# "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" B Section February, 2017 Page 1-B

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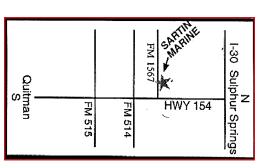
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#### Bassin' With Bubba



By Don Bubba Hampton

February kicks off big bass time on Lake Fork. When daylight starts getting longer and the moon gets close to full, big females who live in deep water most of their lives will start moving to shallow water hangouts. They are hungry and will be feeding on anything that gets in their way. Once they familiarize themselves with their new shallow water environment and set up in their core area, they will be more difficult to catch. Remember, anytime older age class bass move into shallow water, it is easier to catch them than when they are in their deeper water sanctuary. You always hear that small male bass are the first group to move into shallows to start their spawning ritual; that they are the first to start building nest sites, but the

big females have moved weeks before to set up house around these spawning sites. Longer days trigger older age class bass to move to these shallow water hangouts.

Water temperature reaching that magic sixty to sixty-five degrees and full moon will put big 'uns on the spawn flats looking for the perfect nesting site and partner. Water temperature plays a key role in which creeks or areas of the lake will have the hottest action. Look for areas protected from prevailing winds, northwest facing banks, protective coves and turbid water as these are generally the first areas to warm up. Be mobile. Water temperature can and will change daily. Find the creeks or coves that are a few degrees warmer than the surrounding area and you are in business. Don't overlook Fork's many underwater ponds or small lakes at the back end of creeks and coves. These ponds are marked on Lake Fork maps and are some of the top staging areas for Fork's big ones.

Cover a lot of water to locate these big females. Big spinner baits in red, chartreuse and white; lipless crank baits in reds, chartreuse and perch patterns are top producers. Once you locate a staging area, slow down and fish the area thoroughly with black jig, craw, Texas-rigged and Carolina-rigged lizards in watermelon, chartreuse and black/blue. Soft & hard jerk baits in reds, perch patterns are some top colors and lure selections.

Don't get your heart broken. February is not small lure or light action month. Use large lures heavy, stout tackle and line class should be in the twenty pound plus range if you are after one of Fork's dream bass. Light tackle will catch big fish, but the odds will be in your favor with heavy tackle.

February brings the worst weather of the year with a cold front every four to five days. Fishing will be good during consistent weather patterns and awesome during and before cold fronts and poor right after a front passes. Most bass will stay in and around their shallow water area even after front passes and water temperature drops. Generally they move closer to deep water break lines near their core area and suspend on ledges or hang close to bottom. When this happens, slow moving baits, jig, craw, Texas-rigged lizards are top producers. Your best fishing days will be during warming trends and just before a front hits.

Location, location, location is the main key to catching Fork's early spring bass. You need to start in upper ends of major creek arms: Fork and Garrett creeks on the west end to Running, Coffee and Big Caney creeks on the east end. Start at the back end of major creeks and position your boat in or near creek channels. Find the secondary points, main points and spawning flats that have a channel, ditch, ledge or steep break line close by and you should hook up.

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 spring and summer 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!





### **Game Warden Field Notes**

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

-Gone Fishin'-Acting on a trespassing complaint in Titus County, a game warden arrived on the scene to find an unoccupied vehicle parked along the property's fence line. About 15 minutes later, two men came walking toward the truck carrying fishing poles. One of the men already had an active arrest warrant for criminal trespass and both were arrested for trespassing. An additional charge of fishing without landowner consent was also filed.

-Be Right Back-A Bowie County game warden was patrolling near Spring Lake Park when he made contact with a fisherman who stated he left his fishing license at home. A records check revealed that the man did not have a valid fishing license and as warden returned to his patrol vehicle to complete the citation the subject fled the scene. A short time later, a car pulled up and the fisherman got out of the front passenger seat. The warden noticed in plain view a package that was later confirmed to contain synthetic marijuana in the floor of the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed 13 packages of synthetic marijuana. The fisherman and the driver of the vehicle were both arrested for possession of synthetic marijuana and transported to the Bowie County Jail. The fisherman was also cited for fishing without a license. Cases

pending

**-Easily Tracked-**A Morris County game warden on patrol observed a truck in the middle of a pasture spotlighting the area, which he knew was off limits to hunting. Upon making contact with the two men in the vehicle, the warden noticed two dogs fitted with GPS tracking collars in the bed of the pickup and a handheld GPS unit on the dashboard next to a spotlight. The men received citations for not having hunting licenses and were later arrested after the landowner filed criminal trespass charges.

—There's No Tag for an Illegal Buck—Acting on information he received about an untagged and illegal buck being taken, a game warden confronted the suspected violator who admitted to taking the illegal buck and not tagging it because he did not want to use his buck tag on the deer, which did not meet the minimum antler restrictions for the county. In addition to a citation for failing to tag the deer, the man was also cited for taking an illegal buck and failing to fill out the required license harvest log. The antlers were confiscated and the venison donated to a local needy family. Cases and restitution pending.

**—Double Dipping Dove—** While patrolling Frio County for illegal dove hunting activity, a warden came upon several trucks parked near a fence line bordering a pasture and a group of hunters nearby. After making contact and checking the group for com-

pliance, the warden noted all the hunters were close to their daily bag limits and asked if there were more doves flying in the morning or in the afternoon. The group proudly answered the morning was much better and that they had gotten easy limits of birds in the morning. Realizing they had just admitted to what's commonly called "double dipping," taking a daily bag limit during a morning hunt and then another during an afternoon hunt, one of the men asked innocently, "Wait, is that allowed?" Charges were filed and 60 birds were seized.

-- Illegal Import--A Starr County game warden on patrol at Falcon State Park observed a suspicious vehicle enter the park and advised park police that it could be a scout vehicle or a load vehicle used in smuggling undocumented immigrants or narcotics. The warden and park police set up surveillance on the vehicle and also called in aerostat radar to monitor the area for suspicious activity. Shortly, the warden was made aware a vessel crossing from Mexico had dropped three individuals on the park shore and they had entered the suspected vehicle. Constant surveillance was maintained on the vehicle as it departed the park and after obtaining probable cause, the warden initiated a traffic stop with assistance from park po-lice and U.S. Border Patrol agents. The driver and three undocumented immigrants were turned over to U.S. Border Patrol.

(See Game Warden ...... Continued on Page 4-B)

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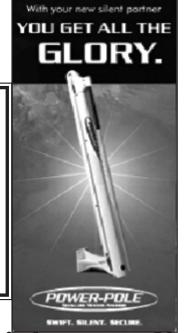


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### Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 3-B)

-Caught with a Bad Catch- Williamson County game wardens were checking fishing activities at the Granger Spillway when they came across three individuals loading fishing gear into a truck. Asked how the fishing was, one of the men said he had caught just two and showed them to the wardens. The wardens noticed a cast net and fishing line and hooks attached to two plastic bottles. It is illegal in Texas to use floating "juglines," fishing devices with line and hooks attached or cast nets to catch game fish. The wardens also found a white plastic bag containing undersized crappie and white bass. One of the men admitted to catching the crappie and bass and the other two said they used the homemade fishing devices to catch the rest. All three subjects were cited for not having fishing licenses, fishing by illegal means and methods and possession of undersized fish. Civil restitution cases were also filed.

**-A Sobering Situation**—The duties of a Texas game warden don't always involve illegal acts in the field. While on patrol in Del Rio, a Val Verde County game warden took quick action after observing a vehicle driving on the wrong side of a busy four-lane divided highway. He was able to pull the vehicle over without incident and upon making contact it became immediately apparent to the warden that the driver was extremely impaired. A state trooper arrived within minutes to assist and they were able to control traffic and

safely move the vehicle off the highway. Due to the condition of the driver, they were unable to perform standard field sobriety tests. However, a breath sample using the trooper's portable intoxilizer registered .209 BAC (blood alcohol content), more than twice the legal limit for driving while intoxicated. The driver was arrested and transported to county jail.

-Two for One-A Pecos County game warden received a call from a local ranch that had started their MLD (Managed Lands Deer) permit whitetail hunting. The ranch foreman stated that one of their hunters mistakenly harvested a mule deer and the hunter would not be leaving for a couple days. The warden made plans to head to the ranch first thing in the morning prepared to educate the hunter on wildlife identification and issue a citation for hunting mule deer in closed season. Before he could get to the ranch, the warden received another call from the foreman letting him know a second hunter had come in late with another mule deer. Both hunters said they thought they killed whitetail deer, but were not sure when they took the shot. Both hunters were cited for hunting mule deer in closed season. (Restitution pending)

—In the Spotlight— A Matagorda County game warden was on patrol in the College Port area when he observed a vehicle spot-lighting and the driver shoot from a public road. As the warden started to approach the vehicle, another truck appeared and dropped off

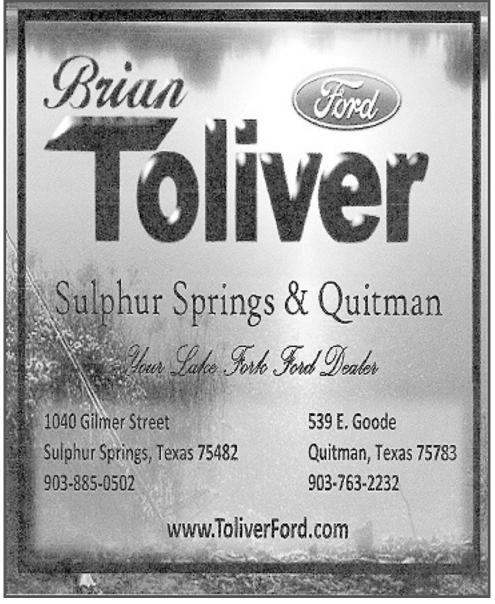
an individual in the field where the shooter had fired. Both vehicles drove away; the warden called another warden for backup, followed the vehicles and was able to stop both. With the aid of thermal imaging the wardens located and apprehended the individual in the field. The onsite investigation revealed that the suspect had wounded a whitetail buck, but was unable to find the deer. Drug paraphernalia was discovered in the suspect's vehicle, along with a spotlight, a .22 caliber hornet rifle and a spent shell casing. Statements were taken and numerous citations are pending.

**-Deked-**Acting on tips about individuals routinely shooting feral hogs and deer from the roadway at night, Red River County wardens deployed a full body mount deer decoy with radio controlled head movements that simulate a live buck. Shortly after setting up the deke, a truck stopped and the driver exited the vehicle and fired one shot at the decoy with a pistol. The subject was arrested for hunting from a public roadway and discharging a firearm from a public road. Other citations were issued related to alcohol. An investigation is ongoing regarding hunting deer in closed season and hunting deer at night.

**--No Deke Required-** A Bowie County game warden observed a vehicle moving slowly along a county road. A short time later the vehicle stopped in the middle of the roadway and the occupants began shooting

(See Game Warden ...... Continued on Page 5-B)





### Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 4-B)

at a herd of feral hogs that were crossing the road. The warden made contact with the vehicle and the four occupants were found to be in possession of a .22 caliber rifle and several alcoholic beverages. Multiple citations were issued for hunting from a public roadway, driving under the influence of alcohol-minor, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and minor in possession of alcohol. (Cases pending)

-Legal Deer, Illegal Harvest- A Titus County game warden received a photo on his cell phone from an informant showing a juvenile holding the head of a white-tailed deer he believed did not meet the county's antler restrictions. After enlarging the photo on a computer, the warden determined the deer to be a legal spike buck having at least one unbranched antler, but the informant had also indicated the juvenile was acting like he did something wrong. The warden identified the juvenile in the photo and made contact with him and his guardian. After interviewing the juvenile, it was discovered that three juvenile males and an 18-year-old male shot the deer off the road at night prior to the opening of deer season. The deer was shot with a bow and two .22 caliber rifles. The entire deer, except for the head, was then dumped deep in the woods on a private ranch. Citations were issued on a variety of violations including: hunting deer from a public road, hunting deer with the aid of artificial light, waste of game and no hunter education certification. (Cases and civil restitution pending)

-Early Start, Bad Call-On Oct. 28, a Shelby County game warden was on patrol when he received a tip about a whitetailed buck being cleaned at a nearby hunting camp. The warden arrived at the camp and found an 8-point buck that had been harvested that afternoon. The hunters claimed they had to track the buck for some time, which was their reasoning for cleaning it so late. Upon further investigation, the warden discovered that at the direction of his father who was occupying the same hunting stand, a juvenile had shot the buck with a rifle. The father confessed to telling his kid to shoot the buck a day before the youth-only weekend season. (Charges and restitution pending)

--Showing off His Trophy--A week prior to opening day of deer season, an Angelina County warden received information that a Huntington man shot an 8-point buck from his back porch while the deer fed at a feeder. The warden showed up at the suspect's residence, found evidence a deer had been shot under a feeder and during a search of the property for evidence, located a fresh deer carcass with the antlers removed. An ice chest with the quartered venison was also found. The suspect drove up shortly and after making contact, the warden discovered a set of deer antlers in the bed of his vehicle. The subject was issued a citation for hunting deer during closed season. (Case and civil restitution pending)





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Sauce

### French-Style Steak Adds Panache to Mid-Winter Gatherings

By Sue Hampton

The holidays are over but it's still cold outside! For your next dinner gathering you want to be sure to serve a meal that will not only charm your guests' palate, but also add warmth to a chilly winter

Try this intensely flavored pan-seared steak with a sweet-andsour condiment sauce. Delicious and easy-to-prepare, add only a simple garnish and this winter dish is sure to be a hit with friends and family alike at your next party!



Charm dinner guests with this pan-seared steak with a sweet-and-sour condiment sauce. Serve with a simple garnish, like roasted new potatoes to put the perfect finishing touch on a winter gettogether.

Pan-Seared Steak With A 1 tablespoon olive oil Sweet-And-Sour Condiment Sauce

(Serves 4)

(This recipe makes more than enough sauce for four people. Refrigerate the remainder to serve with other meats.)

#### For the Red Wine Sauce...

1 tablespoon olive oil 2-1/2 pounds beef shank, boned and cut into large cubes 2 onions, cut into large cubes 3 carrots, peeled and cut into large cubes

2 garlic cloves, un-peeled 3 tomatoes, cored and quar-

2 bottles (750 ml) each red wine

½ teaspoon fennel seeds 1 cup Veal Stock Coarse seal salt & 1/4 teaspoon finely ground pepper

#### For the Sour Cherry Sauce...

1-3/4 cups cherry vinegar 14 ounces fresh sour chemies, pitted

1-1/2 cups sour cherry nectar

1 onion, finely chopped 1 celery stalk, peeled and finely chopped

2 small shallots, fine-ychopped 1 - 1-1/2 pound shoulder or sirloin steak, 1-1/2 inches thick Coarse sea salt

#### 6 tablespoons unsalted butter To Prepare The Red Wine

Heat the oil in a large heavybottomed saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the beef shank and cook, stirring occasionally, until browned, five to seven minutes. Stir in the onion, carrots and garlic and cook, without coloring, stirring occasionally, until the onions are translucent, three to four minutes. Stir in the tomatoes and cook until softened two to three minutes. Add the wine and fennel, bring to a boil and reduce by half. Add the veal stock, salt to taste and the pepper, bring to a simmer, reduce the heat and simmer gently for 1-1/2 hours.

Strain the sauce through a fine sieve into a medium saucepan. Return to a simmer and cook until the sauce is thick and syrupy; you should have about 1-1/4 cups. Set aside.

#### To Prepare The Sour Cherry Sauce

Combine the vinegar, cherries and sour cherry nectar in a blender and blend to a coarse puree, 30 seconds.

Heat the olive oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion, celery and shallots and cook, without coloring, stirring occasionally, until translucent, three to four minutes. Add the sour cherry puree, remove from the heat. and let stand for one hour to

Bring the sour cherry sauce to a boil and reduce until very thick; you should have about 1-1/4 cups. Stir the sour cherry sauce into the red wine sauce and set aside.

#### To Cook The Steak

Heat a large castiron or other heavy-bottomed skillet over

medium heat until very hot. Season the steak with salt. Melt two tablespoons of the butter in the pan, add the steak and cook for six minutes. Add the remaining four tablespoons butter to the pan, turn the steak over and cook, basting often with the butter until the steak is rare, about six more minutes. Transfer the steak to a wire rack set over a platter and let rest for 10 minutes.

Pour off the fat from the pan and add two tablespoons water to the pan to deglaze, scrapping up the browned bits from the bottom. Strain the pan juices into the sauce and reheat the sauce over medium heat. Pour into a sauceboat.

To serve, thinly slice the steak against the grain. Arrange on four warmed plates and serve with the sauce on the side.



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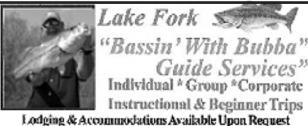
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### **February**

Feb. 11 ~ JC Outdoors Teams

Minnow Bucket

Feb. 18 ~ Media Bass

Minnow Bucket

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### March

Mar. 11 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket
Mar. 12 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
Mar. 18 ~ Media Bass Teams
Minnow Bucket
Mar. 18 ~ Texas Trails Open
Oak Ridge Marina
Mar. 19 ~ Mega Bass

Lake Fork Marina



## **April**

Apr. 8 ~ JC Outdoors Ind.

Minnow Bucket

Apr. 9 ~ JC Outdoors Solo

Minnow Bucket

Apr. 22 ~ Media Bass Teams

Minnow Bucket

Apr. 29 ~ Bass Champs North

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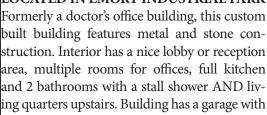


**ACRES** 12 X 24 unfinished one room cabin with two loft beds and a large covered back porch. Water and electric are all in place, there is no septic system. 3.82 Acres with nice size pond, 10 x 12 storage building, a two stall carport and a chain link fenced back yard. Located very close to World Famous Lake Fork. Call JR for more information today!



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Quitman \$277,500

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# 0

## 12 Places per hour

प्रकान क्षी पिल्पासन्ताना के प्रिकारी

**GUARANTEED** regardless of entries EVERY HOUR

1st place......\$15,000 2nd place......\$1,000 3rd place.....\$900 4th place.....\$800 5th place.....\$700 6th place.....\$500 7th place.....\$350 8th place.....\$300 9th place.....\$250 10th place.....\$200



## **T-shirt bonus**

11th ....\$150 12th ....\$150

**Even Weight** Bonus \$\$ 2.50 lb - \$500 - 3.00 lb - \$500 8.00 lb - \$500 - 9.00 lb - \$500 first even weights weighed in

Amateurs Only

निविधि

9th Annual



## Lake Fork March 19, 2017

**Lake Fork Marina** Entry Fee: \$160 per person

Checks NOT accepted on site On site registration times:

Fri. 3/17: 5-7 PM Sat. 3/18: 12-7 PM Sun. 3/19: 5 AM

**EARLY REGISTRAION DRAW PRIZES** 

Entries received before March 10th are eligible to win prizes from Costa, Chevron, Rigid, Abu Garcia and more.

For additional info. and rules go to www.basschamps.com or call 817-439-3274

Winners are responsible for taxes, titles, and license fees. Boat pictured may differ from actual prize. Over \$140,000 Cash, Skeeter boat & 15 places every hour are guaranteed regardless of entries.