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No. 214



Danny Brown from Alba, Texas won the heaviest bass over the slot with a 10.33-pound bass in the 13th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament. For his great catch he was presented a certificate for a fully equipped 2017 Legend 211 Alpha by Randy Qualls (lt) owner of Legend Boats and Don Hampton (rt), Tournament Director/Owner. (Photos by Sue Hampton)



Shane Smith from Texarkana, Texas won the second heaviest bass over the slot with a 10.14-pound bass in the 13th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament. For his great catch he was presented with a fully equipped 2017 Legend 191 SCX by Randy Qualls (rt) owner of Legend Boats and Don Hampton (lt), Tournament Director/Owner. (Photos by Sue Hampton)



Donald S. Walker from Longview, Texas won the heaviest bass under the slot with a 3.43-pound bass in the 13th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament. For his great catch he took home a fully equipped 2017 Legend 199 Alpha presented by Randy Qualls (rt) owner of Legend Boats and Don Hampton (lt), Tournament Director/Owner.



Kyle S. Trull from Kennedy, Alabama won the fully equipped 2017 Legend 191 SCX when his name was drawn from all the early entries received by April 30, by Lindsay Dziak from Mesquite, Texas. He was presented his boat to take home by Randy Qualls owner of Legend Boats and Don Hampton, Tournament Director/Owner. (See Story on Page 4/5-A)

BUBBA IS ONLY MACHO WHEN SOMEONE IS WATCHING

By Don Hampton

No rain, sleet, snow nor hail can keep Bubba from fishing! When he is out on the water you would think he is a man of steel, a true mountain man, a Jeremiah Johnson of the lakes. You might even believe he was the true essence of machoism and a manly man. Well, that's only part of the character and more visible when his buds are around.

I saw Bubba almost get hit by lightning on Lake Livingston once. The bolt hit a tree in the water close enough that it knocked Bubba unconscious and luckily he didn't fall in the water. When he came to, he shook it off, muttered how close that was, and then tried to drive his boat up on shore. Once on shore he casually got out of the boat and took cover under a tall pine tree. I didn't say he was smart, but I was impressed with the way he handled the situation.

Another time fishing a tournament on Sam Rayburn in rough waters Bubba speared a 5 foot wave with the boat. My whole life flashed in front of me and my last vision was of me being chum-bait at the bottom of the lake. Not Bubba though! He trimmed the motor up, gassed the engine and shot back up on the surface with a boat full of water and the bilge pumps going full blast. All Bubba had to say was, "Well that's fishing for you, but I don't want to do that again!" Yet another time I saw him pull a treble hook from a rattletrap out of the calve of his leg with a pair of needle nose pliers. He just gritted his teeth, gave it a pull, put some liquid Band-Aid on it and went back to fishing. An audience

will bring out the macho in a man in a heartbeat.

That is the side of Bubba he will let his buds see! Now for the other side of Bubba's character.

Bubba doesn't get sick or feel bad too often. I think that is because germs can't exist in some of the weather he fishes in. Whenever he does begin feeling bad or sick, look out! That is when Bubbette's life gets miserable and he thinks she is supposed to be Florence Nightingale. The best way to describe the difference in Bubba when he is feeling good and when he is under the weather is best depicted in a trash bag commercial. When he is feeling good, "He is hefty, hefty, hefty!" When he is feeling bad, "He is wimpy, wimpy, wimpy!" You know Bubba is really sick when he can't or will not go fishing. Sometimes the first one will make him sick.

In Bubba's times of illness my sympathy isn't for him, it is for Bubbette. She is the one that has to endure the hardships because this man has no pride when he is sick and all that macho goes right out the window. In these times it's all about, "Honey can you make me some soup? Can you bring me some water? Can you get this? Can you get that?" I've seen two-year olds with less maintenance than Bubba when he is sick! It's a good thing all their televisions have a remote otherwise he'd have her flipping the channels for him.

Bubbette is truly to be commended! She really does keep her word, especially when she said, "I Do!" I think if she would have known the other side of Bubba when they got married she would have had a subclause in the part of the vows that includes

in "Sickness and in Health!" Twenty two years later she is still going over the vows to see where it says in them that Bubba gets control of the TV remotes. Before they got married all she had seen was the macho-side! "Bubbas are like that, yes they are!"

Bubbette truly does have a caring heart and this is most visible when Bubba is down. She also has a little game herself for figuring out how to best determine how bad Bubba is! At times like these she'll have a friend call the house. She will pretend she is talking to one of Bubba's fishing partners. After she hangs up she will go in to him and say, "Honey that was your bud and he wants to know if you want to go fishing with him?" If Bubba gets a glitter in his eye or makes any attempt to go, the pampering and nursing draws to an end. If he just groans or says no way, she will do all in her power to bring her little "Bubba-Bear" back to Macho-Ville! After all, when she gets to feeling bad she knows her little "Bubba-Bear" will turn in to a Floyd Nightingale.

HAPPY 22ND ANNIVERSARY TO MY SWEET BUBBETTE!!! Loving and having you in my life has made me more of a man than I could have ever been! I love you! *Don Bubba Hampton*

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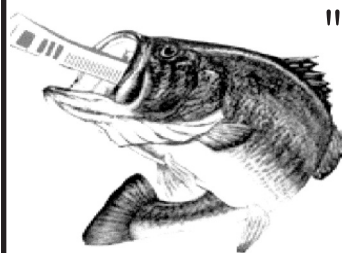
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THE CAT 2017 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROGRAM

Scholarship program has 4 recipients this year. CAT awarded \$2,500 to these deserving students. Our Program is a big success and we look forward to doing this next year!

The Crappie Anglers of Texas Scholarship Program (CATSP) seeks to identify high school seniors and college students who will make significant contributions to society. Applicants must exhibit strong academic and leadership skills and must participate in community service activities.

Sarah Reicherts received a \$1,000 scholarship! Sarah is from Carrollton,

Texas and is a 2017 graduate from Cedar View High School. Her interesting and well thought out essay was titled "The Effects of Barometric Pressure on Fish". Sarah will be attending TWU this fall.

Lauren Dukes received a \$500 scholarship. She is a 2017 Graduate from Wylie East High School and lives in Murphy, TX. Lauren, who is an avid angler, wrote her essay on "Wildlife Fishing and Conservation". She plans to attend Collin College in the Fall.

Alexis Russell received a \$500 scholarship. She lives in Ft. Worth and is a 2017 graduate from

Northwest High School. Her informative essay was written about "The Effects of Zebra Mussels". Alexis will be going to Texas Tech in the fall.

Pake Bradshaw received a \$500 scholarship. He is from Weatherford and is a 2017 graduate from North Hills Private School. Pake wrote his winning essay on "The Study on Chronic Wasting Disease". He will be attending Weatherford College in the fall.

A huge thank you to everyone that helped make this possible and congratulations to the recipients!

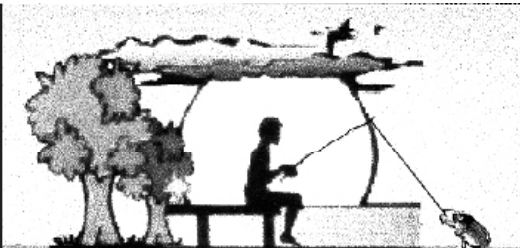


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13th ANNUAL LEGEND OF LAKE FORK OPEN BIG BASS TOURNAMENT FINALS

DAY 1				DAY 2				DAY 3			
7 - 8 Hour		11 - 12 Hour		7 - 8 Hour		11 - 12 Hour		7 - 8 Hour		11 - 12 Hour	
Jacob West	9.78	Charles Sutton	2.27	Craig Dowis	7.20	Rodney Morrison	2.60	Cory Anderson	7.46	Clinton Mitchell	2.22
Samuel Stewart	2.24	Dustin Holmes	2.19	Michael Bueche	2.44	Douglas Donk	2.30	Robert Coulter	2.65	Grant Cerar	2.17
Kenny LaDuke	2.07	Mark Lester	2.16	Richard Leigeber	2.32	Bradley Cooper	2.29	Bobby Peek	2.30	Paul Jeffcoat	2.14
Chris Large	2.05	William Coggins	2.14	James Snell	2.21	James Bray	2.25	John Whitman	2.30	Cory Reynolds	2.11
James Martin Jr.	1.96	Robert Hebert	2.10	Terry Ramey	2.09	Robert Dyess	2.23	Jerry Eichler	2.29	Rick Sneed	2.01
Kenny Moser	1.92	Chad Hassell	2.08	Jack White	1.98	Paul Jeffcoat	2.19	Tanner Morgan	2.19	Larry Lee	2.00
Adam Guidry	1.89	Lonnie Scott	2.06	Clifford Allen	1.92	Roland Swartz	2.12	Steve Schwer	2.01	Garrett Kalina	1.95
8 - 9 Hour		12 - 1 Hour		8 - 9 Hour		12 - 1 Hour		8 - 9 Hour		12 - 1 Hour	
Sam Trinca	2.08	Paul Bacon	8.32	Danny Brown	10.33	Robert Davis	7.10	Troy Marlam	7.97	Shane Smith	10.14
Jacob Johnston	2.06	Larry Lee	2.36	Reid Shafer	9.09	Donald Walker	3.43	Charles Luedtke	2.41	Chris Cole	2.53
Robert Dewitt	2.04	Kenneth Barnett	2.22	David Rork	2.30	Kyle Kirkes	2.28	Randy Morrison	2.27	Ronnie Dees Jr.	2.34
Samuel Stewart	1.96	Craig Davis	2.11	Jeff Farrar	2.17	Chris Cole	2.24	Sam Stewart	2.21	David Hurbough	2.28
Ken Gerecht	1.95	Shane Smith	2.10	Jeremy Latino	2.12	Darrell Dodd	2.23	Shanda Clay	2.17	Nicholas Fontenot	2.18
Spencer Long	1.89	Jake Brewster	2.02	Tim Weaver	1.98	William Rosser	2.20	Justin Garnett	2.14	Daniel Drennon	2.18
Rodney Hesser	1.86	Bryan Deleon	1.99	David Goff	1.95	Jeff Hood	2.11	Matt Derr	2.03	Anthony Durrett	2.17
9 - 10 Hour		1 - 2 Hour		9 - 10 Hour		1 - 2 Hour		9 - 10 Hour		1 - 2 Hour	
Robert Hebert	2.38	Troy Redd	7.82	John Redmon	8.98	Robby Ewert	7.90	Harry Vissering	2.56	Chris Edwards	2.32
Christine Davis	2.37	Danny Kraatz	7.07	Wayne Kralik	8.57	Josh Jones	2.47	Penny Linkinhoker	2.16	Clint Chaffin	2.28
Wesley Robinson	2.31	Tim Pryor	7.07	Shawn Garber	8.38	Steve Savage	2.13	Tom Necaie	2.11	Gary Green	2.05
John Grammer	2.28	Louie Fisher	2.32	Jared Meade	2.15	John Welsh	2.12	Kenny LaDuke	2.06	Chase Woodard	2.05
Martin Painter	2.20	Evan O'Brien	2.18	Steven Howeth	2.15	Forrest Carvajal	2.11	Jeremiah Smith	2.00	Eric Dennis	2.03
Jason Sorrells	2.20	Jacob Johnston	2.11	Jeff Lundy	2.15	Loran Nowlin	2.09	Loran Nowlin	1.92	Don Vinson	2.00
John Maranto	2.02	Colby Free	2.08	Wesley Robinson	2.13	Tim Hawkins	2.03	Joe Smith	1.90	Michael Doffing	1.97
10 - 11 Hour		2 - 3 Hour		10 - 11 Hour		2 - 3 Hour		10 - 11 Hour		2 - 3 Hour	
Joseph Rials	2.34	Kenny Moser	2.58	David Macker	9.82	Tom Trevino	9.82	Loran Nowlin	2.49	Bill Long	7.35
Raymond Knox	2.29	Kevin Deshane	2.57	Sammy Bates	2.18	Steve Carr	8.28	Keith Accardo	2.15	Greg Ledford	2.37
Tony Stout	2.12	Keith Hall	2.37	Dwayne Dodd	2.16	Brad Rogers	2.27	Ronnie Dees	2.13	John Carter	2.27
Richard Leigeber	2.11	Joe Smith	2.35	Richard Leigeber	2.14	Edwin McCracken	2.17	Richard McCormack	2.12	Craig Mulkey	2.23
Christian Baires	1.95	Charles Sutton	2.27	Mike Sherman	2.00	Mark Odom	2.14	James Renfro	2.06	Richard Hearn	2.03
Robert Richardson	1.91	Bobby Dubose	2.25	Charles Magers	1.99	Rick Conway	2.13	Greg Stout	1.90	Mike Dortch	1.93
Chris Gresham	1.89	Chase Woodard	2.25	Charles Barriger	1.98	Chris Edwards	2.10	David Joyner	1.87	Cory Reynolds	1.89

2017 Legend Boat Winners: Over Slot - Danny Brown w/10.33-lbs. Shane Smith w/10.14-lbs. Under Slot - Donald Walker w/3.43-lbs. Draw Boat - Kyle S. Trull

14th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament May 18, 19, 20, 2018



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13th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

Mother Nature made a strong attempt at dampening the spirits of the 1209 anglers representing 23 states, but the determination and excitement of the anglers remained steadfast.

The excitement of big bass started in the first hour of the tournament on Friday when Jacob West weighed in a nice 9.78-pound bass. It was all about smaller bass winning money until the 12 to 1 o'clock hour when Paul Bacon renewed the excitement weighing in an 8.32-pound bass. During the 1 to 2 o'clock hour there were three bass brought in over the slot. Troy Redd weighed in a 7.82-pound bass, followed by Danny Kraatz with a 7.07-pound bass and Tim Pryor with a 7.07 pound bass. This brought the total of bass brought to the scales to five over the 24" slot on the first day. Kenny Moser was leading for the boat under the 16" mark with a nice 2.58-pound bass, but as we all know it isn't over until it is over on Lake Fork.

Day two of the tournament showed the bigger

bass were hungry and ready to bite. In the 7 to 8 o'clock hour Craig Dowis weighed in a 7.20-pound bass. During the 8 to 9 o'clock hour we got a new leader for the heaviest bass over when Danny Brown weighed in a beauty locking the scales at 10.33-pounds. Also in that hour Reid Shafer weighed in a nice 9.09-pound bass. In the 9 to 10 o'clock hour there were three over's weighed in. John Redmon weighed in an 8.98-pound bass, Wayne Kralik weighed an 8.57-pound bass, and Shawn Garber weighed in an 8.38-pound bass. During the 10 to 11 o'clock hour David Maeker weighed in a nice 9.82-pound bass. During the 12 to 1 o'clock hour excitement was renewed. Robert Davis weighed in a 7.10-pound bass but the excitement was after his. Donald Walker weighed in the heaviest bass under 16" weighing a whopping 3.43-pounds. This gave all the anglers something to shoot for because that is a fantastic weight for under 16" and any angler would like to have that catch in any tournament. In the Legend of Lake Fork it

(See 13th Annual Legend....Continued on Page 10-A)



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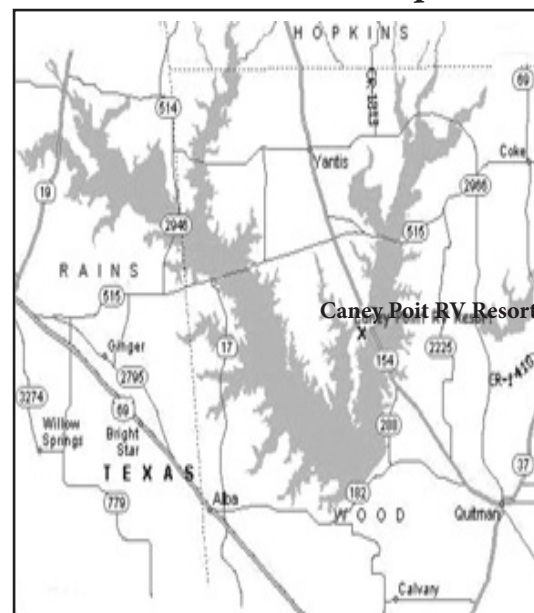
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June! My favorite time of the year on Lake Fork!!

By David Ozio

"Need a big shout out for my favorite month of the year, JUNE! The magic month has finally arrived and I am stoked to the nines. The big girls are now in post spawn mode and gathering up deep to do some munching. The most necessary piece of equipment at this time of the year is your graph. If your a little uncertain on how to interpret the data shown I suggest contacting Slade Dougharty at 817 797-8762. He is "The Man" when it comes to setting up your electronics to locate the big green monsters that are lurking in the deep. He can vastly improve your fish catching skills.

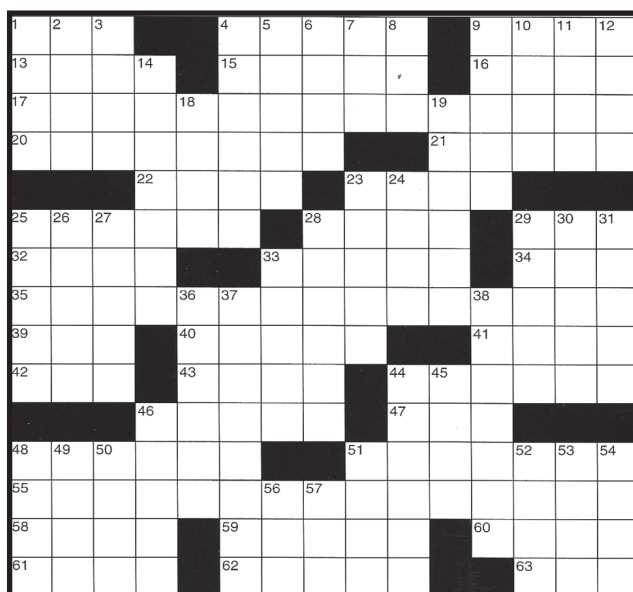
Let's say we have established that everyone already has the ability to read the high tech electronics. The next skill would be to determine where

to look and how to recognize the bass that will start to gang up on certain types of structure. You can start with long tapering points. The next chore will be to ascertain what depth range where the green critters will set up shop. Start your scan in 35ft and graph your way into the 10ft range and then reverse course and head back to the starting point using a different track. Repeat this process until you have covered the entire point from front to back. If you see a group of arches on the screen during any one pass, set a waypoint on that location and put out a marker bouy on that spot once you have combed the entire area. During this time of the year, most fish will be on the bottom so you can focus your fish catching strategies on the Carolina rig, drop shot, Texas rig, jigs or crankbait. Flukes, brush hogs or any straight or curl tail worm will work using standard colors such as watermelon candy, redbug, plum or watermelon red. As for cranking, shad colored crankbaits along with chartreuse blue back also works well.

Next, let's venture out to the offshore humps or ridges. Graph these locations back and forth until you spot the likely targets. Drop a waypoint on the fishy looking spot and fish each technique until you determine what presentation they favor. If your after a lunker of a lifetime, the jig with matching trailer will be your "go to" bait. To round out



your search, target roadbeds and submerged structures such as brush piles or laydown timber. If the arches show up on your graph, pitch out a marker bouy and go to work. It's not rocket science, it's just locating where the fish are positioned. If all of this is somewhat confusing, your best bet will be to hire a full time Lake Fork guide and spend the day covering the aforementioned areas and have him point out what you need to be fishing. Bass move from day to day and they may be set up in one spot today and a hundred yards away tomorrow. Water temps, current from waves and sun angle all come into play when dealing with these wary creatures. Try not to over complicate it, fish



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Hit | 39. East southeast |
| 4. Language of Sulu islands | 40. Inclined |
| 9. Stand still | 41. African country |
| 13. Bird genus | 42. Went |
| 15. Slur over | 43. Voice (Italian) |
| 16. Asian country | 44. Rhododendron |
| 17. Jacobs Field has one | 46. Slope |
| 20. Neoplasms | 47. Hairpiece |
| 21. Fixes firmly | 48. Heart disease |
| 22. Avidness | 51. Textile |
| 23. Insures bank's depositors | 55. West Coast players |
| 25. Metropolis | 58. Thomas ____, British composer, 1700 |
| 28. Praise | 59. Land proprietor |
| 29. Religion | 60. Employee stock ownership plan |
| 32. Canzonetta | 61. Metal bars |
| 33. Add piquancy | 62. \$\$ |
| 34. Elements | 63. Pen |
| 35. Makes up the count | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. A spongelike cake leavened with yeast | 26. Take away |
| 2. Toward the mouth or oral region | 27. Made angry |
| 3. Bullfighting maneuver | 28. Takes |
| 4. Sailor | 29. Mexican city |
| 5. ____ Houston, basketball player | 30. Give a benediction to |
| 6. Linear units | 31. Musical passage |
| 7. Total | 33. Strike sharply |
| 8. Chaplet | 36. Pundit |
| 9. Unoriginal | 37. Unkeyed |
| 10. Bonds | 38. Envisage |
| 11. Monetary unit | 44. Allocates |
| 12. Cognitive contents | 45. Pasta |
| 14. African country | 46. Meals |
| 18. A soft clay used as a pigment, especially a reddish-brown one | 48. As fast as can be done, abbr. |
| 19. One who stomachs | 49. Filippo ____, saint |
| 23. Sold soul | 50. An informal body of friends |
| 24. Plant part | 51. Square measure |
| 25. Confusion | 52. Marijuana |
| | 53. Jog |
| | 54. Spot |
| | 56. Cologne |
| | 57. ____ Farrow, actress |

Answers on Page 21-A

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DOUBLE H

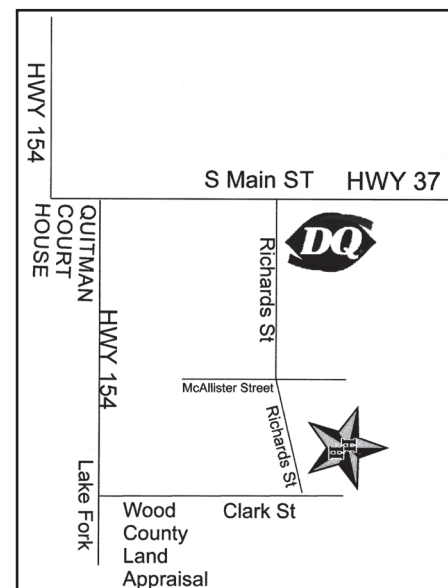
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(See June! My Favorite....
Continued on Page 20-A)

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9th Annual Lake Fork Open

By Don Hampton

The 9th Annual Lake Fork Open was held on May 27th and hosted out of Lake Fork Marina. This is one great five fish limit team tournament that is held on the Saturday prior to Memorial Day each year and

sponsored by Sartin Marine and put on by Mark Howard, JC Outdoors.

This year sixty-two teams showed up to compete for over \$19,000 in cash, prizes, and services and also to enjoy a great meal catered by Big Smith BBQ. Winning Big Bass and

\$300 for the tournament with a nice 9.35-pound bass was Danny Weems. Second Big Bass weighing 8.96-pounds worth an extra \$150 was Rodney Ellis. Heaviest weight in a Legend boat was won by the team of Rodney Ellis

(See 9th Annual....

Continued on Page 17-A)



The team of Danny Weems and Chris Large had the Big Bass of the tournament weighing 9.34-lbs. caught by Danny.

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"The Moon Report"

Junes Post Spawn Crappie

By Terri Moon

Can you believe it's June?? The time has flown by! But June has always been one of my favorite months to fish! The majority of the crappie are post spawn and have migrated to cover in 10-24 ft. depths. Around the new and full moon there were a few stragglers even shallower around structure, the edges of the grass and near flooded willows. This sure made it nice to be able to get in a cove out of this crazy wind we've had!

The baits producing for us have been the Bonehead's "Stump-bug" in White Lightning and Bubba Baits Electric Chicken and Lake Fork Tackle's Live Baby Shad in blue and pearl. The shallower I fish, the smaller the jighead I use. We are working the baits very slow – just a slight twitch now and then. It's been a very light bite so pay close attention to your line because some are pushing the bait up so you'll see the bite before you feel it. We are targeting standing timber, brush piles and bridges.

It's also time to start checking for bream! They are showing up in shallow water brush 2-10 ft. Look around edges of the grass and flooded willows with night-crawlers or crickets tight-lined or with a



bobber. They will be shallower around the new and full moon. There will also be some on the cross-members of the bridges – so don't miss out on the fun of catching these beauties!

I want to thank Bryan Sartin for installing a new MinnKota Terrova on my boat to test out. I miss the auto stow/deploy feature on my Ulterra but what I gained was the "double g.p.s." spot lock which is a "game changer"!! When fishing brush piles, the single g.p.s. would tend to drift and would hold you in a general area which isn't a problem for bass fishing but when you're trying to hold over a specific brush pile and you drift, you have a problem with everyone hanging up. So needless to say when they came out with a g.p.s. signal on the head of the trolling and on the back of the boat, I had to try it out. This is amazing how well this holds you in place. It's perfect

for the crappie fishermen. Next I'm ready to try the Ultrex – the reason being – I'm ready to go back to the cable driven foot pedal plus the double spot lock. This is the perfect combination for what I do daily! They are in such demand they've been on back order for awhile. But, ask anyone who has the Ultrex what they think of it and they will tell you they wouldn't trade it for anything! So, thank you MinnKota for coming up with the "perfect" trolling motor!!!

Also I want to thank everyone for all the thoughts and prayers for my dad's health scare and my mom's heart surgery. I'm happy to say they are both recovering nicely! Happy Anniversary to you both wishing you many more!

Happy Father's Day to you all and especially to my dad!

All the best and safe fishing!

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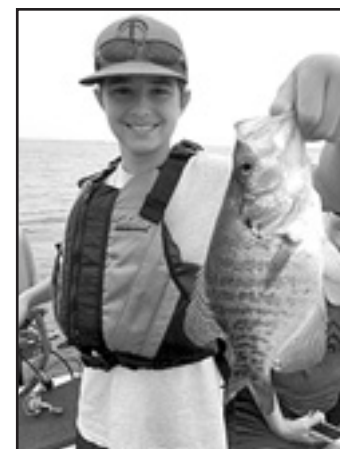
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13th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 5-A)

means a Legend 199 Alpha powered by Mercury, Motorguide. During the 1 to 2 o'clock hour Robby Ewert weighed in a 7.90-pound bass. In the 2 to 3 o'clock hour Tom Trevino weighed in a 9.82-pound bass and Steve Carr weighed in an 8.28-pound bass. This brought the total of bass weighed in over the slot on Saturday of the tournament to eleven for a total of sixteen through the course of the tournament.

On the third and final day of the tournament in the 7 to 8 o'clock hour Cory Anderson weighed in a 7.46-pound bass. In the 8 to 9 o'clock hour Troy Markam weighed in a 7.97-pound bass. The anticipation of big bass settled after that and the spectators wondered if any more large bass were coming to the scales until the 12 to 1 o'clock hour. This was the hour Shane Smith brought the second heaviest bass over the slot to the scales weighing 10.14-pounds. With just two hours left in the tournament he was hoping it held up to win a boat. On Lake Fork you just never know. During the final hour of the tournament Bill Long weighed in a nice 7.35-pound bass. This brought the total of bass exceeding the upper slot to twenty over the course of the tournament.

There were quite a few nice bass

brought to the weigh-in that exceeded the 2.50-pound mark. The lightest weight to obtain a check in the tournament was 1.89-pounds.

When the scales closed at 3 o'clock on Sunday the winners were announced. Danny Brown's 10.33-pound held up as the heaviest bass over the slot. This won him an hourly 1st Place check

and a 2017 Legend 211 Alpha, powered by Mercury, Motorguide trolling motor and Lowrance electronics.

(See Legend of Lake Fork.. Continued on Page 15-A)



There were quite a few spectators of anglers and family and locals that came for the final presentations and the 'Bait Toss' at the 13th Annual Legend of Lake Fork. The 14th Annual is scheduled for May 18, 19, 20, 2018.

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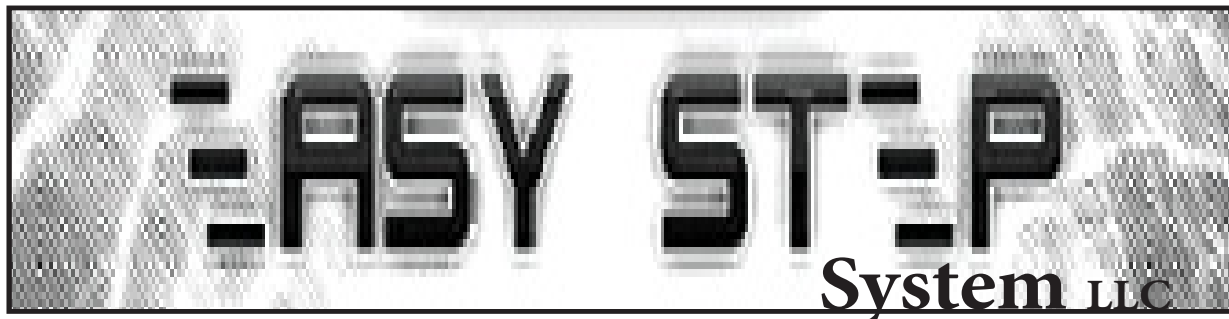
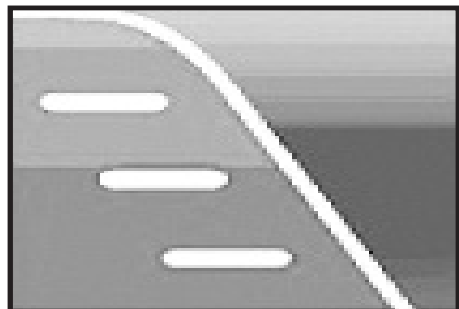
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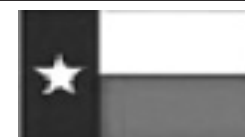
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**LEGEND
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Lake Fork Sportsman's Association Assists TPWD on Restocking Lake Fork

By Carolyn West

Fulfilling a project for 2017, the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association (LFSA) assisted the Tyler North District Office of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) as they distributed 313,000 Florida Largemouth Bass Fingerlings in Lake Fork. Using the Highway 515 west public ramp for one of two hauling trailers delivered from the Ath-

ens Hatchery, LFSA members and friends greeted the TPWD trailer with the LFSA Live Release Boat (LRB) and personal boats ready to release fingerlings all around Lake Fork. Ed Swenson, Chairperson for LFSA, worked closely with Kevin Storey and Evan Cartabiano of TPWD to devise methods to effectively handle the fingerlings using these individual boats and the organization's LRB.

One hundred and sixty-one minnow bags were

filled with lake water and oxygen, approximately 70 fingerlings, placed in coolers already filled with lake water to stabilize temperatures for transport to strategic spots all around the lake. The most important requirement was to release the fingerlings in aquatic vegetation in the upper ends of coves ensuring enhanced survivability of the fish.

The LFSA Live Release Boat tanks were also filled with 70,000 fingerlings. The boat travelled to the upper end of Birch Creek and distributed fingerlings along the branches and coves where vegetation was present.

The second trailer was dispatched to North Shore Landing to serve as a supply point for release by TPWD personnel into areas near that ramp location and adjacent to large areas of excellent cover for the fingerlings. The site selected by TPWD is one of eight sites identified earlier by LFSA which are on private boat ramps that have agreed to allow the use of their ramps for the distribution of fingerlings.

TPWD has been stocking fish since 1995, but according to Kevin Storey, this is the first joint effort with an association, providing resources and capabilities to more quickly handle the process. Storey was highly complementary of Lake Fork Sportsman's Association and the volunteers who assisted.

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Don Callahan and his friend Doug have been fishing with guide Danny Holder for 18 years. On his most recent trip he caught this nice 8.09-lb. bass. C.P.R.



Marty Painter was doing a little pre-fishing for the Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament when he caught this nice 9-lb. hawg measuring over 24". C.P.R.

13th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament *(Continued from Page 10-A)*

Shane Smith's 10.14-pound bass did hold up for the last two hours. He took home with him a 1st Place check and a 2017 Legend 191 SCX, powered by Merury, Motorguide trolling motor and Lowrance electronics. The heaviest bass winning the boat for under 16" came as no surprise to everyone once it was announced. Donald Walker's 3.43-pound bass won him a 2nd Place check and a 2017 Legend 199 Alpha, powered by Mercury, Motorguide trolling motor and Lowrance Electronics.

As is in all Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournaments, all entries that are received by April 30th qualify in a drawing for a bass boat. This year's name from all early entries drawn by 13 year old Lindsay Dziak from Mesquite, Texas was Kyle S. Trull from Kennedy, Alabama. He took home with him, though he never weighed a winning fish, a 2017 Legend 191 SCX, powered by Mercury, Motorguide trolling motor and Lowrance electronics.

Almost all anglers reported catching some really nice bass but they didn't quite touch the 24" mark or exceeded the 16" mark. Allen Morrow wrote me saying, "I just fished the Legends tournament on Lake Fork. I was only able to fish Saturday and Sunday, but Saturday was my best day. I caught the most diverse type of fish, I want to tell you this a story. I started out on the 5th cast and caught a 7.5-pound bass. That got my blood going, next a couple of hours later, I set the hook on the biggest Drum I've ever caught, about 10-pounds.

Ok, here's the good one, I went back to a spot where I missed a couple of bites, casting a KVD Shad 8XD crankbait, the 3rd cast I set the hook, the fish headed to deep water, (this usually means a big fish). I pulled on it, and it kept going to deep water, pulled again and it still headed to deep water. I was fishing in 10 feet of water. Well, 20 minutes later, I pulled up about a 55-pound. yellow cat. I mean WOW!. Biggest fish I've ever caught. I gave the fish to young boy's who watched me land this critter, thrilled them, they were already talking about the fish fry. Anyway, I just wanted to say, I enjoyed the tournament even though I didn't win a boat or make any money, I got a heck of a memory!"

A big 'Thank You' to all of the great sponsors who help me make this a great event for all of our anglers that come to Lake Fork to participate. I'd like to also thank Lake Fork Trophy Lures and Gene Larew for all of their sponsorship. Anglers reported catching good fish on both baits. This is a great plus for them. Most of all I'd like to thank God and all the anglers that make this trip each year to fish with us.

The 14th Annual Legend of Lake Fork is scheduled for May 18, 19, 20, 2018. This promises to be an even bigger tournament with more pay-backs. At the 14th Annual I'll be paying 10 places per hour and giving away 4-2018 Legend boats. Keep in mind this is "The Legend of Lake Fork" and not

an owner's tournament. All boats, makes, and models are welcome. We are now taking entries and all entries received before April 30th will be in the drawing for a 2018 Legend boat.

God Bless, Fish Friendly, and I hope to see you next year!

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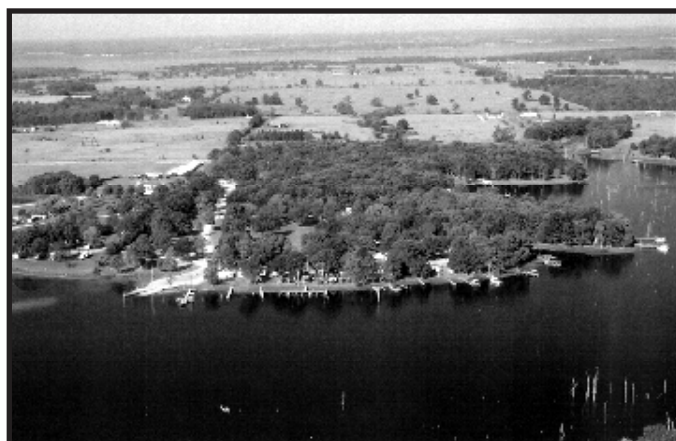
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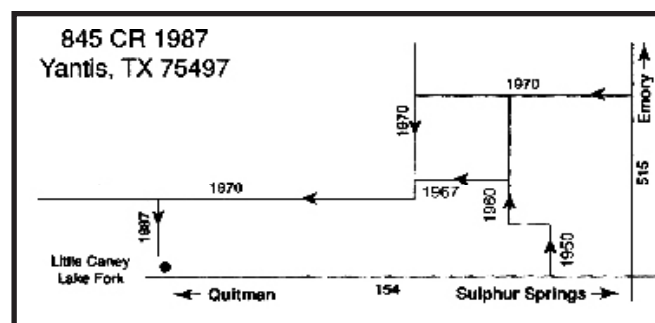
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TPW Commission Recognizes TPWD Staff and Partners

A Chambers County game warden, the Fort Boggy State Park superintendent and Whole Earth Provision Company were recognized during the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting held recently in Austin.

The awards were presented by partners recognizing the winners, which include the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASB-LA) Texas Boating Officer of the Year, Texans for State Parks' Distinguished Park Ranger Award and a donation from the Whole Earth

Provision Company. Fort Boggy's Wesley Hamilton Presented Distinguished Ranger Award by Texans for State Parks

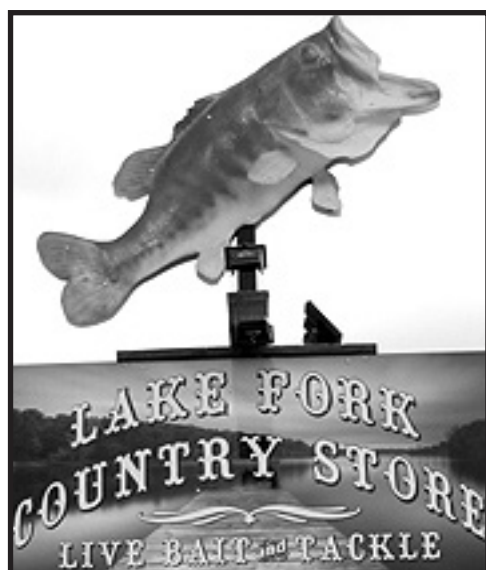
Wesley Hamilton, park superintendent at Fort Boggy State Park in Centerville, was recognized as the recipient of the Distinguished Ranger Award by Texans for State Parks.

Hamilton has worked at Fort Boggy for eight years and has consistently demonstrated leadership and commitment to the TPWD mission throughout his tenure. He has also created strong partner-

ships with the community and local "Friends" group. With his commitment and public support, Fort Boggy State Park has moved into a growth phase that included the construction of three state of the art cabins and a grand re-opening last fall.

The Friends of Fort Boggy nominated Wesley Hamilton for the award due to his dedication to keeping the park open, his leadership and vision, and for inspiring others to see the potential of Fort Boggy State Park.

*(See TPW Commission.....
Continued on Page 19-A)*



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9th Annual Lake Fork Open (Continued from Page 7-A)

and Curt Blount earning them an additional \$500. For the heaviest weight in a Bullet Boat an additional \$500 went to Justin Priest and Shane Cowart.

Winning 1st Place in the tournament with a weight of 15.05-pounds for \$3,100 was the team of Steve Hodge and

Shawn O'Malley; 2nd Place for \$1,000 was the team of Mark Stevenson and Frank Johnson with 14.80-pounds; 3rd Place for \$750 was the team of Rodney Ellis and Curt Blount with a weight of 14.36; 4th Place for \$350 with a weight of 13.96 was the team of Danny

Weems and Chris Large; 5th Place for \$300 went to the team of Wendell Moon and Tyler Gottula with a weight of 10.55; 6th Place for \$280 was the team of Chuck Ritzuto and Don Stapleton with a weight of 9.70; 7th Place for \$260 went to the team of Justin

Priest and Shane Cowart with a weight of 9.47; 8th Place for \$240 went to the team of Tim Weaver and Wesley Robinson with a weight of 9.43; 9th Place for \$220 went to the team of James Renfro and Jarrod Renfro

with a weight 9.35; 10th Place for \$200 went to the team of Nolan Jackson and Bryon Harrison with a weight of 9.21.

All contestants that participated in the tournament were treated to some great bar-

becue provided by Big Smith's BBQ.

Anglers if you missed this tournament, you missed a good one! Just mark your calendars and don't miss the 10th Annual Lake Fork Open.



Second Big Bass of the tournament was brought in by the team of Rodney Ellis and Curt Blount caught by Rodney weighing 8.96-lbs.



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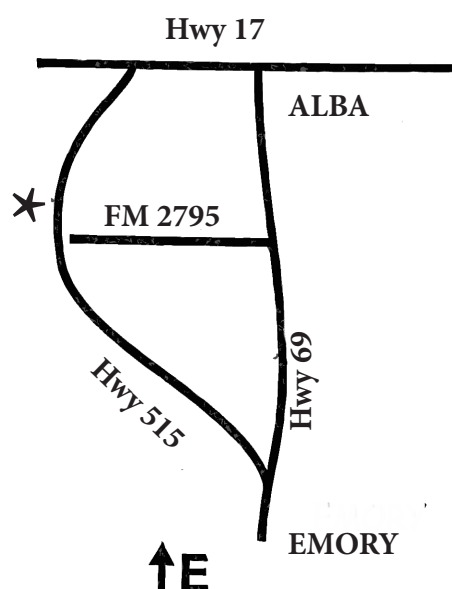
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"Pack of Knowledge" Deep Cranking Session

By Andrew Grills

Summertime in Texas... Yep, it can get pretty hot. It doesn't get much hotter than a mid-day deep cranking session. It's the most physically strenuous technique in bass fishing. It may feel more like work than fishing. However, all is forgotten the moment you feel the head shake and a big bass has engulfed your crankbait.

The fact of the matter is a deep diving crankbait has the power to trigger bites from bass that ignore other presentations, and it delivers big bites.

This is why a deep-diving crankbait is one of the first tools I reach for in the summer for big fish.

It's no mystery to me why deep cranking produces big sacks of fish consistently. Bigger bass are often duped by a "reaction presentation" of some sort. Whether it's a lipless bait ripping through grass, a heavy jig falling in front of their nose, or a crankbait careening through their hangout, big bass are fooled when they make a hasty decision.

In deep cranking, there is always a "sweet spot". It may be a rock or laydown log, but there is something down there that triggers a reaction when the crankbait deflects off of it. Often, it takes the perfect cast, at the perfect angle, to unlock an area's true potential. When that precise spot and angle are pinpointed the crankbait can do things I believe nothing else will.

When approaching summertime fishing, we are looking at typical deep structure such as points, humps, and roadbeds. I rely on my graphs to tell me whether the fish are present. Once that is established, I like to make a few casts with a crankbait to try and "fire up" the school. Getting that first bite can lead to triggering a frenzy of activity. I find that I get more bites paralleling the structure with the crankbait, as opposed to casting from deep to shallow or vice versa.

I never throw a crankbait if I can't reach the bot-

tom with one, or make contact with some form of cover. For instance, we will occasionally see bass suspended in tree tops that are well beneath the surface. Even if I'm in 35 feet of water, if the top of that tree is in a crankable depth I will still try to hit the branches with my crankbait. Nearly every bite I can recall that I've had cranking has been while my lure is making contact with something. Therefore, if the fish are suspended and I can't

(See Pack of Knowledge....Continued on Page 23-A)



Tyler Morgan was fishing Lake Fork with guide Andrew Grills when he caught this nice bass.

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TPW Commission Recognizes TPWD Staff and Partners (Continued from Page 16-A)

Fort Boggy State Park is located right off of highway 45 halfway between Dallas and Houston.

Texas for State Parks is a Texas-wide grassroots non-profit organization that devotes its efforts to the advocacy of the Texas State Parks system, which includes state historic sites and state natural areas. Members of this organization include individuals, organizations, businesses and state

parks "Friends" groups. Chambers County Game Warden Patricia Vannoy Named NASBLA Boating Officer of the Year

Chambers County Game Warden Patricia Vannoy was recognized as the recipient of the NASBLA Boating Officer of the Year award.

Vannoy is extremely active in the community promoting boater safety in one of the most populated and busiest bay systems,

Galveston Bay, in the United States and Texas. She has participated in numerous public programs promoting fish and game rules regulations, boater safety and has coordinated and executed one of the largest annual public programs in the community. The expo is attended by more than 500 community members who get the opportunity to participate and get educated on the various

issues facing TPWD.

In addition to her community outreach, Vannoy was selected to join the State Fo-

rensic Reconstruction

and Mapping Team (STORM). Since joining, she has worked many boat crashes,

including some high profile cases that have enabled her to set the

(See TPW Commission....
Continued on Page 21-A)



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June! My favorite time of the year on Lake Fork!! (Continued from Page 6-A)

what you see and let the results be your guide.

The shallow bite is also an option and don't rule out top water and frog action especially around flooded willow trees. Once the sun makes it's way up, shift gears and pitch a creature bait as far back in those willow trees as possible. A 3/8 ounce weight will do the trick and use at least 20lb line. Your favorite colors will work fine, just keep it simple. The most important factor in this process will be the accuracy of the pitch. Pick the bush apart until you key on where the bass are

positioned. Once that is established, follow that pattern across the lake. It will pay off in spades.

If simple action is what you seek especially if kids are involved, I would chase the sand bass. You can use a 1/2 ounce Hopkins spoon or a 1/2 ounce jig head with a fluke jr. attached. This is wicked fun on light line. We can spend a day on the water if you like and I can teach you the ropes how to catch a ton of these entertainment fish.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in June 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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TPW Commission Recognizes *(Continued from Page 19-A)*

bar high for boat crash investigations in Texas. Whole Earth Provision Company Donates \$30,296 to TPWD from April Promotion Proceeds

For the sixth year in a row, the Whole Earth Provision Company has donated the proceeds from their "April is Texas State Parks Month" and Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour promotion to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This year's donation is \$30,296 bringing their six year total donation to \$178,803 for Texas State Parks.

Throughout the month of April, eight Whole Earth Provision Com-

pany stores in Texas solicited donations at the checkout counters for Texas State Parks. The stores also held a special "Ask a Ranger" event in the store where park rangers came in and answered questions from shoppers in the store.

In addition to their in-store promotion, Whole Earth Provi-

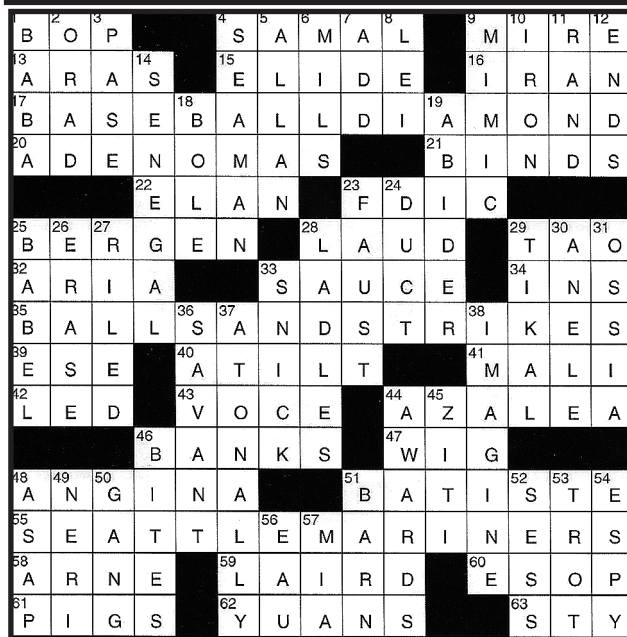
sion Company named Texas State Parks as the benefactor of the two-day Banff Mountain Film Festival held at the Paramount Theater in Austin. At the event, park staff were able to speak to outdoor enthusiasts and supporters about the TPWD mission from a booth before the film.

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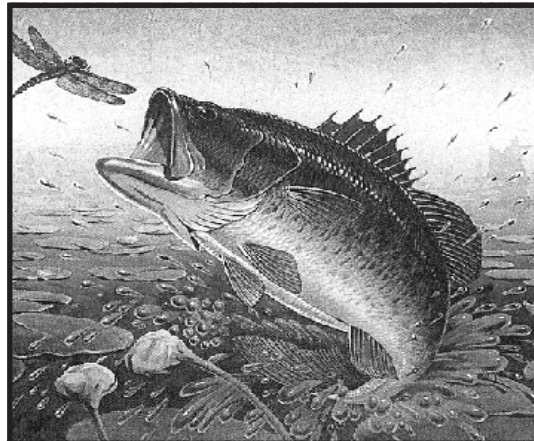
Summer Search

There are 14 summertime activities hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

BARBECUING
CAMPING
CYCLING
HIKING
JOGGING
PICNICKING
ROLLER-SKATING

SAILING
SUNBATHING
SWIMMING
TENNIS
VOLLEYBALL
WALKING
WATER SKIING

C A M S K I N G L O V L
Y T W A L K I N G G O K
C H A I L I N I W N L I
L I T L L E R K A I L S
I G R I B A R C T T E K
N T E N N I S I E A Y M
G N I G N W K N R K B G
N G N I P M A C S S A N
I I G S O P N I K R L I
U M S G J N G P I E L H
C M K P O G P S I L E T
E H I K G N I M N L Y A
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Shelby
10 years old

We printed Shelby Smith's picture in the paper when she was 10 years old with a big bass. Here she is now at 20 years old with a Lake Fork nice bass she caught while on the lake with Lake Fork Guide, Whitt Smith. Still fishing and catching the big ones! C.P.R. (Courtesy Photos Whitt Smith Guide Service)



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Pack of Knowledge (Continued from Page 18-A)

bang the crankbait against something near them, there are probably better lure choices.

When I do hit something with my crankbait, I like to hit it hard. I want to wake up whatever lives down there. That is why I use a 7.2:1 ratio, high-speed reel. I know that kind of goes against the old school logic of low geared, slow retrieve reels for deep cranking. Yes, using a lower speed ratio takes a little torque off of the forearm, but I feel like I get bigger bites with a fast retrieve. My typical retrieve is nearly as fast as I can turn the handle.

The perfect cranking reel for me is the Shimano Curado. I like it because it has a large spool capacity which is important for long casts. My favorite thing about the Curado is that it will cast a crankbait a mile. The biggest challenge in deep cranking is getting the lure out far enough to get

it down to the desired depth. I pair the Curado with a G. Loomis Deep Flex Crankbait rod. I use the 7'5" heavy action. It's a stout rod for cranking but has an incredible parabolic bend. This helps with casting as well as landing fish. I normally use 15lb fluorocarbon line, occasionally stepping down to 12lb test if I need to get a little deeper.

We have been fortunate over the past several years to have some important advancements in lure design available. Crankbaits are diving deeper than ever. There was a time hitting that 20' depth was the Holy Grail of cranking. These days it's not unusual to be digging bottom in 25' or deeper with the right equipment. My deep crank of choice is the Duo Realis G87. There is a deep model (15A) and an extra deep model (20A). I honestly believe it's a game changer when it

comes to crankbaits. Japanese engineering at it's finest.

The G87 has a built in magnetic weight transfer system. I could go into detail about how it works, but I'll just put it this way: I can cast it 30% further than any other crankbait on the market. It casts like a bullet, even into the wind. It gets down deeper with less effort as well. These crankbaits are available here on the lake. Both, Lake Fork Marina and Oak Ridge Marina are fully stocked with the models and colors I use.

Next time you've marked a few fish, but can't get them to bite the jig, Carolina rig, or spoon, try knocking on their door with a crankbait. Sometimes I see my customers cringe when I break out the deep divers. Yes, it may seem too much like work to some, however it's a valuable tool that definitely has a place in our pursuit of big bass.

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8th.....\$1,600	20th.....\$1,000
9th.....\$1,300	21st.....\$1,000
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Only teams that are registered before
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Late Registration:

Saturday June 24th - 5-6 PM at Pavilion

Sunday June 25th @ 5 AM



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