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Bassin' With Bubba



By Don Bubba Hampton

Cold water fishing can be very rewarding on Fork for those folks who want to catch big bass with hardly any fishing pressure. Some deep water humps and ridges near the dam area and mouth of Big and Little Caney creeks will get crowded, but most are crappie fishing. Those same crappie areas are also some of the best bass areas. Deep water humps near the dam offer some of the best crappie, bass, barfish and white bass fishing that can be had anywhere. During January with most of Fork's baitfish population migrate to these deep water areas and Fork's predatory fish are not far behind.

Jigging spoons in a variety of sizes from 1/2 inch to eight

to ten inches long can be productive. Tailkickers and sidewinder spoons are good lures to use. These lures will catch everything even big bass. When you are tired of catching on spoons and tailkicker type baits and want to catch that dream bass, swim baits on ³/₄ jighead is hard to beat.

With cold fronts passing through every five to seven days, bass will be moving from back ends of major creeks to mouths of creeks. Right after a cold front most bass will be at the mouth of major creeks. During warming trends they move toward the mid-section. The shallow bite during warming trends will be off secondary points and main lake points. Points or banks that have creek channels close by and hydrilla fields that have creek channels meandering through them are some top shallow water areas. When fishing shallow areas cold water bass, use hard suspending jerk baits in shad or gold pattern with orange belly, six to twelve inch size. Match your lure size to the size of baitfish that bass are feeding on. These baits are top producers. Jig/ pig and worms in a variety of sizes are also very effective. You must be very patient and fish slowly in cold water. Bass' metabolism has slowed down and they do not feed as frequently as during warm weather, but they will feed. Once they decide to eat bait, their reaction time is the same, whether it is cold or warm water.

During warming trends bass will actually move up to the top of grass or hard structure and suspend. This is when red or orange lipless cranks can be very rewarding on Fork's big bass. With suspended jerk baits during and right after frontal conditions, jig/pig and Texas-rigged worms fished slowly in and around hard structure or grass can pay off big.

Don't miss out on the action. I am now taking bookings for winter trips on Monticello, Lake Welch and Lake Fork, plus it is not too early to book for spring on Lake Fork. If you are planning a trip to Lake Fork and need a guide, general fishing information or an updated fishing report to make your Lake Fork fishing experience a good one, you can call me at 903-360-6994 (cell) or 903-383-7748 (land line) or you can email me at fishnews@lakefork.net. Bookings are available for fall trips.

Bubba is sponsored by Legend Boats, Mercury Marine, Sartin Marine, Lake Fork Trophy Lures, Gene Larew, Luck E Strike Lures, Bubbette and the Good Lord!







email: fishnews@lakefork.net

Game Warden Field Notes

The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports.

--Repeat Offender--An individual was apprehended recently in Montgomery County for hunting without landowner consent. The subject, whose hunting privileges were suspended due to a prior conviction for road hunting, was also charged with Class A hunting while license suspended. A compound bow and digital recorder were seized as evidence.

--Back to the Scene of the Crime--While investigating the death of a deer found on a roadway in a residential neighborhood, a Comal County game warden discovered evidence of a small bullet hole wound in the deer's chest and determined it had been killed illegally. The warden interviewed nearby witnesses who stated there was a man walking around earlier in the day wearing camouflage clothing. As the warden was conducting interviews, a neighborhood resident wearing full camouflage appeared at the crime scene and began asking questions about the deer. The warden quickly surmised the man to be a potential suspect and began asking questions of his own. During questioning, the man confessed to killing the deer with a .177 caliber air rifle. He had no hunting license, killed the deer out of season, failed to retrieve his kill and did not have hunter education certification. Cases and restitution pending.

--**Taking the Bait**--While inspecting dove hunters as they were coming into camp, a Cameron County warden noticed milo in the bed of their truck. After questioning all three hunters, the warden determined all were hunting migratory game over bait. The warden seized 47 birds and several citations were issued.

--Mixed Bag--During a routine traffic stop on a vehicle with no tail lights, a Cameron County game warden observed several mourning dove and bobwhite quail in the bed of the truck. The occupants of the vehicle admitted to hunting quail out of sea-son and taking dove without a hunting license. The birds were seized and several citations were issued.

--First Time and Hopefully the Last-- A Bexar County game warden responded to an OGT (Operation Game Thief) call on Calavares Lake that led to citations issued for possession of nine undersized red drum ranging in length from 12-16 inches. The minimum length limit on Calavarez is 20 inches with a three fish daily bag limit. While receiving his citations, all the fisherman would say was, "It was my first time!" Charges pending.

--Pre-seasoned Dove Field--While on patrol in Duval County, game wardens observed high concentrations of dove in a particular field compared to surrounding areas. While one of the wardens questioned a couple of hunters in the target rich environment, his partner checked the field and discovered scattered milo throughout. It is illegal to use bait to attract migratory game birds. The hunters denied any knowledge of the bait and said they had hunted the same field earlier in the day with good success. They also were hunting with an unplugged shotgun in violation of migratory game bird hunting regulations and had harvested a woodpecker and an Inca dove illegally. The hunters were issued several citations and all birds were seized. The wardens then contacted the landowner of the baited field, who admitted to placing milo across 400 acres to attract dove and signed a voluntary statement to that effect. --Snake in the Road- Game wardens were patrolling Borden County on opening day of pronghorn season, watching hunters and listening for shots in the distance when they heard a shot come from behind them about 100 yards away. When they turned around they saw a truck on a nearby highway take off at a high rate of speed. The wardens pursued the vehicle and eventually made contact. As they passed the area where the truck was previously stopped, the wardens saw a dead rattlesnake in the road that apeared to have been shot. The suspects were cited

(See Game Warden Continued on Page 5-B)



A New Take On An Old Favorite

By Sue Hampton

Here's an easy-to-prepare, nutritious and colorful salsa recipe with a decided twist. The key ingredient? Sweet potatoes from Texas!

"What I love about this recipe is how easy it is to prepare and the fact that the ingredients are fresh, healthy and readily available," it's a perfect accompaniment to grilled meats and fish, or it can be served with chips as a crowd-pleasing appetizer. It's distinct, new and totally unexpected!!



Easy-to-find, healthy and fresh ingredients make this salsa recipe a hit on the health and flavor charts!

What makes it different and diced

is the addition of roasted sweet potatoes. When guests find out that the bright orange recipe ingredient is sweet potato, they love it even more, both for its uniqueness and flavor. Sweet potatoes have been ranked number one in nutrition of all vegetables.

Texas Roasted Sweet **Potato Salsa**

2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and chopped into ¹/₂-inch pieces

- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup olive oil 1 tablespoon balsamic or
- red wine vinegar 1 teaspoon chili powder

1/2 teaspoon ground cumin

1 tomato, cored and chopped

1 red bell pepper, cored, seeded and chopped into $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch dice (about 1 cup) 2 fresh jalapenos, seeded

2 scallions, minced (green and white part) 2 tablespoons fresh,

chopped cilantro Juice and zest of 1 large lime (about 2 tablespoons)

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400F. In a medium bowl, toss the sweet potatoes with the olive oil, vinegar, chili powder and cumin and spread in one layer on a large, rimmed baking pan. Place in the oven and roast for 30 to 35 minutes, stiring a couple of times, until the potatoes are golden brown and soft. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool.

In a medium bowl, place the tomato, red bell pepper, jalapenos, scallions, cilantro, lime juice and

zest with the sweet potatoes; toss until combined. Season with salt and pepper and serve warm with mately 3-1/4 cups.

eggs, tostadas, grilled steak, pork chops or chicken. Makes approxi-



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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 3-B)

for hunting nongame from a public roadway.

--Compound Infraction-- A Lubbock County game warden responded to a complaint about a man hunting dove without landowner consent, but by the time he got on the scene the suspect had already fled. Armed with a description of the suspect's truck and the direction he was headed, the warden decided to follow. He'd traveled only about a mile when the warden spotted a vehicle that matched the description drive slowly along the highway and then turn onto private property where the driver fired two shots from his vehicle. The man was arrested for hunting dove from a vehicle and hunting dove without landowner consent.

--What about the Other Pronghorn?--Game wardens were patrolling Dallam County during the opening weekend of the pronghorn season when they spotted a pickup traveling at a high rate of speed down a county road. They followed the vehicle to a farm where a father and two sons had shot a pronghorn. After the initial check revealed a possible pronghorn hunting permit violation, one of the wardens spotted a second pronghorn laying in the wheat field about 150 yards away. It was apparent no one in the group was going to acknowledge the second animal, but after a quick interview one of the youths admitted to shooting both animals. A citation was written for exceeding the annual bag limit and a

warning for hunting without a valid permit. Charges and civil restitution for a 60 Inch Boone and Crockett pronghorn are pending. The meat was donated to a needy family in Dalhart.

--Another Shocking Discovery-- A Comanche County game warden was watching a park on Lake Proctor where he had reports of people keeping illegally caught fish. A boat with three occupants soon approached the dock. A woman got off the boat and a man handed her a cooler. The cooler appeared heavy and the woman had a difficult time carrying it up to her vehicle. The woman left the parking lot while the men loaded the boat with another truck. The warden stopped the woman in the park and asked to check the cooler. She refused to allow the inspection so the warden waited for the men to arrive and asked them what was in the cooler. They both denied any knowledge of the cooler or contents. The warden removed the cooler and was surprised to find an ancient hand cranked fish shocking device inside. All three were charged with possession of a fish shocker within a half mile of public water and the woman for failure to allow inspection.

--Crying Wolf-- A Willacy County game warden set up observation of a public fishing pier from a distance after getting a tip regarding fishermen keeping under-sized spotted seatrout. He watched as three fishermen caught trout and put them in a bucket. As the fishermen were about to leave, one of them dumped the bucket of fish on the pier's fish cleaning station and another shouted "warden, warden" in a joking way to scare his buddy. The warden then approached the group and all of them were shocked to learn the warden was actually watching them. None of the fishermen had fishing licenses, all the fish were undersized and all fishermen were over their daily bag limit of trout. Multiple citations were issued and 20 trout were seized. Cases pending.

--Third Time's a Charm--Further evidence that some people just don't learn from their mistakes, a Titus County game warden was having a conversation in a parking lot on the White Oak Creek Wildlife Management Area when he was interrupted by a man who asked the warden out of the blue if he wanted to inspect his hunting license. The warden recognized the man as a convicted felon he had filed charges on twice before for possession of a firearm and obliged the request. The warden then discovered the felon was once again in possession of a firearm, a 12 gauge shotgun and ammunition. The man also had two freshly killed cat squirrels in his vehicle. A criminal history check identified at least six felony convictions and the suspect was arrested for a third time for felon in possession of a firearm.

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"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

January



January

"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"



"Every child deserves a chance to fish!" Children diagnosed or who have experienced a life-threatening illness or accident sometimes do not have that opportunity. Now through the "Wish to Fish Foundation" they can have that day in the sun with their family. Any family with a child between the ages 3 to 18 years of age that has been diagnosed or treated for a life-threatening illness or accident is invited to come fish Lake Fork for any species of fish at <u>NO COST!</u> Lodging, meals, and fishing are provided for. This allows the family to spend quality time together fishing without worries or expenses. The outing includes one night lodging, meals, refreshments, snacks, all on a 26' Tritoon Pontoon, (accompanied with a 9-1-1 chase boat for any emergency that may occur. All bait and fishing equipment provided. If you are, or know of a family that meets the above criteria, contact us! Help us spread the word, we are here for the children!

For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director visit our website: www.wishtofishfoundation.com

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January

JR SIMPSON 03-850-332 EMAIL: jr.simpson@century21.com Office: 800-254-7541 - Fax: 903-763-4487 www.c21lakecountryrealty.com Lake Country Lake Country UPDATED BRICK HOME This home has HIGH QUALITY, CUSTOM BUILT, buildfresh paint everywhere, new carpet in beders personal waterfront home on Lake Fork cooms, vinyl in bathrooms, ceramic tile in has all the amenities you could ask for. From kitchen and no more popcorn ceilings. This Foam insulation to Travertine tile, Granhome is absolutely move in ready! Walking disite Counters & Knotty Alder Cabinets. Intance to Quitman schools and 15 minutes or ground pool with hot tub & waterfall plus a less to World Famous Lake Fork. 2 car garage bonus room upstairs with an office. Home is with new garage doors and a new opener, 2 stall on 2 lots with 1.3 acres plus leaseback, plenty carport and an 8x10 storage building. of room for a peir and a boat house. Yantis \$594,000 Quitman \$92,500 **39+ ACRES IN WINNSBORO** Located in SPACIOUS 3/2/2 BRICK HOME has been re-3-2 D) UK 0-3 REDUCED cently updated & features a copper metal roof, a great area, this 39.3 acre tract is mostly levan office/craft room, two dining areas and sepael, heavily wooded, partially fenced and lots rate utility room. Gas starter wood burning brick of the underbrush has already been cleared. fireplace covers an entire wall with cedar mantel There is a new road all the way to the back of and shelving. Wide open floor plan with vinyl the property and some partial clearing. This plank flooring throughout the home with a 10x30 would be a great place to build a secluded screened in porch, 12x20 shed and a hot tub. Lohome in the woods. No restrictions or zoncated across the street from Yantis schools. ing! Call JR for details! Winnsboro\$139,900 Yantis \$139,000 HOME NEAR LAKE HOLBROOK on a 30x50 INSULATED METAL BUILDING wooded corner lot, property is landscaped completely heated and cooled. Workshop with beautiful ornamental trees & shrubs. area with three nice offices and a half bath-This 4 bedroom, 2 bath home features an enroom. Secured fenced in area out back and closed screened porch, covered deck, and ata new septic system. Located just outside tached garage plus a detached garage work-Quitman City Limits. Motivated Seller Says shop, storage bldg & a fenced area for pets & 'Bring Your Best Offer" kids. Plenty of room for your boat and RV! Property also has a water well for irrigation. Quitman \$74,900 Mineola \$259,000 PARK MODEL RV ON LAKE FORK LOCATED IN EMORY INDUSTRIAL PARK Located on Lake Fork waterfront at Pelican Formerly a doctor's office building, this custom Point RV Park. This park model RV has deckbuilt building features metal and stone coning on three sides and a covered porch overstruction. Interior has a nice lobby or reception area, multiple rooms for offices, full kitchen looking Lake Fork. RV park has a community boat ramp and is very close to this well mainand 2 bathrooms with a stall shower AND livtained RV. There is a loft for the kids or your ing quarters upstairs. Building has a garage with grandkids. All furnishings are included. Call receiving area and roll-up door. Call JR for de-

Emory \$262,000

3,200 SQFT LAKE FORK RESTAURANT

tailed information.

IN YANTIS Reduced Price \$183,900 OR LEASE FOR \$1,250 Established restaurant has Lake Fork leaseback available to make this property waterfront on Lake Fork. 2.7 acres of deeded property and a 3,200 sqft building with commercial septic system. Everything is included that you need to keep the restaurant going or build your own business here. Seller says there are no known deed restrictions on property. Also available for lease, call for details.

Complete Restaurant Sports Bar with everything you need to get started! Shuffle board, dishes, refrigerators, fryers, tables, chairs, bar stools & dance floor with stage for the band. Security system & video surveillance! POS system in place. Neat, clean and ready for business quickly. Bring your best written offers! Owner Financing with 20% down & approved credit.

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