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Bassin’ With Bubba

By Don Bubba Hampton

Deep bite and main lake points are also good September patterns. One thing you can count on now is that many eight to sixteen inch bass start stacking up in earnest on most of Fork’s main lake points, the windier the better. ½ ounce or smaller lipless cranks and shallow cranks will put a lot of fish in your boat, but if you are after Mrs. Big, deep cranks, big worms, jigs with Biffle Bug, and swim baits are the ticket. Speaking of swim baits, if you have not tried Gene Larew’s six inch Salt Flick’r, you are missing out. This lure is basically a sinko-type bait with wings. It can be rigged a variety of ways… Texas-rigged, wacky-style, or cut the wings off and you have a straight six inch sinko-type bait that casts great weightless and is deadly on finicky big bass. But the best way to rig up one is on Gene Larew’s Biffle Hardheads which have all the benefits of the Football Head plus the added action of a worm hook that moves freely with the bait. Rigged with the Biffle Bug or Gene Larew’s Salt Flick’r, it makes a deadly commotion on Fork’s big bass.

September can be very rewarding for most fishermen. There will be a lot of school activities on most days. These fish are mostly on the small side with an occasional big bass.

I am now taking bookings for fall trips, winter trips on Monticello, Lake Welch and Lake Fork, plus spring trips 2017 on Lake Fork. If you are planning a trip to Lake Fork and need a guide, general fishing information or an updated fishing report to make your Lake Fork fishing experience a good one, you can call me at 903-360-6994 (cell) or 903-383-7748 (land line) or you can email me at fishnews@lakefork.net. Bookings are available for fall trips after October 17th.

Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Unable to Net Culprits, This Time--While hiking up stream between Lake Worth and Eagle Mountain Lake, a Tarrant County game warden stopped at an old fishing camp known as Vance's Camp, which hasn't been used for years. While inspecting the area the warden noticed a lot of nets laying around with no one in the area. As he investigated further, he found the first of three illegal hoop nets. The first net was near the bank brushed up in high weeds. As the warden continued to search the area, he came across an old rope buried in high weeds leading into the creek. When the warden pulled the rope up, he found two more hoop nets. He gathered the illegal equipment and waited for quite some time for signs of anyone who may have been monitoring the nets, but no one ever came. The investigation is ongoing.

--Using Their Noodle--A pair of East Texas game wardens working a catfish noodling tournament weighed in observed a team with three large catfish; one ever came. The investigation is ongoing.

--Rocks and Rolled--A Tyler County game warden was patrolling near Steinhagen Lake when he observed two men operating an ATV on a public roadway. The warden pulled the subjects over and asked them where they were headed. The driver said they were getting rock for a driveway. While interviewing the subjects, the warden observed two black camera cases linked together on the back of the ATV near the passenger. Due to the ATV passenger's nervous reactions, the warden requested to look in the cases and discovered two syringes and what appeared to be a marijuana joint. After placing the subjects in handcuffs for officer safety, the warden called a Martin Dies State park police officer for assistance. A field test was done on a sample of the syringe contents and a positive result was received for methamphetamine. The passenger was arrested and booked in the Tyler County Jail for possession of a controlled substance. An additional charge of possession of marijuana was also filed. The ATV operator was cited for operating an ATV on a public roadway.

--A Big Mouth Bass--A Freestone County Game Warden observed a group of men at Fairfield Lake scaling tilapia at a fish cleaning table. As the warden was talking to the men, he observed a largemouth bass on a stringer with several tilapia and asked if they caught all of the fish in a cast net, to which one replied "yes" and stated he had caught all of the fish. When informed that bass could not legally be taken with a net, he stated he did not know and it was his first time. The warden looked around and found three more freshly caught bass shoved under a concrete ledge on the cleaning table. The warden questioned the man about those and he admitted the bass were his. After checking the man for priors through the department, it was discovered that he had been filed on multiple times for similar violations. Case pending.

--Working on their Night Moves--Chambers County game wardens recently completed a year-long investigation of an Operation Game Thief case resulting in the arrest of six subjects. In February 2015, a caller claimed to have heard an oyster boat operating after dark near his waterside home. The wardens responded to the area by boat and as they idled toward the dock, they surveyed the area with night vision. Two vehicles and a few individuals were seen fleeing the scene. At the dock, they found an oyster boat full of unsacked oysters. The wardens maintained surveillance of the scene well into the morning. At about 9:15 a.m. a vehicle returned to the scene and two men began sacking up the oysters. The wardens made contact with the suspects and began their investigation. Sixteen sacks of oysters were returned to the reef and the three sub-

(See Game Warden......Continued on Page 4-B)
Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 3-B)

projects were released. Over the next few months phone records were subpoenaed helping to corroborate the details of the case and arrest warrants were obtained for night dredging. Cases pending.

--Rapid Response-- Lubbock area game wardens patrolled the Buffalo Springs Lake area in conjunction with the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration. The annual event brought thousands of concert goers, campers, boaters, and OHV riders to the lake and surrounding area. That afternoon game wardens responded to a reported accident on the Buffalo OHV trails area where a Jeep had rolled down a steep embankment into a ravine and a passenger had sustained serious injuries. One of the wardens, a certified EMT, treated the victim and coordinated getting her out of the deep ravine and up to an awaiting ambulance. Another warden led the investigation into the driver’s possible intoxication, having noticed the strong smell of alcohol on his breath and a large pile of alcoholic beverage containers that had fallen from the Jeep as it rolled. Medical staff later noted that the woman’s life had been saved due to the quick response, treatment, extrication, and transport. The driver was arrested and booked into the Lubbock County Jail on a charge of Intoxication Assault, pending the results of a blood test.

--Arrest Now, Ticket Later-- A Travis County game warden was checking bank fishermen on Lake Austin when one fisherman attempted to leave prior to being checked. Despite his insistence that he had a fishing license, none could be located through dispatch. When notified that a license could not be found, he requested that a citation be issued so that he could leave. Despite limited information, TPWD dispatch located an outstanding warrant and the subject was transported to Travis County Central Booking. During booking, the subject’s request for a citation was honored and entered into his property.

--Caught in the Act-- Cameron County game wardens decided to head out to a spot just after sunset where a person had been setting a gill net in the Arroyo Colorado in recent weeks. The wardens had just missed catching the gill netter previously, but this time wardens showed up just as the subject was bringing his gill net and other gear out of the water. One warden was waiting near the subject’s pickup when the subject and 11 members of his family approached and loaded their gear into the bed. The warden made contact with the subjects and found a gill net and an untagged oversize red drum in the bed of the pickup. The subject was then taken into custody and placed under arrest for possession of an illegal fishing device in coastal waters. Cases and restitution pending. The 12 subjects were also warned on criminal trespass.

--Trying to Reach the Other Side?-- An Aransas County game warden responded to a call from the...
Aransas County Sheriff’s Department about a man who swam out into Copano Bay and became exhausted and disoriented. A caller had reported hearing cries for help just after sunset. The warden launched a patrol boat and found the subject laying down on a spoil island too tired to move and brought him back to shore for EMS personnel to examine. The subject was very appreciative and advised he did not think he would survive.

--Uh, You Can’t Do That Here-- Game wardens received a complaint about six men setting out a gill net on Sunset Lake in Portland, which seemed odd that a gill net would be used during the middle of the day in a heavily populated area. The wardens followed up anyway and upon arrival did indeed find a group of men working a gill net! Four of the men were in the water actively fishing with the net and two were on land watching. There was also another brand new gill net on the shoreline. The wardens instructed the men in the water to bring in the net. They had caught several different kinds of fish, still alive and released back into the water by the wardens. It turns out brazen netters were from Malaysia and claimed they had no idea it was illegal in Texas. The nets were seized and several citations issued.

--Chicken Coop is Probable Cause-- A Houston County game warden received a call from a local vet clinic about a hawk type bird that had been brought in with an injury. The bird had been shot with a pellet gun. The warden identified the bird as a Mississippi kite. The bird had been found in a bacyard in Crockett. The warden talked to the family that had found the bird and noticed a chicken coop in their neighbor’s backyard. Without any more info than just the bird being found, the warden did a “knock and talk” with the neighbor and got a confession to shooting the kite. While the Mississippi kite is not an endangered species, it is federally-protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Cases pending.

--Don’t Play the Slots-- A Shelby County game warden was checking fisherman on Lake Pinkston. While inspecting a fisherman’s boat the warden observed a livewell with nine bass in it, most were obviously in the slot. On Lake Pinkston, only bass 14 inches and less or 21 inches or greater in length may be retained. Only one largemouth bass 21 inches or greater may be retained each day. After measuring the fisherman’s catch, there was a total of seven illegal slot bass. The subject received multiple citations and was educated on the lake’s slot limit.

--Following the Paper Trail-- A Cherokee County game warden stopped a flat bottom boat on Lake Palatine that was running well after dark with no navigation lights. During the stop, the warden dis-covered other violations, such as no fishing license and possession of headed and tailed fish on board the vessel. One subject had a hunting license, but no fishing license. When asked about the deer the subject had killed last season, as a buck was documented on his harvest log, the subject responded that he had shot a doe. After some more questioning, the warden received information that led him to believe the subject’s stepfather had possibly shot a deer and used the subject’s tag. Wardens set up an interview with the subject and his stepfather two days later. It was determined that the subject’s stepfather, who did not possess a valid hunting license for the 2015 season, shot a spike buck behind the house and tagged it with his stepson’s tag. It was also determined that the stepson had shot a doe, behind their house, and never tagged it. Numerous citations and warnings were filed. Cases pending.

--Pass with Caution-- A Bowie County game warden was patrolling near New Boston when he observed a vehicle coming to a stop in the middle of the road in front of him. The driver of the vehicle motioned for the warden to drive around his vehicle. Believing that the subject may have been having vehicle problems, the warden turned on his red and blue lights and pulled up behind the vehicle and that’s when he noticed an expired vehicle registration. A records check revealed that the subject had six active warrants for his arrest. The subject was taken into custody and

(See Game Warden --Continued on Page 9-B)
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Savor The Best Foods Of Summer, From Garden to Market

By Sue Hampton

Like summer itself, summer foods should be laid-back and fun. And with garden and market produce in abundance, summer is a great time to reap the maximum health benefits of fruits and vegetables at their peak.

When you eat freshly harvested whole fruits and vegetables, in addition to whole grains, good fats like olive and canola oil, lean protein and low-fat dairy, you not only improve your health but get the greatest enjoyment from eating.

From refreshing soups and salads to sumptuous desserts, the possibilities for great summertime meals are endless.

Seared Scallops with Summer Vegetables

4 tsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1-1/2 pounds sea scallops, cleaned (about 20)
1/4 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground pepper
1 medium zucchini, halved lengthwise and thinly sliced into half-moons
1/2 small onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
1/4 cup frozen edamame, defrosted (a dish of green soy-beans boiled or steamed in their pods)
1 small ear of corn, shucked and kernels sliced off cob (1/2 cup kernels)
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh basil

In large, nonstick skillet, heat 2 teaspoons oil over medium-high heat. Add scallops, sprinkle with 1/8 teaspoon salt and season lightly with pepper. Cook until golden brown on the outside and opaque inside, about 2 to 3 minutes per side. Transfer to a plate and keep warm.

Reduce heat to medium and add remaining oil to pan. Add zucchini, onion and garlic; cook until vegetables are softened, about 5 minutes. Add tomatoes, edamame and corn; cook until tomatoes begin to break down, about 3 to 4 minutes. Return scallops to the pan and sprinkle with remaining salt and pepper to taste; reheat for 30 seconds or until heated through. Stir in basil. Divide among 4 plates and serve warm.
Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 5-B)

during an inventory of the suspect’s vehicle, the warden discovered a meth pipe and a small clear plastic bag containing a white/crystal-like substance believed to be methamphetamine. The suspect was arrested on the warrants and for being in possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Cases pending.

--Arrest Now, Ticket Later--

A game wardens in possession and consumption of alcohol. The wardens in the day and at that time they could not produce any required documentation of being in possession of a fishing license, none could be located through dispatch. When notified that a license could not be found, he was targeting feral hogs. Cases and restitution pending. The warden discovered the locations of the snares and interviewed neighboring landowners, farmers, ranch hands and several hunters with no confessions. He then checked local stores in the community and received a list of names of those who recently bought snares, which included one of the names the warden had already interviewed. With this new information and other evidence, the warden got a full confession from the suspect who admitted to snaring several deer, but claimed he was targeting feral hogs. Cases and civil restitution are pending.

--Mud Holds Hog Poachers at Bay--

booked into the Lubbock County Jail on a charge of had been saved due to the quick response, treatment, and the vessel’s departure and interviewed several "friends" as boasted by the vessel operator earlier. The subject was then taken into custody and placed under arrest for possession of an illegal fishing device and an off-duty Shelby County game warden. The officers were able to make contact with the individuals and pulled them into their boat. The officers recovered the vessel and were able to return it and the individuals to safety. Thankfully, both men were wearing PFDs and neither suffered any injuries.

--Paper Trail Snares Suspect--

A Wharton County game warden wrapped up a short-term investigation into the illegal taking of several white-tailed deer by the means of snares. The warden received information from a concerned ranch hand who had come across several snares on a fence line of adjoining properties. Some deer were seen caught still alive, while others were already deceased. The warden documented the locations of the snares and interviewed neighboring landowners, farmers, ranch hands and several hunters with no confessions. He then checked local stores in the community and received a list of names of those who recently bought snares, which included one of the names the warden had already interviewed. With this new information and other evidence, the warden got a full confession from the suspect who admitted to snaring several deer, but claimed he was targeting feral hogs. Cases and civil restitution are pending.

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For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director
visit our website: www.wishtofishfoundation.com
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Mincola $269,900

LAKE FORK AREA HOME This 2015 Skyline by Palm Harbor is in brand new condition with laminate flooring throughout. 5.2 acres with a concrete drive. There is an old slab w/safe room from a previous home site that would be perfect for a shop bldg. Seller says there are no known restrictions. Materials are there for a back porch & will convey to buyer at closing. Motivated Seller says Bring Your Best Offer!

Yantis $139,900

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, 3.5 bath, 3 car garage home has been meticulously maintained by the original owner & is move in ready in every way! Call for more details.

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LAKE FORK AREA HOME This 2015 Skyline by Palm Harbor is in brand new condition with laminate flooring throughout. 5.2 acres with a concrete drive. There is an old slab w/safe room from a previous home site that would be perfect for a shop bldg. Seller says there are no known restrictions. Materials are there for a back porch & will convey to buyer at closing. Motivated Seller says Bring Your Best Offer!

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