

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



2 Sections

"The Fisherman's Guide,
News You Can Use"
"Lines To Get Hooked On"
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March, 2017

No. 211



The Wish to Fish Foundation had the pleasure of presenting Dylan Smith, his mother Paula and grandsons Austin, Bryce, and Tyler Skelton his wish to fish on Lake Fork on February 25th.

Wish to Fish Welcomes Dylan Smith

By Sue Hampton

It is difficult to describe in words the blessed weekend we had fishing here on Lake Fork with our special "Wish To Fish" new friend Dylan Smith, his moth-

er Paula from Granbury, Texas and three of her grandsons, Austin, Bryce & Tyler Skelton from Bowie, Texas. Dylan was born on June 21, 2002 with a very rare skin disease called Eperdermolysis Bul-

losa (known as E.B.). This is when you do not produce collagen between dermus and upper dermus which is what glues your skin to stay intact and should

(See Wish to Fish....
Continued on Page 4-A)



By Don Hampton

Anglers coming to Lake Fork to compete in the 9th Annual Mega Bass Tournament may want to try their luck and win some extra money while pre-fish-

Texas Trails Bassmaster of Lake Fork 34th Semi-Annual Open Tournament March 18

ing the day before.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be holding their 34th Semi-Annual Open Bass Tournament on March 18th. The tournament is open to all amateur anglers and will be hosted out of Oak Ridge Marina on

Hwy. 154.

This is a five fish stringer weight tournament. This is an individual tournament but more than one angler can fish in each boat as long as they are all paid entries. All bass com-

(See Texas Trails....
Continued on Page 10-A)



Ava Yoas, 11 years old, from Plano, Texas and Sydney Thompson, 11 years old from Allen, Texas caught this 9-lb. bass using live shad with a bobber. The bass jumped out of the water 3-4 times and it got these two girls excited. They reeled the fish in and also netted it all by themselves. A true accomplishment to take pride in. Their team name for the day was the BASS Squad.



9th Annual MEGA BASS

By Don Hampton

Anglers get ready for the 9th Annual Bass-Champs Mega Bass Tournament to be held on March 19th hosted out of Lake Fork Marina. Even Bigger and Better every year! Over \$20,000 Cash Guaranteed EVERY HOUR. More Bonus \$\$ every

hour, and a Skeeter ZX 200 bass boat in addition to \$15,000 Cash for the overall winner! Register early (before March 10th) and you will be eligible to win prizes from Costa, Chevron, Rigid, Abu Garcia and more. BassChamps will be paying twelve places per hour with \$15,000

being first place and \$200 being tenth place and big money in between. Eleventh and twelfth place each hour is T-shirt bonus of \$150. So you do not want to miss purchasing your memorable shirt. This is truly the highest paying one day amateur (See 9th Annual Mega Bass
Continued on Page 3-A)

Bubbette May Be Pruning Bubba's Family Tree

By Don Hampton

Most individuals are proud of their heritage and can tell you where their ancestry derives from. Some are so proud of it they hold it up about the same level as their nose is in the air. Some can even trace their ancestry back to the Mayflower. Bubba tried to find out once if one of his ancestors came over on that boat. He just knew that if one did they set a record for fishing across the Atlantic.

In his search to complete his family tree he learned he had some "Blue Blood" in his family line. Bubba tried to speak with an English accent for a week after that one! With his

last name being what it is, he was hoping he could trace it to Nottingham, England or at least to kinfolk owning a hotel chain. He would have really liked being an heir to an estate in England but he would have settled for free rooms when he went out of town on tournaments. Having his hopes of being an heir to the throne, Bubba lost his English accent and since he wasn't kin to the owner of the hotel chain he made his reservations with his credit card.

In his search he found out his ancestors were just hard working poor immigrants that came to America and settled in Arkansas and even named a town after

themselves. Hampton, Arkansas... Bubba found pride in this, especially after he saw none had ever married a "Clinton"!

One item of information that Bubba gained that made him beam with pride and hard for us to live with, is that his great grandmother was a full blooded Cherokee Indian. He couldn't find out if she was a princess or daughter of a chief but knowing he had Indian ancestors changed Bubba's life. The English accent was nothing compared to what we all have to live with now!

Knowing Bubba as long as I have, when he said, "How?", it was a question and he ex-

pected an answer. Now he says "HOW" in a deep base voice and it is a greeting of hello or goodbye, I haven't figured it out yet.

You really have to pay closer attention and listen more attentively than before when speaking with Chief Bubba of the Cherokee Nation.

Now when you ask Bubba a question he may answer with an "Ugh!" What the heck does that mean? Is it a yes, no, or indifference? He now refers to his bass boat as his canoe. He refers to his RV as his teepee, because he can move his tribe from one fishing ground to another. I'm truly expecting any day now for him to quit

using SPF-100 so he can truly be a redskin! Where he used to say, "Well I'm going home now!" he'll say, "Must go to wigwam now!" I have not heard that since early John Wayne movies, or was it "The Three Stooges in the West!" Whichever the case I'm quite sure that is where he picked that phrase up!

Bass Pro Shop, Academy, Cabella's and all of the fishing stores where Bubba shops, I apologize, for Bubba has renamed you all! From this day forth you will be known only as "Happy Hunting Grounds!" You can thank Chief Bubba for that!

Because of this heritage knowledge Bubba

has attained the best keep his health. He no longer puts his faith in "Pale-Faced Doctors". He now believes only in "Doc", his tribal "Medicine Man". Bubba also believes that when he leaves this earth he will follow his ancestors to the "Happy Fishing Grounds!"

Don't be too concerned about Bubba though! The next time you see him he may have less hair, but he'll be his old self because Bubbette has assured me that if he calls her his "Squaw" one more time, "SHE'S GOING TO SCALP HIM!" Bubbette said, "I've never pruned a family tree before, but I'm about to top his out!"

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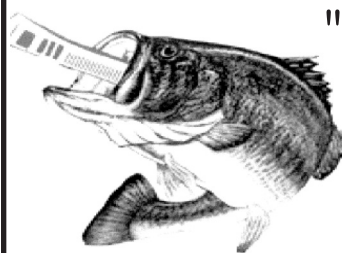
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9th Annual MEGA BASS (Continued from Page 1-A)

bass tournament there is. There are even more advantages to winning more cash. For an exact weight of 2.50-pounds, 3-pounds, 8-pounds, and 9-pound even weight, the first angler to weigh in this even weight will win an additional \$500.

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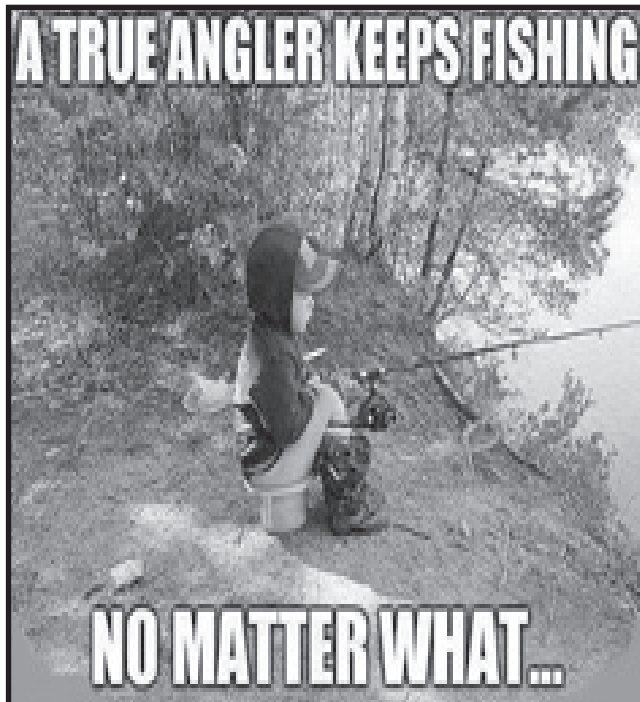
The cubit, said to be used by Noah to build the ark, was based on the distance from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger.

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to make the early entry in the allotted time, you can enter at tournament headquarters located at Lake Fork Marina on Friday, March 17th from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., Saturday March 18th from 12 p.m. until 7 p.m., or Sunday

March 19th at 5 a.m.

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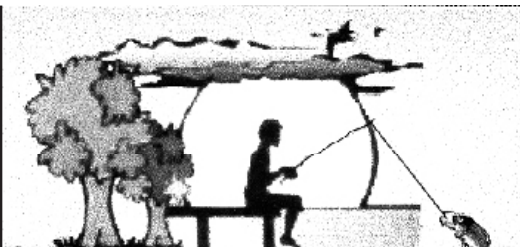


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Wish to Fish Welcomes Dylan Smith (Continued from Page 1-A)

Dylan suffer any friction or trauma, his skin will fluff off or blister. If blisters occur, they have to be lanced with a needle and drained or they will get bigger and cause big sores. These wounds are cared for like a burn victim. Dylan's caregivers wrap him in bandages and netting to protect his wounds from infection. Also they do padding and wraps to protect him even if the wounds are healed, due to the fact that the area can be easily damaged again. He has no toe nails or finger nails because there's no collagen to hold them on.

When Dylan was 2 months old he had to have a

tracheotomy due to the E.B. because his airway was damaged from blisters. They placed the trach so he could breathe and also put in a G-Button so he could get nourishment because the blistering in his throat caused him to aspirate his food. He has been doing just fine with it. Dylan began to start eating at age 6 so at that time they were able to remove the G-Button and he now eats great with no problems.

When Dylan turned 7 he was having problems with his right foot growing backwards. They thought it was due to him not using that foot because of blisters. They took him to the doctor and they said they wanted to do a muscle biopsy be-



Dylan was quite proud of his Custom Angle Rod and new reel presented to him by the Wish To Fish Foundation.



"What no fish!" Dylan thought he had a big one when the black salty wrapped around a stump but all he reeled in was a limb brim.



Dylan along with his mother Paula attentively watch the bobber hoping any minute it would disappear.

cause they thought he might have Muscular Dystrophy. Sadly, the results were positive. He had a rare M.D. that comes with E.B. Dylan is now 14 and he is wheelchair bound due to weakness in his muscles. He has a plectin deficiency. Plectin is a glue produced to hold muscles together as you grow.

Dylan is a very bright young man and could very possibly be a famous artist one day. He is that good! He actually plays on a baseball league. He cannot use his motorized chair but they use regular wheel chairs. But, the one thing he loves to do the most is fish!! He and his mom are guilty of pulling up to just about any body of water and

(Continued on Next Page)



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throwing out a line!

They arrived on a Friday afternoon and checked into Scenic 515 Cabins located on Hwy. 515 which is one of our very special sponsors. It was just the perfect place for them to stay. Danny and Joyce Azlin, owners, provided their bunkhouse which accommodated the entire family and they were so excited. My husband Don (Bubba) arrived first so that he could build a campfire for them so they could make smores later in the evening. Don presented Dylan with his own personal rod with his name on it (Custom Angle Rod from Dave Settle) and special reel provided by Wish To Fish and



Tyler started the day with the first catch of a bass that most tournament anglers wish they had!

needless to say, he was so excited. I brought over some chicken tenders, rolls and fries and they were definitely ready for that.

We met the next morning for breakfast at one of our great sponsors, Oak Ridge Marina. After breakfast, we started out excited about the day. The sun was out bright and beautiful but a norther showed up the night before so the temperature never got over 53 degrees Saturday. The wind was not too bad but it was just cold. Austin, Bryce & Tyler each caught a fish but Dylan's got away. He reeled up one time and thought he had a fish but it was a tiny limb... so, we decided to call that a limb brim!!! We did have a great day even though the

weather was not all that good. Lunch, snacks and drinks were provided by the Wish To Fish Foundation. Assisting on the boat enabling the boys to fish was Chris Large and our son Chad Marsh. A big thank you to these guys and of course our

captain, Rodney Ellis. Don (Bubba) Hampton, CEO/Founder of The Wish to Fish Foundation, was providing the "911 Chase Boat" should there be any type of emergency. We could not do these trips without all of our great sponsors. We got

our fuel from John Heimgartner at Fishermans One Stop and the Lake Fork Country Store on Hwy. 515, new owners, Brian & Melissa Clayton donated our bait... minnows and black salty's.

(See Wish to Fish...
Continued on Page 7-A)



Austin caught the largest fish of the day, a catfish weighing 5-lbs. 12-ozs.

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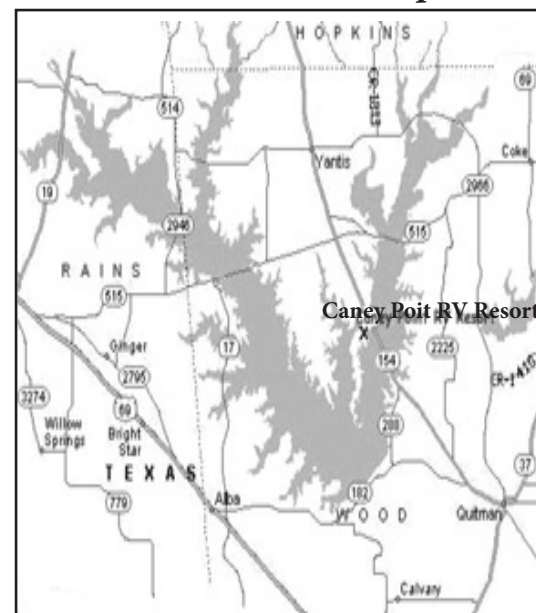
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Time to hunt the Lunkers on Lake Fork!

By David Ozio

"It's about that time! Lunker hunting on Fork is big game on! March spells staging in bass terms and this is when a true giant can be caught on this famous body of water. The big girls will start to pair up to procreate their species and it's when you, the diehard angler, needs to be on the water. This has been a warmer than normal winter and surface water temps are way ahead of schedule compared to prior years. This means the "big feed" should start this month instead of April as it has in the past.

The best areas to target these pre-spawn bass are on main lake and secondary points at the entrance of major creeks, creek chan-

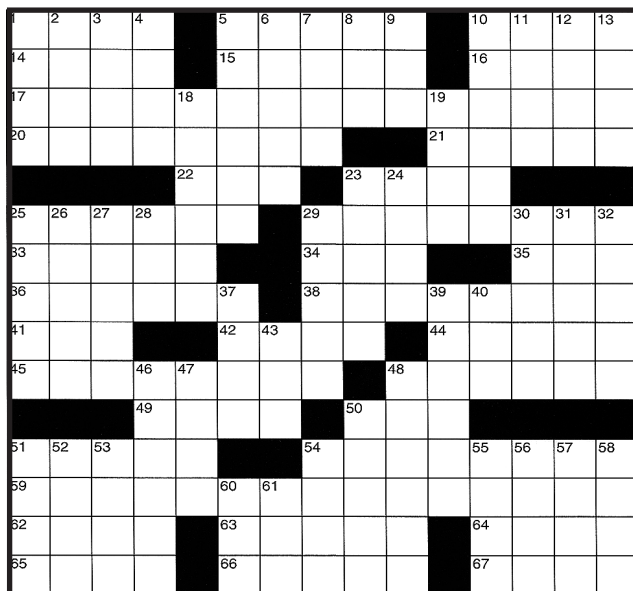
nel edges and bends, drains and ditches that are in close proximity to spawning flats. These staging fish will feed heavily through late February and early March while waiting for water temps to reach a consistent 58-62 degrees before advancing to the bedding areas. Water temp is the single most important factor during this time of year and a huge cold front can spell trouble for the advancing bass especially if it's near the March full moon.

Provided all conditions are stable, start your search on the northwest side of the largest creeks and key on the current water temps in that area. The higher the thermometer reading, the better chance you have of seeing those giants cruising the shallows. Once the bass feel comfortable in an area, the ritual begins. Your job will be to target these big fish as they are setting up house. The all time best bait to capture your trophy of a lifetime will be on a big swimbait. There are several types on the market and you will need to find one that is weedless. Color choices can range from a bone color to light hitch or dark hitch. All will work under varied conditions. Throw these baits into very shallow water in the aforementioned areas of the lake and get ready for some heart stopping action. Don't be afraid to chunk these



baits into the thickest cover. They are designed to slide right out and keep on truckin.

During this time of the year, there are other patterns that will work equally as well. The Strike King 8.0 squarebill will deliver it's share of the pre-spawn giants. Shad colors work well and direct your efforts to the main lake and secondary points which are located in the near vicinity of the spawning areas. Shell beds also play a key role in how these fish will set up and spending time with a local guide can be the big bass education you've always needed. They will show you what to look for and how to cover the right water to locate the "always elusive" slouch's. Like I said before,



CLUES ACROSS

1. Excluded from use or mention
5. Athabaskan
10. Shop
14. Central American association
15. Joints
16. Stew with chickpeas
17. Jay and the Americans' hit
20. Exuded, in a way
21. Goddess of the hunt
22. Cablegram (abbr.)
23. Weather report
25. Plates
29. "Masked" mammals
33. One who hauls
34. ____ Tan
35. Worthless message
36. With many branches
38. Plastic
41. 7th letter of the Greek alphabet
42. Round, red root vegetable
44. Punitive
45. Sleeveless, apronlike dress
48. Most broken
49. Used up or exhausted
50. Way to create from raw stuff
51. Mexican Indian
54. Can be cleaned
59. Beatles' hit
62. Goods carried by a large vehicle
63. Rajah's wife
64. "____ and the King of Siam"
65. Toni Morrison novel
66. Cutting or thrusting weapon with a long blade
67. Radioactivity units

CLUES DOWN

1. Toddlers
2. Feel pain
3. Spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan
4. Cold War enemy
5. Sports equipment
6. Highest waterfall
7. George ____, Australian prime minister
8. Monitor of financial markets (abbr.)
9. Doctrine
10. Game piece
11. Ancient Greek city
12. Waterfall (Scottish)
13. Scarcely detectable amount
18. Rhythmic patterns
19. Of an ode
23. Plant of a clone
24. Acid radical
25. Throat illness
26. Raccoonlike animal
27. Soul in Hinduism
28. Fifth sign of the zodiac
29. Ouida
30. Way to state clearly
31. Grandmothers
32. Hardy wheat grown in Europe
37. Black
39. Indifference
40. 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
43. Before
46. Program
47. Concentrations
48. Tried
50. One who enacts tribute
51. Tools
52. Chinese dynasty
53. Short-necked river duck
54. Drunk (slang)
55. From a distance
56. ____ fide (Latin)
57. Scandinavian city
58. Geological times
60. Wife
61. Cutting tool with a toothed blade

Answers on Page 21-A



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(See Time to hunt.....
Continued on Page 20-A)

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Wish to Fish *(Continued from Page 5-A)*

A big thank you to each and every one of you!

After getting off the water, Dylan was feeling a little under the weather and was unable to make the evening meal. The "Wish To Fish" team met at our loyal sponsor "A.J.'s Fish House" owned by Andy & Carolyn Johnson for dinner. After dinner, we stopped back by to see Dylan to make sure he was ok and he was feeling much better so we provided them with an evening meal before retiring for the night.

They left out Sunday morning with hopefully some great memories to carry with them along with a Ziploc full

of catfish filets thanks to Bubba from a really big catfish that was caught by Austin. We will cherish our memories always. Dylan now has a place in our hearts that will never be forgotten. God bless this very special family!



Not to be left out, Bryce caught the second bass of the day. Just not as big as Tyler's bass!

A very special 'Thank You' goes out to Sandra Livingston, Sweet Iron Welding, for the excellent job she did making us a new wheel chair accessible ramp for the pontoon.

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"The March Moon Report" Pre-Spawn Crappie

By Terri Moon

It's finally time for the spring migration on Fork! Water temperatures are gradually rising and when temps are between 55 and 60 degrees, start checking the main creeks and secondary points. The males will move in shallow first and the females will stage around the nearest deep water structure.

The toughest part of this time of year is when you finally find the crappie, a cold front will come through dropping water temps which in turn backs their movement off and the search begins again! When this happens, don't give up on the deep water crappie. There are still a bunch down the lake and they are less effected by the cold fronts.

The exciting part of slip bobber fishing is you never know what you're going to catch! We've already caught some really nice bass while searching shallow for crappie.

The baits working for us have been Lake Fork Tackle's live baby shad in sun perch, Cajun



cricket or watermelon red pearl and chartreuse and pearl. As far as presentation in the early stages of pre-spawn, it is a very light bite – so a "slow motion" or "no motion" approach seems to work best. Pay close attention to your line – sometimes it will just go slack. So, if you see or feel anything different – just jerk! You'll find the shallower they go, the harder they'll hit.

Remember this time of year you'll find the crappie at many depths during their transition. The bridges are producing crappie 8-16 ft. while the staging crappie are found around the timber 5-10 ft., and spawners 1-5 ft. There are a lot of options if the weather or wind is

a factor. The fun part of this time of year is that you never know WHAT you're going to catch at any depth because they are all on the move! Keep an eye on that depth find – (I couldn't imagine life without my Lowrance and my Ulterra Trolling Motor to hold me in place when we find the fish)!

Looks like the action is starting earlier than usual – hope you all don't miss out on the fun!

Many Blessings to ALL!

(By the way – with changing times I'm disconnecting my home phone so I want to give the number I can be reached at now 903-335-0941).

TERRI MOON
LAKE FORK
CRAPPIE & BASS
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903-335-0941



Lake Fork guide Tom Evans caught this nice hawg weighing 9.5-lbs. while doing some February fishing on Lake Fork. C.P.R.



Local fisherman Clint Granger proudly shows a large Lake Fork bass he caught while fishing in February. C.P.R.



Lake Fork guide Gerald Boudreaux was doing some February fishing on Lake Fork when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.



Stacy Taylor from R-Bar, Warsaw, MO.,

TERRI MOON
LAKE FORK
CRAPPIE & BASS
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 903-335-0941



Kevin LaPittus from R-Bar, Warsaw, MO.,



Mike & Janece Fritz Wisconsin



Ron & Barbara McClure Tightwad, MO.,



Phillip Johnson & Doug Ditto



Pablo Headworth Wyoming



Derrick Judie, Greg Waddleton, Terry Pleasant, Midlothian, TX.,



David Hendrix & Doug Walker Texarkana



David & Dawn Gasper



Terri Moon on Shimano Ultralite

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Texas Trails Bassmaster of Lake Fork Open Tournament March 18 (Continued from Page 1-A)

ing to the weigh in must be at least 12" in length, not to exceed 16", or one 24" or more with four in the previous mentioned lengths. Any dead fish brought to the scales, there will be a .5-pound penalty to their total weight. This will be a great time to polish up your skills and knowledge of Lake Fork to win some of BassChamps Mega Bucks the next day!

Entry fee for the tournament is \$45 per person with \$10 big bass optional. Pay-outs based on 100 entries will be 1st ~ \$1,040; 2nd ~ \$780; 3rd ~ \$520; 4th ~ \$260; 5th thru 10th ~ \$100. There is a guaranteed pay back of 80% of all entries. Big Bass is a 100% pay back of all entries with 1st Big Bass paying \$500, 2nd paying \$300, and 3rd paying \$200. As previously mentioned these pay-outs are based on at least 100 entries.

Texas Trails Bassmasters will be set up taking entries on Friday March 17th at Oak Ridge Marina from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday March 18th from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. Fishing hours for the tournament are from 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Since this is Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork fund raising tournament for all their functions there will be raffle tickets sold for some really great prizes from our local sponsors. Raffle tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5, or 24 for \$20.

If you can't come fish the tournament, come and watch the weigh-in. Everyone is welcome and if you are just a spectator you might wish to purchase some raffle tickets and still be a winner.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork 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 love bass fishing, like competition, wish to improve your skills, and make new friendships that could last a lifetime, you should come join our bass club.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork has 13 club tournaments per year with 2 drops in point category. A 2-day tournament is held in the month of November at the end of the year championship with accommodations provided by the club. All tournaments are held within an hour drive from Lake Fork. This club also hosts 2 open tournaments per year on Lake Fork. One is held in the spring and the other in the fall.

The club meetings are held after each tournament and the next lake and date are voted on by the membership at that time. In this respect it helps the members that may be fishing other tournaments, so the dates will not conflict. Also at each meeting after the tournament the Top 3 winners inform the rest of the club what they caught their

fish on, the technique, and depth. In this aspect it helps the other anglers improve their skills and lets them know what they could have tried different.

Dues to join the club are a mere \$30 per year. Cost for each tournament is \$25 with a \$5 Big Bass Option. There is also a progressive side pot that an optional \$5 for the first 7-pound or over bass.

Texas Trails Bassmaster is a boat owner club only, no non boaters are accepted. Family members who join individually can fish in the same boat. This refers to husband and wife or parent and siblings. We do limit two anglers per boat. All boats, makes and models are welcome as long as they meet state regulations.

If this club sounds like one you'd like to set your hook in, give me a call, Don Hampton at 903-360-6994 or 903-383-7748 or Rodney Ellis, President at 903-714-6473. For more information go to www.texas trails bassmasters.com.

I hope to be fishing with you this year!

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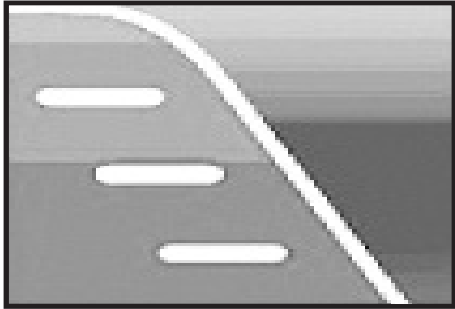
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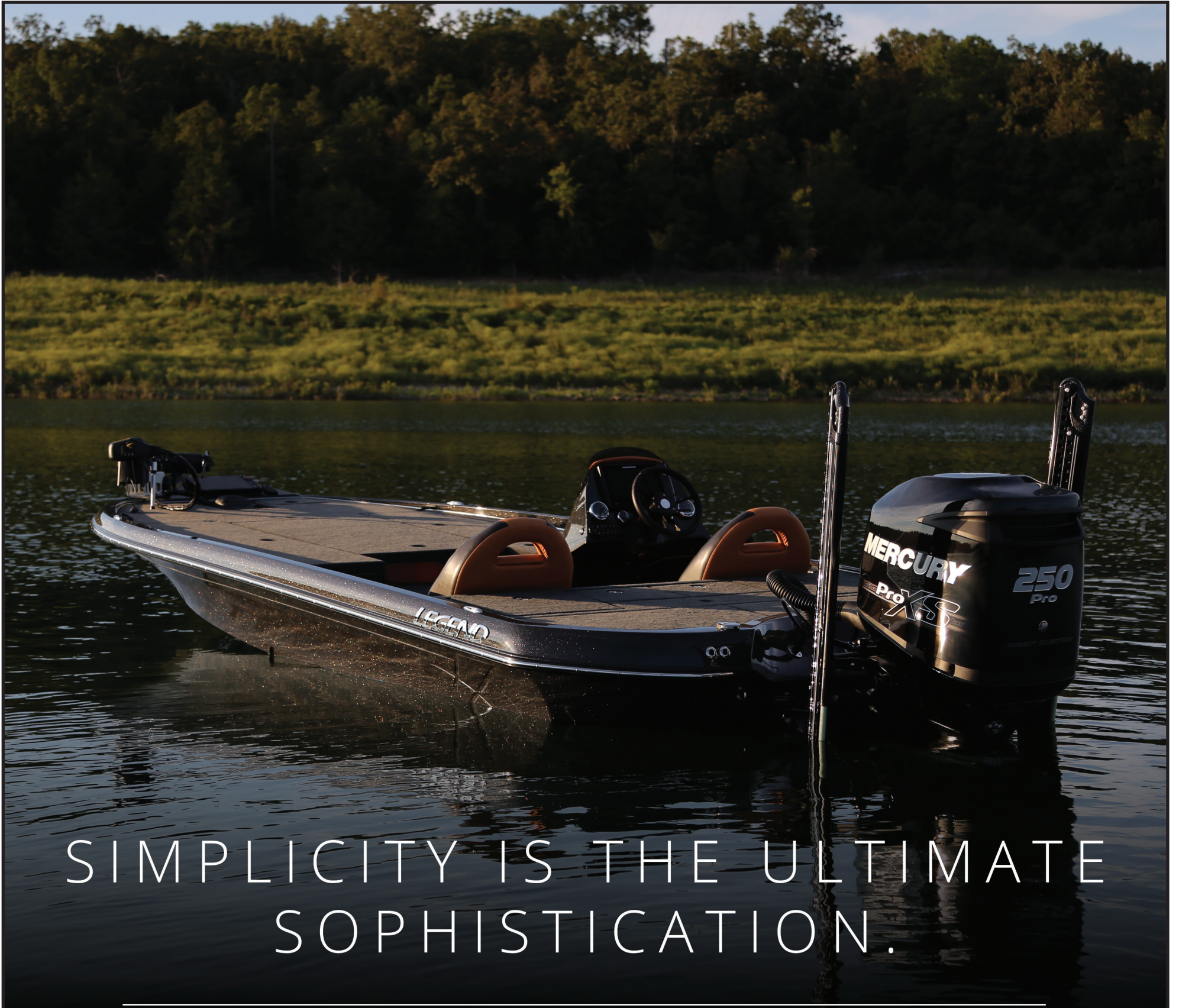
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Three Leased Public Fishing Access Areas Open for White Bass Anglers

White bass are one of Texas' most sought after game fish, especially when they make their annual spring spawning migration into rivers above reservoirs. Now that those fish are on the move, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) River Access and Conservation Area program has opened free public access sites for anglers at three of the best white bass runs in the state.

The leased access sites are now open at the Chandler River Park on the Neches River above Lake Palestine, the Grand Bluff Boat Ramp on the Sabine River downstream from Black Shoals, and the Kingsland Slab RV Camp on the Llano River above Lake LBJ.

"All three rivers are known for their excellent white bass runs," said Stephan Magnelia, TPWD River Studies Program Director. "And March through early May is the prime time to target this species."

The Neches River access site at Chandler River Park is located 20 minutes outside Tyler in East Texas, and features a boat ramp, kayak launch and a half-mile of river bank for anglers looking to target white bass from the shore.

"It's the unique combination of access and biology that

makes these locations really stand out," said Richard Ott, a TPWD Inland Fisheries biologist in Tyler. "The Neches is the main river that runs into Lake Palestine, and in spring when we have the right water conditions it attracts the white bass and concentrates fish to anglers near this site. We have had some substantial rain falls recently, and that flow is the final trigger to get those bass to run."

The Sabine River access site just outside Carthage is a day trip for many Texans at just over 2.5 hours from Dallas-Fort Worth and three hours from Houston. The site offers 275 feet of river frontage for shoreline anglers and a single trailer boat ramp for those looking to get on the water.

"The Sabine River is up after all the rain we have had recently, and the white bass are running upstream from Black Shoals right now," said Jacob Green, a TPWD Inland Fisheries technician in Marshall. "Anglers have been catching a lot of small males for the last few weeks, but we are starting to see more of the big females running out there right now."

For Central Texas white bass anglers, the Llano River access site is just over an hour from Austin

and under two hours from San Antonio. The site offers substantial shoreline and bank access, and shallow areas for anglers looking to wade in the water. A local park also offers a spot for kayak launching and take out.

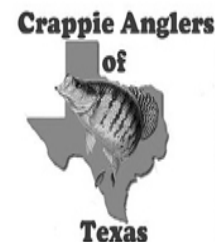
The leases were made possible with funding provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation. The Chandler River Park was also made possible by the East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation.

For additional information and directions to these leased fishing access areas and others throughout the state, including site specific hours and restrictions, visit us online. Fishing tips and tactics for targeting white bass during the spring spawning run, as well as information on other popular white bass fishing locations in Central Texas can also be found online.



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

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Top 10 Big Fish Payouts

First	\$5000
Second	\$2500
Third	\$2000
Fourth	\$1000
Fifth	\$750
Sixth	\$600
Seventh	\$400
Eighth	\$300
Ninth	\$250
Tenth	\$200

Top 10 Big Fish Payouts

- \$500 for "Lightest" Legal Crappie
- \$1,000 to the Top finishing C.A.T. Member
- \$5,000 "Lonestar Forklift Monster Crappie" Bonus for 3 pound Crappie (if more than one 3 lb. crappie is caught the bonus money will be split)
- \$250 for each crappie weighing closest to (without going over) 1.00, 1.25, 1.50 and 1.75 lbs., (\$250 Bonus for exact weight)
- 4 Random Drawings for "Mystery Weights" worth \$250 each
- Must be present to WIN—ONE FISH Weigh In

Jr. Anglers (2 Divisions—ages 10 and under; 11-17)

Are encouraged to participate (NO entry fee, Prizes only)

There are four ways to register:

- At a C.A.T. monthly meeting prior to the date of the tournament
- Mail in completed Entry Form
- At The MINNOW BUCKET PAVILION on March 31, 2017 between 5pm and 6pm and on the day of the tournament between 6am—7am
- NO ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR THIS TOURNAMENT.



Please visit our Website

www.crappieanglersoftexas.com for membership and meeting information, tournament entry forms, and complete tournament rules.



Texas Game Wardens Lead Successful Joint Operation Bahia de Aransas

Texas game wardens recently wrapped up a successful six-day multiagency initiative, called Operation Bahia de Aransas, designed to increase law enforcement presence along the coastal bend region. The initiative was in response to increased commercial oyster activity in Aransas, Carlos and Mesquite bays.

Throughout the week of Feb. 13, patrols were conducted by Texas game wardens in

collaboration with officers from U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Air and Marine, U.S. Coast Guard, Aransas County Sheriff's Office, and the CBP Office of Field Operations.

In all, 67 citations and 15 warnings were written for Parks and Wildlife code violations relating primarily to commercial oyster harvest including many undersized oyster cases.

"Oyster resources in Texas have declined over the last several years due to siltation from hurricanes and tropical storms, drought, flooding and high harvest pressure," said Lance Robinson, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Coastal Fisheries Division deputy director. "A continued strong market demand for oysters has led some fishermen and dealers to resort to harvesting and buying undersize oysters. Hopefully this operation will serve as a deterrent to commercial fishermen and dealers to continue this practice."

In addition six arrests were also made including a U.S. Marshal Service warrant that was executed from a tug boat, an arrest warrant for assault on a federal officer, and a TPWD Class B arrest for a commercial oyster violation.

"The high level of agency participation acted as a force multiplier and allowed us to expand our coverage in these areas," said Texas game warden Major Larry Young. "This Operation was definitely a success and the officers involved have done an outstanding job providing natural resource protection and public safety."

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Entry Forms Now Available At All Local
Businesses or online:
www.legendoflakefork.com
or call: 903-383-7748 to be put on
Mailing List!!

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center to host 17th Annual Fly Fish Texas March 11

Fly Fish Texas is back for the 17th year with a jam-packed day of activities, classes, demonstrations and vendors 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 11 at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. And it's all free with the cost of admission to the TFFC.

Fly Fish Texas will feature more than a dozen classes and demonstrations geared toward everyone from the beginner fly-fisher to the experienced angler, all taught by professional guides, instructors and competitors. For those just getting started in the art of fly-fishing, classes include fly-fishing 101, all-day casting instruction, beginning fly-tying classes and caring for fly-fishing equipment. For more experienced anglers, instructors will be teaching classes on how to fly-fish the Llano River and Lake Athens, how to cast for common carp, and how to do single and double hand spey casting.

Loaner equipment will be available for anglers to test their fly-fishing skills and cast for rainbow trout all day in several stocked ponds and streams at the TFFC. More than 1,000 rainbow trout will be stocked on-site for the event in Lake Zebco, the 1.2 acre fishing pond; in the ponds located along the 0.8 mile wetlands trail; and in the 1.5 acre casting pond, which features a dedicated fly-fishing pavilion.

"At Fly Fish Texas, everybody has the chance to catch their first trout on a fly rod," said Wal-

ter McClendon, Fly Fish Texas co-coordinator. "The fish in the ponds are hungry and there are plenty in there. Giving people an opportunity to land their first catch is a really important part of the event."

After learning to tie a fly, cast a fly, and catch a fish anglers can check out the rest of the fun and educational features the TFFC has to offer, including the daily dive show at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., a tram tour of the hatchery, and over 300,000 gallons of indoor and outdoor aquariums displaying dozens of species of native fish, waterfowl, alligators and amphibians in recreated habitats.

The TFFC in Ath-

ens is located about an hour drive from Tyler and Dallas and less than two hours from Fort Worth and Waco.

For maps, admission information, and a complete schedule of the day's activities visit TFFC online. For updates, photos and instructor information, follow TFFC on

Facebook and TPWD Fishing on Twitter. Fly Fish Texas is sponsored by the Dallas Fly Fishers, Temple Fork Outfitters, Orvis - Dallas, Holiday Inn Ex-

press Hotel and Suites - Athens, Friends of TFFC, Danny's Smokehouse Bar-B-Que, First State Bank and Red Hat Rentals.

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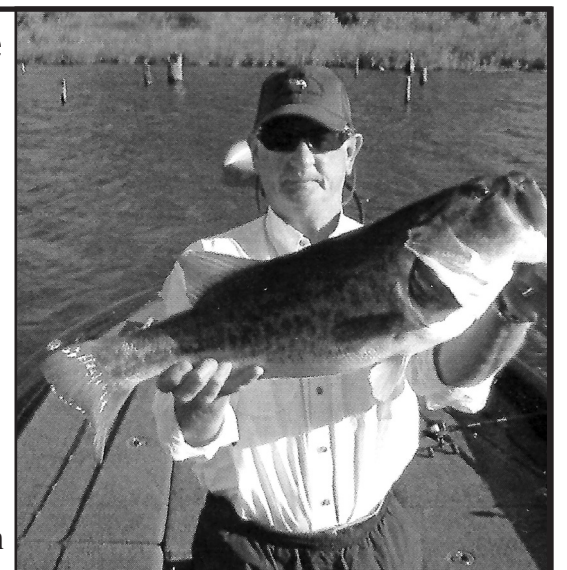
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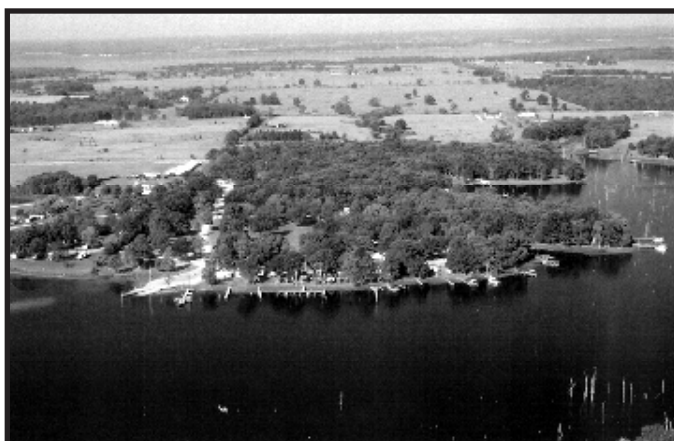
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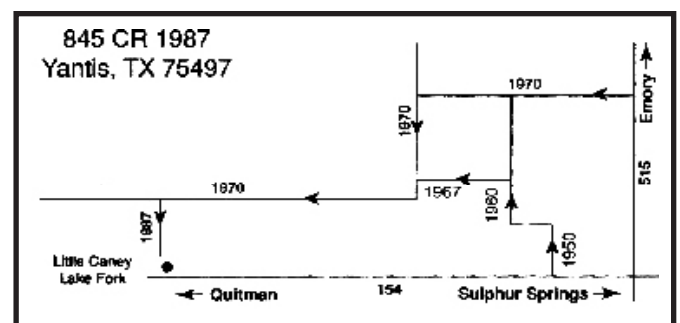
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Teen Arrested in Connection with Shooting Death of Bald Eagle

On Feb. 22, an American bald eagle was shot in north Harris County, Texas, near White Oak Bayou. The eagle was one of two adult eagles that have actively nested in this area for several years.

Atipaboutthepossible shooting of an eagle led Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agents, and Harris County sheriff's deputies to an area in north Harris County. The eagle carcass was recovered and following a brief investigation an arrest made.

Texas game wardens have charged a 17-year-old Harris County teen in connection with the shooting death of the bald eagle. The teenager is accused of fatally shooting the eagle, a state threatened species, several times with a high-powered air rifle from its nest. He was booked into the Harris County Jail on a Class A misdemeanor violation for hunting without landowner consent. The charge carries a possible fine of \$500-\$4,000 and/or up to a one year state jail term.

Game wardens issued the teenager an additional citation for the take of a state threatened species, a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of

\$25-\$500, and civil restitution for the eagle in an amount to be determined exceeding \$10,000.

After the shooting, the eagle's mate remained near the nest, indicating the possibility of fledglings. State and federal wildlife officials monitoring the eagle nest for activity became concerned about the health and well-being of any eaglets in light of rising temperatures forecast in the days following the incident and because the mate was not observed bringing food back to the nest.

On the morning of Feb. 23, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Center Point Energy, Harris County Flood Control District, and The Wildlife Center of Texas undertook a rescue effort to recover any eaglets that might be in the nest. Center Point Energy provided foresters capable of climbing the 100-plus-foot tree to gather any eaglets and bring them down to safety. Once at the nest, the forester observed one eaglet sitting quietly in the nest. He carefully removed the bird and carried it safely down the ladder. The 5-6 week old eaglet was immediately taken to The Wildlife Center of Texas

where a preliminary examination indicated that the eaglet was dehydrated and had not recently been fed. The eaglet was given fluids and fed and remained at the Center overnight. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will transport the eaglet to a Texas rehabilitation center where it will be cared for until it is able to forage and care for itself with the ultimate goal of releasing it back into the wild.

If you have news or photos
on Lake Fork

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TPWD Announces New Paddler Camp Sites on Iconic Devils River

The Devils River is one of the premier paddling and fishing destinations in Texas, drawing outdoor enthusiasts each year to enjoy the preserved natural beauty, excellent sport fishery, and native wildlife along its clear waters. But the river is not for the faint of heart. "Due to the remote location of the Devils River, safe, reliable, and legal camp sites on the river are in short supply," said Joe Joplin, Devils River State Natural Area superintendent. "The average paddler doesn't make 15 miles in a day, and if they do, it's not enjoyable."

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), along with local partners, aims to change that. To help create safe conditions for the recreational use of the Devils River and help minimize trespassing issues, the TPWD River Access and Conservation Area Program (RACA) will open two paddle-up-only camp sites March 1.

According to Timothy Birdsong, Habitat Conservation Chief for TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division, the new pack-in, pack-out camp sites aren't designed to add more paddlers to the river, but rather to provide safe and legal stopping points for the daily limit of TPWD permitted paddlers.

"The reaches of river between Baker's Crossing, and the Del Norte and Dan A. Hughes Units of our Devils River State Natural Area are relatively long distances, so we strategically added these camp sites roughly mid-distance to create a more safe and enjoyable experience for paddlers," Birdsong said.

TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith said by adding the two new paddle-up only campsites, the organization is setting the conditions to ensure permitted paddlers can explore the river safely and maintain the high standards

(See TPWD Announces....Continued on Page 22-A)

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork
34th Semi-Annual Open Tournament
Mar. 18, 2017 * Lake Fork, Texas
Oak Ridge Marina * 2919 W. St. Hwy. 154

Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries **903-878-2529**
 Drawings will be held after weigh-in for door prizes

1st Place	\$1,040.00	 	1st Place	\$500.00
2nd Place	\$780.00		2nd Place	\$300.00
3rd Place	\$520.00		3rd Place	\$200.00
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)

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00.
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Mar. 10, 2017.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Saturday, Mar. 18, 2017.
4. Check in time: Friday, Mar. 17, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Mar. 18, 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 (for 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 emiler 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 food 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 fish 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.texas trails bassmasters.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 Mar. 10, 2017 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

TTB USE ONLY

Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Ck/ \$ _____

**13th Annual Legend
 Of Lake Fork
 Big Bass Tournament**
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"Pack of Knowledge" The Forgotten Finesse Rig

By Andrew Grills

Picture a flotilla of bass boats in your favorite fishing hole. That's what we deal with on a daily basis throughout the spring here on Lake Fork. Following suit with rattletails, spinnerbaits, and plastic lizards often doesn't cut it when the fish are so highly pressured. Therefore I am always looking for a different approach to show the fish something a little different. One of my favorite techniques for shallow water in the spring is the often overlooked "finesse Carolina rig".

There are times when this rig will out fish anything you can throw at them. It covers water efficiently, catches fish of all sizes, and is very easy to fish. All of these benefits are great from the standpoint of a fishing guide, entertaining customers of all skill levels. I find the finesse Carolina rig is one of the most "customer friendly" techniques out there.

I will use this rig in several situations. It's a great rig for windblown points, humps, and pond dams. When fishing these structures during the pre-spawn period, this rig will enable you to maintain contact with the bottom and your lure. One of the best guide trips I have ever had, was using this rig with a young married couple who were both novice anglers. The wind was gusting over 30mph and I had no choice but to tie up to a stump near a shallow pond dam. They proceeded to catch 37 bass up to 9lbs in just a few hours!

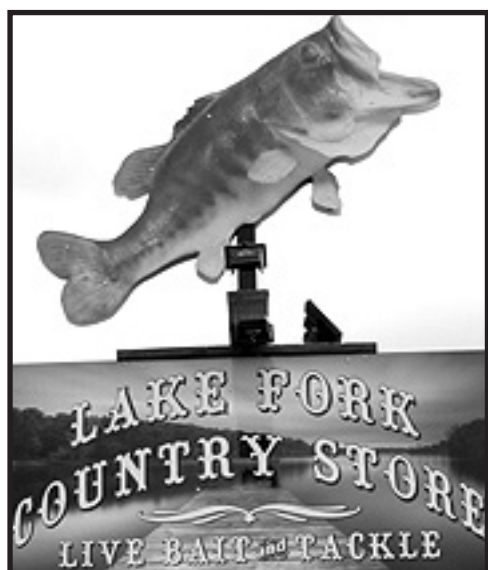
The finesse Carolina rig can be rigged on casting or spinning gear. For customers who have trouble learning to use a baitcast reel, I can rig up a spinning reel with 20-30-lb braid, and attach a 15lb fluorocarbon leader and they're in business. On casting equipment, I use 20-lb fluorocarbon main line, and a 15-lb fluorocarbon leader. 3/16oz is a

good starting point for sinker weight, but around grass I may go as light as 1/8oz. If the wind is really blowing, you can go as heavy as needed to
(See Pack of Knowledge....

Continued on Page 21-A)



Came all the way from Japan to catch this nice 9-lb. Lake Fork Bass with guide Andrew Grills.



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Applications Being Accepted for Texas Game Warden Cadet Class

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is building its next generation of elite state law enforcement officers with the 62nd Texas Game Warden Cadet class. Applications are being accepted now through March 31.

"We are beginning the process of hiring and training the next generation of conservation law enforcement professionals. We encourage anyone interested in becoming a Texas Game Warden to apply," said Col. Craig Hunter, TPWD Law Enforcement Director. "Since 1895, Texas game wardens have protected the people of Texas through professional law enforcement services that include land, water and air patrols; search and rescue; and tactical operations, all while working to conserve and protect the natural resources of our state."

Applicants must be 21 years of age before the projected graduation date of Aug. 2018, and have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university prior to Sept. 1, 2017. Applicants must also undergo a preliminary interview, background investigation and physical skills tests

focusing on agility and swimming. Persons interested in strengthening their swimming skills should contact the American Red Cross to take a swimming course.

All cadets are required to live at the Game Warden Training Center near Hamilton, Texas, for the duration of the 30-week training period. After graduation, new

game wardens will be assigned to vacant stations throughout Texas with the responsibility of protecting the state's natural resources. Game wardens also protect lives by enforcing the Water Safety Act and conducting standard peace officer duties.

Candidates can apply online. Application deadline for the 62nd Texas Game Warden Cadet class

is March 31, 2017.

For more information, check the game warden website or contact Tex-

as game warden recruiters Lt. Kevin Malonson at kevin.malonson@tpwd.texas.gov and

game warden Eric Howard at eric.howard@tpwd.texas.gov, or call 877-229-2733.



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Time to hunt the Lunkers (Continued from Page 6-A)

cold fronts can be a game changer when pursuing trophy bass so pay close attention to the areas that you are fishing. Fish will pull back during these conditions and you will need to back out and target wood in the 6-14ft range to collect your trophy prize. A black/blue jig will gain the starring role and be sure to stay in contact with the jig to feel the bite. Big bass will often bite very softly so you will need to control the slack line to feel the jig as it scours the bottom.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in March searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. 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 at <https://www.facebook.com/LakeForkGuideDavidOzio>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Custom Lures for making my job the blast that it is. 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."

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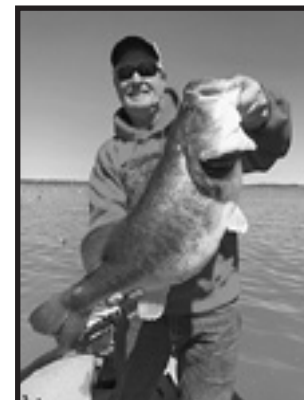
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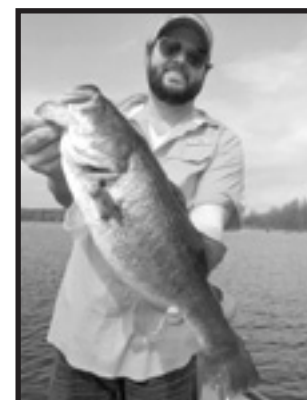
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Pack of Knowledge (Continued from Page 18-A)

maintain contact with the rig. A seven foot, medium-heavy action rod, with a medium to high gear ratio reel is a good setup for this application.

I like to add a glass bead between the sinker and the swivel. This makes some clicking noises that may attract some attention and it also helps protect the knot. I usually measure my leader length from my elbow to the tip of my finger, which is about 18 inches. Finesse worms, baby brush hogs, and flukes are great choices to complete the rig, the fluke being my favorite. A 3/0 Gamakatsu EWG hook is a perfect fit.

I think the key to success with this rig is employing a painstakingly slow retrieve. Often, my bites come while I'm holding my rod with one hand while talking to my customers. I try to count the rocks, roots, or shells my sinker is crawling over.

Hopefully this infor-

mation will add to your success this spring. It's a simple rig that we've all probably used before, but may have forgotten about. If I can be of any assistance to you on your trip to Lake Fork, please don't hesitate to contact me.

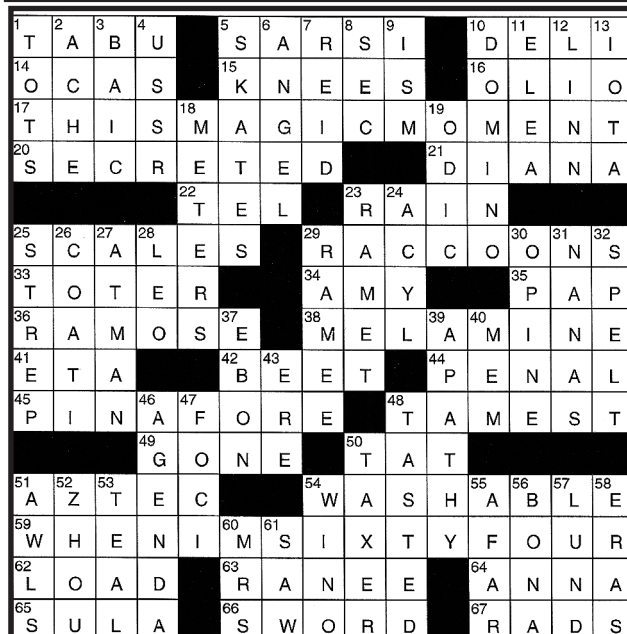
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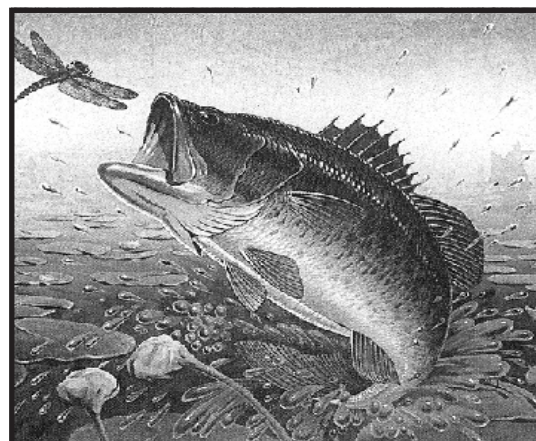


Garden Search

There are 14 plants commonly grown in gardens hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

BEET	LILY
BROCCOLI	MARIGOLD
CABBAGE	PANSY
CARROT	PEPPER
CORN	ROSE
DAFFODIL	TOMATO
GERANIUM	TULIP

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N R O C A R R A T U L I
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P P E P R O C I L L O A
A P I L U T E G C O R B
S E Y N A P R O T E E B
P P I L U S D L O I R A
A N S Y E L R D M A R G
N R C O S I A U T M A E
S O G L O D G L A L Y G
Y S A B R O C C O L I B
L S L E O F P A S N R B
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TPWD Announces New Paddler Camp *(Continued from Page 17-A)*

of river stewardship that will preserve its unique beauty for generations to come.

"I'm proud of what the TPWD River Access Conservation Area Program and our Devils River State Natural Area have been able to do to address the desires and concerns of both local landowners and devoted Devils River paddlers," Smith said. "This is a win-win deal for everyone who appreciates and respects this iconic Texas river."

To help promote river use etiquette and river stewardship by paddlers, TPWD is partnering with the Devils River Conservancy (DRC), a nonprofit organization made up of landowners and conservationists whose mission is to preserve and protect the Devils River and the lands within its watershed. Through this partnership, both organizations will be collaborating on an educational video and Devils River Paddler Manual that will be distributed among lo-

cal guides and vendors to prepare paddlers for overnight trips on the Devils River and help address issues encountered on the water.

"The Devils River is a precious and delicate resource; it cannot sustain unmanaged human pressure without degradation," the DRC said in a statement provided to TPWD. "The Devils River Conservancy is happy to partner with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in engaging landowners in the active management of recreation on the Devils River."

"We hope that the implementation of the designated campsites will decrease the overall impact of human pressure on the river while honoring the private property rights of its land stewards," the statement continued. "Moving forward, this partnership aims to cultivate the 'leave no trace' ethos for the protection for this wild and beloved Texas River for gen-

erations to come."

These new paddle-up-only camp sites are the newest additions to TPWD's statewide network of 19 River Access and Conservation Areas, which offer improved angler and paddler access to more than 100 miles of Texas rivers. The program is funded through federal grants provided by the United States Department of Agriculture and through philanthropy efforts of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

A Devils River Access Permit is required for all trips on the Devils River that access the two units of the Devils River State Natural Area or these two new paddle-up-only camp sites. Visit the Devils River State Natural Area website for reservations, maps, permits and other information.

To view pictures of paddlers on the Devils River, visit TPWD News Images online or on our Flickr page.



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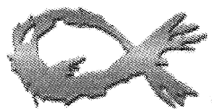
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On February 9th the Lake Fork Chamber of Commerce made a special donation to Yantis ISD of the chainsaw carved owl that was created during Eagle Fest by artist Burt Fleming. Yantis Owl's new mascot.



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