

# LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



2 Sections

"The Fisherman's Guide,  
News You Can Use"  
"Lines To Get Hooked On"  
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Vol. 18

August, 2017

No. 216



Lake Fork Guide Randy Oldfield was night fishing with clients on Lake Fork in July when he caught this hawg weighing 12.75-pounds and measuring 25" in length. A great catch this time of year. C.P.R.



## Hook N' Cook Sand Bass Tournament



By Don Hampton

The 5th Annual Hook N' Cook Sandbass Tournament will be held on Lake Fork August 12th. The tournament is brought to you by The Fisherman's Guide News, Fisher-

man's One Stop, and Bro's Patio and benefits the "Wish To Fish Foundation". Everyone is invited to come out and participate in a fun filled day and help deplete the sandbass population on Lake Fork

for a good cause. Fishing hours are from 6 a.m. until 12 noon. There will be a drive through weigh in behind Fisherman's One Stop and all participants must be weighed (See Hook N' Cook.... Continued on Page 3-A)



Winning 1st Place in the 4th Annual National Lake Fork Open High School Scholarship Tournament held on July 22nd and 23rd at Oak Ridge Marina with a total weight of 14.75-pounds was Austin Graham and Travis Anderson from the Rains County High School in Emory (Boat Capt 2nd Lt). Presenting them their check for \$6,000 was Billy Sartin (rt) from Sartin's Marine. (F. Guide Photo by Don Hampton)



Winning 2nd Place in the 4th Annual National Lake Fork Open High School Scholarship Tournament held on July 22nd and 23rd at Oak Ridge Marina with a total weight of 14.18-pounds was Colt Oliver and Luke Hanby seen with their Boat Captain (Ctr.) For their great efforts they won a Scholarship Check for \$4,000. See Story on Page 4-A (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)



# Characteristic Differences Between Bubbas and Bubbettes

By Don Hampton

Besides the most obvious of differences between a Bubba and a Bubbette (male & female) the characteristics of each differ immensely.

One for instance is nicknames bestowed upon each other.

When the Bubbettes go out for lunch, if it is Laura, Suzanne, Debra and Rose, they will call each other Laura, Suzanne, Debra, and Rose. If Joe Bob, Leroy, Billy Bob and Beaudreaux go out for the night, they will affectionately refer to each other as Fat Boy, Godzilla, Peanut Head and Fish Brains.

When eating out and the waitress brings the bill, Bubbas will each throw in \$20, even though it's only for \$22.50. None of them will have anything smaller, and none will actually admit they want change back. When the Bubbettes get their bill, out come the pocket calculators.

When money is an issue, Bubba will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he wants. Bubbette will pay \$1 for a \$2 item she doesn't want.

In Bubba's bathroom he will have six items. A toothbrush, shaving cream, razor, a bar of soap, a comb and a towel from the Holiday Inn. The average number of items in Bubbette's bathroom is 337. Bubba would not be able to identify most of these items.

In an argument, Bubbettes always have the last word. Anything Bubba says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

As far as thinking about the future, Bubbettes worry about the future until they find a husband. Bubba never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

When it comes to holy state of matrimony, Bubbette marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't. Bubba marries a woman thinking she will never change, but she does.

A successful Bubba is one that makes more money than his Bubbette can spend. A successful Bubbette is one who can find such a Bubba.

Bubba will dress up for two occasions, funerals and weddings. Bub-

bette will dress up to go shopping, water the plants, empty the garbage, answer the phone, read a book, or get the mail.

As far as Bubba and Bubbette's offspring, Bubbette knows all about her children. She knows about dentist appointments and romances, best friends and favorite foods and secret fears, hopes and dreams. Bubba is vaguely aware of some short people living in the same house.

So now you know the characteristic differences between Bubba and Bubbette.

In closing, if you are a Bubba married to a Bubbette, forget your mistakes. There's no use in two people remembering the same thing.



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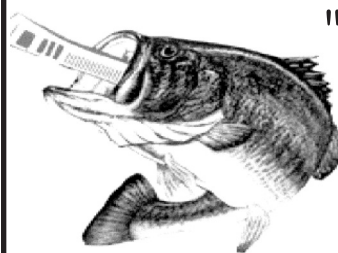
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**Hook N' Cook Sandbass Tournament** *(Continued from 1-A)*

in by 1 p.m. This is an individual tournament and all persons in a boat or pontoon must be a paid entry. Each contestant can bring 5 fish to the weigh in. If you are fishing with a partner or group you would need to have a means of keeping your fish separated. All sandbass brought to the scales must be at least 10" in length and become the property of the tournament to be filleted by board members and anyone who would like to volunteer their services. Anyone wishing to volunteer their services call me on my cell 903-360-6994. Beginning at 5 p.m. everyone is invited to come and enjoy the fish fry dinner and BYOB. The meal

is free; donations will be accepted for "Wish to Fish Foundation".

We will be at Bro's Patio taking entries on Friday August 11th, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and again on Saturday August 12th from 5 a.m. to 5:30 a.m.

Entry fee for the tournament is \$25 per person with a \$10 big fish option. You couldn't go out and eat for that amount. We will be paying out 5 places for heavy stringer; \$600, \$500, \$400, \$300, and \$200. This is based on 100 entries. Big Sandie will pay back 3 places 100% of entries.

This tournament is open to any person with a Valid Texas Fishing License. Minors can compete but must have a signed re-

lease form from their parent or guardian. All state and local laws do apply and trailering is allowed. All catches must be done during tournament hours. For more information see ad on Page 5-B.

There will also be a raffle for some really good prizes from our sponsors. Tickets for the raffle will be 6 tickets for every \$5.

I would like to see all my readers, friends, and fishing buddies come out and participate in this day of fun fishing. I know it is going to be hot, but after you weigh your fish, you can go home, take a shower and lay under the air conditioner. Then come back at 5 p.m. and have a great meal and participate in the fellowship.

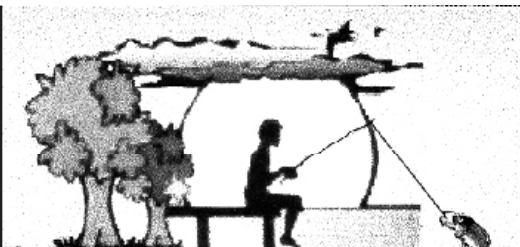
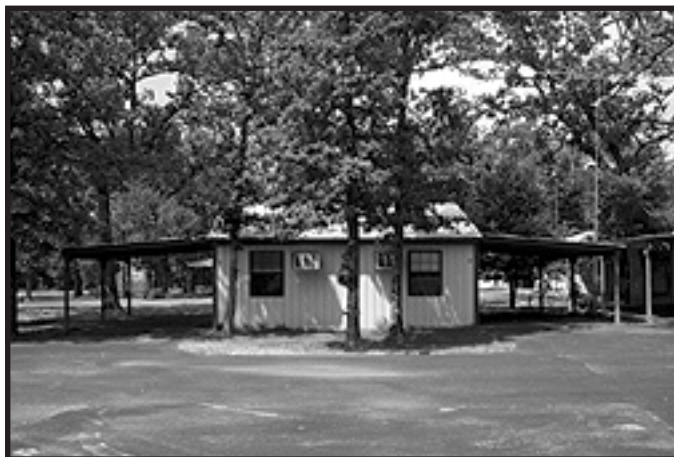


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## 4th Annual National Lake Fork Open High School Scholarship Tournament

By Don Hampton

The 4th Annual National Lake Fork Open High School Scholarship Tournament was held on July 22nd and 23rd hosted by Oak Ridge Marina. Each year this tournament has become larger and more popular giving high school anglers a chance to win scholarship money and prizes. This year there were over \$20,000 available for them to win in scholarships and prizes. The tournament is open

to all high school students from entering the 9th grade to students who have just graduated the 12th grade but not yet in college. This year 138 teams came to compete from as far as Florida, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

During the course of the tournament there was a total of 454 fish weighed in for a total weight of 547.92-pounds. Of the 454 bass brought to the weigh-in 446 were released bringing the average fish released alive to 98%. In the heat of the sum-

mer this shows great responsibility of these young anglers and their captains in taking care of the bass.

Winning 1st Place with a total weight of 14.75 was the team of Austin Graham and Travis Anderson III. For their great effort they won \$6,000 in scholarship money, a \$600 tackle pack, and team jerseys from ClownCo. In 2nd Place with a total weight of 14.18-pounds was the team of Colt Oliver and Luke Hanby. They won \$4,000

*(Continued on Next Page)*



3rd Place in the tournament was the team of Cameron Smalley and Sean Pippenger with a total weight of 12.86.(Boat Capt.-Ctr) (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)



Big Bass of the tournament weighed 9.58-lbs. and was caught by Brayden Burch winning him \$500 from Papa's Baits and a replica from Bev's Fish Creations Taxidermy. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)



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in scholarship money and a \$500 tackle pack; 3rd Place was the team of Cameron Smalley and Sean Pippenger with a weight of 12.86-pounds winning \$2,000 in scholarship money and a \$300 tackle pack; 4th Place was the team of Logan Slaughter and Cody Fuller with a weight of 12.21-pounds winning \$1500 in scholarship money and a \$200 tackle pack; 5th Place was the team of Cody Stefka and Ryan Michalski with a total weight of

12.10-pounds winning \$1,000 and a \$200 tackle pack; 6th Place was the team of River Simonek and Tristan Rychlik with a weight of 11.95-pounds winning \$500 in scholarship money and a \$200 tackle pack. For those teams that placed 7th through 10th they were presented with a \$200 tackle pack. The big bass of the tournament weighed 9.58-pounds and was caught by Brayden Burch. For the big bass he won \$500 presented to him

from Papa's Baits and a replica of his catch from Bev's Fish Creations and Waterfowl Taxidermy.

All of these young anglers are to be commended not only for their endurance of the extreme heat but also for the care they took in preserving the bass. Also to be commended and a big thanks goes to all of the sponsors and volunteers that make this possible for our youth of today. This tournament is great for high school students and a family event.



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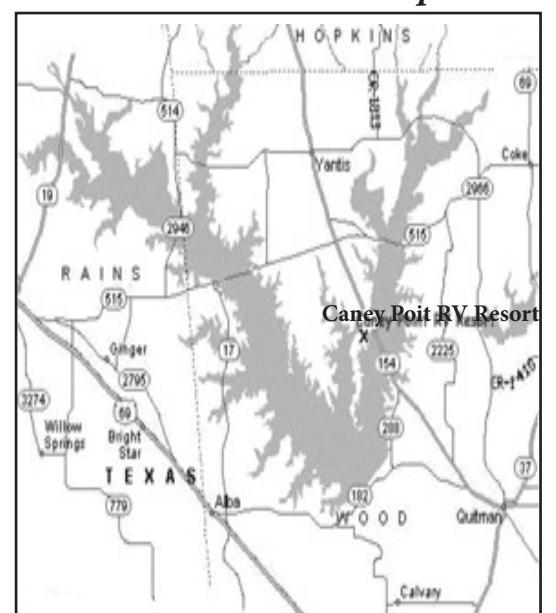
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# August on the Fork

By David Ozio

"Can you believe that the end of summer is just around the corner! Fishing on Fork has been awesome for the past couple of months and the only thing that will change going into August will be the position of the bass with regard to the water column. Most anglers relegate their day to either early morning or late evening thinking that the middle of the day is just too warm to fish. With regard to the fishing, this is a myth that has long endured the test of time. In actuality, if you can tolerate the 95 degree temps, the bass will be there to ease the pain especially in the cooler water depths of the lake.

Lake Fork is currently about five inches under pool level and water clarity is ranging from stained to slightly stained across the expanse of the impoundment. Surface temps have been ranging from 90-94 degrees and these

extremes have recently delegated where the bass have been holding with regard to structure. When the surface temps are in the lower range, bass seem to be holding on the bottom relating to points, pond dams, ridges, roadbeds and hard structures. As of the past two weeks there has been no wind. This causes the top layer of the water to bake and has an effect on the oxygen levels down deep. This will cause the bass to move to a more suitable depth range in search of breathable water. As of this writing I have been catching bass shallow early and then fading back to the 12-15ft range on the same structures to tangle with the bruisers. Targeting these fish is the directive and your electronics will be the tool to getting the job done.

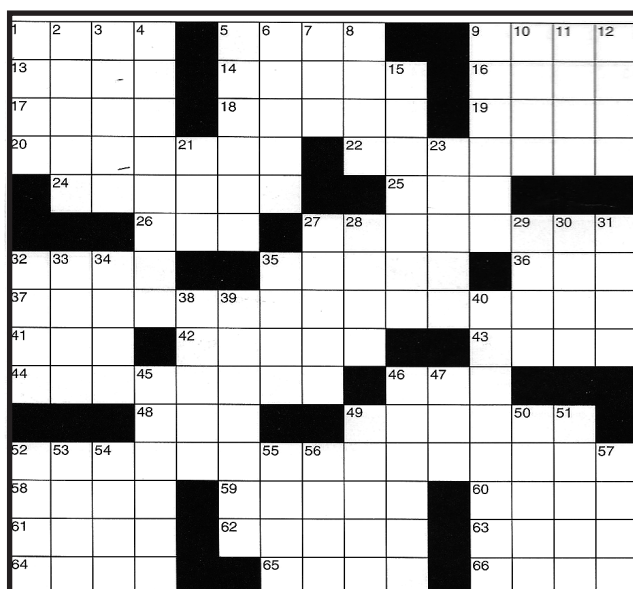
Morning and late evening bass are no huge challenge as they will hit top water baits along with the squarebill crankbaits. Shad colors are always recommended and focus these efforts on main lake points. This action will be short lived as the bite dissipates as the sun starts to peek over the tree lines. This is when you shift gears and tie on a deeper diving crankbait and back out on these points and focus on the 8-15ft depth range. Same colors apply during this time of the year and covering water will be the ticket to success. Once mid morning is upon you, this will be the time to break out the Carolina and Texas rigs to probe the 12-15ft depths using any plastic of your choice. Big worms usually will get the job done and I favor any version of red during the summer months. Redbug is hard to beat especially if you see the bass on the screen and decide



to tackle them using a drop shot. I opt for 12lb line on the drop shot in this situation and use a 3/8 ounce weight on calm days, 1/2 ounce weight on the windy outings. If you are strictly after the biggest fish in any school, break out the one ounce football jig with matching trailer and hang on for dear life when the rod tip loads up. Flourocarbon lines in the 17-20lb range work well for this application and make sure you use the San Diego Jam knot to reduce break offs. As a matter of fact, use the jam knot on all line sizes of flourocarbon line. It will be a very smart move.

The other half of this deep bass equation equates to the suspended fish. These are much tougher to catch and require great patience both in locating them and putting them into the boat. Again, the electronics play a huge roll in determining where these fish are holding in the water

(See August on the Fork...  
Continued on Page 20-A)



## CLUES ACROSS

1. Commoner
5. Beverage made of fermented honey and water
9. Weapon
13. Jeer
14. Give out
16. Impressive in size or scope
17. Blue dye obtained from plants
18. Withdraw from drugs
19. Sans serif
20. Loosen grip
22. Mended shoes
24. Vogues
25. \_\_\_\_ de cologne
26. Craze
27. Immigrants
32. City in southern Japan
35. French region
36. Bravo
37. De Saint-Exupery story
41. Retirement fund (abbr.)
42. \_\_\_\_ Lanský, U.S. gangster
43. Poverty
44. Auroras
46. London radio station (abbr.)
48. Sunup in New York (abbr.)
49. Abnormal absorption with the self
52. "The Howdy Doody Show" character
58. Swiss river
59. Renaissance card game
60. Private school in New York
61. Scum
62. Hedge
63. Potential unit
64. Sound unit
65. Copied
66. Epic

## CLUES DOWN

1. Small sailboat
2. Scottish waterfalls
3. Command
4. Overabundance
5. Brought together into a group or crowd
6. Fish genus
7. Vestment worn by priests
8. Actor
9. Way to dishonor
10. Opaque gem
11. Parasites
12. Breezed through
15. Upper vegetation
21. Flower petal
23. Sylvan deity
27. Tent events
28. At all times
29. Sea eagle
30. Contest of speed
31. Cast off skin
32. Elevator man
33. Beginning to end (informal)
34. \_\_\_\_ Connery, 007
35. Infection of the eyelid
38. Compound derived from ammonia
39. With a good will
40. Penetrating and sharp
45. Change mind, in a way
46. Swollen, in a way
47. British thermal unit (abbr.)
49. Person's legal place of residence
50. Crouch
51. \_\_\_\_ Park, California city
52. Skip
53. Saint's aura
54. Oil-producing nation
55. Yugoslavian river
56. Catch
57. Scabs

Answers on Page 21-A

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**DOUBLE H**

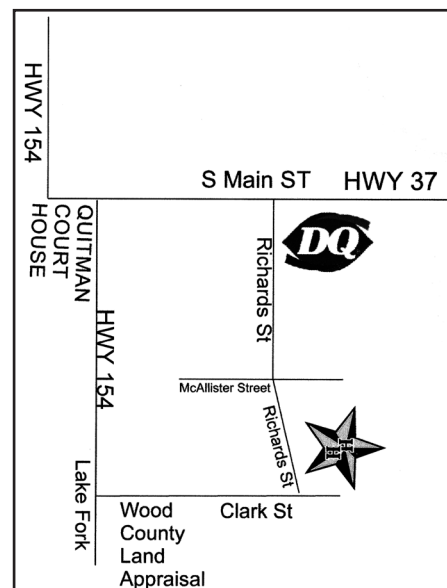
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The upcoming hunting seasons may still be months away, but starting today you can enter the Big Time Texas Hunts drawing to win one or more of nine premium guided hunt packages. These exclusive packages include food, lodging, a professional guide, as well as taxidermy in some cases.

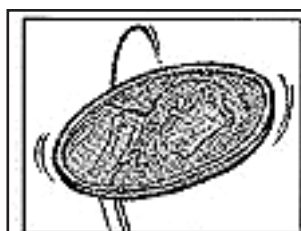
The crown jewel of the program is the Texas Grand Slam hunt package, which includes four separate hunts for Texas' most prized big game animals -- the desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, mule deer

and pronghorn. Other popular guided hunt packages included in the Big Time Texas Hunt program are the Ultimate Mule Deer Hunt, the Premium Buck Hunt, the Exotic Safari, the Wild Hog Adventure and more.

Entries for this year's Big Time Texas Hunts are available now online for just \$9 each at [www.tpwd.texas.gov/buy-entry](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/buy-entry), or for \$10 each at license retailers. There is no limit to the number of entries an individual may purchase and all proceeds benefit conservation, wildlife man-

agement and public hunting. Deadline for entry is October 15.

Big Time Texas Hunts is made possible with support from Toyota and the Texas Bighorn Society. More details on all nine premium hunts can be found online at [www.tpwd.texas.gov/buyentry](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/buyentry)



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## "The Moon Report" Summertime on Lake Fork

By Terri Moon

I can't believe we are already on the downhill side of the year! July ended up being one of my busiest months with some of the best summertime crappie fishing I've ever experienced! (I still believe it's all attributed to the Minn Kota double GPS spot lock!) It has truly been a game changer for me.

The Minn Kota "spot lock" combined with my 18 new brush piles has been a winning combination! It takes a lot of hard work putting out brush piles – (especially the size of some of the ones I've been putting out) – but, it's oh so necessary for a successful day of fishing. You need some shallow – you need some deep – you need some for different wind directions – it's a never ending battle! If you want to see some of the brush piles we just put out, I have some videos on my Face book page. It's a beautiful site watching that Willow sink and even more exciting when the crappie show up and the big bream! One thing I've learned is that there is no "magic spot" – that's why you need a lot of options. You might just get a few fish per pile or pier but if you keep moving and hit enough piles or bridge piers, you usually will end up with a nice mess of fish.

Now as far as the depths that we have been catching them at has been quite varied. Some



days they would be as deep as 24 feet. The next day they would be up in 12 feet of water. But, now a thermocline is setting in and most of our fish have been between 16 and 20 feet in 16 to 25 feet of water. Keep a close eye on that depth finder. It will tell you how deep you need to target.

The baits working for us have been LFT Live Baby Shad paddle tail in blue gill color and white/chartreuse and Bubba Baits 1/8th ounce in LSU purple/chartreuse or in white. It is also taking a very slow presentation. So try your best not to overwork the bait! The biggest mistake I see is people hopping the bait leaving loose line and nine times out of 10 they don't see the bite as it falls and they definitely won't feel it and frankly, all that does is twist your line. Try just giving it a little twitch now and then – stay in contact with your bait – and don't stop watching your line!!

I'm looking forward

to the rest of the summer and a big thank you to all of you who came to fish with me this month! Thanks also to Greg at Service Marine for keeping my motor going!

By the way, if any of you are interested in the new Minn Kota Ulterra-Terrova or my favorite the Ultrex "spot lock" – go see Bryan at Sartin Marine and get on the list! They are starting to get some shipments in! Yeah!!!

Wishing you all the best! Be safe out there!

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## Texas contributes \$600,000 for waterfowl habitat work in Prairie Canada

During remarks at Ducks Unlimited's 80th National Convention, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Carter Smith announced the department's decision to award Ducks Unlimited \$600,000 for conservation projects on waterfowl breeding grounds in Prairie Canada. This commitment brings Texas' cumulative contribution for habitat conservation on Canadian breeding grounds important to Texas' waterfowl to more than \$4 million.

"Waterfowl are a shared resource. As a result, waterfowl habitat conservation has to take place not only here on Texas' continentally significant wintering grounds, but also on the breeding grounds that produce our waterfowl," Smith said. "TPWD is proud to be a strong DU partner across North America. Ducks Unlimited's match and leveraging ability give our contributions four times the impact we could have alone. That's a return on investment we can all be proud of."

Recognizing the migratory nature of waterfowl, state wildlife agencies have been contributing to habitat conservation in Canada since 1965. More than 40 states

participated this year, and funding comes primarily through hunting license sales. In Texas, all funding comes from the state Migratory Game Bird Stamp fund. This fund is solely supported by the sale of Migratory Game Bird Stamps, required of all migratory bird hunters in Texas. These funds may be used to support waterfowl habitat conservation in Canada, and Texas has been doing so since 1985.

"The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is one of our greatest partners in conservation in Texas and across the continent. They continue making wise investments in waterfowl habitat important to the birds that wing their way to the Lone Star State each year," said DU Southern Region Director Jerry Holden. "Banding data shows us a large portion of the ducks harvested in Texas come from Saskatchewan and Alberta, so investing the state's dollars in this region clearly provides the greatest return for Texas waterfowl hunters."

Breeding ground habitat work is critical for the health of continental populations of waterfowl, and Texas' waterfowl hunters understand that. The nearly 50,000 Texas

DU members are appreciative of TPWD's continued contributions to the program.

"The importance of state contributions to Canadian habitat conservation and restoration projects cannot be overstated," said DU Canada's Director of International Partnerships Pat Kehoe. "Individual state contributions are combined with other state contributions, matched dollar for dollar by DU Inc., used as match for North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants and then leveraged further by DU Canada."

Ducks Unlimited's programs in the U.S. and Canada are science-based and consistent with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Prairie conservation programs on both sides of the border are structured to protect native, highly productive habitat while also improving waterfowl production in working agricultural landscapes. These habitat projects have benefits far beyond waterfowl, including nature based flood protection, groundwater recharge, water quality enhancements and habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife.

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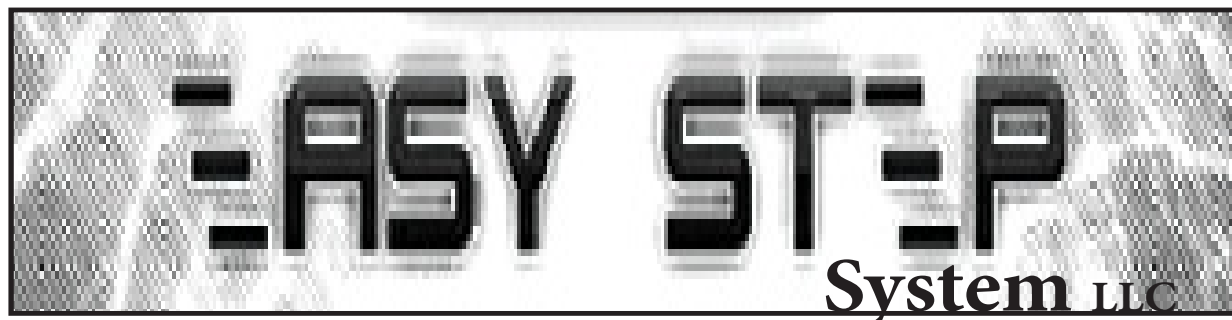
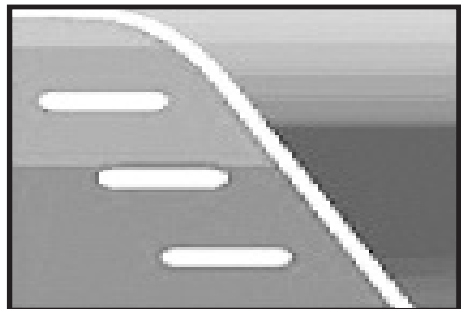



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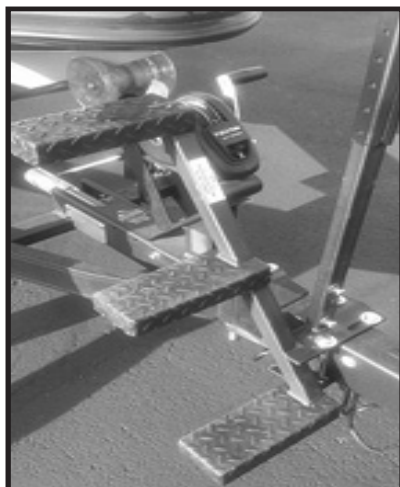
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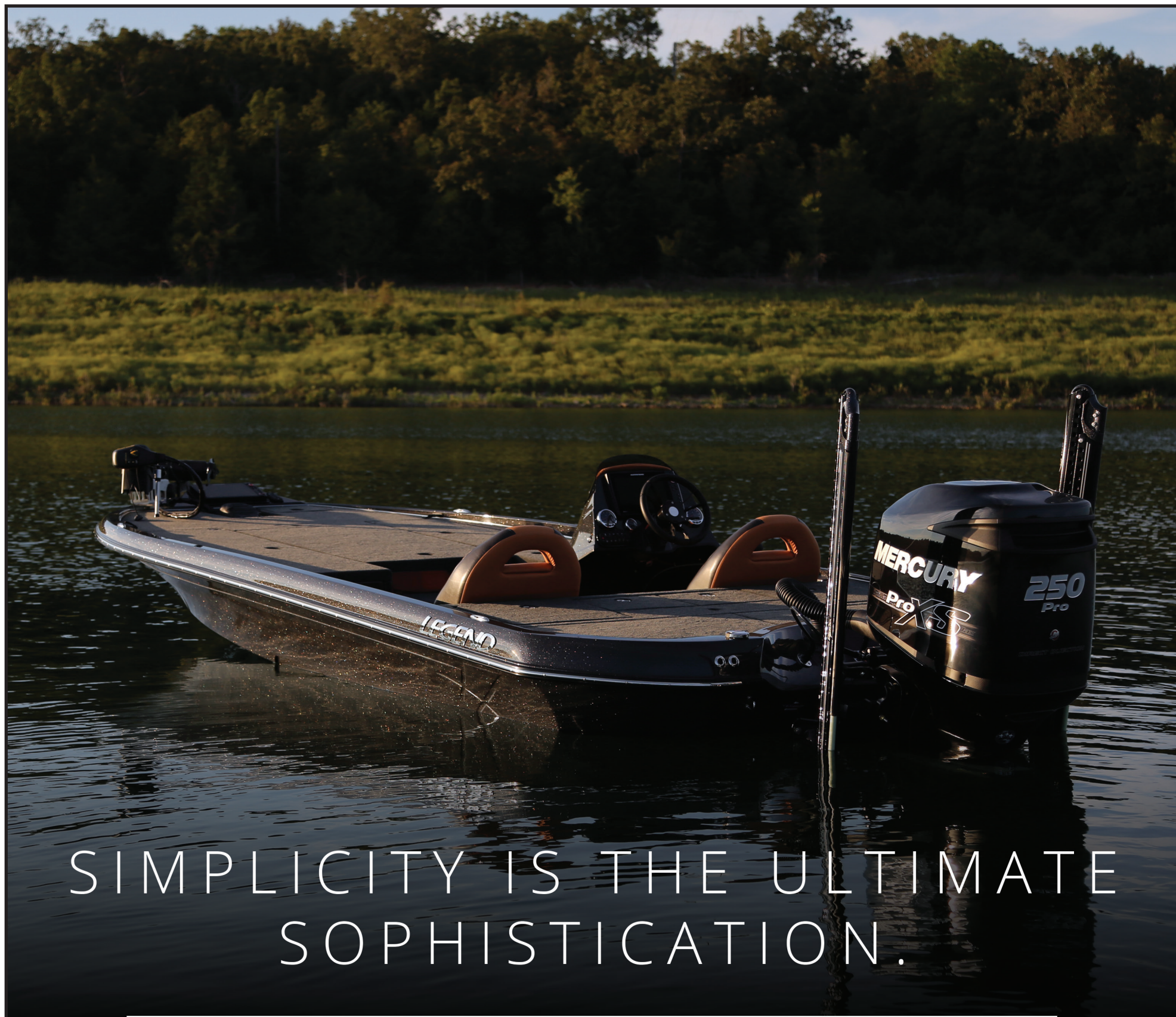


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# Texas receives funding to combat white-nose syndrome in bats

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will receive \$30,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to research and combat white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease affecting bats across North America.

The FWS grant, which consists of over \$1 million divided among 37 states plus the District of Columbia, brings the total funding for white-nose syndrome response in the U.S. to \$7 million over the past 8 years. Texas' portion of the grant will be used for testing bats in Texas for signs of the disease, as well as developing methods to prevent the spread of the disease-causing fungus and treat any potentially affected bats.

TPWD has received funding from this grant for the past six years, and previously the grant has sponsored scientists to survey bats in Texas for the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*. Researchers from Bat Conservation International and Texas A&M University first detected the fungus on Texas bats in March of this year. Scientists found traces of it on three bat species in six north Texas counties. So far, only the fungus itself was found on Texas

bats, and biologists have not found any bats showing the physical effects of white-nose syndrome.

White-nose syndrome is a deadly disease that has killed millions of bats across the U.S. and Canada since it was first discovered in the U.S. in New York in 2007. The fungus has now been identified in 33 states, 31 of which have observed bats with symptoms of white-nose syndrome.

The disease is named for the characteristic white fungal growth often seen on the muzzle and wings of affected bats. The fungus infects hibernating bats causing them to consume their fat stores, leading to emaciation and death. It does not affect humans. White-nose syn-

drome can cause large portions of colonies to die off -- some colonies in the eastern US lost over 90 percent of their bats to the disease.

Texas has the highest diversity of bats in the country, with 33 different species documented. Many of these species have never been exposed to the fungus and TPWD State Mammalogist Jonah Evans said it remains to be seen how the fungus might affect these Texas bats.

"We don't know how susceptible they are going to be," said Evans. "We don't know if they are going to succumb to the disease, if they are going to show signs of infection or if they" (See Texas receives funding....Continued on Page 16-A)

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**Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork**  
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 Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)

<b>1st Place</b>	<b>\$1,040.00</b>	<b>1st Place</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>\$780.00</b>	<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>\$520.00</b>	<b>3rd Place</b>	
<b>4th Place</b>	<b>\$260.00</b>		
<b>5th thru 10th Place</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>		

- Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00.
- Early entries must be postmarked by Sept. 30, 2017.
- All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017.
- Check in time: Friday, Oct. 6, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 7, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at Oakridge Marina.
- To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
- Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station). NO FISHING from midnight till start time.
- Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer allowed).
- Contestants must fish from a boat. No bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
- Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
- All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
- No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
- Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (or state law limits at the time of the tournament).
- All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
- Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in).
- You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.
- All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
- No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
- Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
- Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of Texas Trails Bassmasters and will be released (with the exception of trophy or dead fish).
- In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following position will be combined and evenly divided between the tying contestants.
- Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to this tournament.
- Contestants may fish with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.
- Use of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES or CONTROLLED DRUGS are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.
- Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.
- Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon Texas Trails Bassmasters effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualification from this and all future Texas Trails Bassmasters tournaments.
- Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.
- All protests must be registered in writing with the tournament judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an Open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.
- All boats must be 8 feet in length or longer. An aerated live well is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish.
- All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this Texas Trails Bassmasters event.
- Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification.

**Additional Information**

For more information or for information on joining Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork visit our website  
[www.texastrailsbassmasters.com](http://www.texastrailsbassmasters.com)  
 Remove entry form below this line. Retain above portion for your records

**Entry Application**

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Sept. 30, 2017 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (optional). Print clearly.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Having read and understood the tournament rules, by my signature I agree to accept all decisions of the judges as final. By my signature I waive, release and hold harmless all members, officials and sponsors of any and all alleged liabilities to me and/or my equipment.

Contestant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Minor's release: Signed by \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian

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Entry # \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Big Bass \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_



## Texas Game Wardens Honored at Annual Law Enforcement Awards

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Carter Smith honored several men and women for their outstanding acts of service at the 13th annual Law Enforcement Division Awards Ceremony.

The ceremony recognized Texas game wardens, non-commissioned TPWD employees, first responders from other agencies and members of the general public.

"We are extremely proud of our game wardens, our fellow first responders and members of the public who exemplify professionalism and service by assisting our citizens," said TPWD Law Enforcement Division Director Col. Craig Hunter. "Our game wardens routinely respond during highly stressful situations and are often times the first to arrive during natural disasters or search and rescue scenarios."

This year's award recipients include game wardens who came to the aid of first-responders in the aftermath of the Dallas police officer shooting, and following the Deweyville floods in 2016. Other awardees participated in valuable outreach activities and rescues of stranded and injured boaters. The awards also recognize support staff, who provided valuable assistance to law enforcement activities throughout last year. Among the highlights of this year's honorees: --Dallas Police Shooting Response on July 7, 2016 when five Dallas Police Officers helping to protect a peaceful protest were gunned down and seven others wounded in an ambush style attack. More than 60 Texas Game Wardens and TPWD Law Enforcement Division support staff from throughout the state partnered with local police to provide support and relief for a grieving agency and community. --Deweyville Flood Response in March 2016 when flooding along the Sabine River near Deweyville reached historic levels and caused massive damage to nearly 5,000 homes. Numerous Texas Game Wardens and agency support staff converged on Newton County to render aid, conducting 235 evacuations and 149 search and rescue missions. --Additional noteworthy events and actions recognized include the rescue of a motorist trapped in a tree after his vehicle was swept off a flooded roadway into a wooded creek in Tyler County; support following the loss of a coworker in a tragic hot air balloon crash near Lockhart; and a joint rescue of multiple victims in a boating accident in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel by U.S. Coast Guard crews and Texas Game Wardens.

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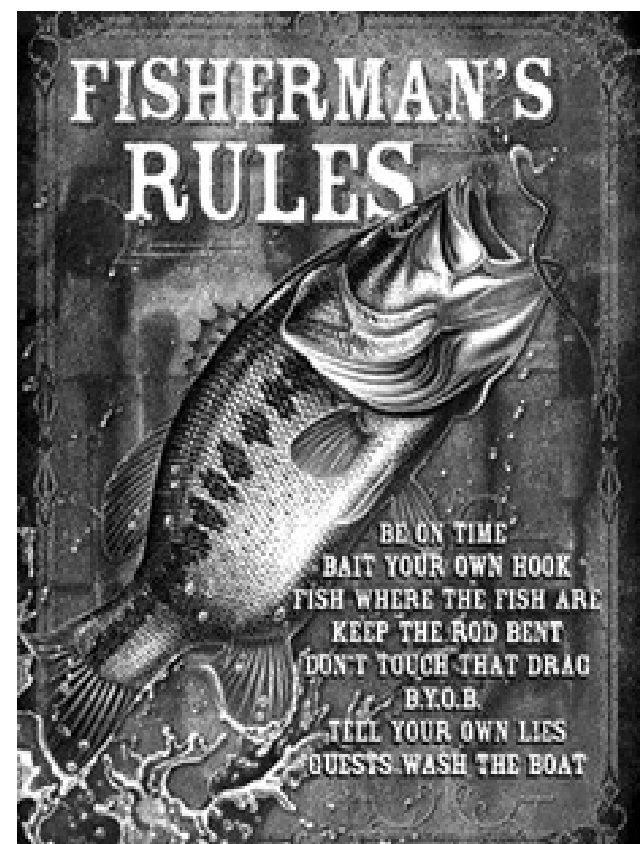


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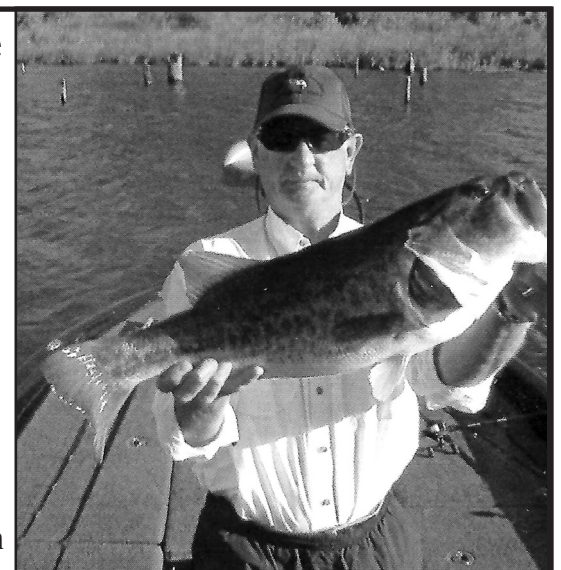
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Sheriff of Wood County, Texas

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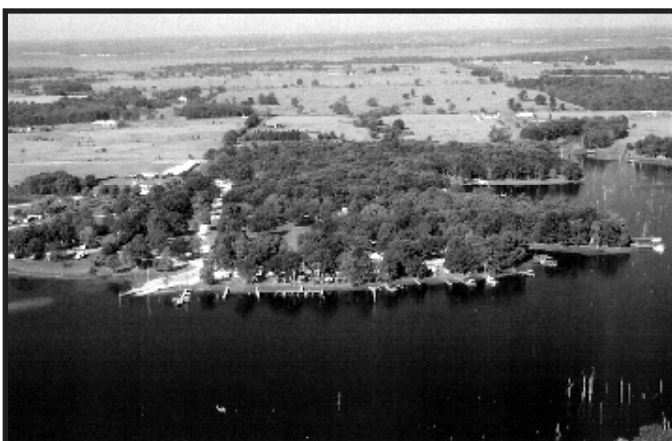


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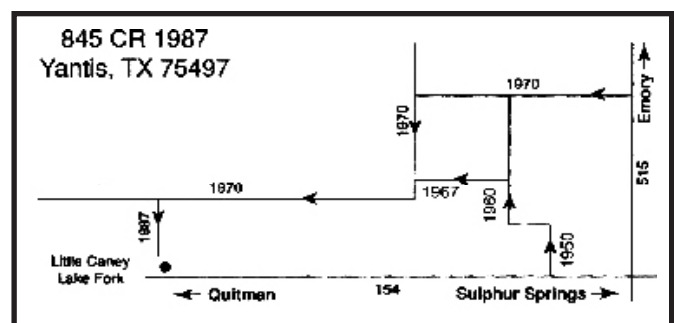
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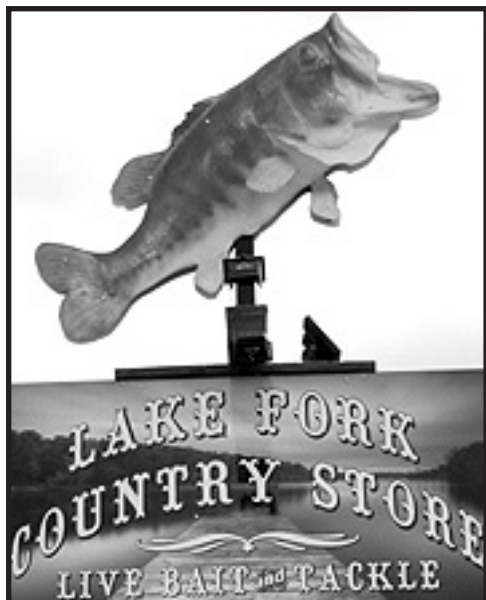
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## Texas receives funding (Continued from Page 13-A)

are going to be fine."

Twenty of Texas' 33 bat species, including the Mexican free-tailed bat, the iconic resident of Bracken Cave and the Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin, do not regularly hibernate, a fact which Evans said could work in their favor when it comes to white-nose syndrome. Still, Evans and other biologists are working to come up with plans for controlling the disease should it become a problem for Texas bats.

"We are pursuing a number of different treatment and management options," Evans said.

He emphasized the importance of thor-

oughly researched

plans, because cave environments are extremely sensitive and combating white-nose syndrome is not as clean-cut as simply spraying fungicide on bats hibernating in caves. Any solution will require extensive research and consideration for ecological effects. "We are going through a really intensive process to make sure we do it right," he said.

Bats play an important role in agriculture, and an absence or decline in bat populations could have severe economic effects. The insect-eating services they provide save Tex-

as farmers \$1.4 billion annually, and between

\$3.7 and \$53 billion nationwide, according to a study published in 2011 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. These numbers reflect reduced crop losses to insect pests, less need for pesticide application, and reduced spread of crop diseases.

"Bats are beneficial in many ways," said Jeremy Coleman, National White-nose Syndrome Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in a press release. "While state natural resource agencies are on the front lines of bat conservation, many

(See Texas receives fund-  
Continued on Page 19-A)



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Travis Sasser from Pensacola, FL., was Bassin With Bubba on July 29th when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.



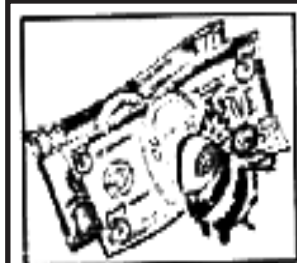
Scott Smith from Dallas, Texas was Bassin With Bubba Lake Fork style on July 29th when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.



Keith Miller was fishing with Lake Fork guide Andrew Grill in June when he caught this nice bass weighing 9.18-lb. hawg. C.P.R.



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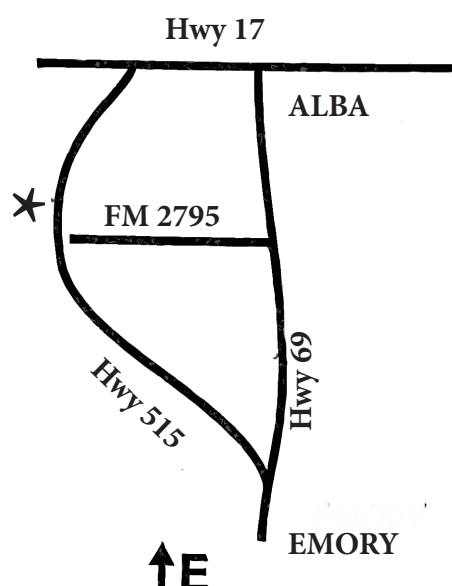
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# "Pack of Knowledge" "Summer School Bass"

By Andrew Grills

August can be one of the most difficult months to consistently catch quality bass here on Lake Fork. The deep fish have been pressured for a couple of months and can be tough to catch. The shoreline usually holds some fish, but chances for good sized bass are slim. A great alternative is keeping an eye out for surface activity.

While it can be difficult to abandon the typical areas and techniques that worked so well all summer, I find I have some of my most productive

days targeting "schooling bass". Because fish are on the move, I try to be as well, watching for surface activity or birds. When we see a bird dive or a bass break the surface, it is often just the tip of the iceberg and a big time feeding frenzy is taking place below. Its also important to check areas where you've seen schooling activity in years past. It isn't unusual to find bass using the same areas year after year, even though there may not be any noticeable structure nearby to attract them.


In order to catch these schooling fish, I put my slow moving, bottom crawling techniques aside. This is the time to reach for moving baits that will appeal to bass from the surface, or even those suspended in the water column. There are quite a few presentations that will work. However, my favorites are a walking topwater bait and a soft plastic jerk bait.

A Spook is a great choice for a walking topwater bait. There are many other brands that work as well, and some work better on certain days. I like to have a couple of sizes on hand in order to see which gets bit best, and to find out if there is potential to draw a bigger fish with the larger bait (even though it might not get as many bites). Many of us are tempted to fish these baits too slow, in order to entice a bass to bite, but I prefer a fast, erratic retrieve to get the fish to react out of impulse. I use 15lb monofilament line for this application.

Zoom's Super Fluke is probably the most popular soft jerk bait, and I use both the standard and magnum sizes. I will rig these weightless on an EWG hook with 15lb fluorocarbon line. A moderate retrieve with a twitch and pause cadence can be effective, keeping the bait on or just below the surface. I also like to deadstick them, and count them down to the suspended fish I see on my sonar. This is a great way to get down to the bigger fish.

As I mentioned earlier, there are a lot of ways to catch schooling bass, these are just my favorites. Hopefully these tips will help you put a few more fish in your boat and give you an extra perspective during what can be a tough month to catch them. If I can be of any assistance on your upcoming fishing trip, please don't hesitate to contact me.





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## Texas receives funding (Continued from Page 16-A)

have limited options for responding to this devastating disease without these funds. Activities supported by state WNS grants have been critical to the national response."

Grants such as this one are especially important for states that may not have the infrastructure to devote large amounts of time and money to study white-nose syndrome

and monitor bats for signs of the disease.

"[TPWD] doesn't have a full time bat biologist," Evans said. "Bats are a small portion of what I do, and so we are going to use this money to build capacity within parks and wildlife to do more bat research."

Texas Parks and Wildlife will continue to monitor the spread of the Pseudogymno-

ascus destructans fungus in collaboration with researchers at TAMU and bat conservation organizations. In order to track the spread of the fungus, TPWD is asking willing landowners for help locating and accessing bat caves and winter roosts. To report these locations, call TPWD at 512-389-4505. In order to prevent the

spread of the fungus, wildlife biologists recommend anyone entering a cave to abide by the decontamination protocols found at

<https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/topics/decontamination>. For more information about the FWS grants,

visit [https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/sites/default/files/files/2017\\_wns\\_state\\_grant\\_news\\_release\\_final.pdf](https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/sites/default/files/files/2017_wns_state_grant_news_release_final.pdf).



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## August on the Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

column and then there is the challenge of matching the right lure with the conditions. If it is windy on that given day, choose the flutter spoon as your means of attack. Size may matter so try smaller versions first then gravitate to the magnum beast if the bite is good. Colors may also vary based upon cloud cover, silver on clear days and gold when the light level is much lower. If there is no wind period, tie on a magnum fluke in any shad color or using a 7/0 hook only. In both cases, experiment with the countdown to establish the correct depth range of the given lure. Remember that sequence when a toad grabs

hold of the bait and stretches your line into oblivion.

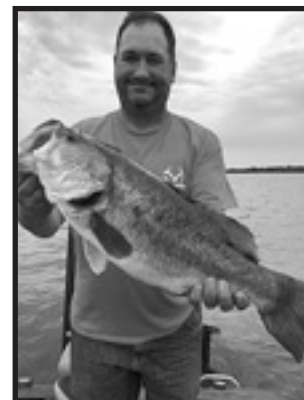
I hope this helps and gives you a starting point on your Lake Fork adventure. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in August searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in August and some in September. I also have gift certificates 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 run a Skeeter FX with a Yamaha 250SHO and sport Lowrance electronics. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon 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 Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame Seeks 2018 Nominations

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is seeking nominations for individuals or organizations that have made a lasting contribution to freshwater fishing in Texas.

Nominations may be made through Nov. 1, 2017 in the categories of industry, angler or media. Starting this year, nominations are no longer limited to just Texas residents or Texas-based organizations.

The nominees will be evaluated based on the following criteria: ethics, leadership and commitment, unselfish contributions to the sport, scope of impact on freshwater fishing and fishing/fisheries management expertise and impact.

The 10 members of the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame committee represent anglers, industry professionals and organizations in Texas freshwater fishing.

The winners will be announced in spring 2018 and will be inducted during the annual Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame banquet in June at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

Nomination forms and instructions are available online or by calling (903) 676-2277.

Since 1997, the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame has honored 32 individuals and organizations for their contributions to Texas fishing. The most recent inductees include Bobby Whiteside and

Gulf States Toyota in 2017; and Randi Wayland, Ray Sasser and the Texas State Bass Tournament in 2016.

Videos highlighting the 2017 TFF Hall of Fame winners can be found on the TPWD YouTube Channel under the titles Gulf

States Toyota, Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame 2017 and Dr. Bobby Whiteside, Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame 2017.

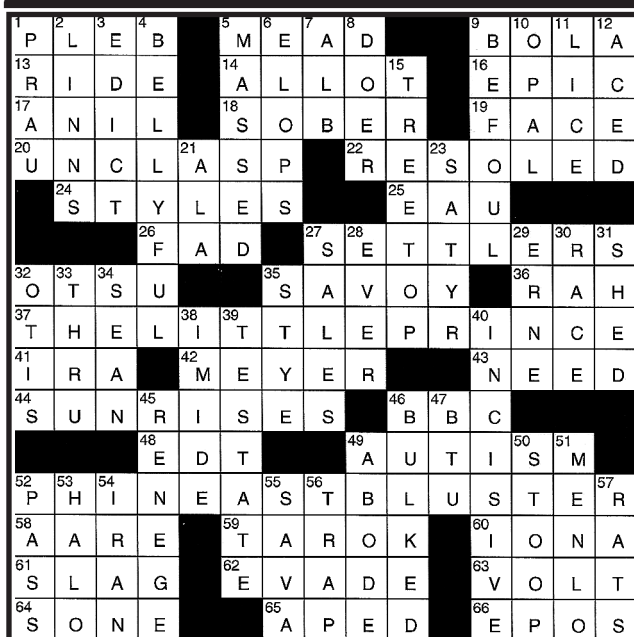
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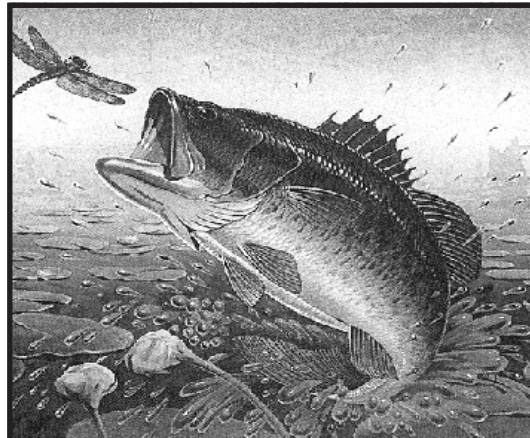
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## Park Ranger Recommendations for Hot Weather Hikes

Heat exhaustion is one of the most common maladies that park rangers encounter during the summer months, and with temperatures soaring to scorching heats well above 90 degrees, Texas State Park staff are encouraging park visitors to follow basic heat safety precautions to stay safe on the trail.

Heat exhaustion, dehydration and heat stroke can be prevented by drinking water, wearing proper clothing, hiking in the morning or evening, checking the weather ahead of time and knowing the length of the trail.

One of the most important things to do is hydrate. Hydration is necessary for good health and helps with heat

tolerance. Park rangers recommend having extra water packed while on the trails and to continue drinking water even if not thirsty. Also, if hiking with your four-legged friend, don't forget to bring water for them.

A good rule of thumb is to turn around and head back once you've consumed half of your water supply.

It's important to know the length of the trail and take a map of the park before heading out. The maps provide an overlook and the lengths of all trails at the park. Park trail maps are available at visitor centers, the entrance to the park and online on the Texas Parks and Wildlife

Department website.

People often underestimate the trails and rough terrain, so make sure to be aware of any warning signs posted at parks and seek trail information from park rangers.

If possible, plan hikes early in the morning or evening when the sun isn't the strongest. Park rangers say starting hikes earlier when the temperature is milder will help you gain more distance before the heat peaks in the middle of the day.

Make sure to take breaks when necessary and know your limit. Stop and rest under some shade and recuperate when nec-

*(See Park Ranger.....  
Continued on Page 23-A)*



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## Park Ranger Recommendations *(Continued from Page 22-A)*

essary before continuing on the trail.

Before heading to a park, wear proper clothing. If going for a hike, wear light-colored, lightweight and loose fitting clothing. The light colors will reflect the sun's rays rather than absorb them like dark colors can, and clothing

that is lightweight and loose-fitting helps regulate body temperature.

Bring a hat for face and neck protection from the sun. A bandana can also be dunked in water and worn around the neck to keep you cool while the water evaporates.

Lastly, don't forget to check the weather

beforehand so you will be prepared for any conditions you may face on the trail.

If you begin to experience a heat related emergency, call the park headquarters or 911.

For a map of all Texas State Parks, visit the state park page on the TPWD website.



Rumors are a terrible thing especially when not based on fact! The fact is, the dam does not have a crack in it, they are not going to let water out to work on it and the fact is they are replacing the top soil with clay to prevent erosion on the back side of the dam. Quit spreading rumors!

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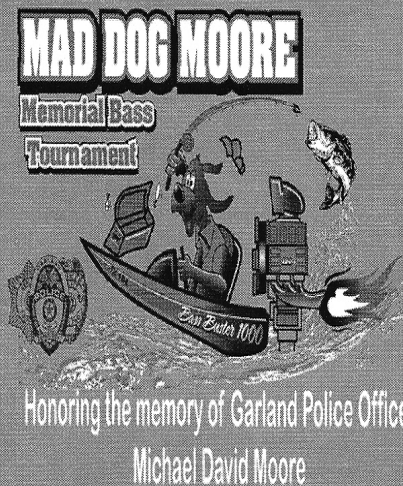
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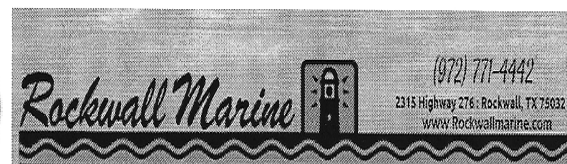
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