

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" "Lines To Get Hooked On"

2 Sections

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Charles Blundell from Gilmer, Texas won the 32 Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork with this nice bass weighing 11.15-pounds. For his great catch he won \$1,500 hourly pay, 2018 Triton 19TRX powered by Mercury, a RAM Truck plus \$7,000 in cash. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)



By Don Hampton

For all of you anglers that are not only big fans of fishing Lake Fork but also love doing it with Berkley baits, here is the time you have been waiting for. The

13th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork hosted by Bass Champs, Inc. will be held October 20th and 21st. The tournament will be held out of Lake Fork Marina just off Highway 17N.

Registration times will be Friday October 19th from 12 to 8 pm, and on October 20th and 21st from 4:30 am to 7 am at tournament headquarters. Entry fee for

(See Berkley.....
Continued on Page 3-A)



John Pierstoff from Scottsdale, Arizona won 2nd Place in Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork with this nice bass weighing 9.72-pounds. For his catch he won \$1,500 hourly pay, 2018 Triton 18TRX powered by Mercury, a RAM Truck plus \$2,000 in cash. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)

Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

Mud, mud and more mud was the scenery at the 32nd Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash held on Lake Fork September 21, 22, 23, 2018. Mother Nature was not kind to the anglers nor to the tournament. With constant rains during the course of the tournament, Bob and his staff made the best of a bad situation making it as

comfortable and safe as possible for anglers and spectators. It took twenty-one bales of hay spread out to make the walkways safe for all.

With \$497,000 guaranteed in cash and prizes, there were 2,398 entries into the tournament. These anglers representing states across the country came to compete.

On day one of the tournament there were

317 bass weighed in for a total weight of 649.01 pounds. The excitement started early with three bass over the slot weighed in the first hour. Rusty Miller from Elmer, Louisiana weighed in a 8.96-pound bass, Ricky Allen from Longview, Texas weighed in a 7.75-pound bass and Todd Anderson from Ovilla, Texas weighed

(See Sealy Outdoors.....
Continued on Page 4-A)

"Bubba Practices For Halloween All Year Long!"

By: Don Hampton

Bubba's favorite holidays are coming up and he is geared up and ready for them. He loves Thanksgiving and Christmas mainly because of all the great food, the get-togethers, (as he calls them), and of course getting new stuff! One of his favorite holidays and Bubbette's worst is Halloween.

This is one "Spooktacular Holiday" that Bubba practices year round. He's like an oversized lap-dog when it comes to the treats and a scary movie when it comes to the tricks. He is most childlike on Christmas morning opening his presents and getting new stuff, but he is even more so when it comes to jumping out and scaring someone.

He practices mostly on Bubbette and how either of them has survived these many years is a testimony to "True Love"! On more than one occasion she has threatened his health with a rolling pin but Bubba doesn't take the threats too seriously. I couldn't even tell you if he hears them over his own laughter.

Bubba practices his scare tactics constantly to stay in true form. He has Bubbette shaky like a squirrel on a highline every time she walks in the house. The only time he is quiet is when he's about to spring with a goulsh holler. It doesn't even matter to him if she has an arm full of groceries. If the timing and setting is right, he'll make his move and then laugh for days afterwards. To Bubba harmlessly scaring someone is one of the

funniest things in life. He really must have had a missed childhood or else he just doesn't wish to grow out of it!

I do believe that Bubba bought Bubbette a new car, not for her benefit but rather for his entertainment. As is with most new vehicles this one has an alarm system with remotes. For the first week they had it Bubba couldn't stop laughing and it wasn't from the joy of having a new vehicle. Every time Bubbette would go to get in her car Bubba would be hiding around the corner. Her hand would no sooner touch the car door than Bubba's finger would push the alarm button. With the alarm and horn blaring, and lights flashing, Bubbette would be jumping around thinking she did something wrong, while Bubba would be rolling on the ground with laughter. Needless to say that only lasted for a week because he no longer has a set of keys and alarm remote to Bubbette's new car.

Bubba doesn't just practice his scare tactics on Bubbette while at home. Even the dog and cat have to hide from him. He'll catch them in one of their deep naps, sneak up as close as possible, get on his hands and knees and commence barking and growling like a maddog. Yes, Bubba has been bitten by his own dog, scratched by his own cat, and clobbered by his own wife.

One of the reasons Bubba can't keep a partner on the "Team Tournament Trail" he fishes isn't because of the number of fish caught. It is be-

cause their heart can't take it! Bubba watches his partners closely to make sure they are on their toes during a tournament. If they seem to be day dreaming when the action slows down, he has a rude awakening for them too! He will catch them in one of their relaxed moods and then set his plan in motion. He will intentionally get his lure hung up while they are not watching. Once he has it securely stuck he'll jump up excitedly and holler, "It's a big one get the net!" At this time he has his rod bent going from side to side acting like he has a real hog on the end of the line. This gets his partner throwing his rod down, scrambling all over the boat to get the net and ready to do his job. When his partner finally gets the net ready Bubba will roll with laughter and say, "Just kidding I'm hung up and wanted to see if you were still with me!" I think Bubba has probably been bit, scratched, and clobbered by some of his fishing partners too! He has had five different fishing partners in the past four seasons and not even that will stop Bubba's sense of humor or his enjoyment of a good laugh.

Maybe there is a lesson for all of us here to learn from Bubba. It is possible that if we all kept a childlike quality in our hearts and didn't take ourselves quite so seriously we could find the smaller things in life much more humorous. Then we would all be able to laugh at the bites, scratches and clobberings that life has to offer.

"Have a Spooktacular Halloween!" Bubba will!

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Berkley Big Bass *(Continued from Page 1-A)*

one day is \$120 or \$170 for both days.

For anglers participating this will be one of the most exciting tournaments of the year. With the cooler temperatures setting in, the bass are sure to be feeding up and respond well to both Berkley hard and soft baits. Check out some of the new baits they've come out with this year, especially the General.

There will be 20 places paid per hour during the two-day tournament starting at \$1,000 for 1st place, down to \$150 for 10th place; 11th thru 15th place win an Abu Garcia Reel and 16th thru 20th place win Abu Garcia Rods.

For the lucky angler that catches the heaviest bass over the slot,

that angler will be taking home a new Skeeter ZX-200, powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor, and Lowrance electronics. For the heaviest bass under the slot, that angler will be taking home a new Skeeter ZX-190, powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor, and Lowrance electronics.

This tournament is not only a great fishing experience but also terrific entertainment for the entire family. Fish Fishburne will be present with a laugh or two and WFN will be on hand filming the television show. There will be drawings from the empty Berkley bait bags for all the anglers and just a great time for all.

Check out Berkley's new baits, I highly recommend them. My favorites are the full line of War Pigs, the Digger, and of course the General.

Hourly updates can be heard on KMOO radio station 99.9 FM. I hope to see everyone there. For more information and details check out their ad on Page 24-A or go to their website; www.basschamps.com or for more details you can call them at 817-439-3274.

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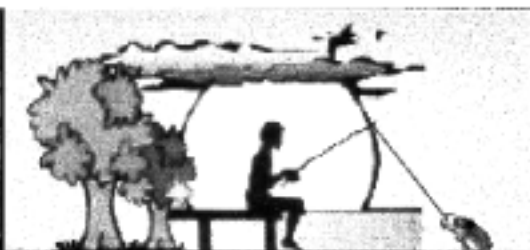
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Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1-A)

in a 6.37-pound bass. During the 8 to 9 o'clock hour there were three 24" and over bass weighed in; Todd Mayes from Ranger, Texas weighed in an 8.41-pound bass, Brent Breznik from Borger, Texas weighed in a 7.27-pound bass and Billy Klawetter from Garland, Texas weighed in a 7.03-pound bass. In the 9 to 10 o'clock hour there was one over that came to the scales. This was caught by Mark Mahar from Anna, Texas and weighed 7.76-pounds. The next hour for an over the slot of 24" came in the 12 to 1 o'clock hour. This bass was caught by Robert White from Bryan, Texas and weighed 7.77-pounds. In the last hour of the first day Jimmy Thomas from Ethelsville, Alabama took over the lead as the heaviest bass thus far when he caught everyone's attention when he weighed 9.17-pound bass. The heaviest bass 16" or under receiving the \$5,000 bonus and \$900 in hourly weighed 2.47-pounds and was caught by Tim Johnson from Alvord, Texas.

On day two of the tournament rains were consistent and only 278 bass came to the scales for

a total weight of 560.39-pounds. During the first hour of the tournament Chance Lewis brought in a bass weighing 9.25-pounds but he got knocked down to 2nd place for the hour when Cory Reynolds from Midland, Texas brought to the scales a bass weighing 9.28-pounds. The next bass over the slot came in the 9 to 10 o'clock hour caught by Joe Courts from Katy, Texas weighing 8.75-pounds. During the 10 to 11 o'clock hour Charles Blundell from Gilmer, Texas brought a hawg to the scales weighing 11.15-pounds. In the 11 to 12 o'clock hour Brandon Johnson from Crofton, Kentucky brought in a bass weighing 7.65-pounds. The heaviest bass under the slot of 16" came in the 12 to 1 o'clock hour winning the bonus and 1st place in the hour. This lucky angler was Timothy Weaver from Edgewood, Texas and his bass weighed 2.76-pounds.

On day three of the tournament the rains subsided somewhat, and the catch rate improved.

Sunday showed 299 bass for a total weight of 627.41-pounds coming to the scales. Over the

(Continued on Next Page.....)



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slot bass were weighed in every hour on this day.

It began the first hour when Ricky Carroll from Pittsburg, Texas weighed in an 8.42-pound bass. In the second hour Anthony Dupree from Alba, Texas weighed in a 9.00-pound bass. During the 9 to 10 o'clock hour John Pierstoff from Scottsdale, Arizona weighed in a 9.72-pound bass and Thomas Liner from Simsboro, Louisiana weighed in an 8.22-pound bass. In the 10 to 11 o'clock hour Tommy Nichols from Fayette, Alabama weighed in an 8.86-pound bass; Michael Smith from Bismarch, Arkansas weighed in an 8.31-pound bass; Keith Eiland from Camden, Arkansas weighed in a 7.66-pound bass and Ronnie Hill from Canadian, Texas weighed in a 5.85-pound bass. In the 11 to 12 o'clock hour Roger Lee Wells from Waxahachie, Texas weighed in an 8.80-pound bass. In the 12 to 1 o'clock hour Tim Crow from Malvern, Arkansas weighed in a 9.03-pound bass. In the 1 to 2 o'clock hour Richard Rothe from Alba, Texas weighed in a 7.06-pound bass. The heaviest bass under 16" winning the \$5,000 bonus was caught by Tony Reed from Powderly, Texas and weighed 2.73-pounds.

All the Little Anglers that participated are to be congratulated for their accomplishments. The smiles on those children's faces were heartwarming.

Winning 1st place overall with a weight of 11.15-pounds was Charles Blundell. He took

home his hourly winning plus a 2018 Triton 19TRX powered by Mercury, a RAM truck plus \$7,000. Coming in 2nd place with a weight of 9.72-pounds was John Pierstoff. He took home his hourly winnings, a 2018 Triton 18TRX powered by Mercury, a RAM truck and \$2,000. Winning 3rd place overall was Cory Reynolds with 9.28-pounds. He took home his hourly winnings plus a 2018 Triton 18TRX powered by Mercury plus \$1,000. In 4th place was Chance Lewis with a weight of 9.25-pounds. He took home his hourly winnings plus \$8,000. In 5th place with a weight of 9.17-pounds was Jimmy Thomas. He took home his hourly winnings plus \$6,000.

In the elimination drawing Manuel Beasley from Jackson, Mississippi took home a 2018 Triton 189TRX powered by Mercury.

One of the incentives in Sealy Outdoors Tournaments on Lake Fork is the even weight bass of 2.50-pounds and all pay-outs are guaranteed. No bass of this weight came to the scales during the tournament. For this there was a drawing for that prize money. Taking home a surprising \$5,000 for their name being drawn was William N. Reed from Longview, Texas, Michael D. Reed from Jonesboro, Louisiana, and James T. Leftwich from Derby, Kansas.

If you would like to fish one of Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash, check them out at sealyoutdoors.com this is "Where Amateurs Win Like Pros!!"



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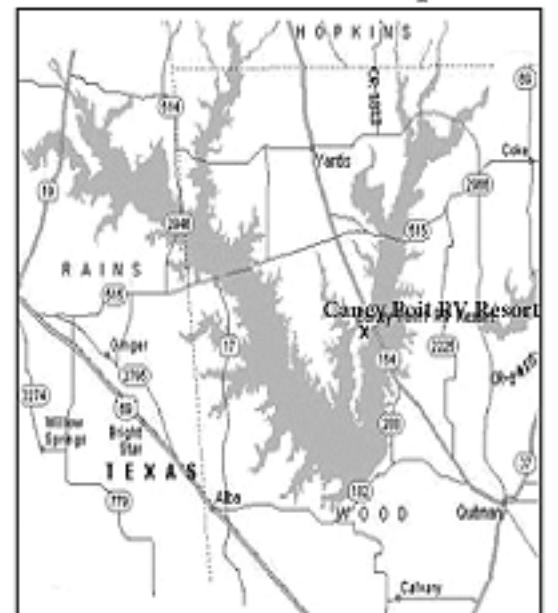
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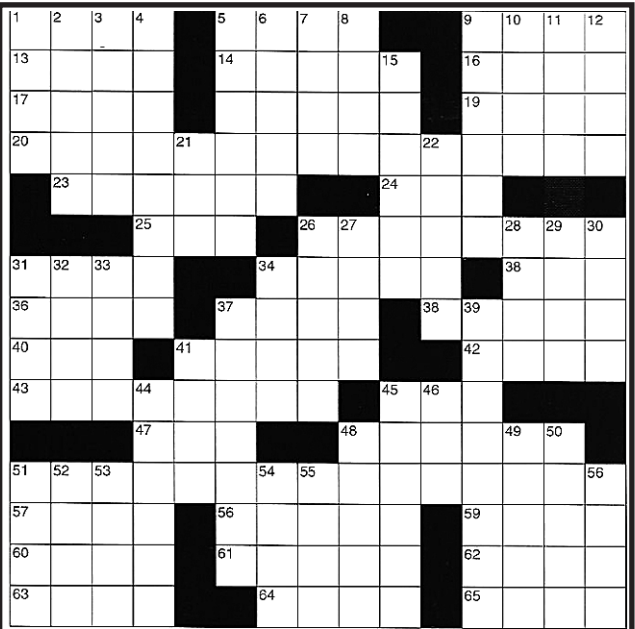


Migration Means "Game On" On Fork

By David Ozio

"It's about that time! The fall bass feedfest is just around the corner and it will be "Game On" on Lake Fork. This section of the year is one of my favorites as bass start to migrate to the backs of the creeks following their favorite food source which is shad. Surface temps are starting to drop which triggers the bass to start moving and the plan will be to fish around the ensuing cold fronts to tag a trophy of a lifetime. Another value add will be that hunting season is upon us and that means less traffic on the pond. The only negative we will be dealing with constitutes lake turnover. This will affect the deep bite for a while until the water stabilizes.

This turnover process is very evident when you



CLUES ACROSS

1. Friends (French)

5. Journey

9. Compartments

13. Gulls

14. Yello-fever mosquitos

16. Soft-finned fish

17. Terror

18. Shelf

19. The standard monetary unit of Turkey

20. Speedy

23. Suspension

24. Spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan

25. Male cat

26. Past

31. Interpret something in a certain way

34. Uncovers

35. South American wood sorrel

36. Turkish leader title
37. Desolate

38. Like cereal

40. Albania

41. Pistil bracts

42. Radioactivity units

43. Expunctions

45. School organization

47. Seaport, abbrev.

48. Division of a group into opposing factions

51. Falstaff's go-between

57. Die

58. Capital of South Korea

59. Air-bed

60. Ireland

61. Shrub

62. At all times

63. Tear down

64. Drunks

65. Secretary, for one

CLUES DOWN

1. Sunrise (Spanish)

2. Wet spongy ground

3. Sadam Hussein, for one

4. In a way, sets

5. Type of powder

6. In a way, smells

7. Icelandic poems

8. Containerfuls

9. A silky-coated sheepdog

10. Captial of Western Samoa

11. Banishes

12. Ruler of Iran

15. Member of U.S. Navy

21. Hirobumi __, Japanese Prime Minister

22. Large person

26. Peels

27. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid

28. Island north of Guam

29. Frosted

30. Treats skins
31. An account of incidents or events

32. Makes older

33. New Zealand parrot

34. A reddish brown pigment from clay

37. Munificence

39. Apprenticed

41. Sound of pleasure

44. Bench

45. Oars

46. 21st letter of the Greek alphabet

48. Sit on one's heels

49. Remove the surface of

50. French young woman

51. Jan VanDer __, Dutch painter

52. Iris genus

53. Gentleman

54. Mains

55. Fly alone

56. English city

Answers on Page 21-A

see brown bubbles floating on the surface across the lake. The occurrence doesn't happen all at once but in stages according to the strength of the cold fronts as they pass. Not all parts of the lake will turnover at once as some areas cool faster than others. This phenomenon usually lasts about three weeks beginning in late September and throws bass fishing into a tail spin especially for the deep fish. During this transition period, you will need to read the conditions and adapt accordingly. Fall will usually issue in more cloudy days and as the water temps decline, fish will migrate to the shallows in search of food and suitable water conditions thus opening the door to easier catches on moving baits. Where do we start? The answer to that question is wrapped up in the fall bass habits. Creeks will be your starting place and finding the shad will lead you to some of the best bass fishing of the year.

Gear up with a top water for the early bites and focus on any vegetation that you can find such as milfoil, lillypads or alligator grass. Zara Spooks are my all time favorite and will draw strikes from the largest bass around. Buzzbaits, Yellow Magic's and frogs are also excellent choices and truly have a place on the deck of the boat. Once that bite tapers off, I will switch to a Texas rig worm of any sort and work the same areas until noon. If the



vegetation is more sparse, use a 1/8th ounce tungsten weight with a 3/0 hook and rig it with your favorite worm. Trick worms, curl tails or speed worms all work great. For thicker grass, move up to a 5/16 ounce weight so that it will get down to where the monsters live. As for worm colors, stick to dark hues on cloudy days and more translucent shades on sunny days. If the water has pitiful clarity, go with the darker colors. If the wind is howling, head to the windiest bank and throw a Talon spinner bait. If the water is on the clear side, use the willow blades. Murky water will call for the Colorado blades.

Falling water temps will also issue in a better
(See Migration means.....
Continued on Page 20-A)

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Trainings on Chronic Wasting Disease Sample Collection Set in the Panhandle and Trans-Pecos

As part of Texas' increased chronic wasting disease (CWD) surveillance effort, state agencies have partnered to provide training opportunities for landowners/managers, taxidermists, and veterinarians on tissue sample collection for CWD testing.

Individuals who complete a 3 hour classroom and hands on workshop will be certified to collect samples from CWD susceptible species, such as white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, red deer and sika under the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Certified CWD Post-mortem Sample Collector training program.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, TAHC and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service have partnered to coordinate two CWD post-mortem sample collector trainings in the Panhandle and Trans-Pecos.

Classes are scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 26 in Amarillo at the AgriLife Extension Building, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd., and Nov. 17 in Van Horn at the Van Horn Convention Center, 1801 W. Broadway St.

To register for either training class contact Laura Leal with TAHC at (512) 650-0475 or email laura.leal@tahc.texas.gov.

Individuals who participated in trainings last year are required to attend this year's training to receive necessary check station supplies. Space is limited to the first 50 participants for each training and registration is mandatory to attend.

Current regulations mandate that CWD susceptible species harvested in parts of the Panhandle and Trans Pecos be tested for the disease. Details on testing requirements under the TAHC herd certification program, and additional information about CWD is available online.

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"The Moon Report"

"Forks Fall Fishing Is Here!"

By Terri Moon

Not only am I excited that the fall fishing is finally here – but, now I get to enjoy my favorite time of year in the new Skeeter Solera 205! This boat is truly a "luxury liner"! As much as I loved the Solera 189 – that little extra length in the 205 has just been perfect for when I have an extra person or two in the boat! Then to top it off, it is rigged with a 250 Yamaha four stroke motor – (WOW...that's the biggest motor I've ever owned)! I'm still in the "break-in" stage with it, so I have no idea how fast this beast will go! But, in the meantime, I love how this boat takes the rough water! Many thanks to Skeeter Boats for including the crappie fishing market in their program and doing it in style!

So needless to say, I'm pretty excited about the next couple of months fishing! It's "TROPHY" time and this includes all species. With the weather starting to cool off, the crappie are showing up in the mouths of the creek arms and will work up to secondary creek arms. We have found them as shallow as 8 ft. and as deep as 20 ft. around bridges and brush piles and standing timber. We are also finding them in the mouths of the coves in 20-28 ft. of water, one to three cranks off the bottom. For a productive day you will need to move around a lot until these fish start to bunch up.



Water clarity and light conditions play a role in what color will produce a strike. One color might work in the morning and they'll want something different in the afternoon so don't be afraid to change it up! Also, you might need to change up your presentation. They might want it on the fall or dead still – but, however you present it, don't take your eyes off your line. You will see a bite before you feel it.

The colors producing for us right now have been black and chartreuse or grey and chartreuse when there is cloud cover. Then on brighter days we're using chartreuse and white or pink with blue tail or white.

For those of you looking for bream, they have been in 5 to 15 ft. in brush or timber and also around the cross/members of the bridges. Berkley Gulp minnows in shad color, chartreuse or white – crappie nibbles, nightcrawlers or crickets will work – it's all fun!

A big thanks to the "Army of Angels" who helped me get my new boat ready for business! You are all so much appreciated!

I also want to wish Scuba Steve a very "Happy Birthday" this month and wish him all the best on his new adventure. We all thank you for all your help over the years and especially for the loving care you took of "Sweet Buddy". We will all miss you terribly – but, Buddy will miss you the MOST! I hope everyone will show Buddy a little extra love to help him through this major change in his life. Safe travels Scuba – (maybe you and Buddy can facetime!)

Thanks again to everyone who fished with me last month and I'm looking forward to all of you that are coming to fish with me this month!

Sending thoughts and prayers to my family in Missouri and looking forward to my mom & dad coming for a visit! (# prayers for safe travel)

TFFC Announces Tuesday Closures through February 2019

Beginning Oct. 2, the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) will begin a winter schedule that includes the closure of one additional weekday. TFFC will be closed to the public on Tuesdays from October 2018 through the end of February 2019.

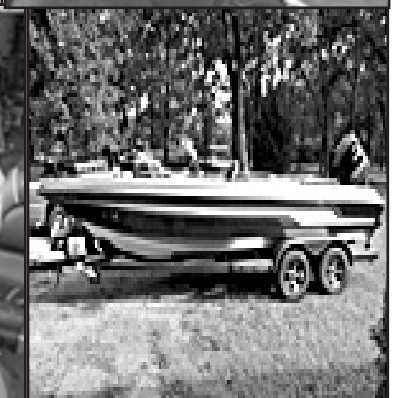
The only exception will be during the week of Thanksgiving, when TFFC will be open

Tuesday through Wednesday, and Friday through Sunday.

Open hours will remain the same on other days: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. TFFC will continue to be closed on Mondays.

Any questions may be directed to mandy.scott@tpwd.texas.gov.

**KEEP FISHING
UNTIL YOUR
HATERS
ASK IF THEY
CAN FISH
WITH YOU**



Come Fish Beautiful Lake Fork!! Book Your Trip Today 903-335-0941



By Don Hampton

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 39th Semi-Annual Open Bass Tournament on October 13th hosted out of Oak Ridge Marina. Any of you anglers coming to fish the 13th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on October 20th and 21st, this is a chance to do some pre-fishing and enjoy the great fishing Lake Fork has to offer.

Fishing hours for the tournament will

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork Open Oct. 13th

be from 6 am to 3:30 pm. All anglers have to be in line by 3:30 pm. It is a five fish limit, and an individual tournament. More than one person can fish in a boat but all have to be a paid entry. Bass in the tournament can touch 16" but not break the line. Bass over the slot must touch the 24" line. The Check-It-Stick will be the official measuring board. Bass under 12" cannot be brought to the weigh-in.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork pays back 80% of all entries. There is also a Big Bass Pot, optional to anglers. To get into the Big Bass Pot it is an additional

\$10 with 100% pay-back to the top three biggest bass. Texas Trails Bassmasters will be taking entries from 4 pm to 9 pm on Friday, October 12th, and again on Saturday, October 13th, from 5 am till 6 am.

If you can't come and fish with us, everyone is welcome to come out, visit with us and even buy some raffle tickets for the many prizes to be given away thanks to our many sponsors.

Texas Trails Bassmasters is a highly motivated progressive bass fishing club with ties to the Wish to Fish Foundation and weight masters for the Wood County Annual Kid Fish. If

you are thinking of joining a bass club, you can't go wrong with Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork.

Dues to join the club are a mere \$30 per year. Cost for each tournament is \$25 with a \$5 Big Bass Option. There is also a progressive side pot that an optional \$5 for the first 7-pound or over bass. If you wish to join now you'll have the rest of the year free and be in for the starting of the 2019 year.

For more information or to obtain an entry form for the tournament see ad on Page 16-A or go to www.texastrails-bassmasters.com or

give Rodney Ellis, President a call at 903-714-6473 or Don Hampton, VP/Tournament Director at 903-360-6994.

Fishing is going to

be great! Come out and fish with us! Who knows you could catch a ShareLunker for the season and finish in the tournament a big winner!



Lake Fork guide John Morris caught this nice bass on September 9th weighing 10.3-pounds while fishing Lake Fork. C.P.R.

Practice C.P.R.

Fish Friendly

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STORE ON FORK!
SHOP ONLINE!**



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RESTAURANT
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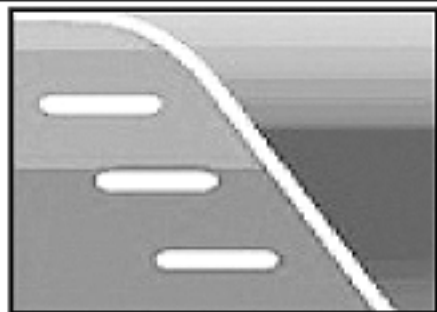
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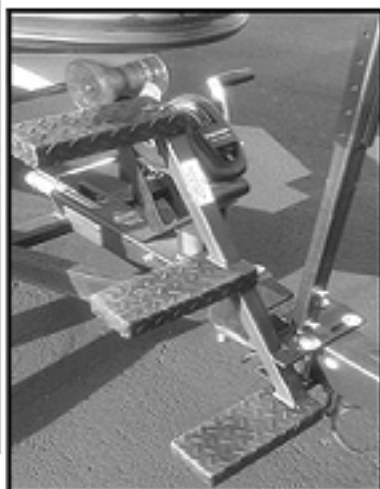
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Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. ~ Matthew 4:19 ~



The ESS-3SA

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A 4-step model that fits most bay, center console, and high bow pleasure boat trailers.



The ESS-4-SS

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Endorsed By:

*"The Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament",
The Fisherman's Guide News, 'Bassin With Bubba'
The Wish To Fish Foundation*

"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

The days are short-
ing, nights are cooling
and leaves are turning
colors on the trees,
fall is underway. I
love this time of year
for the simple fact
that less fishermen are
on the water and less
fishing pressure offers

more areas and spots
to fish. This time of year be-
fore I begin fishing, I
will spend a majority
of my time searching
for baitfish that have
migrated up the ma-
jor creeks and arms.
Once I find the right
size and type of bait
I'm looking for I will

begin either fishing or
searching with my so-
nar for the bass. Bass
will migrate with the
baitfish in the fall and
spend most of the fall
gorging themselves
until water temps be-
gin to cool and the
baitfish leave heading
back to deeper water.
I use my side scan

set at about 50 to 75
ft left and right and
simply idle down the
middle of the creek
until I come across the
bait. By scanning 100
to 150 at a time I can
cover and eliminate
an immense amount
of water which in turn
increases my fishing
time and productivity.

It is very important
to understand that the
more round the balls
of baitfish are, the
less they have been
attacked and actu-
ally are very safe in
the round ball form.
Balls of baitfish that
are elongated or bro-
ken up are usually
under attack or have

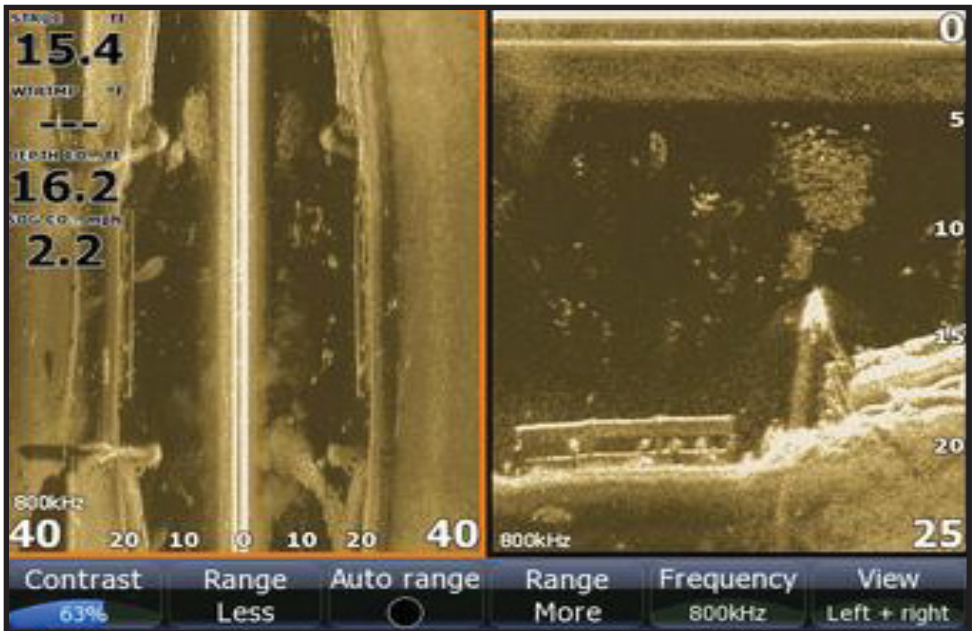
been recently attacked
(attached image). In
the fall this is what I
am looking to find be-
fore I begin wetting a
line. I hope this may
help you find the bass
a little quicker this
fall and I wish you all
great fishing.
Thelakeforkguide.
com



Michael McFarland
Lake Fork Guide Service
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• Instructional & Beginner Trips

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Fifteenth Annual Legend of Lake Fork

Big Bass Tournament

All Boats, Makes, Models Welcome

May 17, 18, 19, 2019

\$285,000 Guaranteed in
Cash & Prizes

Benefitting "The Wish to Fish Foundation"

Tournament Host: Lake Fork Marina, Hwy. 17, 903-765-2764

Grand Prizes Include:

4 ~ 2019 Charger Boats, Powered by Mercury, MinnKota, HUMMINBIRD Electronics

To Be Awarded For: 2 for the 2 Heaviest Over The Slot

1 for Heaviest Bass Under The Slot, 1 for Draw Boat

(Early Entries ONLY and must be present to win.)

BONUS T-SHIRT HOUR EVERY HOUR OF THE TOURNAMENT

10 Places Paid Hourly 1st - \$500 * 2nd - \$400 * 3rd - \$300 * 4th - \$200 * 5th - \$175
6th - \$150 * 7th - \$125 * 8th - \$110 * 9th - \$100 * 1st Out of 9th - \$100 GC

For More Information Call: 903-360-6994 or 903-383-7748 email: fishnews@lakefork.net

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TROPHY LURES

TPWD Inland Fisheries Seeking Partners for Habitat Restoration in Texas Reservoirs

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries staff conduct dozens of habitat restoration projects each year to enhance fish habitat in Texas' aging reservoirs. But fisheries biologists can't do these large-scale projects alone, they rely on Friends of Reservoirs partners to help make Texas fishing the best it can be.

Although many Texas reservoirs benefit from established Friends of Reservoirs chapters, TPWD is looking to expand the number of partners around

the state who are interested in participating in habitat projects at their local reservoirs.

"We are targeting conservation-minded groups like fishing clubs, master naturalist groups, lake-side homeowner's associations, high school fishing teams, conservation organizations and virtually any public group that is interested in working with us to improve fishing or habitat for fish in public lakes," said Dave Terre, TPWD Chief of Inland Fisheries Management and Research.

Habitat restoration projects conducted by TPWD fisheries biologists and local Friends of Reservoirs chapters range from placing GPS-marked natural and artificial fish attractors in reservoirs to increase angler catch rates to planting native vegetation along the shoreline to provide fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and prevent shoreline erosion. Friends of Reservoirs chapters are essential to making these projects happen by fundraising and recruiting volunteers to help assemble, haul and drop fish attractors in the lake and plant native vegetation along the shoreline.

Organizations interested in becoming partners on habitat restoration projects in their local lakes can send a representative for free to the Friends of Reservoirs 9th Annual Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership Meeting the weekend of Oct. 6-7 at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. The event will feature presentations on ongoing state and regional habitat projects along with information on permitting, structure, nuisance aquatic vegetation, establishing native vegetation and grant funding.

Pre-registration is required to attend the workshop. For more information or to pre-register contact Dave Terre at dave.terre@tpwd.texas.gov or (512) 389-4855.

There are currently 24 Friends of Reservoirs chapters partnered with TPWD to enhance their local lakes, a list that includes recent award winners like the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association, which was inducted into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in 2018, and Lake Livingston Friends of Reservoirs, which was designated as a Conservation Wrangler by Texan By Nature in 2017. To learn more about these organizations, visit www.friendsofreservoirs.com.

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"Hunting Season Is Here!"

Deadline Approaching to Enter Big Time Texas Hunts Drawing

Looking for an opportunity to fill a hole in this year's hunting calendar without breaking the bank? Hunters hoping for a chance at winning premium guided hunt packages through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Big Time Texas Hunts program have until Monday, Oct. 15 at 11:59 p.m. Hunters can enter to win any of 10 exciting premium guided hunt packages in this year's Big Time Texas Hunts drawing. All lodging and food is included and most of the packages allow winners to bring friends along to hunt. There are packages to hunt bighorn sheep, mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, alligator, waterfowl, upland game birds, wild hog and exotics.

New this year is an opportunity to hunt nilgai antelope in South Texas. The nilgai antelope - also called the "blue bull" - is a massive big game animal from southeast Asia that was introduced onto the famed King Ranch during the late 1920s. These impressive animals now thrive on the grasslands of South Texas where mature males can tip the scales at 700 pounds. Not only are nilgai huge, they are also a challenge to hunt. Their

keen eyesight, hearing and sense of smell make them sensitive to predators and they spook easily.

"Big Time Texas Hunts allows everyone a chance to win unique hunting packages that are out of reach for most Texans. Beyond this, hunters can feel good about purchasing entries because all of the money raised is earmarked for wildlife conservation and public hunting projects," said Justin Dreibelbis, TPWD Private Lands and Public Hunting Program Director.

Big Time Texas Hunts raises over \$600,000 each year for wildlife research, habitat conservation efforts, and public hunting programs in Texas. Over \$8 million has been raised since the program began in 1998.

Big Time Texas Hunts entries are available online, under the "Hunting" category, for \$9 each or for \$10 each at license retailers, or by phone at (800) 895-4248. Call center hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is a required \$5 administrative fee for each phone or online transaction, but unlimited items can be purchased (such

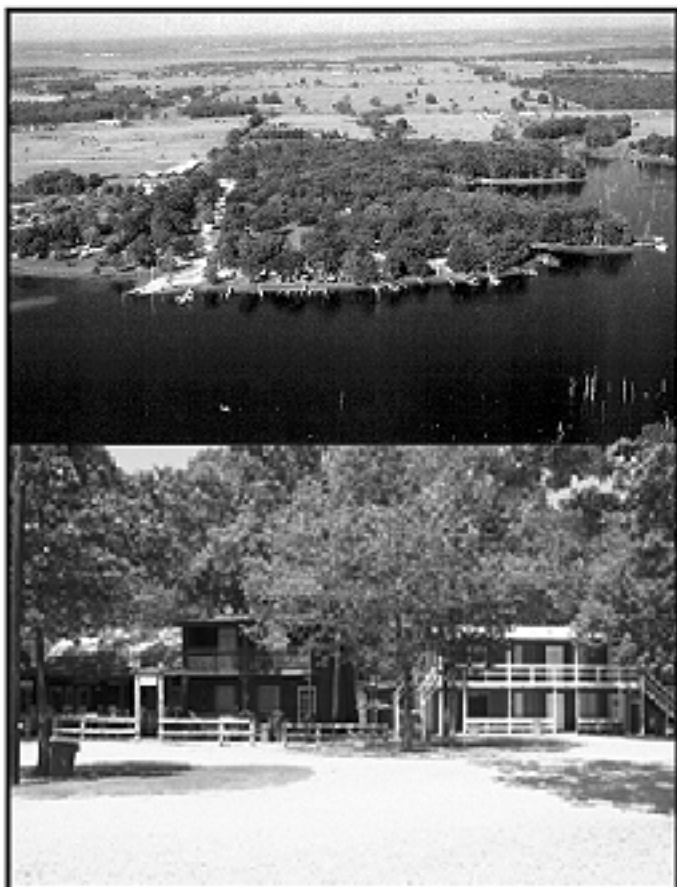
as 2018-19 hunting and fishing licenses) during a single transaction for this \$5 fee. You are not required to purchase or have a hunting or fishing license to buy Big Time Texas Hunts entries.

Big Time Texas Hunts is made possible with support from Toyota and the Texas Bighorn Society.

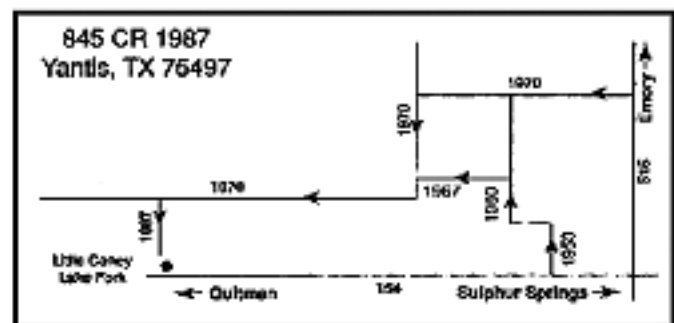


This Lady Angler caught this nice bass fishing Lake Fork with guide Danny Holder. (Weight and name not provided) C.P.R.

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Recent Rains Provide Boost for Deer, New Challenges for Bowhunters

Texas' Archery-Only Hunting Season Opened Saturday, Sept. 29. "Hunting might be a little tough with the exceptional rainfall in September that has created a giant food plot of native forage across

the state," said Alan Cain, TPWD whitetail deer program leader. "Deer may be visiting the feeders less frequently with the abundant forage, so hunters might rely on information gathered recently on their trail

cameras to help narrow down windows of opportunity as to when deer are visiting feeder and blind locations."

Texas boasts a robust white-tailed deer population of about 4.6 million and the influx of new groceries on the ground should provide a boost of nutrition heading into the fall. It should also give wildlife managers some relief after range conditions across much of the state heading out of

the summer doldrums began to decline.

"Range conditions had diminished somewhat with the long stretches of 100 degree weather and wind," Cain noted. "The majority of the state had reasonable forb production and good brush green-up this past spring, which provided a good foundation of native forage to get deer off to a good start in terms of antler growth and fawn production. By late August, we were seeing preferred forbs becoming less available for deer. The rains came at an opportune time."

While the archery-only season kicked off September 29 and runs through Nov. 2, the general gun season opener is still more than a month away on Nov. 3. A special youth-only weekend season is set for Oct. 27-29. The general season runs through Jan. 6, 2019 in North Texas and Jan. 20, 2019 in South Texas. A late youth-only season is also slated for Jan. 7-20, 2019. For additional late season deer hunting opportunities and county specific regulations, consult the 2018-19 Outdoor Annual of hunting and fishing regulations.

Hunters are also reminded to review the TPWD chronic wasting disease regulations for information about CWD testing requirements and carcass movement restrictions for the 2018-19 season. Also as a reminder, Texas hunters harvesting deer, elk, moose, or other susceptible species in other CWD-positive states must also comply with carcass movement restrictions when bringing those harvested animals back into Texas. Additionally, the Texas Animal Health Commission has mandatory testing requirements that apply to elk, red deer, sika, moose, and reindeer.



Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

37th Semi-Annual Open Tournament


October 13, 2018 * Lake Fork, Texas

Oak Ridge Marina * Hwy 154 N.

Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries 903-878-2529

Drawings Held After Weigh-in for prizes

1st Place	\$1,040.00
2nd Place	\$780.00
3rd Place	\$520.00
4th Place	\$260.00
5th ~ 10th	\$100.00



80% Payback



100% Payback

There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry

Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)

1st Place	\$500
2nd Place	\$300
3rd Place	\$200

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00

2. Early entries must be postmarked by Oct. 5, 2018.

3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Oct.13, 2018.

4. Check in times: Fri., Oct. 12, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Oct. 13, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at Oak Ridge Marina.

5. To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.

6. Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station). NO FISHING from midnight till start time.

7. Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer allowed).

8. Contestants must fish from a boat. NO-bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.

9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.

10. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.

11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.

12. Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (or state law limits at the time of the tournament).

13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.

14. Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.

15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.

16. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.

17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).

18. Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of TTB and will be released (with the exception of trophy or dead fish).

19. In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following positions will be combined and evenly divided between the tying contestants.

20. Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to the tournmanet.

21. Contestants may fish with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.

22. Use of alcoholic beverages or controlled drugs are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.

23. Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.

24. Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon TTB's effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualification from this and all future TTB tournaments.

25. Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.

26. All protests must be registered in writing with the tournament judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.

27. All boats must be 18 ft. in length or longer. An aerated livewell is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish.

28. All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this TTB event.

29. Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information or for information on joining Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork visit our website: www.texastrailsbassmasters.com

Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Oct. 5, 2018 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (Optional). Print clearly.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Having read and understood all the tournament rules, by my signature I agree to accept all decisions of the judges final, by my signature I waive, release and hold harmless all members, officials and sponsors of any and all alleged liabilities to me or my equipment.

Contestants Signature _____

Minor's Release: Signed by _____

TTB USE ONLY


Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

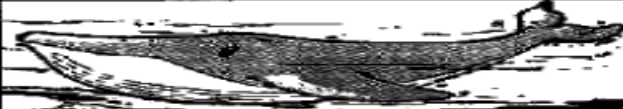
Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Chk# _____

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU



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A 200hp Evinrude outboard in 25 foot long at birth.

New Experimental Mule Deer Antler Restriction Regulation Takes Effect this Hunting Season in the SE Panhandle

Hunters pursuing mule deer this fall in Briscoe, Childress, Cottle, Floyd, Hall, and Motley counties will be required to comply with a new antler restriction regulation that prohibits harvest of any mule deer buck with a main beam outside spread of less than 20 inches.

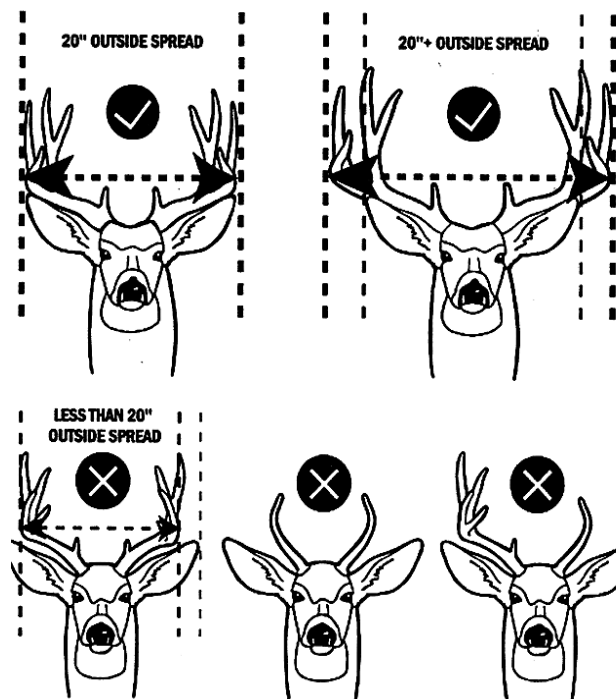
The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is implementing the new experimental regulation with the goal of improving buck age structure and sex ratios in these counties by reducing excessive hunting pressure on younger bucks. A similar antler restriction for white-tailed deer has been in place for a number of years in other parts of the state, and has successfully shifted the age class structure toward older bucks.

Mule deer archery-only season in the antler restriction counties occurs Sept. 29 - Nov. 2, with the general firearm season occurring Nov. 17 - Dec. 2. Information about hunting licenses can be found online.

To protect young bucks, TPWD has set the minimum legal outside spread of the main beams at 20 inches based upon many years of harvest data. In other words, any buck having main beams with an outside spread smaller than 20 inches is NOT legal to harvest. Additionally, any buck with at least one unbranched antler (e.g., spike) is NOT legal to harvest, unless the outside spread of the

main beams is 20 inches or more in width. Based upon data collected by TPWD, the average ear-tip to ear-tip spread of 2 ½ to 8 ½+ year old mule deer bucks with ears in the alert position is about 21 inches. This information on ear-tip to ear-tip measurement can be a useful guide to mule deer hunters attempting to field-judge mule deer bucks with at least a 20-inch main beam outside spread.

Mule Deer Buck Antler Restrictions Guide



The experimental antler restriction will be conducted for four hunting seasons. TPWD wildlife officials will collect age and antler measurements at voluntary hunter-harvest check stations to assess the effects of the regulation on buck age structure. Annual aerial surveys will be used to document sex ratios. Based on findings after four years, TPWD will either propose to extend the regulation, modify the antler restriction, or permanently terminate.

To gather the most harvest data possible, TPWD will offer incentives to hunters who check their harvest. Hunters who bring their harvest to a check station will be entered in drawings for items such as rifles, lifetime hunting licenses, and gift cards donated by Dallas Safari Club, the Texas Panhandle Chapter of the Dallas Safari Club, the Mule Deer Foundation, and Houston Safari Club. These data are essential to effectively evaluate the success of the experimental antler restriction.

More information regarding mule deer seasons, the experimental antler restriction, check station locations, dates and hours of operation, check station incentives, and drawing results is available online.



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"October is One of the Best Months For Fishing on Lake Fork!"

By Andrew Grills

October is one of the better months for fishing here on Lake Fork, and not too many folks realize that. Fishing generally gets better and better throughout the month. It will continue to improve as the weather cools down. While occasionally catch a big fish, October is more of a "numbers" month. I encourage customers with young children, or novice anglers, to come enjoy getting their line stretched this month!

The water temperature is still in the upper 70's as I write this report, but hopefully that



will drop sooner than later. The water level is 1.83' below full pool. We had a pretty wet September, that brought the lake back up a little. That makes for a tough level when it comes to fishing. I would prefer it lower, or completely full. We will just have to make the best of it.

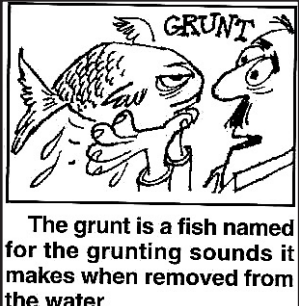
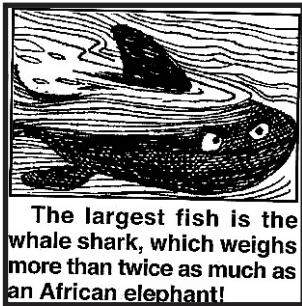
There are plenty of fish shallow, for those who like that style of fishing. Topwater early, then light Texas rigs, small swimbaits, and jigs are working for the shallow fishermen I know. The drop shot will continue to produce as well.

There are some fish in deeper water as well. Look for fish out at the ends of points, on main lake humps, and pond dams. Road beds always get good in the fall as well. More finesse type presentations will do best this time of year. When the water really cools down near the end of the month, the bigger fish will start to show up with more regularity.

If I can be of any assistance on your upcoming trip, please don't hesitate to contact me. Good luck out there. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." John 4:9.



Phillip Montano was fishing Lake Fork in September when he caught this hawg weighing 11.18-pounds on a football jig in 12 to 14 feet of water. (Courtesy Photo)



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Inks Lake State Park Hosts Hill Country Heritage Expo Oct. 5-6

Enjoy two days of cultural exhibits, weapons demonstrations and Native American dances at the Hill Country Heritage Expo hosted by Inks Lake State Park. The event is free to the public with park entry fees and runs Oct. 5-6. Inks Lake State Park is a state park located in Burnet County, Texas.

The fun is kicking off Friday with a teepee talk interpretive event at

6 p.m., then visitors can groove into the weekend at a historical dance from 7:30 p.m.- 9 p.m.

Saturday's festivities begin at 10 a.m. with Dutch oven doughnuts and cowboy coffee and will continue until 5 p.m. Activities happening throughout the day include demonstrations of historic weapons such as the atlatl and flint knapping, displays of 19th century weap-

ons, and Dutch oven cooking from 10 a.m. to noon. In Pioneer Town, visitors can learn the origins of tea, how to make rope, milk a cow and spin wool into yarn.

There will be special performances by the Comanche Nation Youth Dancers from Lawton, Oklahoma at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Don't worry about leaving for lunch, Inks Lake has a new food truck and Kona Snow Cone stand that will be selling delicious food during the event.

Attendees also have a chance to visit with members of the Lipan-Apache Band, Buffalo Soldiers, Civilian Conservation Corps, National Wildlife Refuge system and Longhorn Caverns State Park, just to name a few.

A chili cookoff competition concludes Saturday's activities. Visitors will be able to taste samples from the con-

testants and pick their favorites. Tasting will begin at 4 p.m. and winners will be announced

at 5 p.m.

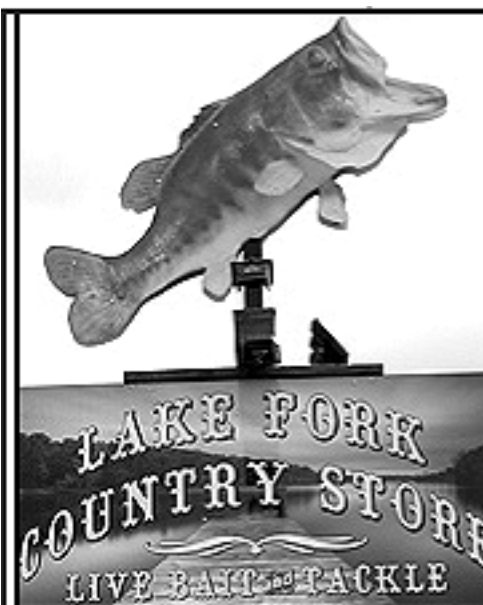
For more information about the event, contact Lindsay Pannell, 512-

793-4689, Lindsay.Pannell@tpwd.texas.gov.

Practice C.P.R.



Steve Glenn caught this nice bass fishing Lake Fork with guide Randy Oldfield in September. C.P.R.



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Migration Means "Game On" On Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

deep bite as bass start to group up. Deep structures, road beds, points and ridges should all come alive as these fish search for food to fatten up for the winter. Once the afternoon rolls around, start looking deep for bait and you will find bass that just flat live there year round. The electronics are key to this success and once you locate a sizeable wad of fish, pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. You can start with a Carolina rig using any big worm to fool the bass. Blue fleck, watermelon red and plum all work well. A stand-up head is also a great tool for these fish using the same

worms. My mantra is "if I can see them, I can catch them". It's game on for video fishing and the drop shot rules the roost for this type of play. Put the worm right in front of their nose and wait for the rod to load up. It don't get much better than that. If you spot the big arc's suspended, dig out a 5 inch Talon spoon, count it down and hold on. A magnum fluke will work equally well if the wind is not howling. Use a heavy rod and 20lb line for this application.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in October searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in October and some in November. 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 and Instagram at DavidOzioLakeForkGuide. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon 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."



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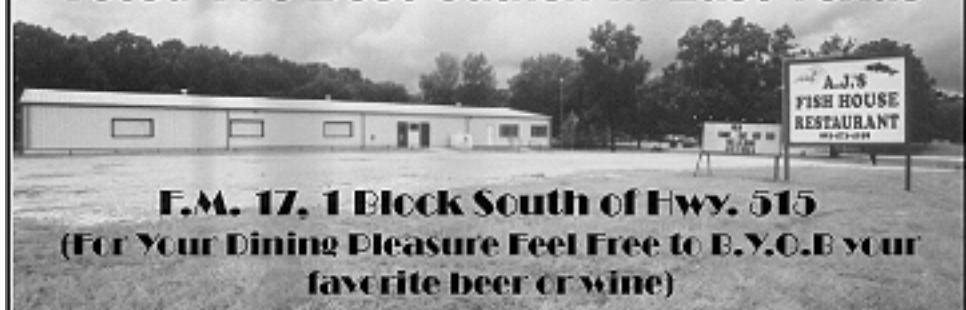
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Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork



By Kenny LaDuke

Lake Tyler was the site of the Texas Trails Bassmasters 11th tournament of the 2017 - 2018 season.

Lake Tyler is always a fun lake to fish, with the choice of two bodies of water that is connected. This allows anglers multiple ways of catching fish. The anglers that fished to their strength was able to catch a limit of fish and have bragging rights for this month.

Chris Large with a 5 fish limit that weighed 13.95 lbs. for 1st place. Kenny LaDuke brought a 5 fish limit for 2nd place with 8.51 lbs. Leon Davis brought in 5 fish weighing 7.69 lbs. for 3rd place. Chris Large also had the big bass of the derby weighing 4.53 lbs.

Texas Trails Bassmasters 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, or Don Hampton 903-360-6994 and join our club. We have had several new members join this year and you could be part of the fun.

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Treat Find

There are 14 Halloween treats 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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CHOCOLATE
CARAMELS
COOKIES
COINS
FRUIT SNACKS

POPCORN
POTATO CHIP
PRETZELS
CAKE
RAISINS
GUM
ICE CREAM

A	P	O	N	Y	T	R	F	E	P	R	G
P	I	C	E	N	O	M	E	L	P	C	F
C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	A	E	R
E	C	O	L	U	E	R	A	K	P	N	U
C	O	K	P	L	E	B	E	R	A	R	I
U	T	I	O	N	A	M	R	P	Y	S	T
E	A	E	P	U	U	U	P	R	A	N	S
P	T	S	I	G	C	O	I	N	S	P	N
T	O	A	L	Y	P	L	B	N	L	V	A
R	P	N	L	C	R	B	E	K	E	W	C
F	A	A	O	E	F	R	U	I	M	A	K
U	N	R	L	G	M	E	L	W	A	W	S
V	N	R	A	I	S	I	N	S	R	R	G
A	L	L	A	A	E	L	P	P	A	Y	A
P	R	E	T	Z	E	L	S	A	C	M	M
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Wyer Aerial Tramway Closed to the Public

After nearly six decades in operation, including many years as the only public tram in Texas, the Wyler Aerial Tramway at Franklin Mountains State Park is closed until further notice.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), which has operated the tram for the past 19 years, made the decision to suspend operations following an engineering analysis conducted as part of a deferred maintenance project that was planned to begin later this fall. Despite passing annual inspections, the latest analysis concluded the tram has surpassed its life expectancy and is no longer suited for public use. Out of an

abundance of caution, TPWD has closed the tramway while it considers its options.

The Wyler Aerial Tramway was originally designed to provide maintenance access for television transmission towers in the Franklin Mountains until it was donated to TPWD in 1997. The department re-opened it to the public in 2001 following extensive renovation.

The construction of the tram predates the establishment of national tramway standards and, despite its clean record and successful annual inspections, the engineering review conducted this summer recommends that the tramway be

updated to meet today's standards, which would require a complete overhaul of the tramway.

Replacement of the tram is estimated to cost millions of dollars. TPWD does not have the financial resources to execute a capital construction project of this size at this time.

Wyer Aerial Tramway at Franklin Mountains State Park features two aerial cable cars that travel over the jagged mountain and rock formations on the east side of the Franklin Mountains to Ranger Peak. From the summit, about 45,000 visitors per year experience a 360-degree view of two countries and three states.

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Lake Austin Fish Habitat Enhanced by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Local Partners

Lake Austin, once considered to be one of the top trophy bass fishing destinations in the nation, has experienced a decline in natural fish habitat in recent years due to efforts to control nuisance aquatic vegetation. Without plentiful habitat it can be a challenge for anglers to target sport fish that seek cover in vegetation, like largemouth bass.

In an effort to restore balance to the reservoir and provide the habitat that sport fish need to thrive, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) fisheries biologists and volunteers from the Texas Tournament Zone Friends of Reservoirs (FOR) chapter conducted a joint project to supplement fish habitat with arti-

cial fish attractors in the lake September 25.

"Until natural aquatic vegetation becomes established again in Lake Austin, these fish habitat structures will provide target areas for anglers to improve their chances of catching fish," said Marcos De Jesus, TPWD Inland Fisheries District Supervisor for San Marcos-Austin.

The fish habitat structures sunk at 13 sites on Sept. 25th include artificial Mossback trophy trees which were secured by custom heavy anchors and marked with buoys and GPS coordinates. These long-lasting, environmentally friendly structures made from PVC and composite materials attract concentrations of sport fish by providing

cover and food for prey fish in the small spaces between the branches.

This habitat complements a project conducted by TPWD fisheries biologists and partners in April which included the sinking of 50 concrete pillars near the dam at Lake Austin. The heavy 5 by 3-foot pillars, originally used as Camp Swift barrack foundations, create an artificial reef environment that will withstand currents during flood events.

"Habitat structures need heavy anchoring to withstand strong water current during flood pulses in this riverine system," De Jesus said. "The heavy concrete pillars and the anchored artificial fish attractors that we placed this year

should provide anglers with high quality fishing opportunities for many years to come. Anglers who want to target these locations can find GPS coordinates on our Locations of Fish Attractors webpage.

The artificial fish structure project was funded in part by a \$20,000 grant from the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership/FOR and matching dollars from Bass Pro Shops in Round Rock and proceeds from sales of TPWD's Largemouth Bass Conservation License Plate.

"Partnerships with groups like TTZ, the City of Austin, Bass Pro Shops, and angler support through license plate sales and fishing license sales allow us to become more efficient at restoring fish habitat," De Jesus said.

Lake Austin, considered the eighth most popular trophy bass destination in the nation by B.A.S.S. in 2014, is also home to the 24th largest bass ever caught in Texas on the statewide list of Top 50 Largemouth Bass. Additionally, the lake is home to good quality bluegill, red-

breast, and redear fishing, and has low-density populations of flathead and blue catfish.

Lake Austin is classified as infested with zebra mussels. Anglers are reminded to clean, drain and dry boats, trailers, livewells/bait buckets, and other gear before traveling to another water body. Draining water is required by law and possession and transport of zebra mussels is illegal.

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