

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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1st Place overall heaviest bass in the 30th Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash Tournament on Lake Fork was Clifford Wyrick from Luling, Texas with his 11.18-pound bass.



2nd Place overall heaviest bass in the 30th Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash Tournament on Lake Fork with a weight of 10-pounds was Tommy Duncan from Gladewater, Texas.



3rd Place overall heaviest bass in the 30th Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash Tournament on Lake Fork was Rodger Edellhauser from Reno, Texas with a 9.72-pound bass.



4th Place overall heaviest bass in the 30th Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash Tournament on Lake Fork was Edward Reavis, Jr. with a 9.47-pound bass.



5th Place overall heaviest bass in the 30th Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash Tournament on Lake Fork was Sammy Bates from Cabot, Arkansas with a 9.08-pound bass.



Saturday during the 12 to 1 o'clock hour, Paul E. Smith from Marion, Louisiana weighed in an exact 2.50-pound bass winning him \$5,000 plus \$6,000 for T-Shirt Hour. (Full Story on Page 3-A)

"Bubba Practices For Halloween All Year Long!"

By Don Hampton

Bubba's favorite holidays are coming up and he is geared up and ready for them. He loves Thanksgiving and Christmas mainly because of all the great food, the get-togethers, (as he calls them), and of course getting new stuff! One of his favorite holidays and Bubbette's worst is Halloween.

This is one "Spooktacular Holiday" that Bubba practices year round. He's like an oversized lap-dog when it comes to the treats and a scary movie when it comes to the tricks. He is most childlike on Christmas morning opening his presents and getting new stuff, but he is even more so when it comes to jumping out and scaring someone.

He practices mostly on Bubbette and how either of them has survived these many years is a testimony to "True Love"! On more than one occasion she has threatened his health with a rolling pin but Bubba doesn't take the threats too seriously. I couldn't even tell you if he hears them over his own laughter.

Bubba practices his scare tactics constantly to stay in true form. He has Bubbette shaky like a squirrel on a high-line every time she walks in the house. The only time he is quiet is when he's about to spring with a goulish holler. It doesn't even matter to him if she has an arm full of groceries. If the timing and setting is right, he'll make his move and then laugh for days afterwards. To Bubba harmlessly scaring someone is one of the

funniest things in life. He really must have had a missed childhood or else he just doesn't wish to grow out of it!

I do believe that Bubba bought Bubbette a new car, not for her benefit but rather for his entertainment. As is with most new vehicles this one has an alarm system with remotes. For the first week they had it Bubba couldn't stop laughing and it wasn't from the joy of having a new vehicle. Every time Bubbette would go to get in her car Bubba would be hiding around the corner. Her hand would no sooner touch the car door than Bubba's finger would push the alarm button. With the alarm and horn blaring, and lights flashing, Bubbette would be jumping around thinking she did something wrong, while Bubba would be rolling on the ground with laughter. Needless to say that only lasted for a week because he no longer has a set of keys and alarm remote to Bubbette's new car.

Bubba doesn't just practice his scare tactics on Bubbette while at home. Even the dog and cat have to hide from him. He'll catch them in one of their deep naps, sneak up as close as possible, get on his hands and knees and commence barking and growling like a maddog. Yes, Bubba has been bitten by his own dog, scratched by his own cat, and clobbered by his own wife.

One of the reasons Bubba can't keep a partner on the "Team Tournament Trail" he fishes isn't because of the number of fish caught. It is because their heart can't take it! Bubba watches his

partners closely to make sure they are on their toes during a tournament. If they seem to be day dreaming when the action slows down, he has a rude awakening for them too! He will catch them in one of their relaxed moods and then set his plan in motion. He will intentionally get his lure hung up while they are not watching. Once he has it securely stuck he'll jump up excitedly and holler, "It's a big one get the net!" At this time he has his rod bent going from side to side acting like he has a real hog on the end of the line. This gets his partner throwing his rod down, scrambling all over the boat to get the net and ready to do his job. When his partner finally gets the net ready Bubba will roll with laughter and say, "Just kidding I'm hung up and wanted to see if you were still with me!" I think Bubba has probably been bit, scratched, and clobbered by some of his fishing partners too! He has had five different fishing partners in the past four seasons and not even that will stop Bubba's sense of humor or his enjoyment of a good laugh.

Maybe there is a lesson for all of us here to learn from Bubba. It is possible that if we all kept a childlike quality in our hearts and didn't take ourselves quite so seriously we could find the smaller things in life much more humorous. Then we would all be able to laugh at the bites, scratches and clobberings that life has to offer.

"Have a Spooktacular Halloween!" Bubba will!

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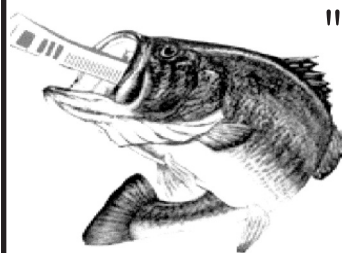
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30th Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash Tournament on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

Sealy Outdoors 30th Annual Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork was everything anglers expected and more. With \$3,000 for 1st place in each hour with two T-shirt hours per day paying double, if you had bought a T-shirt, for a total of \$6,000 for those hours anglers responded. There were 15 places paid each hour of the 3-day tournament with fifteenth paying \$250 dollars. This was one of the highest paying amateur tournaments and 2,700 anglers representing 28 states entered in hopes of winning some of the \$520,000 guaranteed in cash and prizes.

The tournament was not only enjoyed by all of the anglers but also spectators and family members of the anglers. All of Sealy Outdoors Big

Bass Splashes have a festive atmosphere and this being his 30th Anniversary on Lake Fork, it was even more so!

Lake Fork is a Class 'A' slot lake in the state of Texas. The slot on this great reservoir is 16" to 24", which means any bass between those two numbers cannot be brought to the scales. This keeps the lunker population in this great reservoir growing. This also meant that some anglers that caught a 1.72-pound bass up to a 2.56-pound bass took home good money from the tournament.

History was made during the 30th Annual Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork. Never in the Sealy's history of tournaments had an angler won the exact weight bass during the T-Shirt hour. On Saturday during the 12 to 1 o'clock hour, Paul E.

(See Sealy Outdoors.....Continued on Page 4-A)



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Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash (Continued from Page 3-A)

Smith from Marion, Louisiana weighed in an exact 2.50-pound bass winning him \$5,000 for his catch. His catch also remained the heaviest for the hour and he had his T-shirt on which netted him an additional \$6,000.

During the course of the three day tournament there were 959 fish weighed in with a total weight of 1,775.69-pounds.

There were 24 bass weighed in during the tournament 24" in length or longer. On Friday there were seven that came to the scales, (8 but the angler didn't have a current license); Sidney Smith, from Alba, Texas with a 7.49; Jacob McKee from Leesville, Louisiana with an 8.74; James Teer from Sulphur Springs, Texas with an 8.20; Rodger Edellhauser from Reno, Texas with a 9.72; Steven Hastings from Johnson City, Illinois with a 7.13; Cody Parker from McAlester, Oklahoma with a 6.85; and Jeremy Davis from Jonesboro, Louisiana with a 7.07. On Saturday there were nine that came to the scales; Jeff Hood from Gilmer, Texas with an 8.36; Sammy Bates from Cabot, Arkansas with a 9.08; David Burkholder from Bearden, Arkansas with an 8.02; Michael Yoder from Texarkana, Arkansas with an 8.00; Chad Craddock from Bedford, Texas with an 8.09; Tommy Duncan from Gladewater, Texas with a 10.00; Paul Turner from Granbury, Texas with a

7.75; Matthew Biehl from Bellevue, Texas with a 7.14; and Wesley Pryor from Hopkinsville, Kentucky with a 7.05. On Sunday there were eight that came to the scales; David Goff from Van, Texas with an 8.25; Levi Green from Killeen, Texas with a 7.80; Marty Thomas from Weatherford, Texas with a 6.76; Ricky Hardy from Graham, Texas with an 8.92; Edward Reavis Jr. with a 9.47; Ken Self from Salem, New Hampshire with an 8.17; Clifford Wyrick from Luling, Texas with an 11.18; and Ricky Thompson from Hawley, Texas with a 7.70.

Winning 1st Place overall heaviest bass in the tournament was Clifford Wyrick from Luling, Texas with his 11.18-pound bass. He took home \$6,000 for the hour, a 2016 Triton 19TRX, powered by Mercury, a RAM Truck plus an additional \$7,000. Second Place overall with a weight of 10-pounds was Tommy Duncan from Gladewater, Texas. He took home \$3,000 for the hour, a 2016 Triton 18TRX, powered by Mercury, a RAM Truck and an additional \$2,000 in cash. Third Place overall weight was Rodger Edellhauser from Reno, Texas with a 9.72-pound bass. For his efforts he won \$6,000 for the hour, a 2016 Triton 18TRX powered by Mercury, a RAM Truck plus an additional \$1,000 in cash. Fourth Place was Ed-

(Continued on Next Page)



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ward Reavis, Jr. with a 9.47-pound bass. He won \$3,000 for the hour plus an additional \$8,000 in cash. Fifth Place was Sammy Bates from Cabot, Arkansas with a 9.08-pound bass. He took home \$6,000 for the hourly plus an additional \$6,000 for his catch.

In all of Sealy Outdoors events all the cash and prizes are guaranteed. Because an even 2.50-pound bass was not brought to the weigh-in on Friday or Sunday the \$5,000 for each was given away in a random drawing. Taking home this extra money was Teddy Jackson from Burleson, Texas and Kenneth Zacharias from Dayton, Texas. Winning the heaviest bass under the slot with a 2.56-pound bass and an extra \$5,000 was Joseph Goldman from Epping, New Hampshire. The Elimination Draw Boat was won by Jim Stafford from North Little Rock, Arkansas. He took home a 2016 Triton 189TRX powered by Mercury. In the open drawing James Whittington from Quitman, Texas won a \$1,000 Academy Shopping Spree.

History was also made at this event in the Little Anglers Division. Little angler Brett Gordy from Longview, Texas brought in a catfish weighing 32.68-pounds that he caught on a crappie jig.

The Lake Fork Sportsman Association Live Release Boat did an excellent job returning all of the bass into the lake in great health to grow bigger and to be caught again another day. This organiza-

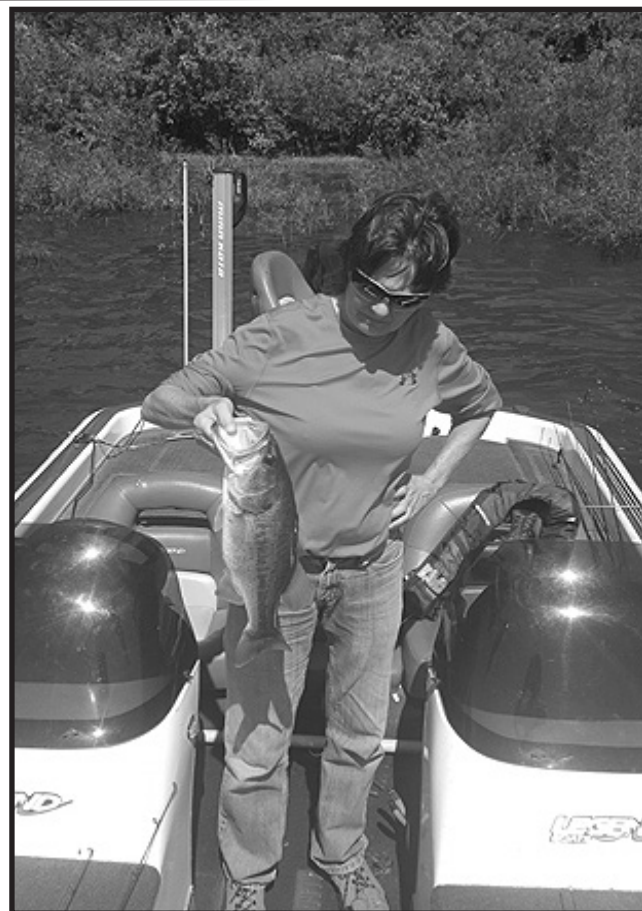
tion truly looks out for the future of Lake Fork!

We hope to see you all again next year on Lake Fork.

For more information and the daily hourly weights go to www.sealyoutdoors.com. To learn more about Sealy Outdoors Tournaments and schedules you can contact Nicole Sealy at nicolesealy@sealyoutdoors.com or call 409-382-3876 or 888-698-2591.



Little angler Brett Gordy from Longview, Texas brought in a catfish weighing 32.68-pounds that he caught on a crappie jig. (All Photos by The Fisherman's Guide News, Don Hampton)



Lady angler Diane Vineyard like many anglers reported making some really nice catches during the Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash, but with the slot being between 16" to 24" all they won was bragging rights and the enjoyment of the catch. (Courtesy Photo)



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October is the month when the autumn feedfest begins

By David Ozio

"Fall is an incredible time of the year to fish Lake Fork and October is the month when the autumn feedfest begins. The first cold fronts of the season are starting to roll in and the catalyst to this bass buffet will be the falling surface temps. Another neat fact about this time of the year, everyone will be hunting and the lake will receive a ton less pressure. The only deterrent usually happens at the beginning of the month as the lake turns over, cooler surface water sinking to the bottom, which make the bite a little tricky during the first week.

This turnover process is very evident when you see brown bubbles floating on the surface across the lake. The occurrence doesn't happen all at once but in stages according to the strength of the

cold fronts as they pass. Not all parts of the lake will turn over at once as some areas cool faster than others. This phenomenon usually lasts about three weeks beginning in late September and throws bass fishing into a tail spin especially for the deep fish. During this transition period, you will need to read the conditions and adapt accordingly. Fall will usually issue in more cloudy days and as the water temps decline, fish will migrate to the shallows in search of food and suitable water conditions thus opening the door to easier catches on moving baits. Where do we start? The answer to that question is wrapped up in the fall bass habits. Creeks will be your starting place and finding the shad will lead you to some of the best bass fishing of the year.

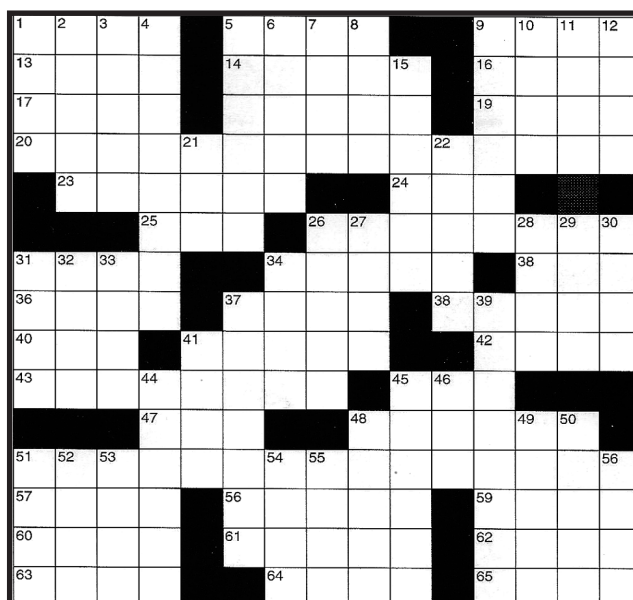
Gear up with a top water for the early bites and focus on any vegetation that you can find such as milfoil, lily pads or alligator grass. Zara Spooks are my all time favorite and will draw strikes from the largest bass around. Buzzbaits, Yellow Magic's and frogs are also excellent choices and truly have a place on the deck of the boat. Once that bite tapers off, I will switch to a Texas rig worm of any sort and work the same areas until noon. If the vegetation is more sparse, use a 1/8th ounce tungsten weight with a 3/0 hook and rig it with your favorite worm. Trick worms, curl tails or speed



worms all work great. For thicker grass, move up to a 5/16 ounce weight so that it will get down to where the monsters live. As for worm colors, stick to dark hues on cloudy days and more translucent shades on sunny days. If the water has pitiful clarity, go with the darker colors. If the wind is howling, head to the windiest bank and throw a Talon spinner bait. If the water is on the clear side, use the willow blades. Murky water will call for the Colorado blades.

Falling water temps will also issue in a better deep bite as bass start to group up. Deep structures, road beds, points and ridges should all come alive as these fish search for food to fatten

(See Cooler Weather....
Continued on Page 20-A)



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Container for shipping | 38. Wrap |
| 5. Strikebreaker | 40. Wreath |
| 9. City in Northeastern Uruguay | 41. Pacific islands |
| 13. Basis for sauces | 42. Surfaced |
| 14. Trapped | 43. Points |
| 16. Slang term for "yes" | 45. Temporary military housing |
| 17. Impulse | 47. Gov't agency of U.S. |
| 18. More scarce | 48. 2000 Yankees vs. Mets contest |
| 19. Rundown neighborhood | 51. "Constant as ____," Shakespeare |
| 20. Feeling of elation | 57. Halo |
| 23. A covered passageway | 58. Charles Brit author 1814-1884 |
| 24. Hole puncher | 59. City south of Moscow |
| 25. Decorate a cake with frosting | 60. Streetcar |
| 26. Branched | 61. Belgian city |
| 31. Missing soldiers | 62. October 15 and March 15 |
| 34. Awards | 63. Otherwise |
| 35. Edgar Wilson __, American Humorist | 64. Any habitation at a high altitude |
| 36. Competent | 65. French cookery |
| 37. Abnormal breathing | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Leg shank | 31. Characteristic of a man |
| 2. Artery | 32. Wild mountain goat |
| 3. Fructose, for one | 33. Settled down |
| 4. Training by multiple reps. | 34. An account of incidents or events |
| 5. Walk | 37. Wed again |
| 6. Wading bird | 39. Esthetic |
| 7. Affirm | 41. Melon, cucumbers, pumpkin |
| 8. About aviation | 44. Rechristen |
| 9. I | 45. Unbelief |
| 10. Like an eel | 46. Vase |
| 11. German physicist, Max ____ | 48. Passover feast and ceremony |
| 12. UK abbrev., "On Her Majesty's Service" | 49. Opus |
| 15. Gentle | 50. Starchy food made of dried orchid tubers |
| 21. Cavity | 51. ____ Gallery |
| 22. Type of cheese | 52. Throw forcefully |
| 26. Purposes | 53. Geological times |
| 27. Afresh | 54. Used for insect sterilization |
| 28. Japanese waist pouch | 55. Hurry |
| 29. An unfledged or nestling hawk | 56. Tear down |
| 30. Sandy piece of seashore | |

Answers on Page 21-A

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DOUBLE H

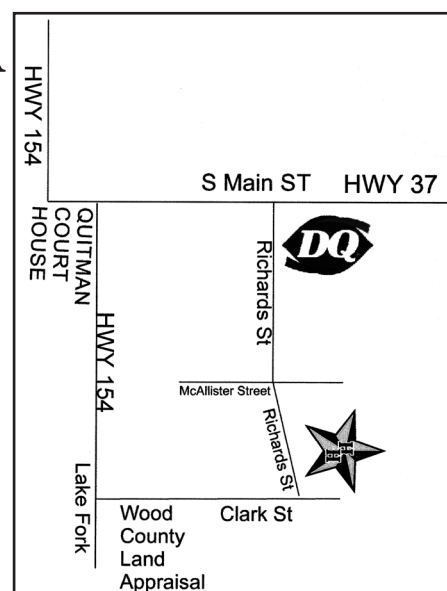
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Big Time Texas Hunts Deadline Approaching Fast

Hunting seasons are in full swing in Texas and more opportunities are on the horizon, including chances at premium guided hunt packages through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Big Time Texas Hunts program. Deadline to apply for these top shelf hunting adventures is Oct. 15.

Big Time Texas Hunts provide opportunities to win one or more of nine premium guided hunt packages with food and lodging provided, as well as taxidermy in some cases. The crown jewel of the program is the Texas Grand Slam hunt package, which includes

four separate hunts for Texas' most prized big game animals -- the desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, mule deer and pronghorn.

In addition to the Grand Slam, there are several quality deer hunting packages available, as well as opportunities to pursue alligator, waterfowl, upland game birds, wild hog and exotics. Check out this video documenting last year's Ultimate Mule Deer Hunt, the latest addition to Big Time Texas Hunts <http://bit.ly/MuleDeerVideo>.

For more information about this year's Big Time Texas Hunts and to purchase en-

tries online for \$9 each visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/buyentry. Entries are also available for \$10 each at hunting license retailers or by phone (800) 895-4248. There is no limit to the number of entries an individual may purchase and all proceeds benefit conservation, wildlife management and public hunting. To learn more about the programs supported through Big Time Texas Hunts, visit <http://bit.ly/ProjectsSupported>.

Big Time Texas Hunts is made possible with support from Toyota and the Texas Bighorn Society.

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"The Moon Report" October's Crappie Excitement

By Terri Moon

If you haven't heard, the crappie fishing on Fork has gotten very exciting! The early cool snap we had in September was enough to start the crappie feeding and bunching up. We've been finding them in 18 to 24 ft. of water and depending on the time of day, they can be anywhere between 16 to 22 ft. So, keep a close eye on that depth finder and you'll know how deep to target. Also keep in mind that different days might take different presentations so don't be afraid to change it up. Some days they want it moving fast and some days they want it dead still and some days you have to downsize your bait for a slower fall over your target.

Bait colors can make a difference too. On cloudy days with low-light conditions, go to a darker color bait and on brighter days with clearer water, go to your brighter colors. Also it doesn't hurt to add Berkley's crappie nibbles to your bait or tip your jig with a minnow. So if what you're doing isn't working, try something different till



you key in on what and how they want it for that particular day because what worked for you today might not be what they want tomorrow – so be flexible!! But, the best advice I can give you – whether the fish or biting or not – is to just get out there and enjoy this beautiful fall weather. We've waited a long time for it so don't miss it! (My dream days are mid-70's with a light and variable wind) PRICELESS!!

Speaking of "Priceless" I want to send a huge "thank you" to the Lowrance crew and MinnKota crews for all their hard work at the Big Bass Splash held on Lake Fork at Lake Fork Marina. These guys were in the "trenches" working their tails off in sweltering heat help-

ing the fishermen with any issues they had with their equipment. I personally watched them all go "above and beyond" the "call of duty"!! It was amazing to watch them in action and their work was so much appreciated! They "saved the day" for many of the fishermen!

Also, if you haven't been by Lake Fork Marina lately, you need to check it out. It's truly amazing what they've done with the store and they now have room for "double" your fishing needs!

My best to you all and many thanks for the thoughts and prayers for my dad who is going through radiation treatments. You got this Pops!! Love to all!

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11th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork



By Don Hampton

For you anglers that are not only big fans of fishing Lake Fork but also love doing it with Berkley baits here is the time you have been waiting for. The 11th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork hosted by Bass Champs will be October 15th and 16th. The tournament will be at Lake Fork Marina

just off Highway 17N. Registration times will be Friday October 14th from 12 to 8 P.M. and on October 15th and 16th from 4:30 A.M. to 7 A.M. at tournament headquarters. Entry fee for one day is \$120 or \$170 for both days.

For anglers participating this will be one of the most exciting tournaments of the year. With the cooler temperatures setting in the bass are sure to be feeding up and respond to those great new Berkley hard and soft baits. You can check out the new Berkley hard baits on page 13-A and 6-B and 7-B. Those fine baits you will definitely want in your tackle selection.

There will be 20 places paid per hour during the two-day tournament, starting at \$1,000 for 1st place, down to \$150 for 10th place. Eleventh thru fifteenth places will win an Abu Garcia Revo-S Reel, and sixteenth thru twentieth will win a Berkley Emotion.

For the lucky angler that catches the heaviest bass over the slot, that angler will be taking home a new Skeeter ZX200, powered by

Yamaha SHO, MinnKota trolling motor, and Lowrance electronics. For the heaviest bass under the slot, that angler will be taking home a new Skeeter TZX 190, powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor, and Lowrance electronics.

This tournament is not only a great fishing experience but also terrific entertainment for the entire family. Fish Fishburne will be present with a laugh or two and WFN will be on hand filming the television show. There will be drawings from the empty Berkley bait bags for all the anglers and just a great time for all.

I hope to see everyone there. For more information and details check out their ad on Page 12-B or go to their website; www.basschamps.com or for more details you can call them at 817-439-3274.

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TPWD implementing program changes to optimize spawning success

For over 30 years, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Toyota ShareLunker Program has created awareness of the value of catch-and-release fishing, provided 13 pounds or heavier largemouth bass to support Texas's

selective breeding program and generated nationwide interest in Texas bass fishing. This year, TPWD is implementing changes to fully incorporate ShareLunker offspring into hatchery brood stock.

While the ShareLunker season will continue to run each year from Oct. 1 through April 30, only those entries collected between Jan. 1 - March 31 will be accepted as brood stock for spawning.

"Our analysis of spawning results has determined that January-March provides the greatest opportunity to obtain good candidates for spawning," stated Todd Engeling, TPWD's Chief of Inland Hatcheries. "For all ShareLunkers caught outside of that timeframe, TPWD staff will weigh and measure each fish and obtain a fin clip for genetic analysis. The fish will then be returned to the angler."

During January through March, every ShareLunker that TPWD staff determines to be capable of spawning will be transported to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. In recent years, pure Florida largemouth bass have been primarily used for spawning due to limited hatchery space. Starting this season, TPWD staff will attempt to spawn all ShareLunker bass regardless of genetics. However, only pure Florida ShareLunker offspring will be incorporated into the hatchery brood stock program.

"Pure Florida largemouth bass make up nearly half of all ShareLunkers entered while they typically make up less than 10 percent of bass in the wild. That means they likely provide the best chance to reach trophy size," said Engeling. "TPWD will begin converting hatchery largemouth bass brood stock so that eventually all will be descendants of pure-Florida ShareLunkers."

In addition, although ShareLunker entries will still be accepted from private waters, ShareLunker offspring will not be stocked back into private water bodies even when the ShareLunker is donated from private waters.

The changes announced for 2016-17 season are part of a long-term strategy being developed for the Toyota ShareLunker program, according to Kyle Brookshear, Toyota ShareLunker Program Coordinator. A team of hatchery scientists, fisheries managers and education and outreach experts is evaluating the program's long-term goals and strategies. Additional improvements will be incorporated into future seasons with the goal of increasing angler participation.

"As a competitive angler and fishing advocate, I am thrilled to be part of the ShareLunker program and to contribute to its new direction," said Brookshear. "We want to continue to reward our anglers for not only catching a trophy largemouth bass but also for helping us manage our fisheries to enhance trophy bass fishing in Texas."

ShareLunker catches can be reported 24 hours

(See TPWD Implementing.....Continued on 21-A)

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

33rd Semi-Annual Open Tournament

Oct. 22, 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 Oct. 15, 2016.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016.
4. Check in time: Friday, Oct. 21, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 22, 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 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 Oct. 15, 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

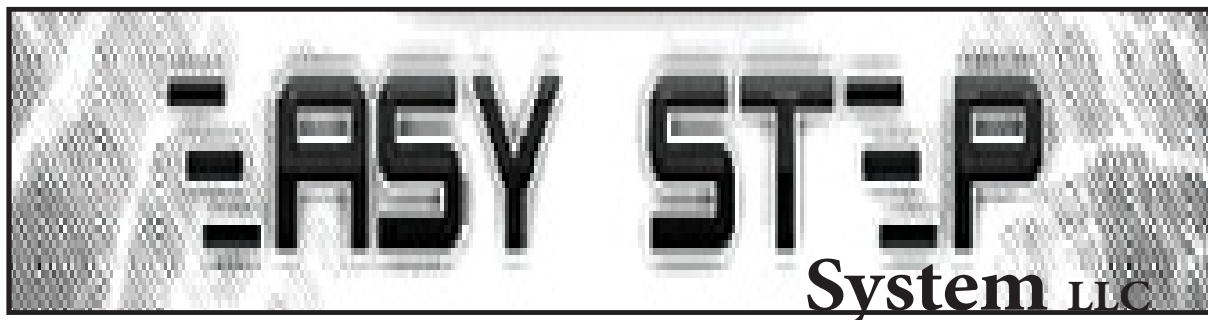
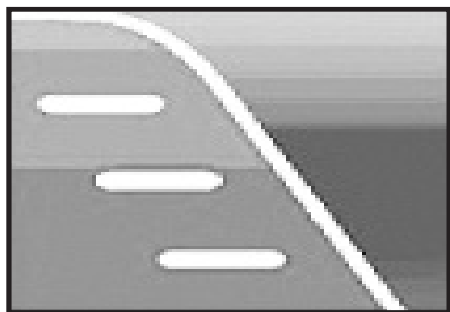
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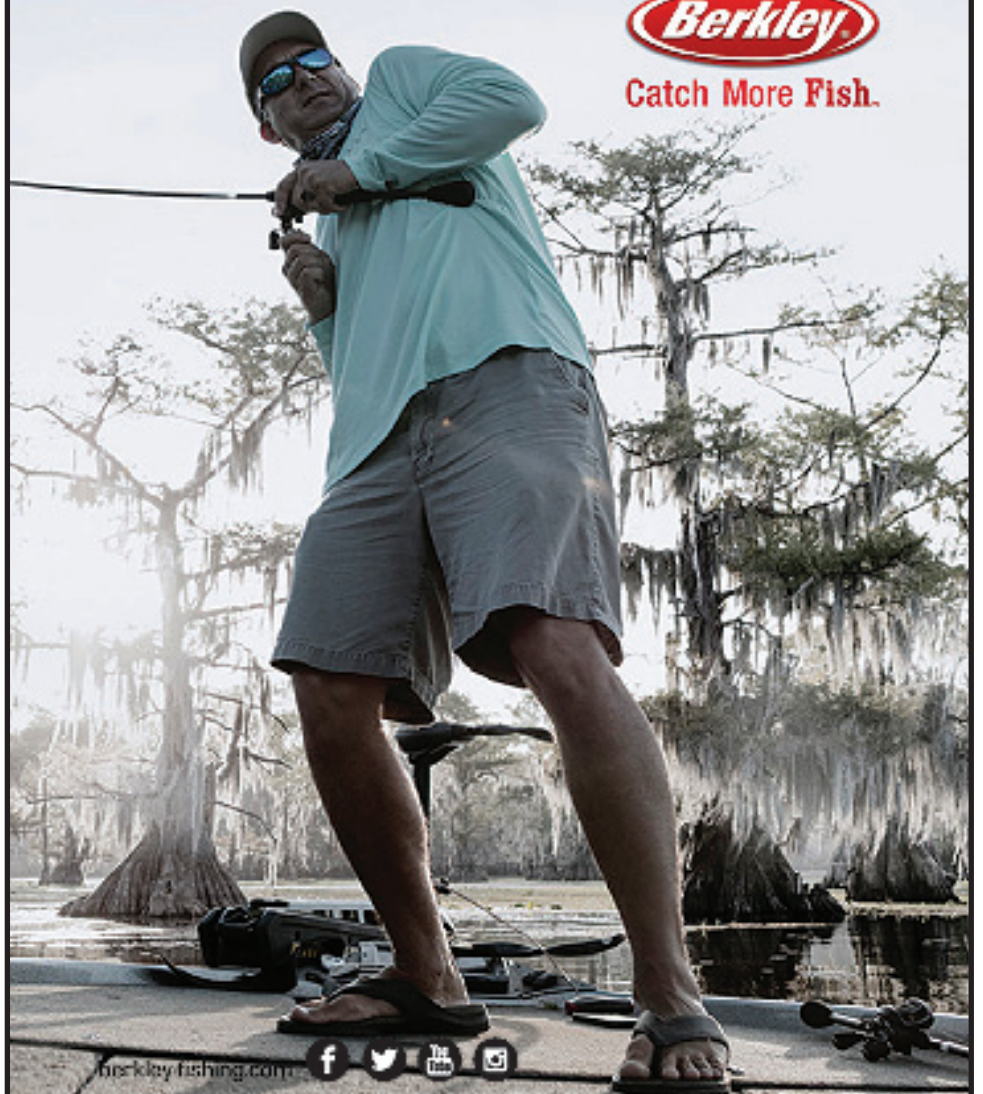
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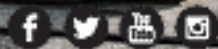
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CWD Sample Collector Trainings in the Trans Pecos and Panhandle

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service have partnered to coordinate chronic wasting disease (CWD) postmortem sample collector trainings in the Trans Pecos and Panhandle. As part of the state's increased CWD surveillance, officials are providing the opportunity for landowners/managers, taxidermists and veterinarians

to be trained to collect tissues for CWD testing under TAHC's Certified CWD Postmortem Sample Collector training program.

Information will be presented in a classroom format and includes hands on training for sample collection. Trained individuals will then be certified to sample harvested deer/elk on their properties or for other hunters and provide those samples to TPWD for CWD testing to meet mandatory test-

ing requirements in the Trans-Pecos and Panhandle CWD Zones. Space is limited to the first 50 participants for each training. The training class is free and anyone interested is encouraged to sign up as soon as possible.

CWD postmortem sample collection training is scheduled for the following dates and locations:

Van Horn

Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Van Horn Convention Center, 1801 W Broadway St.

Please contact Lainie Koch at (432) 283-8440 or jekoch@ag.tamu.edu to sign up for the Trans-Pecos training.

Amarillo

Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the AgriLife Extension Building, 6500 W Amarillo Blvd.

Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Please contact Michael Wilkes at (806) 868-3191; mcwilkes@ag.tamu.edu to sign up for the Panhandle training.

Please visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/cwd for more information about CWD, CWD management and new CWD regulations.

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State Parks Revitalization Projects Completed After Record Appropriation

Several Texas State Parks construction projects are now complete thanks to a significant increase in dedicated funding through legislation passed by the 84th Texas Legislature.

House Bill 158 dedicated 94 percent of state sales taxes collected on sporting goods to TPWD. These funds have been primarily directed to much-needed state park capital repairs and improvements, addressing a backlog of deteriorating facility needs through water and wastewater projects, restroom replacements, electric utility modernization and other improvements.

Parks with projects completed this year include Bastrop State Park, Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway, Choke Canyon State Park, Fort Boggy State Park, Inks Lake State Park, Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Possum Kingdom State Park, Sheldon Lake State Park and Environmental Learning Center and Tyler State Park.

One of the most recent projects completed is the first phase of one-of-a-kind cabins at Fort Boggy State Park located between Dallas and Houston on IH 45. The rustic wooden cabins located across from the park lake were built under a canopy of trees and can be accessed by a new 65-foot bridge. Each cabin comes

with a microwave, refrigerator, an open deck, wood floors and ceiling fans. Since the cabins are completely in the shade of the canopy of trees, park visitors have the flexibility to use the cabin areas all year. Additionally, the space outside each cabin includes a picnic area with a table, lantern holder and a fire ring.

Elsewhere, in an important first step in the beachside redevelopment of Galveston Island State Park, a Houston-based design consultant team led by Sasaki Walker and Associates Landscape Architects and Planners has been officially selected to design the beachside enhancements. The design team began working on the project earlier this year with construction projected to be completed in 2020.

Proposed improvements to the park include 112 multiuse campsites, raised tent camping platforms, equestrian camping facilities, five large dune crossing boardwalks, restrooms, day use parking and picnic sites with shade structures for small and large groups. There will also be a concession facility for equipment rental. All improvements will be serviced with new electrical, water and wastewater utilities.

In the Panhandle, a collaborative project with the Texas Department of Transportation led to the construction of bridges to avoid flash

flooding hazards and rebuilding of campsites at Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

Six bridges have been built over water crossings on Palo Duro Canyon's main roadway, increasing the safety of park visitors by providing access to higher ground areas of the park during flood events. Utilities and infrastructure have also been upgraded at the Juniper camping loop through this joint project. The Juniper camp loop underwent a rebuild of 20 campsites, an indoor group hall and bathrooms with showers.

Near Houston, Sheldon Lake State Park's Environmental Learning Center has also undergone a facelift with several new commodities such as the creation of campsites, a greenhouse, boardwalks, a new entry road and sign and a bird watching platform.

One of the new features of the park are 14 new campsites created for use by the Texas Outdoor Family program, which introduces families to camping through guided weekend workshops.

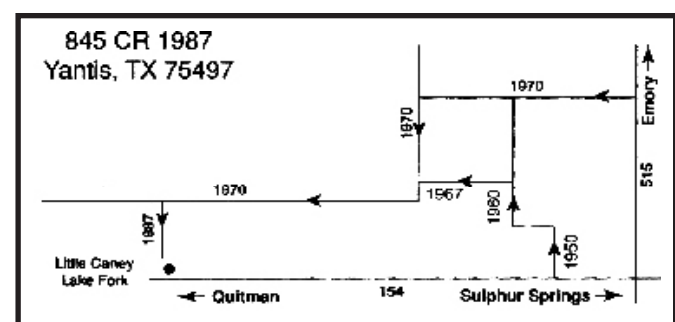
In addition, more than 3,000 feet of new boardwalks traversing the restored prairie and wetland habitat demonstration sites were installed at Sheldon Lake. The new boardwalk

(See State Parks....Continued on Page 16-A)

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State Parks Revitalization Projects Completed (Continued from Page 15-A)

waysides and interpretive exhibits will help park visitors learn about the unique ecology at the park as well as descriptions of wildlife they might encounter. Habitat restoration work for Sheldon Lake has been ongoing since 2002. The

new greenhouse located at the environmental learning center will be used by volunteers for growing plants for prairie restoration at the park. Prairie and wetland restoration at the east side of the West Canal was one of the main projects of this phase of restoration for the park.

One of the wetland areas now has a new bird watching platform installed for experienced and novice birders alike to view and document the unique species of birds found in that part of Texas.

Other completed projects this year include a reconstructed warehouse facility at Bastrop State Park that was damaged by wildfire; repairs to the trail way at the Clarity Tunnel at Caprock

Canyons State Park; the replacement of water intake pumps at Choke Canyon State Park; electrical system grounding issues were assessed at Inks Lake State Park; electric utilities were upgraded at Possum Kingdom State Park; and electrical services were repaired at Tyler State Park. In the future, dedicated funding from the sporting goods sales tax will allow for continued maintenance and im-

provements of state parks as well as increased staffing, more visitor programs and new state parks.

For a complete list of projects in the planning, design or construction stage, visit the Brighter Future project page on the TPWD website.

Video highlighting some of the projects completed this year is available on the TPWD YouTube page.

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Palo Duro Superintendent Recognized for Outstanding Women in Texas Government Award

Palo Duro Canyon State Park superintendent Shannon Blalock was awarded the Outstanding Management award by the State Agency Council to the Governor's Commission of Women at their awards ceremony at the Radisson Hotel & Suites in Austin on Sept. 15.

Candidates were nominated by their respective agency heads in four categories- outstanding community involvement, outstanding leadership, outstanding management and outstanding professional development. A committee reviewed the nominations and selected four women whose contributions exemplified each category.

During her career with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Blalock has been influential in her management and leadership of several state parks, including becoming the first female to lead Palo Duro Canyon State Park, and was key to the creation of the Citizens Park Ranger Academy (CPRA) when she was leading the operation at Dinosaur Valley State Park.

She began her career at TPWD as assistant office manager for Dinosaur Valley State Park and was quickly promoted to park superintendent.

During her three year tenure as superintendent at Dinosaur Valley State Park, she developed a number of initiatives still in use and which have been adopted at other parks. Years before the newly launched Texas State Park Mobile app Blalock saw the need to reach a broader audience with a Dinosaur Valley State Parks app. She reached out to community leaders, the parks' friends group, the local chamber of commerce and economic development board and coordinated with them for several months to develop and fund what would become the first ever mobile app in a Texas State Park. This effort came at no cost to the park or agency and successfully exposed thousands of people to the wonders of Dinosaur Valley.

Another project created under the direction of Blalock was the Citizens Park Ranger Academy (CPRA). This workshop is the first of its kind and aims to enhance area residents and business members understanding of their state park system. The program has been an influential way to grow support for Texas State Parks as well as directly impact the TPWD mission of exposing constituents to outdoor recreation and nature based conservation. Graduates of the class have gone on to volunteer and even

become employed with TPWD. The CPRA lives on after Shannon's initial work and the second CPRA class recently graduated and is now being expanded to a Junior CPRA exclusive to youth. Abilene State Park recently launched a similar training academy.

In 2014, Blalock became the first female to lead one of the most iconic and well-known parks, Palo Duro Canyon. As one of the most visited parks in Texas, Palo Duro sees about 300,000 park goers annually and is the home of the iconic outdoor play "Texas," which people have come from around world to see.

"Shannon Blalock represents the epitome of exceptional management at one of the most challenging parks in Texas," said Brent Leisure, state parks division director with TPWD. "During her time at Palo Duro Canyon, she made great strides in strengthening partnerships with the local community and managing large capital construction projects with different state agencies on top of her daily job duties. Her outstanding management skills have left a lasting legacy at every stop of her career."

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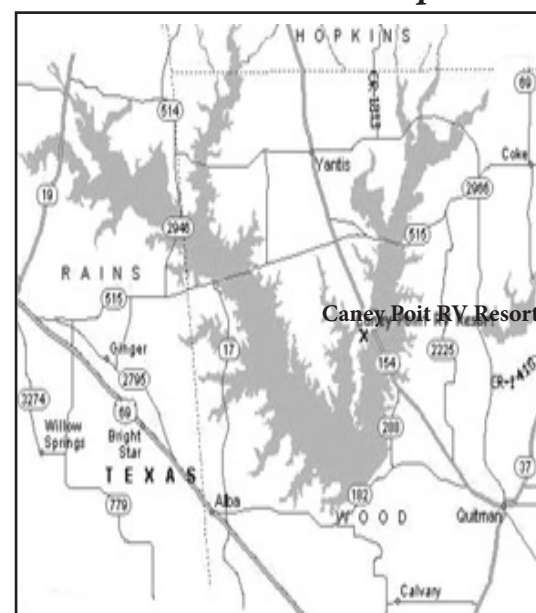
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"Pack of Knowledge" Walking the Frog

Some of my most memorable days on Lake Fork have been those spent catching big bass on hollow bodied frogs. Every angler loves a good frog bite. The oftentimes ferocious strikes are what make frog fishing so enjoyable. Day in, day out, topwater frogs produce big bass.

Frog fishing comes with a price however. There is no other technique in the world of bass fishing with such a poor hook-up ratio. This can be frustrating, especially when you can see how big the fish was that attacked your frog. Sometimes you can do everything right and still miss the bite, but

there are a few things you can do to increase your success.

First, it's important to choose the right frog. There are a lot of choices out there from many different lure companies. There are a few that I really like, and I'm sure there are some great ones that I haven't tried. Some companies offer a traditional style frog, as well as a "popping" style frog. Both styles have their place in my box. I tend to use the traditional frog more in the heaviest cover and matted vegetation. Sometimes a popping style will work better in areas where the cover is a little less dense.

The first thing you need to do when choosing a frog is feel the plastic. I like to press down on the back of the frog, right in front of the hook points. This tells me how much force will be needed to set the hook. Because they are so weedless and effective in heavy cover, they can also prevent fish from getting hooked. Therefore, I prefer frogs with a really soft body. Also, I always take my pliers and slightly bend the hook points out, just a few degrees. This will have little if any effect on how weedless the frog is, but I believe it makes a big difference in hook-up percentage.

I wish color selection was more simple. Lure companies offer such a wide variety of color options that it can be overwhelming. Personally, I

believe having a few basic color variations is best. I like black, white, and brown or green. Keep in mind the frog is silhouetted beneath a brighter sky and all the fish see is the bottom portion of the lure.

In my opinion, the retrieve is the most important aspect of being successful. I like to "walk the frog". This is the rhythmic left/right movement often referred to as "walking the dog" that is most commonly used with Zara Spook type topwaters. Most hollow bodied frogs aren't designed to do this, but with some practice it can be done rather easily. An angler who can walk the frog can go behind other frog fishermen and clean house!

The first thing I do when I remove a new frog from the packaging, is trim one leg of the skirt material about a half inch shorter than the other. This will change the balance of the frog and is essential in getting that side to side movement. I work the frog with my rod tip pointed down and employ a steady rhythm, twitching my wrist as I reel very slowly with the other hand. I leave a good bit of slack in the line as this allows the frog to move freely each direction. In a nutshell, you're retrieving the frog extremely slow while keeping a constant side to side motion. This looks like a meal that's easy to catch because it isn't cover-

(See Pack of Knowledge....Continued on Page 22-A)



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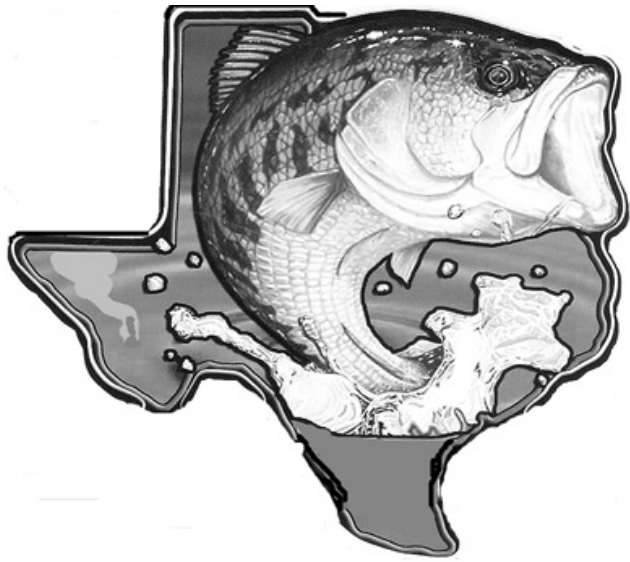
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Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork Open Tournament October 22nd



By Don Hampton

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 33rd Semi Annual Open Bass Tournament on October 22nd hosted out of Oak Ridge Marina. Any of you anglers coming to fish the 11th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament, this is perfect timing for you stick around for an extra week and enjoy the great fishing Lake Fork has to offer.

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. Bass in the tournament can touch 16" but not break the line, bass over the slot must touch the 24" line. The Check-It-Stick will be the official mea-

suring board. Bass under 12" cannot be brought to the weigh-in.

Early entries must be postmarked by October 15th or you may enter at the tournament headquarters. Early entry fee is \$40 per angler. Entry fee at tournament headquarters is \$45.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork pays back 80% of all entries. There is also a Big Bass Pot, optional to anglers. To get into the Big Bass pot it is an additional \$10 with 100% payback to the top three biggest bass. Texas Trails Bassmasters will be taking entries from 4 a.m. till 9 p.m. on Friday, October 21st, and again on Saturday, October 22nd from 5 a.m. till 6 a.m.

If you can't come and fish with us, everyone is welcome to come out, visit with us and even buy some raffle tickets for the many prizes to be given away.

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 to obtain an entry form for the tournament see ad on Page 10-A or 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.

Fishing is going to be great! Come out

and fish with us! Who knows you may even catch the first ShareLunker of the season!

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October is the month (Continued from Page 6-A)

up for the winter. Once the afternoon rolls around, start looking deep for bait and you will find bass that just flat live there year round. The electronics are key to this success and once you locate a sizeable wad of fish, pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. You can start with a Carolina rig using any big worm to fool the bass. Blue fleck, watermelon red and plum all work well. A stand up head is also a great tool for these fish using the same worms. My mantra is "if I can see them, I can catch them". It's game on for video fishing and the drop shot rules the roost for this type of

play. Put the worm right in front of their nose and wait for the rod to load up. It don't get much better than that. If you spot the big arc's suspended, dig out a 5 inch Talon spoon, count it down and hold on. A magnum fluke will work equally well if the wind is not howling. Use a heavy rod and 20lb line for this application.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in October searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in October and some in November. 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 and Instagram at DavidOzioLakeForkGuide. I post my daily trip results on this page. I run a Skeeter FX 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, Talon Lures, Shimano and Lowrance 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

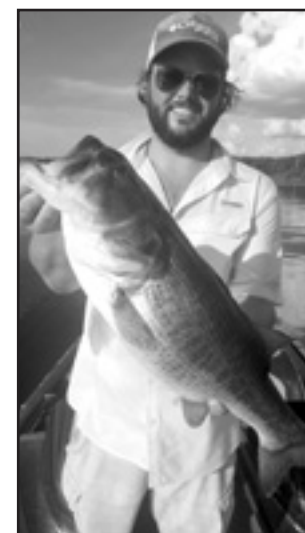


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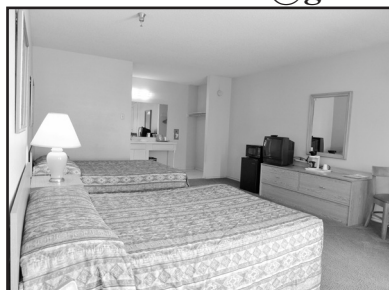
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TPWD implementing changes (Continued from Page 10-A)

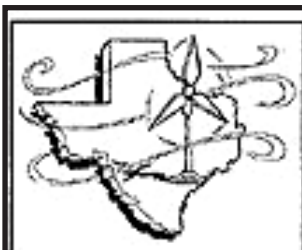
a day, 7 days a week by calling (903) 681-0550. For complete information and rules of the ShareLunker program, tips on caring for big bass and a recap of last year's season, see www.tpwd.texas.gov/sharelunker/. The site also includes a searchable database of all fish en-

tered into the program.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible by a grant to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation from Gulf States Toyota. Toyota is a long-time supporter of the Foundation and TPWD, providing major funding for a wide variety of edu-

cation, fish, parks and wildlife projects.

For more information on the Toyota ShareLunker program, contact Kyle Brookshear, ShareLunker Program Coordinator, 5550 FM 2495 Athens, TX 75752, (903) 670-2285 or by e-mail kyle.brookshear@tpwd.texas.gov.



Texas is known for its oil, but the state is also a leading wind energy producer with wind projects generating over 1,200 megawatts.



If you toss a penny in the air, it is actually more likely to land on "tails," since the "head" image is heavier, so it tends to end up on the bottom.

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Treat Find

There are 14 Halloween treats 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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APPLE

CHOCOLATE

CARAMELS

COOKIES

COINS

FRUIT SNACKS

POPCORN

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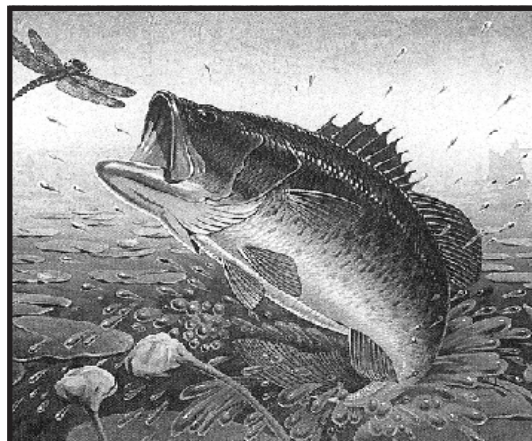
CAKE

RAISINS

GUM

ICE CREAM

A	P	O	N	Y	T	R	F	E	P	R	G
P	I	C	E	N	O	M	E	L	P	C	F
C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	A	E	R
E	C	O	L	U	E	R	A	K	P	N	U
C	O	K	P	L	E	B	E	R	A	R	I
U	T	I	O	N	A	M	R	P	Y	S	T
E	A	E	P	U	U	U	P	R	A	N	S
P	T	S	I	G	C	O	I	N	S	P	N
T	O	A	L	Y	P	L	B	N	L	V	A
R	P	N	L	C	R	B	E	K	E	W	C
F	A	A	O	E	F	R	U	I	M	A	K
U	N	R	L	G	M	E	L	W	A	W	S
V	N	R	A	I	S	I	N	S	R	R	G
A	L	L	A	A	E	L	P	P	A	Y	A
P	R	E	T	Z	E	L	S	A	C	M	M
M	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M	L	P	V



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"Pack of Knowledge" (Continued from Page 18-A)

ing much water, but at the same time the fish can't get too good of a look at it because it is moving constantly. It's a retrieve that a lot of folks have trouble with, but it's definitely worth mastering.

I always use braided line with frogs. Being a topwater technique the noise and visibility of braid are not issues. Also, line stretch is eliminated with braid, so your hook-ups will vastly improve. 50lb test Power Pro is a good choice. I often use 65lb, however 50lb will give the frog a little more movement if you're having trouble walking it.

I really like a heavy rod with a slightly softer tip for this technique. You need a rod with a lot of backbone to get a hard hookset. However, a rod with a tip that's too stiff will make the frog difficult to cast and walk. I think the G. Loomis E6X 7'1" Heavy is a great choice. It's not so long that it's smacking the water when I'm retrieving, and it has the right

balance in my opinion. You want a strong rod, but you don't need a flipping stick when you have braided line. I use a high speed Shimano Curado for my reel. Taking up slack quickly is very important with this technique.

Finally, I try to force myself to delay the hook set. Waiting just a second longer than you feel like you should will greatly increase your hook-ups. I often find that bass will hold the frog a long time if you don't jerk. Pausing a moment will allow the fish to get the frog down in it's mouth

deeper. If I still miss the fish, I find it's very rare for me to get that same fish to make another attempt at a frog. However, if I have a weightless fluke or senko handy, I toss it exactly where I missed the fish. This is the only way I've found to salvage missed frog bites.

Hopefully this information will help you have more big catches and less missed opportunities. If you're planning a fishing trip to Lake Fork, feel free to contact me, I'd love to help in any way I can.

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