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*2 Sections*

*Free*

**Vol. 19**

**July, 2018**

**No. 227**



Charles Doss from Ft. Worth, TX., topped over 2,300 anglers in the 25th Annual Skeeter Owner's Tournament when he weighed in this 11.19-pound bass. For his great catch he won a 2018 FX 20 Skeeter, powered by 250 YamahaSho, with Lowrance Electronics and \$700 in hourly pay. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)



Robbie Johnson from Goodrich, Texas weighed in the heaviest bass under 16" weighing 3.02-pounds at the 25th Annual Skeeter Owner's Tournament besting over 2,300 other anglers winning him a Yamaha Wolverine Side by Side 4 wheeler plus \$400 in hourly pay. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton) See Full Story on Page 3-A



Over 400 youth with their parents or guardians came out to participate in the 24th Annual Wood County Kidfish on June 2nd presented by the Wood County Sheriff's Department, Game Warden Association and Sabine River Authority. (See Full Story on Page 4-A)



Angie Ellis caught her first over the slot bass weighing 8.5-pounds and measuring 24.25" while fishing Lake Fork with hubby Rodney on June 3rd. I hope she got her \$1 for biggest bass of the trip! (Courtesy Photo Quarterhorse Storage and Car Wash)



## With no electricity, Bubbette can once again appreciate "Bubba's Stuff"

By Don Hampton

Bubbette now has a whole new perspective on Bubba's stuff. You might be able to even classify Bubba as a hero or at least say he is "struttin in high cotton."

Bubba didn't mind this past winter's snow storm that knocked out all the electricity ... he had stuff! We all know Bubba needs stuff!

Bubbette even had a new appreciation over Bubba's stuff and was glad she hadn't put any of it in one of her garage sales.

"Whoever invented the high efficiency, low cost, all electric homes didn't have East Texas electrical services in the equation," said Bubba. Having no electricity didn't interrupt him at all. It did however interrupt Bubbette's "Good House Keeping Habits!" Having admiration and devotion to Bubba though, Bubbette didn't object very much.

Bubbette's den looked like a state park campground two days before a redneck family reunion.

Bubba was finally allowed to bring some of his stuff in the house. I do believe there was some "show off" in Bubba that day. He had everything but the tent set up in the house.

When the central air and heat went out, no problem, he stoked the fireplace to full capacity. He had a flame going that would have had

Smoky the Bear pulling out his shovel.

Lights weren't a problem either...as a matter of fact, I do not believe I have ever seen Bubba's house so lit up! He had his fully charged 750,000 candle-watt spotlight and his Coleman lanterns to bring daylight into the house. Honestly speaking he could have landed a 747 on a dark night with all the light he had.

Bubba & Bubbette are the type of people that never miss a meal. They have their six or seven meals daily regardless. The electric stove being out did not change this necessity of life.

Bubba handled the culinary aspects of the problem. That is how he got his nickname on campouts, "Chef Boy How-Dee"! He took everything in stride. Straightening a few clothes hangers, pulling out the Oscar Mayer's, marshmallows, chips, and buns was only the beginning.

The next step for lunch #1 involved in getting out his new two burner, propane cylinder operated cook stove, with 50,000 uses. He commenced to warm up chili and pork'n'beans and the family was fed. (Twinkies and Ding-Dongs for dessert, of course).

The other meals of the day fared as well with Bubba in control. I was just glad he invited me for one of his dinners because out came the "Electronic-Igniting Propane Grill" and

his "Easy Carry Propane Fish Fryer". I knew this was really going to be good.

On the grill he placed his lake famous steaks bacon/wrapped, jalapeno filled dove breasts, while he fried tatters in his fish fryer and heated pork'n'beans on his 50,000 uses, two burner, propane cylinder operated cook stove. What a meal that was. (Twinkies and Ding-Dongs for dessert, of course).

Bubba didn't get to show off at breakfast the next morning. The electricity was back on and Bubbette made him get all of his stuff out of her house.

I do believe that Bubba was the only one in East Texas that was sorry to see the electricity come back on.

Once again, "Bubba just loves to show Bubbette how important it is for a man to have stuff!"

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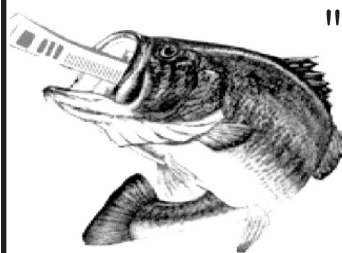
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## 25th Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament

By Don Hampton

The Skeeters were buzzin' on Lake Fork at the 25th Annual Skeeter Owner's Tournament held June 9th and 10th. This great reservoir responded in recognition with 25 bass over the slot coming to the scales during the tournament.

Skeeter always puts on a fantastic tournament for their owners and over 2300 anglers from different states came to partici-

pate. This year they truly went above and beyond not only for their anglers but also for spectators and visitors. There was plenty to see with all the vendors exhibiting their products. To show more appreciation Skeeter provided a full barbeque meal for all their anglers and families on Saturday evening.

The fishing excitement started with 10 places paid per hour at the 7 o'clock hour with five bass over the slot coming to the

scales. Shane Hartless weighed in a 10.34-pound bass; Cecil Tubb an 8.83-pound bass; Lisa Ingram an 8.26-pound bass; John Zanter Jr. an 8-pound bass; Darren Peek a 7.75-lb. bass. For this hour it took a bass weighing 2.49-pound to be in the 10th paying position.

During the 8 o'clock hour there were three bass over the slot weighed in. Charles Doss started it off with a hawg weigh-

(See 25th Annual....  
Continued on Page 15-A)



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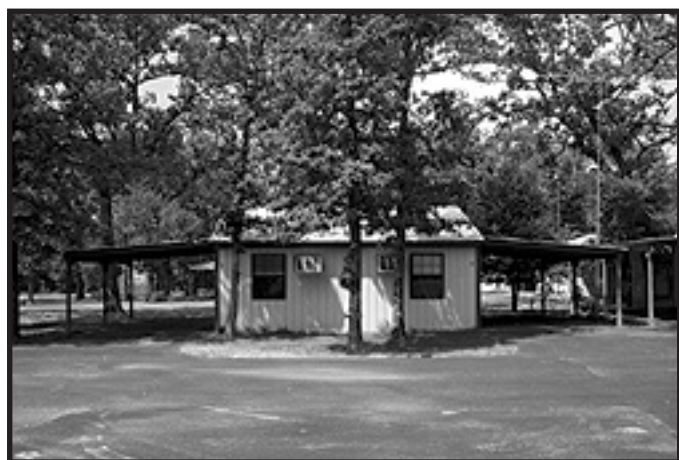
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## 2018 Wood County KidFish at SRA Park

By Don Hampton

There were plenty of smiles to be seen at SRA Headquarters on June 2nd, not only by the children catching fish, but also by the parents seeing their children experience the joy of fishing.

At the 2018 Wood County Kidfish held at Lake Fork on June 2nd there were 400 youth and parents, guardians or grandparents from all over the area that came to enjoy the beautiful weather and a day of fishing Lake Fork! For some of the children this would be considered their first tournament of many more to come in their lifetime. The love of fishing for these children could be accredited to Kidfish. "Our slogan for this event is Off the Streets and on the Creeks," said Wood County Sheriff Tom Castloo.

Wood County Kidfish celebrated its 24th Anniversary of introducing children to the sport of fishing. The first Saturday of June is the designated time for this event celebrat-

ing the first of June being National Kidfish Week. During this event no one participating in the event is required to have a fishing license. This gives parents that do not usually fish an opportunity to spend this time with their children and perhaps introduce the love of fishing to the whole family.

Each year this event is hosted by the Wood County Sheriff's Department, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Sabine River Authority, and Game Warden Peace Officer's Association and is held at Sabine River Authority Headquarters on Lake Fork. All are to be commended for their diligent hard work and the many hours they put in to make this event such a success for our children.

The event is free to all children and their parents. If the children do not have their own fishing equipment, rod n' reels are furnished along with all bait and tackle. Cold drinks, refreshments, hot dogs and chips are

(See Wood County Kidfish....Continued on Page 7-A)



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### Tournament Winners In The 2018 Wood County Kidfish

AGES	BASS	CATFISH	BREAM	CRAPPIE	OTHER
4 & UNDER	Jocelyn Cockerham 1.34-lbs.	Tyrianna James 5.28-lbs.	Jessie Towe .41-lbs.	N/A	Penelope Barrera (turtle) 3.73-lbs.
5-8 YR. OLD	Cambria Tarrent 3.71-lbs.	Sawyer Davidson 6.71-lbs.	Brooklyn Baker .39-lbs.	N/A	Kyerseyn Barrera (Turtle) 4.78-lbs.
9-12 YR OLD	Skeet Bremly 1.61-lbs.	Dillin Davidson 6.03-lbs.	Aiden Farmer .91-lbs.	Ella Glover 1.18-lbs.	Allie Sparkman (Turtle) 4.32-lbs.
13-16 YR OLD	Jessie Bosher 7.23-lbs.	Keith Kenemore 2.37-lbs.	Anneka Tullos .53-lbs.	Conner Gibson 1.52-lbs.	Anneka Tullos (Drum) 1.76-lbs.

This young angler's name is Legend so he had to have a "Legend of Lake Fork" cap to take home.

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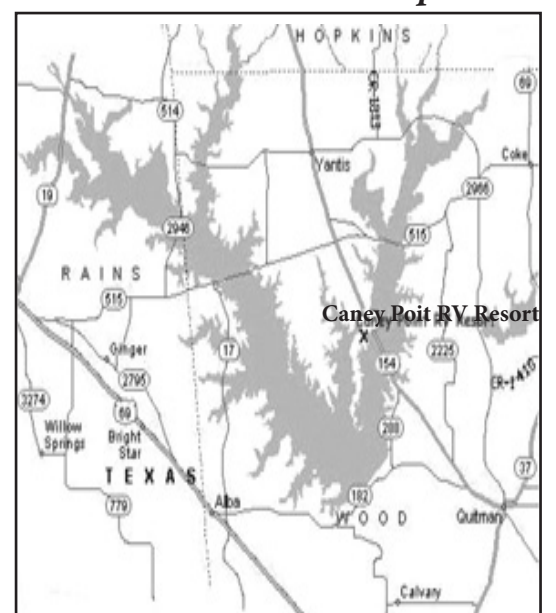
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# July is Setting Up Different on Lake Fork

By David Ozio

"We are off and running toward an interesting summer as of this writing. Fork is setting up much differently than past years and the deep fish are lagging way behind on many of their usual summer haunts. A lot of the well known guides on Fork think that the lake is running several weeks behind due to the late winter and the colder water temps heading into June. Whatever the case, the bite to date has been pretty stellar in our camp and fingers are crossed that nothing will change. High winds of recent are keeping the surface temps down into the low 80's and I believe this helps to keep these huge bass on the bottom and much easier to catch.

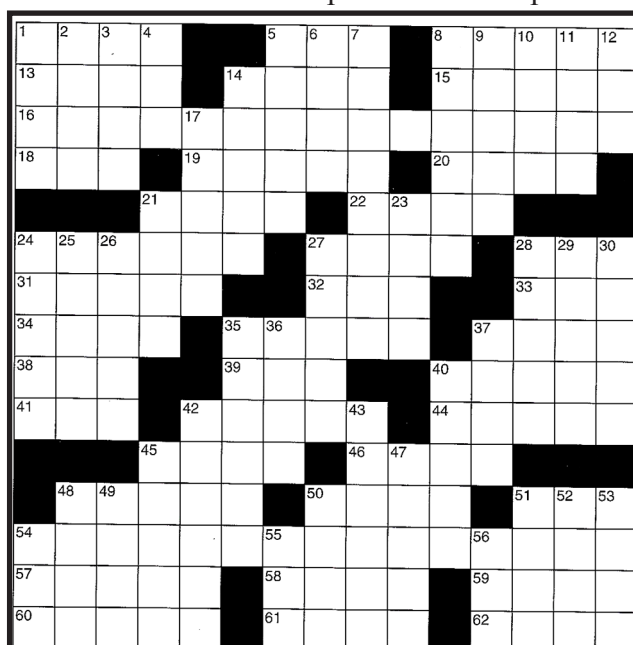
There has been a fair amount of rain this year and the lake is in awesome shape. March and April rains

muddied the water across the entire lake but the recent lack of rain has allowed the lake to settle down and clear up. This years rising water in the spring has produced a great spawn and the future for Fork couldn't be brighter. There are tons of small bass rambling the lake and these will grow to the next generations ShareLunker. July is a great month to target all sizes of bass using top water, crankbaits and drop shots. It's all about locating the fish and then it's game on. Electronics play a huge roll in finding these huge schools of bass and the more time you spend graphing the key locations, the greater the chance to have a monumental day. Main lake points, ridges, road beds and pond dams should be your locations of focus and pay close attention to the 18-24ft range. Even if you only see a group of ten fish at a given depth, pitch out a marker buoy and spend fifteen minutes to see if you can get the bass to commit. If nothing rattles your cage, move on to the next location. Let's say you see a ton of good arc's at the next spot. My first choice is the drop shot rigged with a Talon Carolina Worm or a Roboworm. Use any color you want as long as it is red. Drop straight down to them and barely jiggle the rod tip. Active fish will load the rod and you may think your hung up. Set the hook and figure out the rest latter. If the drop shot is not your game, throw a Carolina rig or



a football jig to the area where you first spotted the bass. A 3/4 ounce stand up head is also a great choice. On the C-rig, you might try a fluke, brush hog or a Zoom magnum trick worm. Under bright sun, I will use redbug or plum colors and when it's cloudy, any version of green pumpkin will suffice. As for the jig, PB&J, Mexican Heather or black/brown/amber will do the trick. Match a craw trailer to the jig and your in business. For the stand up head, any big straight tail worm will suffice.

The topwater bite is good early and late on main lake points and a Zara Spook is the ticket. Yellow Magic's will catch their share of fish but the spook



## CLUES ACROSS

1. Dutch cheese
5. Causing sorrow
8. Understands
13. Woman's undergarment
14. Belonging to me
15. Supreme being
16. Market patron of rhyme
18. Talipot
19. Red, pear-shaped tropical fruit
20. Spanish monetary units (abbr.)
21. North-central Indian city
22. Malicious satisfaction
24. Call
27. Used to have (Scottish)
28. College award, in a way (abbr.)
31. Assumed name
32. 7th letter of the Greek alphabet
33. \_\_\_\_ one and only
34. Boundary of a surface
35. More uncommon
37. Indicates pain or discomfort
38. Drive obliquely, as of a nail
39. Sea eagle
40. Person of exceptional holiness
41. Single-lens reflex camera (abbr.)
42. E.T., for one
44. Yokels
45. Sour
46. Asian nation
48. Old festival
50. Deface
51. Muslim
54. Top choice
57. Changes, in a way
58. Go down
59. Egg part
60. Belongs to sun god
61. Lyrics
62. Radioactivity units

## CLUES DOWN

1. Outer (prefix)
2. East Indian stew
3. Fish genus
4. Wrong (prefix)
5. Alaskan town
6. Stake
7. Transfer power to someone
8. Struck, in a way
9. Most powerful members of a society
10. Protocist
11. Decagrams (abbr.)
12. Easily startled or frightened
14. On a small scale
17. National capital
21. Wings
23. Jet or King
24. Minute amounts (Scottish)
25. Colorless fluid
26. Offspring of a male lion and a female tiger
27. James A. \_\_\_\_, playwright
28. Zeno was one
29. Leg part
30. Pennies
35. Assistance in time of difficulty
36. Dry
37. Very large body of water
40. Flows into Lake Chad
42. Other side
43. From Nicaea
45. Conrad \_\_\_\_, American poet
47. Rattling breaths
48. Legally binding command
49. Highest point of something
50. Herringlike food fish
51. Greek portico
52. Retained
53. Galls
54. School organization (abbr.)
55. Digit
56. God of war (Scandinavian)

Answers on Page 21-A

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**DOUBLE H**

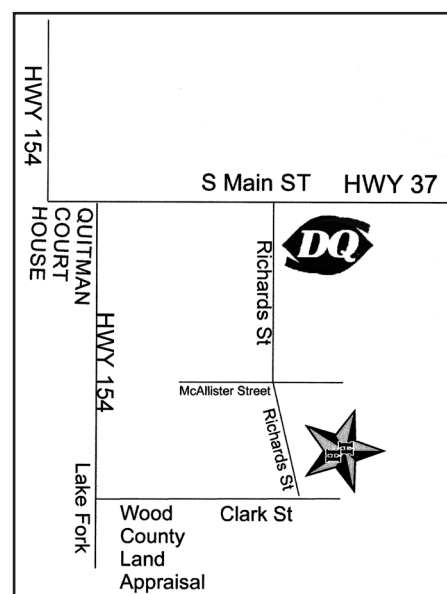
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(See July is Setting.....  
Continued on Page 20-A)

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## 2018 Wood County Kidfish (Continued from Page 4-A)

provided for the parents and children. This year serving the children, parents, and guests were the Mineola and Holly Lake Kiwanis Clubs.

The format of this event is a mock tournament, and divided into age group divisions. These divisions included 4 years old and under, 5 to 8 year old, 9 to 12 year old, and 13 to 16 year old. Each child weighing in the heaviest fish of the tournament wins a trophy and a year's worth of bragging rights. Wood County Sheriff, Tom Castloo was present to congratulate the winners in each age category

and present them with their trophy. Weight Masters for Kidfish are all members of the Lake Fork Texas Trails Bassmasters.

This year's winner of the 'Traveling Trophy' was Jesse Bosner with his 7.23-pound bass. This award goes to the child that caught the heaviest fish in the tournament. For his catch he received an extra award and his name will be engraved on the trophy kept on display at the Wood County Sheriff's Department.

No child leaves the event without a prize furnished by the many sponsors. This year's

prizes ranged from bicycles and fishing equipment. All of the children and parents always have an excellent time at the event. A special thanks goes out to all of the great sponsors that made this event possible, after all, our children are the future.



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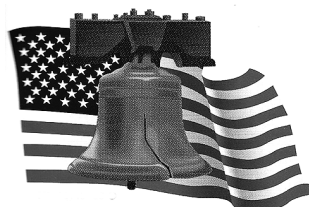


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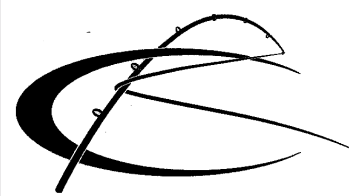
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## "The Moon Report" 'Summer Crappie on Fork'

By Terri Moon

Well – it's here – those dreaded 90-100 degree days! But when the crappie are biting, it sure makes the suffering easier! We've been really fortunate the last couple of weeks with morning cloud cover that made it quite pleasant out there for the half day trips. This is the time of year you want to start early so you can quit early! Drink plenty of fluids – lots of sunscreen – and I even found some neck fans and cooling towels that help tremendously! Also, it really helps to wear light colored clothes this time of year.

Be very mindful of the little ones while fishing. The lifejackets they are required to wear are very hot in this weather. So, take a minute to let them either jump in for a quick swim break or go for a quick ride or both! (A big thanks to Skeeter Boats for adding a ladder to the back of my Solera!) Now I don't have to worry about how to get them back in the boat! It's all about making it fun for the little guys!

Now that we are post spawn, these fish are starting to migrate to deeper water. As far as the depths we are fishing, it seems to change daily. Early in the mornings they've been as shallow as 10-12 ft. But, as the sun rises they are going deeper...as deep as 24 ft. So just keep playing with different depths till you get a pattern and keep monitoring your graph to see any changes in their depths.



The new "fish reveal" on my Lowrance Carbon Unit has really helped in pinpointing these fish!

These crappie are biting really light – (coming up with the bait). I'm noticing the amount of fish people are missing waiting to feel a bite. If their line goes slack or just stops falling and they aren't watching their line – they never know they just missed a fish! I'm a habitual "line-watcher" and it's definitely improved my numbers. So if you have someone fishing with you and they are not catching, take a minute and help watch their line and talk them through it. Then they will know what to watch for, and hopefully their numbers will increase too!

The colors working for us have been anything with chartreuse or white on brighter days and go to a darker color if you're in cloudy conditions.

If you are looking for bream, around the full and new moon go shallow 1-5 ft. otherwise

check that 5-15 ft. depths. Crickets, nightcrawlers, or Berkley power baits are producing some nice ones around docks, willows, brush-piles or bridge ledges. These have to be my favorite fish to play with!

I want to say congratulations to the entire SKEETER team for putting on another impressive tournament celebrating 25 years here on Lake Fork at Lake Fork Marina. Also, thanks to all the vendors who contributed in making this a success. "Sweet Buddy" the "camp dog" loves a good tournament! I found him visiting the Costa booth! He knows how to draw a crowd and made many new friends! Thanks again to all of you who continue to contribute to Buddy's care. It's greatly appreciated!

My best to you all and Love and Prayers to my family in Missouri! "Have a Safe Summer!!"

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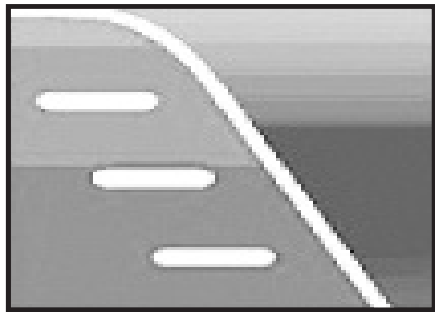


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## "Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Welcome to the summer heat of North East Texas. Summer is definitely here and with an ongoing barrage of heat and falling water this tends to drive the baitfish offshore more and more each day. Big bass will use big offshore trees like the one in this

image to their advantage. What's important to recognize is how this tree is in deep water, its full, isolated and close to a feeding flat that is likely to have a shell bed on it. This creates a safe place, like a bedroom with a kitchen close by. Bass will suspend in and amongst the tree limbs during inactive

times. You can often catch these fish during these inactive times by dragging Texas rigged worms or creature baits through the tree limbs. Going very slow is most important. Another great way is to cast weightless flukes or senkos past the tree and count it down to the desired depth then retrieve

accordingly. Keeping the bait at the desired depth is most important. When the wind blows right the fish will be active more often and you very well might find them feeding on the 20ft. flat near by. However they will many times simply use the tops of the tree to ambush the offshore bait fish that gets blown in and around. So now, just like staying with a group of bedded down deer once I have a tree or two holding fish I stay with them and work the area according to the signs of activity or inactivity. Sometimes I will return several times during the day or even simply camp in the hot spot area and wait for them to come. The best part for me is that once I have found a tree or two with a source of fish in them they will usually be there or at least be very near to the

area all summer long. My two favorite baits for this type of fishing are as follows. During inactive times: 12" red shad Berkley power worm rigged with a 3/8 oz tungsten bullet weight pegged on 20lb fluorocarbon or a 7" weightless senko green pumpkin dipped tail(chartreuse or orange). During active times: I fish the shell beds on

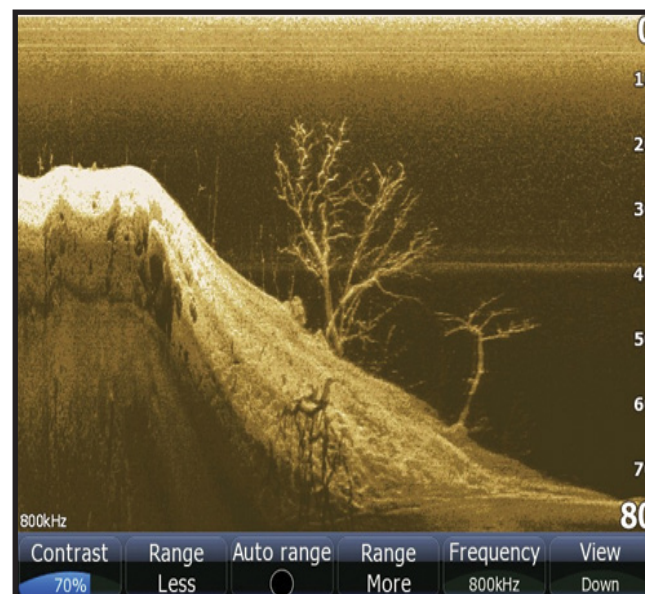
the 20' flat nearest to the tree, wind blown is best. A 3/4 oz. Santone football jig in Jc craw or Pakes perch both with a Rage craw trailer in green pumpkin is my most confident choice. Next time your out on Lake Fork do a little off shore exploring and see if you can find a few of these deep tree summer hot spots. Thank you for reading and I wish you all great fishing!



**Michael McFarland**  
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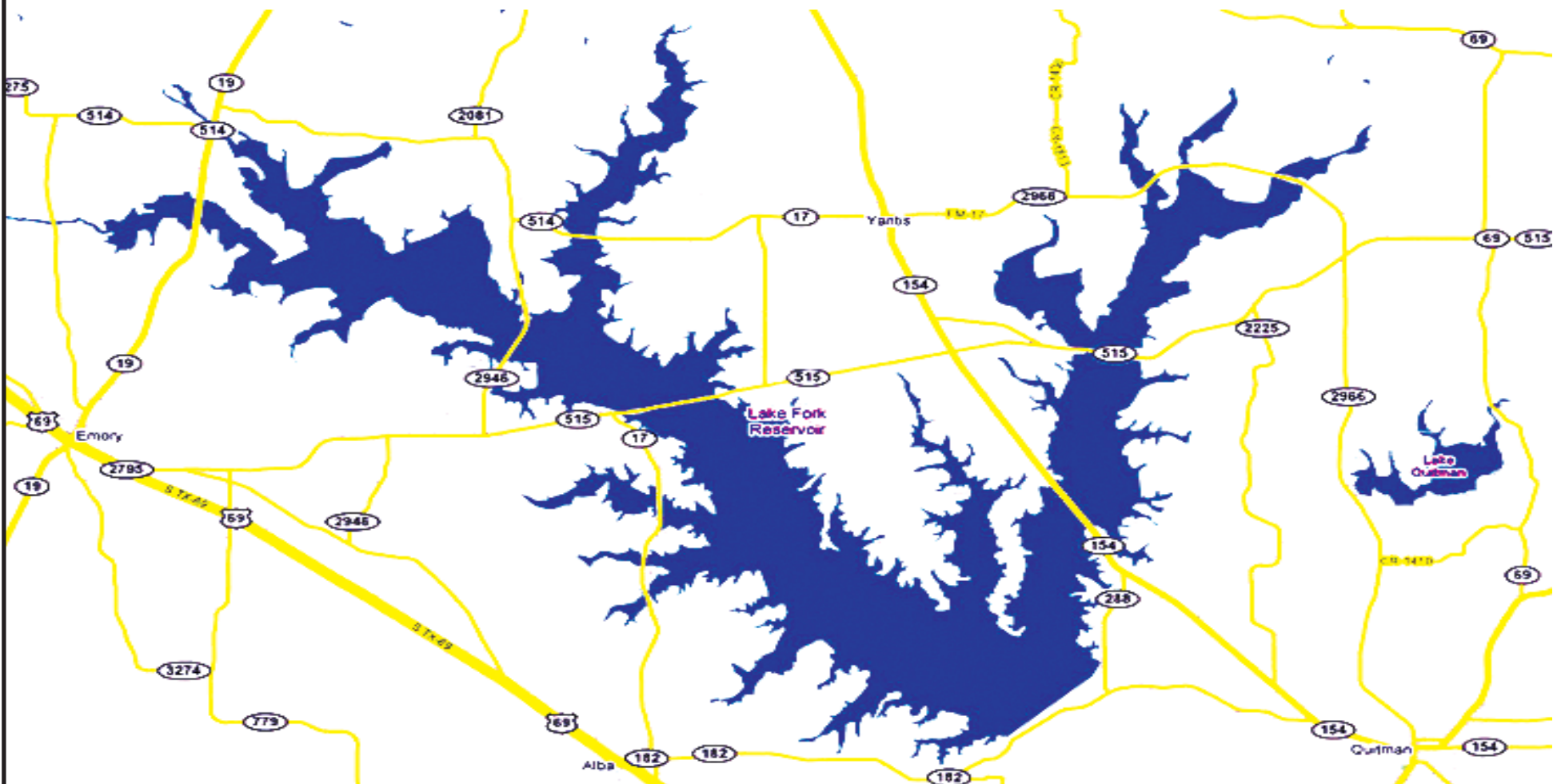




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## Invasive Zebra Mussels found in Grapevine Lake

Invasive zebra mussels have been discovered in Grapevine Lake, a popular outdoor recreation destination located in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

On June 22, a team led by Christopher Churchill, Ph.D. from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Texas Water Science Center found a juvenile zebra mussel attached to a sampler on the southern end of the reser-

voir. In addition, plankton samples collected by the USGS in May revealed the presence of a microscopic larva. Follow up surveys conducted by TPWD at marinas and along the shoreline failed to document any additional juvenile or adult zebra mussels. Thus, it appears this is a new introduction and both agencies will continue monitoring the lake closely.

"With the boating season in full swing and

the busy Fourth of July holiday right around the corner, it's very important for all boaters to understand that if they are going to be enjoying the lake they need to clean, drain and dry their boat and equipment every time they leave the water – it's not just the right thing to do, it's the law," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries Regional Director.

Currently throughout the Trinity River Basin, one lake is classified as suspect, meaning zebra mussels or their larvae have been positively identified one time in the lake (Lake Ray Hubbard), five lakes are now classified as positive, meaning zebra mussels or their larvae have been documented more than once (Lakes Grapevine, Lavon, Richland Chambers, Worth and Fishing Hole Lake) and five more lakes are classified as infested, meaning they have an established, reproducing population (Lakes Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain, Lewisville, Livingston and Ray Roberts).

Grapevine Lake is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District. Primarily built for the purposes of flood control and conservation, the lake is also popular as a boating, hunting, and fishing destination.

"Zebra mussels shouldn't deter anyone from visiting and enjoying the water this summer," Van Zee said. "But preventing the spread of zebra mussels needs to be a priority for everyone – regardless of which lake you're visiting. Please remember your wet equipment should be properly cleaned, drained and dried after use and if you are moving your boat from a slip on a lake known to have zebra mussels, then please contact TPWD at (512) 389-4848 or email

(See Invasive Zebra Mussels...Continued on Page 22-A)

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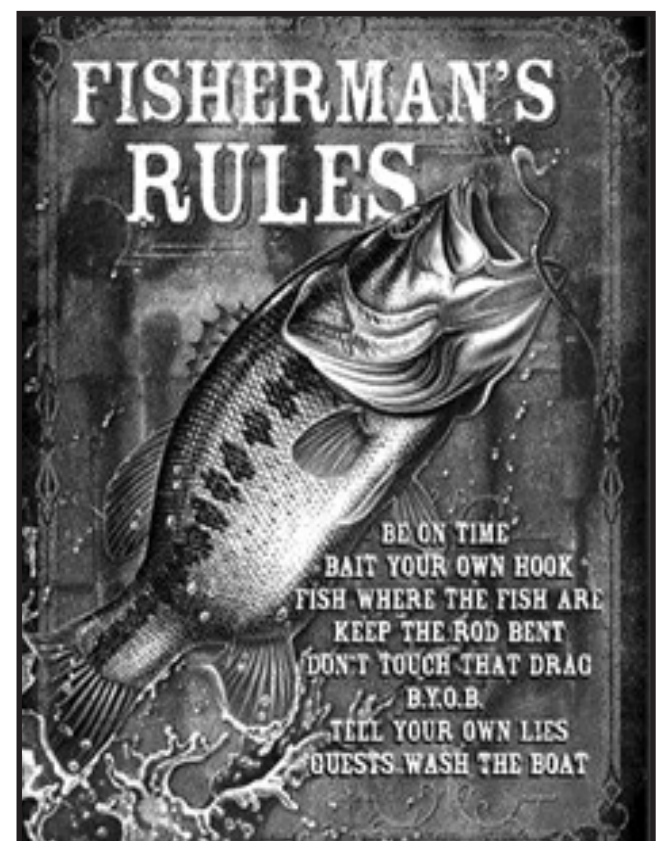


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## 25th Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament (Continued from Page 3-A)

ing 11.19-pounds; Gavin Daws a 9.98-pound bass; Matt Beard a 9.93-pound bass. To finish in 10th place this hour it took a bass weighing 2.23-pound.

During the 9 o'clock hour there were three bass over the slot weighed in. Gavyn Jones weighed in a 10.49-pound bass; Mark Smith a 9.69-pound bass; Mark Mitchell a 9.47-pound bass. During this hour Robbie Johnson weighed in the heaviest bass under the slot

weighing 3.02-pounds. To finish in 10th place this hour it took a bass weighing 2.38-pounds.

During the 10 o'clock hour three bass over the slot came to the scales. River Lee with an 8.76-pound bass; Arnol George with an 8.61-pound bass; Wayne Kralik with a 6.59-pound bass. To place in 10th it took a bass weighing 2.37-pounds.

During the 11 o'clock hour only one bass over the slot came to the

scales. It was by Brandon McQueen and weighed 8.38-pounds. To place in 10th this hour it took a bass weighing 2.39-pounds.

The 12 o'clock hour was similar to the previous hour with only one over coming to the scales. This was caught by Roy Aragonese and weighed 8.44-pounds. To place in 10th it took a bass weighing 2.42-pounds.

The 1 o'clock hour had one over coming

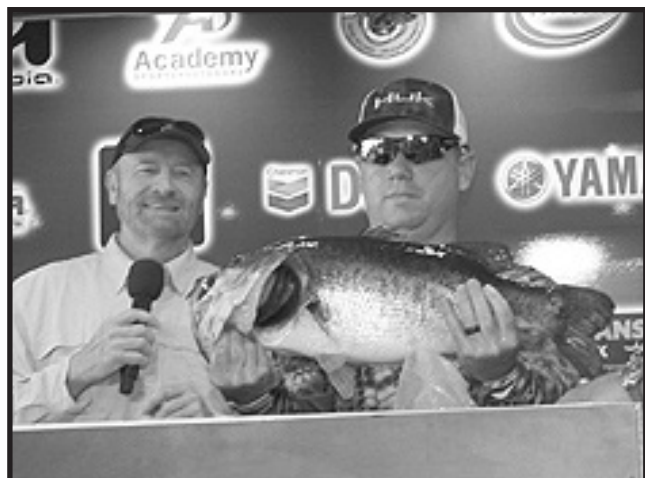
to the scales. This one was caught by Adam Clark and weighed 10.01-pounds. To place in 10th it took a bass weighing 2.42-pounds.

During the final hour of the first day no over the slot bass were brought to the scales. A bass weighing 2.58-pounds placed 1st and a 2.41-pound bass was in 10th place.

The early morning bite proved a little slower than

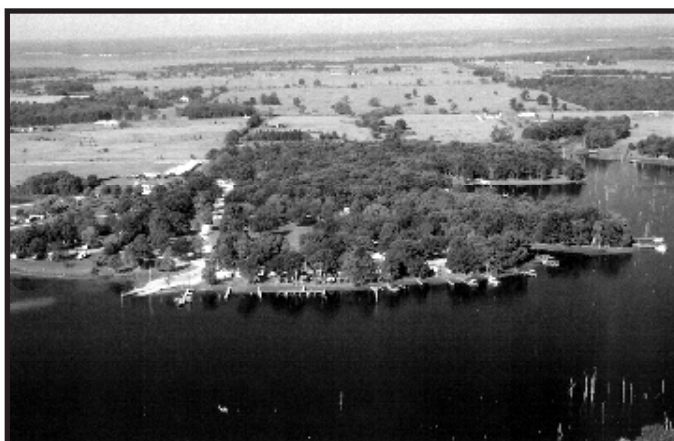
(See 25th Annual....

Continued on Page 19-A)

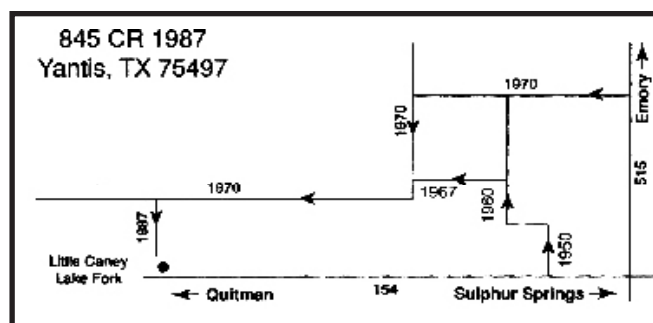


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## Toyota ShareLunker Program Seeking Big Bass Entries Through Dec. 31

Beginning in 2018, the Toyota ShareLunker program launched a new year-round participation season that encourages Texas anglers to share information about their big bass catches with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in exchange for prizes and recognition. So far, anglers have entered nearly 300 largemouth bass ranging from 8 to 15.48 pounds from 64 water bodies across the state.

Of the fish entered so far, 194 qualified as "Lunker Class," or 8 pounds or larger; 72 qualified as "Lunker Elite Class," or 10 pounds or larger; three qualified as "Lunker Legend Class," or 13 pounds or larger; and six qualified as "Lunker Legacy Class," those over 13 pounds loaned to TPWD for the selective breeding and stocking program.

"Stocking offspring from the Lunker Legacy Class entries we collect during the spawning season is incredibly important to fulfill our mission of creating bigger, better bass in Texas; but the size and genetic data we collect from all of the entries 8 pounds and larger is another important piece of the puzzle," said Kyle Brookshear, Toyota ShareLunker Program Coordinator. "In addition to helping us evaluate the impact of the ShareLunker offspring we've stocked since the beginning of the program, it allows our biologists to better understand the Lunker bass potential of a reservoir, as traditional population sampling methods do not collect consistent data on bass 8 pounds and larger."

Anglers can enter Lunker bass in the program year-round using the Toyota ShareLunker app – available for free download from the Apple App Store and Google Play – or by using a form online at <https://texassharelunker.com>. The digital entry forms on both platforms allow anglers to quickly and easily submit photos of the fish being properly measured, weighed and held. These forms also include simple instructions for anglers who would like to provide a sample of fish scales from their Lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis.

Anglers receive a prize package for every certified Lunker bass they enter throughout the year. This package includes a Toyota ShareLunker Catch Kit containing branded merchandise, an achievement decal, merchandise and other giveaways; as well as an entry into the year-end ShareLunker Prize Drawing for an annual fishing license and \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree. "All of the corporate sponsors that support our program help us greatly in our efforts to make the best bass fishing possible in Texas," Brookshear said. "The Bass Pro Shops shopping spree is the icing on the cake – we are very grateful to be able to offer that and other exciting prizes to recognize bass anglers in Texas and encourage participation in our program."

The six anglers who entered a Lunker Legacy Class fish through the entry cutoff date March 31 were eligible for an even bigger prize package that included

a replica of their fish presented on stage at Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest in May. These anglers were also entered into a separate \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree drawing, won by ShareLunker 572 angler Michael Terrebonne of Cut Off, Louisiana.

Each of the six Lunker Legacy Class fish loaned to TPWD in 2018 have since been released back into their home lakes, which includes Sam Rayburn Reservoir, Kurth Reservoir, Twin Buttes Reservoir and Lake Fork. These lakes will receive a portion of the offspring produced from spawning the fish at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center hatchery based on the number of fish entered. Other pure Florida largemouth bass offspring from the Kurth Reservoir fish will be retained as hatchery broodstock so that TPWD can stock these big bass by the millions statewide in coming years.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible by a grant to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation from Gulf States Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of the Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of education, fish, parks and wildlife projects. For program updates, photos and to keep up with Texas Lunker catches, join the ShareLunker community online at [www.facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram/](http://www.facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram/).

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Lake Fork Crappie Guide Terri Moon had an unexpected surprise while crappie fishing when she caught this hawg on an ultra lite rod n reel.



Debbie Emsminger was fishing Lake Fork with guide David Ozio when she caught this nice bass. Weight not provided. C.P.R.



Bill Conley caught this hawg weighing 10.10-lbs. on a Texas rigged 10" worm while fishing with Lake Fork Guide Whitt Smith on June 12. C.P.R.

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# 'Pack of Knowledge' "Stability equals good fishing on Lake Fork"

By Andrew Grills

July can be a good month here on Lake Fork. I enjoy fishing this time of year because I don't mind the heat so much, and the lake is not quite as crowded. Keep in mind we have a strong Florida strain influence in our bass population, and Florida bass seem to like hot weather.

The fishing has been pretty good so far this summer. It was excellent leading up to the Skeeter Owners Tournament, a little tougher afterwards, but still not too bad. Size has been better than numbers for me.

The water temperature is in the mid 80's, and that is where it usually is heading into July. The water level is 1.25' below full pool, but will likely drop throughout the month. We need a full lake to maintain a healthy fishery, but it sure seems to "fish" better during the summer when it's a couple feet low.

I'm fishing a variety of depths from shallow as deep as 25' deep. I have some areas that tend to hold them shallow in the summer, and a lot of deep offshore spots where they congregate deeper.

On the deeper spots I normally rely on my electronics to see if they're home before we stop. However, sometimes I'll just go ahead and fish the area for a few minutes with my graphs turned off and then check the spot before I leave it. As we get into July there has been so much pressure from anglers on the deep holes, the fish seem to pick up on the boat and sonar noise. I'll notice this when we graph a school, and the fish move before we can get a cast to them.

There are a lot of lure options that could work on any given day. Football jigs, Carolina rigs, spoons, crankbaits (if they're the right depth), etc. I usually try a couple presentations on a given spot.

Hopefully this report helps you for your next fishing trip. As always feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance. I'll leave you with one

of my favorite Bible verses from a fellow fisherman. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." John 1:12

## June Fishing Lake Fork With Guide Andrew Grills



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## 25th Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament (Continued from Page 15-A)

the day prior with only two bass over the slot coming to the scales. Greg Gillum weighed in a 9.81-pound bass and Leroy Schroeder weighed in an 8.30-pound bass. It took a bass weighing 2.14-pound to be in 10th place.

During the 8 o'clock hour of the 2nd day there was only one over the slot brought to the scales. Ray Pebworth weighed in a 6.94-pound bass and it took a bass weighing 2.21-pound to be in 10th place.

During the 9 o'clock hour excitement picked up with four bass over the slot coming to the scales.

Keith Bradshaw weighed in a 9.72-pound; James Stein with an 8.13-pound bass; Terry Neal with a 7.99- pound bass; Danny Bennett with a 7.70-pound bass. To place in 10th this hour it took a bass weighing 2.43-pounds.

During the 10 o'clock hour no over the slot bass came to the scales. A bass weighing 2.73-pound took 1st place with a 2.44-pound winning 10th place.

During the final hour of the tournament only one over came to the scales. Donald Fisher weighed in an 8.22-pound bass. It took a bass

weighing 2.56-pound to be in 10th place.

As it is in all of the Skeeter Owner Tournaments, in consideration for their anglers, the tournament is scheduled for a day and a half. This gives the out of state anglers time to get home in case they have to work the following day.

With the final weigh-in being completed Charles Doss from Fort Worth, Texas won the grand prize for his heaviest bass of the tournament weighing 11.19-pounds. For his catch he took home an FX 20 Skeeter, powered by a 250hp Yamaha SHO, with Lowrance

electronics and \$700 in hourly pay. Robbie Johnson from Goodrich, Texas won a Yamaha Wolverine Side-by-Side 4 wheeler for the heaviest bass under the slot weighing 3.02-pounds.

During the final presentations there were lots of prizes given away and everyone left with a smile on their faces.

BassChamps and Fish Fishburne are to be commended for the fine job they do presenting this tournament.

The Lake Fork Sportsmans Association with their Live Release Boat did an excellent job during the tournament. They made sure all the bass caught in the tournament were released in

good health. It is their actions and hard work that keeps this great reservoir 'Great'! Show you care for Lake Fork and join the Lake Fork Sportsmans Association.

After this fantastic tournament I'm sure that all the Skeeter owners are buzzin' anticipating the 26th Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament!



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## July is Setting Up Different on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

bags the big one's. This bite only lasts about an hour but it is well worth being on the water early as daylight has it's own majesty. Once this bite stops, move the boat out to about 15ft and throw a C-rig, square-bill or jig up to the 5-7ft range and work it back slowly. This will account for extra bites to fulfill the morning. A Texas rig blue fleck power worm fished with a 3/8 ounce tungsten weight in that same depth range will also deliver some rod bending results.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in July searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a

part of this trophy quest. 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 at <https://www.facebook.com/davidoziolakeforkguide>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Custom 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."



Bill Lewis with David Ozio



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## Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

By Kenny LaDuke

Lake Cypress was the site of the Texas Trails Bassmasters 8th tournament of the 2017 - 2018 season.

Surviving the heat and the pleasure boaters in the middle of June on Lake Cypress Springs is a factor that anglers have to overcome to find the fish and put them in the boat. A few anglers were able to rise to the top.

Don Hampton with a 5 fish limit that weighed 12.36 lbs. for 1st place. Kenny LaDuke brought a 5 fish limit for 2nd place with 7.94 lbs. Leon Davis brought in 5 fish weighing 6.25 lbs. for 3rd place. Don Hampton also had the big bass of the derby weighing 5.75 lbs.

We also welcome two new members to the club Troy Stout and Noel Martin.

Texas Trails Bassmas-

ters is a club around Lake Fork, Texas and they fish surrounding lakes with one tournament a month (mostly on Sat.) and a two day club championship. If you are an angler that is looking for a great group of fellow outdoorsmen, then please feel free to contact me, Kenny LaDuke at

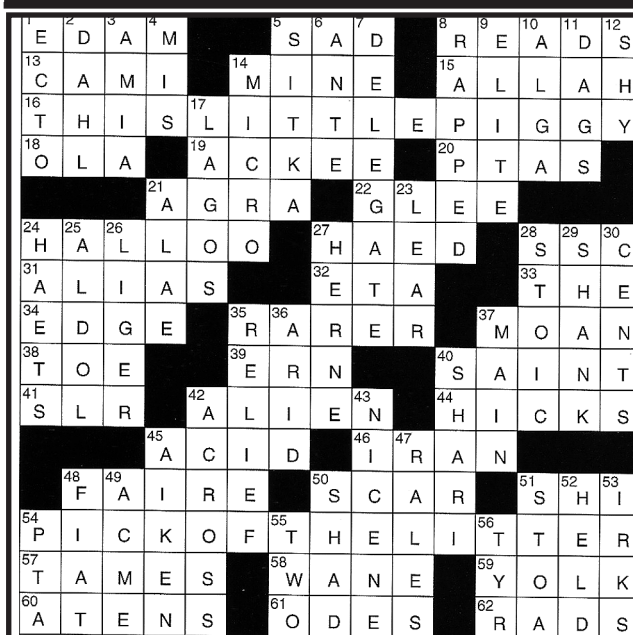
972-400-1025, or Don Hampton at 903-360-6994 and join our club. We have had several new members join this year and you could be part of the fun. If you join now your membership dues will be \$30 and you will be paid up through the remaining 2018 season and all of the 2019 season.

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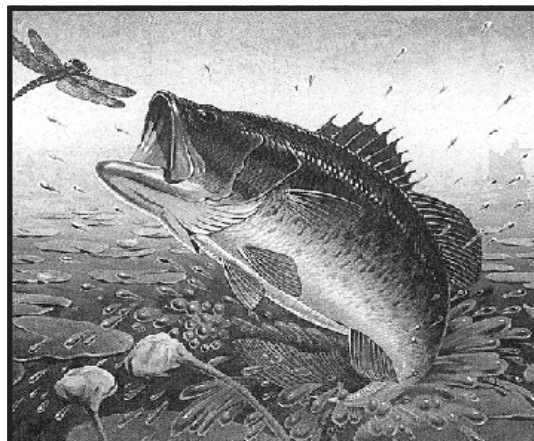
### Vacation Search

There are 14 items that people may need while on vacation hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

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A O E N T T N E T C E Y  
R O A G R L G R E H R E  
M B C S T N L E N T A N  
T E T H A T A C R O C O  
I D D O U A S U S W L N  
U I I E S L S C R E A P  
S U N S C R E E N L T B  
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## **Invasive Zebra Mussels** *(Continued from Page 14-A)*

aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov so we can provide guidance and support to reduce the risk of spreading zebra mussels."

The rapidly-reproducing zebra mussels can have serious economic, recreational and environmental impacts on Texas reservoirs and rivers. Zebra mussels can harm native freshwater mussels and other aquatic species, affect water clarity and cause harmful algal blooms, cover shoreline rocks and litter beaches with sharp shells, clog water intakes, damage or increase maintenance on hydroelectric and other facilities using raw surface water, and damage boats and motors left

in infested waters.

As of June 2018, in Texas, 14 water bodies in five river basins are listed as infested with zebra mussels, six water bodies are listed as positive – including Grapevine Lake- and three water bodies are listed as suspect for having zebra mussels.

TPWD and partners will continue monitoring high risk lakes in Texas, installing signage and reminding boaters to clean, drain and dry their equipment when leaving public boat ramps.

In Texas, it is unlawful to possess or transport zebra mussels, dead or alive. Boaters are required to drain all water from their boat and onboard receptacles before leav-

ing or approaching a body of fresh water to prevent the transfer of zebra mussels and other invasive species. Zebra mussel larvae are microscopic and both adults and larvae can survive for days in or on boats transported from a lake. The requirement to drain applies to all types and sizes of boats whether powered or not: personal watercraft, sailboats, kayaks/canoes or any other vessel used on public waters.

More information about zebra mussels can be found online at [tpwd.texas.gov/Zebra-Mussels](http://tpwd.texas.gov/Zebra-Mussels). Photos of the juvenile zebra mussel found at Grapevine Lake can be found on Flickr here.



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## TPWD Launches Online Survey to Explore Opinions on Alligator Gar

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is asking anglers and non-anglers to participate in a brief online survey to share their experiences and opinions about alligator gar, Texas' largest freshwater fish. The results from this survey will help TPWD make informed management decisions regarding this species in the near future.

"Our management goal is to sustain our unique alligator gar fisheries for future generations of Texans," said Warren Schlechte, TPWD Inland Fisheries Research Biologist. "We spent the

last decade learning about the biology of alligator gar, and from that we know we have a variety of management options on the table. What we need now is constituent input - this survey will give our constituents a place at the table."

The online survey is available now through July 31, takes about 10-15 minutes to complete and is accessible in English here

and Spanish here. Survey questions focus on gathering information about who constituents are, how anglers like to fish, angler harvest practices, and how people would like to see

alligator gar managed in the future.

Once considered a "trash" fish, native alligator gar have been growing in popularity among anglers in recent decades and people from all over the world visit Texas to catch these large and challenging fish.

Although some target alligator gar to catch the trophy fish of a lifetime, others intend to harvest them for a meal. Texans are fortunate to continue to have healthy populations of the species in the state, but even healthy alligator gar populations can only sustain harvest rates of about 5 percent

each year. Schlechte said that equates to relatively few alligator gar that can be sustainably harvested each year. With more and more anglers pursuing these fish, it is critical that fisheries managers work to ensure not too many fish are being removed from Texas waters.

"At the end of the day our mission is to provide an enjoyable fishing experience for today's anglers while conserving this species for tomorrow,"

Schlechte said. "By balancing sound science with our constituents desires we believe we can achieve that goal."

To learn more about this species or view the findings of studies conducted by TPWD biologists before taking the survey, visit [tpwd.texas.gov/texasgar](http://tpwd.texas.gov/texasgar).

Full survey link in English: <https://survey.tpwd.state.tx.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=12KH3655&Preview=true> Full survey link in

Spanish: <https://survey.tpwd.state.tx.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=n2KH489K&Preview=true>.



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Sept 12 - Wed	Academy - Tyler, TX	8668 South Broadway	903.266.3100	12PM - 1PM
Sept 12 - Wed	Academy - Longview, TX	445 Forest Square St	903.757.1300	6PM - 7PM
Sept 20 - Thurs	Lake Fork Marina - Alba, TX	275 CR 1558	903.765.2764	10AM - 8PM
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