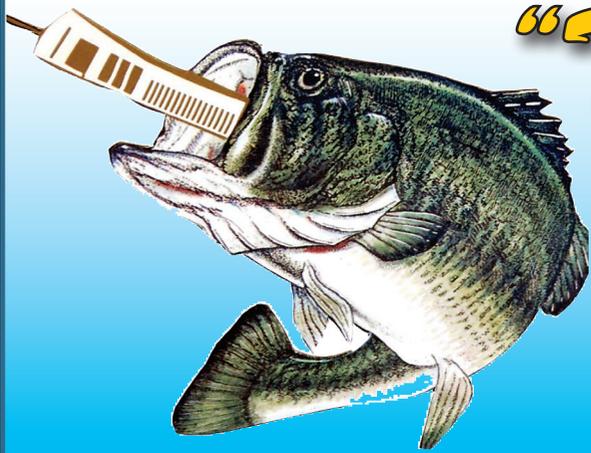


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February, 2019

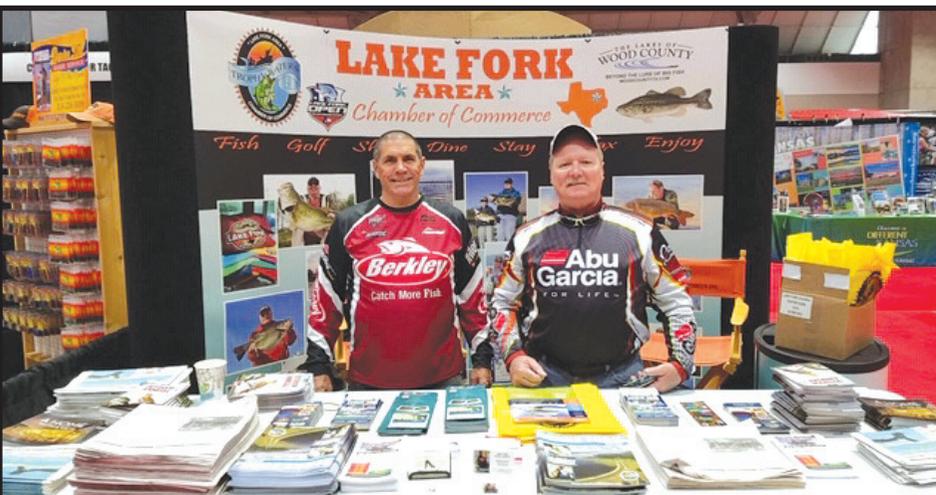
No. 234



Justin Priest was fishing Lake Fork on 12/24/18 when he caught this hawg weighing 13.8-pounds. C.P.R.



Justin Favorite from Arkansas was fishing Lake Fork in January when he caught this hawg weighing 10.01-pounds. C.P.R.



The Lake Fork Chamber of Commerce and businesses were well represented at the Kansas City, MO., Boat & Tackle show by Dan Silcox and Dennis Sheely. This month they will be at the St. Louis Boat Show.



2019 Benefit Luncheon held on January 1st at Bro's/Fisherman's One Stop was a huge success. This year marked the 6th Annual New Year's Day Benefit Luncheon. Rita Champine presented Rick Nichols, Links At Lands End Fire Department, a check for the funds raised.

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## Bubba's Love Poem To Bubbette

By Bubba B. Tuff

Yo're fragrant as duct tape,  
 snuff,  
 Yo're there fer yore  
 Collards is green, Right out of the can. man,  
 My dogs name is Blue, You have some'a troubles  
 And I'm so Lucky Yore teeth, And fix what you  
 To have a sweet For which I am can.  
 thang like you. proud,  
 I hold my head high, Yo're as cute as a  
 Yore hair is like When we're in a junebug,  
 Cornsilk, crowd. A-buzzing overhead.  
 A-Flapping in the You ain't mean like  
 breeze, those far ants,  
 Softer than Blue's, When you shave un- I found in my bed.  
 And without all them der yore arms,  
 fleas. Well, I'm in hawg Cut from the best  
 heaven,  
 You move like the And awed by yore Like a plaid flannel  
 bass, charms. shirt,  
 Which excite me in Still them fellars at You build up my life,  
 May. work, More than a fresh  
 You ain't got scales, They all want to load of dirt.  
 But I luv you any- know,  
 way. What I did to deserve When you hold me  
 Such a purdy, young real tight,  
 Yo're as satisfy'n as doe. Like a padded gun-  
 okra, rack,  
 Jist a-fry'n in the pan Like a good roll of My life is complete,

Ain't nuttin' I lack.  
 Yore complexion is perfection,  
 Like new vinyl si- din'.  
 Despite all the years, Yore age, it keeps hi- din'.  
 Me' n' you's like a moon pie,  
 With a RC cold drank,  
 We go together,  
 Like a skunk goes with stank.  
 Some men, they buy chocalate,  
 For Valentines day, They git it at Wal- Mart,  
 It's romantic that way.  
 Some men git roses,  
 On that special day,

From the cooler at honey,  
 Brookeshires, These won't do.  
 That's impressive, I Cause yo're too spe-  
 say. cial,  
 You sweet thang you.  
 Some men buy fine  
 diamonds, I got you a gift,  
 From a flea market Without taste nor  
 booth odor,  
 Diamonds are for- More useful than  
 ever, diamonds.....  
 They explain, suave  
 and Couth. **IT'S A NEW  
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 But for this man,



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*Don't Advertise!*
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*Don't Advertise!*
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*Don't Advertise!*
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**Toyota ShareLunker Program Wraps up 2018 with 486 Entries from 89 Lakes Across the State**

At the beginning of 2018, the Toyota ShareLunker program debuted a new year-long season for anglers to enter their 8 pound and larger bass for prizes, recognition, and to help the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department promote and enhance bass fishing in Texas. On Dec. 31, staff wrapped up the first year of the revamped program with a total of 380 anglers entering 486 "lunker" bass from 89 lakes across the state.

"2018 was a big year for the Toyota ShareLunker program," said Kyle Brookshear, Toyota ShareLunker Program Coordinator. "Not only was it the first time we've had a year-long season since the program launched in 1986 - we also opened up the categories of entries to include bass 8 pounds or larger and launched a brand-new logo and look. We are excited to send off 2018 with such great participation and we hope to see even more anglers partner with us to help make bass fishing bigger and better in Texas in 2019."

Anglers entered largemouth bass 8 pounds or larger into four categories in the Toyota ShareLunker program, including six "Legacy Class" bass 13 pounds or heavier that were entered during the spawning window Jan.1 through March 31 and loaned to TPWD for the selective breed-

ing and stocking program. The total number of entries in other categories who provided citizen science data included: 5 "Lunker Legend" bass 13 pounds or heavier caught outside the Jan.1 through March 31 spawning window or not loaned for spawning, 107 "Lunker Elite" bass weighing 10 to 12.99 pounds, and 368 "Lunker" bass at least 24 inches or weighing between 8 and 9.99 pounds.

The top five ShareLunker producing lakes in 2018 included Lake Fork near Quitman with 73 entries, Lake Conroe near Houston with 41 entries, Lake Athens in Athens with 28 entries, Sam Rayburn Reservoir near Jasper with 21 entries, and O.H. Ivie Lake near San Angelo with 17 entries.

Lake Fork was also the top producer of 13 pound or larger "Legacy Class" bass last year with three entries, including a 13.06 pound bass caught March 11, a 13.00 pound bass caught March 8, and a 15.48 pound bass caught March 2. Other lakes producing 13 pound or larger "Legacy Class" bass last year included Sam Rayburn Reservoir, which produced a 13.06 pound bass March 31; Kurth Reservoir, which produced a 13.34 pound bass March 25; and Twin Buttes Reservoir, which produced a 13.40

pound bass March 14.

"The anglers who loaned their 'Legacy Class' bass to us last year for our selective breeding program made a generous and valuable contribution towards the future of bass fishing in Texas," Brookshear said. "In addition to stocking their offspring back into the lakes where they were caught, we are incorporating offspring from the pure Florida largemouth bass 'Legacy Class' ShareLunkers into our hatchery broodstock so that in coming years we can stock millions of these selectively-bred big bass offspring statewide."

Last year, four of the 'Legacy Class' fish spawned successfully at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens and thousands of those Toyota ShareLunker offspring were stocked in Twin Buttes Reservoir, Sam Rayburn Reservoir, Kurth Reservoir, and Lake Fork. Because the Kurth Reservoir fish was a pure Florida largemouth bass, hatchery staff were able to retain 18,000 fingerlings for the state's largemouth bass ShareLunker broodstock development.

In return for loaning their fish to TPWD for selective breeding and stocking, anglers who

*(Continued on Next Page.....)*



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enter "Legacy Class" Toyota ShareLunker bass over 13 pounds receive a catch kit, a 13lb+ Legacy decal, VIP access to awards programming at the Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest, a replica of their fish, and an entry into both the "Legacy Class" and year-end ShareLunker Prize Drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license. The 2018 "Legacy Class" drawing winner was angler Michael Terrebonne of Cut Off, Louisiana, who caught ShareLunker 572 from Lake Fork March 8.

Anglers who enter a Toyota ShareLunker in every other category

through Dec. 31 also receive great prizes, including a catch kit filled with merchandise and a drawing entry for a year-end \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and annual fishing license. The year-end \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and annual fishing license winner for 2018 will be announced in a Facebook Live broadcast at noon on Jan. 11 on the Toyota ShareLunker Facebook page.

With the 2019 season underway as of Jan. 1, anglers can enter their big bass catches in all categories on the Toyota ShareLunker app - available for free download from the Apple App Store and

Google Play - or on the Toyota ShareLunker website, <https://texas-sharelunker.com>. The mobile app and website entry forms also include simple instructions for anglers who would like to provide a sample of fish scales from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis.

Anglers who catch a 13 pound or larger "Legacy Class" bass through March 31 can enter by calling the program directly - any time of day - at (903) 681-0550.

For updates on the Toyota ShareLunker program visit <https://www.facebook.com/ShareLunkerprogram> and <https://texassharelunker.com/>.



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# February Signals Prespawn Urges

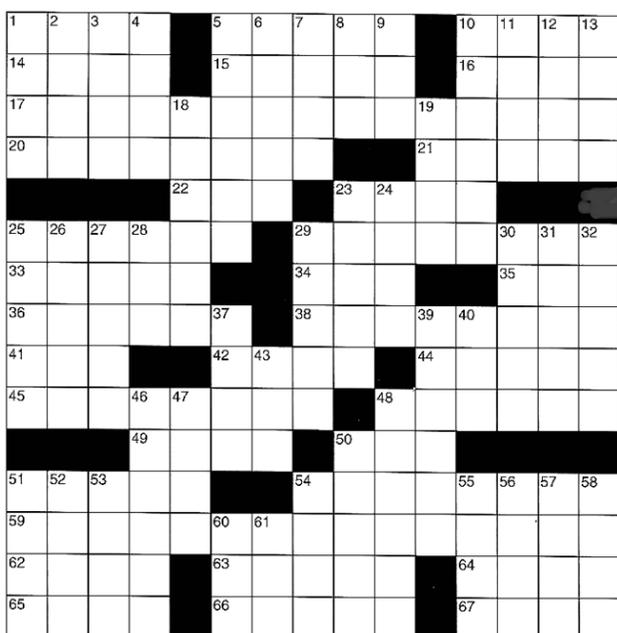
"I know a lot of people that are stir crazy right now and really looking for a break in the weather so they can get on the water. February is upon us and all your wishes will shortly come true. January was a cold one and the big bass were nestled up in their "no eating" hiding spots also waiting for more sunny days so they could start exploring for a procreation area. February usually signals prespawn urges and you can bet there will be some giants caught on Fork this month. If memory serves me correctly, there was a thirteen plus bass caught on Fork in January and I look for several more to be caught over the next two months. Any cast could produce the lunker of a lifetime.

Now let's consider the different possibilities on how to attack the wary green fish. If the sun pops out for the day, you need to head to the backs of the creeks and pursue the shallow bite particularly in the afternoon. Shallow water will absorb the sun's rays more quickly causing the bass to move up for the warmth. By the same token, this same water cools more quickly when a major front slides through. Bass will move back out until the high pressure dissipates. While this transition is taking place the deep bite will be in vogue. Staging bass will hold on points and areas just outside of their spawning grounds. The key depth range should be focused in the 12-15 ft area. Big bass will stage at key junctures at the mouths of pockets also and play a waiting game with the water temps that suit their liking. This is when you bring out the big guns to usher in the trophy bass. The A-rig will be the go to strategy and it's set up is all important to the trophy success. Everyone has their favorite way to rig these umbrella monstrosities but common sense will lead you down the right path based upon the "where" you will be throwing it. Naturally, if you are in open water with no timber, the best rig would be to use a 3/16 ounce swimbait head and cover them with any five inch swimbait. As for colors, start with white and adjust from there. I found last



year that dark colored baits worked better on a day to day basis. Arkansas Shiner, Dirty Sanchez and Houdini all performed well when using the Reaction Innovation Skinny Dippers. I will go as far to say that we had some great days using the Little Dippers instead of the five inch versions. It all comes down to what the fish want. Option two is to rig the A-rig with weedless swimbaits using belly weighted hooks. This will keep you out of trouble when casting into timber. Once rigged, I use 25lb P-line on a 5:1 gear ratio reel all loaded on a 7'11" TFO rod. This is a great launching pad for this heavy rig and it allows you to hurl it quite a ways. Once you make

(See February Signals.....  
Continued on Page 20)



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Impudence
- 5. Algebraic language
- 10. Interests
- 14. Settled down
- 15. Color
- 16. Wings
- 17. "Are you \_\_\_\_\_", Elvis' 1960 question
- 20. Developing
- 21. Wound
- 22. Potato state, abbr.
- 23. Yellow edible Indian fruit
- 25. Bands
- 29. Musical compositions
- 33. Cathartic
- 34. Provide
- 35. Bristlelike appendage
- 36. Finds
- 38. Impaired
- 41. Belong to he
- 42. Soft-finned fishes
- 44. Perfume
- 45. Gym shoes
- 48. American state
- 49. Cut
- 50. Central processing unit
- 51. Von \_\_\_\_\_, rocket scientist
- 54. Enzyme
- 59. Invitation
- 62. Fencing sword
- 63. Surface area
- 64. Point
- 65. Preceptors
- 66. Outmoded
- 67. English park

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Brackish
- 2. Herb
- 3. Trigonometric function
- 4. Remain as is
- 5. Refrains from
- 6. Fish genus
- 7. Quick-eyed (Scottish)
- 8. Away from
- 9. The fifth sign of the zodiac
- 10. Cloth
- 11. Protoctist
- 12. Telegraphic signals
- 13. Adam and Eve's third son
- 18. Most timid
- 19. 1
- 23. Points to
- 24. & & &
- 25. Oliver \_\_\_\_\_, author
- 26. Bitter chemical
- 27. Dunk
- 28. Adult female bird
- 29. Visits
- 30. Talks
- 31. Hold fast
- 32. Vedic god
- 37. Person with unusual powers of foresight
- 39. Reward
- 40. Alphabetic character
- 43. Before
- 46. Mistreats
- 47. Gorilla
- 48. Phase
- 50. Slang for lots of reptiles
- 51. Drained
- 52. Take back
- 53. Egyptian Sun god
- 54. Pesetas
- 55. Make into a print
- 56. Hail (nautical)
- 57. Transfer
- 58. Sea eagle
- 60. Psychic phenomena
- 61. Yearly tonnage, abbr.

*Answers on Page 21*

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# Bassmaster Elite Series at Lake Fork May 2 ~ May 6 for 2019 Texas Fest

Most spring seasons across the Lone Star State, legendary East Texas big bass factory Lake Fork is a center of attention. That tends to happen quite frequently at the 27,264-acre reservoir, a largemouth fishing paradise often described as the best bass lake anywhere in Texas.

That's not surprising given the fact that Barry St. Clair's current 18.18-pound state record largemouth bass comes from Fork. Add in Mark Stevenson's previous 17.67-pound benchmark bass, seven of the state's 10 biggest largemouths ever caught, 12 of the top 15, 16 of the top 25, and 30 of the top 50, and Fork's credentials are very strong. And then there's the staggering fact that a full 264 of the 576 13-pound or better Share-Lunker bass ever entered into the famous Texas Parks and Wildlife Department program, come from the East Texas lake. Claiming some 45 percent of all ShareLunker entries, there's little doubt that Fork is Texas' big bass king.

If Fork is already on full display during the March, April and May spawning season when big female bass move shallow, it will be even more so this year. That's because the Bassmaster Elite Series and TPWD officials announced the end

of 2018 that the third annual Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest is coming to Fork for a May 2-6, 2019 run.

That means that professional angling heavyweights like Kevin VanDam, Jordan Lee, Mike Iaconelli, Brandon Palaniuk, Edwin Evers, Greg Hackney, Brent Ehrler, Jeff Kriet, Kelly Jordon, and others will be hitting Fork during the best time of the year. At stake is some \$1 million in prize money, a Toyota pick-up truck for the angler who catches the event's biggest bass, and a chance to qualify for the 2020 Bassmaster Classic.

Sponsored by the Lake Fork Chamber, the Wood County Industrial Commission, and Emory, TX Tourism, the Texas Fest event will be covered in real time on Bassmaster.com and WatchESPN. And fans will also get to see the excitement on The Bassmasters television program that airs on ESPN2 and ESPN Classic.

"Fishing could be off the charts at that time," said Dave Terre, chief of TPWD's Inland Fisheries Management and Research department, in a prior news release. "This outstanding bass fishery is the result of progressive fisheries management

practices by TPWD and its partners over the past 38years," he added. "The opportunity to showcase this world-class bass fishery on the Bassmaster stage, with a special tournament format we helped create, is something really special."

This 2019 event is being held at roughly the same time as the 2014 Toyota Texas Bass Classic event was at Fork. By that tournament's end, Huntington, Texas bass pro Keith Combs had weighed in a three-day, 15-bass total of 110 pounds even. On one of those days, the Texas angler checked in a five bass limit of 42-pounds, boosted by a 10 pound, 14 ounce largemouth.

Combs commented in a prior news release that to get 100 pounds in four days was a major accomplishment, and to do it in three was unheard of. He went on to say, "It's nothing about the angler, but it's a testament to this lake."

But Combs wasn't alone in catching huge sacks of bass in 2014 since Elite Series pro Stetson Blaylock also joined the "Century Club" with a three-day total of 102-8.

Expect more big bass fireworks this spring on the Sabine River impoundment lying in the East

(See Bassmaster Elite Series.....Continued on Page 9)

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# "The Moon Report" and Family Time!

By Terri Moon



Well – as far as the crappie fishing goes – I wish I had more new for you. But, as life goes, I am still in Missouri with my mom and dad. I came up here for the holidays (as usual) – but, I could see they needed help with trips to K.C. for my dad's treatments and Dr. appointments. Pop's birthday is Feb. 19th...he'll be 86 and mom will be 89 this year. So needless to say, that 200 mile trip is not easy for them! So, I'm very glad to take this time while the weather and lake level conditions are at their worst on Fork and spend that time with them and help all I can.

Here at Truman Lake, we've been snowed in – iced in – and coldest weather in decades with unbelievable winds. But, the challenge of all was that there was no one to help with Buddy through the holidays. So Buddy got to go on his first ever "Road Trip"! It has been an adventure! All I can say is it would be easier if he only weighed 20 lbs! But, he has been a trooper. Walking him on a leash in all this crazy cold weather has been a challenge. I really miss my fenced yard. We both learned what it's like to hit the end of a retractor rope at 120 lbs. It was great to see how much he enjoyed all the snow. He loved just rolling in it and would just lick it as he walked! Then one night, we had to stay over in the city, so Buddy spent his very first night in a Hampton Inn Motel. He has become quite the traveler and doesn't mind waiting in the truck during doctor appoint-

ments. I think what he likes the best is all the drive-thru hamburgers he gets! I can't wait to share all the photos and videos of his travels on facebook when I get home or when I have cell service. My folks live where Verizon calls their "Dead Zone". That is why it's so hard to reach me while I'm here. It is truly like living off the grid! I appreciate everyone's patience in booking your trips. I have to drive 20 miles to town to get or send any messages. So, if you haven't heard back from me, please try again and I'll get to you as soon as I can.

I always get excited about this time of year because mid-February is when the big crappie start moving back up the creeks! When that happens, start checking that 22 to 35 ft. Right now you will likely find them in 35 to 45 ft. Just keep looking for baitfish on your graph and target those depths. Double rigged jigs about a foot apart works well. I like to put a "bubba bait" on top and a Lake Fork Tackle "live baby shad" on bottom. The colors working can change daily so get a good assortment of colors to try out. Main lake points, deep wa-

ter humps, tree lines, creek channels and stump beds are great places to check.

I'm very excited to get back in my Skeeter Solera. This month will be my one year anniversary of being in a Skeeter! I can't begin to tell you how much I've enjoyed being in the Solera 189, and now in the Solera 205. If you haven't seen one, check out your local boat shows or come by Lake Fork Marina and I'll be happy to show you mine! I call it my "Luxury Liner"! At first I was a little intimidated by such a big motor – but, now I realize this Yamaha 250 Sho is just perfect for this Solera! All my customers are loving fishing out of this awesome boat!

Well for now Buddy and I wish you all the best and we are both looking forward to being back at Lake Fork! He won't let me out of his sight. He's afraid he'll miss his ride back to Texas!

I want to send a huge "Thank You" to neighbor Clint for taking care of everything while I've been gone.

Also thanks for all the thoughts and prayers sent our way for my Dad – Mom – and brother John!

# Bassmaster Elite Series at Lake Fork (Continued from Page 7)

Texas triangle of Emory, Quitman and Mineola. All of those towns should see a big influx of anglers and fishing fans as Texas Fest — one of nine regular-season Elite Series events — pays a visit.

For all of the excitement that the tournament is likely to bring, some observers quickly questioned recently how an Elite Series event can be held on Fork, a slot limit lake where anglers are required to release bass between 16 and 24 inches in length, not to mention only being able to retain one bass greater than 24-inches in length each day.

To comply with the slot limit regulation and to minimize handling stress on bass, TPWD will work with B.A.S.S. to use the ‘catch-weigh-immediate release’ tournament format that was originally born at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic at Lake Fork in 2007.

Under that format, which Tyler-area Bassmaster Elite Series and Major League Fishing pro Kelly Jordon helped create, a judge in each competitor’s boat weighs and records the official weight of each bass caught.

After that, all bass are immediately released back into the water except for one fish over the slot limit, which can then be taken back to the Texas Fest weigh-in stage to show off to excited fans in attendance.

Bruce Akin, the CEO of the 500,000 member B.A.S.S. organization, is one of those fans. “B.A.S.S. and the Bassmaster Elite Series anglers have long wanted to conduct an Elite event on Lake Fork, which is a bucket-list fishery for bass anglers worldwide,” said Akin, in a prior news release. “The innovative catch-weigh-release format — along with the support of Gulf States Toyota, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the family of B.A.S.S. sponsors — enables us to finally show what Lake Fork is capable of producing. We can’t wait to go there.”

Cindy Hamrick, vice president of marketing for Gulf States Toyota stated in a prior news release, “We are proud to once again present the 2019 Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest benefiting Texas Parks and Wildlife, which showcases the great Texas outdoors. Our continued partnership with

the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department allows them to offer the Toyota ShareLunker Program and a number of youth and urban outreach programs.”

When the Elite Series comes to Fork this spring, the full field of anglers will fish Thursday and Friday, May 2-3, to accumulate the heaviest five-bass daily limits.

Anglers will then take a break on Saturday, May 4, for a special Fan Appreciation Day with Bassmaster University seminars, the Bassmaster Outdoors Expo, and the annual Bassmaster High School All-American Fishing Team Tournament.

On Sunday, May 5, the field will be trimmed down for semifinal round action. And then on Monday, May 6, the event will see the Top 12 pros contest for the 2019 Texas Fest championship title.

It is anticipated that record-setting catches of giant-size bass will be seen in 2019. These are the fish that have made Lake Fork a top destination for bass fishing for decades.”



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## Tyler Man Named to Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame committee announced Alan Haynes of Tyler, the former C.E.O and President of The Sportster Inc. retail sporting goods chain and lifelong sportsman, will be inducted into the hall of fame in 2019.

"There are few people who have made as big of an impact on Texas fishing as Alan Haynes," said Dan Kessler, TFF Hall of Fame Committee Chair. "For more than 45 years he has demonstrated through his professional work and personal contributions to our community a commitment to promoting fishing and the conservation of our natural resources. Not only has he been recognized nationally as a leader among sporting goods retailers, he has been a true leader in Texas' fishing community, and we are proud to induct him into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in 2019."

Haynes, who one nominee dubbed "the gold standard for judging a sportsman and conservationist," began his career in the 1970's founding The Sportster Inc. in Tyler - a fishing tackle and outdoor sports store that "had it all." Noted in several nomination letters, Haynes'

forward-thinking and innovation as a fishing tackle retailer brought new products to Texas anglers along with educational opportunities to learn from world-renowned professional anglers and experts.

Professionally, Haynes served as chair of the Nation's Best Sports Buying Groups fishing tackle buying committee representing 650 participating stores nationwide, was an advisory board member for Fishing Tackle Retailer Magazine and was a recipient of the National Leadership Award as Independent Sporting Goods Retailer of the Year by the Sporting Goods Dealer Magazine.

But outside of the store, Haynes has also devoted a significant amount of time and effort serving with many non-profit and government organizations that promote conservation initiatives and share a common goal of building the next generation of youth into fishermen and hunters.

Haynes was a co-founder of the Tyler Woods and Waters Club, now called the East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation, a locally supported organization that helps fund and pro-

mote outdoors-related activities throughout East Texas. In addition to helping to develop the Tyler Nature Center, the foundation has opened public fishing access in the Neches River, provides youth and family fishing access to Tyler-area urban fishing lakes, and recently installed a handicapped accessible fishing pier at Tyler's Faulkner Park.

Haynes also served as a leader on several boards and committees with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, including the TPWD Freshwater Fishing Advisory Committee, the planning committee for the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens and as the first chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation Kid Fish Program.

"Haynes' lifetime commitment to promoting fishing and expanding access in our state has created opportunities for countless Texas anglers and families to connect with each other in the outdoors and pass down hunting and fishing traditions to future generations," Kessler said. "His influence, knowledge and unselfish contributions to the sport have truly made a

*(See Tyler Man Inducted....Continued on Page 12)*



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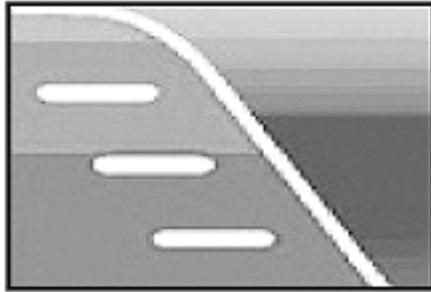
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**Tyler Man Named to Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame** *(Continued from Page 10)*

difference in people's lives, and we are honored to recognize him for the lasting impact he has made on freshwater fishing in Texas."

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is housed at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens and its mission is to "recognize

and honor those who have made a lasting contribution to freshwater fishing in Texas, and to foster a sense of appreciation, awareness and participation in the sport of fishing." Since 1997, the hall of fame has inducted 34 individuals and organizations, including the 2018

inductees Shannon Thompkins and the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association.

Haynes will be officially inducted into the TFF Hall of Fame at the 2019 Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest benefiting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at Lake Fork May 2-6, 2019.

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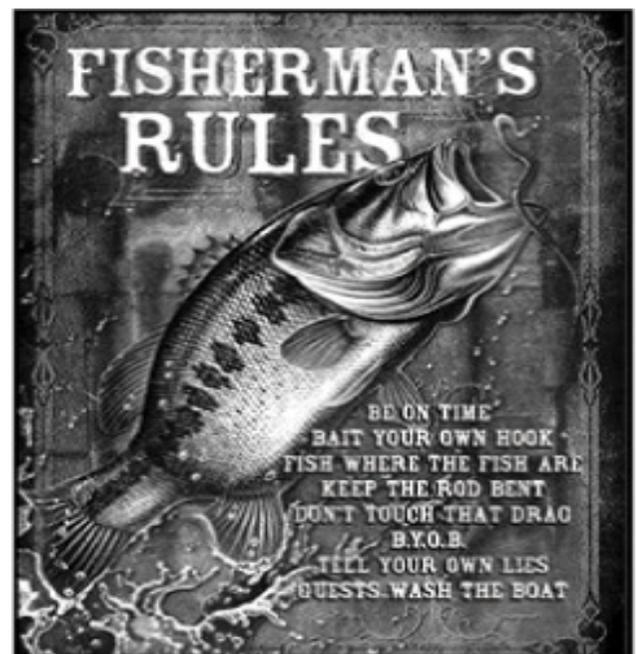


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## Recognitions Showcase Outstanding Achievements for TPWD

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPW) recognized several Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff and partners for contributions and efforts supporting the agency mission to conserve and manage the state's natural and cultural resources.

Recognitions during a recent commission meeting included a donation from the Apache Corporation dedicated to the repair of the Balmorhea State Park pool, graduation of the third Texas Game Warden Citizens Academy, commissioning of a K-9 game warden, and award presentations from the South-eastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) and the Shikar-Safari Club International.

### Apache Corporation Donates \$1 Million to Repair Balmorhea Pool

A \$1 million contribution in support of Balmorhea State Park pool repairs was presented by Apache Corporation marking the culmination of a \$2 million fundraising effort led by Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF). The pool at Balmorhea State Park was closed in early 2018 following a structural collapse of a wall caused by years of erosion from the flow of water from the springs.

The fundraising effort was jump-started with a \$1 million challenge grant announced by TPWF and Apache in August 2018. Apache pledged to match

all donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$1 million. Donations poured in, and by Jan. 17, more than \$1 million had been raised.

### TPWD Law Enforcement Division Graduates Third Texas Game Warden Citizens Academy

Nineteen people were recognized for their completion of the annual Texas Game Warden Citizens Academy.

The academy gives the citizens of Texas the opportunity to understand the role of game wardens and to provide an inside view of the many duties they carry out each day. The curriculum included an overview of program functions including game warden training, law, land and marine patrol techniques, outreach, accident investigations and reconstruction, criminal investigations, search and rescue, K-9 operations, officer safety, technology and recruiting.

The program consisted of four sessions, including classroom instruction and field trips, scheduled monthly which began Aug. 30. Attendees also had the opportunity to interact with and develop an in-depth knowledge of the complex duties of game wardens.

### K-9 Game Warden Dexter Receives Badge

K-9 game warden Dexter was awarded his official badge and collar by his handler game warden Krystal Thompson. Dexter joined the K-9 team Jan.

2018 and attended Utah Peace Officer Standards and Training, where he became TPWD's first K-9 certified in human remains detection.

Since his certification, Dexter has worked with the Texas Rangers, as well as multiple sheriff's offices and police departments statewide on blood evidence searches, cold cases and missing person cases. He has also helped his fellow game wardens locate drowning victims.

Dexter and warden Thompson are stationed in Smithville.

### Game Warden Captain Eric Collins Named SEAFWA Texas Officer of the Year

Game Warden Captain Eric Collins, stationed in the Lufkin area, was named the SEAFWA Texas Officer of the Year. This marks the 49th year the award has been presented to a Texas game warden.

Collins began his career with TPWD in 2003 and has been stationed in Delta and Cherokee Counties before becoming a captain last year. During his tenure, he has excelled in public outreach by presenting educational programs, such as youth-oriented hunting and fishing events, annually. For these events, he has worked with various organizations to secure supplies and provides hunter education training before the youth hunting events.

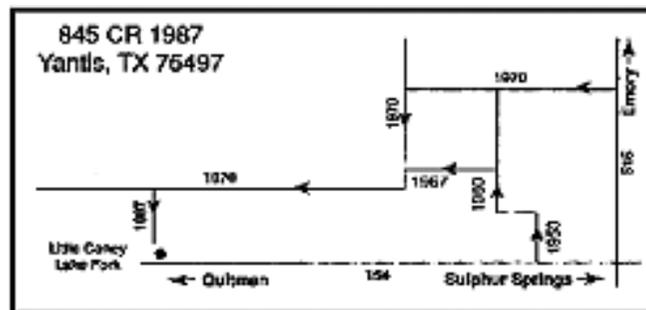
He also has been instrumental for recruiting as

(See TPWD Achievements...Continued on Page 22)

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# Lake Fork Sportsman's Association "Preserving the Legend That is Lake Fork"

By Carolyn D. West, President

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association's mission is to "Preserve the Legend of Lake Fork" and the Association's activities are heavily vested in that effort. From assisting Texas Parks and Wildlife with re-stocking fingerlings annually to replacing habitat areas to replacing valued vegetation, LFSA works to preserve the aging Lake Fork. LFSA started 2019 with a newly elected slate of officers and directors. They are:

- Carolyn West, President
- Larry Marler, Vice President
- Peggy York, Secretary
- Katie Carter, Treasurer
- Mike Kostial, Director-at-Large
- Jim Range, Director-at-Large
- Ed Swenson, Director-at-Large

At January's meeting, the annual budget was presented to the membership and approved. And the year began! One focus is re-stocking fingerlings and increasing their survivability. The public proved last year that their help in the distribution of these fingerlings is priceless. The intention of LFSA is to continue using the public in coordination with Texas Parks and Wildlife

for this distribution.

Those who have long term memories of Lake Fork know that grasses and cover for fish have been diminishing for years. LFSA, TPWD and Yantis High School are continuing a program to propagate native vegetation in the Yantis HS Greenhouse. The FFA class nurtures the plants and then LFSA and TPWD take the students on the lake to plant it for replenishment purposes. Experimental growing and planting of aquatic grasses from 2018 has had promising results.

Providing artificial structures as fish hides has also proven successful. This year new concepts will be tested to provide "Fish Cities" that allow areas of protected growth from breeding to lunker stages of the life cycle.

LFSA's Live Release Boat (LRB) can be seen at most tournaments on Lake Fork. The three one-hundred gallon tanks hold treated water kept to a controlled temperature. Fish are kept alive from weigh-in to releasing them back in the lake.

The High School Tackle Program is a project encouraging and assisting high school fishing teams. LFSA has a committee collecting and repairing rods, reels, tackle and fishing accessories for the purpose of awarding them to the fishing

teams around Lake Fork.

LFSA has recently purchased a Habitat Enhancement Barge to be used with many projects of restoration and research. This twenty-eight foot barge, with motor and trailer, will be donated to Texas Parks and Wildlife for primary use on Lake Fork. TPWD will rig the barge with tools for shoreline restoration, habitat enhancement, and aquatic plant replacement and other projects working with LFSA.

LFSA meets on the second Tuesday monthly at Tiffany's Restaurant, Lake Fork Marina. Members usually arrive around 5:30 for dinner and the meeting starts punctually at 6:30 p.m. Membership is open and visitors and potential new members are always welcome.

The list of projects is long; the activities are many; and the membership is dedicated to the mission. As the song says, "We have a long way to go and a short time to get there."



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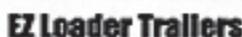
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# "Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Spring is in the air here in Northeast Texas. Regardless of the fact that we still have some cold temperatures and winter storms to experience the next few weeks the big bass will begin to be on the move. Each day now we gain more minutes of sunlight making the days longer and longer. This in fact accompanied with a couple day warm trend really triggers the most mature and biggest bass to begin searching and gorging in ravishing form before spawning. I will use my Lowrance sonar to find hard bottoms and transitions leading to the shallow water spawning grounds. You

can clearly see the hard bottom return in this image. The thick solid yellow bottom signal on sonar screen (left) and very solid bright spot on the down scan screen (right) most definitely says hard bottom and possible shell bed. I will spend a lot of time graphing areas very thoroughly looking specifically for

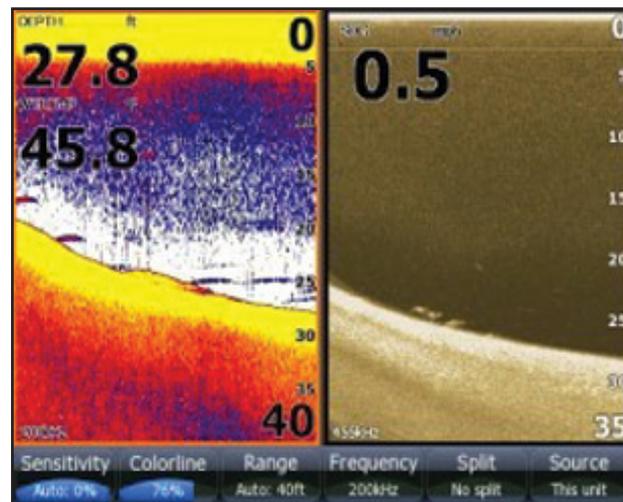
the hard bottom locations. Long points with close by creeks leading to multiple secondary points are my first choices to begin looking. I will search the entire area from 2 feet deep to 25. In most east Texas lakes these hard bottom areas will also hold shell beds in specific current oriented locations. These shell bed areas are the

spot within the spot and hold a higher concentration of plankton therefore the gizzard shad both feed and spawn there and if you know big bass like I do they love them gizzard shad. The bass will visit these hard bottom shell bed areas on a frequent basis but very nomadicly. This means whenever they want to. In my opinion its best to pick the right loca-

tion and spend a good amount of time there, dont rush around. Fish diving birds are the best sign, if the birds are there and diving then the bait is there and you can bet the bass will be there too. I hope this helps you find and catch some big early prestaging bass this year. If your interested in learning more by on the water training or just want to book a trip and catch you one of these big ole Lake Fork monsters please contact me.



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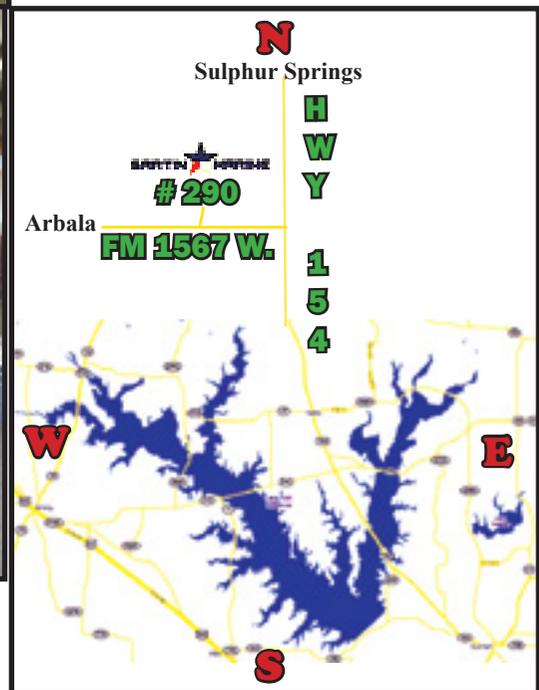
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# February is 'Big Bass Month' on Lake Fork

By Andrew Grills

February is here, and it's one of the best months for big bass! I once heard a wise fishing guide say, "There's not another month of the year when more fish are at their biggest." While it's definitely not the time of year to go for numbers, there is no better time for an opportunity at a giant. One bite can make the difference between a disappointing trip, and a day you will never forget.



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Right now the water temperature is somewhere in the upper 40s. On a sunny day you'll see warmer surface temperatures, but we put a little too much emphasis on that this time of year. Last year, my biggest February bass was on the side of the creek that was 3 or 4 degrees colder than the other. So much for that, "find the warmest water" theory. That fish probably didn't know the other side of the creek was warmer.

The lake is a few inches below full pool. Half a foot low seems to be the new "full pool". That's a tough level for this time of year. It's a little bit too low and a little bit too high at the same time. It's also important to keep in mind how deceiving the lake appears at this level. There are a lot of stumps just inches below the surface.

Fishing has been slow this winter. We are looking forward to seeing how things pick up this spring. There are still some giant fish in Lake Fork, and I'm sure we will see a few over the next couple months.

In February, I fish in 10 feet or less on most days. On a sunny afternoon, you'll catch some super shallow. If you can find any vegetation, there will likely be bass in the area. I am concentrating on areas in the mouth of creeks and adjacent to spawning areas. These are places big bass make a pitstop during this transitional time.

Try to keep your confidence up. This is the biggest challenge for a guide this time of year. Customers come with high hopes and expectations when visiting legendary Lake Fork. However, the reality is, bites are going to be few and far between this time of year. That big bite will come when you least expect it, and it could come at the close of a long, disappointing day.

As always, please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance on your upcoming trip. I'll leave you with one of my favorite Bible verses. It's one of my favorites because it describes what happened in my life 17 months ago. "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"



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## February Signals Prespawn Urges (Continued from Page 6)

the cast, let it sink to the bottom, then retrieve it slowly back to the boat. A large bass will literally knock the rod out of your hands. It's a must do pattern in February.

Big swimbaits will also play a huge roll this month, especially the expensive jointed baits. Swim or twitch them slowing in shallow water during the afternoons and hold on to your business. Strikes can be vicious. Other options to target bass would include using jigs, black/blue, in the creek bends towards the back of most all major creek arms. They are all lined with timber and will harbor toad stature green fish. The final option as

mentioned above deals with the shallow water bite. Take time to locate submerged vegetation and this will be the key to success in the late afternoons. As the water warms, dig out a rattletrap and cover some water around this vegetation. Chatterbaits will also work in these same areas and traps need to be red or gold with the chatterbait dressed in white.

February is also a great month to catch numbers on the power plant lakes. You can destroy them on the hot water impoundments and catch 30-50 fish per day up to the eight pound mark. If cabin fever has set in, give me a call and we can wear them out where the water temps are summer like. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in February searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dream't 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 <https://www.facebook.com/DavidOzioLakeFork-Guide>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Custom Lures for making this an awesome job. 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."



Lake Fork Guide David Ozio



Riley Brownfield with David Ozio

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**TPWD Achievements** *(Continued from Page 13)*

well. Game warden Brandon Thacker entered the TPWD law enforcement division as an intern and was unsure of whether he wanted to be a warden. He spent a tremendous amount of time with Collins, and after two internships and countless volunteered hours, he became a Texas game warden. Collins was recognized by Sam Houston State University for his efforts that were devoted to helping Thacker. Collins is currently mentoring another young man who has chosen this career path.

**Wise County Game Warden David Pellizzari Named Shikar-Safari Club International Wildlife Officer of the Year**

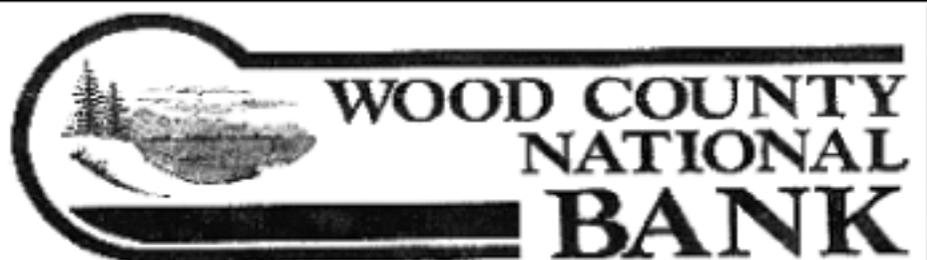
The Shikar-Safari Club International has recognized Wise County game warden David Pellizzari as the Wildlife Officer of the Year. Every year, the Shikar-Safari Club International recognizes game wardens from North America as Wildlife Officers of the Year. This marks the 39th year this award has been presented to a Texas game warden.

A member of the Swift Water Rescue team, Pellizzari is a swift water technician, boat operator and instructor. He has assisted in training game warden cadets in boat operations, sonar, firearms and swift water training over the past two years at Lake Bridgeport.

He is also now an ex-

ecutive board member of the Texas Game Warden Association and the Game Warden Peace Officer Association. In these roles, he advocates and promotes Texas game wardens for TPWD across the state. Pellizzari was also appointed as a board member to the Palo Pinto County Emergency Services District when this board was first created.

His achievements include Master Peace Officer, TCOLE instructor, firearms instructor, field training officer for new hires, and Glock and M4 armorer. He has received two Director's Life Saving Awards in addition to the title of boat accident investigator.



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**Record Number Participate in 2019 First Day Hikes**

The chilly start to the New Year did little to discourage the 3,938 visitors that hit the trail at a Texas State Park for a First Day Hike on Jan. 1. Texas had the fourth highest participation in the country with the largest number of parks hosting events.

Visitors hiked, biked and paddled their way into 2019 at one of the 77 Texas state parks that hosted 124 events throughout the day. In total, participants trekked 7,086 miles statewide.

"We were so excited to see a record number of visitor's ring in 2019 with a First Day Hike at a Texas State Park," said Rodney Franklin, Director of Texas State Parks. "First Day Hikes

have become a tradition for many families and we encourage everyone to continue to explore the beautiful views and vistas found at parks statewide throughout the year."

The First Day Hikes events ranged from strolls on scenic trails, midnight walks, polar plunges, bike rides, and short treks with four-legged family members to more strenuous hikes for experienced visitors.

Mother Neff State Park, located near Waco, had the most participants with 393 visitors taking part in the four First Day Hike events held that day. Cedar Hill State Park near Dallas and Brazos Bend State Park near

Houston weren't far behind.

Several parks had more than 100 people participate in a single event. At one event at Cedar Hill State Park, 275 visitors hit the trail. Nationally, 1,270 guided First Day Hikes were offered from Alaska to Florida and park rangers hiked with more than 72,700 participants covering over 150,280 miles. This was a record number of hikers and events and included international participation from Canada, where they hosted 6 hikes for 185 attendees.

For more information about hiking or other activities in Texas State Parks, visit <http://www.texasstateparks.org>.

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**TPWD Urges be Vigilant for Signs of Chronic Wasting Disease** *(Continued from Page 21)*

taken close to the border with New Mexico, a state where CWD had previously been discovered. In the Panhandle, CWD has been confirmed in several mule deer and white-tailed deer; as well as some elk, which are not considered game animals in Texas.

The latest CWD confirmations follow a two-day CWD Symposium that was organized and hosted by TPWD, the Texas Animal Health Commission, and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory in early December. Approximately 200 landowners, deer enthusiasts, scientists, and representatives from state fish and wildlife agencies from around the country came together to share data and to discuss best practices to address the spread of CWD. As a recurring theme, presenters stressed the need for states and landowners to take early action to investigate CWD, limit deer movement and to test early.

"Case studies in other states which are dealing with CWD reaffirm that doing nothing is plainly not an option," said Dr. Bob Dittmar, TPWD wildlife veterinarian. "The outlook in those states where little or no action was taken does not look good. In contrast, Texas has committed to a more proactive approach

that moves quickly to control the disease where discovered by limiting the movement of deer exposed to infected deer, and by reducing or eliminating deer where the disease is proven to exist. Texas also establishes containment and surveillance zones where post mortem testing is mandated. We believe that working with landowners and hunters to implement all reasonable measures to address this disease head on is the most important factor to our success thus far. Those in CWD areas can assist by providing samples to the department and harvesting deer to keep densities down."

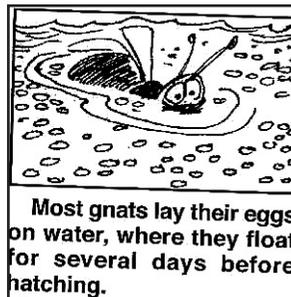
Hunters who harvest mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, red deer, or sika deer within the Trans-Pecos, Panhandle, and South-Central Texas CWD Containment and Surveillance Zones are **REQUIRED** to bring their animals to a TPWD check station within 48 hours of harvest. The department also urges hunters who take a deer outside of a CWD containment or surveillance zone to still help out by providing voluntary samples. Hunters and landowners interested in providing voluntary samples can contact their local TPWD biologist or simply bring the animal to any of the department's check stations located around the

state. Those stations can be found at [www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov) or in TPWD's Outdoor Annual.

Hunters are also encouraged to report any "sick looking" mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, red deer, or sika deer while hunting in any CWD zone to TPWD. To report a "sick looking" animal, simply contact a TPWD wildlife biologist or Texas game warden. Additional information about CWD, including carcass movement restrictions, and check station locations, can be found online at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/hunt-wild/wild/diseases/cwd/>.

"We are very appreciative of the effort and cooperation that has been put forth by the vast majority of landowners, hunters and local officials across the state," said Carter Smith, TPWD Executive Director. "Our ability to control the spread of this fatal disease is directly related to the cooperation offered by many, especially landowners and hunters, and we pledge to continue to work with everyone to minimize the impacts of this disease."

"The Texas Animal Health Commission is committed to working cooperatively with TPWD, USDA, industry and the private sector to limit the spread of this serious disease," said Dr. Andy Schwartz, State Veterinarian and TAHC Executive Director. "TAHC urges landowners and hunters to support required surveillance efforts in the Surveillance and Containment Zones by testing all hunter harvested exotic CWD susceptible species. Land owners in all other areas of the state must test up to three harvested exotic CWD susceptible species per premises each year."



Most gnats lay their eggs on water, where they float for several days before hatching.

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# Game Warden Field Notes

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

**--Leaving a Trail--** Trinity County game wardens were patrolling Alabama Creek WMA opening weekend of deer season when they noticed a truck parked on the side of the road with three hunters standing next to it. As the wardens approached, the three hunters jumped in the truck and started driving away. The wardens made contact with the hunters and noticed a deer carcass in a game carrier on the back of the truck. While one warden checked the deer and licenses, the other warden walked back to where the truck was originally parked, walked down a trail about 30 yards, and found a dead white-tailed buck hidden in the brush. The three hunters were interviewed and denied shooting the buck, which did not meet the minimum antler restrictions, and further claimed they did not see the deer. The wardens instructed the hunters take them to the area where they were hunting. A K9 game warden was called to assist and, with the dog's help, wardens were able to track where both deer were shot. Evidence of the shootings was found at two of the hunters' stands, along with the path used to drag out the dead deer. The wardens also found photos of the harvested animals on the hunters' cellphones. After three hours of investigating, numerous citations were issued including restitution. Cases are pending.

**--Recreational Poaching Vehicle--** Comal County game wardens investigating a complaint about the possible illegal killing of a white-tailed deer on the west end of Canyon Lake discovered the animal's abandoned carcass. An area resident walking his dog had spooked an individual who was in the process of cleaning the deer, and the suspect fled the scene with just the deer's head and tenderloins. The resident recognized the man cleaning the deer and was able to provide a name and the location of the suspect's RV. The wardens made contact with the man and after a few questions, the individual

admitted to killing the deer from his RV using a .22 caliber rifle; it is unlawful to hunt deer with a rimfire cartridge. The man denied keeping the deer's head and antlers, but during subsequent interrogation confessed to having stashed the head in a nearby tree. The 63-year-old man stated he had never seen a deer that big, and felt compelled to shoot it before someone else did. The man was cited for hunting deer with illegal means and for waste of game. The man also faces civil restitution on the 14-point white-tailed buck deer. The cases are pending.

**--Return to Sender--** A Comal County sheriff's deputy notified game wardens of the discovery of what appeared to be an animal carcass in an illegal dump site. The deputy also stated he had found

a blood-stained cardboard box in the pile with a shipping label that included the address of a home less than five miles from the dump location. The wardens confirmed the carcass was that of a white-tailed deer, and decided to travel to the address listed to see if there was any link between the home and the illegal dumping. The wardens met with the homeowner, who declared adamantly he did not allow hunting on his property. The wardens observed kernels of corn in the driveway, typically used to bait deer, but the homeowner denied any knowledge of how the golden nuggets got there. The wardens looked around the property and soon found a pop-up blind, a mineral block and a 50-pound

(See Game Warden....Continued on Page 26)

## Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

### 38th Semi-Annual Open Tournament

March 9, 2019 \* Lake Fork, Texas  
Oak Ridge Marina \* Hwy 154 N.

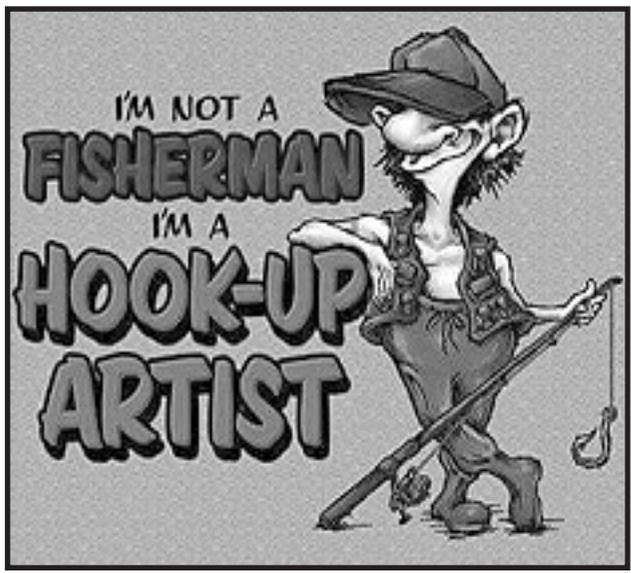
Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries 903-878-2529  
Drawings Held After Weigh-in for prizes

<p><b>1st Place</b> \$1,040.00 <b>2nd Place</b> \$780.00 <b>3rd Place</b> \$520.00 <b>4th Place</b> \$260.00 <b>5th ~ 10th</b> \$100.00</p>		<p>There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>1st Place</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>\$500</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>2nd Place</b></td> <td><b>\$300</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>3rd Place</b></td> <td><b>\$200</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>1st Place</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>1st Place</b>	<b>\$500</b>							
<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>\$300</b>							
<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>\$200</b>							

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00  
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Mar. 2, 2019.  
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Mar. 9, 2019.  
4. Check in times: Fri., Mar. 8, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Mar. 9, 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 tournament.  
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](http://www.texastrailsbassmasters.com)



### Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Mar. 1, 2019 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.

<p>Name: _____ Email: _____ Address: _____</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contestants Signature _____</p> <p>Minor's Release: Signed by _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TTB USE ONLY</b></p> <p>Entry # _____</p> <p>Entry Fee _____</p> <p>Big Bass _____</p> <p>Cash _____ Chk# _____</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

# Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 25)

bag of deer corn. The homeowner was completely flabbergasted by the findings. A subsequent investigation led to a friend of the homeowner's son, who had set up the blind, hunted and killed a white-tailed buck deer without the knowledge of the homeowner. The 20-year-old "friend" admitted to having killed the deer and dumping the carcass. He had quartered up the deer, but the wardens discovered that the meat had been left in a garage refrigerator for eight days and had spoiled. The man was cited for possession of an illegally-killed game animal, littering and failure to keep game in edible condition. Additionally, civil restitution will be assessed on the 11-point buck. The cases are pending.

--No Sale--The week prior to deer season, a concerned citizen reported seeing deer legs sticking out of the back of a pickup truck. The caller knew the owner of the vehicle and provided Hardeman County game wardens with an identification. Upon arrival at the suspect's residence, the warden observed a man take off running with a set of antlers in each hand. The warden caught up to the suspect after a short foot pursuit. After detaining and securing the subject, the warden discovered a second suspect behind the residence washing blood out of the back of a pickup truck that fit the description

given to him by the complainant. During interviews, the suspects admitted to shooting six deer the previous night, and selling five of them to a local deer processor. They planned to keep the sixth deer for themselves. The two subjects offered to take the sixth deer back to the processor and attempt to sell it. A Childress County game warden was called in to assist with the sting operation since the processor was located in his county. The subjects sold the deer to the processor for \$50 as planned and, once the transaction was complete, the wardens made the bust. During questioning, the processor admitted these illegal sales were common and had occurred in the past. A total of 60 citations and warnings were issued to all involved, including: hunt for hire, buy/sell game animal, possess illegally taken wildlife, possess without wildlife resource document, improper cold storage books, possess in closed season. Several more cases are still being investigated. Tickets and restitution are pending.

--His Tag, You're It-- Crockett County wardens on patrol entered a hunting camp with several vehicles, but no one present. The wardens found two fresh deer carcasses that, based on the tags, were killed by the same individual a day apart. One of the two deer was tagged incorrectly. Knowing the

occupants of the camp were likely out hunting, the wardens left and returned to the camp the next morning where they encountered a hunter at the gate leaving the property. The hunter said he was headed to town to buy ice and a hunting license. He claimed he had not yet been hunting, even though he had been in camp for three days. As the warden drove into the camp, he saw two men cleaning a freshly killed, but untagged, white-tailed deer. He began questioning the hunters about the two deer that were tagged differently; one correctly and one incorrectly. The hunter, whose license tags were on both deer, began making excuses and telling contradictory stories. The warden became suspicious that the hunter who left to buy a license had killed the second deer, and used a tag off of his father's license. He asked the father to provide a handwriting sample and after comparison, determined the tags on the two deer were completed by two different individuals. Only one of the tags was completed by the father, yet his name was on both of the tags. After several hours of questioning, the father admitted that his 27-year-old son had killed a deer without a license the previous morning. The father had given his son a deer tag from his license. The

*(See Game Warden....Continued on Page 28)*

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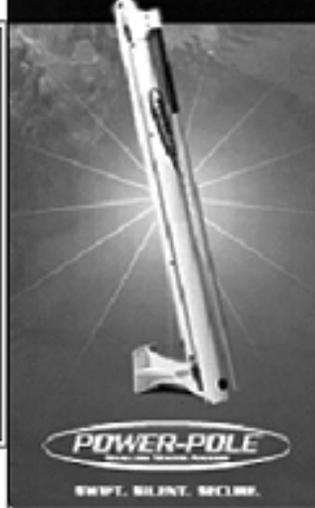


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## A Great Classic for Your "Super Bowl Party"

By Sue Hampton

Just when you thought the festivities were over... it's Super Bowl time.

This unofficial "holiday" is a time for friends, family and football fans to come together and root for their favorite team. Some have planned all year for Super Bowl Sunday – stocking up on snacks and shopping for the very latest team gear and kooky hats. Now, Game Day has finally arrived, and all



Pulled Pork with Root Beer BBQ Sauce is sure to be a hit for football fans!

that's left to figure out is what to serve at the Super Bowl party. Here's a great recipe to delight sports fans!

### Pulled Pork With Root Beer BBQ Sauce

1 – 8-pound pork shoulder  
Salt and pepper  
2 garlic cloves, separated and peeled

### Root Beer BBQ sauce:

Reduce one 2-liter bottle root beer to 1 cup  
1-1/2 cups Apple Cider Vinegar  
½ cup Ketchup  
½ cup Yellow Mustard  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
1 tablespoon Worcestershire Sauce  
1 tablespoon Tabasco  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
1 teaspoon black pepper  
To finish sauce:  
2 tablespoons cold, unsalted butter

Preheat oven to 225 degrees. Place the pork shoulder, fat side up, in large roasting pan and season well with salt and pepper to taste. Toss 2 heads of garlic cloves that have been peeled, but leave cloves whole around the pork. Cover well with heavy-duty aluminum foil. Slow-cook in the oven until tender and fall-

ing apart, and the internal temperature reaches 160 degrees. This should take about 6 to 8 hours. Remove from oven and let pork rest for 20 to 30 minutes. With two forks, pull apart meat into small chunks. Toss with the root beer BBQ sauce and serve.

### Root beer BBQ sauce:

Reduce the 2-liter bottle of root beer to 1 cup over medium heat in a large saucepan – this takes about 1 hour. Add the vinegar, ketchup, mustard, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, Tabasco, salt, and pepper. Stir well and simmer for 20 minutes. Finish the sauce by whisking in the cold butter for extra body and flavor. Serves: 6-8

**TIP:** Never use diet root beer in this recipe! The sugar in the root beer is critical to the success of the recipe!



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# Lake Fork Waterfront Property Starting At \$15,000

## ATTENTION: R.V. PADSITE RENTERS Don't rent -- OWN!

For the cost of renting/leasing you can own your own deeded (general warranty deed) lake property with the following amenities:



- \* POSSIBLE FINANCING AVAILABLE
- \* Security gated
- \* Clubhouse with restaurant
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- \* Condos for your family & guests
- \* Playground for the children
- \* Playroom with pool table and foosball
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- \* Boat ramps on Lake Fork
- \* Fishing piers on Lake Fork
- \* Stocked interior fishing ponds
- \* RV Campground with full hook-ups
- \* Laundromat

YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL FOR LESS OR ONLY PENNIES MORE THAN THE ANNUAL COST OF YOUR RENTED PAD.

Holiday Villages of Lake Fork Call: 903-878-7265

"WHY LEASE...WHEN YOU CAN OWN!!!"

## Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 26)

son, returning to camp after purchasing ice and a hunting license, discovered that his father had confessed. The wardens counted more than 10 violations committed by the three Houston men. Appropriate cases were filed against all three men in camp for possession of untagged deer, improperly tagged deer, and hunting under the license of another. The deer were seized and donated to several Ozona residents. The 10-point antlers were seized for evidence. The cases and civil restitution are pending.

--Never Fails--On opening night of deer season, Nov. 4, Sabine

County game wardens deployed an age old tactic for catching road hunters, Bucky the deer decoy. The dummy deer was placed alongside the road in the Moore Plantation WMA within easy range of opportunist night hunters. While waiting, a white SUV slow rolled to a complete stop and the driver took a shot at Ol' Bucky. Once he realized the deer was fake, he proceeded to drive off. The warden jumped out and ran towards the vehicle yelling "Texas Game Warden" and "Stop." The vehicle accelerated away from him and was immediately pursued by the other wardens. Local

law enforcement from Pinehill and Hemphill located the vehicle on a dead end county road and detained its occupants, a male and a female. A single shot .223 caliber rifle was discovered in the back floorboard with a spent shell casing still loaded in the chamber. The female passenger was cited and released to her mother. The male driver was arrested for evading detention and arrest with a motor vehicle, hunting deer at night, hunting deer with a light, and hunting from a vehicle. All the cases are pending.

*Practice Safe Boating*

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**FOR UNDER \$150 PER MONTH BUYS LAND** for RV, Mobile Home or House; Pool; Pier; Ramp; Gated Entry. 903-878-7265.

**GOLF CARTS FOR SALE:** Several available - Carts To Go - 214-673-1313.

**HOUSE OR PET SITTER:** Don't put that vacation or trip on hold because you have no one to stay with your pets or no one to watch your home. You can depend on me!! Excellent references upon request. Call 903-216-9901.

**FOR SALE:** 34' Trailer w/deck on waterfront at Popes Landing Lake Fork. Reduced to \$12,500 - see pictures at [East-texas-craigslist.org/rvs/.6716082321.html](http://East-texas-craigslist.org/rvs/.6716082321.html)

24 hour Service Credit Terms Available

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## "Wish To Fish

## Foundation"

**903-383-7748**

## Needs Your Help!!!

*If you know a family that has a child that meets our criteria, just have them call us.*

*We'll take over from there!*

*"Every child deserves a chance to fish!" Children diagnosed or who have experienced a life-threatening illness or accident sometimes do not have that opportunity. Now through the "Wish to Fish Foundation" they can have that day in the sun with their family. Any family with a child between the ages 3 to 18 years of age that has been diagnosed or treated for a life-threatening illness or accident is invited to come fish Lake Fork for any species of fish at **NO COST!** Lodging, meals, and fishing are provided for. This allows the family to spend quality time together fishing without worries or expenses. The outing includes one night lodging, meals, refreshments, snacks, all on a 26' Tritoon Pontoon, (accompanied with a 9-1-1 chase boat for any emergency that may occur. All bait and fishing equipment provided. If you are, or know of a family that meets the above criteria, contact us! Help us spread the word, we are here for the children!*

*For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director  
visit our website: [www.wishtofishfoundation.com](http://www.wishtofishfoundation.com)*



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**Lake Fork Tournament  
 Schedule Feb. thru Apr.  
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**Bev's Fish Creations  
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 Replicas ~ \$13 per inch  
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 www.fishandwaterfowltaxidermy.com

**February**

Feb. 9~ JC Outdoors Teams  
 Minnow Bucket  
 Feb. 16 ~ Media Teams  
 Minnow Bucket  
 Feb. 24~ JC Outdoors Solo  
 Minnow Bucket

Having a tournament on Lake Fork Let Us  
 Know...email; fishnews@lakefork.net

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 Open: Mon.-Wed. 11 am - 8:30 pm  
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**March**

Mar. 9 ~ Media Teams  
 Minnow Bucket  
 Mar. 16 ~ BassChamps Mega Bucks  
 Lake Fork Marina  
 Mar. 17 ~ JC Outdoors Solo  
 Minnow Bucket  
 Mar. 23 ~ JC Outdoors Teams  
 Minnow Bucket

Having a tournament on Lake Fork Let Us  
 Know...email; fishnews@lakefork.net  
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Lake Fork's Lines To Get Hooked On!  
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**See Your Business  
 Promoted Here!!  
 Call Don  
 903-383-7748**

**April**

Apr. 13 ~ Media Teams  
 Minnow Bucket  
 Apr. 14 ~ JC Outdoors Solo  
 Minnow Bucket  
 Apr. 24 ~ JC Outdoors Teams  
 Minnow Bucket

The Legend Of Lake Fork  
 15th Annual Big Bass Tournament  
 May 17,18, 19, 2019  
 Early Entries Before Apr. 30th

  
**Lake Fork  
 Sportsman's  
 ASSOCIATION**  
 Preserving The Legend  
 Meeting are held the 2nd Tuesday of each  
 month beginning at 6:30 pm at  
 Tiffany's Restaurant, Lake Fork Marina

# JR SIMPSON

## 903-850-3324



EMAIL: jr.simpson@century21.com

Office: 800-254-7541 - Fax: 903-763-4487

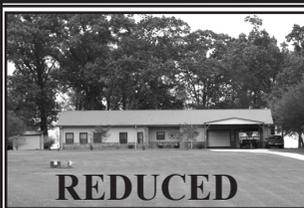


www.c21lakecountryrealty.com



**WHAT A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY!** Live on site in this 3 bedroom 2 bath home and let the 4 cabins and rent house pay your bills! Granite counters, engineered hardwood floors, fireplace, 24X32 garage, 12X20 storage building and a 10X12 dog house surrounded by chain link fence, plenty of parking in front of cabins and a nice pond. Property is 2.51 acres with plenty of room to add more cabins. Located just 1 mile from Lake Fork boat ramp.

**Yantis \$249,900**



**MUST SEE AT EAGLE POINT ESTATES!** Gated Community on World Famous Lake Fork! Unbelievable views on 1.066 acre waterfront lot plus leaseback! Home features metal siding and framing. 37X30 garage workshop w/2 attic fans and built-in cabinets, tile and hardwood flooring, 2 living areas, formal dining, 3 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms, 4 walk-in closets, 2 pumps at lake for irrigation system, 24x30 carport, 10x30 covered porch, 10x30 screened porch and boat house with electric lift.

**Alba \$395,000**



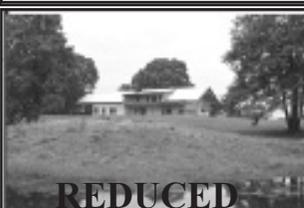
**PERFECT FIRST TIME BUYERS HOME** This 4 bedroom 2 bath, located just outside of Yantis City Limits and 5 minutes to World Famous Lake Fork. Home features a 29X29 concrete slab for parking or would be great place for a shop building, 8X8 storage shed, 12X16 covered front porch, 8X16 covered rear porch and great country views. New metal roof completed 8/27/2018. Appliances negotiable, bring your best offer as this one is priced to sell.

**Yantis \$92,000**



**BUILD YOUR NEW HOME ON 9+ ACRES** Located just outside the Quitman City Limits. Great property is 9+ acres with a pond and is fenced. This tract of land has 750+ ft of road frontage. This could be a great place to build your custom home with room for your horses and livestock! No known deed restrictions. Motivated seller is ready for your best offer! Call JR for detailed information.

**Quitman \$59,900**



**OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING! 51+ ACRES** This is an unfinished 5 bedroom home, with 4 bathrooms, 2 living areas and mostly wired. Some Can Lighting is either installed or there ready to be installed. Several high end doors and windows in place too. 600 ft. well, property is mostly fenced with great rolling country views. There is a pond right out your back door with lots of deer and wildlife. This is one of those properties you must see! Make your appointment today!

**Quitman \$409,000**



**LOT #38 AT ROYAL OAKS ESTATES** Royal Oaks is a gated community and has its own private boat ramp for the property owners and their guests. All utilities are underground and the streets and gutters are concrete. Waterfront was recently cleared and dredged when the lake was down and has an elevated building site. Lot #38 totals over 3 acres (1.4 acres deeded with 2 acres of leaseback) and 370 feet of shoreline with a view of protected cove.

**Yantis \$84,900**



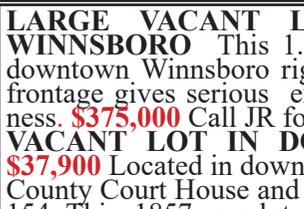
**2+ UNRESTRICTED WATERFRONT ACRES** and leaseback on World Famous Lake Fork! Property is secluded and private, would be a great home place or awesome place to spend the weekends! Lots of deer activity on this property, tracks everywhere! Property fronts McGee Bay in the Lake Fork Creek area of Lake Fork. This is an awesome duck hunting area. Property will have seasonal boat access, depending on lake level. Bring your best offer as this rare find is sure not to last long!

**Emory \$52,900**



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

**Emory \$232,000**



**LARGE VACANT LOT IN DOWNTOWN WINNSBORO** This 1.117 acres lot is located in downtown Winnsboro right on Main St. Busy road frontage gives serious exposure for most any business. **\$375,000** Call JR for full details!  
**VACANT LOT IN DOWNTOWN QUITMAN \$37,900** Located in downtown Quitman by the Wood County Court House and Peoples Telephone on Hwy 154. This .1857 acre lot will give great exposure for any business you choose.

**Winnsboro \$299,900**



**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION** 1,900+ sqft metal building has recently had a complete new metal exterior, septic, AC and 3 phase electrical. Building is insulated and has two roll up doors. New custom iron gates recently installed. Located on FM 17, just South of Lake Fork Marina. This would be a great place to start your business, or maybe store your toys! No zoning or known restrictions.

**Alba \$99,900**



**FENCED COMMERCIAL PROPERTY** Located in Winnsboro on Highway 11/Broadway Street. A total of 4.285 acres is ready for your business! Property is fenced with security gate and has several usable metal buildings. Any business would get massive exposure here! Motivated seller is ready for your best offer! Call JR for full details and to schedule your showing today!

**Winnsboro \$299,900**



**LAKE FORK WATERFRONT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY!** This 4000+ sqft building is set up as a restaurant and is waterfront on Lake Fork with its own private boat ramp, pier, storage building and plenty of parking. Located on the busy, high traffic side of Lake Fork. The seller states property is unrestricted This would be perfect place for a marina, bait and tackle shop or your dream business. All Restaurant equipment is included! Call JR for full details.

**Alba \$229,000**



**Yantis \$899,900**

**TOTAL SECLUSION AND PRIVACY** Custom waterfront home sitting on almost 33 acres, hidden in the woods! Property is under wildlife exemption. Home features 3/2/2 carport spaces, office/game room or 4th bedroom, beamed ceilings, limestone gas fireplace, huge windows overlooking the cove and natural wildlife. 30x60 metal shop building, 34x60 metal shop building, 1 room guest cabin could use a little work, storage shed, 2 ponds with 7+ acres of leaseback on Lake Fork.

**LAKE FORK WATERFRONT LOTS & OFF WATER LOTS FROM \$25,000 TO \$69,900**

**LAKE FORK AREA ACREAGE FROM \$52,900 TO \$84,900**

**CALL JR FOR FULL DETAILS**



**\$2,400,000**

**7,000+ SQFT LIVING AREA, 11,000+ UNDER ROOF, 40+ ACRES, 10,000 SQFT IN SHOP BLDGS,** knotty alder cabinets, hand scraped wood and tile floors, cathedral ceilings, full security & surveillance system, gas fireplaces everywhere, indoor endless pool w/treadmill & hot tub, in-home gym, indoor shooting range, cowboy & skeet shooting range, fireproof safe room, saloon room, outdoor kitchen, media room, guest suite over garage. Call JR for full details.

# JR SIMPSON

## 903-850-3324



EMAIL: jr.simpson@century21.com

Office: 800-254-7541 - Fax: 903-763-4487





# 11th Annual MEGA BASS



2018 Winner -  
Garett Hall - 11.38 lbs  
Skeeter ZX 200 + \$15,000

## \$20,000 CASH GUARANTEED - EVERY HOUR

12 Places per hour  
GUARANTEED  
regardless of entries  
EVERY HOUR

Amateurs Only

### Big Bass of the day WINS \$15,000 CASH and a SKEETER ZX 200

- 1st place.....\$15,000
- 2nd place.....\$1,000
- 3rd place.....\$900
- 4th place.....\$800
- 5th place.....\$700
- 6th place.....\$600
- 7th place.....\$500
- 8th place.....\$400
- 9th place.....\$300
- 10th place.....\$250



T-shirt bonus  
\$10.00

11th ....\$200  
12th ....\$200

Even Weight Bonus \$\$  
2.50 lb - \$500 - 3.00 lb - \$500  
9.00 lb - \$500 - 10.00 lb - \$500  
first even weights weighed in



### Lake Fork Saturday, March 16, 2019

Lake Fork Marina

Entry Fee: \$200 per person  
(Includes \$10 cash/check discount)

Checks NOT accepted on site

On site registration times:

Fri. 3/15: 12-7 PM Sat. 3/16: 5 AM

EARLY REGISTRATION DRAW PRIZES

Entries received before March 10th are eligible to win prizes from: Techron, Berkley, Abu Garcia, Amphibia & More.

For additional info. and rules go to [www.basschamps.com](http://www.basschamps.com) or call 817-439-3274

Winners are responsible for taxes, titles, and license fees. Boat pictured may differ from actual prize. Over \$140,000 Cash, Skeeter boat & 12 places every hour are guaranteed regardless of entries.

basschamps.com