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2 Sections

Vol. 17

March, 2016

No. 199



8th Annual Mega Bass On Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

Anglers get ready for the 8th Annual Bass-Champs Mega Bass Tournament to be held on March 20th hosted out of Lake Fork Marina. Even Bigger and Better than last year! Over \$20,000 Cash Guaranteed EVERY HOUR. More Bonus \$\$ every hour, and a Skeeter Boat in addition to \$15,000 Cash for the overall winner! Register early (before March 9th) and you will be eligible for over \$1000 in additional door prize drawings.

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for 7th, \$300 for 8th, \$250 for 9th, \$200 for 10th, and \$150 for 11th through 15. This is truly the highest paying one day amateur bass tournament there is. There are even more advantages to winning more cash. For an even weight of 2.50-pounds, 3-pounds, 7-pounds, and 8-pound even weight, an angler can pick up an additional \$500. All pay-outs are guaranteed regardless of the number of entries.

There will also be early registration Draw Prizes from Costa, Chevron, Rigid, Abu Garcia and more.

If you were not able to make the early entry in the allotted time, you can enter at tournament headquarters located

at Lake Fork Marina on Friday, March 18th from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., Saturday March 19th from 12 p.m. until 7 p.m., or Sunday March 20th at 5 a.m.

With Lake Fork being at full pool, there will be plenty of opportunity to catch that lunker of a lifetime. If you don't see yourself catching that 10 or 11-pound bass, don't lose heart, there will be plenty of 2-pound bass winning money. You might even see one in the 2-pound range winning that \$15,000. Hope we will see you there.

If you're looking to win some really big money fishing a really great reservoir, this is your chance. For more information or an entry form go to www.bass-champs.com.



It was a learning experience for many Lake Fork residents and business owners at the State of the Lake Meeting that was held on February 16th at the Emory Civic Center

State of the Lake Public Meeting

By Don Hampton

The Lake Fork Sportsman Association, TPWD and SRA are to be commended for their efforts in informing residents and business owners conditions on Lake Fork at the State of the Lake Meeting held at the Emory Civic Center on February 16, 2016.

Carolyn West, LFSA President, opened the meeting and turned it over to Kevin Story, TPWD Marine Biologist assigned to Lake

Fork. Mr. Story with the assistance of a slide presentation went over the electro shock numbers and difference between 2014 and 2015 and how the numbers in Lake Fork had grown. In 2014 during the electro shock there were 193 bass shocked up with 63% being under 8-inches. In 2015 there were 359 shocked up with 48% being under 8-inches. Kevin also went over the growth rate for all species of fish on Lake Fork. He explained it

took 4 to 5 years for a bass to reach 16-inches in length, white crappie 2-years to reach 10-inches, black crappie 3-years, channel catfish 3-years to reach 12-inches, and white bass 2 to 4-years depending on their sporadic spawn. This will increase in the future depending on water levels.

Habitat is a key essential to fish population and LFSA part-
(See State of the Lake.....
Continued on Page 4-A)

"Bubba is going to be using old age to his advantage"

By Don Hampton

Well Bubba has finally made it to that big 65 years of age this past month. A lot of people would complain about getting old and start talking themselves into acting old. But not our Bubba. I do believe Bubba is definitely using it to his advantage. After all, one of his favorite sayings is, "It's good to get old, you just don't want to act old."

He started out by telling me now that he is 65... he has Medicare, Medicaid, and has signed up for Humana and can drop all that high prized insurance he was paying on each month. This saves him about \$400 a month and we all know what that means for Bubba. That's right... more fishing stuff!

Bubba just loved being a Senior in High School those many years ago, now I think he is going to enjoy being a Senior Citizen just as much. One thing is for sure, he is going to take full advantage of it, anything he can get a discount on or anything he has coming he is going to take full advantage of.

A perfect example of this is what he talked Bubbette or should I say conned her into it. For his birthday Bubba got a 2016 V-21 fully outfitted with more equipment and electronics than a naval submarine. It wasn't so much him getting this for his birthday, it was the poor old me stories he laid down with Bubbette in getting it.

He started out with, "Sugdumplin, my knees just ain't what they used to be. I need the smoothest

riding boat on the market. Also, just in case I happen to fall like I did on the Honey Hole Show, I need the widest boat I can possibly get! You know I can't swim like we used to down at the watering hole! I need the widest boat on the market and that Legend V-21 is it, so I won't fall in the water... I'll just fall on the deck.

Well this seemed to go just fine with Bubbette so Bubba pressed his luck as far as it would go. His next step was the electronics. He said Baby Doll, "My eyesight seems to be fading somewhat in these 'Golden Years'. With my old electronics the screen was so small I had a hard time seeing the fish and structure. I need the largest, clearest screens so that I can see without squinting my eyes or bending over with my poor old back the way it is to see the screen." So since Bubba couldn't put a 60" color television on his boat he opted for two Lowrance HDS-12 Gen 3's. He also just had to have structure and down scan on front and back of the boat, with a .1 antenna. You know, so he can see the underwater stumps around him. He wouldn't want to accidentally hit one and fall down on that big deck. He would also need to mark his way points exactly so he can find them again because in his old age his memory might be fading. When he got to his favorite fishing holes he had to have two Power Poles to hold him in place because he just didn't have the energy of days gone by to troll around much.

That wasn't quite the end of Bubba's poor old pitiful me quips though. He was really on a roll.

He just had to have a 36 volt MinnKota 112 thrust trolling motor just in case weather got bad he could get out of the stumps quickly. He also had to have a Mercury 250 Pro XS to get him back to the ramp in case he fell on the big deck and hurt his old back.

Well 'Happy Birthday Bubba'... you got everything you asked for in a boat! I still don't think Bubbette went for all that 'Poor Old Pitiful Me' stuff! I think she just loves to see you get what you want and she knows you are just a "Legend in your own mind!"



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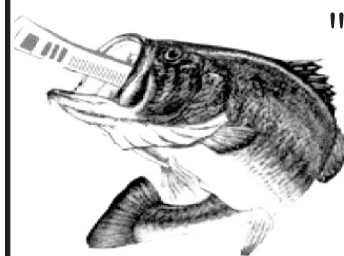
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State of the Lake Public Meeting (Continued from 1-A)

nered with TPWD has done a tremendous job at making sure our numbers increase. In the past five years they have planted over 1,000 water willows or button bushes along our shorelines. Of those 400 were two to three years old that survived the fluctuation in water levels. With the cost of the bushes being so high, Lake Fork Sportsman Association has started a program of growing their own. A green house was established at the Yantis High School sponsored in part by TPWD Kills and Spills restitution. The planting of these bushes along our shorelines gives cover to all species of fish until they reach a size that is variable to their existence, lowering the mortality rate.

Invasive grasses seemed to be the most important issue of the night. With giant salvinia being located in the back of Chaney Creek. 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 hampering fishing. Kevin explained how TPWD and SRA had placed buoys across Chaney Creek

in preventing the spread of this invasive plant. SRA staff has also installed a floating sign and lights to alert boaters to the presence of the floating bloom. TPWD staff conducted a chemical treatment using glyphosate in December and were going to again on February 17.

Kevin's presentation was concluded with a question and answer period and was joined by Spencer Dumont, TPWD Regional Director.

Kurt Kelley and Derek Spitzer, TPWD Game Wardens here in Wood County addressed the audience in reference to "Fishing Friendly". The main point was courtesy on the lake. If someone is trying to run you off from fishing around their pier or their favorite fishing spot, their advice was to video the encounter on your cell phone without agitating the situation

Fish Friendly

further and call the incident in and let them handle it.

In closing Bill Kirby with the Sabine River Authority concluded the meeting with a summary of Dallas Water and Utilities pulling schedule along with the ranging water level. At the end of his presentation he requested any ideas SRA might be able to implement in the future to make Lake Fork an even better place to live and fish.



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TPWD Proposing Changes to Bass and Catfish Fishing Regulations; Drum and Amberjack Size Limits

Fisheries staff with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are considering proposals to adjust bass and catfish fishing regulations in specific waters and areas, move saugeye under walleye harvest regulations, and clarify length limits on black drum and amberjack and rules prohibiting snagging of fish with pole-and-line.

The proposed changes to the 2016-17 Statewide Recreational and Commercial Fishing regulations include:

- Modifying harvest regulations for largemouth bass on Lake Naconiche (Nacogdoches County) from an 18-inch minimum length limit to a 16-inch maximum.
- Modify harvest regulations for smallmouth bass on Lake Meredith (Hutchinson, Moore, and Potter counties) from a 12- to 15-inch slot and 3 per day bag to a 14-inch minimum length limit and 5 per day bag.
- Modify harvest regulations for channel and blue catfish bass on Lake Tawakoni (Hunt, Raines, and Van Zandt counties). The new proposal would remove the current 12-inch minimum length limit, but with a modified 25 fish daily bag (blues and channels combined). Within the 25 bag, only seven fish could exceed 20 inches in length and of those seven fish, only two could exceed 30 inches.
- Modify harvest regulations for largemouth bass on the Sabine River in Newton and Orange counties, and in Chambers, Galveston, Jefferson, and Orange coun-

ties. This proposal would reduce the minimum length limit for largemouth bass to 12 inches and retain the current five fish daily bag limit.

--Modify saugeye harvest regulations to remove the current 18-inch minimum length limit and change the daily bag limit from three to five, only two of which may be greater than 16 inches (same as walleye harvest regulations).

--In a housekeeping measure, the department is clarifying the maximum size limit for black drum is 30 inches and minimum total length limit on amberjack is 38 inches to align with new federal regulations that utilize a different measurement guideline.

--The department is also seeking to clarify that snagging or foul hooking any fish using pole-and-line in fresh and salt water is prohibited.

--Modify regulations to mirror legislative statute change; the tail of a shark may no longer be removed prior to final destination or delivery to a licensed dealer. It will still be lawful to remove the head of broadbill swordfish, king mackerel, and sharks prior to final destination.

Comments on the proposed black drum and amberjack rules may be submitted by phone or e-mail to Jeremy Leitz (512) 389-4333; e-mail: jeremy.leitz@tpwd.texas.gov, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

Comments on the proposed clarification of snagging rules, and the prohibition on removing the tail of a shark may be submitted by phone or e-mail to Brandi Reeder (512) 389-4853; e-mail: brandi.reeder@tpwd.texas.gov, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

Comments on the proposed bass, catfish, and saugeye rules may be submitted by phone or e-mail to Ken Kurzawski (512) 389-4591; e-mail: ken.kurzawski@tpwd.texas.gov, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

Comments may also be submitted through the department's Internet web site www.tpwd.texas.gov in February once the proposals have been published in the Texas Register as well as at the following public meetings.

Public hearings on these proposals are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1 in Emory at the Emory City Center on Hwy. 19 North, and at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2 in Beaumont at the Jefferson County Courthouse.

A live online public hearing via webinar will also be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 3. Details and instructions for participation in the online public hearing webinar will be made available on the TPWD website.

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It's Lunker Season on Lake Fork

By David Ozio

"It's lunker time on Lake Fork and March is the month when your trophy dreams can come true. The big green fish are on the move and looking to get cozy with their partners for the annual spawn. March is when the term "staging" comes into focus as these fish will set up on areas just outside the bays where they will do their business. It's all about recognizing these areas and having the confidence that time well spent will deliver the hawg of a lifetime.

The best areas to target these pre-spawn bass are on main lake and secondary points at the entrance of major creeks, creek channel edges and bends, drains and ditches that are

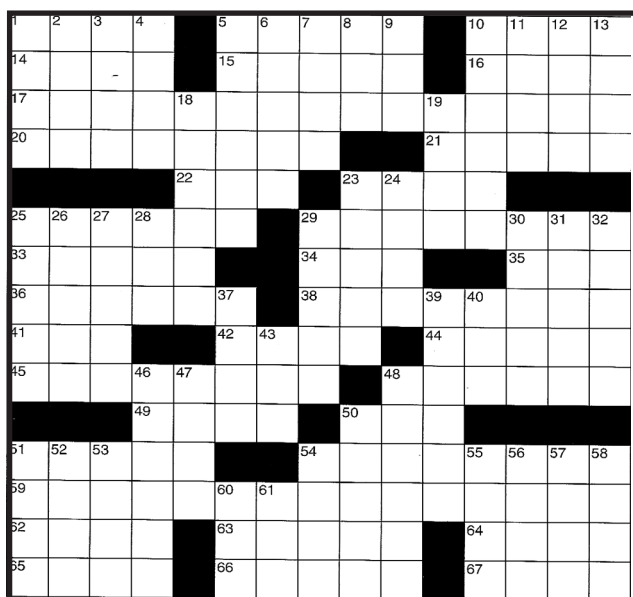
in close proximity to spawning flats. These staging fish will feed heavily through late February and early March while waiting for water temps to reach a consistent 58-62 degrees before advancing to the bedding areas. Water temp is the single most important factor during this time of year and a huge cold front can spell trouble for the advancing bass especially if it's near the March full moon.

Provided all conditions are stable, start your search on the northwest side of the largest creeks and key on the current water temps in that area. The higher the thermometer reading, the better chance you have of seeing those giants cruising the shallows. Once the bass feel comfortable in an area, the ritual begins. Your job will be to target these big fish as they are setting up house. The all time best bait to capture your trophy of a lifetime will be on a big swimbait. There are several types on the market and you will need to find one that is weedless. Color choices can range from a bone color to light hitch or dark hitch. All will work under varied conditions. Throw these baits into very shallow water in the aforementioned areas of the lake and get ready for some heart stopping action. Don't be afraid to chunk these baits into the thick-



est cover. They are designed to slide right out and keep on truckin.

During this time of the year, there are other patterns that will work equally as well. The Strike King 8.0 squarebill will deliver it's share of the pre-spawn giants. Shad colors work well and direct your efforts to the main lake and secondary points which are located in the near vicinity of the spawning areas. Shell beds also play a key role in how these fish will set up and spending time with a local guide can be the big bass education you've always needed. They will show you what to look for and how to cover the



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Musical instrument | 36. Nome state |
| 5. Baboon genus | 38. Type of delivery |
| 10. In bed | 41. Protects from weather |
| 14. Medicinal plant | 42. School groups |
| 15. Central Florida city | 44. "The Divine Comedy" poet |
| 16. Knockout (slang) | 45. Railway cars |
| 17. NBA teams | 48. Diviner |
| 20. Skeletal muscles | 49. Gulls |
| 21. Circuit | 50. Gentle wind |
| 22. Foot (Latin) | 51. Language of Sulu Archipelago |
| 23. Mend | 54. Type of chord |
| 25. Digressions | 59. NBA teams |
| 29. Capital of Chile | 62. Changes, in a way |
| 33. Country in northwest Africa (French) | 63. Crystal |
| 34. _____ E. Winslow, 1941 Pulitzer Prize winner | 64. Brews |
| 35. Engineering company | 65. Affliction |
| | 66. Way to deal a blow to |
| | 67. Hindu deity |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Physical assistance | 28. Runs PCs |
| 2. Away from wind | 29. Soul and calypso songs |
| 3. Weight unit | 30. Belongs to sun god |
| 4. Persistently annoying person | 31. Annoy |
| 5. Shetland and Welsh | 32. Capitalist |
| 6. Sours | 37. Copycat |
| 7. Political action committees | 39. Admirer |
| 8. Type or kind | 40. Informal, in a way |
| 9. United States, Latin America and Canada belong to this group (abbr.) | 43. Denotes three |
| 10. Graduates | 46. Way to go on |
| 11. Stem | 47. Insect feeler |
| 12. Norse goddess of old age | 48. Antenna |
| 13. Type of remains | 50. Saint |
| 18. Russian monetary unit | 51. Strikebreaker |
| 19. Homer's son | 52. Seaweed, for example |
| 23. Valleys | 53. Manner or carriage |
| 24. Belonging to the American Newspaper Association | 54. _____ Spumante (Italian wine) |
| 25. Maidservants | 55. Growl |
| 26. Bush | 56. Sicilian city |
| 27. Extremely angry | 57. Isolated fact |
| | 58. Mythological mountain |
| | 60. Type of RAM |
| | 61. Radioactivity unit |

Answers on Page 21-A

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Continued on Page 20-A)

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BLUE GRASS GOSPEL MUSIC AT WILD GAME DINNER

It's time once again for the annual FISH & WILD GAME DINNER at LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH. It will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2016, 6:00-8:00pm in the Family Life Center at 9483 W. FM 515, Alba, TX.

This year the guest speaker will be BOBBY BRASHER from Tyler, Texas. Bobby is one of the founders of the Christian Hunters & Anglers Association. Their mission is to assist the local church in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through outdoor ministries. Bobby was the head football coach at The Brook Hill School and is now the Dean of Students. He will entertain

us with stories of his outdoor adventures, and misadventures. And he will inspire us with the spiritual lessons he has learned from hunting, fishing and life in general.

Blue Grass Gospel music will be provided by the rousing group "On The Way" from Longview. These guys will make it a fun evening you don't want to miss.

Door prizes will include a shotgun, guided fishing trips, rod & reel combos, cash, merchandise & gift certificates from local merchants. The following guides have donated fishing trips previously: John Tanner, Roger Creason, Gary Johnson, James Niggemeyer, Stan Kuhn, Rick Loomis, James

Caldemeyer, Tony Clark, David Strahan, J.W. Peterson, Sam Cotton, BJ Stewart, Danny Holder, Mike Bell, and Kurt Kelley. You must be present to win.

The menu typically includes dishes made from venison, elk, wild hog, fish, ducks, pheasants, and anything else that is donated and edible.

Tickets are \$10 per person and may be obtained at the church office or Heaven Bound Books in Quitman. Capacity is 400 and the event is always a sell out, so get your tickets NOW.

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

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"The March Moon Report" on Crappie

By Terri Moon

Well – here it is – finally springtime – and the number one question I'm asked is "when is the best time to come???" Honestly, I wish I could predict it!! Just when you think you've got it figured out, Mother Nature will throw you a "curve ball"! The water temperature will get just perfect – then here comes those 30 degree mornings that knock the water temps back which really affects the shallow crappie. Then it's a waiting game for temperatures to return to optimum levels. If we can just get a few consecutive nights in the 50's and the water temps reach the 60's, it will be "game on"!!

The male crappie are in transition moving up the creeks seeking warmer water and following the baitfish. We've been checking the 12 to 25 ft. areas while constantly monitoring my Lowrance HDS12 to watch for any changes in depths of the baitfish and adjusting our casts accordingly. The crappie will generally suspend at 6 to 12 ft.

Start checking the



mouths of the coves around creek channels and isolated timber. Then search shallower as the water temperatures rise.

Our "March Winds" came early this year. We've had some extremely dangerous winds, so please use good judgment because this time of year we are really at the mercy of the weather.

Looks like we are in for another good spawn this year due to high lake levels that will give these fish many new hiding places. It will be a little tougher for the fishermen because the majority of the timber is now underwater and more rain on the way.

As the fish move shallower, we are downsizing our baits to 1/32 to 1/16 oz. and working it slowly just off the bottom. Bobby Gar-

lands Black Pearl Shad and Lake Fork Tackles Live Baby Shad in electric chicken have been working for us. Also if you like hand tied jigs, Uncle Bubbas 1/16 oz. grey & black is also producing.

Don't forget March 1st the 10-inch minimum goes back in effect. Please be gentle with those that don't measure. They are next seasons catch!

If you are headed to Lake Fork, be sure and come by Lake Fork Marina. They have everything you need for a day on the water!

My best to you all and I'm looking forward to an awesome spring!

Thoughts and prayers to my family – we lost our 96 year old dear Aunt Dot this week. She will be missed terribly – love to all!

TERRI MOON

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Justin Wall was 'Bassin With Bubba' on February 19, 2016 when he caught this nice bass on a chatter bait with a Lake Fork Trophy 3" swim minnow for a trailer. C.P.R. (Photo Courtesy Bassin' With Bubba Guide Service)



Manny Cuesta was 'Bassin With Bubba' on February 19, 2016 when he caught this nice bass on a chatter bait with a Lake Fork Trophy 3" swim minnow for a trailer. C.P.R. (Photo Courtesy Bassin' With Bubba Guide Service)



Had my son Chad out on Lake doing a little "Bassin With Bubba" when he caught this nice bass. I was getting jealous because I wasn't getting a chance to work the net. C.P.R. (Photo Courtesy Bassin' With Bubba Guide Service)



John Holmes & Shane Kimball

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Sweet Monica (Long) Rosser
Dallas, Texas



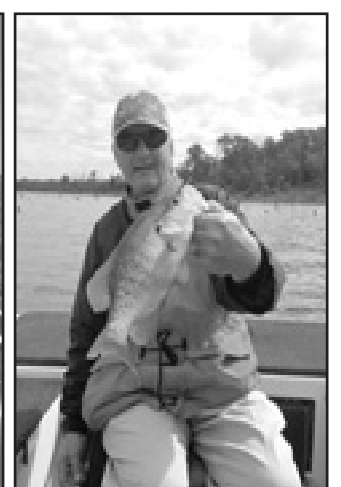
Porter Pierce & Bill Hoover
Lake Winnsboro



Audie Long
Dallas, Texas



Danny Newport &
Denise Lawshe,
Conroe, Texas



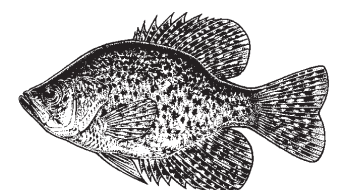
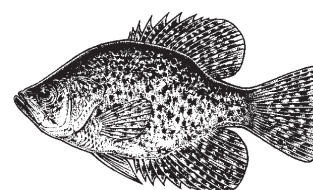
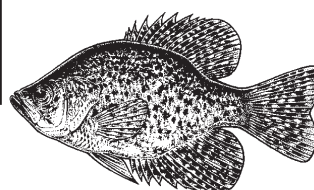
Rick Buzzard
Dallas, Texas



Elliott LaBorde & neighbor Joe,
Lake Fork, TX.,



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Spring into Fishing at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

Families looking for a place to have an inexpensive, rewarding family vacation during spring break need look no farther than the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC)

in Athens.

Located just 75 miles southeast of Dallas, 100 miles east of Waco and 180 miles north of Houston, TFFC is a one-tank-of-gas round trip destination for nearly half the population of Texas.

TFFC offers free fishing with paid admission for channel catfish and rainbow trout with no license, bait, tackle

or experience required, and from March 13 until the end of rainbow trout season in late April, visitors can harvest trout for free. Daily limit is five trout per person. Anyone wishing to harvest trout should bring an ice chest and ice.

Visitors will also want to check out the center's 300,000 gallons of aquaria featuring native Texas fish. There are some truly monster fish on display, including huge largemouth bass and alligator gar. All the aquaria can be viewed from a covered walkway, and indoor exhibits include a fishing museum, a freshwater fishing hall of fame, displays showing how fish are spawned and raised and a well-stocked gift shop. As an added bonus, this year's Fly Fish Texas event falls in the middle of spring break. You can come to TFFC on March 12 and learn to tie a fly, cast a fly and catch a fish all in the same day. The event is put on by volunteers from fly-fishing clubs all over Texas and is free with paid admission.

Food service will be available on site March 5 and from March 8 through March 12, making it easy to spend the whole day at TFFC. Visitors are also welcome to picnic in the areas provided, and Athens--where the hamburger was invented (yes, really!)--has plenty of restaurants.

Weekdays at 11:00 a.m., Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. a diver hand-feeds the fish in a 26,000-gallon aquarium with a viewing auditorium. Visitors can ask questions of the diver through a live underwater link.

After the dive show, visitors can take a tram tour of the hatchery where TFFC annually raises millions of largemouth bass for stocking into public waters. Most visitors disembark the tram at the far end of the hatchery and walk back along the ADA-compliant Wetlands Trail. This 0.8-mile, wooded trail offers the opportunity to see a variety of birds, turtles, wetland plants and wildflowers.

All this is yours for the price of admission: \$5.50 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, and \$3.50 for children ages 4 to 12. TFFC is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday; closed on Mondays. For more information, call (903) 676-2277 or visit <http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/tffc>. Preplan your trip with the TFFC app, available free from your app store.

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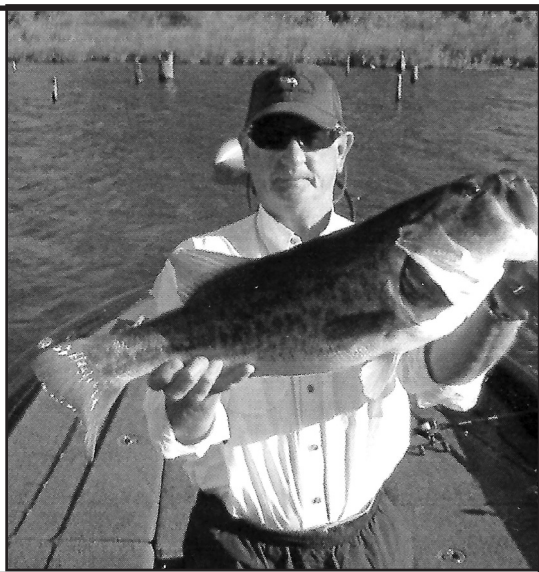
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Early Entry Incentive: Only Early Entries Qualify for Drawing To Win a 2016 Legend Boat, Powered by Mercury, MotorGuide, & Lowrance Electronics. To Qualify for Drawing, Entries must be received on or before April 30, 2016. "Legend Advantage Members Win Double Hourly Cash Awards"

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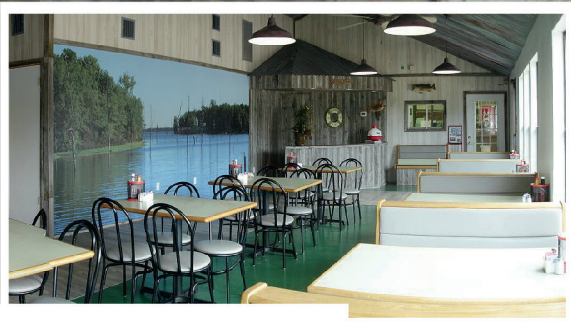
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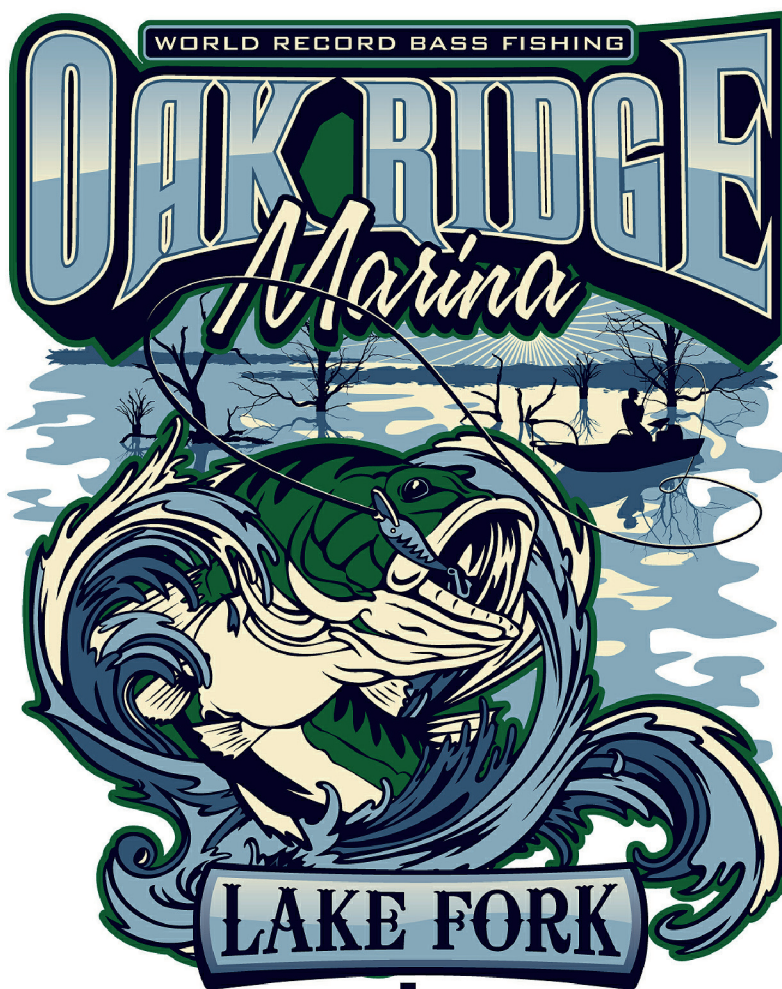
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--That's a Lot of Illegally Taken Deer-- When two Matagorda County game wardens entered a deer hunting camp to check for deer hunting compliance, they noticed a deer hanging from the bucket of a tractor. The three individuals in the camp, all from out of state, admitted to taking several deer, even

though none of them had hunting licenses. Further inspection of the camp revealed eight more quartered whitetail deer in three coolers and six buck heads that all measured less than the required 13-inch minimum inside spread. The hunters said they had already thrown three doe heads in the nearby woods, though the wardens only recovered one. The wardens charged the hunters with hunting without a valid non-resident hunting license, taking illegal

whitetail buck (six counts) and possession of whitetail deer with proof of sex removed (two counts). The wardens transported all three hunters to meet with the local Justice of the Peace, who received a guilty plea from each hunter. The hunters were fined about \$6,000 and owe an additional \$8,000 in civil restitution. The wardens donated the seized deer to local charities.

--The Case of the Poisoned Birds-- A Brazoria County game warden assisted a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services special agent with a bird poisoning investigation. They found that a local farmer had placed poisoned rice in a field. Several cowbirds and a few hawks were found dead in the area. Federal charges of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are pending.

--Running Toward the Law-- After patrolling opening day of mule deer season for several hours, a Dawson County game warden was heading home through Lubbock County when he saw a vehicle driving in the wrong traffic lane. The vehicle was traveling head on in the direction of the warden, who swerved to avoid a head on collision with the vehicle. The warden stopped the vehicle and conducted field sobriety tests, which the driver failed. The warden learned the driver had 31 previous arrests and arrested him for driving while intoxicated.

(See Game Warden Field Notes..Continued on Page 19-A)

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or call: 903-383-7748 to be put on Mailing List!!



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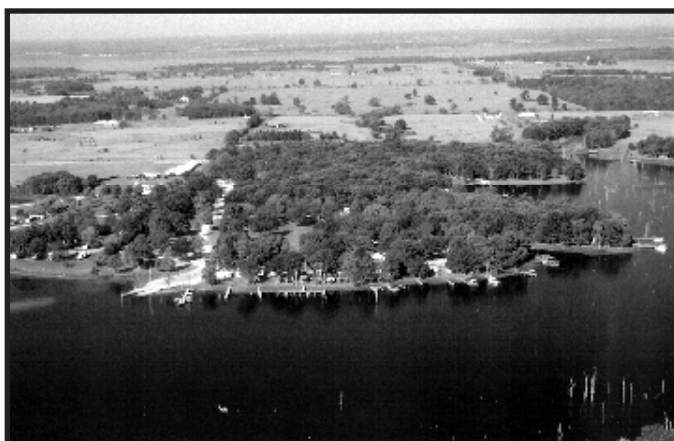
**St. Louis
Ribs**

**Boneless
Chicken
Breast**

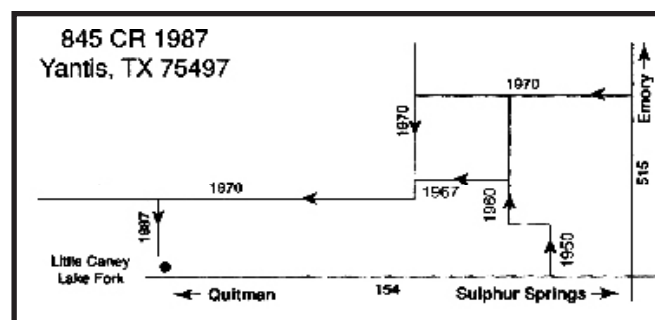
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TPWD Proposing Changes to Deer Hunting Regulations for 2016-17

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is considering expanding whitetailed deer hunting into 14 counties across the western Panhandle, and creating additional deer hunting opportunities in

East Texas. The recommendations are among a slate of proposed deer hunting regulation changes for 2016-17.

TPWD will be taking public comment on the following proposed

changes to the 2016-17 Statewide Hunting Proclamation, with input to be considered prior to any action by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at its March 24 public hearing:

--Due to a lack of demand, the department is seeking to eliminate the Antlerless and Spike-buck Control Permit;

--TPWD staff are also proposing to create a definition of "unbranched antlered deer" for the purpose of identifying a legal buck across seasons and to alleviate confusion among hunters;

--Staff also seek to replace the "Special Late Antlerless and Spike-buck Season" with a "Special Late Season" to accommodate the inclusion of "unbranched antlered deer" in the bag limit;

--The department proposes to allow the take of antlerless deer without a permit on U.S. Forest Service Lands during youth-only seasons;

--Staff also are proposing to implement a full white-tailed deer season (and archery-only open season) in 14 Panhandle counties;

--In addition, the department is looking to implement additional "doe days" in 23 counties; and

--Implement a muzzleloader-only open season in 32 additional counties.

Additional details on these proposals will be published in the Texas Register and available for review later this month in narrated presentations to be archived on TPWD's website.

Comments on the proposed rules may be submitted by phone or e-mail to Robert Macdonald (512) 389-4775; e-mail: robert.macdonald@tpwd.texas.gov, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

Comments may also be submitted through the department's Internet web site www.tpwd.texas.gov once the proposals have been published in the Texas Register, and at the following public meetings.

Public hearings on these proposed changes are scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, in Ennis at the Ellis County Sub Courthouse, 207 Sonoma Trail; Monday, March 7 in Tahoka at the City Hall Meeting Room, 1807 Main St.; Tuesday, March 8 in Groesbeck at the Groesbeck Convention Center, 106 E. Navasota Street; and Wednesday, March 9 in Cameron at Bea's Kitchen, 101 E. Main St. All meetings are set for 7 p.m.

A live online public hearing via webinar will also be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 3. Details and instructions for participation in the online public hearing webinar will be made available on the TPWD website.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

33rd Semi-Annual Open Tournament

Mar. 12, 2016 * Lake Fork, Texas

Oak Ridge Marina * 2919 W. St. Hwy. 154



Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries
Drawings will be held after weigh-in for door prizes

903-878-2529

1st Place	\$1,040.00
2nd Place	\$780.00
3rd Place	\$520.00
4th Place	\$260.00
5th thru 10th Place	\$100.00



There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry
Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)

1st Place	\$500.00
2nd Place	\$300.00
3rd Place	\$200.00



1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00.
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Mar. 5, 2016.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Saturday, Mar. 12, 2016.
4. Check in time: Friday, Mar. 11, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Mar. 12, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at Oakridge Marina.
5. To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
6. Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station). NO FISHING from midnight till start time.
7. Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer fishing allowed).
8. Contestants must fish from a boat. No bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
10. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
12. Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (or state law limits at the time of the tournament).
13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
14. Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.
15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
16. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
18. Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of Texas Trails Bassmasters and will be released (with the exception of trophy or dead fish).

19. In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following position will be combined and evenly divided between the tying contestants.
20. Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to this tournament.
21. Contestants may fished with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.
22. Use of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES or CONTROLLED DRUGS are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.
23. Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.
24. Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon Texas Trails Bassmasters effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualification from this and all future Texas Trails Bassmasters tournaments.
25. Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.
26. All protests must be registered in writing with the tournament judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an Open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.
27. All boats must be 8 feet in length or longer. An aerated live well is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish.
28. All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this Texas Trails Bassmasters event.
29. Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification.

Additional Information

For more information or for information on joining Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork visit our website

www.texastrailsbassmasters.com



Remove entry form below this line. Retain above portion for your records



Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Mar. 5, 2016 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (optional). Print clearly.

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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 liabilities to me and/or my equipment.

Contestant Signature _____

Minor's release: Signed by _____ Parent/Guardian

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Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Ck# _____

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Lake Fork Guide Brian Duplechain caught this nice bass weighing 12.6-pounds while fishing on Lake Fork during February. Close to a ShareLunker! C.P.R.

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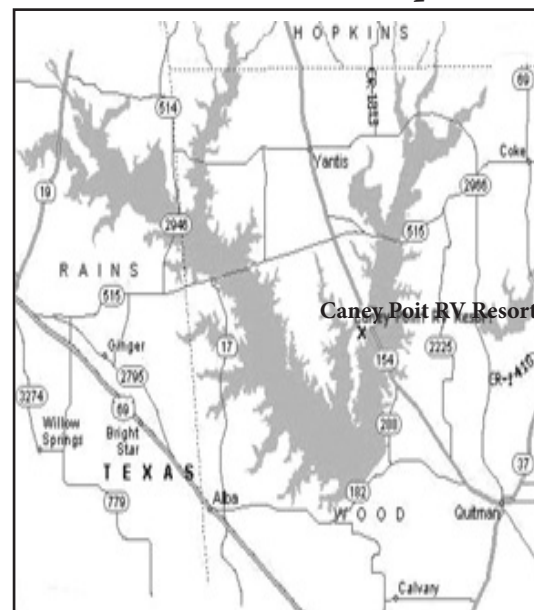
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"Pack of Knowledge" The Forgotten Finesse Rig

By Andrew Grills

Picture a flotilla of bass boats in your favorite fishing hole. That's what we deal with on a daily basis throughout the spring here on Lake Fork. Following suit with rattletraps, spinnerbaits, and plastic lizards often doesn't cut it when the fish are so highly pressured. Therefore I am always looking for a different approach to show the fish something a little different. One of my favorite techniques for shallow water in the spring is the often overlooked "finesse Carolina rig".

There are times when this rig will outfish any-

thing you can throw at them. It covers water efficiently, catches fish of all sizes, and is very easy to fish. All of these benefits are great from the stand point of a fishing guide, entertaining customers of all skill levels. I find the finesse Carolina rig is one of the most "customer friendly" techniques out there.

I will use this rig in several situations. It's a great rig for windblown points, humps, and pond dams. When fishing these structures during the pre-spawn period, this rig will enable you to maintain contact with the bottom and your lure. One of the best guide trips I have ever had, was using this rig with a young married couple who were both novice anglers. The wind was gusting over 30mph and I had no choice but to tie up to a stump near a shallow pond dam. They proceeded to catch 37 bass up to 9lbs in just a few hours!

The finesse Carolina rig can be rigged on casting or spinning gear. For customers who have trouble learning to use a baitcast reel, I can rig up a spinning reel with 20-30-lb braid, and attach a 15-lb fluorocarbon leader and they're in business. On casting equipment, I use 20-lb fluorocarbon main line, and a 15-lb fluorocarbon leader. 3/16oz is a good starting point for sinker weight, but around grass I may go as light as 1/8oz. If the wind is really blowing, you can go as heavy as needed to maintain contact with the

rig. A seven foot, medium-heavy action rod, with a medium to high gear ratio reel is a good setup for this application.

I like to add a glass bead between the sinker and the swivel. This makes some clicking noises that may attract some attention and it also helps protect the knot. I usually measure my leader length from my elbow to the tip of my finger, which is about 18 inches. Finesse worms, baby brush hogs, and flukes are great choices to complete the rig, the fluke being my favorite. A 3/0 Gamakatsu EWG hook is a perfect fit.

I think the key to success with this rig is employing a painstakingly slow retrieve. Often, my bites come while I'm holding my rod with one hand while talking to my customers. I try to count the rocks, roots, or shells my sinker is crawling over.

Hopefully this information will add to your success this spring. It's a simple rig that we've all probably used before, but may have forgotten about. If I can be of any assistance to you on your trip to Lake Fork, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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, SmashTech Custom Baits, and Picasso Lures.



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Lake Fork Guide

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 14-A)

--Wouldn't Pass Muster-- While patrolling Llano County during the general season opening day, a game warden entered a camp with six out-of-state hunters who had 13 whitetail deer, three Rio Grande turkeys and four feral hogs in their possession. After inspecting the animals, tags and hunting licenses, the warden found that one of the hunters was hunting with a free Texas Resident Active Duty Military license. The warden, who is a veteran himself, noticed the individual's military grooming standards were not up to par with what is usually required of active duty service members. After asking the individual to produce his state and military identification cards, the warden found the individual was actually a citizen of another state and was not active duty military. The warden seized two whitetail bucks and one

doe from the individual and filed multiple citations against him. Civil restitution is pending.

--Follow the Vultures-- When two Willacy County game wardens spotted several turkey vultures in a ranch off a county road, they went to the scene and found a dump site of freshly killed feral hogs and javelinas. The wardens followed the tracks to a hunters' campsite and found a list of hunters who had hunted that morning. The warden contacted the lease master and found the individual responsible for the dump site. The warden filed waste of game charges against the hunter and civil restitution is pending.

--Left for Dead-- Two Val Verde County game wardens responded to an illegal hunting call in a Lake Amistad neighborhood. Residents reported seeing a large buck roaming around

the neighborhood with an arrow in its chest. The wardens found the buck, though it had to be euthanized because its injury was severe. The wardens determined the arrow was a crossbow bolt and are conducting an investigation, since no hunting is allowed in the neighborhood.

--"Some" Is an Understatement-- While a Grayson County game warden was talking to the two occupants of the vehicle he had just stopped, he learned they were returning to Louisiana from a duck hunting trip in northwestern Texas. The warden asked if they had any game in the vehicle, and they said they had "some" ducks. Before opening the hunters' two ice chests, the warden asked if they had too many ducks, and the driver said they probably did have too many ducks for just two people. The warden

counted 107 ducks in the hunters' possession. The men claimed some of the ducks belonged to other

hunters, though they couldn't provide any documentation to support their claim. While

neither hunter could remember exactly how
(See Game Warden
Continued on Page 22-A)



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It's Lunker Season on Lake Fork (continued from Page 6-A)

right water to locate the "always elusive" slouch's. Like I said before, cold fronts can be a game changer when pursuing trophy bass so pay close attention to the areas that you are fishing. Fish will pull back during these conditions and you will need to back out and target wood in the 6-14ft range to collect your trophy prize. A black/blue jig will gain the staring role and be sure to stay in contact with the jig to feel the bite. Big bass will often bite very softly so you will

need to control the slack line to feel the jig as it scours the bottom.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in March searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LakeForkGuideDavidOzio>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I run a Skeeter 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."

DAVID OZIO

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Louis Passilas with
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Ty West with David
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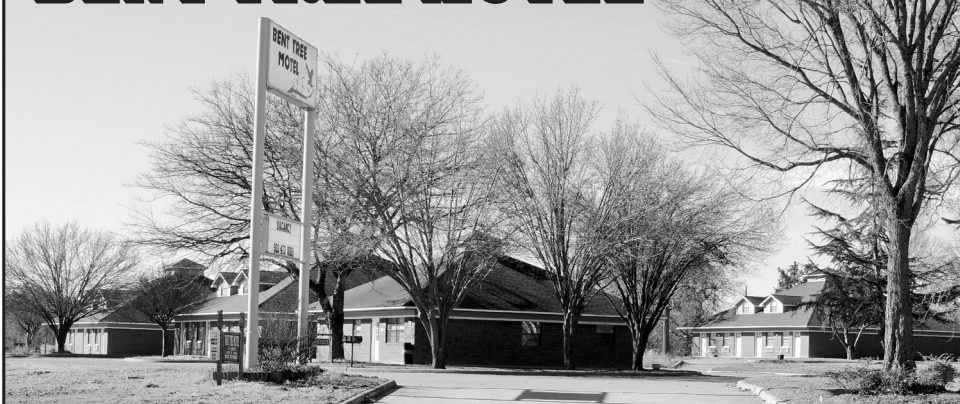


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Lewis Keese, Mike
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Texas Trails Bassmasters Open Tournament

By Don Hampton

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 37th Semi Annual Open Bass Tournament on March 12th at Oak Ridge Marina. Any of you anglers coming to fish the 8th Annual BassChamps Mega Bass Tournament, this is perfect timing for you to pre-fish the tournament and maybe make your entry fee.

Fishing hours for the tournament will be 6 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. It is a five fish limit, and an individual tournament. More than one person can fish in a boat but all have to be a paid entry.

Early entries must be postmarked by March 3rd or you may enter at the tournament headquarters. Texas Trails Bassmasters will be taking entries from 4 p.m. till 9 p.m. on Friday, March 11th, and again on Saturday, March 12th from 5 a.m. till 6 a.m.

Entry at tournament headquarters is \$45 per person with a \$10 op-

tion for big bass. There will be an 80% pay back with a 100% pay back on 3 places of big bass.

Texas Trails Bassmasters is a highly motivated progressive bass fishing club with ties to the Wish to Fish Foundation and weight masters at the Wood County Kid Fish. If you are thinking of joining a bass club,

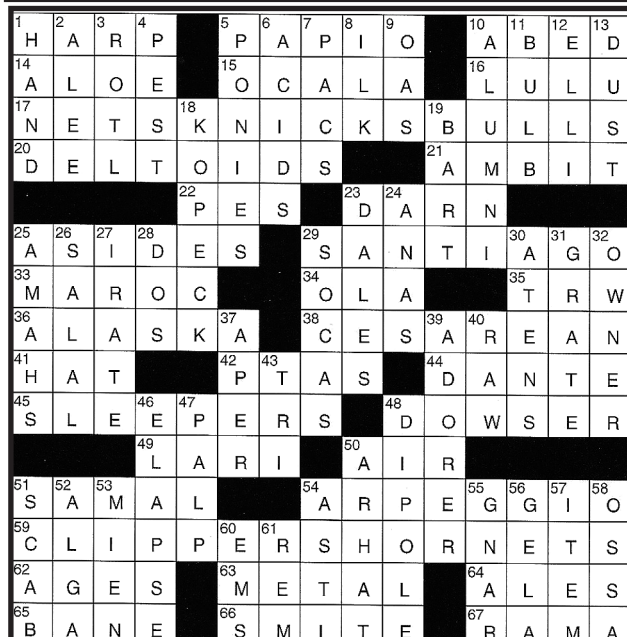
you can't go wrong with Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork. For more information or an entry form for the tournament go to www.texas trails bassmasters.com. Or give Rodney Ellis, President, a call at 903-714-6473 or Don Hampton at 903-360-6994.

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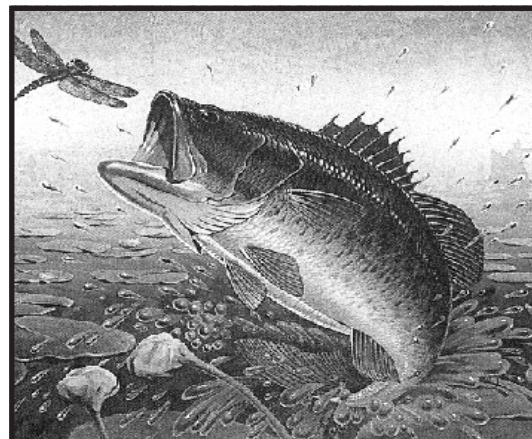
Government Find

The titles of 14 political officials are hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

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

many ducks he'd taken, they both admitted to exceeding their daily bag limits during the hunting trip. The warden then discovered one of the hunters did not have a hunting license, and neither hunter had a migratory bird endorsement. The warden filed multiple cases for being over the daily bag limit, hunting without a license and hunting without a migratory bird endorsement. The hunter who did have a valid Texas hunting license was allowed to keep his possession limit of 18 ducks, but the other 89 ducks, with a civil restitution value of over \$9,000, were seized and donated.

--Flipping Out-- Af-

ter receiving a call from dispatch about an overturned boat, two game wardens responded to the scene. Two adult hunters and an 11-year-old hunter had parked their duck boat alongside a levee, and, as the first hunter stepped on the levee, it gave way. The current flipped the boat over, tossing the other hunter and the child into the water. The other hunter managed to pull the child from the current and both swam to higher ground. The two wardens located the hunters and took them to a more accessible area where Trinity City Fire and Rescue could pick them up.

--Don't Do the Crime

If You Can't Pay the Fine-- Two Cherokee County game wardens responded to a call about a deer someone found shot in the roadway. The witness gave a description of a vehicle he saw near the area. Investigating late into the night and into the next day, the wardens found two suspects who confessed to killing the deer with a 12-gauge shotgun from the roadway at night. One of the suspects had a suspended hunting license because he failed to pay civil restitution on a previous deer charge from a few years ago. The case is still pending.

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