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Strollin’ With Stroman

By Dean Stroman

January bassing can be downright ugly. With the wind blowing twenty to forty miles an hour, air temperature in the teens warming only to the forties for afternoon highs and water temperature into the low to mid forty degree mark it is hard to convince yourself to get off the couch and go fishing. They are not going to bite anyway, the water is too cold. Right? For those of you who still have the itch for catching a big bass, January can be a good month to catch that dream bass.

With cold fronts passing through every four to five days most bass will be moving from the midsection to mouth of major creeks and main lake arms. Most will be following the creek channels. Bass will be following baitfish movements up and down channel edges. Right after a cold front most bass will be at the mouth of major creeks during warming trends until the next front when they move toward the midsection of most creeks.

The shallow bite during these warming trends will be off grass, secondary points and main lake points. But deep water needs to be close by. Areas that have all the above are honey holes for big bass during January. Crank baits and jig/craw are top lure choices for shallow bass. Crank baits in crawfish/red pattern and jig/craw in black/blue are the colors for day in and day out. Best fishing days are going to be the day before and the day of cold fronts. The days after a front can be very tough fishing. When the barometric pressure starts falling, water is less (See Strollin’... Continued on Next Page).

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dense and bass activity increases and when the barometric pressure is rising, water becomes more dense and feeding activity will slow down.

Moon phase will also play an important role as to when the best fishing days will be. Sudden changes in bass activity level can be linked to specific moon phases. A lot of the bigger bass on record have been caught during full moon phases. Research has proven that the gravitational pull from the moon has a very definite affect on the activity level of bass. The importance of moon phases can be overridden by adverse conditions such as cold fronts, high winds, or a rapid change in barometric pressure.

If you can catch the day before and days of fronts when barometric pressure is falling during prime moon phases, you put the odds in your favor for catching the dream bass. You are not going to do it on the couch!

If you are willing to brave it, I have openings in January and February and will be more than happy to help you catch a big bass. Either call me at 903-383-7214 (land line) or 903-850-5083 (cell) or email me at dstroman@peoplescom.net.

Dean is sponsored by Century 21 Lake Country, Gotcha Distributing, Legend Boats, Mercury Motors, Mossy Oak, Easy-Step and Gene Larew.

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We'll take over from there!

"Every child deserves a chance to fish!" Children diagnosed or who have experienced a life-threatening illness or accident sometimes do not have that opportunity. Now through the "Wish to Fish Foundation" they can have that day in the sun with their family. Any family with a child between the ages 3 to 18 years of age that has been diagnosed or treated for a life-threatening illness or accident is invited to come fish Lake Fork for any species of fish at NO COST! Lodging, meals, and fishing are provided for. This allows the family to spend quality time together fishing without worries or expenses. The outing includes one night lodging, meals, refreshments, snacks, all on a 26' Tritoon Pontoon, (accompanied with a 9'-1-1 chase boat for any emergency that may occur. All bait and fishing equipment provided. If you are, or know of a family that meets the above criteria, contact us! Help us spread the word, we are here for the children!

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

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

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

--Life Lessons from Local Game Wardens-- Two game wardens from Starr County and Zapata County were patrolling Starr County during the special white-wing season, when they made contact with two hunters who were dove hunting for the first time. When asked if they had shot any birds, the two hunters said that they had only shot one white-wing dove. One of the wardens inspected the birds and observed that the hunters had shot approximately a dozen white-wing doves, two mourning doves each, and a Eurasian collared dove. After the wardens asked about the discrepancy, the hunters explained they thought the collared dove was the white wing. The wardens then provided a lesson on dove identification, for which the hunters seemed grateful.

--Prepared for the Zombie Apocalypse-- The U.S. Marshall’s Fugitive Task Force contacted a Howard County game warden to assist with locating a suspect named in a felony arrest warrant. Once the arrest had been made, a search warrant was issued and the suspect’s residence searched. Law enforcement officers found one deer rifle, two AK-47s and about 4,000 rounds of ammunition in the house. Other items found in the house included a gas mask, ammunition cans full of red beans and rice, knives, medical supplies, marijuana and a stack of $100 bills. The suspect was charged with drug possession, possession of a dangerous drug and felon in possession of a firearm.

--Sandbox Love Story-- In the Red Sands/Montana Desert area in eastern El Paso County, a man lost his car and his girlfriend. The couple had gone joyriding when the car got stuck in the sand. The boyfriend then left on foot to get to the main road and call for help, since cell service was unavailable in the desert area. He headed back to the desert with two friends who had come to help, but he could not remember where his girlfriend and vehicle were. He and his friends asked two El Paso game wardens for help. After two hours of searching, the wardens called for the assistance of a Texas DPS helicopter. After a quick flyover, the pilots found the car stuck in a sandpit. The lost woman was dehydrated and dizzy but in good condition.

--Shots Fired in the End Zone-- Last year, a Longview game warden received information about illegal dove hunting over a baited field near a football field in the Pine Tree ISD. The information included reports of shotgun pellets hitting bleachers during a junior varsity football game. This year, the game warden returned to the field on opening morning of dove season and found a group of hunters hunting over a baited field behind the stadium end zone. Because opening day fell on a holiday this year, students and players were nowhere near the field.

--Into the Woods-- Five hours after his disappearance, Shelby County game wardens received a call that a man had left his house with a shotgun and entered a heavily wooded area. The wardens and other county law enforcement officers used a helicopter and tracking dogs in their search. Almost nine hours after the man went missing, the search party heard a single gunshot. With night vision capabilities, the wardens headed toward the direction of the shot, located and disarmed the man and took him into custody.

--Stolen Boat? Stolen Everything-- A Dallas County game warden received information from a Tarrant County game warden about a stolen boat inquiry at the Fort Worth regional Law Enforcement Office, where a man was asking about getting a title for a boat the office clerk confirmed as stolen. After several unsuccessful attempts to reach the man by phone or email, game wardens went to the man’s residence, which was surrounded by a privacy fence. The wardens met the man at his fence and asked if he had a boat for sale and if they could see it. The man allowed the wardens to enter his yard, where they noticed several vehicles, an ATV, the boat and several go karts. Using the confidential hull identification number, the wardens confirmed the boat was

(See Game Warden... Continued on next Page)

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stolen. After some investigation, they found that one vehicle and the ATV were also reported stolen. The stolen vehicle was also reported to have been used in a recent burglary. The wardens worked with the Arlington Police Department Auto Theft Division to arrest the man and recover the stolen vehicles and boat.

—Weapon of Choice: Snapchat— Polk County game wardens assisted the Diboll Police Department in locating an individual who sent threatening messages to school children via Snapchat, an instant messaging service. The subject was arrested for terrorist threats, a third-degree felony.

—Shock on the Water— A Robertson County game warden and a Brazos County game warden contacted a group of seven fishermen on the Brazos River outside of Hearne, where the fishermen had just pulled their boat out of the water. The wardens believed these were the fishermen involved in a case of illegal fishing, which the wardens had been investigating for two years. As the wardens approached the boat, one fisherman immediately went around to the other side of the boat. When the wardens caught up to him, they saw him trying to pull a fish shocker and cables from the boat. The boat owner admitted to having the electronic fish shocking device and using it to catch the nine catfish they had on board. After getting consent to search the vehicles on scene, the wardens found another shocking device under the driver’s side seat of one of the vehicles, which the vehicle’s owner admitted owning. The two fishermen were arrested and charged with possessing electronic shocking devices within half a mile of public water.

—Under the Bridge— While checking river crossings, a Montgomery County game warden saw a man and woman sitting under a bridge. The couple appeared to be passing a pipe back and forth, and the man also appeared to have a needle. After arriving on the scene, the warden recovered a pipe containing methamphetamine and a needle containing an unidentified liquid. The warden also found another shocking device under the boat. The boat owner admitted to possessing drugs and cables from the boat. The boat owner admitted to possessing drugs and cables from the boat.

(See Game Warden... Continued on 9-B)
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Warm Up With A Hearty And Wholesome Pork Dinner

By Sue Hampton

For a quick yet satisfying weeknight dinner that can be cooked stovetop, try the Pork Tenderloin with Balsamic Olive Oil Sauce. A Simple rub of olive oil, salt and pepper infuses the meat with flavor while the olive oil also seals in the natural juices to ensure tender results. Topped with a savory sauce, it’s a great way to quickly turn any weeknight dinner into a gourmet feast.

Pork tenderloin is too little to be treated like a roast and too large to be treated like a steak. Butterflying the tenderloin lengthwise, however, makes it possible to quickly cook this cut stovetop. If the tenderloin is too long for the pan, simply cut off the thin tail end and cook it in the skillet alongside the main piece.

**Pork Tenderloin With Balsamic Olive Oil Sauce**

2 small pork tenderloins (about 12 oz. each), patted dry and sliced lengthwise almost all the way through, then opened up

3 tablespoons olive oil
Salt and ground black pepper

¼ cup balsamic vinegar
¼ cup chicken broth
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil

Pour olive oil into a shallow pan. Dip each side of each tenderloin in the oil to completely coat, then sprinkle each side with salt and pepper.

Heat a 12-inch, heavy-bottomed, non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. Add tenderloins. Cook until pork develops a thick, golden-brown crust, about 5 minutes. Turn pork and cook until remaining side develops the same crust, about 5 minutes longer. Remove pork from heat and let stand while making sauce.

Add vinegar and chicken broth to the skillet; boil until reduced to ¼ cup, about 1 to 2 minutes. Whisk in extra virgin olive oil. To serve, slice tenderloins in half lengthwise and then into 1-inch slices. Serve with sauce.

Now for a tasty dessert, try these delicious sweet potato brownies! Not only are they tasty but they are loaded with health benefits. In fact, sweet potatoes are the #1 most nutritious vegetable. They are packed with vitamins, high in fiber and low in fat so enjoy these brownies and feel good about it.

**Sweet Potato Brownies**

1-1/2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup butter softened
4 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla
cups grated sweet potatoes
1 cup chopped pecans
Mix sugar and butter together. Add remaining ingredients stirring after each addition. Bake in a 10x13 inch greased pan for 30 to 40 minutes until toothpick comes out clean.

**Glaze:**
1 cup powdered sugar
Milk
¼ stick melted butter
Mix powdered sugar, butter and enough milk to make a thin glaze. Spread on brownies while hot. Cool and slice when ready to serve.
a small bottle with more unidentified substances. The couple was arrested for possession of a controlled substance. The woman also had warrants for possession with intent to distribute.

--Buried Buck-- A Runnels County game warden received a call from a landowner who had found a buck that had been shot and dragged into the brush behind a deer feeder. The warden questioned the only hunter left on the ranch and was able to exclude all but two of the hunters who had hunted that blind within the last few days. After some phone calls, a teenaged boy from Bastrop admitted that he killed the buck and hid it because it didn’t meet the ranch harvest rules, and he was not supposed to shoot bucks in the first place. A Bastrop County game warden assisted in getting statements.

--Facebook Fish Market-- After receiving information that a man was selling fish on Facebook, Cameron County game wardens contacted the man to set up a buy. The wardens arrived at the man’s residence where he was selling the fish, including red drum, spotted sea trout, flounder and sheepshead. After the man sold the fish to the wardens, the wardens issued the man citations that included not having a retail fish dealer license, sale and purchase of commercially protected fish and possession of undersize red drum.

--Not So Fast-- A Starr County game warden received an Operation Game Thief call regarding a local hunter who shot a roadrunner, fed it to his cats and posted a video about it on Facebook. With the help of Austin Communications, the warden was able to locate the subject’s residence and make contact. The individual confessed to killing the protected bird, and appropriate charges were filed.

Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 5-B)
Lake Fork Tournament
Schedule Jan. thru Mar. 2015

January
Jan. 17 ~ Bud Light Trail
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Contact me with the date at
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February
Feb. 21 ~ Bud Light Trail
Pope's Landing
Feb. 21 ~ Media Teams
Minnow Bucket
Feb. 22 ~ JC Outdoors Individual
Minnow Bucket
Feb. 28 ~ BassChamps North
Lake Fork Marina

March
Mar. 7 ~ Bud Light Trail
Pope's Landing
Mar. 8 ~ JC Outdoors Individual
Minnow Bucket
Mar. 14 ~ JC Outdoors Individual
Minnow Bucket
Mar. 21 ~ Media Teams
Minnow Bucket
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Beginning
January

Following baitfish movements up and down channel will be following the creek channels. Bass will be to mouth of major creeks and main lake arms. Most days most bass will be moving from the midsection of most creeks. When they move toward the midsection of most creeks during warming trends the shallow bite during the daytime will be great. Bass at the mouth of major creeks during warming trends are honey holes. Areas that have all the edges will produce best. But deep water points and main lake arms are going to be the day be best. The shallow bite during warming trends is going to get better each day in and day out. Black/blue are the colors to go with. Crank craw are top lure choices for shallow bass. Crank craw are top lure choices for shallow bass. Crank craw are top lure choices for shallow bass. Crank craw are top lure choices for shallow bass.

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