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Strollin’ With Stroman

By Dean Stroman

Now is the best time to fish Lake Fork. Deciding what pattern to fish when you arrive at Lake Fork is the hardest part. Picking the right pattern can mean the difference from having a successful day or not. Bass will be in shallow and deep waters, hitting a wide variety of lures. Generally start shallow early and go deep when the shallow bite slows. On sunny, winded days deep bite can be your best bet. On overcast days the shallow bite will muddy or off-color some of Fork’s deep water areas. When this happens, stay shallow, ten foot or less. The bite will be a lot better. It is very difficult to catch deep bass in off-color water.

I still have some May and June day trips available and am booking for day and night trips in June and July. So call soon to get the date you want. If I can help make your fishing trip to Lake Fork a good one, give me a call. I’ll be happy to help. Land Line: 903-383-7214, Cell: 903-850-5083 and email: dstroman@peoplescom.net.

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

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Shad and bream start spawning in earnest in May. Shad generally bunch up on main lake and secondary points. When this happens, birds and bass will gang up on them. When starting your day and you are running down the lake, fish the points where you see birds ganged up. Bream will spawn from mid to back ends on most creeks. When they pull into spawn, schools of bass will not be far behind. Frog baits, skinny dippers and swim baits are hard to beat for these bass. Spinner baits and chatter baits will all catch their share of bass. Use shallow cranks and swim baits for bass that are feeding on points. These are some of the best lure selections. Don’t forget your topwater pop-type baits and walk baits. They will also produce big in May.

For the deep bite, deep cranks, Carolina rigs and swim baits are some of your top producers. With deep cranks, shad and barfish patterns are top color choices. Carolina rigged plastic in chartreuse and watermelon colors are hard to beat. French fry type plastics and creature baits are top choices. For swim baits, shad pattern in ¼ ounce weight sizes produce best; six to eight inch size. Large sizes cut down on the number of white bass hits. Slow rolled on the bottom, swim baits can be deadly on Fork’s bass. Most humps, ridges, road beds and main lake points close to deep water ledges that drop from twenty feet on the top side to fifteen to thirty foot range. Wind or runoff from rains will muddy or off-color some of Fork’s deep water areas. When this happens, stay shallow, ten foot or less. The bite will be a lot better. It is very difficult to catch deep bass in off-color water.

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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Better Safe than Sorry-- As a Val Verde County game warden ate a late lunch at a boat ramp on Lake Amistad, he was approached by two men wearing camouflage and waders. The hunters told the warden they had gone out that morning to hunt ducks on kayaks a few miles away. However, a cold front with 47-mile-an-hour winds blew over the lake in mid-morning, making it impossible to navigate. The hunters sought shelter in a nearby cove before deciding to seek help. Fortunately, they found the game warden not long after starting their search for help. The warden launched his boat, made his way across the white-capping lake and, with the help of the two hunters, found the abandoned kayaks and gear.

--Doe Drowning-- As a Red River County game warden watched for night road hunting from his vehicle, a truck drove down the road he was watching, slowed down and turned around. Un aware of the warden’s presence, the truck stopped at a nearby creek. The warden soon heard a loud splash. After the warden made contact with the driver, the man admitted to killing a doe that night, out of season, and then dumping the carcass in the creek to get rid of it. Multiple cases against the individual are pending.

--Bambi’s Not a Pet-- A Grayson County game warden received a call from a Sherman Police Department officer about a yearling white-tailed deer he had noticed in a small pen in someone’s yard. The warden went to the scene and, with the help of a local animal control officer, captured the deer and transferred it to a permitted rehabilitator so it could eventually be released back into the wild. The warden cited the resident of the house for possessing a live deer without a permit. The case is pending.

--Thank Goodness They Wore Life Jackets-- A Limestone County game warden got a call about a father and son who hadn’t returned home from their fishing trip. After calling both her husband and son multiple times, the wife and her other son went to Lake Limestone to look for their missing family members. They found the dad’s truck and trailer, but his boat was nowhere to be seen. When the warden arrived on scene, he saw a light flashing sporadically in the distance, in the middle of the lake. The warden launched his patrol boat and, upon arriving at the source of the light, found a man and child sitting on top of a capsized vessel. High winds had caused the boat to take on water and capsize on top of a tree stump, which kept the boat partially above water. The father and son, who were both wearing life jackets, were okay, though they were very cold, hungry and shaken. The warden took them back to the boat ramp and their waiting family members, gave them some food and let them warm up. Fortunately, neither individual needed medical attention.

--Catch and Release-- When a Shelby County game warden returned to an area where he had previously seen hoop nets hanging from a tree, he also found multiple nets in the nearby river. The warden monitored the area over the next few days without seeing any fishermen, but one day noticed the nets had been baited and some were moved to a different location. The warden monitored the area for another 10 hours before he finally saw a fisherman bait a couple of nets and place them in the water. The warden made contact with the subject and found 22 illegal hoop nets with about 15 catfish, all of which the warden released back into the river.

--Can’t Hide from the Law… or the Church-- A Starr County game warden and a Zapata County warden were on patrol when a “be on the lookout” warning was issued by the local sheriff’s department for a vehicle used in the burglary of a local church. While the wardens sat at a four-way stop, they saw a vehicle matching the BOLO run a stop sign in front of them. The wardens pursued the vehicle. The chase finally ended at a residence, where the wardens determined the man was indeed the suspect who had burglarized the church. The wardens found the stolen property and handed the suspect and vehicle over to the local law enforcement.

(See Game Warden Notes—Continued on Page 6-B)

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By Sue Hampton

“Skillet meals,” named appropriately for the pan they are cooked in, are one-dish meals that combine protein (beef, chicken or fish), grains and a sauce that brings the recipe together. Usually prepared in under 30 minutes, these skillets are not only quick and healthy, but can be easily modified to meet your family’s individual cravings.

A great option if you are looking to add sizzle to supper, Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo Skillet combines chicken and pasta with savory Parmesan cheese and crisp broccoli to make this skillet dish a popular part of just about anyone’s repertoire.

The next time you’re trying to deliver dinner on a deadline, just add a few ingredients, and in less than 30 minutes you can enjoy a tasty and well-rounded meal with your family. Consider this fast and delicious recipe!

Campbell’s Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo
(Prep: 10 minutes- Makes: 4 servings- Cook: 20 minutes)

½ of a 16-ounce package linguine
1 cup fresh or frozen broccoli flowerets
2 tablespoons butter
1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cut into cubes
1 can (10-3/4 ounces) Campbell’s Condensed Cream of Mushroom Soup
½ cup milk
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

Prepare the linguine according to the package directions in a 3-quart saucepan. Add the broccoli during the last 4 minutes of the cooking time. Drain the linguine and broccoli well in a colander. Heat the butter in a 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat. Add the chicken and cook until it’s well browned, stirring often. Stir the soup, milk, cheese, black pepper and linguine mixture into the skillet. Cook and stir until the mixture is hot and bubbling. Serve with additional Parmesan cheese.

Easy Substitution: Substitute spaghetti for the linguine.
Lake Fork Tournament Schedule May thru July 2016

May

May 7 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
May 13, 14, 15 ~ Legend of Lake Fork
Big Bass Tournament
Lake Fork Marina

May 21 ~ Media...

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June

June 4 ~ Wood County Kidfish
SRA Park

June 9 - 12 ~ Skeeter Owners Tour
Lake Fork Marina

June 18 ~ Media Teams
Minnow Bucket

June 25~ JC Outdoors Team
Minnow Bucket

June 25&26 ~ LFSA Catfish Tourney
Oak Ridge Marina

June 26 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket

July

July 9 ~ Media NE Division
Minnow Bucket

July 16 ~ Media Fork Division
Minnow Bucket

July 23 ~ Media NE Division
Minnow Bucket

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Lake Fork Tournament
Schedule May thru July

May

May 7 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
May 13, 14, 15 ~ Legend of Lake Fork
Big Bass Tournament
Lake Fork Marina

May 21 ~ Media Teams
Minnow Bucket

May 22 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
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June 4 ~ Wood County Kidfish
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July

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Minnow Bucket

July 16 ~ Media Fork Division
Minnow Bucket

July 23 ~ Media NE Division
Minnow Bucket

If you or your Bass Club have a tournament on Lake Fork contact us at: fishnews@lakefork.net or call 903-383-7748

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 3-B)

sheriff’s office. The suspect was subsequently charged with burglary of a building.

--Ramming a Game Warden Boat Is Not Very Effective-- As Starr and Zapata county game wardens patrolled the Rio Grande River, they spotted a commercial fisherman on the U.S. side of the river. When the wardens tried to make contact with him, the fisherman started ramming the warden’s boat with his own boat. During the commotion, the wardens managed to board the fisherman’s boat and disable it. They took the fisherman into custody for possession of a prohibited device in state waters. The wardens seized the boat, motor and 9,000 feet of gill net.

--Nice Try-- A Comal County game warden came across a photo on a popular Facebook hunting group of a woman holding her first buck. After further investigation, the warden determined the woman did not have a hunting license. Her boyfriend had used his own license and tag to make it look like the woman had taken the deer legally. The game warden found the woman and her boyfriend, who told the warden it was all a big joke, and he had actually shot the deer. After getting statements from the pair, the warden interviewed several other individuals who had received text messages and phone calls from the woman. They said the woman told them she had shot her first buck. The wardens determined the female had in fact shot the deer and used her boyfriend’s license and tag to cover it up. The pair paid a fine and civil restitution.

--Do You Really Know All the Game Wardens?-- A game warden got a call from a landowner about trespassers on his property. The landowner said he had seen a group of quail hunters jump his fence. When he confronted them and said he was going to call the game wardens, one of the trespassers said, “Go ahead, I know all the game wardens and will be expecting their call.” The warden responded and gathered evidence at the scene. During his investigation, he found the names of all four suspects. After interviewing the suspects, all four confessed to not only the trespass but to hunting from the road and killing roadrunners, a protected nongame bird.

--The Old Switcheroo-- A game warden was patrolling the Canadian River area in Potter County when he saw a pickup truck, driven by a male, fail to stop at a stop sign and then get onto the nearby highway at a high rate of speed. As the warden pursued the truck, the male driver suddenly pulled off the roadway. The warden initiated a traffic stop. However, as he approached the pickup, he noticed the male that he had just seen driving the truck had switched places with his female passenger, who was now in the driver’s seat. During a brief interview with the male, the warden noticed signs of intoxication and administered standardized field sobriety tests. The male failed the tests and was placed under arrest for driving while intoxicated. He provided a breath sample that registered a 0.234 blood alcohol level.
Shad and bream start spawning in earnest in May. The shallow bite is hard to beat. On overcast days the bass will be in shallow and deep waters, hitting a wide variety of colors. French fry type plastics and Carolina rigged plastic in chartreuse and watermelon are top color choices. Bass will not be far behind. Frog baits, skinny dippers can be deadly on Fork’s bass. Most humps, ridges, canyons or points. These are some of the best lure locations. When the shallow bite slows. On sunny, winded days bass will muddy or off-color some of Fork’s deep water areas. When this happens, stay shallow, ten foot or less. The bite will be a lot better. It is very difficult to catch deep bass in off-color water. The deep bass will be on road beds and main lake points close to deep water ledges that drop from twenty feet on the top side to fifteen to thirty foot range. Wind or runoff from rains will muddy or off-color water when fishing for bass deep.

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