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Strollin’ With Stroman

By Dean Stroman

Bass fishing in East Texas in December can be feast or famine. Weekend traffic has slowed down with most people crappie fishing and bass getting little pressure. As long as water temperature stays above 52 degrees, December bassing on Fork can be very rewarding if you are after that dream bass with shallow and deep water both producing. When water temperature dips below 52 degrees, the deep bite is when most winter action will take place.

Lipless cranks for shallow water bite is hard to beat with red shad starting to be the predominant color. Grass, points and sloping banks leading to deep water are some good starting areas. No matter what location you choose, stay close to creek channels. Bass will be following baitfish movement up and down creek channels. During weather change conditions, right after and during fronts, most activity will be in mouths of most major creeks and during Indian summer days activities can be in back ends of major creeks.

The key to successfully catching big bass during changing winter season is to find the clouds of baitfish on your graph and stay with them most of the day. Sometime during the day, usually during the mid day to late afternoon period, there will be feeding activity that can last for several hours.

Most baitfish activity will be around creek channels and deep ledges. When you find wads of baitfish, jigging spoons, tail kickers and sidewinder spoons in ¼ ounces with chartreuse insert is all you need. When sand bass and barfish start hitting, that’s so much better. This will trigger big bass to start feeding on them. That is the time to switch to ½ to ¾ ounce swimbaits in shad or barfish pattern 6 inch size. Sometimes a 7 to 8 inch model will also produce. Hang on! You could catch a fish of a lifetime on Fork on any cast fishing swimbaits in deep water. As for technique, throw out as far as you can and let the swimbait sink to the bottom and then slowly crank back in, just fast enough for the tail action to wiggle. Don’t forget – do not set the hook when you feel fish bump the bait. Keep reeling until you are fighting fish and then “rip lips.”

If you are planning a trip to Lake Fork, I’ll be more than happy to help make your trip a successful one. If you want to book a trip or just need up-to-date information, give me a call at 903-850-5083 (cell) or 903-383-7214 (landline) or email me at dstroman@people.com. If you are wanting a guided trip, I still have openings for fall and winter trips. Good luck and good fishing!

Dean is a professional guide on Lake Fork and is sponsored by Legend Boats, Mercury Marine, Century 21 Lake Country, Gene Larew, V&M the Ultimate Bass Bait, Mossy Oak and Easy Step Systems.

In spite of its clumpy appearance, the hippopotamus is an excellent swimmer and can run as fast as a human being.

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Fish Friendly
Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Two are Better Than One-- A man was on his boat with a friend when the motor stalled in Copano Bay. The two used an anchor and line to pull themselves to shore, and when the line broke, one of them dove into the water to grab it. Luckily his friend threw a life jacket to him. The boat drifted away and the man was left hanging onto the jacket until Aransas County game wardens arrived to pull him to safety.

--Paper Shuffling Pays Off-- An individual stopped by the Brownwood law enforcement office asking for information on his boat so he could report it as stolen. Office clerks were helping the customer when they realized the boat had been registered the week before in the customer’s name but with a different address. The clerks showed the paperwork to a game warden, who began a search for the stolen vessel. When he found the boat, the suspected thief admitted partial guilt. Other suspects were interviewed, but the vessel was returned to its rightful owner.

--Turn Around, Don’t Drown-- A Brown County man ignored warning signs, drove his pickup truck across a flooded roadway and was swept away. A deputy saw the pickup floating downstream with the man on top of the cab, until at one point the water became too strong and the man fell in. The deputy observed the man being washed downstream with a blue bag in hand until he was out of sight. Two wardens launched their boat and began a search and rescue, which continued for several days with no luck. Eventually, they found the blue bag, and then recovered the body of the 61-year-old disabled vet from under a pile of logs.

--The Disappearing Child-- Small children standing up in cars tend to attract attention. A small child did just that when a Williamson County game warden passed by on his way to Austin. The warden waited for the car to pass him so he could get a better look, but by that point, the child had disappeared. When he passed them again, he looked into the back seat and could not see the child or a child seat. He pulled the driver over and found the kid hiding on the back floorboard and the driver without a license. When asked if she had ever been ticketed for her lack of license, the lady replied she had been ticketed a couple of times and even had a warrant for her arrest. The warden instructed her to find licensed drivers who could bring a car seat, and she said her sister would be there in 20 minutes. But almost 45 minutes later, the sister arrived on foot to drive the car back, but without a child’s seat. The warden called for a wrecker who took possession of the vehicle, and the driver was placed under arrest for her warrant and was issued two citations: one for driving without a driver’s license, and one for the child not in a seat.

--Two are Better Than One-- An overturned yellow kayak caught the attention of two Bexar County game wardens on Calaveras Lake. While navigating the choppy water to examine the kayak, the wardens observed another kayaker waving his arms to get their attention - with good reason. His 80-year-old friend had flipped out of the upturned kayak and had been floating for several minutes, exhausted. The wardens were able to get the elderly man and his friend out of the water and into their vessel. Both were taken to the bank where the San Antonio Fire Department was waiting to provide medical attention. Both of the friends checked out fine after some rest.

--A Reason to Sweat-- A red passenger van was driving slowly on the shoulder of the road near Dumas. A warden stopped the van and noticed a white crystal substance on the driver’s shirt and a loaded syringe on the floorboard. The driver was confused and profusely sweating. The warden found 2.7 grams of liquid heroin in the syringe on the floorboard alongside .30 grams of methamphetamine. The driver, who had an invalid license, was arrested and taken to the Moore County Jail.

--Uniform Doesn’t Match the Badge-- In Lubbock County, a man wearing a McDonald’s uniform and claiming to be a police officer, was flashing a secu-

---Continued on Page 6-B---
A Dessert Sure to Get You Perking for the Holidays

By Sue Hampton

Coffee has a heavenly scent that fills the room when brewing. It is a drink enjoyed by many, so much so, that coffee bars have become the hot spots for socializing. The beverage can be found in a variety of tempting flavors, often making a straight black cup of “Joe” a thing of the past.

Coffee flavoring is also the main ingredient in desserts ranging from ice creams to coffee cakes (literally). It seems only natural that a coffee pudding might be the right choice for a discerning palate.

This holiday season; try out this delicious coffee mousse on your favorite “java junkie” party guests. Delicately sweet and full robust coffee appeal, this dessert can be served accompanied by a steaming mug of your favorite brew, or as a stand in during the dessert hour at any event. Enjoy the taste and aroma of coffee in this recipe.

Coffee Mousse

1 envelope unflavored gelatin
4 tablespoons hot, strong coffee
3 egg yolks
½ cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon coffee liqueur
1-1/4 cups heavy cream, lightly whipped
4 egg whites

To decorate:
Whipped cream (optional)
Ground Coffee

Dissolve the powdered gelatin in 2 tablespoons of the hot coffee.
Place the egg yolks and the sugar in a bowl with the remaining coffee. Set the bowl over hot water and whisk until the mixture is thick and fluffy – almost falling in ribbons. Add the gelatin mixture and whisk until cool. Then whisk in the coffee liqueur. Leave in a cool place.

When the mixture is on the point of setting, fold in the cream and stiffly whisked eggs. Pour the mixture into a dainty bowl or soufflé dish and allow to set in the fridge.

Decorate with piped cream, if you like and scatter fine ground coffee grains over the cream.

Savor the aroma and taste of this delicious coffee mousse at your next holiday function. Happy Holidays from our home to yours! May you all have a very “MERRY CHRISTMAS!!”
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rity guard badge as he asked for gas receipts for tax write-off purposes. A warden tracked him down, and he insisted, “You know me, I’m one of you, I’m an officer, too.” He said he worked at the Lubbock County Sheriff’s Office, but he had left his badge at the office. In reality, he was a volunteer in the ministry for the Lubbock County Sheriff’s Office and possessed an expired security officer license and badge. An arrest warrant was obtained and he was booked for impersonating a public servant, as well as a security officer.

--More than One Reason-- Two men with their watercrafts were stopped by wardens on Lake Georgetown for safety violations and expired licenses. The wardens were escorting them to their truck to retrieve their identifications, but after a brief exchange between the boaters, one of them took off at high speed. A white Ford F-350 was found waiting at the ramp with its trailer in the water. They immediately loaded up their watercraft and drove off. After the warden notified the Williamson County Sheriff’s Office, the vehicle was stopped and the driver was arrested for driving with an invalid license. Both boaters were arrested for evading detention, lack of boater education, expired registration, lack of fire extinguisher, no sound producing devise, and failure to obey a Marine Safety Enforcement Officer - a full package deal.

--Caught Snagging-- Two Bowie County game wardens received information about a few late-night anglers attempting to snag fish at the Lake Wright Patman Spillway between midnight and 2 a.m. on several consecutive nights. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take fish with one or more hooks attached to a line or artificial lure used in a manner to foul-hook a fish (snagging or jerking). A fish is foul-hooked when caught by a hook in an area other than the fish’s mouth.

While on patrol, the wardens found the individuals again attempting to snag fish. On three consecutive nights, the wardens issued several citations for snagging fish and fishing without valid fishing licenses.

--Highway Hit-and-Run-- A Denton County and a Cooke County game warden were traveling home on the highway when they witnessed a hit-and-run accident involving a man. As the first officers on the scene, the wardens provided medical assistance and shut down the inside lane of the highway during rush hour traffic, maintaining the scene until local units responded. There were no serious injuries, and a witness got the suspect’s vehicle license plate number.

--I See You-- While checking for fishing violations behind Moss Lake Dam, a Cooke County game warden saw one individual get out of the lake and throw a cast net into the raceway of the water outlet. Two more individuals got out of the water to see what the first in-individual had caught. The warden watched as the three individuals put sand bass and shad in a bucket. When the warden approached them, the individuals were quick to say they had caught the sand bass with a rod and reel. The warden explained she had been watching them the whole time, so the individuals apologized. The warden issued them citations.

--Looking for Turtles but Found a Fawn-- A Cass County game warden received information about an individual who might have been in possession of threatened alligator snapping turtles. The game warden and two other wardens went to the suspect’s house, where they found two large alligator snapping turtles the suspect admitted he had recently caught on a trotline. The wardens also found a fawn the suspect was keeping in his house. After seizing the animals, the wardens issued the suspect citations for possession of a threatened species and possession of a white-tailed deer in closed season and without a permit. Cases and civil restitution are pending.

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