

# 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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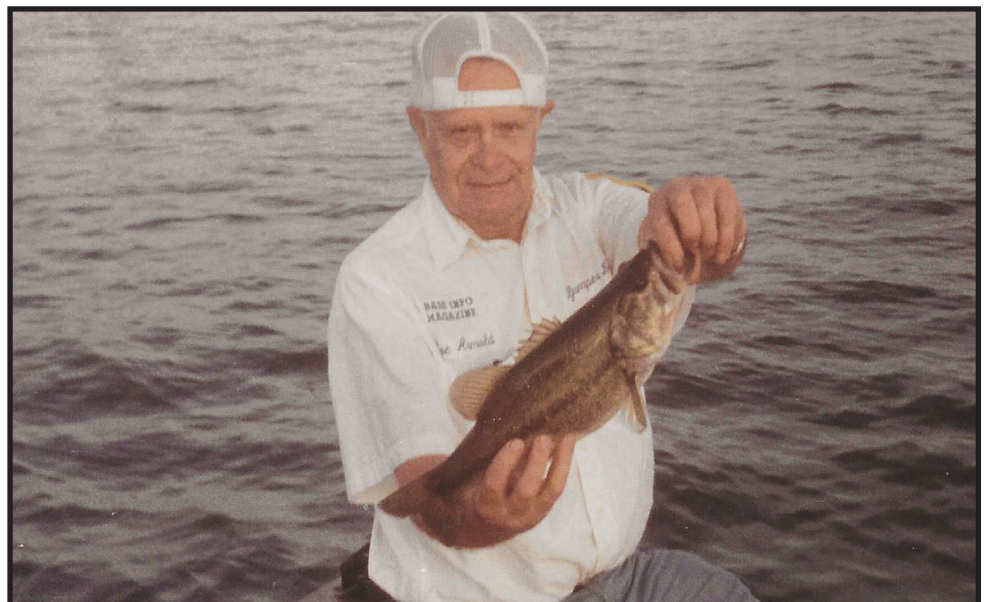
ZACH FOWLER FROM ALEDO, TEXAS WON THE 13TH ANNUAL BERKLEY BIG BASS TOURNAMENT ON LAKE FORK WITH THIS BASS WEIGHING 8.95-LBS. FOR HIS CATCH HE TOOK HOME \$1,000 IN CASH AND A 2018 SKEETER ZX 200, POWERED BY YAMAHA, MOTORGUIDE, AND LOWRANCE ELECTRONICS. (FISHERMAN'S GUIDE PHOTO BY SUE HAMPTON)



THOMAS YOUNG FROM EROS, LOUISIANA WON IN THE 13TH ANNUAL BERKLEY BIG BASS TOURNAMENT ON LAKE FORK FOR THE HEAVIEST BASS UNDER THE SLOT WEIGHING 2.60-LBS. FOR HIS CATCH HE TOOK HOME \$1,000 IN CASH AND A 2018 SKEETER ZX 190, POWERED BY YAMAHA, MOTORGUIDE, AND LOWRANCE ELECTRONICS. (FISHERMAN'S GUIDE PHOTO BY SUE HAMPTON) SEE STORY ON PAGE 10-A



On October 27th "The Wish to Fish Foundation" had the extreme pleasure of granting the wish of Lilly Anderson. The good Lord answered our prayers and we had a beautiful day for the trip. Lilly being of a competitive spirit was really excited that she caught the most fish of anybody. (See Full Story on Page 15-A) See Lilly's Struggle Back to Health on Photo Page 19-A.



"Lake Fork lost a good friend on October 21st!" Many of us knew him as Armadillo Joe of Armadillo Rod and Reel Repair. When he wasn't visiting folks on Lake Fork, he spent his time repairing angler's fishing equipment or taking members of the military fishing on Lake Fork. He was a good man and will be missed!



## "When It Comes To Thanksgiving, Bubba May Be The Turkey Full of Grace"

By: Don Hampton

Bubba isn't an individual that is asked to say the grace much when it comes to meals. Don't get me wrong Bubba considers himself religious and is always thankful to the "Good Lord" for all his blessings. But, come on people, Bubba is Bubba!

If Bubba is asked to say the grace, you never know what kind of thanks you may hear. If he is really hungry you might hear, "Good bread, good meat, God Bless, let's eat, AMEN!" If he is real-ly hungry and not feeling like a bear just out of hibernation and in a good mood you might hear, "Rubby dub, dub, bring on the grub, Yay God, AMEN!" But, if Bubba has had a snack just before meal time, like tasting the turkey as he is slicing it, get ready for a long winded grace like you've never heard before. During these blessings he would have a country revival preacher squirming in his seat. During this course you might hear Bubette throw in four or five AMENS. Not because she's filled with the spirit or that she agrees with what Bubba is saying, but rather because she's trying to shut him down. This is something one can really expect to hear at Thanksgiving at Bubba and Bubette's home.

Each year at Thanksgiving and Christmas, Bubba is the designated turkey smoker. He does smoke a mean turkey and all his rela-

tives think he is the best and his smoked sweet potatoes and oyster dressing is a culinary delight also. The bad part of this is that the cook tastes his cooking before he will serve it. If you thought this would spoil his appetite, you are wrong. This just puts him at the table not being hungry as a bear and it being Bubba's household the Thanksgiving blessing belongs to him.

The beginning and the end of his grace are book worthy. It is just all of those things in the middle that will have you starving before the last AMEN. Believe me when he says, "AMEN", there is a chorus of "AMENS" around the table!

He will start by thanking God for all the blessings he has bestowed on his family and friends. He asked him to bless this great country we live in and for all the soldiers that defend our freedom and way of life. He will thank God for the food they are about to partake of and that he will nourish it to the goodness of their bodies, but then Bubba will say thanks for everything he feels important.

He is liable to start off by thanking the "Good Lord" for Lake Fork and all of the good lakes he has fished throughout the year. He'll be thankful for his sharp hooks, strong line, and prized possessions such as his rods and reels. He'll put in how much he appreciated the fish biting and that they might on his future trips

be as hungry as some of his kinfolk are getting at the table during his blessing. He will thank the Lord for his boat, motor, electronics and as always for his pick-up truck. He'll be thankful for the weather, the tournaments he won, the great guide trips he has been on, and on, and on, and on! Sometimes during these blessings Bubba would run down the EVEREADY Bunny! I do believe he would stretch them out more if he wasn't afraid his food would get cold!

Bubba is pretty smart in a sense the way he explained it to me. He said, "I've got a captive audience! No matter how long I say grace, none of my kinfolk are going to get up and leave a table full of good vittles!"

When Bubba finally says "AMEN", I think the chorus of "AMENS" is basically because everyone's so glad he's finally come to an end, but probably to drown out Bubba putting in a P.S.

Bubba always finishes his prayer with sincere thanks. He is thankful for his life, his wife, his family and friends, for the great country we live in, and that all may be blessed with the Lord's spirit.

Isn't that something we all should put in our prayers!

"Happy Thanksgiving from our home to yours!"

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## Big Time Texas Hunts Winners Announced

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has announced the 14 lucky winners of this year's Big Time Texas Hunts selected at random from entries in the drawing.

All told, hunters bought 94,705 Big Time Texas Hunt entries. More than \$871,644 in gross sales was generated, and proceeds from the drawing go to support wildlife research, habitat management and public hunting.

"We are extremely excited about the results this year; not only that we are able to send 14 people and their friends/family on hunts of a lifetime, but through the generosity of hunters around the country we were able to raise important conservation dollars for wildlife habitat and public

hunting projects on public lands in Texas," said Justin Dreibelbis, TPWD Private Lands and Public Hunting Program Director.

This year's winner of the Texas Grand Slam hunting package, Greg May of Amarillo, is making plans for four separate guided hunts for the state's top four premier big game species - desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn and mule deer.

Following are the other category winners of this year's Big Time Texas Hunts: Ultimate Mule Deer Hunt - Rod Rodriguez, Austin Nilgai Antelope Safari - Craig McCallum, Rockwall Premium Buck Hunt - Brooks Smith, Houston

Exotic Safari - Melvin Dennard, Friendswood Whitetail Bonanza - Stewart Brandon, Sandia; Daniel Schuch, Leander; Thomas Becker, New Braunfels; Audion Hubenak, Rock Island; Thomas Riley, Granbury Big Time Bird Hunt - Michael Ostrowski, Reading, PA Gator Hunt - Mark Smith, Fort Worth Texas Waterfowl Hunt - Dwight Volling, Alice Wild Hog Adventure - Roland Krienke, Cedar Park

All winners have been notified. Entries for next year's Big Time Texas Hunts will go on sale May 15, 2019.

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



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## Crappie Anglers of Texas – Texas State Crappie Championship of Lake Fork

CAT recently held its 11th Texas State Crappie Championship Tournament on Lake Fork on October 12-13, 2018. This was a two-day tournament. Even with changing fish patterns and torrential rains, anglers brought impressive and record-breaking stringers to the scales. Division 1 had 25 qualifying teams enter the championship and Division 2 had 18 teams. Here are the results:

In Division 1, David Gibby (Valley View, TX) and Cody Standerfer (Prosper, TX) won first place with a two-day total of 14 fish weighing 27.64 pounds. This broke the record for the largest two-day string caught during a Texas State Crappie Championship. Second place was won by Clay Gann (Hideaway, TX) and Todd Froebe (Lindale, TX) with junior angler Landon Froebe with 14 fish weighing 26.66 pounds. Kelly Satterwhite (Teague, TX) and Eric Walker (Lewisville, TX) took home 3rd place with 14 fish weighing 26.43 pounds. Other awards - Pro Angler Elite Rod Challenge Award Day 1 winners were Chris Waters

and Kirk Grounds (13.93). David Gibby and Cody Standerfer (14.14) won Day 2. Bobby Garland Big Fish Award Day 1 winners were Weston Belcher and Brain Carter (2.63). David Gibby and Cody Standerfer (2.67) won.

In Division 2, Brandon Miles (Bullard, TX) and Steve Goncalves (Midlothian, TX) won first place with a two-day total of 14 fish weighing 24.30 pounds. Miles and Goncalves capped off incredible season with a with a Championship win. Second place was won by Bob McAffrey (Killeen, TX) and Greg Young (Weatherford, TX) 13 fish weighing 24.02 pounds. Brent Bryson (Leonard, TX) and Mikie Bryson (Leonard, TX) took home 3rd place with 14 fish weighing 22.37 pounds. Other awards - Pro Angler Elite Rod Challenge Award winners for both days were Brandon Miles and Steve Goncalves (13.12 and 11.18). Bobby Garland Big Fish Award Day 1 winners were Brandon Miles and Steve Goncalves (2.29). Bob McAffrey and Greg Young (2.29) won Day 2.

The annual awards banquet was held at the Emory Civic Center October 12, 2018. The team of Clay Gann and Todd Froebe won the "Anglers of the Year" honor in Division 1, and the team of Brandon Miles and Steve Goncalves were named "Anglers of the Year" in Division 2. The prestigious 2018 Ron Conatser Sportsman of the Year award was presented to Robert Russell and the 2018 "Top CAT" Award was posthumously awarded to Matthew Carroll. About

CAT Crappie Anglers of Texas is a non-profit organization dedicated to the sport of crappie fishing. With over 280 members nationwide, CAT has been instrumental in gaining national attention for crappie fishing in Texas and continues to develop its member's knowledge of crappie fishing through educational meetings, seminars and fishing tournaments. All CAT tournaments pay back at least 100% of the anglers' entry fees. For Information, go to the CAT website [www.crappieanglersoftexas.com](http://www.crappieanglersoftexas.com)



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# LFSA PRESERVING, PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE LEGEND THAT IS LAKE FORK

By Don Hampton

Since Lake Fork Sportsman's Association beginning in 1999, their number one goal is the future of Lake Fork. Through their ongoing programs and their diligent volunteers, they are accomplishing their every goal. In 2019 LFSA will have their 20th Anniversary year of overseeing this great reservoir for future generations.

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association's 2018 High School Tackle Program again afforded young anglers the equipment to fish. LFSA provides tackle to high school fishing teams from schools in the Lake Fork Area. This year applications for equipment were received from Alba-Golden and Rains

County Fishing teams. During a ceremony at the Tuesday, October 9, 2018 membership meeting, the Tackle Program Committee Chairs, Patricia and Mike Kostial, awarded an abundance of rods, reels, baits, lures and tackle boxes to the two schools. Accepting the gifts were Alba-Golden Team Sponsors Cody and Debora Graves and Rains County Team Sponsors Jolene and Brad Cobb.

Throughout each year, tackle is donated to the program from Good Samaritan fishermen and friends. The Kostials have turned their garage into a haven for the donations and Mike painstakingly cleans and repairs everything to like-new condition. He has received donations from as far away as California and Great Britain.

The High School Tackle Program has been an endorsed project of LFSA in the past and remains a major effort of the membership. The Association believes strongly that working with youngsters and assisting them in their desire to fish contributes to their developing a healthy lifestyle.

At the October meeting Rick Loomis, long time local business man, guide, and founding member gave an aspiring historical account of the LFSA. He covered the most important reasons the organization was founded, the first goals that were set and the procuring of the LIVE RELEASE BOAT. His speech was very informative especially for the newer members and was like taking a step back in time.

(See LFSA PRESERVING...Continued on Page 9-A)



LFSA's Tackle Program Committee Chairs, Patricia and Mike Kostial awarded an abundance of fishing equipment to Rains County High School Fishing Team to Team Sponsor Jolene and Brad Cobb.



LFSA's Tackle Program Committee Chairs, Patricia and Mike Kostial awarded an abundance of fishing equipment to Alba/Golden High School Fishing Team to Team Sponsor Cody and Debra Graves.

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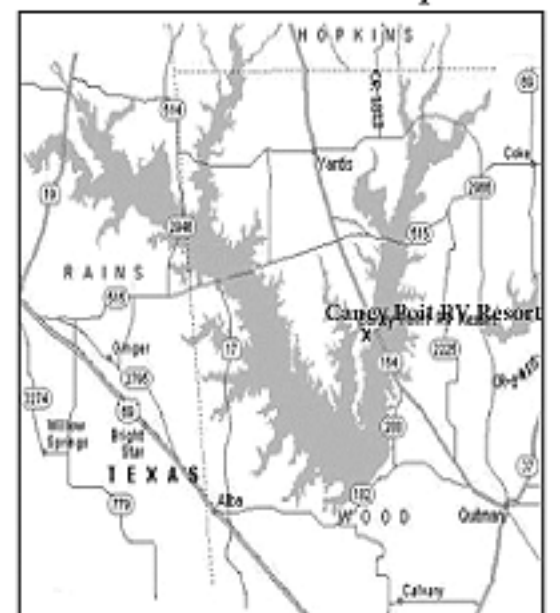
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November is Big Bass Month On Fork

By David Ozio

“ If you step outside, be sure to bring your umbrella. What a wet start this years fall season. On queue, this years lake turn-over has been at full throttle and the lake should start to stabilize as we roll into one of the best big bass months, November. Fork has risen about two feet recently which has thrown a wrench in the big bass hunt. As the lake settles down, let’s review our options to land a true giant.

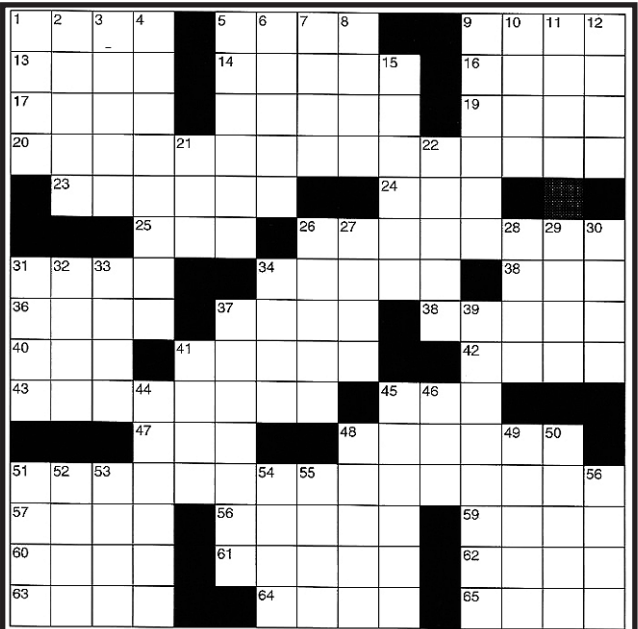
The water quality overall is in great condition and the backs of some creeks have great visibility. Otherwise, water clarity ranges from somewhat clear down south to lightly stained in the backs of the main

creeks that feed the lake. How you approach the bass will depend upon where you prefer to fish and how far down in the water you can see your lure before it disappears. With this in mind, the shallow bite is ramping up and big bass can be caught in all parts of the lake. Let’s start the morning searching for top water fish. Shallow vegetation is key to your success and now that the water is back up, bank grass, milfoil, alligator grass and hydrilla will dominate the skinny water. In extreme off color water, use a noisy bait that stirs up the water. Prop baits are excellent choices in this case. If the water is only slightly stained in the backs of the creeks and pockets, tie on a Zara Spook, Yellow Magic or a Sammy and start covering water. Shad are also moving to the backs of these areas and big bass are right on their tail. Focus on using shad colors on most any lure you throw and hang on for some jolting strikes. Pick out secondary points or small points of vegetation. All should hold fish. Also, don’t be afraid to chunk a Spro frog around any vegetation you encounter. Huge bass can’t resist the way they move through the water.



As the sun eases it’s way higher into the sky, switch your strategy to baits that descend into the water column. If the water is heavily stained, throw the chatterbait, spinnerbait or squarebill in the same areas. If the water is slightly stained, use a five inch swimbait, swimjig or chatterbait. Hydrilla or milfoil will change the game slightly, use a lipless crankbait and key on the outer edges of the grass. As the water temps degrades throughout the month, switch your lipless colors to gold or red. Now that you have photo’s of several great fish during the morning, migrate your

(See November is.....  
Continued on Page 20-A)



CLUES ACROSS

1. Nasty character

5. Worthless people

9. Whale ship captain

13. Sword

14. Alders

16. Captain of Yemen

17. Throw

18. Midriff

19. Adam and Eve's third son

20. Anything goes

23. Gazes

24. French river

25. Needlefish

26. Most scabbly

31. Free from danger

34. Athapaskan language

35. After B

36. Turkish leader title

37. Having a cheerless aspect or disposition
38. Expressed pleasure

40. Mongrel

41. Supernatural beings

42. Befools

43. Flour

45. School organization

47. Annoy

48. In a way, decays

51. Bassoon, et al.

57. The content of cognition

58. Coal tar product

59. Harelike rodent of the pampas of Argentina

60. A spore-producing structure

61. Adult male of a wild or domestic duck

62. An individual unit

63. \_\_\_gate, lengthen

64. Fastener

65. King bolete, mushroom

CLUES DOWN

1. Cried

2. Moonfish

3. Put back to zero

4. Communities

5. Twain character

6. Caste

7. One

8. Hasty pudding

9. St. Francis of

10. A complex red organic pigment containing iron

11. Opposed to a policy

12. Thailand

15. Vascular tissues

21. Malaysian Isthmus

22. Ancient kingdom

26. A Finnish steam bath

27. Strays

28. Resound

29. Shed

30. Turner and Williams
31. Pouches

32. Chills and fever

33. Raise

34. Momentarily

37. Condescended

39. Without practical purpose or intention

41. Jai \_\_, sport

44. Established by law

45. Cropped

46. Male cat

48. \_\_Jong, writer

49. Related on the mother's side

50. Type of bacteria

51. Become aware

52. Graven image

53. He fiddled

54. Small acid gritty-textured fruit

55. Czar

56. Identical

Answers on Page 21-A

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## Public Notice on Outbreaks of Avian Paramyxovirus in Texas

Recently, a number of Eurasian collared doves near El Paso have tested positive for avian paramyxovirus, specifically Pigeon Paramyxovirus-1, or PPMV-1. Dead doves have also been reported in Alpine.

Past outbreaks have been observed in the vicinity of many of the larger urban centers of the Trans-Pecos and Panhandle regions such as Midland, Lubbock, and Alpine, but outbreaks may occur elsewhere within these regions. The majority of PPMV-1 outbreaks in wild birds in the United States have involved Eurasian collared doves and rock doves (pigeons).

Symptoms include doves becoming le-

thargic and reluctant to move, producing green diarrhea, or having difficulty in standing or holding their head upright. The virus can cause conjunctivitis (pink eye) in humans, therefore, if you encounter multiple dead or dying doves, do not handle the birds without hand and eye protection.

There is no known risk to cats or dogs from PPMV-1, but we recommend keeping pets away from infected birds.

Some strains of PPMV-1 have been shown to cause disease and death in domestic poultry. Chickens can contract the disease from indirect contact such as dove feces in chicken feeding areas. Therefore, back-

yard chicken owners may want to take precautions to minimize potential contact between chickens and doves.

If an outbreak occurs in your area, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recommends discontinuing bird feeding and watering activities to decrease possible transmission between doves and other birds. If multiple sick or dying doves are located in your area, please contact a local TPWD biologist or Don Kahl (don.kahl@tpwd.texas.gov; 806-475-1308). Additionally, please advise the use of protective gloves, masks, and glasses if handling sick or dying birds in these areas.

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## "The Moon Report" on Fork!

By Terri Moon

The fall transition has begun on FORK! 10-plus inches of rain in the last couple of weeks along with a couple of cold fronts dropping water temperatures has definitely triggered the fall migration up the creeks. I call it the "FALL FEEDING FRENZY"! They will be following the baitfish so keep a close eye on that depth-finder and watch for balls of shad and what depth they are moving through. This will tell you what depth you need to target. These depths will change throughout the day so keep monitoring your graph for any depth changes of the active fish.

I sure appreciate my Lowrance carbon HDS units for targeting crappie especially this time of year! For those of you thinking about upgrading your graph, don't do anything until you check out Lowrance's latest HDS-LIVE! Its real-time sonar, Structure Scan 3D with active imaging and Live on screen mapping. I've seen some great videos on line of this incredible new unit. So, if you are serious about your fishing, this could be exactly what you're looking for!

Another thing to monitor is water temps. It has been dropping quickly with all the rains and cold fronts



moving through. Recently it was 66 – 69 degrees, and we were finding crappie in 10 – 12 feet of water. But, as water temps drop you will want to check 12 to 25 ft. depths and just keep looking for the baitfish. Target creek channels, deep water humps and drop-offs with access to shallower water. As temps continue to drop, they will make their way back out to main lake points in the deep water. It's always fun catching these crappie in their transition while they are aggressively feeding!

The baits working for us have been Lake Fork Tackles Live Baby Shad in blue and chartreuse, pink and chartreuse, and white and chartreuse. For those of you that like feather jigs, gray/blue tail, purple/yellow tail and orange/blue tail have been working for us.

I'm also liking the 5 ft. crappie rod that Louie Vaughn from Reel Time Rods made

for me! I was sad to see Shimano stopped making my favorite 5 ft. crappie rods – so, Louie offered to make me one. It's sensitive yet has the backbone to handle the giants! Reel Time Rods are located by Popes Landing if any of you are interested in having a custom rod made. They also have reel cleaning and repair!

Now as far as another transition, I've had the pleasure of transitioning into my new Skeeter Solera 205 this month and have enjoyed every minute in it (and so have my customers)! Even my mom and dad were thrilled to fish out of it. It's just so comfortable! We had planned to fish more but it rained all but 2 days the entire time they were here! The 2 days we fished were just beautiful and the big crappie were biting! It was great getting to fish with them again!

The other transition this month was say-  
*(Continued on next page)*



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ing goodbye to Scuba Steve, wishing him all the best on his new journey. Buddy (Lake Fork Marina camp dog) is adjusting to his new routine of going home with me at night – then back to the Marina while I’m working. Thanks to all of you who are helping keep an eye on him. It’s so much appreciated! I’ve posted

a great video of him on my face- book page after he showed up the next morning when he was M.I.A. the night before – it’s priceless! Before I close I want to thank everyone who fished with me this past month and to remind you all that November is Lake Fork Marinas “Customer Appreciation Month” and their rooms are discounted


and all gifts, tackle and apparel are 25% off. It’s a great place to do your Christmas shopping! Happy Birthday to brother John – love, hugs and prayers to all my family in Missouri! Oh, I forgot to mention – we released 14 crappie that were over 16 inches this month!!!

**LFSA Preserving, Promoting, Protecting, ...***(Continued from Page 5-A)*



The Lake Fork Sportsman’s Association’s ongoing programs such as “The High School Tackle Program”, the placement of structure, planting of buck brush and water lilies in conjunction with Yantis ISD and assisting TPWD in the restocking program are just a few reasons why they were inducted into the Texas


Fishing Hall of Fame. If you love Lake Fork, you might want to ask yourself why you are not a member in helping LFSA preserve the future of Lake Fork. Their meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Tiffany’s Restaurant at Lake Fork Marina.




















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# 13th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork

By Sue Hampton

What a great tournament again this year put on by Bass Champs, Inc. Every year they do such a great job. Berkley broke their last year's attendance record – 1,151 anglers came to Lake Fork representing 27 states and 2 countries on Oct. 20th & 21st to fish the 13th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament. Anglers and spectators were entertained throughout the weekend and there's a good possibility when the tournament airs on WFN...be sure to watch because you may just see yourself on television.

Overall the weather was pretty good both days with the rain slacking off early on Saturday. There was still a pretty brisk wind, but there were a lot of fish weighed in throughout the two days. With 20 places paid each hour and a 2018 fully outfitted Skeeter bass boat going to the heaviest over the 24" slot and one for the heaviest under the 16" slot, anglers were determined to get a piece of the payload. All anglers when they checked in received a complimentary weight bag with Berkley baits and a T-shirt.

Weigh-ins began on the top of each hour

for 30 minutes with the first one beginning at 8 a.m. and the last one at 2 p.m. The top 10 places of each hour were money chairs with 11 through 15 winning an Abu Garcia Revo Reel and 16 through 20 winning an Abu Garcia Rod.

There was a lot of speculation as to why no big fish over the slot were coming in over the course of the 2-day tournament but for whatever reason, the big girls were not biting. Blame it on the weather, or maybe because the lake was turning over, it was quite a surprise to see only one over the slot fish come to the weigh in dur-

ing the entire tournament and that was on Sunday morning during the 8 o'clock hour. Zach Fowler from Aledo, Texas weighed in an 8.95 lb. bass which held up to be the winner overall. He won \$1,000 for first place of the hour and a 2018 ZX-200 Skeeter Bass Boat, powered by Yamaha SHO, Motorguide, equipped with Lowrance and Power Pole.

Winning the heaviest bass under the 16" slot and winning a 2018 Skeeter ZX 190, powered by Yamaha, Motorguide, equipped with Lowrance Electronics was Thomas Young from Eros, Louisiana

with a 2.60 lb. bass. He also received a check for \$1,000 for first place in the hour. He weighed his fish in during the 12 o'clock hour on Sunday.

During the 9 a.m. hour on Saturday, Lynn Roller from Ft. Worth, Texas weighed in the first exact weight of the tournament weighing 2.50 lbs. winning first place for the hour and an additional \$1,000 for being the exact weight. Julie Arrant from West Monroe, Louisiana won first place in the Ladies Division weighing in a

2.31 lb. bass during the 11 o'clock hour on Sunday winning her a check for \$200. Riley Mudford from Texarkana, Arkansas won first place in the Junior Division during the 11 o'clock hour on Saturday with a 2.00 lb. bass and brought home a check for \$180.

The 13th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork concluded the 2018 Bass Champs Season.

To learn more about Bass Champs and their schedule, check them out at [www.basschamps.com](http://www.basschamps.com) or call 817-439-3274.

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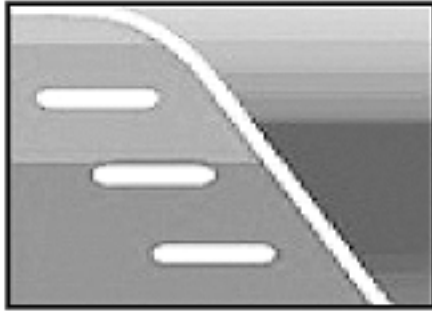
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# "Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Fall is one of my most favorite times of the year for many more reasons than you can imagine. After a long summer there is nothing I look more forward to than the cooler weather, leaves

changing color and its time to go hunting, right? Uh, well I hunt just a little. I shoot a few birds, maybe hunt a little with a bow and that's about it. I just can't pass up on the awesome fishing that fall has to offer. Not to mention that because

of hunting season there is a lot less pressure on the lake and the fish know it too, lol. Here is an image of a wolfe pack of big Lake Fork bass stacked and ready to attack. You will see this on your sonar in the fall. When I see this on my sonar, no

greater excitement exists. I shout out to my clients. "This is it, this is what we have been looking for and you know what? We're about to catchem!!!"

More often than not with the right boat positioning, lures and presentations we do just that. In fall big bass will school up off shore in rare form.

Their intentions are to gang up and take advantage of the large schools of off shore bait fish. In Lake Fork this is young gizzard shad and baby yellow bass. Notice the bait on the left of the screen, its broken and not in perfect round form, its nervous. This too is a very important part of

the image. The bass are stacked and the bait is present. There are no guarantees in fishing however knowing what to look for and finding the right scenario can and will increase your odds.

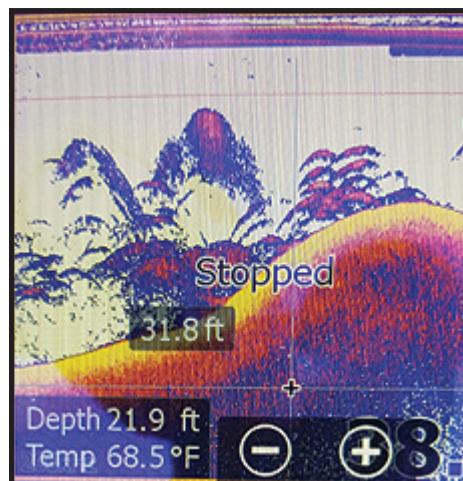
I hope this article finds you well and helps you all find and catch more big bass.



**Michael McFarland**  
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## Prospects Still Scattered Ahead for Quail Season

This year's quail season opened Saturday, Oct. 27 like a covey rise, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's experts; everything's up in the air.

Predictors leading up to the season showed bobwhite numbers down across the board, due in large part to dry conditions last winter that left hens scratching to get by. Untimely rainfall during the latter part of the summer also could have an impact

on nesting success, and the recent deluges that have hammered much of the state, in combination with an unexpected cold snap, may not bode well for late hatch efforts.

"Our surveys statewide indicate bobwhite numbers are below the 15-year average, and that's due mainly to the weather," said Robert Perez, upland game bird program leader with TPWD. "That doesn't rule out hotspots where quail production did main-

tain some birds. Our surveys don't fine tune down to the county level, but overall, right now it's just a big unknown."

Although production appears down this year, Perez is hoping late nesting birds will help fill the gaps, providing they escaped flooding. Like most things quail, there are no guarantees. TPWD landowner and hunter surveys indicate that quail hunters are likely to limit harvest in poor years. Research supports the practice of self-regulation in quail pastures, so enough breeders remain to boost populations when conditions improve. Landowners/hunters can contact their county biologist for site-specific recommendations and harvest guidelines.

"This past winter was exceptionally dry across all of quail country, especially in the Rolling Plains where some places went without any precipitation for 100 consecutive days," said Perez. "Unfortunately, these conditions can reduce the availability of foods like winter greens which are needed to get quail into breeding condition. Spring was also dry over much of these areas with few exceptions. Fortunately, quail are opportunistic when it comes to the breeding/nesting season and can take advantage of the rains even if they come late like they did this summer."

TPWD projections are based on annual statewide quail surveys that were initiated in 1978 to monitor quail populations. This index uses randomly selected, 20-mile roadside survey lines to determine annual quail population trends by ecological region. This trend information helps determine relative quail populations among the regions of Texas.

Comparisons can be made between the mean (average) number of quail observed per route this year and the 15-year mean for quail seen within an ecological region. The quail survey was not designed to predict relative abundance for any area smaller than the ecological region.

A regional breakdown of this year's TPWD quail index survey, including highlights and prospects, is available online.

Quail hunting season runs through Feb. 24, 2019. The daily bag limit for quail is 15, with 45 in possession. Legal shooting hours for all non-migratory game birds are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. The bag limit is the maximum number that may be killed during the legal shooting hours in one day.

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## Wish to Fish Foundation Welcomes Lilly Anderson & Family to Lake Fork

By Sue Hampton

The new people we get to meet with each one of our "Wish To Fish" trips is a blessing unsurpassed by any other. We each go through our everyday lives living what we consider to be normal. Then we meet families like Lilly Anderson that make you stop and think and remind you that you never want to complain about anything ever again. Her whole family literally for four years put their lives on hold for their sick child.

Lilly is 8 years old and a third grader at Alba-Golden. Her favorite subjects in school are math and science and she

loves to draw and dance!

In November of 2014 Lilly was diagnosed with a rare blood cancer called Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) at the age of 4. She was airlifted out of state to Memphis, TN to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. She received treatment for 7 months that included multiple chemotherapies, she suffered multiple infections, countless biopsies and spinal taps. She finished treatment in May of 2015.

After a wonderful year at home, a new baby sister being born, and graduating Kindergarten, Lilly relapsed. After her relapse, they had to move their entire

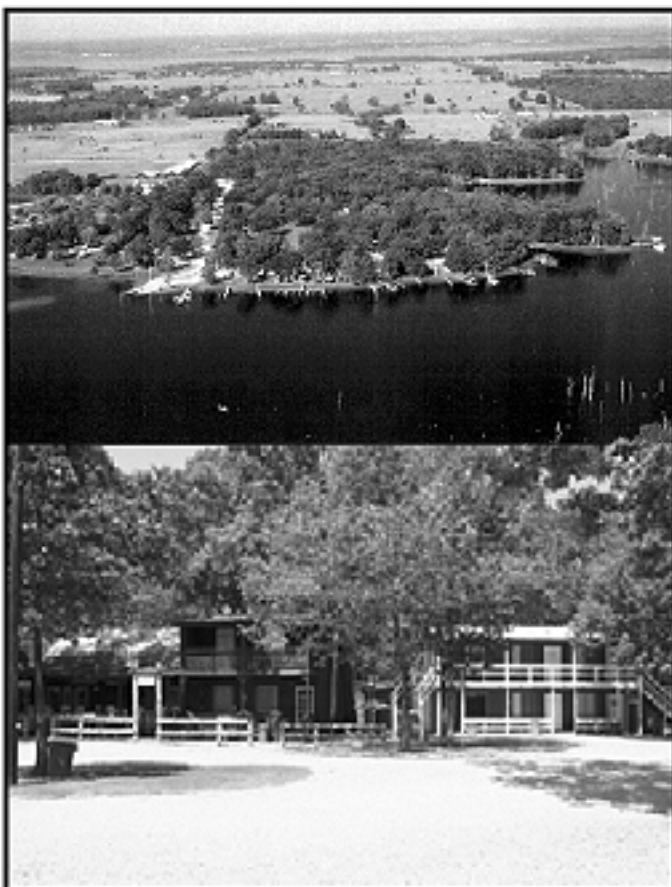
family out of state because they believed her treatment would last close to a year. Lilly received multiple chemotherapies again, several biopsies and some severe infections. Lilly also endured 4 rounds of radiation and a bone marrow transplant. After her transplant, Lilly had to learn how to walk again after her muscles had begun to atrophy. Lilly's transplant was successful and she's been cancer free for over 2 years now.

Lilly's mother, Jessica Seay, told me, "Lilly's body has suffered tremendously due to the stress it was put through. She has suffered heart damage, she still

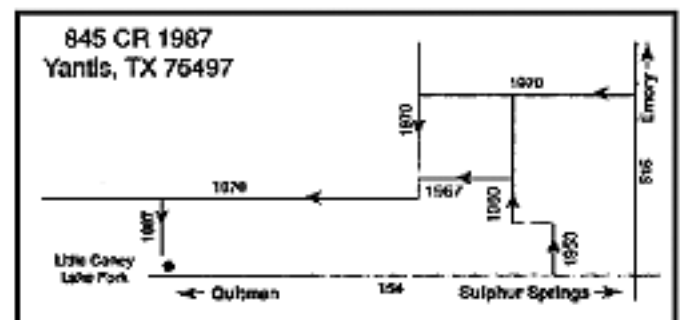
(See Wish to Fish.....Continued on Page 22-A)



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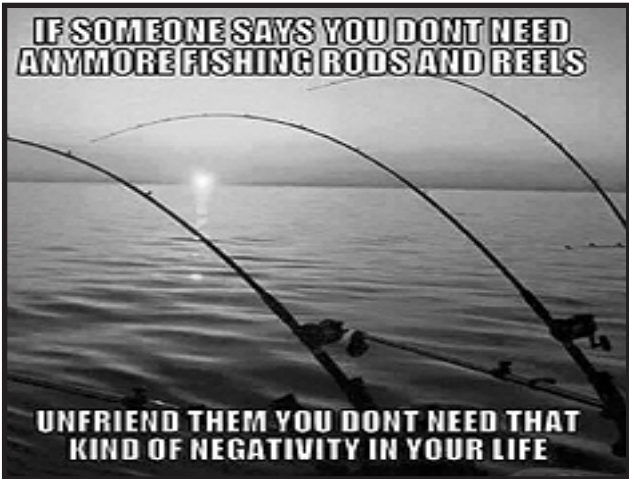
Sam Mitchell caught this nice Lake Fork hawg night fishing with guide Whitt Smith. Weight not provided. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Whitt Smith Guide Service)



Deanne Capps took a break from her job at Oak Ridge Marina to catch this nice Lake Fork bass. Weight not provided. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo)



Robert Scott from Odessa, Tx., was fishing Lake Fork on 10/5/18 when he caught thi nice bass weighing 9.27-lbs. and measuring 25.25" in length. C.P.R.



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## Lake Fork Sportsmans Association Assisted TPWD in 2018 Restocking Program

By Ed Swinson

Again, the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association (LFSA) assisted the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) 2018 Pure Florida Large Mouth Bass fingerling release. The Texas Freshwater Fisheries' Athens Hatchery produces fingerlings at the hatchery and TPWD Biologists Kevin Storey (retired) and Evan Cartabiano coordinated the release with the hatchery. By providing resources to help TPWD distribute the fingerlings into the lake, LFSA directly assisted with the release of the fingerlings through improving processes.

LFSA utilized their Live Release Boat (LRB) that is also used consistently for handling fish caught at tournaments all around the lake. Improving the survivability of the fish caught out of Lake Fork is a specific mission of the Association. The LRB has three 100-gallon tanks, oxygen supply, and fish-saving water treatments. LFSA members must complete a training course to develop expertise in handling and distributing the fingerlings. The LRB provides a healthy means to transport the fingerlings for distribution anywhere on the lake. Last year the LRB was utilized for the first time stocking

the upper end of Birch Creek with 100,000+ fingerlings. This year the LRB was used for the delivery of two loads of fingerlings into the upper end of the east arm of the lake. The releases were made with LFSA members and three local residents who had knowledge of great spots with lots of cover for the fingerlings. Approximately 82,700 were released in the Glade Creek Bay area and 69,000 in the Running Creek arm north of the 515 bridge. In 2017, working with TPWD, LFSA developed the first "Bagging Operation" to distribute fingerlings using local volunteers. These volunteers distributed the fingerlings into the lake in areas with good cover to protect the fingerlings with the purpose of significantly improving the survivability of the release. The "Bagging Operation" involved loading plastic bags with treated water, fingerlings (60 -70 per bag) and oxygen. The operation was setup at the public boat ramp off Highway 17 and supported with numerous LFSA members, local volunteers and TPWD. Forty-six individuals from all around the lake volunteered to distribute 6 - 8 bags of fingerlings each in Lake Fork near their local lake site or fishing spot with superior cover for the fingerlings. In 2018 approxi-

mately 37,425 fingerlings were released with the "Bagging Operation". Per TPWD supplied data, a total of 312,050 fingerlings were released in 2018. LFSA enabled the release of approximately 189,200 of the total utilizing the LRB and "Bagging Operation".

With a purpose to "Preserve the Legend of Lake Fork", LFSA continues to grow the project with TPWD and Lake Fork residents and fishermen. Support of the program continues to grow for the fingerling release and local residents taking part has a large impact on the success of the survivability of the fingerlings.




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"Big Changes on Lake Fork!"

By Andrew Grills

There have been a lot of changes in the past month! A lot of rain and some record breaking low temperatures sure mixed things up out here on Lake Fork. Fishing has been a little tough lately, but that's to be expected given all the abrupt changes.

We have a strong Florida strain bass influence in the gene pool here, and that usually means tough fishing during transitional times. Florida bass like consistency, and that is something we haven't had much of. As things continue to stabilize the bite



should improve. On the bright side, I enjoy the cooler weather and the lake is almost full!

The water level is just a little below full pool. That is up a couple feet since this time last month. The water quality isn't as muddy as you would expect. It is clearing up nicely. The water temperature is in mid to upper 60's as of right now.

There are some fish shallow and some deep, and everywhere in between. I guess you just pick a place and go fishing. I think the shallow fishermen are probably catching the most right now. A look at the Berkeley Tournament results show that the "big fish bite" hasn't been too hot. 1151 anglers went at it for two days and only one fish over the slot was weighed. That's the poorest results I've seen in a tournament that size here, ever.

I think November will be better. I normally rank November right up there with the spring time months. I like it. The deep bite is good in November, and this year the shallow water should hold some good ones with the rise in the water level.

I hope this helps give you an idea what is going on out here. As always, if I can be of any assistance feel free to let me know. Let me share a verse that has given me a lot of

assurance lately, it's John 6:35. "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." Get a hold of that and you can still smile when the fishing is tough.



Garek Glubke, 11 years old, caught this 9-lb. Lake Fork beauty off grandpa's dock in late August using a black and blue worm. C.P.R.

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## November is Big Bass Month On Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

way out to deep water and graph the usual haunts, humps, ridges, roadbeds and structure. Fall on Fork has always been great fishing for these patterns during the afternoon hours. Flutter spoons, jigging spoons, Carolina rigs, drop shots and football jigs will be the "go to" baits when you locate bass stacked up on any of these features. Pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. Gold is a great color for the spoons and a ten inch worm will get the job done on the C-rig. Blue fleck, redbug, green pumpkin

and bamabug are all great colors to start with. The same colors apply to the football jig and I favor the Talon Carolina Worm in redbug for my drop shot. Barfish are the key to these deep spots. Find those on your graph and the bass will be mixed in with them.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in November 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 November and some in December. 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/LakeFork-GuideDavidOzio>. I would 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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David Ozio



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# Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork



Lake Fork was the site of the Texas Trails Bassmasters 12th tournament of the 2017 - 2018 season.

A wet and soggy weekend of all day rain and high winds on Saturday made fishing tuff for a lot of folks but Sunday was a surprise for most people, the forecasted torrential rain was replaced with foggy and calm conditions. The top water bite seemed to be the key on catching a limit of fish to bring to the scales.

Kenny LaDuke with a 5 fish limit that weighed 7.25 lbs. for 1st place. Leon Davis brought a 5 fish limit for 2nd place with 5.64 lbs. Chris Large brought in 4 fish weighing 4.65 lbs. for 3rd place. Leon Davis also had the big bass of the derby weighing 1.88 lbs.

We welcome new club member Tony Dupree.

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

## Just The Right Answers

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## Animal Find

The names of 14 wild animals are hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

BABOON  
CHEETAH  
COYOTE  
DEER  
ELEPHANT  
GIRAFFE  
GORILLA

GRIZZLY BEAR  
HIPPOPOTAMUS  
LEOPARD  
LION  
RHINOCEROS  
TIGER  
WOLF

C E T I G E R E E D L R  
G R I Z Z L Y B E A R O  
R S U M P E P I H I H G  
I U E L O P A R D E I R  
Z M L I G H I S P P N O  
L A E T Y A C O Y O T E  
I T F F E N R R B A O N  
M O A H A T E E H C E R  
O P N G E R S C H E T A  
G O R I L L A O I R E D  
R P A R B N O N P E O R  
I P R A O O G I T G L A  
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## Wish to Fish.... *(Continued from Page 15-A)*

has bone and joint pain, we also recently learned that she's borderline diabetic (type 1)." She went on to say, "Lilly is still adjusting to life after cancer and what her body has been through. However, she's her little sis-

ter's favorite, she's a thoughtful and kind friend, and she's the sweetest daughter we could ask for."

We had been praying for several days for the Lord to provide us with a beautiful day on Saturday, Oct.

27th, so we could take Lilly and her family fishing and did he ever answer our prayers. It was an awesome day... lots of bright sunshine!

We started our day meeting at 7 a.m. at Oak Ridge

*(Continued on Next Page)*



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Marina & Restaurant for breakfast. Lilly brought along her "Gammy" (Dawn Uehling), her "Poppy" (Shane Uehling), her great grandmother Shirley Miller and her great aunt, Louise Banks. Our boat captain was Rodney Ellis, owner of Quarterhorse Car Wash & Storage, and to bait our lines and to help take care of our precious cargo was

Bart Martin, WTF Director & owner of Fisherman's Inn and our son, Chad Marsh, WTF Youth Director. John Heimgartner, owner of Fishermans One Stop donated a pound of huge minnows for our trip and guaranteed they would catch lots of fish! Don "Bubba" Hampton manned our 911 chase boat in case of any emergency. What a great day

it was. The fish were biting. (John was right!) Lilly caught the most fish so that definitely made the day extra special. We had Subway sandwiches for lunch and stayed on the water until around 3 p.m. Then we all met at A. J.'s Fish House. Andy & Carolyn Johnson, owners, have been one of our devoted sponsors since the very

beginning of the WTF program. Angie Ellis gave Lilly a dollar bill to sign and she and Lilly along with the help of Andy, added it to his back wall which has been a tradition since the opening of A.J.'s. Lilly allowed to all of us at dinner that she knew what she was going to be when she grew up. She wants to be a doctor at St. Jude's. The amazing thing about it is that her whole family allowed that she knew this at 2 years old before her cancer.

It was sad to say goodbye, but Lilly and I decided that we should meet again next year and go fishing again! I told her "it was a date"!!

Thank you again

to all of our great sponsors!

A very special thanks goes to Davis Brothers Construction for the pontoon boat and Haskew Enterprises for the donation.



## Patient of the Month

July 2015

Lilly

age 5 | acute myeloid leukemia

**Lilly** never meets a stranger. She's an outgoing, active little girl who loves to dance.

After Lilly was found to suffer from blood cancer in November 2014, she was airlifted immediately to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. "It all happened so quickly," said Lilly's mom, Jessica. "I thought 'this has to be a mistake.'" But **St. Jude doctors pinpointed the diagnosis as acute myeloid leukemia (AML)**, and worse, Lilly had a rare subtype that made her AML more aggressive, more resistant to treatment and more likely to relapse. "You never think that your kid's going to get cancer," said Jessica. "But here we are."

At St. Jude, Lilly's treatment included six months of high-dose chemotherapy and a natural killer cell transplant.

**Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food** - because all a family should worry about is helping their child live. When Lilly's family learned they'd never receive a bill, it was a relief. **"Knowing we don't have to worry about medical expenses is incredible,"** said Jessica. "St. Jude helps us with everything. Not only do they provide housing, they provide housing that is clean and comfortable and entertaining for a 5-year-old. Lilly has a playground she can go to, and she has a playroom for when it's raining outside."

Lilly recently completed treatment and **returned home cancer-free**. She will continue to visit St. Jude for regular checkups.



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Cell: (903) 360-6994 To qualify for early entry, application must be received no later than 4/30/19.

Indicate number of days to fish ☐ \$130 (1) Day Entry ☐ \$215 (2) Day Entry ☐ \$290 (3) Day Entry  
If only fishing one or two days please indicate which day you will participate: ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Sunday  
(Take \$10 Off If Paying By Cash, Check, or Money Order)

Entry Fee After 4/30/19 at Tournament Headquarters ~ Lake Fork Marina ~ 903-765-2764  
1 Day ~ \$145 2 Day ~ \$235 3 Day ~ \$310 \*(No Checks Will Be Accepted At Late Registration)

Entries and Check-In, Lake Fork Marina, Thurs. 5/16/19 ~ 2 P.M. to 9 P.M. Fri. 5/17/19 ~ 5 A.M. to 6 A.M.  
& 4 P.M. to 9 P.M. Sat. 5/18/19 ~ 5 A.M. to 6 A.M. & 4 P.M. to 9 P.M. – Sun. 5/19/19 ~ 5 A.M. to 6 A.M.

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EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE (mm/dd/yy): \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby enter the above "Legend of Lake Fork Tournament". I have read and understand the rules and waive and release all other Contestants, Tournament Directors, Tournament Sponsors, and their agents from all claims of personal injuries, accidents and/or damaged, lost or stolen property incurred in connection with the tournament. I understand that \$5 of my entry is a voluntary contribution to the "Wish To Fish Program". I hereby grant permission to the tournament and all tournament officials the right to publicize, video tape, photograph and/or broadcast my name, character likeness or voice and the fact that I was a participant and/or prize winner, and all other matters incidental thereto. If I place for any prize, I will submit to a polygraph examination or be disqualified and will abide with such results. Contestant Ratifies and approves entry in the above "Legend of Lake Fork Tournament" made on his/her behalf by another and agrees thereby to be bound by all rules of the tournament.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Form Must Be Signed To Be Valid

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE (UNDER AGE 18 AT TIME OF REGISTRATION): This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

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