

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



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

2 Sections

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Free

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No. 201



By Don Hampton

Anglers get ready for the premier tournament of the year. The "12th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament" will be held on May 13, 14, 15.

This is not an owner's tournament. The name of the event is based on Lake Fork being a legendary big bass lake. ALL BOATS, MAKES, AND MODELS ARE WELCOME TO COME AND COMPETE!

We will be paying 8 places per hour with the first to be knocked out of seventh place will receive a \$100 gift certificate from one of the sponsoring businesses. This little enticement has some anglers really playing the game

bringing a small bass that may weigh under a pound to the scales at the top of each hour just to be knocked out of the hour first and secure a win. First each hour will be paid \$500, second \$400, third \$300, fourth \$200, fifth \$175, sixth \$150, seventh \$125, and first out of seventh to receive the \$100 gift certificate.

Anglers if you missed the chance to get in for the early entry into the tournament, you will still have a chance to win one of the Legend boats to be given away and a chance to get in on the hourly pay-backs!

Anglers will be competing for two boats for the two heaviest 24" and over the slot, one boat for the heaviest

under 16" and one boat for the early entry drawing. Anglers winning these boats will receive a certificate for the boat so they might order the colors or upgrades of their choice to more personalize their 2016 Legend boat.

We will be set up and taking entries at Lake Fork Marina, the tournament headquarters, on Thursday, May 12th from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m., on Friday from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday the same hours and on Sunday from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. for anyone just wishing to fish one day. Anglers can fish one, two, or all three days

(See 12th Annual....

Continued on Page 7-A)



Mike Kostial was fishing Lake Fork on April 6th when he caught this 25.5 inch 12.2-lb hawg. He caught this large female on a custom made Lockhart Lures spinnerbait. C.P.R.

7th Annual World Championship Bass on The Fly Fishing Tournament

The 7th Annual World Championship Bass on The Fly Fishing Tournament will be held May 7, 2016 at Lake Fork Marina from 6:00am - 2:00pm. This unique tournament is exclusively for fly fishing anglers and only rods, reels, line &

lures made for fly fishing can be used. There is no rod length or line weight limit for equipment. It is the largest of only two such events in the entire country!

Why would anyone want to fly fish for bass? Ted Warren, the tournament organizer,

says "it's just like bow hunting for deer. It's more challenging and requires more skill and patience which brings a greater sense of accomplishment."

Another unique feature is that it is a Catch-

(See 7th Annual....

Continued on Page 9-A)

"Goodness Snakes Alive!"

By: Don Hampton

When it comes right down to it Bubba is not the bravest man in the world, especially when it comes to snakes. Believing in the Bible and "The Good Lord" like he does he believes that those belly crawling, scaly, forked tongue critters are just evil. When it comes to a snake crossing Bubba's path, he would much rather choose a different direction or else go back the way he came at a very rapid pace. Bubba has probably choked more snakes with trail dust than he has killed with his shotgun. He hates snakes so much he has even passed up some of his favorite fishing holes because a

snake was there and it takes a lot for him to do something like that.

Now that you have an idea how Bubba feels about snakes, you can multiply that by ten and come up with how afraid Bubbette is of snakes. She won't even watch a television show where snakes are involved. She sees one in a movie and she is grabbing for the remote control faster than Bubba could run away from one.

Men are funny creatures though, and Bubba will be the first to laugh at himself. When women are present, men are always brave. For one reason or another, a man can mask his fear with so much macho bravado that wom-

en think of them as their sole protector. Such was the recent case of the snake on the flagpole.

Bubba had just left for work and hadn't gone more than five miles from the house when his mobile phone rang. Bubbette was on the other end of the line in a panic. He couldn't understand a word she was saying in the first part of the conversation so he pulled his truck over to try and calm her down before proceeding any further down the road. He knew Bubbette was going to mow the yard while he was gone and the only thing he could figure out was that something was wrong with the riding lawn mower or else the house was on fire. It

turned out to be neither.

When Bubba calmed Bubbette down enough so she could speak... all she could say was, "Snake, flag pole, snake, big snake, flag pole!!!" Bubba knowing her like he does deciphered this out real well. He knew it was time for him to put on his macho brave hat and come to her rescue. Another thing that makes Bubba get brave when coming to Bubbette's rescue is he knows she will reward him with her delicious buttermilk battered fried chicken. Bubba will get real brave for some fried chicken.

Bubba got his courage up and told Bubbette he was coming back and would be right there to take care of the

situation. He was not prepared for the sight he saw when he drove into his yard. All his fears of snakes were pushed aside by the comical scene he was greeted with.

There was Bubbette standing on the seat of the lawnmower with his 410 shotgun in one hand and a hoe in the other. Bubba was smart enough on this occasion not to laugh.

When Bubba asked where the snake was, Bubbette would point first with the hoe and then with the shotgun. Bubba was pretty quick to relieve her of the shotgun and in all of his bravado thinking how those belly crawling, scaly, forked tongue critters are just evil, tracked the snake down and shot it. I guess he probably

shot it about twelve to fifteen times. Bubba likes to do things right and this way he figures he rid the world of a little evil.

Bubba walked back to Bubbette looking like the conquering hero returning from war with his gun on his shoulder. He probably would have been greeted as such if he hadn't said, "There ya go sug'dumplin... all taken care of! Oh yeah, what's for supper tonight and when you go to Wally World to pick up some chicken, will you get me some more shotgun shells?"

Well, she got him the shotgun shells in case any more snakes showed up, but I think he had bologna sandwiches that night!!

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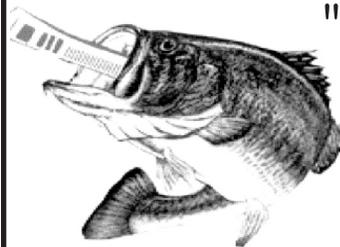
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538 Private Road 5861 • Yantis, Tx. 75497

Lake Fork call Don: (903) 383-7748 or

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The Toyota Texas Bass Classic: A Conservation Success Story

If there's one thing bass anglers can all probably agree on, it's the need to protect bass and the places they live so that these precious resources will continue to provide quality fishing opportunities in the future.

Catch-and-release fishing and conservation-oriented harvest regulations work hand-in-hand to ensure that the fish that thrills one angler today can survive to do the same for another angler later. The Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) was conceived to showcase how anglers and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) have worked together to make Texas one of the best bass-fishing destinations in the nation.

The TTBC was conceived by professional angler Kelly Jordon, TPWD Commissioner Donato Ramos and TPWD Commission Chairman T. Dan Friedkin as a way of showcasing Texas bass fishing and TPWD fisheries management while the three were fishing on Lake Fork. Lake Fork has produced more trophy largemouth bass than any other reservoir in Texas, largely because regulations require that all bass between 16 and 24 inches in length be released. It made sense to hold the first TTBC on Lake Fork in 2007. But holding a world championship of bass fishing on a lake with restrictive harvest regulations designed to help big fish survive required a novel new approach.

Typical bass tournaments involve holding up to five bass in livewells and taking them through a weigh-in process on stage, which is very stressful and can

be fatal for some fish. The TTBC pioneered a new format for professional bass tournaments. Each angler in the TTBC has a trained judge with certified scales on board. Fish are weighed in the boat and returned to the water immediately after being caught. On Lake Fork, anglers are allowed to keep one bass 24 inches long or longer each day, so at the inaugural event on Lake Fork, anglers were allowed to bring one fish over 24 inches to be weighed on stage. Immediately after being weighed, these "overs" were turned over to TPWD fisheries biologists to be cared for until being returned to the lake following the weigh-in.

The new approach to weigh-ins was embraced enthusiastically by the

professional anglers, many of whom expressed appreciation to TPWD and the TTBC on stage for their efforts to protect the fishery. Since that first tournament, the catch-weigh-immediate release concept has been adopted by the nationally televised Major League Fishing series and will be tested for

the first time during the Bassmaster Elite tournament Series in July 2016. Bassmaster representatives will be in attendance at the 2016 TTBC to observe the TTBC catch-weigh-immediate release process.

The TTBC's commitment to conservation extends beyond just keeping

fish caught in tournaments alive. Recognizing that quality habitat contributes to fish growth and survival, the TTBC supported the first-ever Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership (RFHP) meeting at the 2010 TTBC on Lake Conroe. (See *The Texas Toyota...*)

Continued on Page 11-A)



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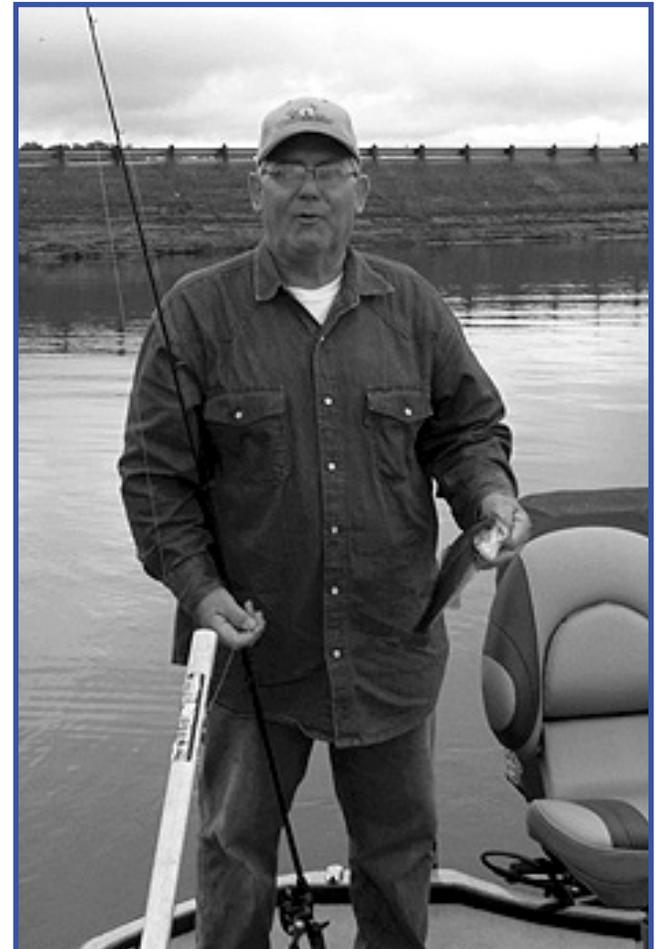


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Jason Olson had a great day fishing Lake Fork while "Bassin' With Bubba" on April 27 when he caught this nice bass tilting the scale at 7-lbs. (Photo Courtesy Bassin' With Bubba Guide Service)

Jerad Bass from Houston lived up to his name when he caught this nice bass fishing Lake Fork with his buddy Jason Olson. (Photo Courtesy Bassin' With Bubba Guide Service)

"I caught the right fish it was just 8 years too soon!" said Danny Azlin owner of 515 Scenic Cabins while he was "Bassin' With Bubba" on 4/20. (Photo Courtesy Bassin' With Bubba Guide Service)

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"May on Fork, Great things happen!"

"April has ended and the annual spawn is just about completed it's cycle. Now, we look forward to May when great things start to happen with regard to the big bass on Fork. The big females have finished their business and will start to migrate back out to the deep haunts where they will spend their summer. It's somewhat of a lengthy process as they work their way back out to deeper water but they will stop in key areas while in route and give you a chance to wrestle in the fish of a lifetime.

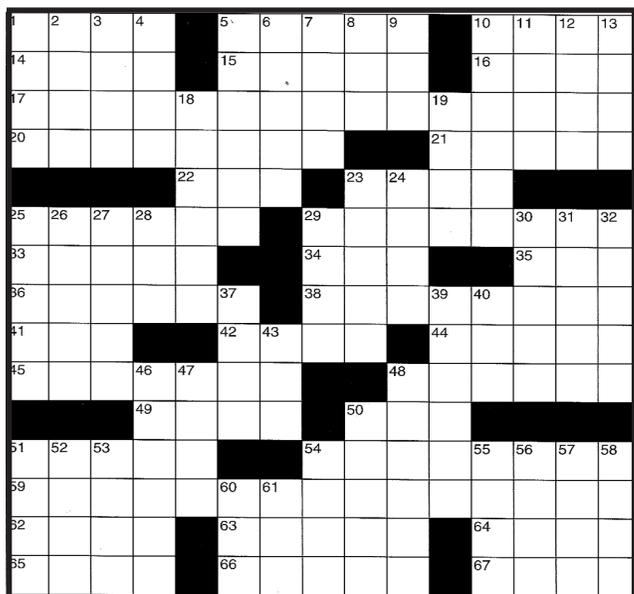
To take advantage of their travel habits in May, I look to secondary points in major creek arms along with the main lake points to focus my efforts. The shad spawn will more than likely still be taking place early

in the month and main lake points are where these delectable morsels called baitfish will be hanging out. There are many different ways to tackle them but I focus on using the squarebill and an ounce and a quarter spinnerbait to bring home the bacon. The first hour after daybreak provides the best opportunity to score a trophy bass and the above mentioned tools are a starting point. You can work the squarebill in 2-3ft of water and any shad colored option will work. Cover as many main lake points as possible and pay strict attention to any shad movement. Birds will help you recognize where these shad are grouped up and make your way there as quickly as possible to get in a few casts before they disperse. Option two is a large spinnerbait. Position the boat in 3ft of water and cast back toward the 12ft range. Let it sink for a few seconds and then start a slow smooth retrieve. Expect a jolting strike when they latch onto the bait. A Carolina rig is a must if there is no wind present and fish it in the same areas as the squarebill and spinnerbait. Flukes are my favorite to use on the c-rig along with a 4ft leader. Colors are standard, darker colors on overcast days, more translucent hues on sunny days.



As the month of May progresses, these trophy bass will start to migrate out to deeper water. Now is when you start your search using your electronics to find out where they will be taking up residence. The one great thing about this time of the year is that, if you find them, they will be grouped up and much easier to catch. Start your search on main lake points setting your sights in the 20-30ft range. Humps, ridges and roadbeds also come into play. You will probably stumble on herds of sand bass but don't be dismayed. At this time of the year, trophy black bass will run with their cousins and feed along side them

(See May on Fork Continued on Page 20-A)



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Fall silent
- 5. Isaac's mother (Bible)
- 10. Nuclear near-reach weapon (abbr.)
- 14. Cookie with cream filling
- 15. Tributary of Missouri River
- 16. Botswana's currency
- 17. State bird of Alaska
- 20. Guards
- 21. Saddle horses
- 22. Hostelry
- 23. Capital of Yemen
- 25. Traditional Christmas drink
- 29. Heedless
- 33. Protections
- 34. Brew
- 35. Copycat
- 36. Between pharynx and stomach
- 38. Renovator
- 41. Lyric poem
- 42. Raptors
- 44. Rainer Maria _____, German poet
- 45. Telephone diaphragms
- 48. More fake
- 49. Company officer (informal)
- 50. Scrod, for example
- 51. Georges _____, French philosopher
- 54. Unorthodox opinions
- 59. Sebastian Junger's nor'easter
- 62. Assistant
- 63. _____ Curie, French chemist
- 64. Two-toed sloth
- 65. Image of cross on which Jesus died
- 66. Hydroxyls + 2C
- 67. Vascular tissue

CLUES DOWN

- 1. _____ and whys
- 2. Puffin genus
- 3. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 4. Make cavity
- 5. Way of dispersing
- 6. Colorado resort
- 7. Informers
- 8. Honorable title (Turkish)
- 9. Of she
- 10. Corkscrew
- 11. Fold or crease
- 12. Divulge secret
- 13. Le _____, motor race
- 18. Producing no result or effect
- 19. Hair on head
- 23. Discounts
- 24. Square measures
- 25. Fungus
- 26. Typeface
- 27. Jewish legend
- 28. Sports association (abbr.)
- 29. _____ Sagan, astronomer
- 30. Peers
- 31. Talk (Old English)
- 32. More dried-up
- 37. Type of mood
- 39. Barbers
- 40. Lubricate
- 43. Female army unit in World War II (abbr.)
- 46. Looked, in a way
- 47. Shaft on which wheel rotates
- 48. Skills
- 50. _____ B. De Mille, filmmaker
- 51. Whiz
- 52. Tributary of Mississippi River
- 53. Redecorate
- 54. Sandwich, for one
- 55. Check or ticket _____
- 56. Private school in New York
- 57. Amounts of time
- 58. Indecent language
- 60. Relay mirror experiment (abbr.)
- 61. Agitate air

Answers on Page 21-A

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Legend of Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1-A)

and still have a chance for all the prizes. Official fishing days for the tournament are May 13, 14, 15 and fishing hours are from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the first hour weigh-in beginning with the 7 to 8 o'clock hour and ending with the 2 to 3 o'clock hour each day. Anglers have to be off the water by 8 p.m. each day of the tournament and cannot get on the water until 4 a.m. and cannot wet a hook until 6 a.m. The official starting time and hourly updates will be announced on FM 99.9 KMOO Radio Station. So be sure to have a radio in your boat.

Again this year we will be selling com-

memorative T-shirts at tournament headquarters. If you buy a shirt and have it on or with you when you weigh in a fish and win 1st place in any hour, you will receive an extra \$100 in cash. Every hour of the tournament is a T-shirt hour. All anglers will also be able to purchase Temple Fork Outfitters rods for only \$50. This offer is while supplies last. As popular as these rods are becoming they seem to go pretty fast, but on another note we will have a large supply.

The Chek-It-Stick is the official measurement of the tournament. Bass under the slot coming to the

weigh-in cannot touch 16" and bass over can touch or exceed the 24" mark.

This tournament is fun for the entire family. Come out and enter or just bring the family and enjoy the festivities.

For more information see the advertisement on Page 24-A, or call me at 903-360-6994, 903-383-7748, or email me: fishnews@lakefork.net.

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"The Moon Report"

May's Pre-Spawn – Spawn & Post Spawn Crappie

By Terri Moon

Hard to believe that it's May and once again the crappie have struggled all year to get their spawning over with! Water temperature has been their biggest battle. Just when conditions would get about perfect – here comes 30 degree mornings and knock water temps down 5 – 10 degrees! While the crappie were dealing with that, we the fishermen were dealing with fronts and storms – 30 to 60 mph winds – rising water levels – to all 5 gates open letting water out and if you've fished Lake Fork very much, you know 'Forks' fish do NOT like current! So if you happen to be there when the gates are open, I'm sorry but you're probably going to have a tough day of fishing. But just when you think it couldn't get any worse, the sun comes out, the wind lays and you can actually fish where you need to be fishing and they are biting! It really makes you grateful for those beautiful days!

With the crappie moving in and out with changing water temps, we've caught them from 1 ft. of water around the edges of the grass or near flooded willows to up to 24 ft. around structure or brush piles or bridges. It's a good time to have a rod rigged with a slip bobber to check shallow and a rod rigged for your deeper water fishing. The crappies depth can change throughout the day. What I'm excited about is my new LSS-2 down and side imaging transducer for finding these traveling crappie! It's amazing what you can



see down there! I can't thank 'SLADE' enough for all your help making this happen – you're amazing!! His "training knowledge" is 'Priceless' – on all depth finders and also Minnkota's trolling motors.

Have I told you all lately how much I'm loving my "Alterra" trolling motor?? I really couldn't imagine my life without it now! Another BIG thank you to Bryan at Sartin Marine for updating my 'Alterra' and hooking up my new transducer – everyone's help is so much appreciated!

This past month was kind of hard to pin-point a particular color that was working but they would either just not bite at all or they would bite whatever you threw at them! If the water was murky, I would throw a black/chartreuse or blue/chartreuse Lake Fork Tackles "Live Baby Shad." If the water was a little clearer, I'd throw a red/chartreuse or monkey milk. In all the excitement of catching them shallow, we had a bonus of landing some MONSTER BREAM!! I'm really looking forward to the next couple of months fishing for them – "Hands Down" my favorite fish!!!

In spite of the tough fishing this month, the "bright-

est spot" that could ever have happened to me was a by chance surprise visit to Lake Fork by Bob Izumi, his sweet wife Sandy, and son Darren. Bob is a "Canadian Legend" in the fishing world. At the age of 20 he became Canada's first full time fishing professional and holds over 50 tournament titles, the star of The Real Fishing Show and probably one of the greatest outdoor writers of our time. We all met when my husband Jerry fished the first U.S. Canadian Open Tournament Series in Canada and it has turned into a lifetime friendship of our families! My favorite quote of Bobs is "The sport of fishing crosses all boundaries" – it doesn't matter if you are young or old, fit or out-of-shape, you can enjoy the sport of fishing and the close friendships developed during hours on the water." It was so great to spend time with you all again!

Thoughts and prayers to you all and especially to my dad who is facing heart surgery this month and my brother for his continued recovery and to my mom who's trying to look after them all!

7th Annual World Championship Bass on The Fly Fishing Tournament *(Continued from Page 1-A)*

Photo-Release tournament. Each participant will receive an ID card at registration which must be included in a picture of the fish on a metal measuring board before quickly returning the fish to the water. The Federation of Fly Fishers which endorses the tournament emphasizes conservation of our fishery resources. This is a bonus on Lake Fork because all the fish caught can be counted, including those in the 16"-24" slot! Winners will be determined by the total length of their five longest bass. Cameras and chips must be checked at registration before the tournament.

The tournament also has two divisions. One for those with fishing boats(Boater division) and one for those who want to use kayaks, pontoons, float tubes, or fish from the bank (Non-Boater division). Previously, those in the non-boater division have done as well as those with boats. Safety and sportsmanship rules must be followed by all participants.

The entry fee is \$60/person, which includes

\$5 for the big bass pot, and an additional \$5 for an optional big blue gill pot. The cash payout for each division is determined by the number of participants in each division. There is also a Club trophy awarded to the club or organization with the three longest fish. Friday afternoon there is also an optional pan fish mini-tournament from 3-6 pm.

Entries received by April 16th are eligible for a drawing for a new Sage Largemouth fly rod, line and case valued at \$575. Approximately 60 participants are expected this year. In previous years participants have been from Florida, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Colorado as well as Texas. All contestants must check in at the registration tent at Lake Fork Marina before fishing.

Additional activities include free hourly casting clinics, kayak demos, casting contests, vendor booths, and door prizes for participants. Prizes include the Sage rod, Umpqua shirts, TFO rods and hats, Skeeter

hats and shirts, Gypsy Jack bass lures, Buff head gear, Brothers flies, Ranger shirts, discount certificates, and fly fishing merchandise from Tailwaters, Cabela's and Bass Pro.

For more information and how to enter see advertisement on Page 16-A.

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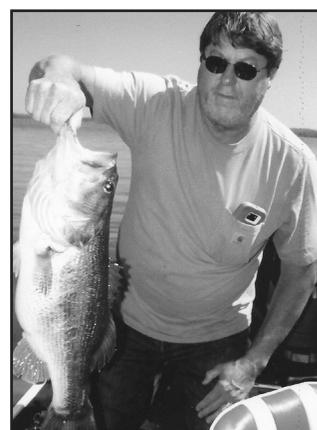
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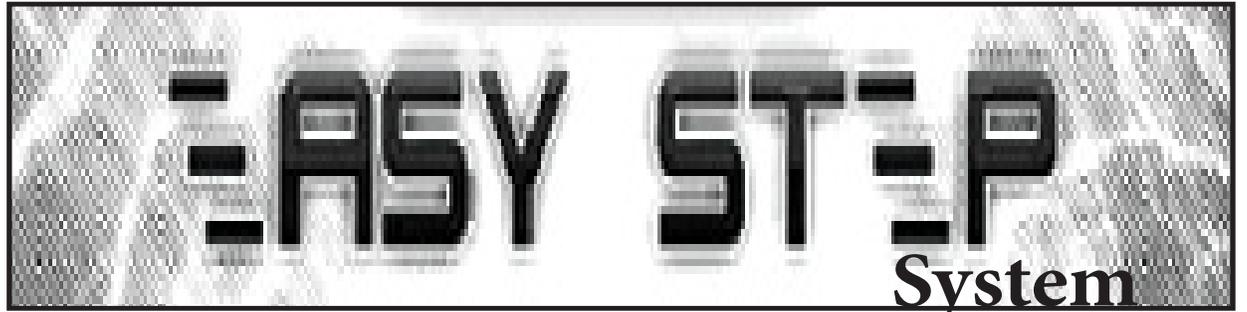
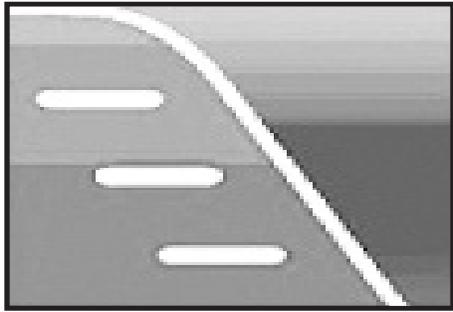


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The Toyota Texas Bass Classic (Continued from Page 4-A)

This meeting brought together fisheries directors from many states looking for ways to partner with private industry and the public to improve fish habitat in our nation's reservoirs. This meeting resulted in the establishment of the first Friends of Reservoirs (FOR) chapter in the country, a local group of anglers interested in improving fish habitats in Lake Conroe and operating under a non-profit status held by the RFHP. One FOR project on Lake Conroe supported by a contribution from the TTBC received an Environmental Excellence Award from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in 2013.

In addition to improving the habitat that is already there, the TTBC is also

supporting efforts to protect reservoirs from new threats such as invasive species. Zebra mussels are of special concern to residents of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area, since these small mollusks can multiply to the point they damage water treatment facilities and limit municipal water supplies. Stopping the spread of zebra mussels is a top priority for TPWD, and precautions will be taken at this year's TTBC to avoid any potential movement of zebra mussels from Lake Ray Roberts during the weigh-in process. The TTBC is also hosting a zebra mussel partner meeting at Toyota Stadium where professionals from municipalities, controlling authorities and universities as well as state and

federal agencies will share and exchange information to advance the science on zebra mussels in Texas.

The most effective way to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive species is through education, and the TTBC is supporting efforts to inform the public about the threat and how they can help. One novel new approach to detecting zebra mussels is the use of dogs trained to sniff out zebra mussels on boats. Persons attending the TTBC can meet some of these dogs in the TPWD Outdoor Adventures area.

Over the past 9 years the TTBC has contributed \$2.25 million to TPWD education and outreach programs. These programs include the Neigh-

borhood Fishin' Program, which stocks fish into small urban ponds to provide people the chance to catch fish close to home; provision of a Take Me Fishing trailer to educate the public about fishing at events across the state; production of how-to videos on fishing for the TPWD YouTube channel; and sponsorship of the Texas

Division of the Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest, which seeks to interest youth in grades K--12 in fishing. Artwork from that contest appears on TTBC tickets.

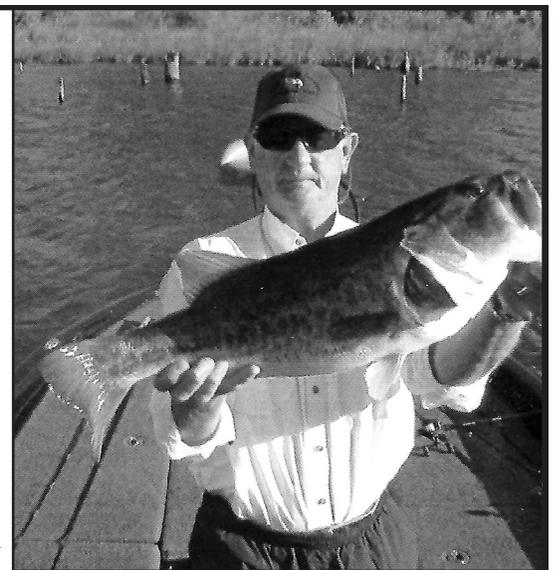
The 2016 TTBC will take place as part of the Toyota Texas Fest (TTF) presented by JBL at Toyota Stadium in Frisco May 20--22. Displays

in the TPWD Outdoor Adventures Area will highlight TPWD fisheries management and offer a variety of activities such as archery, casting, and fish art. The TTF includes a full schedule of musical entertainment on all three event days. For more information including how to purchase tickets, visit www.toyotatexasfest.com.

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New CWD Cases Discovered at Captive Deer Breeding Facilities

Two new cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Texas captive deer, including the first confirmed from a live test tonsillar biopsy sample, have been validated. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) are conducting an epidemiological investigation into these new cases.

One case involves a 3 1/2-year-old captive raised white-tailed doe that was born and raised on-site and died on-site of natural causes at a deer breeding facility in Medina

County where the disease had not previously been found. Test samples were submitted in compliance with TAHC herd plan requirements.

The live test finding is from a 2 1/2-year-old captive white-tailed buck in the Uvalde-Medina County deer breeding facility that was the source of a CWD positive white-tailed buck harvested by a hunter from a release site on the same ranch.

With these new confirmations, 10 white-tailed deer in or originating from deer breeding facilities have been confirmed

positive for CWD in the state since the original detection in June 2015.

Tissue samples revealed the presence of CWD prions during testing at the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) in College Station. The samples were submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, which validated the suspect findings recently.

The disease was first recognized in 1967 in captive mule deer in Colorado. CWD has

(See CWD Cases...
Continued on Page 15-A)

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Pair Facing State Jail Felony Charges Stemming from Graffiti on Iconic Enchanted Rock

Law enforcement officials from the State Park Police, Texas Game Wardens and San Marcos Police Department recently arrested two individuals in connection with defacing of the iconic Enchanted Rock. National media attention surrounding an image in a Facebook post showing two individuals standing near the vandalized Texas natural landmark helped lead state and local investigators to an

arrest on several violations, including state jail felony graffiti and drug-related charges.

Charles Agawereh, 24, and Meredith Baird, 21, both of San Marcos, have been taken into custody and booked into the Hays County Jail. The pair is accused of painting graffiti on the south face of the summit at Enchanted Rock State Park near Fredericksburg. The massive pink granite dome rising above Cen-

tral Texas has drawn people for thousands of years.

The incident occurred March 20 and a photograph of the suspects standing in front of the graffiti placed on social media eventually led to information identifying both individuals.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement officials, including State Park Police and State Game Wardens from the Criminal Investigations Division and Tactical Operations K9 Unit and Scout Team, worked in conjunction with San Marcos Police Department and the Hays County Narcotics Task Force on the investigation.

Additional charges are pending as a result of the arrest and search warrant execution.

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CWD Cases Discovered (Continued from Page 13-A)

also been documented in captive and/or free-ranging deer in 24 states and 2 Canadian provinces. In Texas, the disease was first discovered in 2012 in free-ranging mule deer along a remote area of the Hueco Mountains near the Texas-New Mexico border, and last summer was detected in two, separate captive white-tailed deer breeding facilities in Medina and Lavaca counties.

CWD among cervids is a progressive, fatal disease that commonly results in altered behavior as a result of microscopic changes made to the brain of affected animals. An animal may carry the disease for years

without outward indication, but in the latter stages, signs may include listlessness, lowering of the head, weight loss, repetitive walking in set patterns and a lack of responsiveness. To date there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk to humans or non-cervids. However, as a precaution, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization recommend not to consume meat from infected animals.

More information on CWD can be found on TPWD's website, <http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/CWD> or at the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance website, <http://www.cwd-info.org>.

More information about the TAHC CWD program may be found at http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/cwd/cwd.html.

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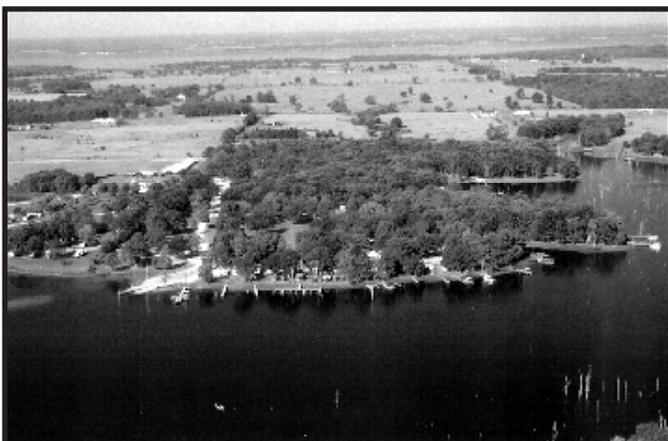
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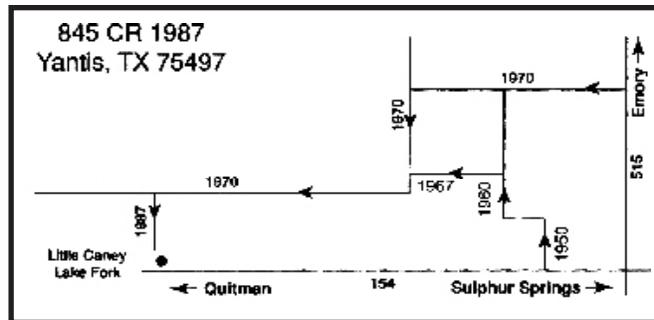


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Toyota Texas Bass Classic Announces 2016 Angler Field

As part of the 2016 Toyota Texas Fest presented by JBL (TTF), the Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) will feature 36 of the world's best professional anglers from May 20 - 22, 2016, at Lake Ray Roberts in Denton, TX. The field for the tenth anniversary of TTBC is highlighted by defending champion Brent Ehrler and 2016 Bassmaster Classic champion Edwin Evers.

The field is made up of the top 15 anglers from the 2015 Angler of the Year (AOY) points from both the FLW Tour and Bassmaster Elite Series as well as six exemptions. Other notable anglers include 2015 Bassmaster Angler of the Year Aaron Martens, 2015 FLW Angler of the Year

Scott Martin and Keith Combs, three-time TTBC champion.

"Over the past nine years the priority of the TTBC has been to promote fishing, outdoor recreation and the conservation efforts of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department," said Lenny Francoeur, tournament director. "Each year we host the world's best anglers on Texas' premier fisheries, and we are excited to see these anglers take on Lake Ray Roberts, one of Texas' top fisheries."

The overall field is highlighted by a combined 16 Angler of the Year titles, including eight Bassmaster AOYs and eight FLW Tour AOYs; 19 major championship titles, including eight TTBCs, six Bassmaster

Classics, and five Forrest Wood Cups; 179 tour wins and over \$60 million in career earnings. The field will also include exemptions Randy Howell, Mike Iaconelli, Kelly Jordon, Terry Scroggins, Gerald Swindle and 2015 TTBC champion Brent Ehrler.

"Winning the Toyota Texas Bass Classic last year was one of the biggest achievements in my career," said Ehrler. "The TTBC is the most difficult event to qualify for in professional bass fishing, and to raise the trophy on the final day, you had to have beaten the most elite group of anglers on the planet. I am excited to get back to Texas and defend my title on Lake Ray Roberts in May."

Along with the coveted title of TTBC champion, the anglers will be competing for two additional awards. The angler who catches the single heaviest fish from any of the three days of competition will win the Toyota Tundra Big Bass Award and a new 2016 Toyota Tundra. The LEER Heavy Weight Award, a new LEER truck cap, will be given to the angler with the heaviest single-day weight from any one of the three days of the tournament.



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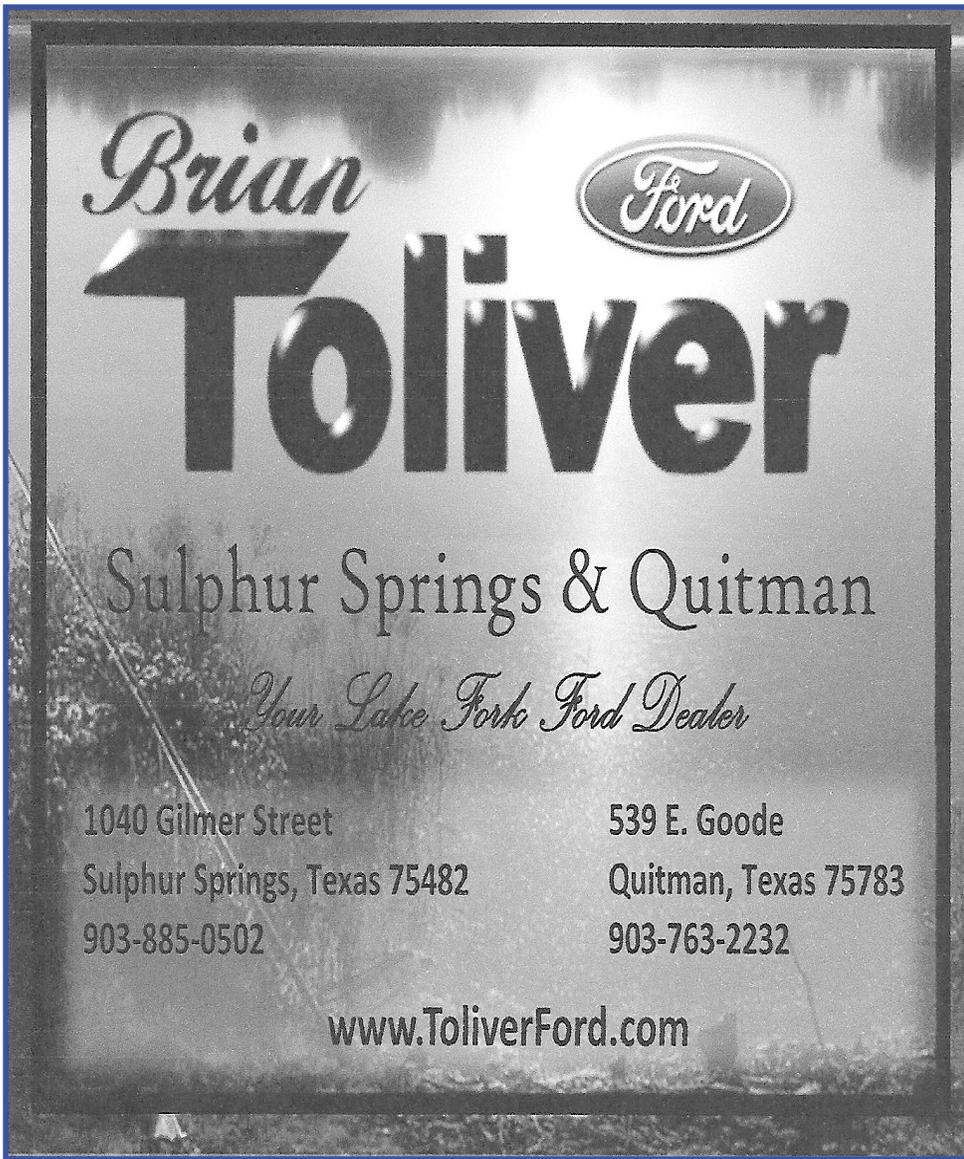
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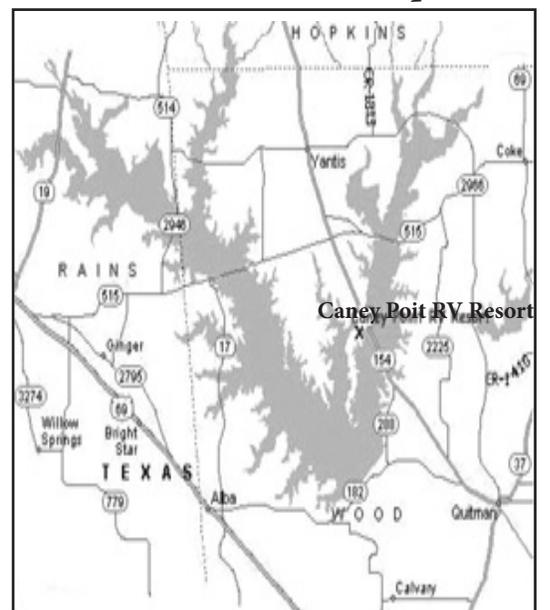
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It's hard to imagine what the next big idea in the world of bass fishing will be. Fishing lures sure have come a long way, from super realistic swimbaits to elaborate umbrella rigs. However, one of my go-to lures has been around for many decades and continues to fool big bass on a regular basis.

If you look on the deck of my boat any time of year, you'll likely see a jig tied on at least one rod. When I was first learning to fish for bass, I realized that jigs were a big fish lure, and I made it my mission to master the technique. I am still learning today, but maybe you'll find some information here that will make you a more efficient jig fisherman.

Much could be written about swim jigs and football jigs, but the traditional "pitching" or "flipping" jig is the one to be throwing this time of year. In the winter and early spring, prespawn females feed heavily on crawfish. Crawfish are easy prey in the colder water and are one of the best sources of protein a bass can find. A pitching style jig is the perfect crawfish imitator and can also be presented in the heavy timber where big fish live this time of year on Lake Fork.

The first thing I look at when choosing a jig to fish in timber is the head design. This is the most important aspect of a jig in my opinion. You want to find a head that comes through cover well, but more importantly you want one that hooks fish well. Many jig companies boast of the giant hooks they use, and that's because many anglers miss or lose a lot of bites on jigs. The hook is not at fault in most cases. Usually, the design of the head determines how and if a fish gets hooked.

Ideally, you want a jig head that hooks fish in the top of the mouth. Usually, the jig that comes through the wood cover best will have a narrow or pointed head design. The bulbous, rounded heads such as the traditional "arkie head" design get lodged in the roots and branches often and can be frustrating to fish. However, once a bass has that jig in its mouth and you set the hook, the first thing that makes contact with the fish's closed lips is the jig head. If it is a narrow jig head style, the jig will immediately turn on its side and you will end up missing the fish or "skin hooking" it. Once hooked, if the point isn't pro-

truding from the outside of the fish's face, and is simply threaded sideways inside the fish's mouth, there's a good chance you're using a faulty head design. I have found that I would rather deal with the aggravation of getting snagged more often than miss or lose fish, therefore I try to use a head design that hooks fish the best.

I don't have any one jig that I use 100% of the time, there are several head designs that are very effective. My favorite is the traditional arkie head. This design gets hung up some, but keep in mind its the head (not the hook), so they can be easily retrieved as long as you don't get too impatient and bury the hook by yanking the rod. I like the

(Continued on Next Page)



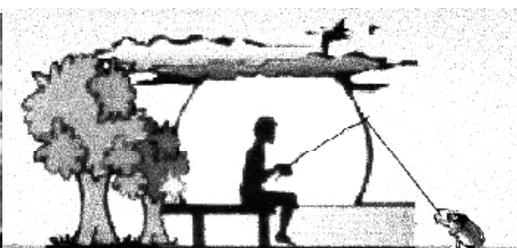
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arkie head because the fish are hooked through the roof of the mouth almost every time, and that means more fish in the boat for me and my customers. Often, I use jigs that I put together myself when I use an arkie head because there aren't many with that design on the market. Triangular shaped heads (for lack of a better word to describe them) such as the one found on Mark Pack's structure guard jig, are very efficient as well. These are flat on the bottom and don't roll on their side during the hook set.

Skirt color is another important factor. I think the most important thing is to find a couple colors you have confidence in. For me, two or three colors cover my jig fishing needs year round. I find I have more confidence using a dark colored jig in murky water, such as a black and blue, or black/brown/amber combination. In clear water, a predominantly green pumpkin or watermelon combination works well for me.

In my opinion, elaborate color combinations are a matter of preference and confidence for every angler, so pick something you believe in and let the fish help you make up your mind. For instance, here on Lake Fork, I like a green pumpkin/watermelon combination with a little blue in it certain times of year, that's just a preference for me. As an angler, you want to find a couple of colors you believe in and fish them with 100% confidence. It's well known that a jig is more of a big fish lure than a numbers lure, so having confidence in the color you're throwing is important. Being that I probably won't get very many bites, if I'm second guessing and changing colors over and over, its likely I won't be very successful.

As for jig size, I prefer to go with a heavier jig, but still a compact profile. A 1/2 or 3/4 ounce jig is what I use 90% of the time regardless of water depth. Many fishermen seem to like a lightly weighted jig

with a slow, enticing fall rate. However, I believe one of the qualities about jigs that appeal to big bass the most is the fact that it is a "reaction bait". I fish jigs slow most of the time, but when it rolls over a branch or root it still drops to the bottom quickly and kicks up some dust. When a jig happens to do this over a piece of cover, a big bass is laying beneath, I think the fish will have a hard time not pouncing on it out of instinct.

I always trim the silicone skirts on my jigs. I usually cut the skirt a 1/4 inch below the bend of the hook. I like to cut a half moon type line from side to side, then I turn the jig and do it again. This way, the strands on the outer edges of the skirt are the shortest and the shorter strands flare out well in the water. This may just be a matter of preference but it seems to work. I also use a compact, crawfish imitating trailer most of the time. I like to match the color of the trailer with the skirt

colors.

Hopefully you've found something useful here in spite of the fact that some of this is very basic information. As a guide fishing

with different anglers on a daily basis, I believe there are some misconceptions about jig fishing. Hopefully this gives you some ideas, and if nothing else

the confidence to go throw a jig this month!

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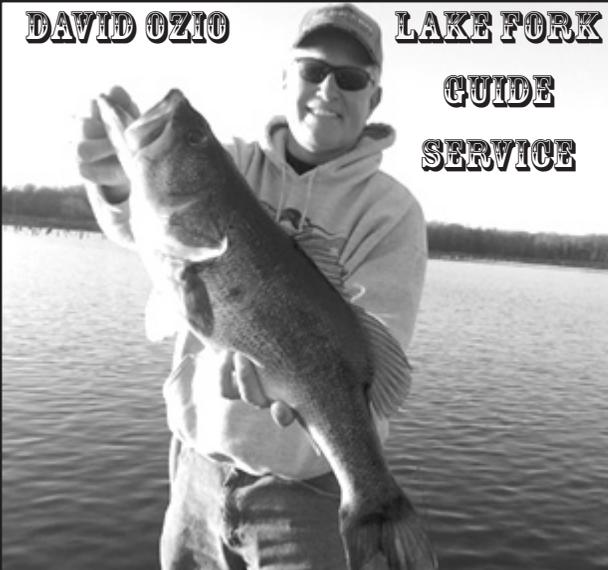
May on Fork *(continued from Page 6-A)*

on balls of shad. Spoons work well provided that the bottom is free of timber but the c-rig will do most of the heavy lifting. It's also a good time to tie on a football jig in black/blue or peanut butter/jelly. Any craw trailer will work and be sure to match the skirt of the jig as close as possible. I would also set up an A-rig if an abundance of sand bass are present. Rig this presentation with any white swimbait in the 3 1/2 to 5 inch length. Make a long cast and let it sink to the bottom. Start

a slow retrieve and hold on. You may have to weed through several pesky sand bass but a giant could latch on to the rig and totally make your day.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in May 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."

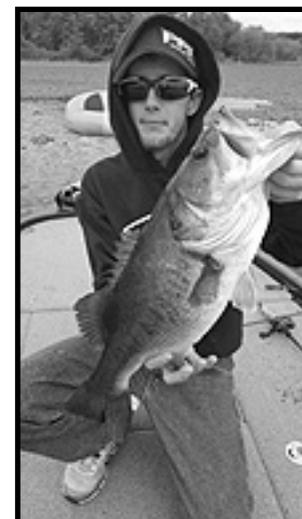
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Texas Game Wardens Aid in Houston Area Flood Response

Texas game wardens were busy in April responding to devastating floods that inundated a dozen southeast Texas counties, conducting over 170 water rescues of individuals and families who were caught in the quickly rising waters.

"The Texas game wardens' knowledge of the waterways and back country areas allowed them to quickly locate and rescue those who had been trapped by the floods," said Texas Game Warden Maj. William Skeen. "Conditions out there were difficult, but I'm very proud of the efforts by our game wardens, they have saved many lives. Regardless of how dangerous it was, our men and women stayed engaged with local communities and state response efforts until the event was over."

Wardens were dispatched in all affected counties, including: Palo Pinto, Parker, Johnson, Harris, Waller, Austin, Montgomery, Grimes, Fayette, Colorado, Falls and Milam. In addition to water rescues, wardens conducted 78 evacuations, rescued 27 pets, 240 welfare

checks and assisted in the recovery of one fatality in Waller County.

For over 100 years, Texas Game Wardens have provided professional law enforcement, search and rescue and water safety while working to conserve and protect our natural

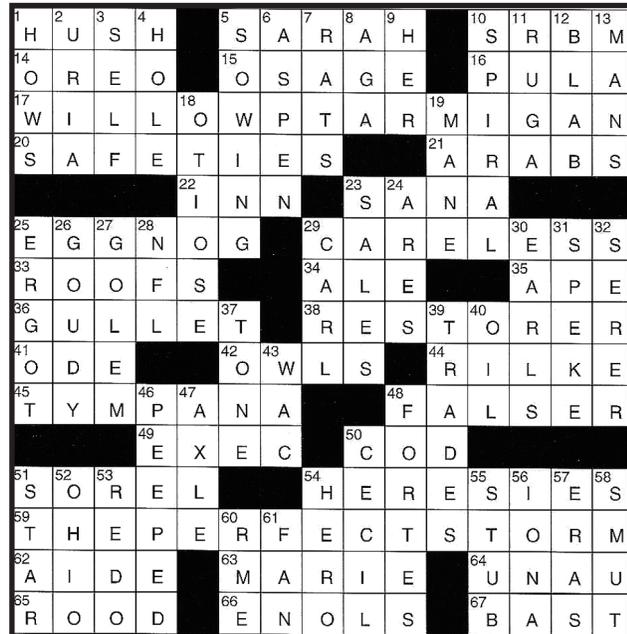
resources. Texas Game Wardens respond locally to natural disasters and also operate a state-wide search and rescue team. Game wardens also work closely with the Texas Division of Emergency Management during large-scale disasters.

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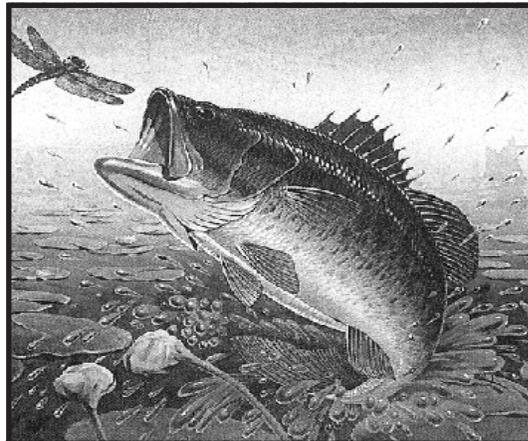


Sports Find

The names of 14 pieces of sports equipment are hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| BAT | HOCKEY STICK |
| BIRDIE | ICE SKATE |
| CLEATS | MITT |
| CROSSE | NET |
| FOOTBALL | PUCK |
| GOLF CLUB | RACKET |
| HELMET | TEE |

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 S C K A C K E R E L I O
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 K C I A T E F O O A L S
 E E T S E T P O C T F E
 I T S C L E A T S R C R
 T O Y E M I T B A S L T
 T I E T E S R A T S U C
 Y E K E H O C L R T S R
 R A C K E T B L I L E S
 O G O F L C P U B R I S
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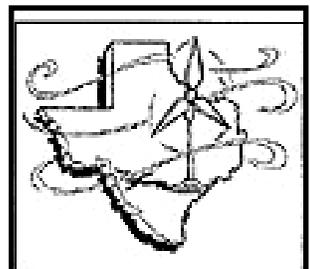
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Texas Game Wardens Uncover Large Narcotics Stash on South Padre Island

Texas game wardens, including the Maritime Tactical Operations Group, recently unearthed more than 900 pounds of marijuana that was hidden among the sand dunes of South Padre Island. investigation led to the discovery of more than a dozen bundles of drugs buried in the sand. In total, 946 pounds of marijuana were seized. is one of the larger seizures for the department this year. The marijuana has been turned over to federal investigators with the Department of Homeland Security.

While patrolling the coastline between Santa (Holy Week), 5 and 6, game wardens noticed heavy foot traffic leading from the water's edge to the dunes. After a quick search of the area, several partially buried, plastic-wrapped packages were located. Further

With thousands of people flocking to the island for spring break and Semana Santa (Holy Week), Texas Game Wardens increased their presence in the area, working alongside the United States Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection Marine Interdiction Agents to assist with security efforts. This



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