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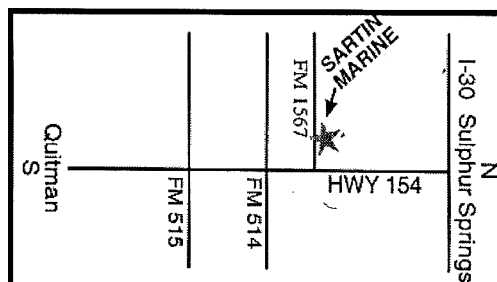
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Bassin' With Bubba



By Don Bubba Hampton

Man, am I glad March weather is about over. Just when you think you have Ms. Bass figured out, Mother Nature comes roaring down from the north with thirty-plus miles per hour wind, rain and cold, dropping water temperature a few degrees, putting the bite down for a couple of days. You can be on fish for three to four days and can't find a bite the next day. During April there is still a front or two that can mess with the bite, but with mostly stable conditions you can just about set your watch when the bite will start.

If you are after top water action, the early bird gets the worm. The first thirty minutes of daybreak can be

some great top water action. Small buzz baits and pop baits are two topwater lure choices. Best colors for buzzbaits are white/chartreuse. Frog patterns are hard to beat for pop baits. During mid-morning to early afternoon, switch to soft plastics or jig/craw.

One excellent lure to try after the early topwater bite is the Skinny Dipper by Reaction Innovations. Make sure you use a big 5/0 hook with the Skinny Dipper. This bait has a lot of bulk. A little hook will not penetrate very well. It throws very easily weightless and is excellent split-shot or Carolina rigged. Weightless, it can be fished around the heaviest grass and cover and split-shot or Carolina rigged is effective in one to twenty feet or deeper. This bait is very versatile.

Big bass in April will be caught on a wide variety of lures. Don't be stubborn and stick with big baits only. When your bite slows down, try downsizing your lure. It could pay off. After spawn most older-age class bass will not completely leave shallow water areas, but will drop off to the first breakline. Look for a contour break in the heaviest wood or grass. During feeding periods they roam shallow water areas and feed on almost anything that looks edible. Their weight will be lower than before the spawn, but your changes of a catching numbers of quality bass will be good.

Anytime big bass are holding in shallow water, keep your boat noise to a minimum. Turn off your big mo-

tor. Big bass are easily spooked in shallow water.

Do not overlook deep water areas during the end of April. A lot of bass will start grouping up on Fork's many humps and ridges. Deep cranks, swim baits and large spoons are some top lures for Fork's deep water fishing.

If you are unlucky to catch a cold front during April, remember cold fronts do not affect bass as drastically during late spring when the water temperatures reach the mid-sixties. Stay in the area you have been catching fish all spring and slow down and downsize. You can also fish the heavy cover during and after cold fronts.

During April Fork is very crowded during the week and especially on weekends. Be courteous to your fellow fisherman. If you motor to your favorite fishing spot and someone is already fishing it, give them room. They were there first.

If you are planning a trip to Lake Fork and need a guide or just general fishing information or an updated fishing report to make your Fork fishing experience a good one, you can call me at 903-360-6994 (cell) or 903-383-7748 (land line). Don't expect a quick answer via email: fishnews@lakefork.net.

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Game Warden Field Notes

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

—Playing Possum—A Bowie County game warden patrolling U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public hunting land noticed a truck parked on the side of the road and a man wearing hunter orange lying face down in the woods. Fearing the man might be injured, the warden stopped to render aid. The man didn't respond when the warden called out, but once he got within 5 feet of him, the man sat up. The man stated he was hiding so people would not know where he was hunting. A quick check of the man's criminal history revealed he was a felon and he was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

—On the Road Hunting—Game wardens responded to a call from a Foard County landowner concerning two men hunting from a vehicle on a county road. Upon arrival they discovered a local Foard County sheriff's deputy had the two subjects stopped in the middle of a county road. The wardens interviewed both individuals separately and they confessed to renting a car in Tennessee and driving to Texas to hunt quail. They indicated that since they didn't have a hunting lease they were just driving around and shooting quail from the rural public roads. A search of their vehicle uncovered 13 quail in a suitcase in the backseat of their rental car and numerous empty shotgun

shells and boxes. The wardens learned that the suspects were staying at a hotel in Vernon and that there were about 15 more illegally taken quail back at their hotel room. After conducting a consensual search of the hotel room, the wardens ended up seizing over 100 quail packed away in an ice chest, all of which allegedly were killed from a public roadway. The game warden issued citations and took both subjects into custody for arraignment. Cases are pending in addition to civil restitution.

—Costly Education—A Cochran County game warden responded to a trespassing complaint on opening weekend of mule deer season and discovered three New Mexico hunters who reportedly believed as long as the property didn't have a "No Trespassing" sign it was legal to hunt there. They were also hunting deer with the five day special nonresident license, valid only for small game, and none of them had completed a hunter education course. All three were charged with hunting without landowners consent. Cases pending.

—But I Left a Deposit for the Deer—A landowner's agent in Bailey County discovered a bank deposit slip on a dirt road on their property that appeared to contain blood and deer hair on it. The agent was not familiar with the person nor the company listed on the deposit slip. A game warden was notified and using the information on the deposit slip, made a trip to the company address in neighboring Parmer County. Upon his ar-

rival, the warden noticed a truck with blood on the tailgate parked in front of the business. A closer look revealed a bag of guts and an untagged eight point mule deer buck head in the bed of the truck. The warden spoke to the vehicle's owner and, during the interview, he admitted to shooting the deer. He said he didn't know who the landowner was and that the deposit slip belonged to him. In addition to citations for possession of an untagged deer and not having completed hunter education, charges were filed for hunting without landowner consent. Cases and restitution pending.

—Calling Shotgun, Literally—A Bailey County game warden received a complaint about alleged road hunters. During the search, the warden got a call that a vehicle matching the description had been stopped by a county sheriff's deputy at a major highway intersection and was being detained. The warden interviewed the two subjects in the vehicle who admitted to hunting quail from the roadway, which they claimed to believe was legal. Charges were filed for hunting from a public roadway and discharging a firearm from a public roadway, as well as possession of a small amount of marijuana. Cases and restitution pending.

—Selfie Incrimination—Game wardens conducted an interview of a poaching suspect regarding a large whitetailed buck that had been seen regularly in northwestern Grayson County. The suspect lives less than

(See Game WardenContinued on Page 5-B)

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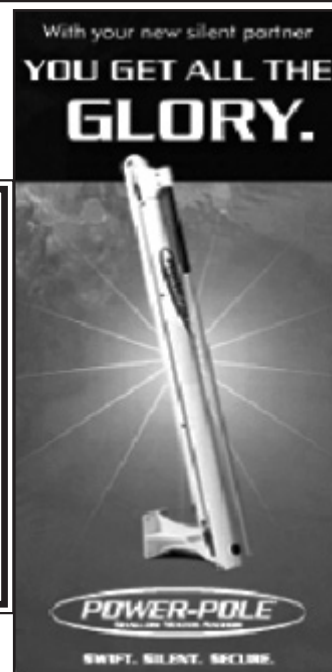


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A Spicy Twist on Easter Dinner

By Sue Hampton

Easter unofficially marks the beginning of the spring season. Brave tulips push their way through the soil as birds once again return to their roosts.

A time for family and fresh starts, Easter celebrations involve looking ahead to warm weather and gathering around the table to share good experiences. Customary Easter traditions include a large feast to celebrate the end of the Lenten season. Glazed ham is a popular menu item and often is a favorite.



Add a unique flavor to your Easter ham. Jalapeno peppers incorporated into the glaze add a spicy flair to this traditional Easter meal!

For a rebirth of flavor, try a new twist on your traditional ham. Jalapeno peppers give just the right amount of zest to the following dish.

Jalapeno

Honey-Glazed Ham

1 – 8 to 10 pound boneless smoked ham, cooked
 ½ cup honey
 ½ cup brown sugar
 ¼ cup bourbon
 1 to 2 tablespoons minced fresh jalapeno pepper, or to taste

2 teaspoons dry mustard
 1 teaspoon ground cloves
 8 to 15 whole cloves

Heat the ham according to the package directions. Remove the ham from the oven 30 minutes before it is done. Score the outside of the ham with a sharp knife in a diamond pattern ¼ inch deep and about 1 inch apart. Combine the honey, brown

sugar, bourbon, jalapeno pepper, dry mustard and ground cloves. Mix well and brush over the outside of the ham. Stick a whole clove in the center of each diamond. Continue baking the ham for 30 minutes, basting frequently. Let the ham stand at room temperature 10 to 15 minutes before slicing.

Now for dessert!! Home cooks in need of quick and easy ways to keep everyone fed are keeping their pantry stocked with cooking basics like mayonnaise. Beyond the tuna sandwich, this versatile favorite can be substituted for eggs in baking or used as the base for nearly any spread, sauce or dip – even chocolate cake!!

Mayonnaise
 Chocolate Cake

6 Tbsp. cocoa
 3 cups all-purpose flour
 1 Tbsp. baking soda
 ¼ tsp. salt
 1-1/2 cups sugar
 1-1/2 cups Mayonnaise
 1-1/2 tsp. Vanilla Extract
 1-1/2 cups cold water

Preheat oven to 350F, grease and flour two 8-inch cake pans. Sift cocoa, flour, baking soda, salt and sugar into a medium bowl, mix well. Combine mayonnaise,

vanilla and water with an electric mixer at low speed. Once smooth, slowly add dry mixture until just incorporated. Do not overbeat. Pour batter into cake pans and bake for 30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Frost with your favorite icing!

Happy Easter from our family to yours!!



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

a mile from where images of the huge deer had been captured on a game camera. Apparently, this individual was in possession of a set of antlers that closely resembled the famed buck, although he claimed to have killed the deer in southern Oklahoma. During the interview, the suspect initially denied any wrongdoing, insisting that he killed the deer on public hunting land in Marshall County, Oklahoma. Once the wardens executed a cellphone search warrant they had obtained before the interview, the suspect changed his story. He admitted to shooting the deer off a public road on property he did not have permission to hunt, did not have a hunting license and killed the big buck with a rifle in a county that allows use of archery equipment only. The deer, a 25 ½-inch wide, 19-point buck with a gross Boone & Crockett score in excess of 200, was seized. Numerous cases and civil restitution are pending. Investigations into additional offenses in Texas and Oklahoma are ongoing.

—Evidence Concealed in the Oven—Game wardens were checking a group of hunters leaving a winter wheat field in Crosby County during the opening weekend of mule deer season and noticed evidence of blood and turkey feathers in the bed of their pickup. The wardens learned that a dad and his two teenagers had killed six turkeys and failed to tag any of them. The wardens accompanied the group to a nearby residence where the hunters were staying for the weekend and inspected the untagged turkeys, one of which was

cooking in the oven. The father was cited for possession of two untagged turkeys and the wardens showed the young hunters how to properly tag the birds. Cases are pending.

—How Not to Respond to Law Enforcement—A landowner in Val Verde County alerted game wardens about high-powered rifle shots heard after dark on a neighboring property. The shooting was taking place on a small acreage rural subdivision. Upon arrival at the "hunting camp," the game warden observed an individual sitting by a campfire chamber a round in a semiautomatic handgun he had picked up. The warden hurriedly activated his red and blue lights and identified himself as he opened his door. As the warden yelled, "State game warden, state police, drop the gun," the man continued to advance with the loaded handgun. The subject was yelling back, "I don't believe you." After several tense seconds of back and forth exchanges the situation was deescalated and the warden was able to safely secure the handgun and all the other firearms with the group. The warden shared advice on how to respond when approached by law enforcement and then checked the camp. An untagged whitetailed deer was discovered and violations for hunting whitetailed deer without a valid license and no hunter education certificate were identified. The deer was seized. Citations and restitution are pending.

—Due Processing—A local meat processor shared video evidence with game wardens showing two indi-

viduals dropping off a doe at approximately 3:45 a.m. The deer was untagged and appeared to be freshly-killed. From the video, the warden was able to get a good description of the vehicle and the subjects. While on patrol a couple of weeks later, the warden spotted the suspect vehicle and followed it to a local gas station. She recognized the driver from the video and made contact. Coincidentally, while she was questioning the subject, another vehicle pulled up and she was able to identify that driver as the second subject from the video. Both subjects were interviewed and acknowledged to shooting the doe off the roadway, sometime after midnight, with a .22 rifle. Additionally, neither subject possessed a valid hunting license. Charges were filed and civil restitution is pending.

—Hold My Beer Kid—A Delta County game warden was parked along a county road one evening when he heard several gunshots and then observed a car and pickup turn onto the road. Contact was made with the pickup occupied by a man and his two sons, ages 10 and 13. There were several firearms and spotlights in the pickup and the 13-year-old was holding an open bottle of beer. The man stated his sons had received new guns for Christmas and they wanted to try them out. The man admitted to hunting from the roadway and handing his son the open beer when he saw the game warden. Backup was called and a state trooper arrested the father on suspicion of DWI, third or more. Charges for hunting from a public roadway were also filed.



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Minnow Bucket
- Apr. 8 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket
- Apr. 9 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
- Apr. 22 ~ Media Bass Teams
Minnow Bucket
- Apr. 29 ~ Bass Champs North
Lake Fork Marina

May

- May 6 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket
- May 7 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
- May 13 ~ Media Bass Teams
Minnow Bucket
- May 19, 20, 21
13th Annual Legend of Lake Fork
Big Bass Tournament
Lake Fork Marina

June

- June 3 ~ Kid Fish
SRA Park
- June 3 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket
- June 4 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
- June 9-11 ~ Skeeter Owners
Lake Fork Marina
- June 17 ~ Media
Minnow Bucket



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**Mineola \$259,000**

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 enclosed screened porch, covered deck, and attached garage plus a detached garage workshop, storage bldg & a fenced area for pets & kids. Plenty of room for your boat and RV! Property also has a water well for irrigation.

**Yantis \$225,000**

2/2 HOME WITH LAKE FORK VIEWS Sitting across the street from Lake Fork, this unique home comes completely furnished plus all appliances. Home features Laminate wood floors, granite counters, two master suites and a 34 x 12 screened porch. Open living & kitchen area is great for entertaining all your friends. Plenty of covered parking for all your boats, trucks & toys! Located 1 mile from boat ramp.

**Emory \$210,000**

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. Huge kitchen, gas stove top & double electric ovens and a Stone Wood Fired Oven in separate room off of the kitchen. Plus a Mother-in-Law Suite or Great Game Room/Man Cave.

**Yantis \$195,000**

2 BEDRM, 2 BATH + ALMOST 4 ACRES Surrounded by large trees, this brick and stone home features vaulted ceiling, ceramic tile flooring throughout home, kitchen tile counter tops, sun-room and a large covered front porch. Property has a carport, storage building and a guest cabin that needs a little work. 15 mins or less to Lake Fork & 15 mins from Sulphur Springs. Motivated seller is ready for your best offer!

**Mt Vernon \$187,000**

HERE IS YOUR PLACE AT THE LAKE Located in Tall Tree Subdivision and just stones throw away from Lake Cypress Springs. This recently remodeled home is in pristine condition with 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 2 car garage and carport, granite counters, hardwood floors, stained glass pendant lighting & knotty alder cabinets, doors and trim. Screened in porch overlooking fishing pier on pond. Boat ramp around corner.

**Mineola \$183,500**

3/2/2 IN DOGWOOD RIGGE SUBDIVISION This custom built home features high efficiency insulation and a Hybrid hot water system, granite counter tops, engineered hardwood floors, ceramic tile in bathrooms, carpet in bedrooms, wood burning fireplace, covered front & rear porches, an over sized 2 car garage, irrigation system around the house, concrete driveway and a fenced back yard. Just minutes to Lake Holbrook.

**Sulphur Springs \$149,900**

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 for detailed information.

**Yantis \$59,900**

UNFINISHED LOFT CABIN ON 3+ 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!

**Emory \$232,000**

LOCATED IN EMORY INDUSTRIAL PARK Formerly a doctor's office building, this custom built building features metal and stone construction. Interior has a nice lobby or reception area, multiple rooms for offices, full kitchen and 2 bathrooms with a stall shower AND living quarters upstairs. Building has a garage with receiving area and roll-up door. Call JR for detailed information.

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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 sq ft 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.

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This 4000+ sq ft 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.