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**Vol. 18**

**May, 2017**

**No. 213**



**All Boats, Makes, Models Welcome  
May 19, 20 & 21, 2017**

By Don Hampton

Anglers get ready for the premier tournament of the year. The "13th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament" will be held on May 19, 20, 21. This is not an owner's tournament. The name of the event is based on Lake Fork being a legendary big bass lake. **ALL BOATS, MAKES, AND MODELS ARE WELCOME TO COME AND COMPETE!**

We will be paying 8 places per hour with the first to be knocked out of seventh place will receive a \$100 gift certificate from one of the sponsoring businesses. This little enticement has some

anglers really playing the game bringing a small bass that may weigh under a pound to the scales at the top of each hour just to be knocked out of the hour first and secure a win. First each hour will be paid \$500, second \$400, third \$300, fourth \$200, fifth \$175, sixth \$150, seventh \$125, and first out of seventh to receive the \$100 gift certificate.

All early entries received on or before April 30th will be in the drawing for a 2017 Legend bass boat powered by Mercury and MinnKota. Anglers if you miss the chance to get in for the early entry into the tournament you will still have a chance to win one

of the Legend boats to be given away and a chance to get in on the hourly pay-backs!

Anglers will be competing for two boats for the two heaviest 24" and over the slot, one boat for the heaviest under 16" and the one boat for the early entry drawing. Anglers winning these boats will receive a certificate for the boat so they might order the colors or upgrades of their choice to more personalize their 2017 Legend boat.

We will be set up and taking entries at Lake Fork Marina, the tournament headquarters, on Thursday, May 18th from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m., on Friday (See Legend of Lake Fork Continued on Page 3-A)



**"Great Improvement For Lake Fork!"** For all of those anglers that put in at the 515 East Boat Ramp, boating just got easier. The improvements and upgrades are great for launching. There is now a floating dock, the steep upgrade on right of ramp has been removed, and excess sand on ramp has been cleared.

## 4th Annual Crappiefest on Lake Fork

CAT recently held its 4th Annual Crappiefest Tournament on Lake Fork on April 1, 2017, and it was a day for the record books! A record total of 325 anglers (300 Adult Anglers & 25 Junior Anglers) participated in a great day of fishing filled with fun, fellowship and plenty of excitement! This tournament was a "big fish" tournament, so each angler weighed in only one big crappie. The weather was nearly perfect for ear-

ly spring, the big fish were on the prowl, and the result was some very big fish and some very excited anglers!!! Here are the results: First place went to Ed Rathbun (Ponca, OK) with a huge crappie weighing in at 2.93 pounds!! Ed's giant crappie netted him a total of \$5,000. Clay Gann (Hideaway, TX) came in 2nd place with a 2.75 pound slab worth \$2,500. Clay was also the Top Finishing CAT Member,

so he added another \$1,000 to his winnings. George Nelson (Boyd, TX) took home third place and a check for \$2000 with his crappie weighing in at 2.63 pounds. Willie Scott (Aubrey, TX) and Chris Coffman (Brownsboro, TX) filled the 4th and 5th places weighing in crappie that tipped the scales at exactly 2.55 pounds worth \$875 each. Frank Haideseck (Manhattan, TX) (See 4th Annual....

Continued on Page 9-A)

**13th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament May 19, 20, 21,**



## *"Have You Smooched The Pooch Today?"*

By Don Hampton

Everyone has a different expression or saying when they make a mistake or mess up. Some will use profanity; curse themselves, their equipment, the weather, the water, their friends or whatever they can think of at the moment to vent their anger and frustrations.

Bubba seems to be lacking when it comes to understanding that type of behavior. First of all you are not going to find him getting too stressed out in life. He loves it too much, because to him fishing is life. Second, if Bubba ever heard him come out with profanity in mixed company, not only would he have cause to hang his head in shame but he also might wake up with the taste of Ivory soap in his mouth.

Bubba does have his sayings when he makes mistakes. With his he can use them in mixed company and still not have to worry what that soap tastes like. His favorite saying when he makes a mistake or messes up is, "Well, I smooched the pooch that time!" Bubba doesn't take his dog with him but he still finds himself SMOOCHING THE POOCH a lot and usually on a daily basis!

Bubba will be late coming home from a fishing trip and have a cold, Bubba and supper waiting and he'll simply say, "Well, I smooched the pooch this time!" If he did badly in a tournament or on a fishing trip and you ask him about it, you'll get the same answer. If he lost his keys or wrecked his truck, the answer would still be

the same. If he sees or hears of someone else messing up he'll say, "Well they smooched the pooch!" This is just Bubba's laid back way of saying everything the hot heads say and express but in a simple, sensible, sociably acceptable way.

Bubba has a lot of other sayings in life he uses in place of profanity and that are not offensive. "Ole Chips" is probably his most used one. He doesn't like old chips because they are stale and tasteless. If he smashes his finger it's, "Ole chips!" If he bends his license plate while backing up to the boat, it's the same. If he misses a hook set on a big bass, it's the same.

Now Bubba isn't one to call names but on occasions he does express his dislike over someone's behavior. For this he has an especially appropriate word I perfectly understood after he explained it to me. If he sees someone misbehave in a tasteless or unbecoming manner, he'll simply say, "Well, there's a real ashtray!" or "There's someone acting like a real ashtray!"

Being the enquiring mind that I am when I heard Bubba say this the first time, I wanted to know his philosophy on this one. Believe it or not, Bubba is very philosophical. I came to this conclusion when he explained it to me.

He enlightened me by telling me, "Most ashtrays are always dirty. The sole purpose is for depositing cigarette butts in them and you always find an ash or two around them!" Well, that was descriptive enough for me so that I hope he never calls me an ashtray or says I'm acting like one!

Bubba is not a saint! You won't find him trading in his bass boat to be walking on water in this lifetime. He does try to be as good a man as he can and not using profanity is one of his ways. Growing up his father was a backwoods Methodist preacher that taught him well that bad words made you a bad person. He also found out that a switch isn't just something installed by electricians and that a belt isn't just used to hold your pants up.

So take a lesson from Bubba and his upbringing. If you are in public with other people present and you get angry, keep it to yourself or modify it with pleasantries.

At least that way you won't have anyone come up to you and say, "Ole Chip! You just smooched the pooch, and you're acting like a real ashtray!"



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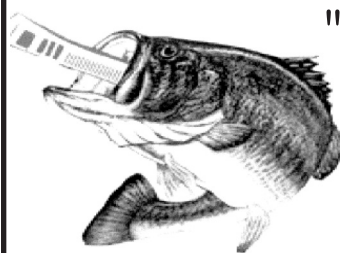
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## 13th Annual Legend of Lake Fork *(Continued from Page 1-A)*

from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday the same hours and on Sunday from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. for anyone just wishing to fish one day. Anglers can fish one, two, or all three days and still have a chance for all the prizes. Official fishing days for the tournament are May 19, 20, 21 and fishing hours are from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the first hour weigh-in beginning with the 7 to 8 o'clock hour and ending with the 2 to 3 o'clock hour each day. Anglers have to be off the water by 8 p.m. each day of the tournament and cannot get on the water until 4 a.m. and cannot wet a hook until 6 a.m. The official

starting time and hourly up-dates will be announced on FM 99.9 KMOO Radio Station. So be sure to have a radio in your boat. Again this year we will be selling commemorative T-shirts at tournament headquarters. If you purchase a shirt and have it on or with you and win 1st place in any hour, you will receive an extra \$100 in cash on the spot. Every hour of the tournament is a T-shirt hour.

All anglers will also be able to purchase a Temple Fork Outfitters rod for only \$60. This offer is while supplies last, two rod limit per angler. As popular as these rods are becoming, they seem to go pretty fast, but on

another note we will have a large supply.

The Chek-It-Stick is the official measurement of the tournament. Bass under the slot coming to the weigh-in cannot touch 16" and bass over can touch or exceed the 24" mark.

This tournament is fun for the entire family. Come out and enter or just bring the family and enjoy the festivities and check out the vendors.

For more information see the advertisement on Page 13-A, or call me at 903-360-6994, 903-383-7748, or email me: fishnews@lakefork.net.

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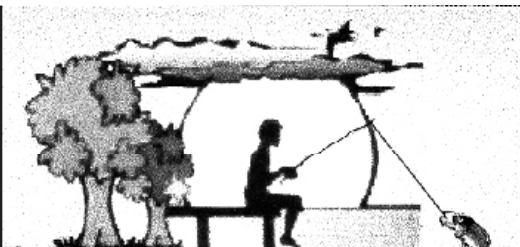


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## Record Effort to Combat Aquatic Invaders in Texas Yields Early Success, Looks to Next Steps

Efforts to stop aquatic invasive species from taking over Texas waterways are ramping up this spring, made possible through record funding from state lawmakers. Invaders like giant salvinia, zebra mussels and many others blanket waterways and block boating, fishing and swimming, crowd out native species, spoil rivers and lakes, and clog power plant and municipal water pipes. Experts say it's a huge challenge, but progress is being made, and the public still has a key role to play.

The 84th Texas Legislature provided \$6.3 million to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for aquatic invasive species management in 2016-2017, an increase from \$1.1 million in the previous biennium. Bolstered by this record appropriation, the department has built or expanded partnerships with universities, river authorities, municipal water districts, non-profits, local, state and federal agencies, and other partners to deliver more than 60 projects statewide, including these examples: --713,993 GIANT SALVINIA WEEVILS were produced and stocked in East Texas

lakes to eat and control giant salvinia, --3,500 ACRES OF SALTCE-DAR were treated along 112 miles of the upper Brazos River to restore habitats for wildlife, including game birds and endangered fishes, --17,643 ACRES OF GIANT SALVINIA were treated with herbicides on East Texas lakes, including Toledo Bend Reservoir and Caddo Lake, --4 RAPID RESPONSE events successfully "nipped in the bud" introductions of giant salvinia at Lake Fork, Falcon Lake, Brandy Branch, and Martin Creek reservoirs, --1,960 BOATS were inspected at 57 boat ramps on lakes infested or at high risk for zebra mussels, --334 LANDOWNERS cooperated to give experts access to manage Arundo (giant reed) along more than 100 miles of Hill Country rivers, --80 MARINAS were visited as part of outreach work to promote invasive species prevention, --575,000 REGISTERED BOATERS are receiving "Clean, Drain and Dry" outreach materials to prevent

the spread of invasive species, and --177.7 MILLION IMPRESSIONS were made through radio, online, print, and outdoor advertising during giant salvinia and zebra mussel outreach campaigns.

Details about this work, including photos and story profiles showcasing various projects, are on the department's aquatic invasive species management web pages. With the summer boating season just ahead, the department and its partners will be calling for boaters help to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species like giant salvinia and zebra mussels that can be spread from lake to lake on boats and trailers. Given boats are the primary way these invasive species are spread, boaters need to "Clean, Drain and Dry" their boats, trailers, and gear every time they travel from one waterbody to another. An online video demonstrates the simple steps to properly clean, drain and dry a boat.

For more information about invasive plants and animals in Texas, visit [www.texasinvasives.org](http://www.texasinvasives.org)



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## Wildflowers and Blooming Plants on Full Display at Texas State Parks

Texas State Parks are in full bloom with an impressive wildflower display of bright blues, deep reds and rich yellows.

Texas is blessed with more than 5,000 species of wildflowers, and this spring has seen a proliferation of wildflower populations. The state's more than 90 Texas State Parks present some of the best and safest places to view and photograph nature's bounty of wildflowers and blooming shrubs and trees.

"Spring wildflower displays have been glorious in East, Central, North and coastal Texas recently," says Jason Singhurst, botanist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "As more rain is expected over the next few weeks, we should expect increasing splendor in West Texas and other parts of the Lone Star State."

Currently, every region of the state is presenting different varieties of wildflowers, including: Central Texas: Vernal Hill Country limestone-influenced thin soils once again have allowed a wildflower eruption into a landscape painted with bluebonnets, Indian blanket, green thread, four-nerve daisy, wine cups, phlox, Missouri primrose, Drummond's skullcap, foxglove and Lindheimer's paintbrush. Coastal Texas prairies and the South Texas 'Sand Sheet': An array of wildflowers are on display including prairie clovers, Texas groundsel, woolly whites, wine cups, false dragonhead, coreopsis, queen's delight, toadflax, sand Brazos-mint, phlox, bluebonnets and side-cluster milkweed. East Texas: The Pineywoods' ground flora has

been extraordinary with a plethora of wildflowers including violets, trout lilies, trilliums, mayapple, bloodroot, Texas groundsel and Solomon seal. North Texas: The landscape is bountiful with purple, Indian, and lemon paintbrushes, along with showy evening primrose, blue-eyed grass, buttercups, wild indigo and extraordinary numbers of antelope horn and green milkweeds. Southwest Texas: Due to record-breaking heat, wildflower displays have been scarce. West Texas: Drought continues due to little winter rain, which is limiting wildflowers.

"When taking annual family portraits with spring wildflowers, please refrain from sitting in or trampling wildflowers," says Singhurst. "Sitting or stepping on wildflowers to get photos damages them and reduces or eliminates their ability to reseed themselves for next year. Photos can be framed so the wildflowers enhance the photo, but are not harmed during the process."

Entering wildflower patches carries the risk of disturbing wildlife resting or hiding in that location, such as nesting birds, or undesirable encounters with venomous snakes and fire ants, so always exercise caution. Texas State Parks offer great picturesque settings for family wildflower photos away from busy roadways and now is a prime time for unique and diverse wildflower displays.

The TPWD Pinterest page is regularly updated with wildflower sightings from parks across the state, including Guadalupe River State Park, Cad-

do Lake State Park and Fort Boggy State Park. Park visitors can share their wildflower pictures--and see what's blooming around the state--on TPWD Instagram, Facebook and Twitter accounts. In addition, check out the TPWD Pinterest board for more pictures of wildflowers.

Recent sightings reported by TPWD staff in Texas State Parks include:

–**Caddo Lake State Park**– Flowering dogwood tree, pawpaws and Langlois' violets

–**Devils River State Natural Area**– Cactus bloom, mountain laurel

–**Enchanted Rock State Natural Area**– Bluebonnet

–**Fort Boggy State Park**– Bluebonnet, partridge pea

–**Fort Parker State Park**– Standing cypress

–**Goliad State Park and Historic Site**– Texas baby blue eyes

–**Guadalupe River State Park**– Prairie verbena, blackfoot daisies, bluebonnets, Indian paintbrushes, windflowers and agarita

–**Huntsville State Park**– Dogwood blossoms

–**Lake Bob Sandlin State Park**– Spring beauty blossoms

–**Lockhart State Park**– A pink bluebonnet

–**McKinney Falls State Park**– Bluebonnets

–**Palmetto State Park**– Spiderwort, anacua

–**Tyler State Park**– Redbud tree

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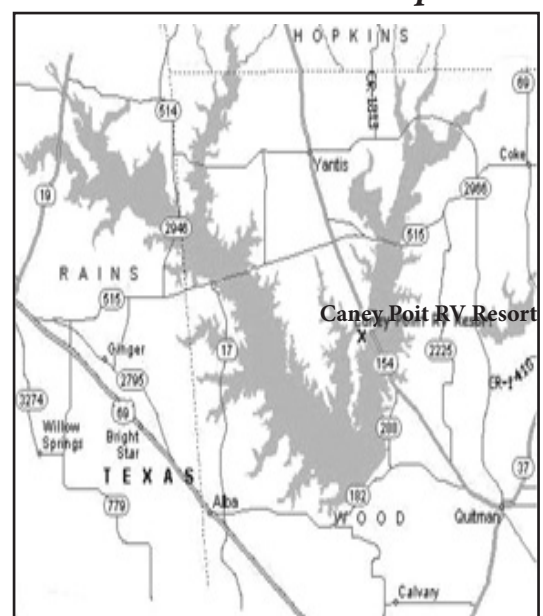
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# May Means Migration to Deeper Water and Schooling

By David Ozio

This has been a very trying spring on Lake Fork with the rising water levels and huge winds. With that now behind us, we can focus on May when the big girls start the migrating process from the shallows back to their deep summer haunts. This won't be an overnight process but knowing where to look for these transition fish could net you the wall hanger of your dreams. The shad spawn now plays a key roll in your pursuit of "biggreenfishious" and main lake points will be the focus of your fishing efforts especially early in the morning. Look for birds standing on the bank in large groups and you will be on your way to piece one of the puzzle.

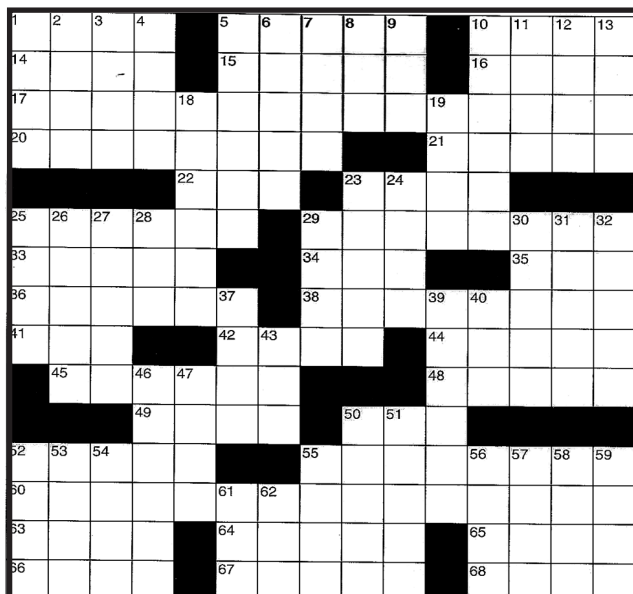
There are many different ways to tackle these bass feeding on shad but I mainly key on using

the squarebill and an ounce and a quarter spinnerbait to bring home the bacon. The first hour after daybreak provides the best opportunity to score a trophy bass and the above mentioned tools are a starting point. You can work the squarebill in 2-3ft of water and any shad colored option will work. Cover as many main lake points as possible and pay strict attention to any shad movement. Birds will help you recognize where these shad are grouped up and make your way there as quickly as possible to get in a few casts before they disperse. Option two is a large spinnerbait. Position the boat in 3ft of water and cast back toward the 12ft range. Let it sink for a few seconds and then start a slow smooth retrieve. Expect a jolting strike when they latch onto the bait. A Carolina rig is a must if there is no wind present and fish it in the same areas as the squarebill and spinnerbait. Flukes are my favorite to use on the c-rig along with a 4ft leader. Colors are standard, darker colors on overcast days, more translucent hues on sunny days.

Piece two of the puzzle falls into place as the month of May progresses, these trophy bass will start to migrate out to deeper water and gang up in large schools. Now is when you start your search using your electronics to find out where they will be taking up residence. The one great thing about this time of the year is that, if you find them, they



will be grouped up and much easier to catch. Start your search on main lake points setting your sights in the 20-30ft range. Humps, ridges and roadbeds also come into play. You will probably stumble on herds of sand bass but don't be dismayed. At this time of the year, trophy black bass will run with their cousins and feed along side them on balls of shad. Spoons work well provided that the bottom is free of timber but the c-rig will do most of the heavy lifting. It's also a good time to tie on a football jig in black/blue or peanut butter/jelly. Any craw trailer will work and be sure to match the skirt of the jig as close as possible. I would also set up an A-rig if an abundance of sand



## CLUES ACROSS

1. To clean for payment
5. Uncovers
10. Hindu calendar month
14. Necromancers
15. Make somebody laugh
16. Wings
17. Practice sessions
20. One who delivers
21. Lifting device
22. Restaurant or sleeping \_\_\_\_
23. Hammer end
25. Evildoers
29. Having development checked or reversed
33. Mountain nymph (Greek)
34. Wrong (prefix)
35. Ethan Hawke's wife
36. Pancakes
38. Wood alcohol
41. White-wine drink
42. Miri
44. Fill with high spirits
45. Popular children's street
48. Tears down (var.)
49. Overly precious (British)
50. Being a single unit or thing
52. Wigwam
55. Candlewood
60. Bend, in a way
63. Family or fig \_\_\_\_
64. Cognizant
65. Wife (law)
66. "Strong" trees
67. Proceeded toward an object
68. Sharp barks

## CLUES DOWN

1. Military leader (abbr.)
2. Hurry
3. Elderly people
4. Move upward
5. Mixologist
6. Former ruler of Afghanistan
7. German river
8. Compass point (abbr.)
9. Large body of water
10. Brothers
11. Jai \_\_\_\_, sport
12. Girls
13. Command
18. Way to break up
19. Syngman \_\_\_\_, Korean president
23. Inquisitive searcher
24. Formerly (archaic)
25. Dark beer
26. Ridge on a Doric column
27. Makes tractors
28. Represent, in a way
29. Objects fired from a gun (informal)
30. Skipjacks
31. Way to behave
32. Valleys
37. Unchanged
39. To this
40. In the manner of
43. Carpenter, for one
46. Vascular systems
47. Frightened
50. Orange yellow (var.)
51. Widely known and esteemed
52. Barn-owl genus
53. Weasel genus
54. Look furtively
55. Old Irish alphabet (var.)
56. Subject to accident, chance or change
57. Angolan monetary unit
58. Artificial source of illumination
59. Hear ye
61. Bravo!
62. \_\_\_\_ Jima, World War II battle-field

Answers on Page 21-A

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**DOUBLE H**

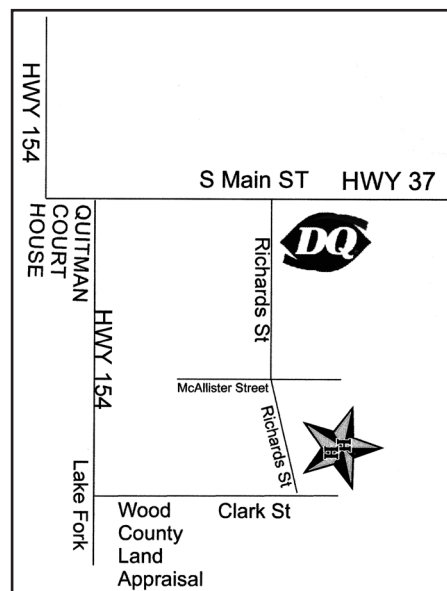
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(See May Means Migration  
Continued on Page 20-A)

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## Shad Rule Changes Take Effect in Texas

New rules that govern the possession and sale of gizzard and threadfin shad collected from public fresh waters went into effect April 13.

The changes passed earlier this year by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission will require persons who use containers exceeding 82 quarts in volume when collecting shad to obtain a \$60 Permit to Possess or Sell Nongame Fish Taken from Public Fresh Waters. Persons collecting shad for use as bait or stock in private lakes would need a permit if their container volume exceeds 82 quarts. A

permit will continue to be required if the shad collected are sold or exchanged for anything of value regardless of the container size used. No permit is required if the shad are used only as bait on the lake where they are collected, or if a licensed fishing guide possesses and furnishes the shad as bait to customers as part of the guide's services.

According to TPWD Inland Fisheries Director of Information and Regulations Ken Kurzawski, this change allows the department to better monitor shad harvesting to ensure their sustainability in Texas fisher-

ies and addresses concerns about the spread of invasive species.

"Transfer of zebra mussels is our primary concern," Kurzawski said. "Before this change, no permit was required if the shad were not sold, so there was less opportunity to inform those users of the risks of the zebra mussel transfer... so these regulations give us an avenue to do that."

Information on obtaining a nongame fish permit can be found at <http://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/fish-boat/forms/> or by calling 512-389-4742.

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## "The Moon Report" "May Morels and Crappie"

By Terri Moon

Wow! It didn't take long for May to get here! April ended up being an incredible month for crappie. It was really hard to leave them to go on my annual trip to Missouri to see family, friends and hopefully find some "Morel mushrooms" while I'm there. (They are my other life-long passion next to crappie fishing!) It seems they are as sensitive to weather conditions as the crappie. Just as temperatures get just right – here comes a cold front and slows the whole process down. It can sure be frustrating and just as hard to predict as when the best time to crappie fish is! (Mother Nature is good at throwing curve balls your way!)

This year, early warm temperatures had the morels popping up 2-3 weeks early in the Missouri area – then a cold front would hit and you would have to wait for warmer temperatures and enough rain to get them going again. But, by then thicker vegetation makes for tough hunting – so, what do you do when that happens? – You go north! This year we only had enough time to go as far as Rathbun Lake, Iowa. We had a good start finding them – then here comes the north winds, rain and temperatures down to mid thirties. (Sounds like crappie fishing in the spring – doesn't it!) All we needed was one good day of sunshine and it came the day we had to leave! We no more than got back to Kansas City – I get a phone call from my new friend Valerie Berry – that the morels were pop-



ping up like crazy around the lake. They picked over 6 gallon bags full that afternoon. I know how exciting that must have been for them! We were just sad that our mushroom hunting time for this year was up. But, can't wait till next spring and hope our timing is better! Sweet Valerie has offered to overnight us some morels so we'll have plenty for our family get together Mother's Day and mom's 87th birthday! Come to find out – Valerie works at Honey Creek Resort State Park at Rathbun Lake – (which is one of the top crappie lakes in Iowa) and talk about a 1st class facility... we were amazed at all the amenities this place has to offer and in the middle of nowhere! You'll have to google it to believe it! Thanks again Valerie and looking forward to hunting with you next spring!

Now that the morel quest is over, I have to switch back to "crappie mode"! It seems they are still in the areas they were in when I left. You can bobber fish 1 – 5 ft. at the edges of the grass and flooded willows. There are still spawn and post spawn crappie in 16 – 24 ft. in treelines, brush piles and bridges. You

can use minnows if you want, but, we were having fun with Bonehead's "Slim-stick" and Lake Fork Tackles 'Live Baby Shad'. Some days they wanted black/chartreuse or red/chartreuse – other days white/chartreuse or just chartreuse. Then at the bridges I like Bubbas Baits in pink/chartreuse and black/chartreuse.

I'm looking forward to being back on the lake sometime after Mother's Day. My apologies to those who have tried to reach me. It seems my mom & dad's house is the only place in the world that Verizon doesn't have service! Please keep trying!

Don't forget the big bream have started moving in! YEAH!!

Also I want to thank everyone for all the thoughts and well-wishes for my mom's upcoming surgery. It was postponed till an abscessed tooth heals and we're waiting on a rescheduled date. Happy Birthday Mom – Love You!!

Great fishing to you all! Be Safe!

**Help Keep Our  
Lake Clean**



## 4th Annual Crappiefest on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1-A)

KS) took home \$600 for his 6th place crappie weighing in at 2.50 pounds. Seventh place went to Joe Vannucci (Wichita Falls, TX) weighing in a 2.40 pound slab worth \$400. Eighth & Ninth place was a tie with both Jerry Hancock (McKinney, TX) and Josh Todd (Tulsa, TX) weighing in a 2.38 pound crappie. For their efforts, they each took home a check for \$275. Rounding out the top ten with a check for \$200 was Max Dukes (Murphy, TX) with a 2.34 pound crappie. All top ten anglers qualified for the Texas State Crappie Championship. Closest to 1.00, 1.25, 1.50 and 1.75 Awards One of the most exciting, and tightly contested, challenges of CAT's Crappiefest Tournament is the "Closest To" awards. The cash prize was \$250 for the angler weighing in a crappie that weighs the closest to (without going over) 1.00 pounds, 1.25 pounds, 1.50 pounds and 1.75 pounds and another \$250 bonus for weighing in the exact weight. Unbelievably, Crappiefest anglers hit the exact mark in all four categories! Here are the results: Mike Hinkle (Mesquite, TX), weighed in his

1.00 pound crappie and took home a check for \$500. Jeff Schweiterman (Parker, TX) and Justin Gaston (Euless, TX) netted \$250 each for their crappie weighing in at exactly 1.25 pounds. Kirk Grounds (Sachse, TX) and Shawn Drake (Wylie, TX) both weighed in at exactly 1.50 pounds and split a \$500 purse taking home \$250 each. Ricky Sims (Midlothian, TX), Mark McClure (Clinton, MO), Chris Scott (Sanger, TX), Billy Don Surface (Lohman, MO), Gary Paris (Quitman, TX) and Cory Carter (Muskogee, OK) split a \$500 pot taking home \$83.33 each for



their fish weighing in at exactly 1.75 pounds. CAT also had four random drawings worth \$250 and here are the winners: Willie Scott (Aubrey, TX) and Chris Coffman (Brownsboro, TX) won two out of the four drawings adding another \$250 each to their \$875 purse bringing their total winnings to \$1125 each. Susan Allen (Gilmer, TX) won \$250 for her .65 pound crappie. Charlie Brown (Little Elm, TX) and Gary Filbeck (Springfield, MO) split the last drawing netting themselves \$125 each. Last but definitely not least, Andrea Smiley's 0.45 pound crappie was the lightest crappie weighed in, and she won \$500. Junior Angler 10 & under division: Not to be outdone by the adults, the youngest crappie anglers in the contest really put on a show. First place was won by Mason Tucker with a monstrous crappie tipping the scale at 1.90 pounds. Mason won tickets to Six Flags. Langdon Froebe took home second place and Medieval Times tickets for his 1.21 pound crappie. Aurora Cargan rounded out the top three with her crappie

(See 4th Annual Crappiefest...Continued on 19-A)



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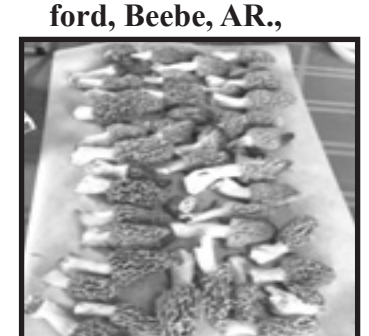
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Tyler Thetard was fishing Lake Fork with guide Andrew Gills when he caught this nice hawg. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Andrew Gills Guide Service)



Rudy Westbrook was fishing Lake Fork when he caught this hawg weighing 9.68-lbs. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Minnow Bucket Marina)



John Schroeder caught his personal best fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith on April 16th. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo)



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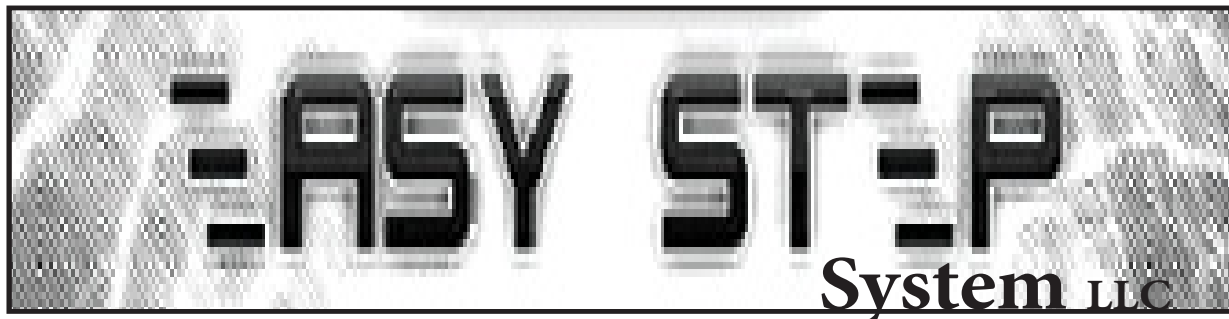
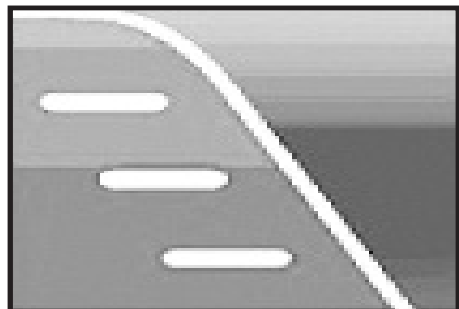
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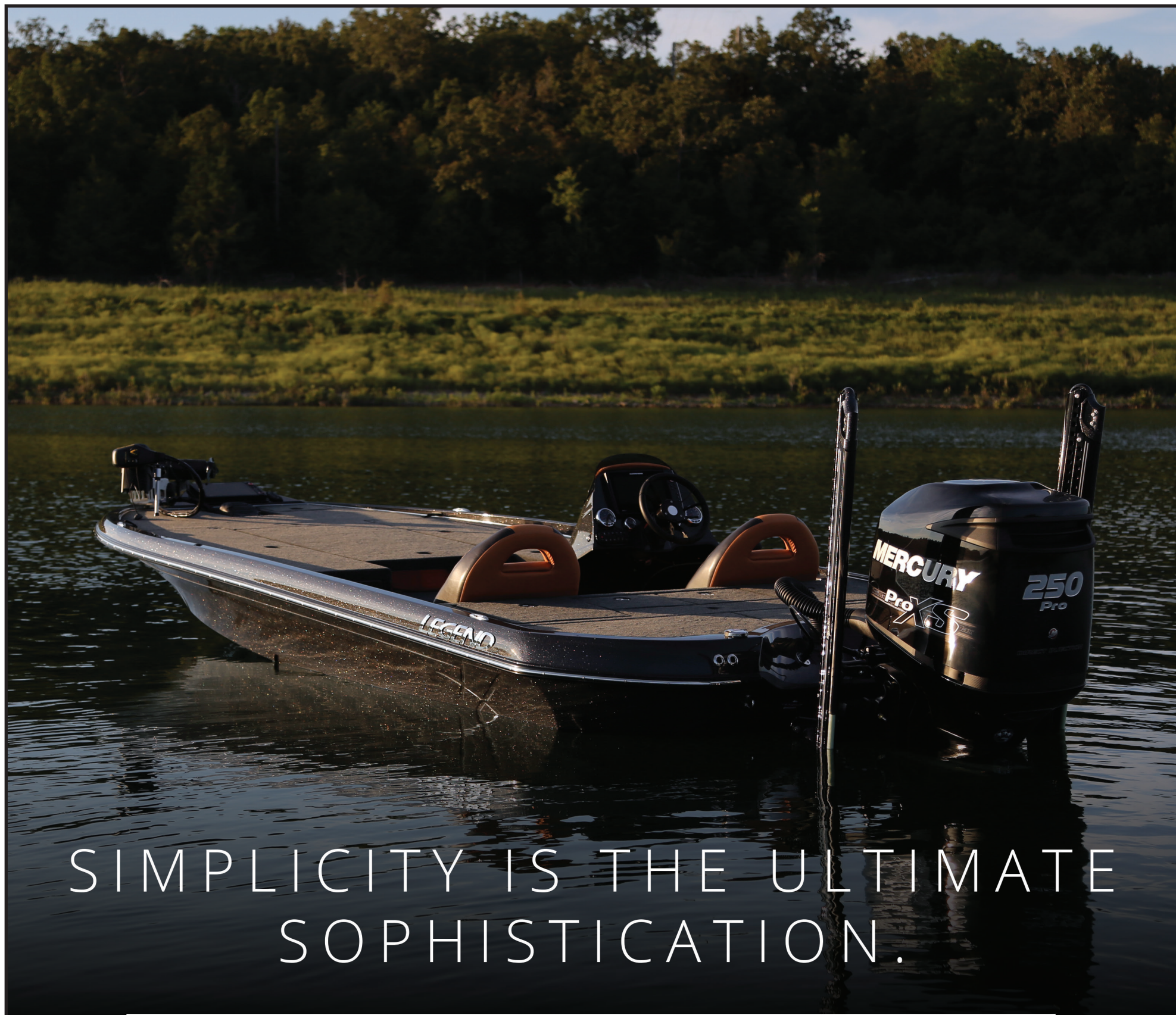


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## Texas Game Wardens Uncover Massive Illegal Seafood Network in Houston

A Houston restaurateur and two local restaurant companies stand accused of operating an illegal seafood network that funneled nearly 28,000 pounds of unlawfully-caught finfish through their establishments at a profit estimated at more than \$400,000.

Based on evidence gathered during an extensive two-year investigation, Texas game wardens believe the illegal network has been ongoing since at least 2013 and could be the largest of its kind in Texas history.

The illegal catches were made by a web of about a dozen unlicensed commercial fishermen and sold to the restaurants. Their catches consisted primarily of highly-regulated red snapper, along with other protected game fish species, including tuna, amberjack, grouper and red drum.

Texas game wardens allege that Bruce Molzan, 59, of Houston, purchased and then sold the illegal finfish off the menus at restaurant businesses he is associated with, Ruggles Black, and formerly as-

sociated with, Ruggles Green. In addition, another restaurant illegally sold shrimp to Molzan for use in his restaurants in violation of commercial fish wholesale regulations. Game wardens have issued more than 200 Class C misdemeanor citations related to the investigation thus far on an array of violations, including unlawful purchase of aquatic products by a restaurant, sales and purchases of protected finfish, operating without a wholesale fish dealer's license and related commercial fishing-related issues. Additional cases are anticipated.

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) special agents and the U.S. Coast Guard provided assistance in the investigation. NOAA also filed felony charges against two recreational anglers in Freeport in connection with the case.

The scope of the investigation expanded significantly last April after U.S. Coast Guard crews stopped an unlicensed commercial fishing boat in coastal waters near Freeport with 488 red snapper weighing approximately 1,900 pounds. Texas game wardens and the National Marine Fisheries Service seized the fish, which were illegally caught in the Gulf of Mexico off Freeport and Galveston, and investigators were able to link the subjects with the illegal seafood operation.

"This is a big deal and exemplifies the critically important work our Texas game wardens do to protect the state's natural resources," said Col. Craig Hunter, TPWD law enforcement director. "Not only did these unscrupulous actors violate recreational fishing regulations at an extreme level for personal profit, but they also circumvented restrictions and rules governing the possession, safe handling and sale of commercial aquatic products intended for human consumption. That is not something we in law enforcement will tolerate and we are confident these individuals will be prosecuted to the fullest extent the law allows."

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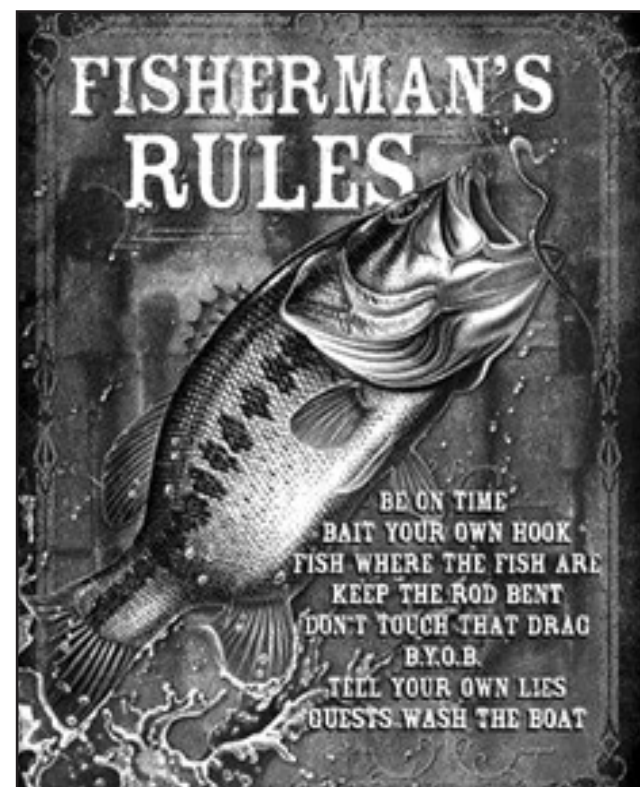


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## Automated Online Managed Lands Deer Program Rollout Coming Soon

Landowners participating in the highly-popular Managed Lands Deer Program (MLDP) will be able to complete the enrollment process and print their tags online beginning this summer, thanks to a new automated system being implemented by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The new online process is just one aspect of a much-needed overhaul of the MLDP, which began in 1996 and has become so successful that it outpaced the department's manpower and resources.

Currently, more than 10,000 farms and ranches covering about 26 million acres are enrolled in the MLD program, which is designed to foster and support sound management and stewardship of native wildlife and wildlife habitats on private lands in Texas. Participation is recognized through incentive-based deer tag issuance that provides extended hunting season lengths and liberalized harvest opportunities beyond what is allowed under the county regulations. Participants also have access to varying levels of technical assistance regarding wildlife and habitat management from TPWD biologists.

TPWD has simplified the program down to two options -- Harvest or Conservation -- from the previous three levels of white-tailed deer MLD, mule deer MLD, and the Landowner Assisted Management Permit or LAMPS. Both options retain issuance of deer tags that can be used dur-

ing an extended hunting season from about Oct. 1 through the end of February, but the Harvest Option does come with early season buck harvest restrictions (archery equipment only in October for branched-antlered bucks). Antlerless and unbranched antler bucks may still be harvested by any legal means during the entire MLDP season. Landowners seeking to enroll in either the MLDP Harvest or Conservation Option must use the new Land Management Assistance online system when it becomes available to submit an application for participation. The application process will require the landowner to cre-

ate an account and to draw a property boundary in the online system. An email address is required for the landowner and any designated agents the landowner may assign to the account.

Participants selecting the Harvest Option will receive automated harvest recommendations, tag issuance, and general correspondence about wildlife and habitat management; no site specific deer population data or customized harvest recommendations from a TPWD biologist required. The Conservation Option is similar in scope to the old Level 3 MLD, and comes with custom-

(See Automated Online.....Continued on Page 22-A)



Cornelius Van de Stoep of Perry, Iowa was a practicing lawyer until the age of 101.

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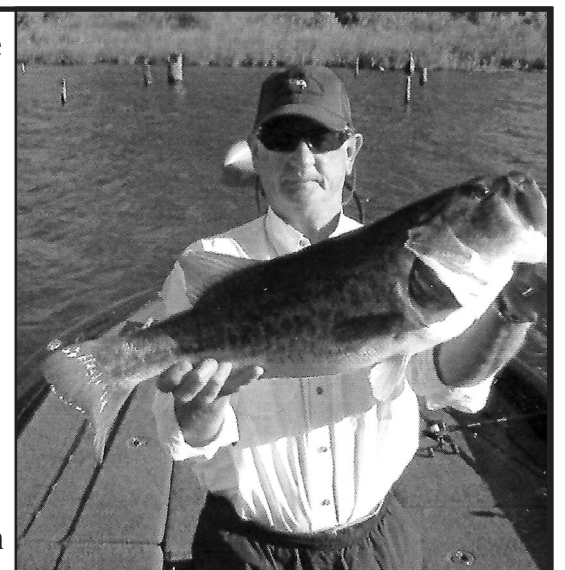
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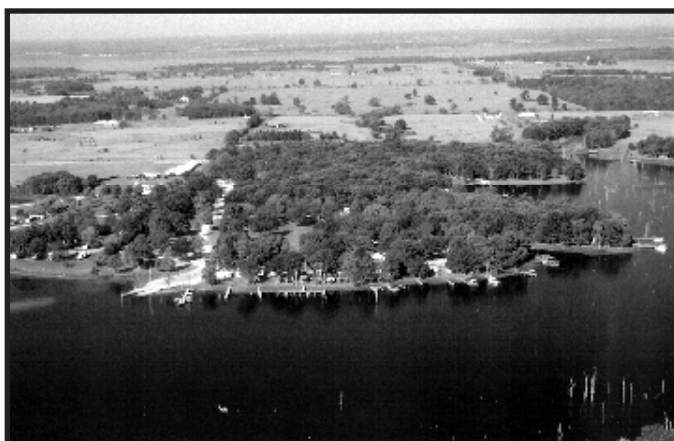
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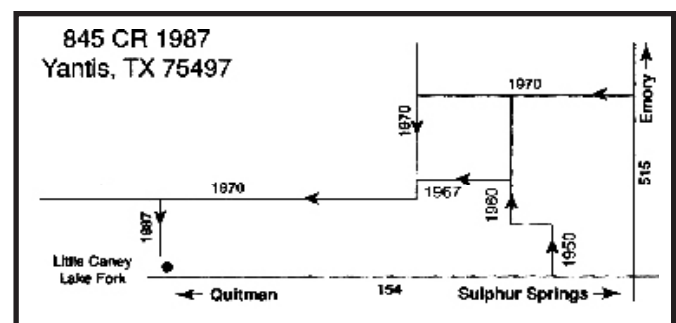
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Congratulations to Mike and Rob Burns from Plano, TX., on their win in the BassChamps North Team Tournament held on Lake Fork on April 28th. They had 2 bass over the slot in their limit and weighed in 21.17-lbs. winning 1st Place for \$20,000 and they had big bass of the tournament weighing 9.11-lbs. winning an additional \$1,000.



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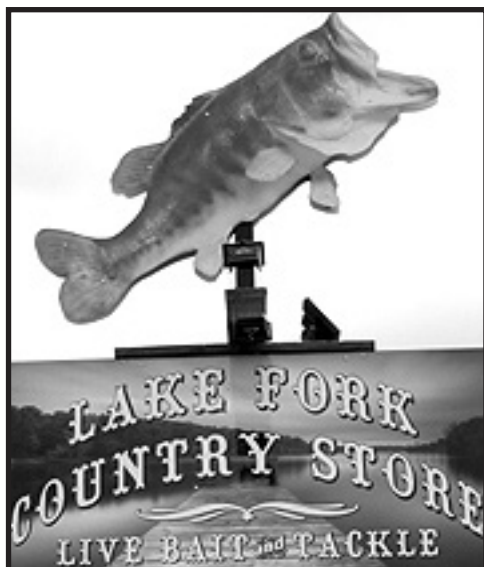
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## Catfish Season Kicks Off at Neighborhood Fishin' Lakes

It's officially catfish stocking season in Texas, and thanks to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Neighborhood Fishin' program families won't have to travel outside of the city to catch them.

TPWD began stocking thousands of catchable-sized channel catfish in 18 Neighborhood Fishin' lakes across the state April 21. The lakes are located in safe, clean parks in the large urban centers of Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Abilene, Amarillo, Bryan-College Station, San Angelo, Tyler, Waco and Wichita Falls. "Texas is growing at a rapid rate - and most of the people who live in those urban areas don't go fishing," said Dave Terre, TPWD Inland Fisheries

Management and Research Chief. "The purpose of the Neighborhood Fishin' program is to get more people involved in the outdoors by creating fun, convenient, close-to-home opportunities where people can catch fish anytime they are ready to go."

Each of the lakes will receive continuous stockings of channel catfish every two weeks through early November - with a brief pause during the heat of August - to ensure there is plenty of time for families looking to spend quality time fishing together outdoors.

"These urban area parks are the easiest places in Texas for families to catch a fish close to home," said Eddie McKenna, TPWD Multicultural Marketing Specialist. "85 percent of us live near one of these

small lakes and ponds. By making fishing accessible, we're helping create a whole new generation of anglers."

All anglers can keep up to five fish per day without a minimum length limit, and at some locations cleaning tables are available nearby to make it easy for families to clean their catch. Children under 17 fish for free, but a fishing license is required for adults in the family.

The Neighborhood Fishin' program is sponsored by the Texas Bass Classic Foundation, the federal Sport Fish Restoration Program, and many other local partners throughout the state.

To find the Neighborhood Fishin' pond near you or to sign up for email updates, visit [www.neighborhoodfishing.org](http://www.neighborhoodfishing.org).



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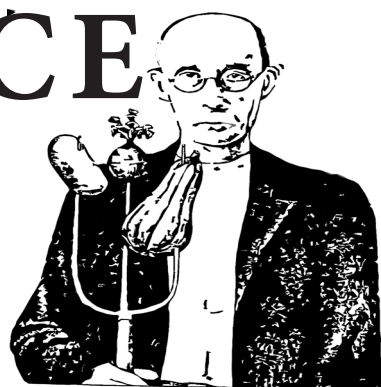
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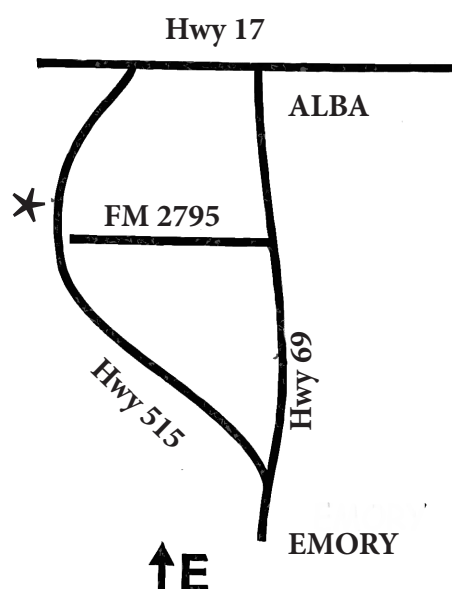
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## "Pack of Knowledge" Going Magnum in May

By Andrew Grills

When most anglers think of a shaky head, they picture a small finesse worm on a dainty jig head and light line. However, there's nothing finesse about the magnum shaky head. It's a job for 20lb line, a heavy action rod, and is perfect in heavy timber.

There are only a few companies that offer a jig head that is appropriate for this application. I have tried several, and as of right now I'm still waiting for the "perfect" one to come along. Most importantly, the hook has to be big

enough to accommodate a large straight-tail worm. A super strong 5/0 or 6/0 hook is necessary. I use a 1/2oz or 5/8oz size all the time, and I like a 10 inch straight-tail worm for this rig.

I typically fish the magnum shaky head in the mid-depth range. If I find bass in 8-20' of water, this rig will likely be on my deck. It works great in heavy timber, but it is also very effective in areas without much cover, such as a road bed. It's perfect for isolated rock or brush piles as well.

My favorite retrieve is simple, I drag the worm as slow as possible. I never shake or hop it. I feel like that big worm has plenty of movement as it crawls across the lake bottom. If I am coming over some type of wood cover, I make sure to allow the worm to fall all the way back to the bottom. I want to make sure I present the rig in the heart of the cover where a big bass is likely to be.

As for equipment, I've found the G. Loomis E6X 854 to be perfect for a magnum shaky head. It's a 7' heavy action rod and is very sensitive. It is important to feel the bottom cover and the light bites that are often associated with shaky head fishing.

I prefer a high speed gear ratio on my reel when I'm using the magnum shaky head. I believe it's important to be able to quickly take up slack in order to get a good hookset before a bass drops the jig. I always use 20lb fluorocar-

bon for this rig here on Lake Fork. The fluorocarbon will help a little bit with the sensitivity.

This is one of the few techniques that is truly effective year-round. It has been very good to me since I began guiding and still produces big fish for my customers. Hopefully it will work for you as well.



Robert King was fishing Lake Fork with guide Andrew Grills when he caught this nice bass.



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## 4th Annual Crappiefest on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 9-A)

tilting the scale at 1.18 pounds. Aurora won a family pack of tickets to the Dallas Zoo. Junior Angler

11 – 17 division: The older kids cashed in as well. Nicholas Gonçalves won first place and tickets to Six Flags with a weight of 2.02 pounds. Bow Gates came in 2nd place and

netted 2 tickets to Medieval Times with his crappie weighing 1.83 pounds. Matt Hancock took third place and a family pack of tickets to the Dallas Zoo with his 1.77 pound crappie. All of the Junior Anglers took home tackle goodie bags valued at over \$25.00 each and a trophy. Our Junior

Anglers took home awards and prizes valued at over \$1,300! Crappie Anglers of Texas would like to thank our 2017 Crappiefest Sponsors for your support. We really appreciate YOU! This year's sponsors were: Star Industries; Lone Star Forklift; The Minnow Bucket; City

of Emory; Aflac Insurance; Allied Employer Group; Autobahn; Automation; B/A Products

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All of the young winners in the 4th Annual Crappiefest held on Lake Fork in the Junior Division 10 years old and younger and the 11 to 17 year old division.

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## May Means Migration to Deeper Water (Continued from Page 6-A)

bass are present. Rig this presentation with any white swimbait in the 3 1/2 to 5 inch length. Make a long cast and let it sink to the bottom. Start a slow retrieve and hold on. You may have to weed through several pesky sand bass but a giant could latch on to the rig and totally make your day.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in May 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/davidoziolakeforkguide>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I run a Skeeter FX21 with a Yamaha 250SHO and it is gased up and ready to go. 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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## Texas Deer Study Group Workshop Covers Range of Topics May 11-12 in Llano

The Texas Deer Study Group will convene May 11-12 at the Kuykendall Events Center, 2200 RR 152 in Llano. This year's event will focus on "Land Stewardship: The Basis for Good Deer Management." Everyone with an interest in deer and deer management is encouraged to attend.

The program starts at 8 a.m. the first day with a wide array of topics, including Land Stewardship and Deer management, Brush Management for Deer, Prescribed Burning and Habitat Management, Deer Nutrition, Deer Energetics, and What a Deer Eats and Why. After that, the first day will also cover a History of Deer Management in the Hill Country, Harvest Strategies, Effectiveness of Survey Techniques, How Deer Populations Impact Other Wildlife Species, Native Genetics and Quality, plus news about Changes to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Managed Lands Deer Program, Chronic Wasting Disease, and it will end with a Speaker Panel Discussion.

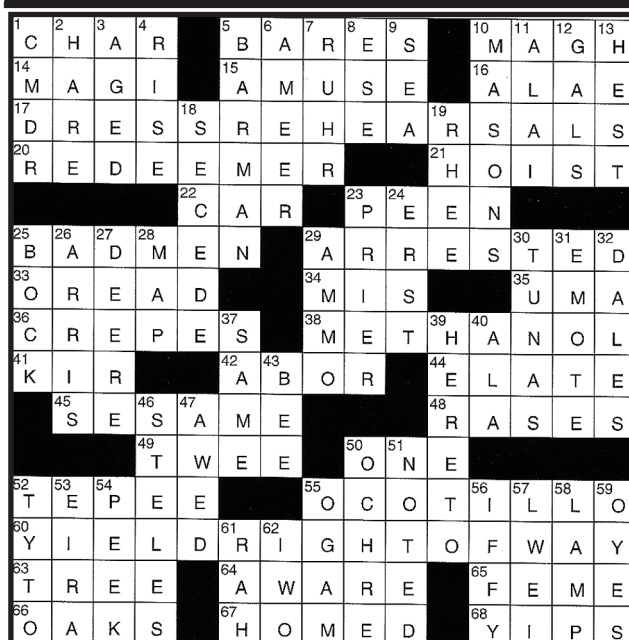
On day two, the group will meet at a local ranch for a half-day of presentations covering getting to know your deer, habitat management techniques and native vegetation. Sponsorship will be available for businesses and individuals to support the event. Early registration is \$45 until May 4 and \$60 after that date. Anyone can register online or get more information via the Texas Wildlife Association website, or contact Clint Faas at cfaas@texas-wildlife.org.

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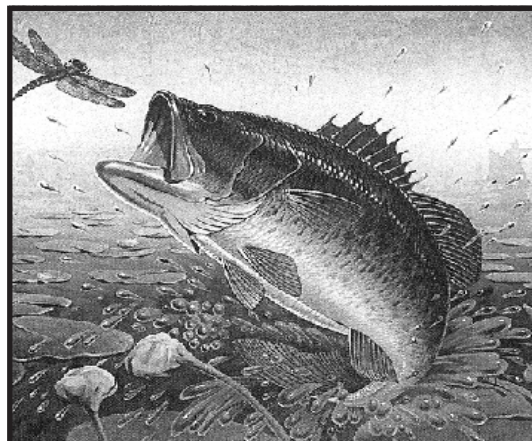


### Garden Find

There are 14 items related to gardening hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle.

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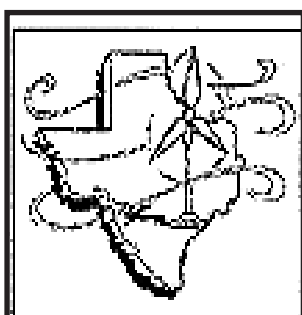
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## Automated Online (Continued from Page 15-A)

ized technical guidance and harvest recommendations from TPWD, requiring at least three approved habitat management practices be implemented each year.

TPWD currently issues about 330,000 deer tags each year through the MLDP. "Phenomenal growth in the MLD program over the last 20 years has presented significant challenges for staff to meet the increasing number of requests from landowners for technical assistance and simply administer the program," explained Alan Cain, TPWD white-tailed deer program leader.

Effective this year, participants will be able to print their own MLDP tags, which will eliminate issues with tags lost in the mail, not arriving on

time, or bad address, and provide greater convenience and flexibility to participants.

The system retooling won't sacrifice the core mission of the program, Cain reassured, rather will enable limited wildlife biologist staff to focus private lands technical guidance efforts on site-specific wildlife population and habitat management recommendations.

"Our primary goal is to continue developing long-term relationships with private landowners, engage and educate them about the importance of management in promoting healthy habitats and wildlife populations, and ultimately put more resource conservation on the ground," said Cain.

Details and additional information about

the MLDP is available online at [http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/permits/land/wildlife\\_management/mldp/](http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/permits/land/wildlife_management/mldp/).

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## Government Canyon SNA Opens New Wheelchair Accessible Nature Trail

A new wheelchair accessible nature trail was unveiled at Government Canyon State Natural Area at a ribbon cutting ceremony at 9 a.m., Saturday, April 22. The 1.25-mile Discovery Trail will connect with the ADA accessible nature playscape that was opened in March.

"The interpretive Discovery Trail was constructed with accessibility and durability in mind," says Chris Holm, superintendent at Government Canyon State Natural Area. "With minimal elevation change and a stabilized decomposed granite surface, the new nature trail will better meet the needs of our diverse visitor base. Currently when it rains, existing trails can become muddy and has made us close our 40-mile trail system. This

all-weather interpretive trail will provide our visitors with a new option for outdoor recreation when the rest of the trail system is closed."

The interpretive nature trail project was funded by the Friends of Government Canyon through grants and donations. The initial funding for the Discovery Trail was provided by a generous grant from ImpactSA and the friends group was able to raise additional funds through private donations and a second grant from the local REI-San Antonio store.

The new trail was built over a period of one and a half years with labor from the all-volunteer Government Canyon SNA Trail Patrol and from the Texas Trails Team - a Texas State Parks and American Youthworks

partnership that provides trail construction efforts throughout the entire state of Texas.

"An all-weather, accessible hiking trail was envisioned for Government Canyon SNA before it ever opened to the public back in 2005 but due to limited funding, it was never built," says Holm. "We are excited that this great partnership with our friends group, ImpactSA and REI has led to another wonderful addition to the natural area."

Government Canyon SNA is open weekly Friday - Monday, with additional open days during holidays.

For more information about the natural area, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website.

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