

# LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



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

2 Sections

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Free

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No. 196



Robert Hampton from Houston, Texas was doing a little pre-fishing for the Kayak Tournament on Lake Fork when he caught this hawg weighing 12.36-pounds on a deep diving crankbait while fishing in a kayak.



Christmas is always special-- especially on Lake Fork. Children can have breakfast with Santa on December 12th at Oak Ridge Marina. For more information see their ad on Page 10-A.



GIANT SALVINIA FOUND ON LAKE FORK! Signs have been placed at Chaney Point and other locations on Lake Fork warning boaters of the presence of giant salvinia. (See Story on Page 4-A)



"A Friend That Will Be Dearly Missed!" Bryan Davis was involved in a tragic boating accident on November 8. We send our thoughts and prayers to Bryan's wife, Dione, their son, Ty, and all of his family. Rest In Peace, Bryan. You will never be forgotten.

# 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, 2015 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.

In the interview, to relieve concerned

parents, the differences in the method of delivery were discussed 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 crappie, and hush-puppies 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 only 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 traditional 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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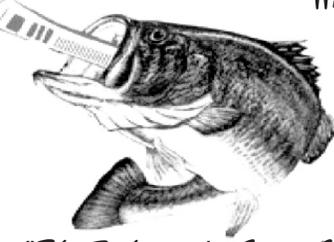
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## Giant Salvinia found on Lake Fork

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has confirmed the presence of giant salvinia in Chaney Branch on Lake Fork. The infestation appears to be confined to this branch and another small cove west of the dam and occupies

an estimated 3.25 acres. Judging by the distribution and age of the plants, it is apparent it has been in place for several months. As is the case for other introductions in East Texas, the plants were most likely introduced to the lake by a boat trailer.

Lake Fork's controlling authority, the Sabine River Authority (SRA), immediately closed boat ramps at Chaney Point South and Secret Haven, which are located at the westernmost end of Chaney Branch, in order to eliminate any further risk of spreading this invasive plant. The SRA has also conducted reconnaissance at bridge crossings and conducted shoreline surveys by boat to look for additional infestations.

Crews from the SRA and TPWD have physically removed salvinia plants and placed them in garbage bags for disposal.

Additionally, crews have placed approximately 1,100 feet of floating boom across the creek, containing the infestation within the 90-acre cove.

SRA staff has also installed a floating sign and lights to alert boaters to the presence of the floating boom.

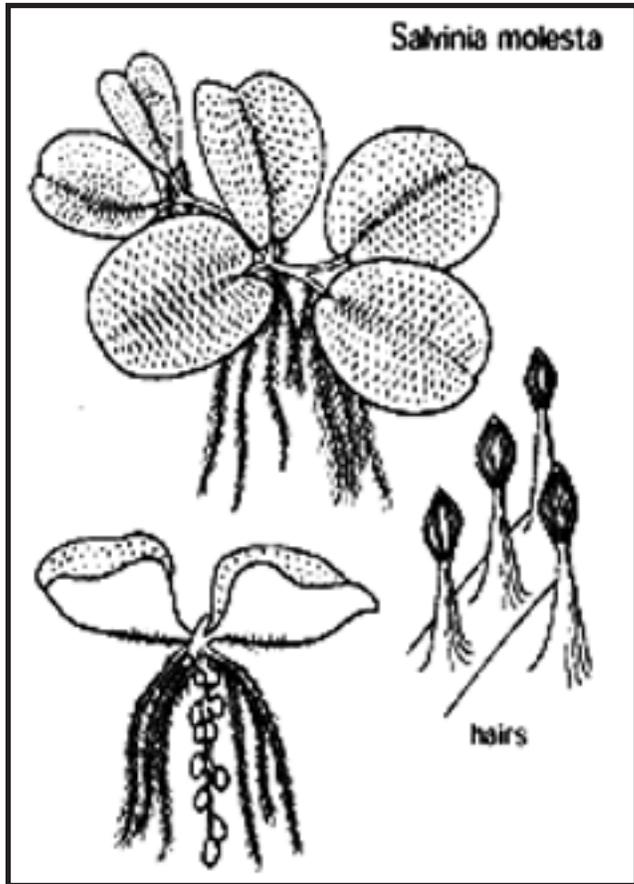
TPWD staff will be conducting a chemical treatment using glyphosate. (The active ingredients that have been successful in treating sal-

vinia include diquat (G), fluridone (E), glyphosate (G), penoxsulam (E), and flumioxazin (G). E = excellent, G = good.

Rodeo, Aquamaster, Eraser AQ, Touchdown Pro, and AquaNeat are liquid glyphosate formulations and have been effective on salvinia. These are broad spectrum, systemic herbicides. Systemic herbicides are absorbed and move within the plant to the site of action. Systemic herbicides tend to act more slowly than contact herbicides. An aquatically registered surfactant has to be added to the glyphosate solution for good results. In treatment of salvinia, the best surfactants appear to be highly active non-ionic surfactants (e.g. AQUA-KING) used at 1/2% solution.)

All efforts will be made to protect beneficial aquatic plants while focusing treatment on killing the invasive giant salvinia. TPWD will continue to conduct additional surveys to check for the spread of the plant to other areas of the lake, and additional physical removals will be done if necessary.

Efforts to increase public awareness will be increased by installing warning signs at major boat ramps. Boaters and property owners are urged to clean, drain, and dry their boats and



(Continued on Next Page)



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trailers in between trips and to report additional infestations outside of the Chaney Branch area by calling (903) 593-5077, (903) 570-5745, or by emailing kevin.storey@tpwd.texas.gov.

Giant salvinia is a floating fern native to Brazil. It reproduces by budding and spreads easily by the movement of wind and water currents. Giant salvinia grows rapidly and can double in coverage in a week. Uncontrolled, giant salvinia can impede navigation, block sunlight from reaching the water and hamper fishing.

This incident is a painful reminder of the importance of cleaning all plant material from your boat, trailer, and towing vehicle and draining your boat before leaving a lake. Transportation of aquatic invasive species is illegal in Texas.

For more information on giant salvinia and other invasive species, visit <http://www.texas-invasives.org/>. Giant salvinia is native to South America. It is a small free-floating plant that grows in clusters and develops into dense, floating mats or colonies in quiet water, undisturbed by wave action. The floating leaves of giant salvinia are oblong (0.5 to 1.5 inches long) with a distinct midrib along which the leaf may fold forming a compressed chain-like appearance. Salvinias have stiff leaf hairs on the upper surface of the leaves. In giant salvinia the leaf hairs have a single stalk that divides into four

branches that reconnect at the tip, giving the hair a cage-like or egg-beater appearance. Underwater the leaves are modified into small root-like structures. The entire plant is only about 1 to 2 inch in depth. Salvinias are ferns and have no flower. Giant salvinia has sporangia but are thought to reproduce only by fragmentation. Giant salvinia can double in size in 4 to 10 days under good conditions. Giant salvinia is an aggressive invader species. If colonies of giant salvinia cover the surface of the water, then oxygen depletions and fish kills can occur. These plants should be controlled.

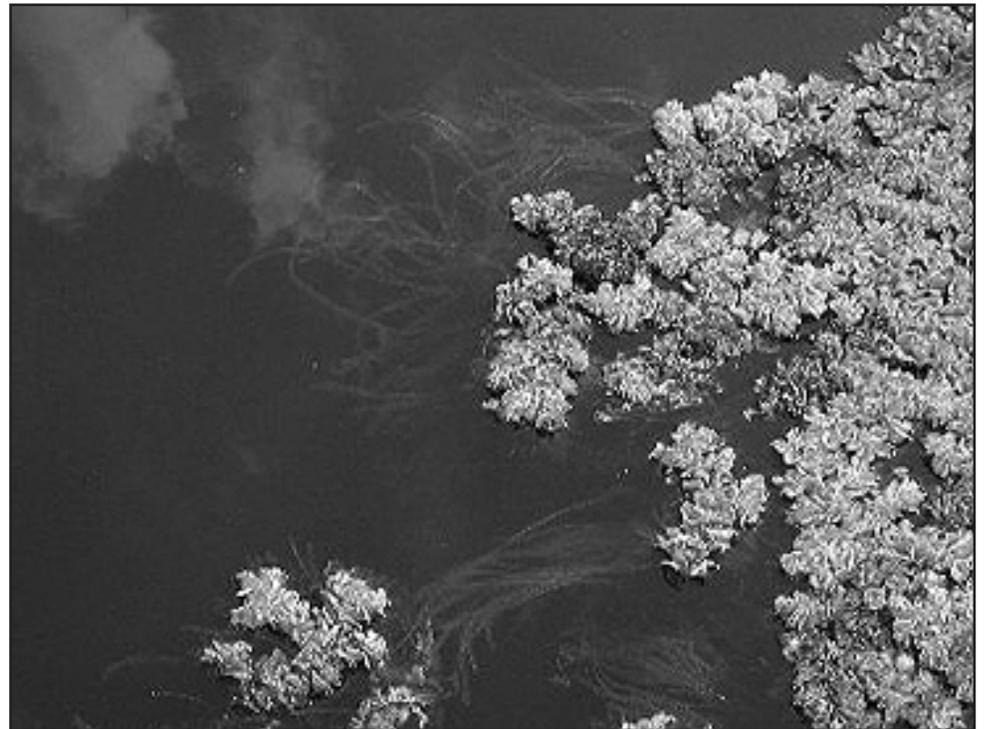
Dense salvinia colo-

nies provide habit for micro invertebrates but if salvinia completely covers the surface of a pond it will cause oxygen depletions. These colonies will also eliminate submerged plants by blocking sunlight penetration. Salvinias

have no known direct food value to wildlife and is considered an exotic and highly undesirable species.

It is against Texas and U.S. law to possess salvinia. It should not be transported or allowed to spread. By law all anglers should

when leaving a lake pull their drain plug and check their boat and trailer to make sure there is no grass or aquatic vegetation that they may spread to another lake or area. Help keep our lakes free of invasive aquatic growth.



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## December on Lake Fork

"What a fishing year this has been on Lake Fork. A lot of big bass have been apprehended and I figure the same goes for this December. The water is starting to cool off and main lake water temps have slid back to the 60 degree mark. Big bass have been gorging on shad this fall preparing to fatten up for winters onslaught. There are many patterns that will work at the close of the 2015 season but understanding the trials and tribulations the lake has endured this year will point you in the direction to the optimal pattern.

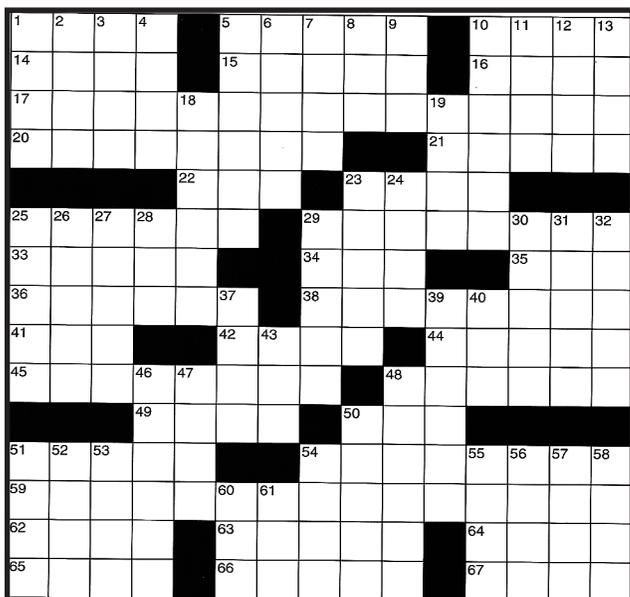
This has been a very wet year on Fork and the lake levels have fluctuated more this year than any season since I have been fishing this legendary pond. When water levels rise and fall over short periods of time, bass opt for the goofy

mode and don't hold to seasonal patterns as they would normally do. This was evident by a weak shallow bite this fall, which to date, has never really materialized. This changed our focus to mid depth and deep water patterns and this continues into December while we are searching for the next ShareLunker. 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 where 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 a see what happens. The M-Pack Lures flutter spoon will do the trick if you are in the mouth of a creek that is inundated with timber. Let it flutter to the bottom and experiment with different retrieves to isolate what the fish favor. A standard spoon in the same silver or gold works better if you are in open water with no obstructions. Pay close attention to your graph and direct your efforts in areas where there are schools



of sand bass or bar fish. All year, the big black bass have been mixed in with the schools feeding on the unwitting small bar fish. C-rigs and drop shots have worked well also using redbug and junebug Talon Carolina Worms. Locate the baitfish and go to work.

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



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Pea stem (British)
- 5. Inner circle
- 10. Slip
- 14. Phil \_\_\_\_\_, former CIA officer
- 15. Winged
- 16. Knitting stitch
- 17. College-football favorites
- 20. Most bloodless
- 21. Heron genus
- 22. Predict
- 23. Concern
- 25. Blare
- 29. Being airborne
- 33. Nocturnal lemur
- 34. Cause to end
- 35. New location (abbr.)
- 36. Bobs up
- 38. Act of facilitating
- 41. Anger
- 42. This (Spanish)
- 44. Pierce
- 45. Takes a breath
- 48. Cabs
- 49. Fertilizer
- 50. Gash
- 51. Samurai clan
- 54. Continually nagging
- 59. Bowl games
- 62. Basics
- 63. Polish city
- 64. Hebrew calendar month
- 65. Enlarge a hole
- 66. Indian instrument
- 67. \_\_\_\_\_ Redgrave, actress

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Door catch
- 2. Water (Spanish)
- 3. Limbs
- 4. Core
- 5. Business
- 6. "\_\_\_\_\_ Lady," Cather novel (two words)
- 7. Vascular tissue
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Fifth sign of the zodiac
- 10. Scanter
- 11. Scandinavian city
- 12. Strong impulse
- 13. Ancient Greek city
- 18. Carbohydrate
- 19. Raw
- 23. Hip joints
- 24. Bird class
- 25. \_\_\_\_\_ voyant
- 26. Peter \_\_\_\_\_, actor
- 27. Ram
- 28. Wrong
- 29. Small amounts (Scottish)
- 30. Ancient Celtic tribe
- 31. Present occasion
- 32. Barriers
- 37. Dried-up
- 39. Triumphant
- 40. Take to the limit
- 43. Body of water
- 46. Insistence on traditional correctness
- 47. Asian nation
- 48. "\_\_\_\_\_ & Hooch," 1989 film
- 50. Appendage, pincer
- 51. Despot
- 52. French river
- 53. South American Indian
- 54. Blemish
- 55. Prosperity
- 56. \_\_\_\_\_ 500, car race
- 57. Interpret
- 58. Wading bird
- 60. Runs PCs
- 61. Indicates near

Answers on Page 21-A

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

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## Fly-Fishing Classes Coming Up at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

Master fly-fisher Bob Cappallo of Corsicana will teach fly-fishing for beginners at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens January 9, 2016; January 16, 2016; and February 13, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The classes are open to adults 18 and older. No fly-fishing experience is required. Equipment will be provided, but students may bring their own. The \$50 fee for the class includes entrance to TFFC for the day of the class, lunch and a season pass to TFFC so students can return for more

fishing as often as they like.

Instruction will focus on equipment selection, knot tying, casting and fishing for rainbow trout in TFFC's 1.5-acre casting pond. Catch-and-release fishing is free, but anglers may pay \$5 for the opportunity to catch and keep up to five fish.

Cappallo is a member of the Brazos Valley Fly Fishers and lives on Richland-Chambers Reservoir. He fly-fishes for trout in New Mexico and redbfish and tarpon on the Texas coast. Cappallo also builds handmade fly rods and

ties flies.

Reservations are required, and each class is limited to 20 persons. Checks should be made payable to "Friends of TFFC" and may be mailed to Craig Brooks at 5550 F.M. 2495, Athens, TX 75752. For more information or to register by telephone for the class, call Brooks at (903) 670-2222.



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## "The Moon Report" Year End Crappie on Fork

By Terri Moon

So very hard to believe this year is almost over! Last year at this time we were suffering with all time low lake levels – and look at it now – record rain fall! Lake levels are way above pool stage. (I guess you have to be careful what you ask for!) I remember when we were all praying for rain – looks like all those prayers were answered! LOL!

So needless to say, along with the rain have come some tough weather conditions! Especially that "MEAN OLD WIND"! Just when you find some really good crappie, the wind will switch and make it impossible to fish there – especially when it's blowing 20-30 mph! It really makes you appreciate those "light and variable" days!

I've been very excited about the size and quality of the crappie this year – probably the most 13 – 15 inchers being caught – that I've seen in a long time. We are also catching some 16 inches and over – but we are taking photos and releasing them. We will never get a new lake record if we keep taking a knife to those giants! A big thank you to all that let their biggest crappie go because



to me it would be like filleting a 13 lb. bass – it just doesn't make sense (just my opinion). Let your conscience be your guide – especially when you already have a livewell full of fish. I only ask that you all consider it.

Now as far as catching the crappie, we are finding them anywhere between 25 and 40 ft. of water and catching them at 24 to 30 ft. deep. In the open water on main lake points and deep water humps and creek channels, or around isolated timber. This is the time of year when my Lowrance HDS units are priceless for locating shad and structure. Then to top it off, my new Minnkota Ulterra trolling motor is perfect for holding you on these open water spots. They've both sure made my life easier!

The baits working for us have been Bobby Garlands blue ice or Lake Fork Tackles blue and pearl. In the open water I'm dou-

ble rigging and adding one of Bubbas Baits – a chenille jig in lavender and white tail. (We're even catching some nice bream deep on the lavender). Keep in mind as the water temperature drops to slow your presentation down to slow motion or NO motion and that should increase your catch.

As this year comes to an end, I want to thank everyone again who came to fish with me. It's always so great to see those of you that have fished with me for years and also fun to meet and fish with new friends. I'm looking forward to the upcoming year – fishing should be off the chart with the great spawn we had this year!

Thoughts and prayers to friends and family who lost loved ones this year and wishing you many blessings!

My best to you ALL!

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# Duck Hunters Reminded to Follow Clean, Drain and Dry Requirements

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is reminding waterfowl hunters to Clean, Drain and Dry before and after each trip to help avoid spreading invasive species like giant salvinia and zebra mussels. Unknowingly, waders, boats, trailers, even decoys can often harbor these invasive species, spread them to new places and destroy aquatic habitats.

In Texas it is unlawful to possess or transport prohibited aquatic invasive species, dead or alive, anywhere in the state. TPWD regulations also require boaters statewide to drain all water from their boat and on-board receptacles before leaving or approaching a public body of fresh water in order to prevent the transfer of invasive species. This regulation applies to all types and sizes of boats whether powered or not: personal watercraft, sailboats, kayaks/canoes or any other vessel used on public waters.

Because waterfowlers use specialized gear, boats aren't the only things on which invasive species can hitch a ride.

"That leaky decoy could be all a zebra mussel needs to get a foothold in a non-infested lake," said Kevin Kraai, TPWD waterfowl program leader. "It's best to check your decoys ahead of time and avoid putting out any leaky ones."

Unless left out during the season, decoys are not in the water long enough for zebra mussel larvae to latch on to the exterior and grow to adult size. But zebra mussel larvae (veligers) and plant fragments could be carried in the wet and humid interior. The good news: thoroughly draining and drying decoys destroys the invasive species.

Be mindful that with the cooler weather temperatures, duck hunters need to leave gear out to dry for longer periods to effectively kill invasive hitchhikers.

These three steps can prevent further spread of invasive species in Texas:

**CLEAN** all boats, motors, trailers and equipment. Remove plants/vegetation, seeds, mud, mussels/snails and other material before leav-

ing any water, trail or field access. Be sure to check your boots, dogs, decoys, and vehicle. **DRAIN** all water from boats, floats, bilges and motors prior to leaving any water body. Remove drain plugs and open all water draining devices.

**DRY** all gear and equipment completely before going to other waters or landings. Although bleach isn't recommended for use on boat motors or other warranted equipment, spraying felt-soled boots, decoys, or other durable gear with a 10 percent bleach solution (rinse with water after 10 minutes) can help to stop the spread of invasive species as well as diseases.

Zebra mussels have been confirmed in Lakes Texoma, Ray Roberts, Lewisville, Bridgeport, Lavon, Waco and Belton, and the public has played a very pivotal role in ensuring that these invasive species do not spread any further than they have.

More information about invasive species can be found online at [www.texasinvasives.org](http://www.texasinvasives.org)



Randy Stewart  
McKinney, TX.,

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Chris Baumann, Lake Fork, TX  
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## Boat and Tackle 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 pre-

pare 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.

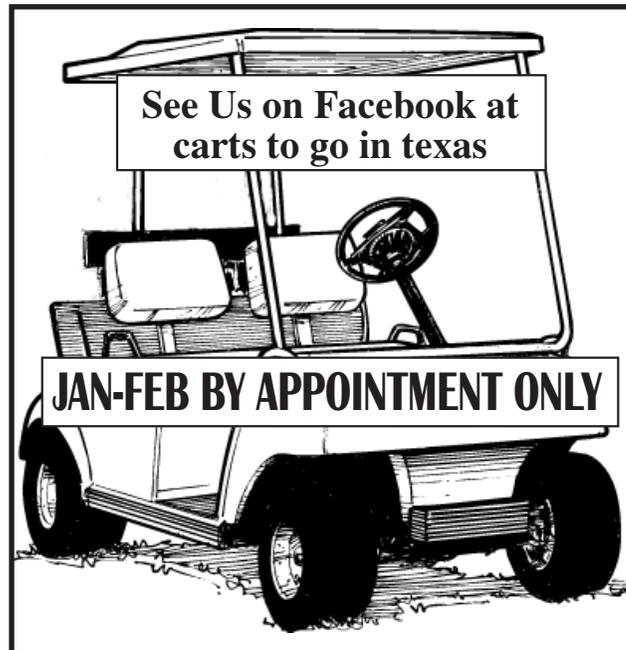
In many cases anglers and sportsmen attend these shows to plan their yearly vacation, fishing trips or sport outings.

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 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

(See Boat & Tackle...  
Continued on Page 17-A)



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## Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Announces Annual Winter Trout Stocking

It's time once again for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's annual winter rainbow trout stocking.

Beginning in late November and continuing through March, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will stock nearly 300,000 hatchery-reared rainbow trout at more than 140 sites across the state. Many of the fish stockings will be conducted at small community fishing lakes, state park lakes and popular river tailraces

offering easy angling access.

TPWD has been stocking rainbows each winter since the 1970s, providing Texans a simple and economical opportunity to go fishing.

The program occurs in the winter due to the cooler water temperatures in Texas water bodies the fish require to survive.

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 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. The daily bag limit is five fish.

"It is important for anglers to understand that the posted schedule is tentative and is subject to change due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circum-

stances," said Todd Engeling, TPWD hatchery program director. "It is always best to check the web site before heading out to one of the stocking sites."

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

For more information about the winter trout fishing program, including tips and the current trout stocking schedule listed by city or county, visit [www.tpwd.texas.gov/troutstocking](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/troutstocking).

A video of rainbow trout stocking and fishing may be viewed at [http://youtu.be/x\\_UEX\\_R\\_BRQ](http://youtu.be/x_UEX_R_BRQ).

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## Toyota Texas Bass Classic Announces Dates, Locations for 10th Anniversary Event Tournament moving to DFW area in 2016

The 2016 Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) will celebrate its tenth anniversary in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex on May 20-22, 2016. The fishing competition will take place on Lake Ray Roberts, and Toyota Stadium in Frisco will host activities for the whole family. Proceeds from the three-day festival will continue to benefit the Texas Parks

and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) youth fishing and urban outreach programs, which have received \$2.25 million dollars since the TTBC event first began in 2007.

"Toyota has been a proud supporter of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department since 2002, and we are excited to spotlight another great fishery in the

state of Texas through the TTBC," said Katie Scallan, senior manager marketing, Gulf States Toyota. "Toyota's roots have been firmly planted in the great state of Texas since 1969 with the founding of Gulf States Toyota, and for more than a decade, Tundras and Tacomas have been built at our manufacturing facility in San Antonio. Our roots have deepened since relocating our North American headquarters to Plano, and we look forward to continuing to promote and support the many great resources Texas has to offer for many years to come."

As host venue, Toyota Stadium will feature a wide array of family-friendly activities held in conjunction with the event. Fans can expect the return of the annual three-day star-studded lineup of country music concerts, a large outdoor consumer expo and numerous outdoor family activities--all held in addition to the fishing action taking place at Lake Ray Roberts, one of the TPWD's premier fisheries.

"We are looking forward to celebrating the TTBC's 10th anniversary in the city of Frisco at Toyota Stadium," said Lenny Francoeur, TTBC's tournament director. "This world-class facility was built to host large-scale events and will provide an amazing venue for TTBC fans and partners."

Over the past nine years of the event's history, the partnership between TTBC and TPWD has showcased some of the best fisheries that Texas has to offer while raising awareness of conservation efforts and funding the department's youth fishing and urban outreach programs.

"The TTBC has been key to TPWD's efforts to increase fishing opportunities in urban areas through its Neighborhood Fishin' Program," said Dave Terre, chief of research and management for TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division. "About 100,000 people a year benefit from this program, and about 50,000 of those are new to fishing. The TTBC also supports a number of other conservation and outreach efforts aimed at involving more people in the outdoors."

2015 TTBC Champion Brent Ehrler will join the 2016 TTBC field alongside the top 15 in 2015 Angler of the Year points from both the FLW Tour and Bassmaster Elite Series, and five chosen exemptions. The 36 anglers will compete on Lake Ray Roberts over the three days, with the field being reduced to the top 10 for the final round on Sunday, May 22.

"I love competing in Texas because their lakes are some of the healthiest and most productive in the country, thanks in large part to the efforts of TPWD. I am excited to return to the Lone Star State and defend my TTBC title on Lake Ray Roberts in 2016," stated 2015 TTBC champion Brent Ehrler.

Ticket and concert information will be available in early 2016. For more information and event news, visit [www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com](http://www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com).

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## Texas Game Warden Named Texas Wildlife Officer of the Year

At a recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting, TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith recognized Game Warden Benny G. Richards Jr. as this year's recipient of the Shikar-Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award. The award is presented annually by the worldwide conservation organization to one wildlife law enforcement officer in each state.

Richards has served with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for 20 years and is currently stationed in Hunt County in north-east Texas. He consistently leads his district and region and this year alone has filed more than 130 cases, 30,000 miles patrolled and 200

boat hours logged. Richards is known as "the Game Warden's Game Warden," according to TPWD Law Enforcement Division Director Col. Craig Hunter, because of his commitment to his fellow wardens and his community.

In addition to writing game warden stories for local newspapers and leading youth hunts, Richards also works with other game wardens and landowners to preserve the local community. Just this last year, Richards helped local landowners and game wardens clear Hunt County's Brushy Creek area of rampant ATV trespassers.

Last October, Richards proved instrumental in resolving an Opera-

tion Game Thief case. Just after stepping off a commercial plane returning from his vacation, Richards received the OGT call. He went home, got dressed, and then went to work. By the time the sun came up, Richards had apprehended five suspects and recovered a dead deer that was shot illegally at night and left in a dry creek bed to waste.

Another of Richards' accomplishments is on display throughout the state. It was his idea to use the phrase "The Eyes of Texas are upon YOU" in OGT billboards, which line highways all over Texas. This marks the 36th year this award has been presented to a Texas game warden.

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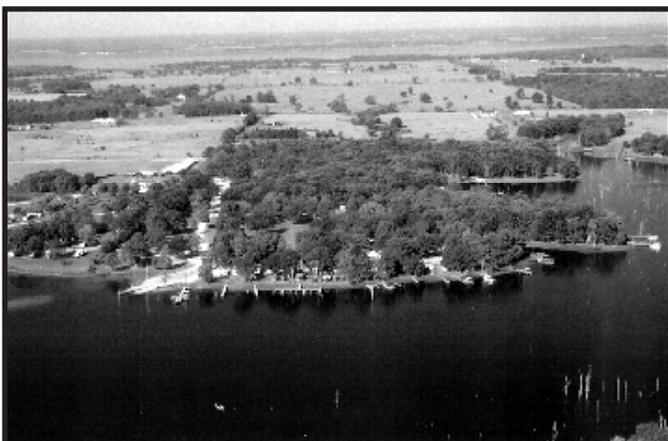
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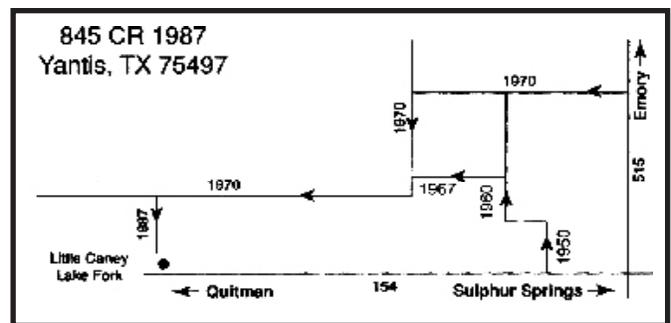


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# Inaugural Texas Game Warden Citizen's Academy Graduates Recognized

Twelve graduates of the first ever Texas Game Warden Citizen's Academy were recognized at a recent public meeting of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

"After working with the game wardens since 2007, I wanted to bring to light the amazing work being done around the state," said Margaret Martin, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioner and 2015 Citizen's Academy graduate. "The citizen's academy became the perfect platform to showcase the various facets that make up daily life for Texas Game Wardens."

The Citizen's Academy was taught by game wardens from across the state and was structured to provide an inside view of game warden duties.

The curriculum of the course included an overview of programs including game warden training, penal code and wildlife conservation law, land and marine patrol techniques, outreach, boating accident investigations and reconstruction, criminal investigations, search and rescue, K9 operations, officer safety, technology and recruiting.

"The different programs that we were introduced to were eye-opening," said Martin. "As state police officers, game wardens are on the front lines for Texas both on and off the pavement. They are involved in everything from game violations to border security and natural disaster response ef-

ports. This academy was very educational and allowed us to explore what Texas game wardens experience in the field."

The course was divided into five sessions spanning from June- October.

Graduates include:

- Robby Byers- Executive Director of Coastal Conservation Association of Texas
- Bill Horabin- Former President and Director of Asista Corporation, the stockholder of several independently operated long-term health care centers in the greater Austin area and San Antonio
- Vol Montgomery- Owner of the Reveille Peak Ranch and founder of SabreData, Inc.
- John Nelson- Chairman of the Operation Game Thief Committee and a member of the Board of Governors for the Round Rock Community Foundation
- Craig Rosenstein- President of the Lewis Energy Group, L.P.
- Scot Sanderson- President of the CCA Austin Chapter, board member of the state and executive boards of the CCA
- Eric Stumberg- Founder and CEO of the custom high-speed internet access provider, TengoInternet
- Bob Starnes- Founder and CEO of Ontra Companies, a holding firm focused on real estate and healthcare

--Ben Stratmann- Chief of staff for Sen. Brian Birdwell

--Susan Houston- Philanthropic Giving Director with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation

--Jay Kleberg- Associate Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation

--Commissioner Margaret Martin- Member of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission since 2007, a rancher, conservationist and an independent international business woman specializing in bringing companies and individuals together in business development, energy, oil and gas.

Due to the success of the program, the Law Enforcement division at TPWD is planning to host future citizen's academies with dates and attendees to be determined.

For more information about Texas Game Wardens, visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/warden/>.



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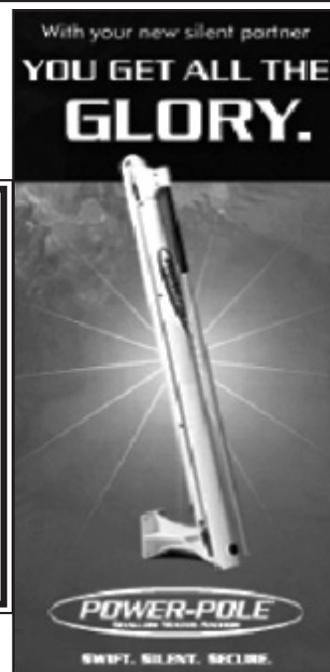


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**Boat and Tackle Show Season** *(Continued from Page 11-A)*

Show, Oklahoma City Boat Show, and the Longview Boat & RV Show, just to mention a few. 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

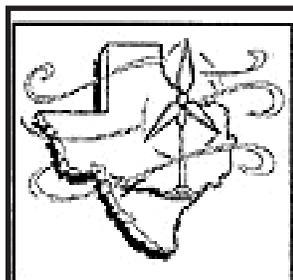
with a professionalism that is an additional credit to Lake Fork.

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 that includes catfish or trout fishing.

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



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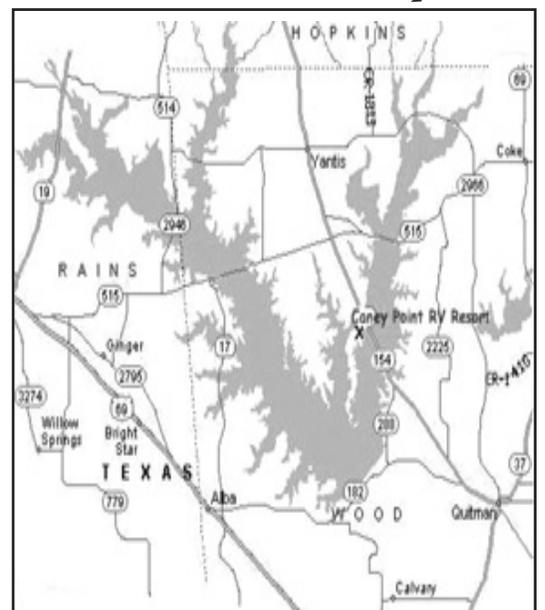
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## "Pack of Knowledge" Lipless Crankbait Secrets Part 1

In the fishing industry, there is always a hot new lure on the market that we as anglers are eager to try. The idea of giving the fish a presentation they haven't seen before somehow gives us confidence in its effectiveness. While some newer techniques can work extremely well, the old "tried and true" methods of catching bass have stood the test of time for good reason. One of the best of all time is the lipless crankbait. Even though the original lipless crankbaits hit the market over half a century ago, big sacks of fish are caught every year

on them.

Cold weather is when the lipless crankbait truly shines. Something about the sound, vibration, or combination of the two, triggers big prespawn fish to inhale them. Over the next few months, I can guarantee that some form of lipless bait will be on my boat deck at all times.

Because of its effectiveness, nearly every lure manufacturer offers some version of lipless crankbait. The most well known is the Bill Lewis Rat-L-Trap. This bait accounted for one of the best days I have ever experienced fishing on Lake Fork. It was a cold February day and our best five fish combined to weigh over 40lbs! There are many other brands and models out there however, and I like to have several on hand because the subtle variations can make a huge difference to the fish on a given day.

I like to keep a few brands handy in 1/2, 5/8, and 3/4oz. sizes. Each brand will also have a different "wobble". The Rat-L-Trap and the Cotton Cordell Super Spot have a relatively tight wobble. You can barely feel their movement through the water. Others, like the Strike King Red Eye Shad and the Excalibur rattle bait produce more vibration. Some have louder rattles while others produce a single "one-knocker" style sound. Even though we all eventually develop a favorite, I believe keeping

several on hand is a good idea.

While red is the standard prespawn color for lipless crankbaits here in east Texas, there are a few other colors that can be more productive at times. Red is popular because it flat out works. During the winter big bass feed heavily on crawfish because they are a great source of protein to nourish their developing egg sacks. Many species of crawfish

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



Deanna Capps from Emory, Texas caught this nice bass while fishing with guide Andrew Grills on Lake Fork in November. C.P.R.

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**For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director**  
visit our website: [www.wishtofishfoundation.com](http://www.wishtofishfoundation.com)



## Game Warden Field Notes

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

**--Raising Bambi--**A Shelby County game warden received a call about someone keeping a fawn in his backyard. When the warden arrived at the suspect's house, the suspect's wife said the fawn belonged to a doe the suspect had shot earlier in the spring. He was tired of deer getting into the garden, so he shot the offending doe, not realizing it had a fawn, which the suspect and his wife decided to raise while leaving the doe to waste. While interviewing him, the warden discovered the suspect did not have a valid hunting license. The suspect said he thought he didn't need a license to hunt on a high-fence ranch. While surveying the

suspect's residence, the warden saw a heavy racked European buck mount buried under some tools, a large bull elk European mount and a crossbow. The wardens seized the two European mounts and took the fawn to a Texas Parks and Wildlife rehabilitation facility.

**--Taking Advantage of a Tragedy--**Game wardens responded to a Starr County Sheriff's Office request for assistance for security and evacuations of a neighborhood near a paper recycling facility that caught fire. The wardens assisted with road blocks and evacuating homes threatened by the fire. While securing the area, some wardens found two individuals trying to break into another person's home. The wardens discovered one of the individuals had a bench warrant for his arrest, so they took him into custody, advising the other individual to evacuate the area.

**--Phantom Arrest--** While two game wardens patrolled the south side of Lake Fort Phantom one night, they saw a car with no lights on. After watching the car for a while, the wardens saw the flicker of a lighter in the front passenger seat. The wardens contacted the individuals in the car and, after gaining consent to search the car, found several items of drug paraphernalia, including a plastic bag with a crystal substance the wardens believed to be methamphetamine. The wardens arrested both individuals for possession of a controlled substance.

**--Jet Skiing while Intoxicated--** While a warden was issuing a citation to a personal watercraft operator on Buffalo Springs Lake, another individual and young girl on a jet ski passed the warden's boat well within the 50-foot safe passing distance.

The warden stopped the individual and, after initial observations, had both the individual and the girl get on his

boat. Once on shore, the individual failed the standardized field sobriety tests, so the warden arrested him

for boating while intoxicated. The individual, who turned out  
(See Game Warden....  
Continued on Page 22-A)

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**December on Lake Fork** *(Continued from Page 6-A)*

trees. Sunny afternoons during this season can also be a gold mine. As the water cools into the mid-fifties, 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. 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. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Lake-ForkGuideDavidOzio>. 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 Talon Custom Lures 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."

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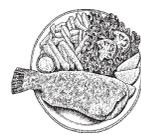
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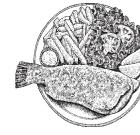
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**"Pack of Knowledge"** (continued from Page 18-A)

have a red tint to them, especially during the winter. Therefore, red is an obvious color choice. But, sometimes the fish seem to get conditioned to red and changing colors can make all the difference. When this happens I use chrome on sunny days and gold on cloudy days or in stained water. White or bone colored baits can also be very effective.

Another important thing to pay attention to are the stock hooks each lure comes rigged with. Rarely are the original hooks up to Lake Fork standards. On Fork we have big fish that can straighten cheap hooks, but we also have a lot of cover. Snagging in wood can dull those cheap hooks quickly. Therefore it is a good idea to replace the stock hooks with good quality treble hooks that are strong and sharp. Because wintertime bass often just swipe at lipless baits as they go by, many end up barely hooked or foul hooked. When this hap-

pens, you'll be glad you used good hooks.

Hopefully you'll find this information useful as you target bass this winter. Next month we will discuss the proper equipment, various retrieves, and where to fish lipless crankbaits. If you would like to book a trip with me you can call me at (903) 638-

1170 or you can email me through my website [www.LakeForkGuide-AndrewGrills.com](http://www.LakeForkGuide-AndrewGrills.com).

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

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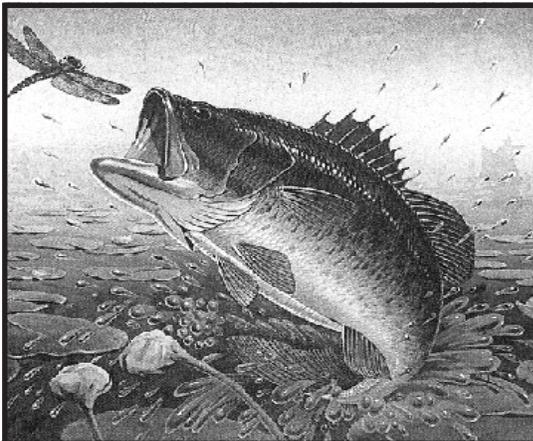
|    |   |    |   |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2 | 3  | 4 | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8 | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| H  | A | L  | M | C  | A  | B  | A | L  | S  | L  | U  | E  |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 14 | A | G  | E | E  | 15 | A  | L | A  | T  | E  | 16 | P  | U | R  | L  |    |    |    |    |
| 17 | S | U  | G | A  | 18 | R  | R | O  | S  | E  | O  | 19 | R | A  | N  | G  | E  |    |    |
| 20 | P | A  | S | T  | I  | E  | S | T  | 21 | A  | R  | D  | E | A  |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |   |    |   | 22 | B  | E  | T | 23 | C  | A  | R  | E  |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 25 | C | 26 | L | A  | M  | O  | R | 29 | H  | O  | V  | E  | R | 30 | I  | 31 | 32 |    |    |
| 33 | L | O  | R | I  | S  |    |   | 34 | A  | X  | E  |    |   | 35 | C  | O  | A  |    |    |
| 36 | A | R  | I | S  | E  | 37 | S | 38 | E  | A  | S  | 39 | E | 40 | M  | E  | N  | T  |    |
| 41 | I | R  | E |    |    | 42 | E | S  | T  | E  |    | 44 | L | A  | N  | C  | E  |    |    |
| 45 | R | E  | S | 46 | P  | I  | R | E  | S  |    |    | 48 | T | A  | X  | I  | E  | S  |    |
|    |   |    |   | 49 | U  | R  | E | A  |    |    |    | 50 | C | U  | T  |    |    |    |    |
| 51 | T | 52 | A | 53 | I  | R  | A |    |    | 54 | S  | H  | R | E  | 55 | W  | 56 | 57 | 58 |
| 59 | S | U  | N | I  | N  | 60 | D | E  | P  | E  | N  | D  | E | N  | C  | E  |    |    |    |
| 62 | A | B  | C | S  |    |    |   | 63 | O  | P  | O  | L  | E |    | 64 | A  | D  | A  | R  |
| 65 | R | E  | A | M  |    |    |   | 66 | S  | I  | T  | A  | R |    | 67 | L  | Y  | N  | N  |

**Weather Find**

There are 14 weather terms hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| TEMPERATURE   | FRONT      |
| BAROMETER     | JET STREAM |
| DEGREES       | DEW POINT  |
| CUMULUS       | MAP        |
| METEOROLOGIST | WIND CHILL |
| WEATHER       | HUMIDITY   |
| RAIN          | FORECAST   |

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 A O A D E R A T E I E T  
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 E O K P D B B S R A R I  
 A N O T D A O O K Y S G  
 T E M P E R A T U R E O  
 H T A I W O O I A S P L  
 E R P S P M L B P E V O  
 R P N T O E K E N E W R  
 E A A A I T R I C R A O  
 R N R P N E A L A G W E  
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**Game Warden Field Notes** *(Continued from Page 19-A)*

to be a convicted felon and admitted gang member, gave consensual breath samples of 0.150 and 0.137, 90 minutes after the warden initially stopped him.

**--The Party Stops for the "Party Guy"--**As two game wardens patrolled Possum Kingdom Lake, they saw a pontoon boat having difficulty staying on plane. The wardens stopped the boat for a water safety inspection and noticed the operator seemed intoxicated, so they administered afloat tests, as well as standardized field sobriety tests once they got back to shore. The boat operator, who said he was the "party guy" of the group, provided breath samples of 0.105 and 0.105. While another warden secured the boat to the dock, he noticed a strong odor of marijuana near one of the passenger's bags. After a probable cause search, the warden found a plastic container full of narcotics, including 13.8 grams of marijuana, 12 grams of mushrooms and 9.6 grams

of cocaine. The warden also seized \$880 in cash from the operator, arresting him for boating while intoxicated, possession of marijuana and delivery of a controlled substance--a first degree felony.

**--"Chill Out, Man!"--**A game warden saw three people in a canoe paddle to the fast current side of Buffalo Springs Lake, which is restricted to power boats. The warden shouted at the individuals to return to the no-wake side of the lake, but they yelled back, "Chill out, man!" Seconds later, they were hit by a wave that flipped their canoe. Another warden joined the first in rescuing the three individuals, who were not wearing life jackets. The wardens, assisted by Good Samaritan boaters, pulled all three people from the water, one of whom was already about six inches under. No one suffered any injuries, though the wardens issued the three individuals citations for not wearing life jackets.

**--He Never Learns, Does He?--** A Nueces

County game warden responded to an Operation Game Thief call about the sale of gar. The warden located the suspect based on the description the caller provided and arrested him for the illegal sale of five spotted gar. In the last 18 months, the suspect had also been apprehended by two other wardens in several trespassing and hunting without landowners' consent cases.

**--Bitten Alone--**Two Val Verde County game wardens responded to a call for help from the Devils River State Natural Area park superintendent, who said one of his employees was bitten by a large rattlesnake. The employee was alone in the park, about two hours from town. The wardens found the employee on the park's main road and took him to the hospital, where doctors determined the rattlesnake had delivered a "mostly dry" bite. The doctors released the employee the same day, expecting a full recovery.

**--No Rest for the**  
*(See Game Warden... Continued on Page 23-A)*

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**Game Warden Field Notes** *(Continued from Page 22-A)*

**Weary**--As two Bowie County game wardens were leaving the county jail after an arrest, they got a call from the County Sheriff's Office for assistance in a vehicle pursuit. The wardens responded, covering side roads and attempting to pull the car over. The wardens spiked the car's wheels, though the driver continued to flee. After more than 30 miles, the driver wrecked the vehicle and then attempted to flee on foot. The county's K-9 warden apprehended the suspect within 100 feet of the vehicle. The driver, who said he was recently released from prison, admitted the vehicle was stolen. After doctors treated the driver at the local hospital for in-

juries sustained during the pursuit, the wardens transported him to the county jail.  
**--A Stolen Boat on Craigslist, Really?--**  
 After receiving a call from someone trying to purchase a boat on Craigslist, a county clerk checked the registration and discovered the boat was stolen. The clerk contacted a Tarrant County game warden, who then found the boat on Craigslist. After several days and a few well-crafted text messages, the warden set up a deal with the seller and learned where he was keeping the boat. With the help of a Denton County warden and two Dallas County wardens, the Tarrant County warden not only seized the

boat in question, he also learned enough information from the seller to make a possible insurance fraud case against the original owner.

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