#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" **B** Section December, 2016 Page 1-B

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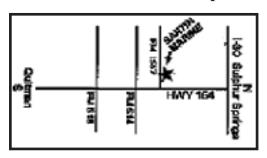
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#### Bassin' With Bubba



By Don Bubba Hampton

Mother Nature plays a major role in how good bass fishing will be in December. When the water temperature gets below fifty-two degrees and stays there it will be a tough bite, but if you are after that dream bass, you can still be successful. Just slow down your presentation and work the fishing area slowly and quietly. When water temperature is above fifty-two degrees, bass will be more active and feeding periods will last longer.

Remember bass are cold-blooded. When water temperature cools down bass will be the least active. They will feed, but the feeding period will be a lot shorter.

Jig/hog craw, hard jerk baits and lipless cranks are top lure

choices when fishing shallow water, fifteen feet or less. For jigs: black/blue and watermelon colors are top producing colors. Mismatched colors will also pay off such as black/blue jig with a watermelon Gene Larew hog craw or the Biffle Bug as a jig trailer. Those are my top choices. For hard jerk baits and lipless cranks: red and orange perch patterns are hard to beat. When using lipless cranks be sure to check the hooks on your lure. If they are not quality and not sharp, change them out. If you don't, a Lake Fork giant will break your heart.

Look for the grass flats that are near deep water or that have ledges or creek channels running through the grass flat. These are excellent areas. Deep water structure fishing is at its best during winter months. It is the time to fine tune your fish finder and hone in your GPS coordinates for those open water humps, ridges, and points. Spoon fishing will be at its peak during the cold days. Bass will be feeding from twenty to thirty feet on tops of humps, ridges, roadbeds and points. During warming trends and just before the next cold front hits, the shallow bite will pick up.

The biggest key to successfully catching Fork's bass during December is to find the baitfish. It is easier to find baitfish, shad, bream, or barfish, than to find bass on your locater. When you mark and locate schools of baitfish over deep or shallow water areas that are near structures, ledges and channels, you have the greatest potential for bass to be in the area.

Fishing cold weather can be deadly. Never fish alone, always bring a buddy. Should you fall in, hypothermia can

set in quickly. Check weather predictions before setting out and be sure to dress accordingly.

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

Don Bubba Hampton is sponsored by Legend Boats, Mercury Marine, Easy Step System, Sartin Marine, Lake Fork Trophy Lures, Custom Angle Rods, Luck E Strike Lures, and Gene Larew.







#### **Game Warden Field Notes**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports.

-Alive and Well- While on boat patrol on Lake Ray Roberts, a game warden made contact with a fisherman on his way to the docks. A water safety check was conducted and the angler had all the necessary safety equipment. When asked if he'd caught any fish the fisherman stated he had not caught anything and opened his ice-chest to show just food and drinks. Since the warden could hear the water circulation pump for the live well, she then asked him to open the live well. At this point the fisherman admitted that he had lied and proceeded to bring out the undersized sand bass from the livewell. The fish were in good shape and released; citations issued.

--In the Spotlight-- A Bowie County game warden observed a truck equipped with a LED light bar mounted just above the windshield traveling along a county road near Hooks, Texas. The truck was observed turning across the roadway and shining its lights into the fields along the road. The warden started following the vehicle and a few hundred yards down the road, the vehicle turned and shined its lights into the fields again. The warden made contact with the vehicle and its occupants, who admitted to being in the area looking for something to shoot. Citations were issued for

The following items are compiled from recent hunting from a public roadway and cases are pending. --Winding Deer Trail- A Sabine County game warden received a call about a land-owner witnessing a spot-lighter shooting from the highway. After responding to the area of the incident, the warden located a pool of blood on the highway and after setting up surveillance observed a truck spotlighting the area where the blood was located. The warden and a Sabine County sheriff's deputy pulled the vehicle over and the two young men in the vehicle both admitted to spotlighting and hunting rabbits off the road. When asked, the driver stated he did not shoot any deer from the road. The warden seized the driver's rifle for evidence to compare the ballistics and issued several citations to the individuals. Efforts to locate the poached deer, even with the aid of a warden K-9 unit, were unsuccessful and the wardens concluded the deer must have been poached from the treeline, dragged to the highway and loaded into a vehicle. The warden asked around the community for any information about a poached deer and soon received a tip about the deer head being in a freezer. Following up on the tip, wardens confronted the resident about the deer head and were told it was there, but was gone. The homeowner told the wardens that he had the actual suspect come and take the deer head away because he didn't want to get in trouble. The homeowner gave the wardens

the name of the suspect that allegedly shot the deer. During questioning by the wardens, the poacher came clean and told the truth about shooting the deer. The suspect was issued citations for hunting deer at night, hunting with artificial light and hunting deer from a vehicle. The suspect is also facing civil restitution.

-Snake in the Grass-A Fort Bend County game warden received a tip that an 8-10 foot king cobra had escaped from a local Controlled Exotic Snake Species Permit holder. Since the permit holder resides near several schools, wardens and local law enforcement immediately responded to the scene, notified the schools of the situation and began searching for the missing snake. The permit holder also contacted other individuals who had experience dealing with venomous exotic snakes and a search party began combing the tall grass in the vicinity. In addition, a neighbor who owned the pasture brought out a tractor and began shredding the knee-high grasses and weeds, creating a perimeter that was easier to search around the facility property. After several hours, the cobra was located and captured by the permit holder and his "herp" friends. Additional safety measures are being installed by the permit holder to ensure escapes do not occur in the future.

--Stranded, Twice-- A Matagorda County game war-

(See Game Warden ...... Continued on Page 5-B)

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#### **Easy** Traditional Recipes For The Holidays

#### By Sue Hampton

There are a number of ways to take the stress out of holiday entertaining – all it takes are a few no-hassle recipes, the right ingredients and a little imagination.

Try beginning your party planning with this recipe for a rum cake that's sure to spice things up.

Its delicious aroma and warm holiday feel make the cake a great way to bring the tradi-



Rum and Nut Cake With Glaze could become an instant holiday favorite! "Merry Christmas from our family to yours!"

tion of the holidays to any party, plus it's ideal for gift giving. The cake's glaze is made with sugar, butthis holiday favorite.

#### Nut Cake With Glaze

Rum

or walnuts

1- 18-1/2-oz. pkg. yellow cake mix 1 - 3 - 1/2 - oz. pkg. vanilla instant pudding Rum

mix 4 eggs ½ cup vegetable oil ½ cup cold water

Preheat oven to 325F. Grease and flour a 12-cup Bundt pan or 10-cup tube pan. Sprinkle nuts

over bottom of pan. In a large mixing bowl, combine cake mix, pudding mix, eggs, Bacardi Gold Rum, ter and Bacardi Gold oil and water. Us-Rum, and adds a ing an electric mixer, sweet, festive flair to beat at low speed until moistened. Beat at Bacardi Rum and high speed 2 minutes. Pour batter over nuts. Bake 1 hour or until ½ cup Bacardi Gold a skewer inserted into the cake comes out 1 cup chopped pecans clean. Cool 15 minutes, then invert onto serving plate.

#### Glaze:

½ cup Bacardi Gold

½ stick butter 1 cup sugar ½ cup water

Melt butter in saucepan. Stir in sugar, water and Bacardi Gold Rum. Boil 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. with a fork. Spoon chopped walnuts) ly over the top and wafer crumbs sides. Allow cake to ½ cup honey absorb glaze. Repeat Confectioners' sugar until all glaze is absorbed.

brate the season with this easy recipe for 1-inch balls. Roll in traditional rum balls. Bacardi Rum Balls 1/4 cup Bacardi Gold covered Rum

2 cups ground wal- 2-1/2 dozen.

Prick top of the cake nuts (from 2-1/2 cups and brush glaze even- 1-1/2 cups vanilla

In a medium bowl, combine walnuts and wafer crumbs Stir You can also cele- in Bacardi Gold and honey. Shape into confectioners' sugar.

Store in tightly container. Makes approximately





ate, the Christmas door decorations known as astrangs also have windows and doors to pop open, and serve as an Advent calendar.

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

den received a request for assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard involving a boat that had run aground in West Matagorda Bay. According to statements made by two of the occupants of the vessel, they, along with a third individual, had been riding near the Port O'Connor Jetties the evening before and had run aground on Bird Island. The couple told officers that they had decided to just build a fire and spend the night on the island. The next morning the third individual was missing and they could not locate him on the island, which is about the size of a football field and covered in brush. Coast Guard boats and a helicopter began searching the waters around the island while the warden conducted a foot search of the island. The Coast Guard helo spotted the individual clinging to a well head in the bay approximately two miles from the island. Once rescued, the individual made the statement that he did not know how he got into the water. Investigation continues.

--Illegal Net and Cargo--While patrolling commercial shrimp boats in West Matagorda Bay recently, game wardens boarded a shrimp boat to perform a net inspection and observed an illegallysized by-catch reduction device installed in the shrimp net. They also discovered marijuana and paraphernalia in the wheel house of the shrimp boat. Charges pending.

--Pot under the Potty--Game wardens were asked to assist with executing a search warrant at a residence in the central portion of Starr County. During the search, an underground bunker was located that con-

tained 725 bundles of marijuana weighing over 5,100 pounds. The bunker was accessed through a hole in the floor from inside the bathroom.

-An Inconspicuous Angler--A Travis County game warden responded to an Operation Game Thief call in progress at the Longhorn Dam in Austin. The deep holes on the river side offer temptation to people using nets to catch fish illegally. Due to recent rain, the water at this location was up and fishermen were observed along the southern rail. Prior to making contact the warden documented 15 different individuals. Included in the group was one male subject using a rod and reel near the upper side of the rail wearing very distinct clothing (black/orange cap, lavender like plaid shirt, blue jeans and work boots). As the warden approached the group, many dropped their gear and stopped fishing. After checking compliance for most and trying to locate others, the warden observed the subject with the distinctive garb sitting under a tree. When asked for his fishing license he advised he wasn't fishing. When asked for his identification he first stated he didn't have any then advised it was in his truck and proceeded to climb into the driver's seat and began reaching into his right work boot (for his wallet). For safety precaution, the subject was quickly removed and secured in handcuffs. With assistance the warden was able to determine this subject, who was adamant he was not fishing, was actually in violation for possession of white bass. Upon receiving the citation, the subject stated that he was not going to sign anything. However, he changed his mind after it was explained that he would be transported to central booking and that his truck would be towed. Multiple cases and civil restitution pending.

-Up a Creek-A Hunt County game warden responded to an emergency phone call from a woman in Delta County who said that her 85-year-old mother had driven an ATV off a steep embankment and into the Sulphur River. The woman explained that her mother and brother were still in the river and needed help quickly. Unsure of the exact location, the warden grabbed a rope, lifejacket and flashlights and headed into the dense woods where he located the family about a quarter mile away on the bank of the river. The elderly woman was not seriously injured but was exhausted and lying motionless at the water's edge. Her son, however, was still in the water clinging to the muddy riverbank trying to keep his mother from sliding back into the water. The warden tossed his life jacket to the man in the river and pulled him ashore, then used his rope to wrap around the woman and the others to prevent anyone from sliding back into the river. Realizing that more help was needed, he ran back to his patrol truck and summoned the Commerce Fire Department responders to his location. It took the warden and other responders approximately 30 minutes to extract all the family members from the river channel. In the end, although bruised and exhausted, no family members required medical attention. The ATV was not recovered and remains at the bottom of the Sulphur River.



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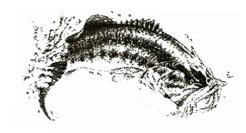
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#### **December**

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#### **February**

Feb. 1 ~ JC Outdoors Teams

Minnow Bucket
Feb. 18 ~ Media Bass

Minnow Bucket
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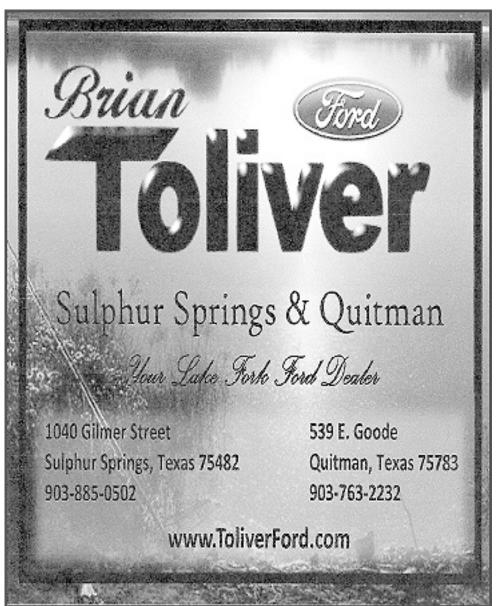
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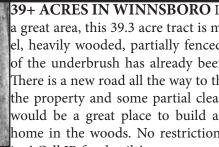
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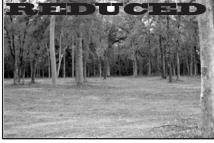


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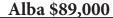


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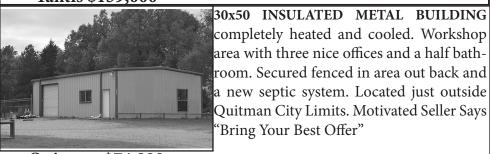
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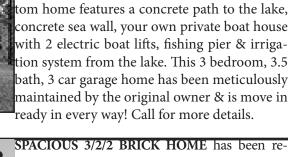
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