there should be a weather channel that carries “Weather or Not, by Bubba!” It would get repetitious after a while though, because all Bubba would say, “It’s a good day for fishing, don’t mind the weather!”

To Bubba, weather is just another factor to take into consideration and a reason to go fishing.

The real truth of the matter is Bubba doesn’t need a reason to go fishing. To him fishing isn’t a matter of life or death! It is much more important than that. Fishing is life. If Bubbette weren’t around to keep him straight, he would be fishing unconsciously. As it is, he fishes all the time subconsciously, even when working.

But sometimes, especially where Bubbette is concerned, a reason to go fishing isn’t enough. At that time he has to come up with a really good excuse to go fishing.

This doesn’t slow Bubba down though! For every reason he has to go fishing, he has an excuse to go with it.

My favorite one and how he gets away with it I’ll never know is, “Honey I have to go check out my boat to make sure it is running right for when I get ready to go fishing”. Yeah right! Like Bubba doesn’t have 30 rod n’ reels in his boat and more tackle than a Bass Pro Shop and he is not going to fish while on the lake! Lightning striking twice in the same place is more likely.

But, his most precious and heart rendering of all is his “Sugar Dumplin’ Excuse”. He will go to Bubbette so tender and romantic and say, “Sugar-dumplin’, you’ve been doing so much and working so hard around the house this week. You just take all day tomorrow to relax and do anything you would like. I’ll just go fishing to get out of your way!” Now isn’t that just so sweet of him?

Bubba also has one of endearment for himself too. He’ll say, “Hon, I’ve just really been working hard and I’m feeling kind of stressed out. I think I just need to go fishing so I can relax.”

Well, what kind of compassionate person could say no to that?

With all of Bubba’s reasons and excuses to go fish, he fails to notice one important factor. That is, Bubbette likes Bubba to go fishing.

For Bubba’s every excuse and reason to go fish, Bubbette has just as many reasons and excuses to go to Wal-Mart.
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Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash (Continued from Page 1-A)

beginning with the 7 am to 8 am hour and ending with the 1 pm to 2 pm hour. Hourly updates will be broadcasted live on KMOO 99.9 FM.

Any contestant weighing in the first 2.50 exact weight bass each day of the tournament will win $5,000 and the contestant who weighs in the heaviest bass under the slot limit of 16” during the 3-day tournament will be awarded $2,500. In addition, all contestants are eligible to win a 2015 Triton 189 TRX powered by Mercury, equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance in the famous “Elimination Drawing”. Enter by the “Early Bird” deadline of September 3 and be eligible to win a $200 Academy Gift Certificate. Participating anglers can also increase their chances of winning by purchasing a Bonus Shirt and a Bonus Card.

Children ages twelve and under may participate in the Little Anglers Division and be eligible to win Academy gift cards and gifts for their winning catches of bass, catfish, crappie or perch.

Registration at Lake Fork Marina will be held on Thursday September 17th from 10 am to 8 pm and each morning of the tournament from 5 am until 6 am. If you wish to avoid the lines, check out the scheduled signups at the various Academy locations and dates on this page. By doing this you will miss the long line sign-ups.

This tournament is fun for the whole family. Even if you are not fishing, come out and visit with the vendors and enjoy the show.

If you would like more information about the tournament, see advertisement on Page 24-A or you can contact Nicole Sealy at nicole.sealy@sealyoutdoors.com, or call 409-382-3876 or 888-698-2591.

Listed below are the proud sponsors of Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash.

You May Also Enter At These Academy Locations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Times</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 8 - Tues</td>
<td>Academy--Arlington, TX</td>
<td>1100 W Arbrook Blvd</td>
<td>817-375-3210</td>
<td>Noon-1PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 8 - Tues</td>
<td>Academy--Mesquite, TX</td>
<td>3677 Emporium Circle</td>
<td>972-682-3450</td>
<td>6PM - 7PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9 - Wed</td>
<td>Academy--Tyler, TX</td>
<td>8668 South Broadway</td>
<td>903-266-3100</td>
<td>Noon-1PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9 - Wed</td>
<td>Academy--Longview, TX</td>
<td>445 Forest Square St</td>
<td>903-757-1300</td>
<td>6PM - 7PM</td>
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If you are one of the lucky anglers on Lake Fork, Bob will be calling your name!
3rd Annual Hook n’ Cook (Continued from Page 1-A)

tics just how good they taste.

Each angler could bring in 10 sandies each, but only their top five were weighed to determine the winners. All the fish brought to the weigh-in were released to the grease. Because of the hot weather fishing hours were from 6 am to 12 pm with all anglers having to weigh-in by 1 pm.

Thirty-three anglers participated in the event but the sandies must have known this was a hook and cook tournament because they did a good job of hiding from the anglers. This did not dampen the spirits of the day though. Winning 1st Place was Robert Lankfred with a total weight of 7.95-pounds; 2nd Place with a weight of 6.84-pounds was Glenn Wilson; 3rd Place with a weight of 6.30-pounds was Tim Thompson with a weight of 4.94-pounds; 4th Place was Hayden White with a total weight of 4.12-pounds; 5th Place was Bryan Poole with a weight of 4.12-pounds. Winning Big Sandie of the tournament was Tim Thompson with a 1.89-pound sandie; 2nd Big Sandie was a 1.66-pound caught by Robert Lankfred and 3rd Big Sandie was brought in by Tina Thompson weighing 1.59-pounds.

Not to conclude the day yet, all anglers and friends were able to take a break and relax for a few hours with the festivities beginning again at 5:00. Everyone was invited to come and enjoy the free fish fry with donations accepted benefitting Wish to Fish. The meal include fried fish, sand bass and catfish, fried shrimp, beans, corn on the cob, cole slaw, and cobbler. With this menu it definitely packed Bro’s Patio. All the guests were encouraged to BYOB, because we also threw in a birthday celebration for Bubbette and Scott Fruge. After the meal and check presentations, many of the guests took home nice raffle prizes donated by the many sponsors that help make this function such a success.

If you were not one of the fortunate ones to make this event, there is always next year. Watch for the date in “The Fisherman’s Guide News”.

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Send to fishnews@lakefork.net or call: 903-383-7748 or 903-360-6994

Bentley Holiday received not only the gag prize for the lightest sandie but also a souvenir of her first tournament to ever fish.

Even if the fish didn’t want to feed, plenty of area residents took advantage of the great meal prepared by Bro’s Patio staff and volunteers.


September on the Fork

By David Ozio

“Thinking back to last year at this time, I made comments about how dumbfounded I was with the water temps being 86 degrees heading into September. As of this writing, the water temps a year later are around the 85 degree mark, slightly cooler than last year. Couple this with much higher lake levels than the previous season and it sets the stage for a totally different group of circumstances as the month evolves. This will make interesting viewing later this month when the McDonald’s Tournament rolls into town.

With the days growing shorter, certain patterns should take hold this month and I would be focusing on the shallow bite on a day to day basis. Backs of creeks will be the starting point if you are looking for consistent action. Shad will start to migrate to these areas of the lake and schooling activity will start to take place as the water begins to cool. Top water baits, squarebills, Texas rigged worms and shaky heads will lead the attack especially early and late. The lake is currently one foot low and shallow water vegetation is taking root all over the lake. New grass growth, reeds and alligator grass (that’s what I call the thick leafy vegetation) lines most all coves and creek banks. Bass love this new aquatic growth as it provides shade and protection from the summer sun and cover to ambush baitfish. If it is a cloudy day, the yellow magic might be the call for the entire day along this vegetation. A sunny day would probably require the Texas rig or shaky head fished in the same shallow areas. Water clarity will determine the color of the plastics needed, dark hues for heavily stained water and translucent colors for the much clearer water.

Once you reach the midday time frame, I would start looking to the deeper areas of the lake, humps, ridges, road beds and pond dams for the larger bass. The football jig is hard to beat during this time of the year and the 3/4oz Talon Custom football jig is the best choice for the job. Add a Talon Repo Craw trailer and you’re ready to tackle the heavy weights of the lake. As of lately, I have found that setting the boat on the shallowest part of the structure and casting out to the deep areas has produced more bites than the reverse scenario.

The Carolina rig will also be a “go to” presentation for the same application. I would use a long leader with a 3/0 hook and a Talon Custom Big 10 inch Swamp Wiggler Worm. When you get a bite on one of these, your partner better be headed for the net. Redbug, Watermelon Red or Green Pumpkin Pepper will do the trick as far as colors are concerned.

The next strategy will be focusing on suspended fish that set up just off the side of the same structures. Use your electronics to locate these hover-
Wood County Game Warden Honored

Wood County Game Warden Kurt Kelley was recognized as the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers’ Texas Officer of the Year at a recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Carter Smith presented the award for Kelley’s outstanding work as a law enforcement officer.

The Midwest association, which encourages close cooperation between natural resource law enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada to further professionalize their law enforcement activity, recognized Kelley recently at their 71st annual meeting in Duluth, Minnesota.

Kelley, who started his game warden career in 1999, has maintained a minimum case load of more than 300 cases per year for the last 14 years. Additionally, he averages over 400 boat hours every year, routinely leading his district in all wildlife-fisheries cases.

One case Kelley solved was one of the largest deer poaching cases in Texas, which involved 30 illegally poached deer and four suspects. More than 500 charges were filed on the violators, and all four were convicted. Penalties totaled $41,000 in fines, 3,000 hours of community service and 12 years of prison time.

Most recently, Kelley coordinated the water safety enforcement effort during the Toyota Bass Classic and Concert on Lake Fork. In addition, Kelley presents numerous information and education programs in Wood County. These programs include hunter education classes, school programs and sporting group presentations. He also coordinated and managed one of the largest youth fishing events in the state, with more than 300 kids in attendance.

Kelley’s other accomplishments include Master Peace Officer Certification, TCOLE Instructor, Firearms Instructor, ALERRT training and Patrol Rifle course completion.

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“Where Yall At!!? B.Y.O.B.
Doesn’t that sound good! I’m so looking forward to Fork’s FALL FISHING! I’ve really been enjoying the cloud cover these past few days with the cooler temperatures – (I think the fish are enjoying it too!)

The depth is changing daily. Yesterday they were 12–16 ft. and today they were 20–22 ft. in 24–30 ft. of water. So, definitely keep an eye on that depth finder. I love-love-love my Lowrance HDS units! They sure make my job easier! I’m constantly monitoring it to watch for any changes in the depth of the fish and adjust my casts accordingly.

The crappie haven’t bunched up yet so we’re moving around a lot, but we’re finding some quality fish. We’ve released 3 that were over 15 inches just this week! Tree lines, brush piles, bridges and deep water humps are starting to produce some really nice crappie. Some days they want a very slow presentation and other days they want it moving so don’t be afraid to change it up to see what works for that particular day.

Don’t be afraid to change up the size of the bait too. The other day the bite seemed to be very slow. I remembered when I was in Missouri. I stopped by “Crappie Town” in Tightwad to see Miss Betty and she showed me the new “Itty Bitty” jig heads and the new Bobby Garland 1-1/4 baits and I brought some home to try – so I dug them out and tied one on and it was like flipping a light switch. I was getting bit on every drop! So, thanks again Miss Betty – looks like you’ve got another winner with the “Itty Bit Swim R”!! These are available at Lake Fork Marina or online at CrappieTown.com. You better get you an assortment of colors because the color of choice can change daily too!

Now as far as the bream fishing goes, I took some “ME” time in search of bream and found some monsters! Around the new moon and full moon, they were holding in 1-8 ft. of water around the edges of the grass or willows or lily pads. Don’t forget to check around the docks too! Crickets or night crawlers with a bobber or tight lined, there is NO THING more fun and nothing tastes better. To me they are the “filet mignon” of fish!

My best to you all and hope you get to enjoy the coming “Fall Fishing” on Fork!

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By Terri Moon

September

“Downhill Side” of Summer

“The Moon Report”
$7.6 Million in Local Park Grants Awarded to Texas Communities

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission recently approved more than $7 million in competitive grant funds for 25 community parks all across the state.

Funding will help local communities create and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities through projects like hike and bike trails, sensory gardens, BMX trails, dog parks, and fishing piers, just to name a few.

Three types of grants were awarded: the Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants are given to cities with populations exceeding 500,000 and were awarded to the Cities of Austin, Dallas, El Paso, and Houston. The Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants are given to municipalities with a population less than 500,000 and were awarded to 10 communities. The Small Community Recreation Grants are given to municipalities with a population less than 20,000 and were awarded to 11 communities.

Money for the Local Park Grants Program comes from a portion of the sporting goods sales tax through the Texas Recreation & Parks Account (TRPA) and the Texas Large County & Municipal

(Top) (Bottom) (Continued from Page 14-A) (See Grants Awarded.... Continued on Page 14-A)
2015-16 Texas Hunting, Fishing Licenses Are Now On Sale

Sportsmen gearing up for the upcoming fall hunting seasons are reminded to renew their licenses for 2015-16, available now. The current year Texas hunting and fishing licenses (except year-to-date fishing licenses) expired Aug. 31st. Every year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department issues about 2.5 million hunting and fishing licenses through the agency’s 28 field offices, more than 50 state parks and at over 1,700 retailers across the state. Licenses may also be purchased online through the TPWD website at www.tpwd.texas.gov/buy or by phone at 1-800-895-4248. Call center hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please note that there is a required $5 administrative fee for each phone or online transaction but multiple items can be purchased during a single transaction for the $5 fee. The online transaction system is available 24/7. For online and phone orders, a physical license will be mailed within three business days. During that time period, a transaction receipt will be provided via email that will be sufficient proof of hunting license that can be used for dove hunting, though it will not be allowed for the take of fish or wildlife that require a tag.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the new season can be found in the 2015-2016 Outdoor Annual, available in booklet form at license retailers and digitally online at www.outdoorannual.com. Hunters and anglers can also download the free 2015-2016 Outdoor Annual mobile app on their Apple or Android devices.

Mandatory Hunter Education Certification

In addition to a hunting license, anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education training course or purchase a one-time deferral good for one license year in order to hunt legally in Texas. The certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces. Last year, TPWD certified a record 72,000 hunter education students, yet Texas game wardens still issued more than 3,400 citations and warnings last fall for hunters not meeting hunter education certification requirements.

Getting certified has never been more convenient. Hunters who need hunter education certification have several expanded contemporary options including a streamlined, one-day basic course and an option for anyone 17 years of age or older to take the hunting safety training completely online. A combination online home study and 4 to 5 hour skills field day course is also offered. More information on hunter education certification is available online at www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntered.

Bird Hunting Requirements

A Migratory Game Bird endorsement and Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification are also required to hunt dove or teal in September. HIP certification involves a brief survey of previous year’s migratory bird hunting success and is conducted at the time licenses are purchased. Duck hunters also need to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp. The cost of the duck stamp was increased this year to $25,
Prospects Bright for Dove and Early Teal Seasons

Dove hunters will have more opportunity earlier in the season with dates and bag limits finalized recently by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved the 2015-2016 Texas dove season, including a 70-day season and 15-bird daily bag statewide, and a 16-day early teal and Canada goose season.

The traditional September 1 dove season opening day in the North and Central Zones remains. The first segment in those zones will be five days longer than last season, closing on Sunday, Oct. 25. The season will reopen Friday, Dec. 18 and run through Friday, Jan. 1, 2016 in the North and Central Zones.

In the South Zone, the first segment will be longer by two days compared to last year. The South Zone opens Friday, Sept. 18 and runs through Wednesday, Oct. 21. The second segment will run Friday, Dec. 18 through Friday, Jan. 22, 2016. The daily bag limit for doves statewide is 15 and the possession limit is 45.

The Special White-winged Dove Area will be restricted to afternoon only (noon to sunset) hunting the first two full September weekends on Sept. 5-6 and 12-13. Hunting in this area will reopen Friday, Sept. 18 and continue through Wednesday, Oct. 21, and then reopen Friday, Dec. 18 through Monday, Jan. 18, 2016. During the early two weekends, the daily bag limit is 15 birds, to include no more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves. Once the general season opens, the aggregate bag limit will be 15 with no more than two white-tipped doves.

“Age-ratios (juveniles versus adults) from last season indicated very strong production in mourning doves across Texas last year; we expect similar or slightly increased production this year with the improved habitat conditions across nearly all of Texas,” said Shaun Oldenburger, TPWD’s dove program leader. “However, improved habitat conditions equal more food and water on the landscape, which means hunters may need to spend more time patterning mourning doves prior to opening day in their area.”

Duck hunters can anticipate improved conditions for the September early teal season as abundant rains have filled lakes and marshes for the first time in several years. With record numbers of teal expected to make their way into Texas during the upcoming months, prospects should be good.

A 16-day statewide early teal and Eastern Zone Canada goose season will run Saturday, Sept. 12 through Sunday, Sept. 27. The daily bag on teal remains six, with a possession limit of 18. Bag limit for Canada geese will be three and a possession limit of six in the Eastern Zone only.

“Blue-winged teal numbers (8.5 million) are way above the minimum of 4.7 million needed for a 16-day season,” said Kevin Kraai, TPWD waterfowl program leader. “Conditions for teal across the state are excellent and hunters are urged to have their fingers crossed for a timely migration in the middle of September.”

Hunters are reminded that licenses went on sale August 15 for the 2015-16 hunting seasons and can be purchased through the agency’s 28 field offices, more than 50 state parks and at over 1,700 retailers across the state. Licenses may also be purchased online through the TPWD website at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/buy or by phone at 1-800-895-4248. Call center hours are Monday through (See Prospects Bright......Continued on Page 17-A)
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Grants Awarded to Texas Communities (Continued from Page 9-A)

with lighting, scenic overlook, Point Nancy Carolyn enhancements, fitness loop, pavilion, drinking fountains, plant restoration, WPA/CCC stations renovation, and interpretive signage.

The town of Dublin was granted a small community recreation grant of $75,000 to renovate and further develop 5-acre City Park. The proposal includes a sand volleyball court, sensory garden, horseshoe pits, walking trail with exercise stations, hopscotch/four square, benches, picnic tables, renovation of existing tennis courts, playground area, and pool building.

The City of Flower Mound was granted a non-urban outdoor recreation grant of $400,000 to further develop 243-acre Twin Coves Park located on the north shore of Lake Grapevine. The proposal includes RV sites, nature trails, RV area pavilion, cabins area pavilion, disc golf, playground, fishing pier/small boat launch, lake overlook/picnic area, horseshoe pits, trails, great lawn area, tree planting, and interpretive signage.

Gunter in Grayson County was granted a small community recreation grant of $74,579 to further develop 13.7-acre Gunter Park. The proposal includes a playground.

The town of Little Elm was granted a non-urban outdoor recreation grant of $294,150 to acquire 21.9 acres and to develop 38-acre McCord Park located on the eastern side of town. The proposal includes a boardwalk, group pavilion with picnic tables, covered small pavilions with picnic tables, dog park, disc golf course, benches, interpretive signs, and landscaping.

Pilot Point in Denton County was granted a small community recreation grant of $75,000 to renovate and further develop a 1.2-acre City Park. The proposal includes a walking trail, splash pad, multi-activity play structure, pavilion, basketball court and playground renovation, adjustable basketball goal, picnic table, game tables, overhead ball toss, wheelchair swing seat, fitness stations, and scent gardens with interpretive signage.

The City of Rockwall was awarded a non-urban outdoor recreation grant of $400,000 to obtain 28.8 acres by donation and develop Breezy Hill Park. The proposal includes a concrete trail, playground, picnic areas, pavilion, boardwalk, open lawn area/soccer field, and tree plantings.

(See Grants Awarded... Continued on Page 16-A)
2015-16 Texas Hunting, Fishing Licenses Are Now On Sale (Continued from Page 10-A)

plus applicable state and federal fees.

There are other mandatory endorsements to consider at the time of license purchase. An Upland Game Bird Stamp ($7) is required to hunt all non-migratory game birds, including turkey, quail, pheasant and chachalaca. Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine’s Hunting Forecast

The Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine’s free digital hunting issue was available starting August 15. This special issue includes the 2015-2016 hunting forecast for deer, dove, ducks and more. Wild game recipes and other tips are also included. It can now be downloaded as a free app on iPad or iPhone or viewed as a digital version online at www.tpwd.com/hunt.

Big Time Texas Hunts

Big Time Texas Hunts provide opportunities to win one or more of nine premium guided hunt packages with food and lodging provided, as well as taxidermy in some cases. The crown jewel of the program is the Texas Grand Slam hunt package, which includes four separate hunts for Texas’ most prized big game animals -- the desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, mule deer and pronghorn. New this year is the Ultimate Mule Deer Hunt, where one winner will be the first to hunt on the recently acquired Yoakum Dunes WMA. There are several quality whitetail hunt packages available, as well as opportunities to pursue alligator, waterfowl, upland game birds, wild hog and exotics. Big Time Texas Hunts entries are available online for just $9 each at www.tpwd.texas.gov/buyentry, or for $10 each at license retailers or by phone. There is no limit to the number of entries an individual may purchase and all proceeds benefit conservation, wildlife management and public hunting. Deadline for entry is October 15. The program is made possible with support from Toyota, Texas Trophy Hunters Association and the Texas Bighorn Society. More details on all nine premium hunts can be found online.

Lifetime Licenses

 Hunters and anglers can also take care of their licensing requirements for life with the purchase of a $1,800 Lifetime Super Combo, or they can enter for the chance to win a lifetime license through the department’s Lifetime License Drawing. Entries for the drawing cost $5 each and may be purchased at license retailers, by phone or online at www.tpwd.texas.gov/licensedraw . There is no limit on the number of entries that may be purchased. Winners will be drawn on Dec. 30, 2015 and June 30, 2016. If you enter by Dec. 27, 2015, you will be eligible for both drawings.
The town of Throckmorton was granted a small community recreation grant of $45,863 to renovate and further develop a 0.9-acre City Park. The proposal includes a playground, basketball goal, lighting, repainting of benches and tables, new picnic tables, tree excavation, tree planting, landscaping, swing set, drinking fountain, flag pole, and barbecue pit renovation.

East Texas

The town of Center was awarded a non-urban outdoor recreation grant of $400,000 to acquire additional acreage, renovate, and further develop a 3.0-acre Mini Park to include trails, pavilion, basketball court, volleyball court, landscaping, irrigation, washer pits, soccer, site amenities, and fencing.

The town of Edgewood was granted a small community recreation grant of $75,000 to renovate and further develop 8.3-acre Edgewood City Park. The proposal includes restrooms and storage rooms with associated roofing, concession stand, stage, rain garden, and signage.

Longview in Gregg County will receive a non-urban outdoor recreation grant of $400,000 for the acquisition of 9.4 acres to create The Green, located in the central area of the city. Proposed elements include a multi-use trail, pavilion, picnic areas, recreation amenities, landscaping, and interpretive signage.

Richland in Navarro County was granted a small community recreation grant for $10,000 to further develop Community Park. The proposal included two new playgrounds.

Houston

The City of Galveston was granted a non-urban outdoor recreation grant of $400,000 to develop a community swim center on the eastern side of the island. Proposed elements include a multi-use swimming pool, bathhouse, parking, fencing, renovation of football fields and tennis courts, and walking trails.

Houston was granted an urban outdoor recreation grant of $1 million to renovate and further develop Squatty Lyons Park located north of the city. The proposal includes a T-ball field renovation, softball field with lighting, batting cages, and bleachers, renovation of adult baseball field, renovation of youth baseball field, new concession stand with restrooms, relocation of pavilion, new playground, site furnishings, picnic area, and landscaping.

Tomball will receive a non-urban outdoor recreation grant of $400,000 to acquire and develop 14-acre Broussard Park. Proposed elements include a playground, multi-purpose athletic fields, walking trails with exercise equipment, picnic facilities, a fishing pier, existing pond improvements, and interpretive signage.

East Texas

The City of Los Fresnos was granted a non-urban outdoor recreation grant of $400,000 to acquire 20 acres of land and develop Los Fresnos Nature Park. Proposed elements include a playground, trail, fishing pier, boat ramp, amphitheater, benches, picnic tables, butterfly garden, bird blind, exercise stations, drip station, habitat restoration, removal

Continued on Page 21-A

(See Grants Awarded.... Continued on Page 21-A)

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Prospects Bright (Continued from Page 11-A)

Friday, 8 p.m. to 5 p.m. and there is a required $5 administrative fee for each phone or online transaction. The online transaction system is available 24/7. For online and phone orders, a physical license will be mailed within three business days. During that time period, a transaction receipt will be provided via email that will be sufficient proof of hunting license and required endorsements that can be used for dove hunting, though it will not be allowed for the take of fish or wildlife that require a tag.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the new season can be found in the 2015-2016 Outdoor Annual, available at license retailers now or online at www.txdoorannual.com and via the free Outdoor Annual mobile app available for Apple and Android devices.

In addition to a hunting license, anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education training course or purchase a one-time deferral good for one license year in order to hunt legally in Texas. The certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces. More information on hunter education certification is available online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/outdoor-learning/hunter-education.

A Migratory Game Bird endorsement and Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification are also required to hunt dove or teal in September. HIP certification involves a brief survey of previous year’s migratory bird hunting success and is conducted at the time licenses are purchased. Duck hunters also need to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp.

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"Pack of Knowledge" Surviving September

By Andrew Grills

As a guide I am often asked, "What is the best month to fish Lake Fork?" That can be a difficult question to answer, because fishing can be great just about any time of year. However, there is one month that stands out for considerably tougher fishing and that is September. Of course there are some good days mixed in, and weather patterns can make some years better than others, but they seem to be the exception. However, the good news is there are some ways to survive September and still enjoy some productive outings on the water.

September is a time of transition for our lakes in the South. The first few cool fronts have begun cooling the water's surface and the deeper fish seem to disperse as they move shallower. This means that the offshore bite we enjoyed throughout the summer has begun to wane, or may have become totally nonexistent. To be successful as anglers, we have to adapt to the changes that are taking place.

I try to focus on shallow to intermediate depths at this time. I rarely fish much deeper than 14 feet during September. When fishing shallow, finding some form of aquatic vegetation can be a life saver. If aquatic grass or flooded vegetation is available the fish will flock to it this time of year. If there is some significant wind it can be even better. I have had some very good September days fishing windblown grass flats with moving baits. Lures like swim jigs, chatter baits, and lipless crankbaits can be very good. If the water is clear enough, a swimbait is my first choice. If there isn’t any wind, I will pick up a texas rigged craw or creature bait and pitch around, or drag through the cover.

As for intermediate depths, I am talking about approximately 6 to 14 feet deep. Without much hydrilla the past few years, this seems to be the range most bass are caught. Because the fish seem to be picky and a bit temperamental from all the changes taking place in their environment, I employ two tactics:

First, if possible I want to get a reaction bite. A mid-range crankbait like a DD22 or a Strike King 5XD are great tools for this scenario. These crankbaits are often thought of a deep divers, but on the heavier line we use fishing the flooded timer here on Lake Fork, they efficiently cover the intermediate depths. I try to fish these baits fast and aggressively through standing timber and laydowns. This is a great way to catch bigger fish when they may not be that interested in feeding because it is a reaction technique.

Another way to target these fish in the intermediate range is with a drop shot rig. I have to confess that this is my least favorite technique of all, but it has become a staple on Lake Fork for good reason: It flat out catches fish. While a drop shot tends to produce smaller than average sized fish, occasionally an angler will get a lunker. If putting numbers of fish in the boat is your goal, the drop shot rig is a good bet in September.

This information shouldn’t discourage you from fishing in September. Many of us enjoy the sport of bass fishing because of the challenges it presents. Hopefully these tips will help you put a few more fish in the boat and give you an extra perspective during what can be a tough month to catch them. If you would like to book a trip with me you can reach me at (903) 638-1170 or email me andrew@lakeforkguideandrewgrills.com or visit my website: www.LakeForkGuideAndrewGrills.com

Andrew is a professional guide on Lake Fork and is sponsored by Skeeter Boats, Nautical Mile Marine in Tyler, Costa Sunglasses, Under Armour, and M-Pack Lures.
Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Don’t Post Illegal Harvests on Social Media-- Bexar County game wardens received an Operation Game Thief call regarding a group of individuals who shot a deer on Easter weekend and posted about it on their social media accounts. With the information from the OGT call, the wardens contacted the subjects and obtained confessions. Multiple cases and restitution are pending.

--Four Men Caught Catfishing-- A Starr County and a Zapata County game warden patrolling Falcon Lake conducted a water safety inspection on a boat on which four men were fishing. During the inspection, the wardens noticed freshly cut catfish chunks on top of an ice chest. The men told the wardens the fishing slowed down so they decided to catch an alligator gar, but since they hadn’t brought any bait to catch a gar, they decided to use a catfish they caught earlier in the day as bait. The wardens educated all four men about not using game fish as bait. Citations were issued to all subjects. Cases and civil restitution pending.

--Triple Threat of Violations-- A Comal County game warden concluded an investigation that started with a couple dumped animal carcasses in New Braunfels recently. In his investigation, the warden found that one individual killed a hen turkey, failed to keep any of the bird in edible condition and did not tag the bird. The warden cited this hunter for hunting hen turkey in closed season and for failing to keep the bird in edible condition. The warden issued a warning for the tagging violation. The warden also cited a second hunter for illegal dumping: the hunter disposed of the remains of an exotic animal in a city drainage channel. Cases are pending.

--Looking for a fishing license, found arrest warrants-- A Lubbock/Lynn County game warden was checking fishermen on the Lubbock Canyon lakes when she found an individual without a fishing license. The warden then discovered the individual had several arrest warrants. The warden placed the man under arrest and transported him to the Lubbock County Detention Center.

--Party Foul-- A Motley/Cottle County game warden received a call from an individual who said he was physically assaulted after a long night of partying on a property in Motley County. The individual said the suspect, who was intoxicated and high on a controlled substance, dragged him out of his vehicle as he was sleeping, threw him to the ground and beat him over the head for several minutes. After the warden interviewed several eye witnesses and obtained a cell phone video of the incident, he filed for an arrest warrant. The warden, along with a Briscoe/Swisher game warden, found and arrested the suspect for assault with bodily injury, a Class A misdemeanor. The case is pending.

--Traffic Stop Produces Arrest Warrants-- A Scurry/Garza County game warden on routine patrol saw a suspicious vehicle on a rural road. As the warden drove past the vehicle, he noticed the inspection sticker on the windshield was expired and initiated a traffic stop. After the warden discovered the individual had three outstanding local warrants and was driving without a license, he placed the individual under arrest and transported him to the county detention center.

--The Case of the Goose Egg Thief-- A Lubbock/Lynn County game warden solved a goose egg theft case after receiving a call about an individual who was digging through the bushes at a Lubbock city park and collecting goose eggs. The man, who only spoke Mandarin Chinese and spoke through a translator from the Lubbock County Sheriff’s Office, admitted to taking them for personal consumption. The warden issued the man a citation for disturbing the nest and destroying the eggs. The case is pending.
Hot fishing on the Fork  (Continued from Page 6-A)

...ing green monsters, pitch out a marker buoy once you locate a group of fish, then tie on a Talon Big Daddy Lake Fork flutter spoon and go to work. Cast back toward the buoy and count the spoon down until you hit the desired depth. Twitch the spoon and let it flutter down to draw the strike. Depending on the depth the fish are holding, a crank-bait will work equally as well. I would choose the Strike King 6XD or the 8XD. Both are deadly and can be fished on 15lb line on a cranking rod. Also, submerged trees will hold the lion share of bass. Throw the crankbiats around these trees and work the bait through the limbs. You may lose a few lures the rewards can pay off handsomely.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in September searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in late August and some in September. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one’s who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/LakeForkGuideDavidOzio. I post my daily trip results on this page. I run a Skeeter FX with a Yamaha 250SHO and would like to thank Skeeter for making my office on the lake the best in the country. I would also like to thank G-Loomis, Talon Lures, Shimano and Lowrance for making my job the blast that it is. A special shout out to Nautical Mile 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.”

David Ozio

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Grants Awarded (Continued from Page 16-A)

of invasive species, and interpretive signage.

Lyford was granted a small community recreation grant of $75,000 to further develop 6.6-acre Central Park. The proposal includes a lighted ballfield, amphitheater, nature viewing area/boardwalk, and associated solar lights.

El Paso will be granted an urban outdoor recreation grant of $225,000 to develop 0.5-acre Futureland Park located in the northeast part of the city. The proposal includes a jogging trail, lighting, landscaping, irrigation, parking, covered picnic units, benches, trash cans, pet waste station, play-
ground, basketball half court, and signage.

For additional information about the grant awards or recreation grant programs, see the TPWD recreation grants Web page http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants.

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Product  Intergal
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N I A I E M N E S U D R
I O Y L P I T L U M I R
D N L O A D E D B I N O
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To Bubba, weather is just another factor to take into consideration. If a storm is coming, he knows everything there is to know about it. He sounds so suave and debonair as he recites the barometric pressure and how the fish are going to react to it. If a storm is coming, he knows everything there is to know about it.

I have come to a conclusion that Bubba knows fishing weather so well, there should be a weather channel that carries "Weather or Not, by Bubba!" Bubba also has one of endearment for himself with all of Bubba's reasons and excuses to go fishing. He has a lot of reasons to go fishing, but with Bubbette he sometimes makes excuses for Bubba to go fishing.

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Becky Marler from Shreveport, Louisiana was crappie fishing Lake Fork with her husband Scott when she caught this hawg weighing 10-lbs.14-ozs. Her big bass measured 25.5” with a girth of 22” and was released back into the lake after weighing and measuring. C.P.R.

Steven Wood from Emory, Texas caught this really nice Lake Fork hawg weighing 12.76-lbs. and measuring 27.5” in length on a Carolina rigged watermelon red brush hog in 24’ of water on 8/28/15. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Lake Fork Marina)

Wood County Game Warden Kurt Kelley was recognized as the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers’ Texas Officer of the Year at a recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting. TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith presented the award.

(See Story on Page 7-A)

3rd Annual Hook n’ Cook
(See 3rd Annual...Continued on Page 5-A)

By Don Hampton

If you missed the 3rd Annual ‘Hook and Cook Sand Bass Tournament’ held on August 8th, you missed out on a really good day for a good cause. The tournament was hosted out of Fisherman’s One Stop and John Heimgartner and his crew did just an excellent job feeding the multitude.

The whole purpose of the tournament that benefits “The Wish To Fish Foundation” on Lake Fork is to not only deplete the growing population of sand bass on the lake but to also show a lot of skeptics that bass exist and open up a lot of new growth.

Every angler likes to hear a big splash on the end of his line when he is bass fishing but here is a big splash that will really get your heart pumping! Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash will be held on Lake Fork on September 18, 19, 20 hosted out of Lake Fork Marina on Hwy. 17. This is one tournament where amateurs can win big like the pros! Overall there will be $500,000 guaranteed in cash and prizes. Five places will be awarded for the five single heaviest bass weighed in over the 3 day tournament. First Place heaviest bass overall will take home a 2015 Triton 20 TRX powered by Mercury and equipped with MinnKota, Lowrance, Navionics and Power Pole, a 2015 Ram Truck, plus $7,000 cash; Second Place will be awarded a 2015 Triton 19 TRX, powered by Mercury, equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance, a 2015 Ram Truck, plus $2,000 cash; Third Place will hook on to a 2015 Triton 18 TRX powered by Mercury, equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance plus $1,000 cash; Fourth Place will win $8,000 cash; Fifth Place $6,000 cash.

This year in the Big Bass Splash, fifteen places will be paid each hour of the tournament (See Sealy Outdoors...Continued on Page 4-A)