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Bassin’ With Bubba

By Don Bubba Hampton

Fork’s deep water bass are on the move during the month of August. A lot of Fork’s deep water bass move from their deep water sanctuary to more shallow water areas setting up their core area around eight to fifteen foot water depth. This movement is caused by stratification water columns in deep water areas. With the lack of oxygen in these deeper water hangouts most big bass will spend most of their time in eight to fifteen foot depth range. This movement occurs every August on Fork making August one of the top trophy months of the year. If you are after that dream bass, now is the time to spend a lot of time on the water and you might be surprised with a lifetime catch.

The day bite can be rewarding either early or late. The hottest part of the day is generally the best feeding times. Bass are more active at night during summer period. Telemetry studies have shown older age class concentrate as much as ninety percent of their activities during night hours when the water temperature is above eighty-two degrees. Other factors such as water oxygen content will affect bass activity at night. During the day plants convert carbon dioxide to oxygen. Just after dark the water around aquatic plants such as hydrilla has some of the highest concentrations of oxygen of the twenty-four hour period. However, during night hours plants start using oxygen in the water and oxygen levels will drop as darkness proceeds. During the period from several hours after darkness until daylight bass will move to the outside edge of aquatic vegetation to feed. This activity is in response to depleted oxygen.

Find the grass and find the outside edge close to deep water areas and you will be in business. Water temperatures will cool two to five degrees during the night. Cooler water not only feels better to the bass, but also has greater capacity to hold oxygen. Other important factor is water clarity. If water clarity is less than a foot you will have poor night fishing. The clearer the water, the better the fishing. Weather also plays an important role in your night fishing success. Better fish-catchng nights will occur after a still, hot day. Likewise, some of the poorest catching nights will occur after cool, cloudy, windy and rainy days.

Some avid night anglers believe the best bite is during the half moon coming up to half moon coming down. Others believe just the opposite, the darker the better. Generally they are both right. During moonlit nights, points that are close to deep water and aquatic vegetation are the hot spots. During periods of less moonlight, artificial lighting on marinas, boat houses, piers, launch ramps and any other man-made structures will draw more bass. On cloudy nights during moonlight periods artificial shore lighting can be the best bet. During bright, full moon period, grass and points close to deep water sanctuaries away from artificial lighting is best.

Thunderstorms during the night is a sure turnoff even though the weather may be nice afterwards. However, the following morning can be good fishing. High winds at night will also result in a poor bite, especially if the water has become off-colored as a result of the wind. The period just prior to the wind or in its initial stage will be rewarding. Good fishing and fish friendly!

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

--Working the Devils River-- Two Val Verde County game wardens patrolled a rural part of the Devils River by kayak. Because of the river’s location, it can be difficult to get the kayak and other equipment to the put-in point and then get it all out at the take-out point. Despite the logistical challenges, the game wardens were able to safely patrol the river, checking 12 kayakers and river users, with high voluntary water safety compliance.

--Turkeys Are Not Toys--An Atascosa County game warden received a tip about a person keeping a wild Rio Grande turkey in captivity on his property. The warden responded to the location and found the turkey tied by its leg in a makeshift coop. The suspect admitted to chasing the turkey down and capturing it. The warden cited the suspect, seized the turkey and released it in suitable habitat along the Atascosa River.

--The Devil’s in the (Expired) Details--After an Atascosa County game warden noticed a vehicle with an expired registration pulling into a Wal-Mart parking lot, he pulled the vehicle over and made contact with the driver. Upon running her license information, the warden found the female driver had an active felony arrest warrant for violation of probation for cocaine possession. The warden impounded the female’s vehicle and transported her to the Atascosa County jail.

--Flee on Foot--Two game wardens were checking a fisherman at a local lake in Lubbock when they discovered the man did not have a fishing license. Upon further investigation, the wardens learned the man, who had several felony arrest warrants, had given them a false name. When the wardens confronted him about the warrants, the man tried to flee on foot, though he did not get far before the wardens caught up to him and arrested him. Several charges, including failure to identify as a fugitive, resisting arrest and evading arrest, are pending against the fisherman.

--Restricted Air Space--A game warden received a call from an Archer County landowner about a helicopter illegally hunting over his property. The warden visited a nearby property, where he found the helicopter, pilot and crew. The warden interviewed the pilot and crew, who said they had flown over the landowner’s property to film feral hogs for a television show. After consulting the landowner and a game warden captain, the warden determined the crew was in violation for managing wildlife by aircraft, a Class A misdemeanor, without landowner consent. “Managing” wildlife includes photographing wildlife. The warden arrested four crewmembers for managing wildlife by aircraft without landowner authorization. The cases are pending.

--Buy and Bust--A Gonzales County game warden and a Guadalupe County game warden teamed up with a special operations sergeant to set up a buy/bust operation in Gonzales County. The investigation was a response to an Operation Game Thief call. The wardens received a few weeks prior about an individual selling wildlife. The suspect did not possess a mal propagator’s permit. The wardens successfully caught the suspect in the illegal act of selling several live, wild raccoons. Cases are pending against the seller.

--Scary Catch--Two Aransas County game wardens assisted the Aransas County Sheriff’s Department and the Corpus Christi Police Department bomb squad in responding to a potential bomb threat on the water. A commercial oyster boat had accidentally scooped up several old U.S. military mortar rounds. The crew was afraid the mortar rounds could still be active and called the

(See Game Warden ... Continued on Page 6-B)
Refreshig, Easy Recipe For Warm Weather

By Sue Hampton

From mixed greens to pasta supreme, summer days just aren’t complete without a heaping bowl of salad. Maybe it’s because they are so light and tasty that these simple dishes complement a day around the pool. However, be sure to experiment with as many salad recipes as you can to fill the 90 or so days the warm weather lasts.

For a tasty and fresh flavor that will work well for entertaining, try “Tuna-Pepper Salad.” Using fresh tuna in the recipe will yield amazing results.

**Tuna-Pepper Salad**
(Serves 6 to 8)

Fresh tuna that has been steamed or grilled and then flaked for salad tastes nothing like its canned cousin found at the market. While this fish isn’t always available fresh, this salad will make the most of it when it’s in season. This is an excellent luncheon dish that can be prepared in advance for guests. Sliced oranges, tangerines and seedless red grapes complement the tuna, pepper and herb medley with a tangy sweetness and contrast. Add 2 cups of cooked tomato or spinach penne for a heartier dish.

1 – 8-ounce tuna steak, grilled and cooled
1 orange or red bell pepper, finely chopped
1 cup seeded and finely chopped green olives
4 stalks celery, diced
1 tablespoon minced fresh chives
1 teaspoon white wine vinegar
4 stalks celery, diced
1 tablespoon minced fresh chives
1 teaspoon white wine vinegar
Salt and freshly ground pepper.

Place the tuna in a large bowl and gently break it into chunky flakes with a fork. Add the peppers, olives and celery and toss. Blend in the chives and tarragon. Add the oil and vinegar and blend into the salad with the fork to coat all of the ingredients. Season with salt and pepper.

Note: This salad stores well in the refrigerator for two to three days.

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August
Aug. 13 ~ JC Outdoors Teams Championship Minnow Bucket
Aug. 21 ~ JC Outdoors Solo Championship Minnow Bucket

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September
Sept. 3 ~ Sporo Lure Tournament Minnow Bucket
Sept. 10 ~ Mad Dog Moore Oak Ridge Marina
Sept. 16, 17, 18 ~ Sealy Outdoors Lake Fork Marina
Sept. 24 ~ JC Outdoors Teams 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

October
Oct. 15, 16 ~ Berkley Lake Fork Marina
Oct. 16 ~ JC Outdoors Fall Teams Minnow Bucket
Oct. 22 ~ Texas Trails Bassmasters Open

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CCPD bomb squad to inspect the rounds and take possession of them. The wardens assisted because of their knowledge of the bay system and the dynamics of oyster boats.

—Working the River—
Five game wardens patrolled a 26-mile stretch of the Rio Grande River by kayak on a two-day trip. Their goal was to gauge resource law compliance on a stretch of river that is usually very difficult to access and navigate by conventional methods. The wardens also gathered intelligence on possible river-crossing areas, trails and commercial and recreational fishing gear used along the way. The wardens seized several illegal drop lines and jug lines along the way.

—Game Wardens Respond to Possible Overdose—
An Atascosa County game warden responded to a call about a possible overdose at a local hotel. The warden and a local police officer were first on scene. They saw a man outside a hotel room frantically waving his arms to signal them to come over. The warden and officer assessed the situation while EMS took a female heroin-overdose patient to the hospital. While inspecting the room, the warden found hidden heroin and drug paraphernalia that the male suspect admitted to using. The warden booked the male into the Atascosa County Jail for public intoxication - heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia.

—Searching for Sunken “Treasure”—
A Taylor County game warden discovered a submerged vehicle in a local lake using side-scan sonar. Divers attempted to recover the vehicle but had to stop their recovery efforts because of 35 mph winds. When recovery efforts resumed, a wrecker service fished it out of the water. The vehicle had been reported stolen out of Abilene. The investigation is ongoing.

—Stuck in the Mud—
A Val Verde County game warden patrolling the Rio Grande River encountered a Spanish goat stuck in deep mud along the bank. It had apparently been there for several days and was facing almost certain death had the wardens not taken action. As goats are prone to do, this one began to eat immediately after the wardens freed it. One goat saved.

—Repeat, Repeat Offenders—
A Bowie County game warden observed a truck that he’d received several complaints on and, recognizing the driver from prior contacts, knew that he did not have a valid driver’s license and made a traffic stop. The driver admitted to driving while license suspended, but also appeared extremely nervous. When asked if there was anything illegal in vehicle, the driver replied “It’s not my truck” and told the warden he’d have to ask the owner, his dad, who was sitting in the passenger seat with a large pitbull in his lap. The passenger consented to a search of the vehicle and the warden discovered a meth pipe in the ashtray and a pistol hidden in the seat. Both suspects were convicted felons multiple times over and although neither claimed the pistol nor the meth pipe, both were arrested and transported to Bowie County Jail. Once at the jail, staff conducted another search and found meth, marijuana and another meth pipe in the dad’s underwear. Both suspects were booked for multiple violations. Information gained during the stop resulted in another agency conducting a traffic stop and making two more drug related arrests.

—Snapping Turtle Photos Snap Back—
Information on a subject who had captured an alligator snapping turtle and posted pictures of the protected reptile on Facebook sparked an investigation that resulted in the recovery of several items of drug paraphernalia and items that had been used to catch the turtle. Game wardens also discovered evidence that one of the subjects at the residence had been fishing illegally. The wardens determined that the turtle had already been released near Lake Wright Patman. Several citations and warnings for the violations that had been committed were issued. Cases pending.

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"Every child deserves a chance to fish!" Children diagnosed or who have experienced a life-threatening illness or accident sometimes do not have that opportunity. Now through the "Wish to Fish Foundation" they can have that day in the sun with their family. Any family with a child between the ages 3 to 18 years of age that has been diagnosed or treated for a life-threatening illness or accident is invited to come fish Lake Fork for any species of fish at NO COST! Lodging, meals, and fishing are provided for. This allows the family to spend quality time together fishing without worries or expenses. The outing includes one night lodging, meals, refreshments, snacks, all on a 26’ Tritoon Pontoon, (accompanied with a 9-1-1 chase boat for any emergency that may occur. All bait and fishing equipment provided. If you are, or know of a family that meets the above criteria, contact us! Help us spread the word, we are here for the children!

For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director

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Yantis $594,000
HIGH QUALITY, CUSTOM BUILT, builders personal waterfront home on Lake Fork has all the amenities you could ask for. From Foam insulation to Travertine tile, Granite Counters & Knotty Alder Cabinets. In-ground pool with hot tub & waterfall plus a bonus room upstairs with an office. Home is on 2 lots with 1.3 acres plus leaseback, plenty of room for a pier and a boat house.

Quitman $359,000
HOME NEAR LAKE HOLBROOK on a wooded corner lot, property is landscaped with beautiful ornamental trees & shrubs. This 4 bedroom, 2 bath home features an enclosed screened porch, covered deck, and attached garage plus a detached garage workshop, storage bldg & a fenced area for pets & kids. Plenty of room for your boat and RV! Property also has a water well for irrigation.

Mineola $269,900
ONE OWNER LOG HOME sits on the shores of Birch Creek on Lake Fork. 3/2/2 features laminate wood flooring, Corian counter tops, roof & AC replaced approx 8 years ago, single stall boat house w/electric boat lift and irrigation system on property. Covered porches front and rear with a great open deck area overlooking yard & lake. All furnishings and appliances are negotiable. Motivated Seller says Bring Your Best Offer.

Yantis $264,000
39+ ACRES IN WINNSBORO Located in a great area, this 39.3 acre tract is mostly level, heavily wooded, partially fenced and lots of the underbrush has already been cleared. There is a new road all the way to the back of the property and some partial clearing. This would be a great place to build a secluded home in the woods. No restrictions or zoning! Call JR for details!

Yantis $219,900
3,200 SQFT LAKE FORK RESTAURANT IN YANTIS $239,900 This established restaurant has Lake Fork leaseback available to make this property waterfront on World Famous Lake Fork. 2.7 acres of deeded property and a 3,200 sqft building with commercial septic system. Everything is included that you need to keep the restaurant going or build your own business here. Seller says there are no known deed restrictions on property.

Emory $376,000
CUSTOM BUILT HOME sitting atop a hill overlooking World Famous Lake Fork. This spacious home has all the features you're looking for from wood floor to the solid knotty alder doors and cabinets throughout the home. Back porch has a gorgeous outdoor fireplace. Workshop area, a single stall boat house with guest quarters & irrigation system from lake. Home is in like-new condition!

Yantis $209,000
A RARE FIND ON LAKE FORK Home sits on 2.5 acres of deeded property, owner says there is 2-4 acres of leaseback with an enclosed boathouse. Home has been recently remodeled and updated. This 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath home features an open living & kitchen floor plan. The 26x32 shop building has a concrete slab, with plenty of room for your boat & toys!

Quitman $89,900
YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS ONE!! Located less than 5 minutes to a Lake Fork boat ramp! Everything is new, totally updated inside & out, this one is for sure move in ready! Classic County Style home in a great country setting with even better country views. Just 5 mins from downtown Quitman & just outside the city limits. Sitting on 1 acre, fenced & cross fenced for pets with plenty of room to build a shop building.

Quintman $359,000
FABULOUS 2,000+ SQFT HOME secluded on 50 beautiful wooded unrestricted acres, private and remote. Home is like new condition, has laminate wood flooring and porcelain tile, no carpeting. Fenced backyard and garden area. Detached 300sqft guest house with above ground pool and workshop with HVAC. Pipe fencing and good county road frontage.

Winnsboro $139,900
1.4 ACRE LAKE FORK WATERFRONT lot located in one of Lake Fork’s BEST gated communities. This one of a kind waterfront lot on Lake Fork has over 600 ft of shoreline and has an elevated building site. This is the perfect spot to build a high end home on Lake Fork. Plenty of space for a very large home on the deeded property plus 5 acres of leaseback.

Yantis $219,900
REDUCED UPSCALE LAKE FORK HOME Located in a gated subdivision, this quality custom home features a concrete path to the lake, concrete sea wall, your own private boat house with 2 electric boat lifts, fishing pier & irrigation system from the lake. This 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 3 car garage home has been meticulously maintained by the original owner & is move in ready in every way! Call for more details.