

Bassin' With Bubba



By Don Bubba Hampton

Where was the winter this year? We did have a few nights that the temperature dropped down in the teens, but nothing severe. It would seem even the bass liked these milder temperatures. Don't get me wrong... the northerns we have that blow in are not appreciated by the anglers or the bass.

It is big bass time on Fork. While you are reading the fishing report, Fork's dream bass are on, near, or moving to their spawn site. When Fork's deep water bass move from their deep water sanctuary to their shallow water spawning site they become more vulnerable to being caught. It is when these giant bass are easier to catch.

Soft plastics are hard to beat during spawning time. Lizards,

hog craws, senkos, French fry-type plastics are all top producers during spawn. Don't give up on reactionary type lures. Spinner baits, rattle baits, and lipless cranks can pay off big, especially on overcast or windy days.

Location is still the key to consistently catching big bass. Look for areas that are normally overlooked by most fishermen, or area they just fish through and keep going. One key to finding top producing spawning sites is to look for areas that have a sloping bank. A twenty-five to thirty degree slope will generally be the best spawning site. Most flat banks have a buildup of dying vegetation which causes a soft bottom while the sloping bank normally will have a hard bottom. Spawning sites that are closer to deeper water generally will have more and bigger bass spawning around them. Ditches, cuts, creek channels and ledges with a distinct change of depth will be top producing areas.

Bass do not always move to the back ends of creeks or coves to spawn. Open water areas will also have spawning activities as long as there is enough sunlight to penetrate the bottom. Bass in clear water will spawn deeper while bass in off-color water will spawn shallow. Don't overlook the many underwater ponds and small lakes, especially the ones that are located at the back ends of Fork's major creeks and coves. These areas are magnets to numerous Lake Fork big bass.

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, The Fisherman's Guide News, Bubbette and the Good Lord!







Game Warden Field Notes

as Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports.

--Crossing the Line-- On Nov. 20, a Bowie County game warden conducted a traffic stop on a hunter crossing into Texas from Oklahoma he observed to have a whitetail deer in the bed of his truck. The hunter claimed he killed the deer in Texas and used tags issued with his Texas hunting license, but that didn't explain why he was traveling into Texas from Oklahoma. The story soon fell apart and the warden determined the deer was killed north of the border and the hunter did not possess an Oklahoma hunting license. An Oklahoma game warden responded to Texas to follow up on his state's violation. Citations were issued in both states and the deer carcass was returned to Oklahoma for donation.

-- Tagging is not Optional--On opening weekend of deer season in Angelina County, a game warden made contact with a group of hunters in Huntington where he observed a deer in the back of an ATV that did not meet the minimum 13-inch antler restrictions and another in the back of the truck that did. Neither deer was tagged. When the ATV operator was questioned about the illegal buck, he said he was going to tag it when he saw the game warden pull up. The warden explained that at that point it's too late. Citations issued for taking an illegal buck and untagged deer along with multiple warnings.

The following items are compiled from recent Tex- Civil restitution also pending and the deer were donated to a needy local family.

> -No Deer, Just Dope- While on patrol the night of Nov. 5, a Tyler County game warden observed a vehicle behind him driving with a bright LED light system. The warden pulled over to allow the vehicle to pass and as the vehicle pulled alongside, the driver stopped and rolled down his window. The warden explained to the driver that the light was not permitted on the county road due to traffic code statutes. Since the two men were wearing camouflage, the warden asked if they had harvested a deer and where they had been hunting. During the conversation, the warden observed the two were acting extremely nervous and overly courteous, plus, the drive began to sweat profusely. After checking their hunting licenses and noting neither had the required hunter education certification, the warden asked to inspect their vehicle. Although he found no evidence of a harvest, the search of the subjects vehicle revealed multiple drug paraphernalia items, two bags of marijuana and a small baggy of crystal meth. Multiple drug related charges were filed, along with an additional charge for tampering with physical evidence after it was discovered that one of the men hid two baggies of marijuana in the brush when he had to relieve himself from an upset stomach.

> -Like Father, Like Son-- While on patrol opening weekend of deer season, a Shelby County game war

den approached a house after dark and saw movement from behind the house. Upon backing up his patrol vehicle and pulling in the driveway, the warden was met by a hunter who claimed someone was trespassing on his property and had fired a shot. The man provided directions to a location where the warden should go patrol, but before leaving, the warden proceeded to check behind the house where he immediately discovered a buck strapped to the back of an ATV. The buck's antlers measured 12 inches wide, which did not meet the minimum restrictions for the county and also was untagged. The hunter claimed he'd left his hunting license inside and while he excused himself to go retrieve it, the warden did a quick search on his mobile app and found the man did not have a hunting license. The man returned and handed the warden proof of a hunting license purchased online three minutes earlier. The illegal buck and firearm used were both seized. The warden also noticed a nearby ice chest and inquired about the venison inside, to which the man replied that his son had shot a nice buck and given the meat to his mother. Because a wildlife resource document is required to transfer harvested game, the warden contacted the son, who verified he had killed a deer on opening day, Saturday, Nov. 5. On a hunch, the warden followed up on Monday and discovered the son did have a hunting license, but it had been purchased at a local store on Sunday, Nov. 6, the (See Game Warden Continued on Page 4-B)



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

day after he admitted harvesting a deer. Multiple citations and civil restitution filed on both hunters and the investigation is ongoing.

--Mixed Up Bag-- A hunter contacted game wardens in Houston County claiming to have witnessed a hunter on the neighboring property shoot two bucks. Wardens responded along the Trinity/Houston County line and attempted to locate the hunter. After searching neighboring properties for about two hours, the wardens noticed a light and some movement in a barn. Wardens walked onto the property and found two deer that had been tagged by two different hunters. After a short interview, one hunter confessed to killing both deer and tagging the second with another hunter's hunting license. Citations were issued and the second deer was seized. Violations included exceeding the bag limit for whitetail, harvesting an illegal buck having less than a 13-inch spread, hunting under the license of another and allowing another to hunt under license. Cases and civil restitution pending.

-Caught in a Snap(Chat)- Evidence in the form of a SnapChat video of four men with rifles and spotlights in their truck bragging about spotlighting (hunting illegally at night) reached a Shelby County game warden. Two hours after receiving the information, the warden received a call from dispatch advising there was a man with a gun at a nearby gas station threatening individuals. The warden was first on scene and was able to disarm and secure a pistol from the man's back pocket. When asked what the man was doing he explained that those guys in the gas station had shot in front of his house and he had chased them to that location. Ironically, the guys he was chasing after were the four men the warden was looking for and had seen in the video earlier. The gunman was arrested for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and multiple hunting charges were filed and are pending on the four men.

--Tracked Down-- A Harrison County game warden received a call from a land owner that someone had been hunting deer without consent on property owned by a railroad company and had witnessed the suspect dragging a dead deer down the middle of the railroad tracks bordering the property. The warden was able to pick up the blood trail on the tracks and followed it to a house where he found the deer and the suspect. The suspect admitting to hunting on railroad property. Multiple charges pending.

--Bad Date Idea- A Real County game warden responding to a call about a vehicle stuck in the river bed found a two-wheel-drive sedan stuck in the river gravel about 200 yards upstream from the county road. The warden recognized the driver from a similar incident a few months earlier when the guy's friend got stuck in the river, almost in the same spot. Asked why he was driving in the riverbed when his friend had gotten stuck and been ticketed for the same thing. He stated he just wanted to show his girlfriend the river. The driver was cited for operating a motor vehicle in the riverbed. Case pending.

–Big Rig Rescue– On Nov. 7, game warden swift water rescue technicians responded to a high water rescue of an 18-wheeler driver who had been swept off a county road near the McLennan/Bell County line. The subject was trapped on the cab of his truck as water continued to rise. The driver was rescued by game wardens with help from several local firefighters after spending over an hour on the top of the cab.

-Licenses not Retroactive- Following up on calls that someone was shooting a high-powered rifle in a Bell County subdivision, a game warden came upon two individuals taking photos of a 10-point buck next to a game feeder in their backyard. Upon checking the license of the hunter who claimed to have killed the deer, the warden noted that the hunting license had been purchased just 10 minutes prior to his arrival on the scene. Based on the timeline of the calls about shots being fired, the warden knew the deer had been killed at least an hour earlier. The hunters admitted they had shot the deer, didn't have a hunting license and purchased one after the fact. Citation issued for hunting white-tailed deer without a hunting license, the deer was seized civil restitution charges filed on the hunter. Case pending.

-Delayed Catch and Release-A Travis County game

(See Game Warden Continued on Page 5-B)



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

warden received an Operation Game Thief call about an individual keeping undersized largemouth bass and exceeding the daily bag limit on the upper end of Lake Austin at a popular fishing spot. Upon the warden's arrival, a fisherman matching the description of the suspected violator indicated he was leaving and it was not necessary to check him for compliance. The suspect did possess a fishing license. The warden discovered a stringer of fish downstream and was able to revive and release them alive. Cases pending.

-Scoping Out Preseason Prospects- On Oct. 30, wardens received phone calls from a Kenedy County landowner concerned about a freshly shot deer under a feeder on his property. Upon arriving at the scene, the game warden noticed a few hunters mulling around the house on the property. The hunters were relatives of the landowner. After a brief investigation and a "come to Jesus" talk with the landowner, the landowner's brother came forward and admitted he accidentally shot the deer while "scoping" it under the feeder. He claimed the new gun he was using went off, shooting the buck right in the heart. Charges for hunting deer in a closed season and civil restitution for the 154 2/8 Boone & Crockett scored buck are pending.

-Unplugged-- While on patrol for duck hunting violations in Aransas County, wardens came across a group of three hunters, including one they recognized from a check the week prior who had been given several warnings for violations. One of the hunters had his shotgun taken apart, the second one said he was not hunting but handed over his license and the third one produced his license and shotgun for inspection. As the first hunter was reassembling his shotgun, the warden noticed he was in possession of lead shot, which is prohibited for waterfowl hunting. The warden then noticed an object in the water under the bench of the second hunter. After repeated requests to hand over the item, the hunter finally picked up his shotgun from under the water. The shotgun was in violation of waterfowl rules limiting to three the number of shot-shells it can hold (unplugged). By this time, the first hunter had finished putting his shotgun together and handed it to the warden. It was also unplugged. Four citations were issued.

-Less Bragging, More Tagging- A Titus County game warden wrapped up an investigation about a subject with an untagged deer in the back of his truck in the small town of Talco in northeast Texas. The guy had been bragging about this being his second deer of the day. The warden contacted the suspect and discovered he had fraudulently obtained a free active duty military hunting license and killed two whitetailed deer bucks. Citations and warnings were issued for two untagged deer, no hunter education certification and taking an illegal white-tailed buck that did not meet the antler restriction minimum requirements. Investigation continues about possible trespassing.

-Eyes on the Road-A retired game warden notified a Titus County warden about a vehicle that was seen road

hunting. The suspect was located in Daingerfield where he gave a full confession for shooting at and missing a doe from the roadway. Citations and warnings were issued for no hunting license, shooting from a public road and hunting without landowner's consent.

-Best Hunt Goes Bust- The White Oak Creek Wildlife Management Area staff notified a Titus County game warden about possible illegal duck hunting after the noon cutoff. The warden made contact with two men in possession of 10 mallards and a wigeon. Both stated this was their very best hunting trip of the year. The warded issued citations and civil restitution to both subjects for not having the required annual public hunting permits and for hunting ducks after noon on the WMA. One subject was also issued citations for no hunting license and no hunter education certification.

-Rundown-- After fleeing Bowie County sheriff's deputies attempting to serve a warrant, a miscreant well-known to northeast Texas game wardens was spotted a week later in the backseat of a passing vehicle by a Red River County game warden on patrol in a remote hunting area near the Sulphur River. He followed the vehicle into an open area and conducted a traffic stop. The subject stated he was tired of running and went willingly. The subject was arrested on warrants for felony probation violation and evading arrest.

Fish Friendly

Practice C.P.R.

	WE'LL HELP YOU FIND THE RIGHT CUT OF OUR FRESHEST MEATS!"	
Alexander's	Boneless Beef Tenderloin	Ribeye or T-Bone Steaks
Meat Market 903-342-0300	Lean Ground Round	Boneless Pork Loin Roast
308 E Coke Rd Winnsboro, TX At Our Location Between Brookshires & McDonald's Custom Smoking For The Holidays Deer Processing (Seasonal) Now Making Summer Sausage, Beef Sticks, and Smoked Sausage • E.E. Wilson Syrup • Honey • Ribbon Cane • Sorgham • Moonshine Syrup	Boneless Pork Chops	St. Louis Ribs
	Boneless Chicken Breast	Deli Meats & Cheese
A Fresh Selection Just For You!	Hours: Tues. thru Fri. 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sat. ~ 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed Monday	

March





"Bassin' With Bubba Guide Services" Individual * Group Corporate Instructional & Beginner Trips Welcome NOW BOOKING!!! For The Spawn and Summer Trips On LAKE FORK 903-383-7748 903-360-6994 fishnews@lakefork.net















Now Accepting Reservations For Commercial & Vendor Spaces For May 18, 19, 20, 21, 2017 At The

13th Annual

LEGEND

May 19, 20, 21, 2017

BIG BASS TOURNAME

OF LAKE FORK

Anglers from all over the nation will be converging on Lake Fork to fish this tournament! What better time to advertise & promote your products, merchandise, or company! Call Today: 903-383-7748 Email: fishnews@lakefork.net

How about a healthy south-of-the-border treat....

By Sue Hampton

Eating healthy in this day and age can appear to be a challenge. There are so many convenience foods available – TV dinners, pre-cooked entrees and the like – that may taste good but are often not as healthy as one may hope. Dining out can also have potential pitfalls. Restaurant entrees are usually much larger in portion size and may contain more fat than anything you prepare at home.

Think you need to compromise taste to eat



You don't have to feel naughty when eating nachos. This healthier version of the favorite snack is full of flavor - not fat!

healthy? Not so...try this south-of-the-border healthy treat you will love.

A NEW NACHO -**TOSTADA-STYLE** (Serves 6)

12 corn tortillas

2 tablespoons minced cilantro, plus 36 whole cilantro leaves

 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground cumin

¹/₂ teaspoon ground coriander Salt and freshly ground

black pepper 1 ripe tomato, seeded

and cut into ¹/₄-inch dice

thinly sliced

6 drained pickled jalapeno peppers, thinly sliced

4 scallions, trimmed and thinly sliced $\frac{1}{2} \exp(1-1/2 \text{ to } 2 \text{ ounc-})$

grated es) coarsely sharp cheddar cheese (preferably a yellow cheese)

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Arrange the tortillas on baking sheets and bake until they just 1 cup no-fat sour cream begin to brown, about ten minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool; the tortillas will crisp as they cool.

2. Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl whisk together the sour cream, minced cilantro, cumin, coriander, salt, and pepper. The mixture should be highly seasoned. 3. Just before serving, 6 pitted black olives, preheat the broiler.

Spread each tortilla with a spoonful of the sour cream mixture. Sprinkle the diced tomato, olive and jalapeno slices, scallion, cilantro leaves, and

grated cheese on top. about 2 minutes. Trans-Broil the nachos un- fer to a platter and serve til the cheese melts at once. and the topping is hot,



Entry Forms Now Available At All Local Businesses or online: www.legendoflakefork.com or call: 903-383-7748 to be put on Mailing List!!



March

"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

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

March



March

JR SIMPSON 3-85 **-C** + EMAIL: jr.simpson@century21.com Office: 800-254-7541 - Fax: 903-763-4487

www.c21lakecountryrealty.com



Lake Country

ers personal waterfront home on Lake Fork has all the amenities you could ask for. From Foam insulation to Travertine tile, Granite Counters & Knotty Alder Cabinets. Inground pool with hot tub & waterfall plus a bonus room upstairs with an office. Home is on 2 lots with 1.3 acres plus leaseback, plenty of room for a peir and a boat house.

UNFINISHED LOFT CABIN ON 3+

carport and a chain link fenced back yard. Lo-

cated very close to World Famous Lake Fork.

HOME NEAR LAKE HOLBROOK on a

wooded corner lot, property is landscaped

with beautiful ornamental trees & shrubs.

This 4 bedroom, 2 bath home features an en-

closed screened porch, covered deck, and at-

tached garage plus a detached garage work-

shop, storage bldg & a fenced area for pets &

kids. Plenty of room for your boat and RV! Property also has a water well for irrigation.

LOCATED IN EMORY INDUSTRIAL PARK

Formerly a doctor's office building, this custom

built building features metal and stone con-

struction. Interior has a nice lobby or reception

area, multiple rooms for offices, full kitchen

and 2 bathrooms with a stall shower AND liv-

ing quarters upstairs. Building has a garage with

receiving area and roll-up door. Call JR for de-

Call JR for more information today!

Yantis \$594,000



Yantis \$59.900

Mineola \$259,000



Emory \$232,000

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.



Emory \$210,000



Quitman \$277,500



Quitman \$65,900



HOME SITTING ON APPROX 19 ACRES Immaculate 3 bedroom and 3 full bathrooms home with a beautiful stocked pond right out your back door. 12x24 attached carport with an attached workshop area, detached 42x20 insulated workshop with electric and has an 18x20 attached carport, plus a 15x20 tractor shed and horse barn. The property is fenced and cross fenced. The

Lake Country

UNIQUE 3,039 SQFT HOME + 2 ACRES Featuring 4 bdrms, 2.2 bath, 2 car garage and a

detached 40 x 50 metal shop building. Located

across the street from Lake Fork Golf Course

with quick access to the entire Lake Fork area.

ovens and a Stone Wood Fired Oven in sepa-

ducks & geese stay with property!

30x50 INSULATED METAL BUILDING completely heated and cooled. Workshop area with three nice offices and a half bathroom. Secured fenced in area out back and a new septic system. Located just outside Quitman City Limits. Motivated Seller Says 'Bring Your Best Offer"

VACATION HOME ON PRIVATE LAKE, This 3 bdrm, 2 bath home has metal roofing, well insulated and was built for entertaining family and friends. Property features an outdoor shower, patio with stone wood burning fireplace, deck area with a waterfall pond, perimeter lighting & large double swings. Lake Elberta is a small, private, gated and restricted lake community. Call JR Sulphur Springs \$149,900 for detailed information.

LAKE FORK WATERFRONT BUSINESS IN ALBA \$299,500

This 4000+ sqft building is set up as a restaurant and is waterfront on Lake Fork with its own private boat ramp, pier, storage building and plenty of parking. Located on the busy, high traffic side of the lake. Seller states property is unrestricted. This would be perfect place for a marina, bait and tackle shop or your dream business. All Restaurant equipment is included.

LIST YOUR PROPERTY WITH ME AND SEE IT HERE!

LAKE FORK WATER FRONT & OFF-WATER LOTS FROM \$12,000 TO \$105,000 LAKE FORK AREA ACREAGE FROM \$59,000 TO \$139,900

11-B



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

March



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.