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Strollin' With Stroman.



By Dean Stroman

February bassing on Lake Fork can make your bass fishing dreams come true one day and humble you and make you doubt your bass fishing skills the next. Fronts blasting in every four to five days, fast changing water conditions on a daily basis, and most bass in their transition mode moving from one core area to another can keep you confused.

Depending on which end of the lake you are fishing most bass will be staging up most major creeks, secondary points, creek bends, ledges, underwater ponds, long extended points and adjoining shallow water spawn sites. The best sites will have deep water close by and be protected from prevailing winds and northwest facing banks that get the most direct sun light during the day. A hard bottom is better than soft.

Land for Sale Southern Hopkins County Minutes From Lake Fork 2 Acres to 13 Acres (Restricted to New Double Wide or New Construction) 34 acres 105 acres Owner Financing Available 903-348-1052 Fifteen to twenty degree sloping bank areas generally have harder bottoms because leaves and debris wash way. The key to any February fishing trip is water temperature. As a general rule the upper ends of the lake and back ends of major creeks and coves. Find the warmest water temperature in the lake and that is where most of bass population will be.

Most big females will be staged up near their spawning site and on the day before and during warmer trends will cruise around shallow water span sites to familiarize themselves to new areas. That is the best time to catch that dream when these big females move into shallow water. They are more accessible and aggressive and eat anything they can. Once they become familiar with their new

(See Strollin.....

Continued on Next Page)

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Strollin' With Stroman

shallow water environment, they will become more difficult to catch.

Right after a cold front most of these older age class bass will pull back to deeper water staging areas, then cruise back into shallow water during warming trends.

The spawn on Lake Fork will start when water temperature gets into sixty to sixty-five degrees. Sometimes these can occur toward the end of February, but most bass will be staging to spawn during February on Fork. Lipless and square bill chatter baits, big cranks in red or orange pattern, spinner baits in watermelon, chartreuse, red and white patterns are top lure and color choices. For plastic lizards and creature baits with watermelon, chartreuse, black/ blue combinations are top producers. Don't forget your suspending hard jerk baits in orange/red silver with orange bottom color are top choices, especially day of and right after a cold front.

If you need help finding and catch these February bass, give me a call at 903-383-7214 (land line) or 903-850-5083 (cell) or email me at dstroman@peoplescom.net. I'll be happy to help. If you want to book a trip, I still have days available.

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

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WORLD WIDE HUNTER AT FISH & WILD GAME DINNER

By Ted Warren

It's time once again for the annual FISH & WILD GAME DINNER at LAKE FORK BAP-TIST CHURCH which will be held on March 7, 2015, 6:00-8:00pm.

This year the guest speaker will be Chris Gaby, a local oil executive and renown big game hunter. Chris has traveled around the world in search of trophy quality animals of many species. He will entertain us with stories of his hunting adventures, and misadventures. And he will inspire us with the spiritual lessons he has learned from hunting and life in general.

Door prizes will include guided fishing trips, rod & reel combos, and a rifle or shotgun. You must be present to win.

The menu typically includes dishes made from venison, elk, wild hog, beef, fish, ducks, pheasants, and anything else that are donated and edible. Music will accompany dinner.

Tickets are \$8 per person and may be obtained at the church office (9483 W. FM 515, Alba, TX) or Heaven Bound Books in Quitman. Capacity is 400 and the event is always a sellout, so get your tickets soon.

If you have any questions or would like to donate some fish or game, please contact the church office at 903-473-9523.



"Wish To Fish Foundation" *903-383-7748* **Needs Your Help!!!** If you know a family that has a child that meets our criteria, just have them call us.

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 <u>NO COST!</u> 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 Depart-ment law enforcement reports.

--Daddy-ing While Intoxicated-- A game warden who covers Terry, Yoakum and Cochran counties heard via the Terry County radio dis-patcher that there had been several calls about a man walking on a major highway. The warden headed to the scene and found a vehicle parked diagonally on the shoulder, slightly into the lane of traffic. The warden made contact with the vehicle's occupant, who was sitting behind the wheel with the door wide open. He was attempting to start the vehicle and in the process was burning up the engine starter, causing smoke to rise from under the hood. The warden discovered the car was out of gas and suspected the driver was intoxicated. The suspect had his 5-year-old son in the front passenger seat and not in a safety seat. The man refused a standard field sobriety test and appeared to be unsteady. Also, his pants were unzipped. The man, trying to resist arrest for suspicion of driving while intoxicated with a child in the vehicle, struggled with the warden and a Terry County deputy. The individual, who turned out to be on probation for the same DWI offense, was booked into the Terry County Jail for DWI with a child under 15 years old. The case is pending.

--Caught Red-handed-- A Starr County game warden heard a call on the radio that a state trooper had made contact with someone who had been shot in the hand with a small-caliber pistol. The warden, along with Starr County deputies and Department of Public Safety troopers, located a hunting camp with two parked trucks that matched the description given in the report of the shooting. When the officers asked the vehicle owners if they were armed, the men - both landowners -- told the warden they each had a small caliber handgun. The warden secured the weapons and asked one of the men to accompany him to the gate. While the warden was in the camp, the deputies observed blood splatter around the gate across the road. One of the men said he shot at an individual who had been trespassing on his ranch. The injured man was suspected of criminal activity in the area. The investigation continues.

--Pigging Out-- When a Jim Hogg County game warden heard gunshots in the distance, he checked a group of dove hunters nearby. The warden then found hunters riding in a utility vehicle who admitted to shooting a javelina with semi-automatic rifles. When the hunters were asked for their hunting licenses, one of them asked about bag limits of javelina. The hunters then admitted to dumping the javelina in the brush, and the hunters who harvested the javelina received citations and were educated on waste of game laws. The javelina was retrieved from the brush and donated to a family in Hebbronville. Civil restitution and cases are pending.

-- The Boys Who Cried Coyote-- A Hunt County game warden received an Operation Game Thief call about shots being fired from the roadway near a landowner's home. The warden contacted the landowner and was told the suspects had left the area. Only a few minutes later, the warden received a report that the sus-pects had returned. This time, they were in the landowner's pasture with flashlights. When the warden located the five suspects, they claimed to be looking for a coyote they had shot from the roadway. An interrogation by the warden led to several trucks that were parked at an agriculture barn of a nearby high school. In one of the trucks, the warden found fresh deer hair and blood. The warden then called the Rains County game warden for assistance in the investigation, and the two eventually recovered a whitetail deer. Three of the five suspects received numerous citations.

--Doggonit-- When a call came in that a yearling deer had been skinned by workers at a logging site, two Trinity County game wardens went to the location and put TPWD K-9 Blitz on the case. The dog worked a dirt pile about 50 yards from the deer remains, but didn't find anything. The two game wardens returned the next morning and made contact with the loggers who told the wardens that their foreman hit a small yearling buck with his vehicle the day

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



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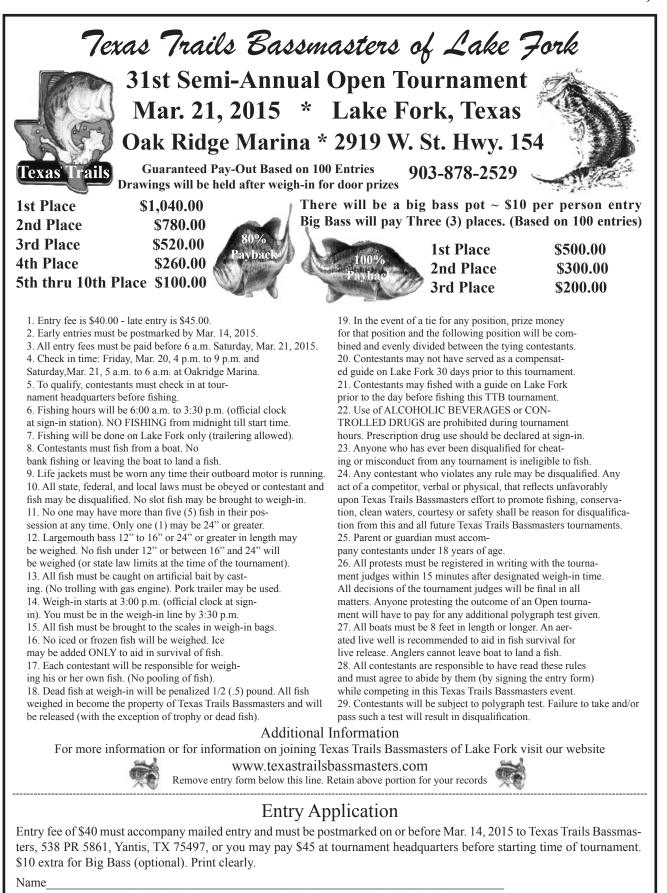
5-B

before and brought the deer back to the site. This time Blitz found the buried deer carcass. Cases pending. --Third Time's a Charm?-- A man called a Comal County game warden to report suspected trespassing and illegal deer hunting on his property. The caller discovered the image of two unknown per-sons on his game camera, in addition a photo of a deer eating corn. In the next image, the deer lay dead on the ground. Finally, someone moved the camera. When the warden came to check the location, he found blood and noticeable drag marks on the ground. Following the tracks, he ended up at a nearby residence, where he located the severed head of an eight-point buck hanging in a tree from an electrical cord. He also found the hide from a deer hanging from a separate tree. The warden then began interviewing the resident and, while doing so, observed blood on a pair of shoes on the porch. When confronted with the facts, the man first claimed that the deer had been given to him by a friend at work, but he couldn't remember the friend's name. On his second try, he said that he hit the deer with his truck and cut the deer's throat to put him down before loading it in his truck to take it home. In an effort to verify that statement, the warden looked in the bed of the truck but found no signs of blood. On his third attempt, the resident stated he found the deer dead on his neighbors' land and dragged it to his home for processing. The resident said he had not killed the deer and only took it home because he didn't want it to go to waste. The warden cited the man for possession of an untagged deer and



Entry Forms Now Available At All Local Businesses or online: www.legendoflakefork.com or call: 903-383-7748 to be put on Mailing List!! warned him about trespassing. Case pending.

--Buck Wild Two-- Shelby County game wardens received a tip of a buck possibly being shot off a roadway. When they went to investigate, they found a truck with fresh blood all over the tailgate. They then found a 10-inch spread 8-point buck. After further investigation, the game wardens issued an arrest warrant and the owner of the truck was placed in jail. --Red "Hairring"--- While investigating a hunting camp, a Houston County game warden discovered deer hair on a skinning gambrel (See Game Warden.... Continued on 9-B)



Email			TTB USE ONLY
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City	State	Zip	Entry #
Having read and understood the tournament rules, by my signature I agree to accept all decisions of the judges as final. By my signature I waive, release and hold harmless all members, officials and sponsors of any and all alleged			EntryFee
liabilities to me and/or my equipment.			Big Bass
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Dage 8-B

"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

February

For Valentine's Day, No 'Ifs' or 'Ands' – Just Fudge

By Sue Hampton

There has always been something seductive about chocolate. Let's face it, Valentine's Day may have started as a celebration of love, but for many it is but an excuse to indulge in the rich, dark, decadent stuff of romance, from tortes to truffles and everything in between. This year, pamper your sweetie (or yourself!) with this classic "Chocolate Fudge Cake." As easy to prepare as it is to enjoy, this cake is a surefire way to start a whole new romance – with chocolate.



This deliciously wicked cake is guaranteed to delight family and friends, whether served plain or with whipped cream or ice cream. Chocolate Fudge Cake ¹/₂ cup unsalted butter 1/3 cup vegetable oil 1-1/4 cups sugar 1 cup chopped goodquality semisweet chocolate 1/3 cup milk 2 cups all-purpose flour 1/3 cup cocoa powder 1 tablespoon baking powder Pinch of baking soda

Fudge Topping

2 eggs

¹/₂ cup heavy cream1 tablespoon light cornsyrup1-1/4 cups chopped

good-quality semi-sweet chocolate

1. Preheat the oven to 325 F. Line two 6-cup loaf pans, each 8-1/2 by 4-1/2 by 2 inches.

2. Combine the butter, oil, sugar, chocolate,

milk and 2/3 cup water in a large saucepan and stir over low heat until the sugar dissolves and the chocolate melts. Remove from the heat. Sift together the flour, cocoa, baking powder and baking soda into a bowl. Beat in the chocolate mixture (using a wire whisk means the mixture is less likely to form lumps).

3. Gradually beat the eggs, one at a time, into the chocolate mixture. Pour into the loaf pans and smooth the top with the back of a spoon. Place the pans on a baking sheet and bake for 50 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean when inserted into the center of each cake. Cool in the pans for five minutes. Turn out onto a wire rack; peel off the paper

and cool completely, crust side up.

4. To make the fudge topping, bring the cream and corn syrup just to a boil in a small saucepan, then remove from the heat. Put the chopped chocolate in a heat-proof bowl and gradually add the cream a little at a time, stirring after each addition, until all the cream has been added and the mixture is smooth. Place the bowl into a larger bowl of ice or refrigerate until the mixture has cooled and thickened. Spoon onto the cakes and spread over the top with a flexible metal spatula. It may run a little over the sides.

This decadent cake will make you fall in love all over again... with chocolate.



Most types of lipstick contain fish scales as an ingredient.

Fish Friendly

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 5-B)

and a couple of old blood spots on a four-wheeler. When the game warden asked one of the hunters at the camp if they had taken any deer this season, one hunter replied, "No, only hogs," while another hunter said they "haven't been seeing any." The game warden then showed the hunters the deer hairs he had found on the skinning gambrel. One of the hunters began to shake and admitted his dad had taken a young doe last Saturday. After further investigation, the father said he had not taken any deer this season before finally admitting he had taken a young doe.

--Under the Bridge-- A Newton County game warden and a Jasper County game warden were patrolling when they noticed a vehicle parked under an overpass. The wardens walked over to check on the car and found two people sitting inside the

vehicle, which was still running. One warden approached the car and tapped on the window to get the attention of the female passenger, just as she was about to light a glass pipe filled with meth. Both individuals in the car were arrested for felony possession of a controlled substance. --Poaching, meth and stolen tools - oh my!--A Harris County game warden was investi-

gating a call regarding possible poaching. The caller had reported seeing a man with feed and a rifle clearing out an area of the woods with construction equipment. When the game warden arrived, he saw two men using an old 4x4 truck and a trencher to dig up and pull out tons of bundled copper wire. The truck bed was already full of copper wire when the warden made contact with the men and placed them in handcuffs. The warden found a loaded .22 rifle and a meth pipe. When backup arrived and the vehicle had been searched, law enforcement found a total of 14 grams of methamphetamine and numerous possibly stolen tools. One of the men was a convicted felon. Both men were arrested and face several felony charges, including theft and possession of a controlled substance.

--Fifth Time's the Charm-- In 2013, a Montgomery County game warden and a Madison County game warden arrested a man on Lake Conroe when they noticed his erratic operation of a boat. On Oct. 31, 2014, the man pled guilty to felony boating while intoxicated. It was his fifth arrest for an alcohol-related offense.

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"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

February



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"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 <u>NO COST!</u> 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

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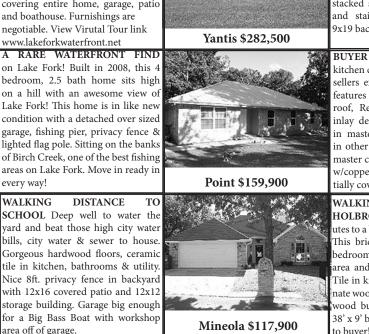
February

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