# LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"

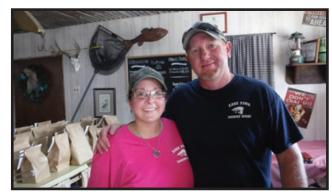


Vol. 19 October, 2017 No. 218



James Clark from Denham Springs, Louisiana won 1st Place in the 31st Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork with this nice 10.57-pound bass. For his great catch he took home a 2017 Triton 19TRX powered by Mercury, a RAM Truck plus \$8,000 in total winnings. (Fisherman's Guide News Photo by Don Hampton)

## Who's Who Review "Country Store"



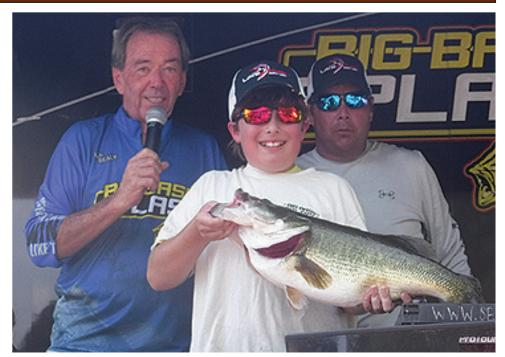
By Don Hampton

Brian and Melissa Clayton, new owners of Lake Fork Country Store celebrated their 1st year in business on September 2nd with a Grand Opening. Before hosting their grand opening they

wished to better familiarize themselves with the business, Lake Fork residents and complete their redesigning and remodeling of the store.

Everyone was invited to come by get acquainted and enjoy free grilled hotdogs, drinks and chips with donations accepted for 'The Wish To Fish

(See Who's Who... Continued on Page 16 -A)



Ruger Long, 11 years old from Teague, Texas was quick to tell anglers he caught this nice 10.52-pound bass on a chatter bait he bought at Lake Fork Trophy Lures. He weighed his bass in the last hour of the tournament knowing he had 2nd Place overall. For his catch he won a 2017 Triton 18 TRX powered by Mercury, a RAM Truck plus \$3,000 in total winnings. (Fisherman's Guide News Photo by Don Hampton)



#### **By Don Hampton**

For you anglers that are not only big fans of fishing Lake Fork but also love doing it with Berkley baits, here is the time you have been waiting for. The

12th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork hosted by Bass Champs, Inc. will be October 21st and 22nd. The tournament will be at Lake Fork Marina just off Highway 17N. Reg-

istration times will be Friday Oct. 20th from 12 to 8 P.M. and on Oct. 21st and 22nd from 4:30 A.M. to 7:00 A.M. at tournament headquarters. Entry

(See Berkley Continued on Page 3 -A)

# "Bubba practices for Halloween all year long!"

By: Don Hampton

Bubba's favorite holidays are coming up and he is geared up and ready for them. He loves Thanksgiving and Christmas mainly because of all the great food, the get togethers, (as he calls them), and of course getting new stuff! One of his favorite holidays and Bubbette's worst is Halloween.

This is one "Spooktacular Holiday" that Bubba practices year round. He's like an oversized lap-dog when it comes to the treats and a scary movie when it comes to the tricks. He is most childlike on Christmas morning opening his presents and getting new stuff, but he is even more so when it comes to jumping out and scaring someone.

He practices mostly on Bubbette and how either of them has survived these many years is a testimony to "True Love"! On more than one occasion she has threatened his health with a rolling pen but Bubba doesn't take the threats too seriously. I couldn't even tell you if he hears them over his own laughter.

Bubba practices his scare tactics constantly to stay in true form. He has Bubbette shaky like a squirrel on a highline every time she walks in the house. The only time he is quiet is when he's about to spring with a goulish holler. It doesn't even matter to him if she has an arm full of groceries. If the timing and setting is right he'll make his move and then laugh for

days afterwards. To Bubba harmlessly scaring someone is one of the funniest things in life. He really must have had a missed childhood or else he just doesn't wish to grow out of it!

I do believe that Bubba bought Bubbette a new car, not for her benefit but rather for his entertainment. As is with most new vehicles this one has an alarm system with remotes. For the first week they had it Bubba couldn't stop laughing and it wasn't from the joy of having a new vehicle. Every time Bubbette would go to get in her car Bubba would be hiding around the corner. Her hand would no sooner touch the car door than Bubba's finger would push the alarm button. With the alarm and horn blaring, and lights flashing, Bubbette would be jumping around thinking she did something wrong, while Bubba would be rolling on the ground with laughter. Needless to say that only lasted for a week because he no longer has a set of keys and alarm remote to Bubbette's new car. Bubba doesn't just practice his scare tactics on Bubbette while at home. Even the dog and cat have to hide from him. He'll catch them in one of their deep naps, sneak up as close as possible, get on his hands and knees and commence barking and growling like a maddog. Yes, Bubba has been bitten by his own dog, scratched by his own cat, and clobbered by his own wife.

One of the reasons Bubba can't keep a partner on the "Team Tournament Trail" he fishes, isn't because of the number of fish caught. It is

because their heart can't take it! Bubba watches his partners closely to make sure they are on their toes during a tournament. If they seem to be day dreaming when the action slows down, he has a rude awakening for them too! He will catch them in one of their relaxed moods and then set his plan in motion. He will intentionally get his lure hung up while they are not watching. Once he has it securely stuck he'll jump up excitedly and holler, "It's a big one get the net!" At this time he has his rod bent going from side to side acting like he has a real hog on the end of the line. This gets his partner throwing his rod down, scrambling all over the boat to get the net and ready to do his job. When his partner finally gets the net ready Bubba will roll with laughter and say, "Just kidding I'm hung up and wanted to see if you were still with me!" I think Bubba has probably been bit, scratched, and clobbered by some of his fishing partners too! He has had five different fishing partners in the past four seasons and not even that will stop Bubba's sense of humor or his enjoyment of a good laugh.

Maybe there is a lesson for all of us here to learn from Bubba. It is possible that if we all kept a childlike quality in our hearts and didn't take ourselves quite so seriously we could find the smaller things in life much more humorous. Then we would all be able to laugh at the bites, scratches and clobberings that life has to offer. "Have a Spooktacular Halloween!" Bubba will!





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#### Berkley Big Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 1-A)

fee for one day is \$120 or \$170 for both days.

For anglers participating this will be one of the most exciting of the year. With the cooler temperatures setting in, the bass are sure to be feedwell to both Berkley hard and soft baits.

There will be 20 places paid per hour during the two-day tournament starting at \$1,000 for 1st place, down to \$150 thru 15th place win an Abu Garcia Reel and win Abu Garcia Rods.

For the lucky angler that catches the heaviest bass over the slot,

that angler will be tak- all the anglers and just ing home a new Skeeter ZX-200, powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor, and tournaments Lowrance electronics. For the heaviest bass under the slot, that angler will be taking home a new Skeeter ing up and respond ZX-190, powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor, and Lowrance electronics.

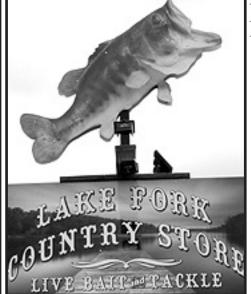
This tournament is not only a great fishing experience but also terrific entertainment for the entire family. for 10th place; 11th Fish Fishburne will be present with a laugh or two and WFN will 16th thru 20th place be on hand filming the television show. There will be drawings from the empty Berkley bait bags for

a great time for all.

Check out Berkley's new baits, I highly recommend them. My favorites the full line of War Pigs and the Digger. I hope to see everyone there. For more information and details check out their ad on Page 24-A or go to their website; www.basschamps. com or for more details you can call them 817-439-3274.

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# Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

The excitement and entertainment for the spectators and anglers began with the first hour and continued through the last hour of the 31st Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork held September 15, 16, and 17 out of Lake Fork Marina. This great tournament is where amateurs win like pros and was attended by 2,361 anglers representing 28 states in

teed in cash and prizes.

With \$1,500 being paid for 1st place in each hour and two Tshirt hours per day paying double, if an angler won 1st place in any of those hours, they would win \$3,000. There were 15 places paid each hour of the 3-day tournament with fifteenth paying \$250 dollars and two additional places paid in the Bonus Card hours. Each day of the tournament hopes of winning some if an angler brought in

2.50-pounds, that angler would not only win the placement in the hour but also an additional check for \$5,000. If no one brought in had bought a T-shirt and that exact weight, the monies would be given away in a draw at the end of the tournament. During the course of the tournament only one bass was brought to the scales weighing an exact 2.50-pounds. This money making catch was made by Tommy Climer from Mesquite, Texas winning him

of the \$475,000 guaran- the first exact weight of \$900 for the hour and \$5,000 for the bonus.



No other exact weight was brought in on Saturday or Sunday of the tournament. In the drawing on Sunday winning the draw for a check for \$5,000 was Terry May from Perryton, Texas and Kyle Elmore from Hot (Continued on Next Page)





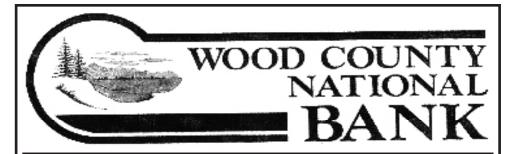
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Springs, Lake Fork is a Class 'A' slot lake in the state of Texas. The slot on this great reservoir is 16" to 24", which means any bass between those two numbers cannot be brought to the scales. This keeps the lunker population in this great reservoir growing. This also meant that some anglers that caught a 1.86-pound bass up to a 2.55-pound bass took home good money from the tournament.

During the course of the three day tournament there

in with a total weight 2,010.32-pounds.

There were 21 bass weighed in during the tournament 24" in length or longer. On Friday there were ten that came to the scales, Chad O'Neal from Amity, Arkansas with a 10.38; Ivan Bradshaw from Quitman, Texas with an 8.52; Brayden Rawlinson from Jacksonville, Texas with an 8.85; Tommy Jones from Porter, Texas with a 7.70; Clyde Stephenson from Van Alstyne, Texas with a 9.08:

Bossier City, Louisiana Louisiana with with an 8.03; Jimmy D. Robertson from Lufkin, Texas with a 7.69; Perry Dixon Jr. from Temple, Texas with a 9.56; John Moore from Maud, Texas with a 7.42; and Don Penick from Dallas, Texas with a 6.14. On Saturday there was only one over the slot bass that came to the caught by Matthew Mc-Clure from Mansfield, Texas and weighed 7.45. On Sunday there were 10 that came to the scales; James Clark

Arkansas. 1,042 fish weighed Lawrence Scott from from Denham Springs, 10.57; Larry Heinrick from White Hall, Arkansas with an 8.27; John W. Carter from Mabank, Texas with a 7.83; Samuel Holbrook from Ogdensburg, Wisconsin with an 8.50: Eric Kirkland from Marshall, Texas with an 8.39; Christopher Osborn from Hatscales. This one was tieville, Arkansas with an 8.06; Michael Conner from Katy, Texas with an 8.36; Lawrence Scott from Bossier City, Louisiana with an 8.71; John Goergen

from Yantis, Texas with a 6.86; and Ruger Long from Teague, Texas with a 10.52.

Winning 1st Place overall heaviest bass in the tournament was James Clark from Denham Springs, Louisiana with his 10.57-pound bass. He took home \$1,500 for the hour, a 2017 Triton 19 TRX, powered by Mercury, a RAM Truck plus an additional \$7,000. Second Place overall with a weight of 10.52-pounds was 11

(See Sealy Outdoors..... Continued on Page 17-A)





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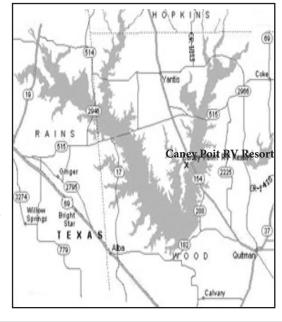
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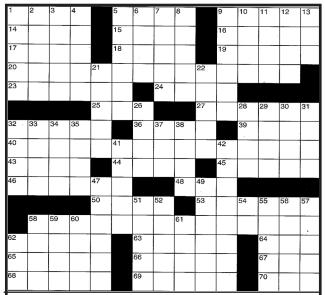
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## Big Bass Hunting Time on Lake Fork

By David Ozio

"Sports fans, it's rock-in roll time with regard to big bass hunting on Lake Fork. Fall is just around the corner and it's time for the huge green fish to start fattening up for the long hard winter. This is an incredible time of the year to fish Lake Fork and October is the month when, what we term, 'the autumn feedfest' begins. The first cold fronts of the season are starting to roll in and the catalyst to this bass buffet will be the falling surface temps. Another neat fact about this time of the year, everyone will be hunting and the lake will receive a ton less pressure. The only deterrent usually happens at the beginning of the month as the lake turns over, cooler surface water sinking to the bottom, which make the bite a little tricky during the first week.



40. Jet (football)

45. Binds

Alar

63. Stead

48. Unhealthy

50. Brews 53. Came close

67. Sea creature

33. Little (Spanish) 34. He fiddled

37. Female sibling

38. Progeny 41. Cotton fabric

49. Go through 51. Greece

Enzyme 58. Grounds
59. Panchen or Grand

60. Kind of purse 61. Tidy
62. Promotional materials

Female sheep

42. Displacement unit 47. Public house

Western event Confederate general

52. Antelope54. Between Pisces and Tauru

68. Boyfriend

69. Replete

58. Graham or Groza

65. Raise an objection

The content of cognition

43. Square measure 44. Romanian city

#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- Spoken in Sulu archipelago
   The queen of the gods in ancient mythology
   Behalfs

- 14. Jai \_\_\_, sport 15. Supplements with difficulty
- 16. Forearm bones
  17. New Zealand black pine
- 18. Salesmen
- Small brook
- 20. Blanda and Stabler
- 23. St. Francis of 24. Pokeweed
- 25. Drop down
- 27. Surfaced
- 32. Symptom 36. Arthur
- champion 39. Tableland

- Wimbledon
- 1. Island in the South Pacific
- 2. Nom de guerre3. Checks off

**CLUES DOWN** 

- Garlic mayonnaise
- . Kind of rupture
  . Supplemented with difficulty
- 6. Supplemented with 7. Duplicate 8. State in N.E. India 9. Check
- 10. Herb
- 11. Gnarl

- 11. Ghari 12. Sense organs 13. Monetary unit 21. Brazilian palm 22. Henrik \_\_\_\_\_, d
- 28. Implements of war
- 29. Jump 30. This (Spanish) 31. Dashes

- 32. Open
- - Answers on Page 21-A

This turnover process is very evident when you see brown bubbles floating on the surface across the lake. The occurrence doesn't happen all at once but in stages according to the strength of the cold fronts as they pass. Not all parts of the lake will turnover at once as some areas cool faster than others. This phenomenon usually lasts about three weeks beginning in late September and throws bass fishing into a tail spin especially for the deep fish. During this transition period, you will need to read the conditions and adapt accordingly. Fall will usually issue in more cloudy days and as the water temps decline, fish will migrate to the shallows in search of food and suitable water conditions thus opening the door to easier catches on moving baits. Where do we start? The answer to that question is wrapped up in the fall bass habits. Creeks will be your starting place and finding the shad will lead you to some of the best bass fishing of the year.

Gear up with a top water for the early bites and focus on any vegetation that you can find such as milfoil, lillypads or alligator grass. Zara Spooks are my all time favorite and will draw strikes from the largest bass around. Buzzbaits, Yellow Magic's and frogs are also excellent choices and truly have a place on the deck of the boat. Once



that bite tapers off, I will switch to a Texas rig worm of any sort and work the same areas until noon. If the vegetation is more sparse, use a 1/8th ounce tungsten weight with a 3/0 hook and rig it with your favorite worm. Trick worms, curl tails or speed worms all work great. For thicker grass, move up to a 5/16 ounce weight so that it will get down to where the monsters live. As for worm colors, stick to dark hues on cloudy days and more translucent shades on sunny days. If the water has pitiful clarity, go with the darker colors. If the wind is howling, head to the windiest bank and throw a Talon spinner bait. If the wa-

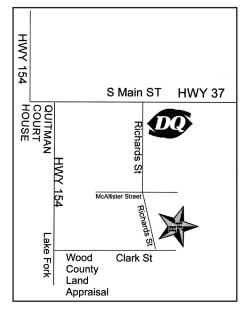


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(See Big Bass Huntin.... Continued on Page 20-A)

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# TPWD Launches Scale Loaner Program for Bass Tournament Organizers

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries division is launching a scale loaner program to give local tournament organizers the ability to use the catch, weigh and immediate release formats made popular by state and nationallevel tournaments like the Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest (TBTF) and Major League Fishing. "We are trying to promote new tournament formats that are very conservation minded that remove impacts of delayed mortality," said Dave Terre, TPWD Chief of Inland Fisheries Management and Research. "They take the extra

fish handling, weigh-in and livewell containment process completely out of the tournament." Typical bass tournaments involve holding up to five bass in livewells, removing them from their catch locations, and taking them through a weigh-in process onstage - a format that studies have shown results in 15-60 percent fish mortality depending on the water temperature. With the catch, weigh and immediate release formats, each angler has a trained judge onboard who uses the scale to weigh the fish and return it to the water immediately after being caught, which significantly lowers fish mortality to a negligible amount - similar to catch and release fishing. Pro Am Bass Trails utilized TPWD's new scale loaner program for the first time during their inaugural fielding event Aug. 19 at Stillhouse Hollow Lake. Of the 80 fish caught, organizers observed no immediate fish mortality on the boat or shortly after release. Tournament director and competitive angler Linwood Cottner said he decided to organize a tournament of his own after growing concerned with the effects traditional bass tournaments could

(See TPWS Launches... Continued on Page 19 -A)



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# "The Moon Report" Fork's Fantastic Fall Fishing

By Terri Moon

It's here! My favorite time of year – October and November fishing on Fork! It's "Trophy Time" and this includes ALL species.

With the weather starting to cool off, the crappie are showing up in the mouths of the creek arms and will work up to secondary creek arms. They have been as shallow as 6 ft. and as deep as 18 ft. around the bridges and brush piles and standing timber. We're also finding them in the mouths of the coves in 20 to 28 ft. of water one to three cranks off the bottom.

These fish haven't bunched up yet so you will have to keep moving around for a productive day. Also water clarity and light conditions will make a difference on what color will produce a strike so don't be afraid to change up colors to see what will work for that time of day. The shal-lower I fish, the light-er the jig head I use. The colors producing for us have been "black shad", green tomato, natural crick-et, or chartreuse & pearl. You can rig these on either a 1/16 oz. jig head or 1/8 oz. on windier days. In open water I'm dou-ble rigging 2 jigs about a foot apart. (But when fishing timber and brush, a single jig is best.) Al-so, don't be afraid to change up your pres-entation. Some days they want the bait "dead still" other days they want



the bait moving. (I just love it when they hit "on the fall"!)

If you find a day when the fish are fin-icky, you can tip the jig with a minnow or make sure you keep a jar of Berkley Crappie Nibbles in the boat. They can make all the difference in trigger-ing a strike!

Also, if you're looking for bream, keep a jar of Berkley Gulp Minnows in shad color, chartreuse or white if you're not interested in using live bait. They not only catch bream but the crappie love them too! The bream have been in 5 to 15 ft. around timber or brush and can also be found on the cross members of the bridges. Be sure and hang on tight because you never know when a big bass will grab it on the way up!

I hope you all get the chance to enjoy FORK'S FALL FUN! It's a great way to spend time with friends or family making lifetime memories.

I've been busy putting out new brush piles to be ready for the fall fun. I've posted videos of dropping these brush piles on my facebook page if you want to take a look.

Also, if any of you are interested in catfishing, the "Cat Daddy" Cameron Burnett of Lake Fork Marina is now offering trips for the "BIG ONES"! You can check out his facebook page to see the monsters he's been catching!

Many thanks to all of you who fished with me last month and looking forward to all of you who are coming to fish with me this month!

All the Best!

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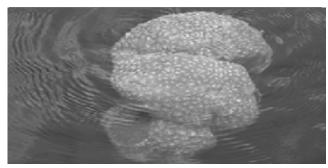
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#### Game Wardens Investigating Fatal Boat Crash on Lake LBJ

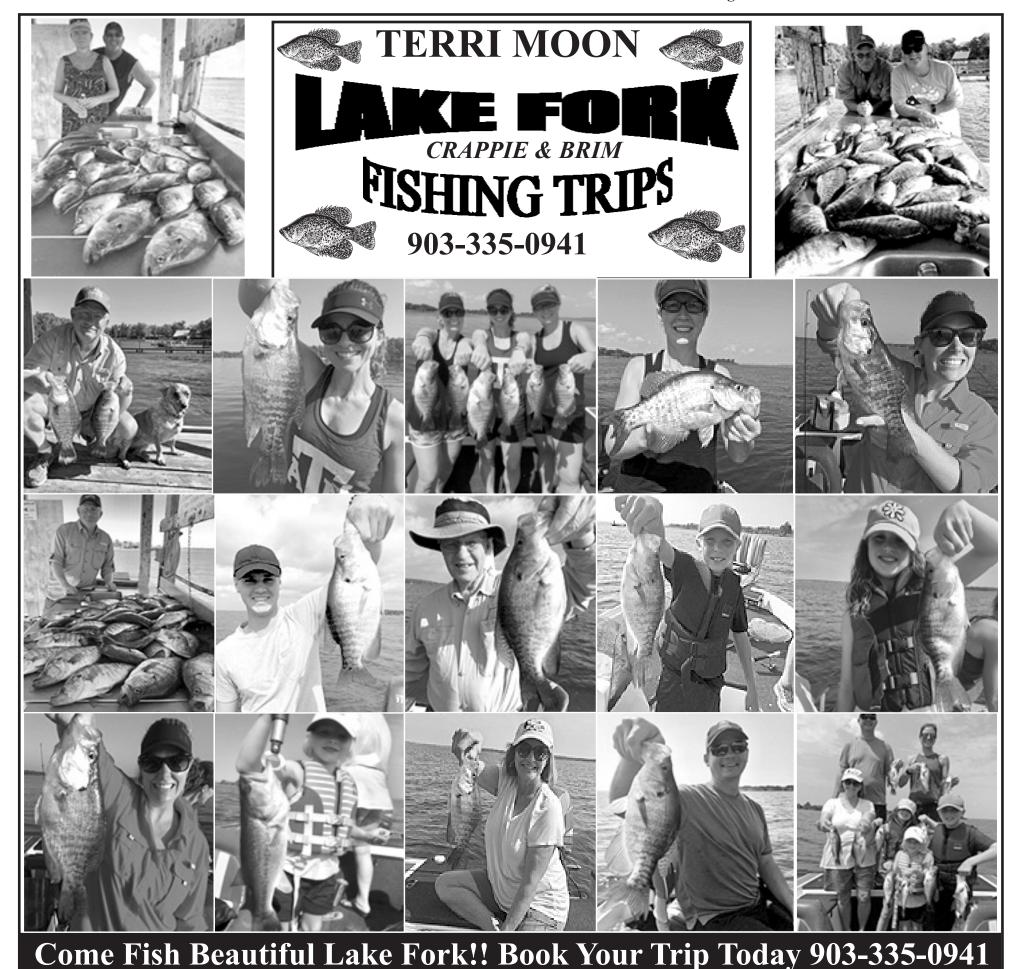
ries after the vessel he was operating struck a concrete retaining wall near the cove entrance to the Rock Bluff tion is available at this time.

Texas Game Wardens are investigat- Subdivision at about 11 p.m. He was ing a boat crash on Lake LBJ that re- pronounced dead at the scene by Bursulted in the death of 68-year-old net County Pct. 1 Justice of the Peace Kingsland resident Russell B. Bow- Roxanne Nelson. A female occupant man Jr. late Sunday evening, Aug. 13th. of the boat sustained minor injuries, The victim sustained severe inju- was treated at the scene and released.

> No additional informa-



Freshwater bryozoan colony in Lake Fork. These harmless filter feeders are often observed floating close to the surface.





#### **By Don Hampton**

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 36th

# Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork Open October 7th

Semi-Annual Open Bass Tournament on October 7th hosted out of Oak Ridge Marina. Any of you anglers coming to fish the 12th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Oct. 21st & 22nd, this is a chance to do some pre-fishing and

enjoy the great fishing nament can touch 16" Lake Fork has to offer.

Fishing hours for the tournament will be 6 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. It is a five fish limit, and an the official measurindividual tournament. More than one person can fish in a boat but all have to be a paid entry. Bass in the tour-

but not break the line. Bass over the slot must touch the 24" line. The Check-It-Stick will be ing board. Bass under 12" cannot be brought weigh-in. the

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork pays back 80% of all entries. There is also a Big Bass Pot, optional to anglers. To get into the Big Bass Pot it is an additional \$10 with 100% payback to the top three biggest bass. Texas Trails Bassmasters will be taking entries from 4 p.m. till 9 p.m. on Friday, October 6th, and again on Saturday, Oct. 7th from 5 a.m. till 6 a.m. If you can't come and

fish with us, everyone is welcome to come out, visit with us and even buy some raffle tickets for the many prizes to be given away.

Texas Trails Bassmasters is a highly motivated progressive bass fishing club with ties to the Wish to Fish Foundation and weight masters at the Wood County Kid Fish. If you are thinking of joining a bass club, you can't go wrong with Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork. Dues to join the club are a mere \$30 per year. Cost for each tournament is \$25 with a \$5 Big Bass Option. There is also a progressive side pot that an optional \$5 for the first 7-pound or over bass. For more information or to obtain an entry form for the tournament see ad on Page 17-A or go to www.texastrailsbassmasters.com give Rodney Ellis, President a call at 903-714-6473 or Don Hampton at 903-360-6994.

Fishing is going to be great! Come out and fish with us! Who knows, you may even catch the first Share-Lunker of the season!



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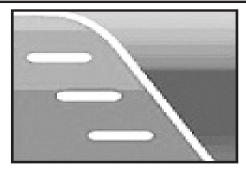
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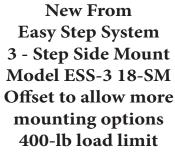


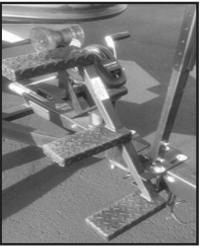
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## "Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland the water column. This

In late summer/early fall, not only do the leaves begin to fall but so do the water temperatures. Cooler night time air cools down the first layer of water, also know as the surface temp, which begins to sink through

the water column. This time of year I find it very important to be using my graphs side scan abilities.

The baitfish and bass are moving and migrating from deep to shallow and will not let you drive over them very often. This makes them hard to find! By using full

screen side scan I can cover a lot of area looking for signs of life. I am first looking for the bait fish. Once I've found an area with bait, I will then target finding the schools of bass that may be in that same area. Ideally I want to be surrounded by schools of bait and bass,

so for this I pay close attention to the side scan shadows. The casting of shadows are the secret!!! In order to see the shadows better, set your sidescan at 50 feet to the left and 50 feet to right, any more distance and you will not get the definition you need to be able to cast the shadow images. I also will boost up

the sensitivity and sometimes even experiment with different palettes. Once I know I have fish all around me I will then begin fishing and breaking things down from there. This time of year I depend on side scan and it makes my job much easier and my time more efficient.

If you're interested in

learning how to get the most info out of your fishing graph, please contact Mike@mcfarlandfishing.com or call 602-826-1524.



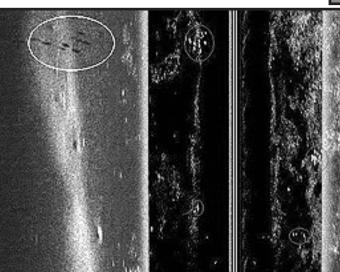


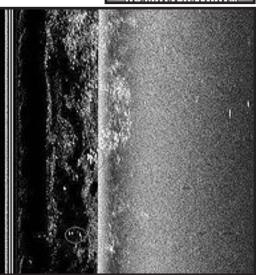
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3/2 custom built, multi level, 2 acres of waterfront with lake home with huge front porch and rear deck offers loads of entertaining space indoor and out for all your family and friends. Open living, dining, eating, kitchen with a massive stone fireplace leads to an additional eating/gaming room looking over the leaseback. The Aspen and cedar wood details cover the high ceilings as well as the guest suite. Master and one guest room downstairs with a loft above for an office or additional sleeping quarters. Kitchen equipped with all stainless steel appliances, commercial refrigerator, custom cabinets, Verde butterfly granite counter tops and more. Guest suite offers a little separation and privacy with its own entry and deck overlooking the leaseback property located in the back of Birch Creek Bay. Multiple garage doors and workshop provide an abundance of storage and work space. Home is on two deeded lots with plenty of room to play, build or expand. Private dock and irrigation system. Property is irrigated out of the lake and there is not an HOA with this property. Its peaceful and quiet here. Utilities and taxes are very inexpensive. There is lake access from the dock and common boat ramp. Dock has utilities. Make an offer or buy now! Property is now listed for sale below appraised value. This is ideal for family fishing, fishing guide or corporate retreat. Hurry deal will not last long... Motivated seller, will consider legitimate offer call 903-474-3778.



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10 Places Paid Hourly 1st — \$500 • 2nd — \$400 • 3rd — \$300 • 4th — \$200 • 5th — \$175 • 6th — \$150 • 7th — \$125 • 8th — \$110 • 9th — \$100 • 1st Out of 9th \$100 GC

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Early Entry Incentive: Only Early Entries Qualify for Drawing To Win a 2018 Legend Boat, Powered by Mercury, MotorGuide, & Lowrance Electronics. To Qualify for Drawing, Entries must be received on or before April 30, 2018. "Legend Advantage Members Win Double Hourly Cash Awards"

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# Mad Dog Moore Memorial Bass Tournament on Lake Fork

**By Don Hampton** 

On September 9th the Annual Mad Dog Moore Memorial Bass Tournament was held on Lake Fork. This great tournament is put on by the Garland Police Department in tribute and memory of Officer Michael David "Mad Dog" Moore. Officer Moore was killed in the line of duty on February 15, 1997 when apprehending a bank robbery suspect. Michael David Moore was an avid outdoorsman and loved to fish, and loved Lake Fork. There could be no other tribute as fitting to Garland Police Officer's fallen brother's memory than the creation of this annual bass tournament.

This year's tournament drew 198 teams to fish. It is a one day team tournament with

a 5 fish limit brought to the scales. The top 25 teams of the tournament were paid for their great catches with weights ranging from 13.24-pounds to 8.27-pounds for 25th place.

Two places were paid for big bass of the tournament. Winning 1st big bass and a check for \$2,600 was the team of Gordy and Blundell with an over the slot weighing 8.15-pounds. Winning 2nd big bass and a check for \$1,100 was the team of Maeker and Maeker with a bass weighing 2.65-pounds.

Gordy and Blundell also won 1st place overall with a total weight of 13.24-pounds winning them another \$3,000; 2nd place team of Brossett/Garnett weight of 10.5-lbs. for \$1,375; 3rd place team of Butler/Polley with a weight of 10.5-lbs. for \$1,375; 4th place team of Walker/Smith with a weight of 10.29-lbs. for \$1,000; 5th place team of Killingsworth/Rener with a weight of 10.29-lbs. for \$900; 6th place team of Cowart/Houge with a weight of 9.9-lbs. for \$800; 7th place team of Davis/Vanpelt with a weight of 9.4-lbs. for \$700; 8th

(Continued on Next Page)

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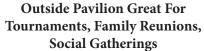
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place team of Climer/ Climer with a weight of 9.31-lbs. for \$600; 9th place team of Stapleof 9.17-lbs. for \$500; 10th place was the team with a weight of 9.09lbs for \$400. Eleventh through 20th places were paid \$300 per team with weights ranging from 9.07-pounds

21st through 25th place paid \$250 with weights rangton/Page with a weight ing from 8.4-pounds 8.27-pounds.

Most of the anglers of Goodman/Esparza participated in buying raffle tickets with all of the great prizes that were donated for this great cause. All of the funds benefit the Shriners Hospital for

8.42-pounds; Children. All of their many sponsors are to be thanked for their generous donations for such a great cause.

> To learn more about the Mad Dog Moore tournament go to www. maddogmoore.com.

Fish Friendly Practice Good Sportsmanship



The Team of Gordy and Blundell not only won 1st Place heavy stringer in the Mad Dog Moore Memorial bass tournament with a weight of 13.24-pounds but also won an additional check for heaviest bass of the tournament weighing 8.15-pounds.

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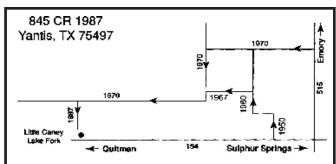
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# Who's Who Review "Country Store" (Continued from Page 1-A)

Foundation". Lake Fork Baptist Church lent already low prices. the use of their trailer and tents for the occasion. Each visitor could fill out an entry for purchased the Counsome great prizes that were given away in the try Store located on drawing. If this wasn't incentive enough, all Hwy. 515, on August items in the store were discounted 25% off their 26, 2016 and their

Bailey Byers from Forney, Texas was the first to have her name drawn from all of the entries and on her dad's suggestions she chose a prize from the bass category.

Brian and Melissa first day to open was on that Labor Day. At the time of purchase they were here looking to buy a home when they heard of the business for sale. Melissa's mother and father had been living here for two years and they wanted to live closer to them. At the time they were living in Memphis, Texas in the Panhandle. Brian loves to bass fish and what better place than on Lake Fork, so the decision to purchase was easy and their new home

is under construction.

Brian and Melissa base their business on great ethics. Public reaction has been good. They are also the local distributors of live bait, including black saltys, minnows, and waterdogs when in season. They

have a good attitude and they also have and provide excellent service to local marinas with live bait. If you are looking for bait or tackle, they have a good selection and low competitive prices. They carry artificial baits for bass, crappie and bream

that catfish bait you may be looking for.

If you haven't made the acquaintance of Melissa and Brian at the country store, stop in meet some great people and welcome them to Lake Fork.



The Hot Dogs were grilled to perfection, the chips were great, and the beverages ice cold for all guests to come and get acquainted.





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# Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 5-A)

year old Ruger Long \$5,000 for catching from Teague, Texas. He took home \$1,500 for the hour, a 2017 Triton 18 TRX, powered by Mercury, a RAM Truck and an additional \$2,000 in cash. Third Place overall weight was Chad O'Neal from Amity, Arkansas with a 10.38-pound bass. For his efforts he won \$1,500 for the hour, a 2017 Triton 18 TRX powered by Mercury, and an additional \$1,000 in cash. Fourth Place was Perry Dixon Jr. with a 9.56-pound bass. He won \$1,500 for the hour plus an additional \$8,000 in cash. Fifth Place was Clyde Stephenson from Van Alstyne, Texas with a 9.08-pound bass. He took home \$1,500 for the hourly plus an additional \$6,000 for catch. Winning

the heaviest bass under the slot was Matthew Messmer from Ballwin, Missouri with a weight of 2.55-pounds.



The Elimination Draw Boat was won by Terry DeWitt from Orange, Texas. He took home a 2017 Triton 189 TRX powered by Mercury. In the open drawing Cody Ledbetter from Greenwood, Arkansas won an Academy Shopping Spree and a Fire Disc Grill.

Winners in the Little Anglers Division are to be congratulated also. They were Lain and

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Woodard,

Luke Tomlinson, Nathan Brookman, Kaleb Alexander Finch Jr., Hunter Whitney, Cash Harrison, Izzy Stroman, Nathan Brookman, Luke Hamilton, Josh Arrant, Fisher Nalls, Max Garvin, Hudson Blundell, Colton Mackey and Brady Gordy. These

young anglers are the future of our sport and we will be seeing them tournament fishing in the future.

The Lake Fork Sportsman Association Live Release Boat did an excellent job returning all of the bass into the lake in great health to grow bigger and to be

day. This organization truly looks out for the future of Lake Fork!

We hope to see

you all again next year on Lake Fork. For more information and the daily hourly weights go to www. outdoors.com.

To learn more about

caught again another Sealy Outdoors Tournaments and schedules vou can contact Nicole Sealy at nicolesealy@sealyoutdoors. com or call 409-382-3876 or 888-698-2591.

> Practice Safe **Boating**

# Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

36th Semi-Annual Open Tournament October 7, 2017 \* Lake Fork, Texas

Oak Ridge Marina \* 2919 W. St. Hwy. 154

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



There will be a big bass pot  $\sim$  \$10 per person entry Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)

> 1st Place \$500.00 2nd Place \$300.00 **3rd Place**

2. Early entries must be postmarked by Sept. 30, 2017.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017. 4. 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. 5. To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing 6. Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station). NO FISHING from midnight till start time 7. Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailering allowed)

8. 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 runnin 10. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in. 11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their pos

session at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.

12. Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will weighed (or state law limits at the time of the tor 13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting

(No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used. 14. Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at signin). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m. 15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags

1 Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00

16. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish. 17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).

18. Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish

weighed in become the property of Texas Trails Bassm be released (with the exception of trophy or dead fish).

19. In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following position will be com bined and evenly divided between the tying contestants. 20. Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to this tournament. 21. Contestants may fished with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.

22. Use of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES or CONTROLLED DRUGS are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in 23. Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish 24. Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon Texas Trails Bassmasters effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualificaion from this and all future Texas Trails Bassmasters tournaments 25. Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age 26. All protests must be registered in writing with the tourna ment judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an Open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.

27. All boats must be 8 feet in length or longer. An aerated live well is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish. 28. All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this Texas Trails Bassmasters event. 29. Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification pass such a test will result in disqu

Additional Information



For more information or for information on joining Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork visit our website 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

early.		
Name	 	
Email		
Address		
City	Zip	
Having read and understood the tournamen final. By my signature I waive, release and liabilities to me and/or my equipment.		
Contestant Signature	 	
Minor's release: Signed by	Parent/Guard	ian







TTB USE ONLY

Entry #

Big Bass

Cash

## **Topwater Favorites\_**

As a fishing guide, I get asked a lot of questions. One of the most frequently asked questions is, "When is the best time to catch them on topwater?" It's just about everybody's favorite way to catch a bass. Nothing brings customers more enjoyment than a good day throwing topwater lures.

Most of us think of spring time for fishing surface baits. However, the fall can be even better at times. I've had my best topwater days in the month of October. I remember reading the old Bassmaster maga-



zines as a kid, and being taught that topwater fishing was a good way to catch "better than average" sized bass. Actually, what we call big bass here on Lake Fork, and what the typical tournament angler calls a big bass aren't quite the same thing. Truthfully, topwater fishing doesn't produce as many fish over 10 pounds as some other techniques, but it sure is fun! Undoubtedly there is someone reading this article that will disagree because they once caught a double-digit bass on the surface. I'm not saying it doesn't happen once in a while.

My favorite topwater lures are: popping style baits, "spook" type baits, and hollow bodied frogs. For the poppers, nothing beats a Yellow Magic in my opinion. When I began guiding on Lake Fork and I saw veteran guides consistently paying nearly \$20 a piece for these when there were plenty of other brands on the wall at less than half the price, I payed attention! It has become one of my favorites, and I can't tell you how many smiles it has put on clients faces in my boat.

"Spook" style lures have probably accounted for more numbers of bass than any other topwater for my customers and I. It takes a little practice, but the "walk the dog" retrieve drives fish nuts! I tend to throw the bigger cigar shaped baits in spring, while the smaller versions work better for me in the fall. There are way too many to choose from, and there are definitely times subtle differences in brand make a difference. Some good ones to have in your arsenal are the Zara Spook (One Knocker version), Reaction Innovations "Vixen", and the Evergreen "Shower Blows". It's simply a matter of experimenting to see which one they hit best.

Hollow bodied frogs are the heavy hitters of the topwater category. They have accounted for the biggest of all my topwater fish. Flooded shoreline cover or aquatic vegetation are requirements for this technique, but when the time is right it can be phenomenal! This is another technique where the walking motion is critical. I have literally had a customer in the back of the boat out-fish the customer in the front 19 to 1, with identical frogs. The difference maker? The guy in the back could make his frog "walk" from side to side. With a little practice almost anyone can do it.

Hopefully this gives you some ideas and will give you some more enjoyment this month as you fish. If I can be of any assistance on your upcoming trip to Lake Fork, please don't hesitate to call me.



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Hours: Tues. thru Fri. 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sat. ~ 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed Monday

### TPWD Launches Scale Loaner (Continued from Page 7-A)

have on the sustainability of local bass populations. But the biggest barrier to implementing the catch, weigh and immediate release format was the initial cost of the scales, which exceeded \$6,000 for a set of 60. "When I saw that number I thought 'There's no way I can do this," Cottner said. "So when I heard about the scale loaner program I jumped on it - it's alleviated that upfront cost to help me build up the funds that we need to evenThe 60 loaner scales were ganizations in Texas to originally donated to successfully incorporate TPWD for use during the a catch, weigh and im-Toyota Texas Bass Clas- mediate release format sic (TTBC), a tournament into their tournament. that pioneered the catch, weigh and immediate re- of fear as far as putting lease format. After a 10 on a tournament of this vear run, the TTBC was format," Cottner said. "A replaced by the TBTF, lot of people are looking which uses a different set at this and saying 'This is of scales provided by tour-something that can work nament organizer B.A.S.S. in Texas.' We are laying By using the loaner scales the foundation and setno longer needed for the ting the standard as far TTBC, Cottner said Pro Am Bass Trails is one

tually purchase them." of the first local level or-"This cracked the shell (See TPWS Launches...

Continued on Page 21 -A)







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## Big Bass Hunting Time on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

ter is on the clear side, use the willow blades. Murky water will call for the Colorado blades. Falling water temps will also issue in a better deep bite as bass start to group up. Deep structures, road beds, points and ridges should all come alive as these fish search for food to fatten up for the winter. Once the afternoon rolls around, start looking deep for bait and you will find bass that just flat live there year round. The electronics are key to this success and once you locate a sizeable wad of fish, pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. You



can start with a Carolina rig using any big worm to fool the bass. Blue fleck, Watermelon red and plum all work well. A stand up head is also a great tool for these fish using the same worms. My mantra is "if I can see them, I can catch them". It's game on for video fishing and the drop shot rules the roost for this type of play. Put the worm right in front of their nose and wait for the rod to load up. It don't get much better than that. If you spot the big arc's suspended, dig out a 5 inch Talon spoon, count it down and hold on. A magnum fluke will work equally well if the wind is not howling. Use a heavy rod and 20lb line for this application.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in October 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 October and some in November. 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 and Instagram at DavidOzioLakeForkGuide. I post my daily trip results on this page. 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."



Devon Jung with David Ozio



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#### TPWD Launches Scale Loaner (Continued from Page 19-A)

as how it can be done." Pro Am Bass Trails uses the same catch, weigh and immediate release format as Major League Fishing, which allows anglers to see how they rank among their competitors as soon as the judges enter the fish weight into a mobile application. Linwood said the portable, certified scales are a vital component to quickly getting the fish back into the water where it came from to reduce the chance of delayed mortality. "Unless bass fishing takes a decline, this catch and release type of tournament format is going to help sustain the health of Texas waterways," Cottner said. "And the loaner program is going to be a key factor in that.' MLF co-founder and pro angler Gary Klein said that among the professionals, the catch, weigh and release process averages around 20 seconds. Aside for the concern for fish care, he said this speedy process has the added benefit of increasing the intensity of the competition for anglers who compete in this format. "You take somebody like me that has benefited from public resources and the fisheries, and I'd like to give something back, I'd like to see our fisheries continue to get better," Klein said. "This format is a win-win for everybody involved... I would like to see our format become the new norm, and become recognized as the way the game is played." Pro Am Bass Trails will use the loaner scales again at their Solo Cup Round One tournament Oct. 1 at Lake Belton, an event Cottner expects will draw

between 30-60 anglers. "We've already exceeded the people registered than we had at our first event," Cottner said. "I'm very humbled and excited to be taking care of this fishing trail. I love it to death." Terre said if demand for the loaners scales grows, fisheries staff may look into having more scale kits available in regional

or district offices for local tournament organizers throughout the state. For more information about the scale loaner program, contact Dave Terre at dave. terre@tpwd.texas.gov.

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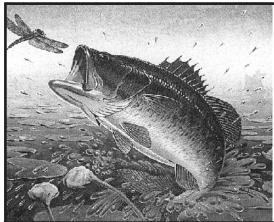
## **Subject Search**

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

GEOMETRY

ALGEBRA

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MERCURY LOWRANCE

#### **TPWD Texas** Graduates 41 Game State Park **Police Officers** Wardens and

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department graduated the 61st Texas game warden and state park police officer cadet class Aug. 1 at the Texas State Capitol. The class included 34 game wardens and seven state park police officers.

Following their seven month preparation at the TPWD Game Warden Training Center in Hamilton County, the newly-commissioned state peace officers were recognized during a special ceremony that included a keynote speaker, oath of office and commissioning by senior-level department staff and TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith.

"Every one of you game wardens and park police officers, you've got a mighty fine office, and with that mighty fine office comes great privileges and awesome responsibilities," Smith told the class. "So as you move forward to your charge let me be unambiguous as to what our expectations are of all of you - we the state of Texas, we the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, we the members of the communities where you will live, work, serve and raise your families, always expect you to be pillars of strength and leadership, resolute character and virtue, fair beyond reproach,

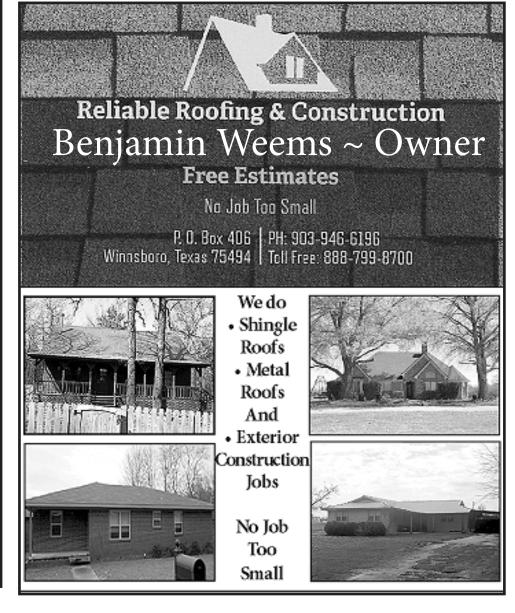
and unfailing in times of disaster and duress."

The graduates will begin their new careers stationed in counties and state parks throughout the state.

The duties of a Texas game warden include the enforcement of all state laws, but primarily hunting, fishing and water safety regulations. As fully commissioned state peace officers, they respond to emergencies, assist other law enforcement agencies and work to educate the public about conservation issues.

State park police, commissioned state peace officers, provide law enforcement services to the

(Continued on Next Page)



state parks and help enforce laws within their local jurisdictions.

All graduates met the state-mandated requirements for peace certification, officer including criminal and constitutional law, firearms, self-defense. use of force, defensive driving, arrest, search and seizure, ethics and first aid. The new wardens and

dens and 152 park police officers currently in the field and will help enforce TPWD regulations and carry the department's high standards to every corner of the state.

park police are join-

ing the 506 game war-

These are the new game wardens and park police and the coun- Joseph ties or parks in which drix

visitors and users of they will be stationed: ing/Winkler Texas Game Wardens Matthew A. Amund- -Gustavo Jr. - Travis County Preston (Raj) Hani Orange Zapata Coty G. Castro - Jared В. Austin **Brooks** Dustin Delgado - Daw- Michael son/Borden Dillon Eizem- Wade Т. ber - Calhoun County -Clinton ler - Travis County Terrell Josh J. Gordon - Derek Hale/Floyd Brewster Kyle P. Hendley Blake Nueces C. - Ward/Lov- Red

County David W. Hill Sabine County son - Harris County Kirk M. Hornsby -Armas, Comanche County Kl-J. Ataya eman Lamb/Bai-County County ley/Cochran Atkinson William M. Korne-County lis - Val Verde County C. Lew-San Jacinto County is - Zapata County Cry- Charles D. Mauppin, er - Shelby County Jr. - Newton County Javier De Leon, Jr. Jacob H. McMahen County - Calhoun E. County rick - Zapata County Η. Pierce County Gay- Forrest Price County Renn-County spies - Milam County Richard L. Hays - Luke A. Richard - San County Augustine County Satter-County field - Kinney County Hen- Joseph D. Sellers -

River

W. gler - Cass County -Ryan D. Ste-Swisher/ vens Briscoe County P. Stew-Andrew ard - Harris County Jimmy West Cass County Preston L. Whisen-

Span- Douglas W. Aransas County State Park Police Officers John C. Barlow - Lake Whitney State Park Jason Bigham Huntsville State Park Kailie C. Branson - Garner State Park hunt - Hood County Jade M. Carter - San

White Angelo State Park Stephen M. Dishong Franklin State Park tains Ethan R. Turner -Garner State Jake E. Voigt - Palo Duro Canyon State Park

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