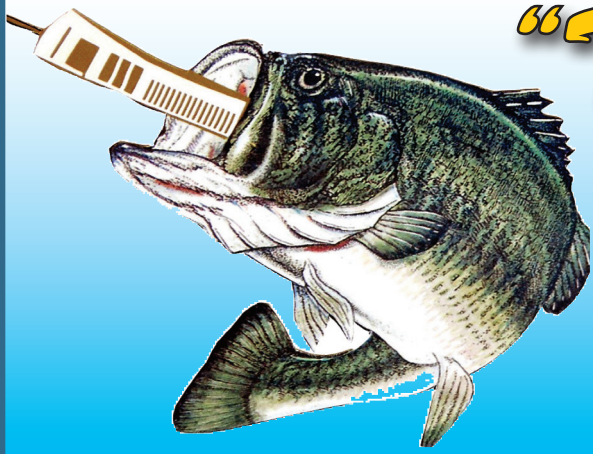


# LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas"



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

1 Section

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Vol. 21

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No. 242



Blake Hardy from New Waverly, Texas won 1st Place in the 33rd Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork with this bass weighing in at 10.61-pounds. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)



Jimmy Qualls from Eules, Texas won 2nd Place in the 33rd Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork with this bass weighing in at 10.06-pounds. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)

**"Sealy Outdoors Lake Fork Big Bass Splash"**  
See Full Story on Page 4 Photo Page 17



Burl Blosser from Abilene, Texas won 3rd Place in the 33rd Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork with this bass weighing in at 9.77-pounds. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)



Brigham Bigby, Jr. from Colmesneil, Texas won 4th Place in the 33rd Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork with this bass weighing in at 9.32-pounds. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)



Carl Parks from Hemphill, Texas won 5th Place in the 33rd Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork with this bass weighing in at 9.25-pounds. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)



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## All It Takes Is One Good Bass For Bubba To Get In Someone's Pocket

By Don Bubba Hampton

Bubba is known in his circle of friends to be a pretty fair fisherman. He even has photos and witnesses of him catching some 9 and 10 pound bass. It is a good thing he does have proof because knowing how Bubba can embellish a fish tale, he needs proof.

Bubba practices CPR. This is most definitely not to say he is medically trained. His extent of medical training was dating a bossy nurse before he met Bubbette. She didn't like to fish, didn't like Bubba to fish, and it wasn't long before she didn't like Bubba and he surely didn't like her! To Bubba, CPR only means catch, photo, and release. If he ever catches a big one in a major tournament and has chest pains, he is done for.

Bubba never has the big fish to show for all his efforts, but when he catches a hawg, he definitely makes sure he has a photo and witnesses.

This man has almost as many cameras in his boat as the "Love Boat" did. His best times on the lakes used to be those "Kodak Moments". Now thanks to modern technology he refers to them as "Canon digital moments"! He really is a hi-tech redneck with his new cameras. He can now show his buds his fish without having to go get the film developed first.

When it comes to the big tournaments, Bubba just can't put it all together. He knows it can't be because of his stuff. He has more stuff than Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. He has won more than his share of

club tournaments and placed in a few others to get checks, but he just can't seem to get the whole enchilada.

When speaking with him after one of his tournaments he said, "One o' these days it's gonna be my turn and I'm gonna get off into those tournament director's pockets and they are just going to have to give me a boat!"

Now I was really glad none of the tournament directors were around to hear that statement. Not knowing Bubba as we do and how he has a way of putting things, they just might have been a little on the nervous side rather than understanding that was just Bubba's way of saying he was planning to win one of their tournaments.

To this date Bubba will confess, "I've never really been beat in a tournament, heck, I just run out of time!"

I have all the confidence in the world that one of these times Bubba is going to do just what he says and win in one of the big tournaments. He says he's going to and the one thing you can be assured of with him is if he gives his word on a matter, it is just a matter of fact.

He will do this only if Bubbette lets him live long enough!!

After one of his tournaments Bubbette told him sternly, "Bubba, you've got too much stuff! Not even you know what all you have. Twenty rod n' reels in your boat and more lures than Bass Pro Shop! You

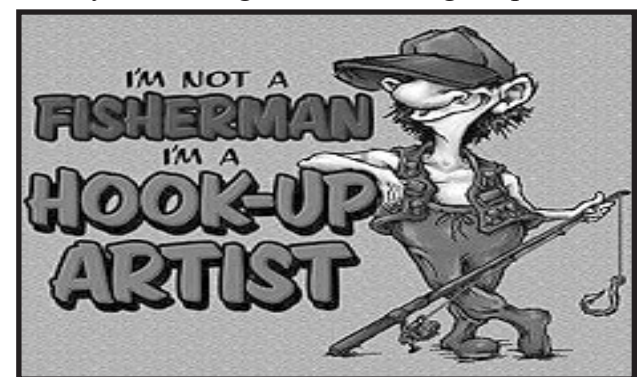
can't be using all that stuff!" She went on to add, "You probably get all that stuff out on your boat and get confused what to do next and spend more time trying to think than fishing."

Bubba didn't know whether to take this as a compliment or an insult. No one had ever accused him of thinking too much and besides that, a man can never have too much fishing stuff!

Well, after he pondered this for a bit, it went over like treble hooks in a brush pile with Bubba. You would have thought somebody said his boat was ugly, wouldn't run and he'd never fish again. I even felt sorry for poor ole Bubba.

Bubbette even saw the pain she had inflicted on poor ole Bubba's fishing ego because the next day she bought him a new digital scale.

On the card Bubbette wrote, "This is so you will know how deep you are going to get in those tournament director's pockets. Good luck, you are the man. I love you!" She signed it, "Yore Sugdumplin!"



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## Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash

By Don Hampton

The excitement and entertainment for the spectators and anglers began with the first hour and continued through the last hour of the 33rd Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork held September 20, 21, and 22 out of Lake Fork Marina. This great tournament is where amateurs win like pros and was attended by 2,301 anglers representing 28 states in hopes of winning some of the \$516,000 guaranteed in cash and prizes. The weather held nice over the course of the tournament with the only complaints being that

the wind made the lake a little rough on Friday but each morning of the tournament the weather remained cooler and the breeze was appreciated.

With \$1,500 being paid for 1st place in each hour and two T-shirt hours per day paying double, if an angler had bought a T-shirt and won 1st place in any of those hours, they would win \$3,000. There were 15 places paid each hour of the 3-day tournament with fifteenth paying \$250 and two additional places paid in the Bonus Card hours. Each day of the tournament if an angler brought in the first exact weight of 2.50-pounds, that an-

angler would not only win the placement in the hour but also an additional check for \$5,000. If no one brought in that exact weight, the monies would be given away in a draw at the end of the tournament. No exact weight was brought to the scales in the course of the tournament. In the drawing on Sunday winning the draw for a check for \$5,000 was Kris Kennedy from Azle, Texas, Richard O'Brien from Sand Springs, Oklahoma, and Christopher Klenke from Labadie, Missouri.

Lake Fork is a Class 'A' slot lake in the state of Texas. The slot on this

(Continued on Next Page)



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great reservoir is 16" to 24", which means any bass between those two numbers cannot be brought to the scales. This keeps the lunker population in this great reservoir growing. This also meant that some anglers that caught a 1.86-pound bass up to a 2.70-pound bass took home good money from the tournament. For the heaviest bass under the slot each day Sealy Outdoors pays that angler \$5,000 for their great catch. Taking home this extra money on Friday was Ricky Johnson from Rockwall, Texas for a bass weighing 2.49-pounds; on Saturday the lucky angler was Charles Hershberger from Frankston, Texas with a bass weighing 2.70-pounds and on Sunday Gary Gross-

man from Holly Grove, Arkansas with a catch weighing 2.46-pounds. During the course of the three day tournament there were 769 fish weighed in with a total weight of 1,561.99-pounds. There were 19 bass weighed in during the tournament 24" in length or longer. On Friday there were four that came to the scales, Tony Climer from Mesquite, Texas with a 7.21-pound; Burl Blosser from Abilene, Texas with a 9.77-pound; Blake Frasure from Grethel, Kentucky with a 7.30-pound; and James Mankin from Weleetka, Oklahoma with a 6.69-pound. Saturday proved to be the better day for fishing with eight over the slot bass

that came to the scales. These were caught by Carl Parks from Hemphill, Texas with a 9.25-pound; Steven Terrell from Fate, Texas with a 9.18-pound; Rusty Miller from Elmer, Louisiana with a 9.08-pound; Alfredo Martinez from DeQueen, Arkansas with an 8.30-pound; Jimmy Qualls from Euless, Texas with a 10.06-pound; Mark Harmon from New Sharon, Iowa with an 8.32-pound; Cody Mays from Yantis, Texas with a 7.06-pound; and Brian Cheek from Abilene, Texas with a 7.06-pound. On Sunday there were seven that came to the scales; Phyllis Nickel from Emory, Texas with an

See Sealy Outdoors...  
Continued on Page 7)



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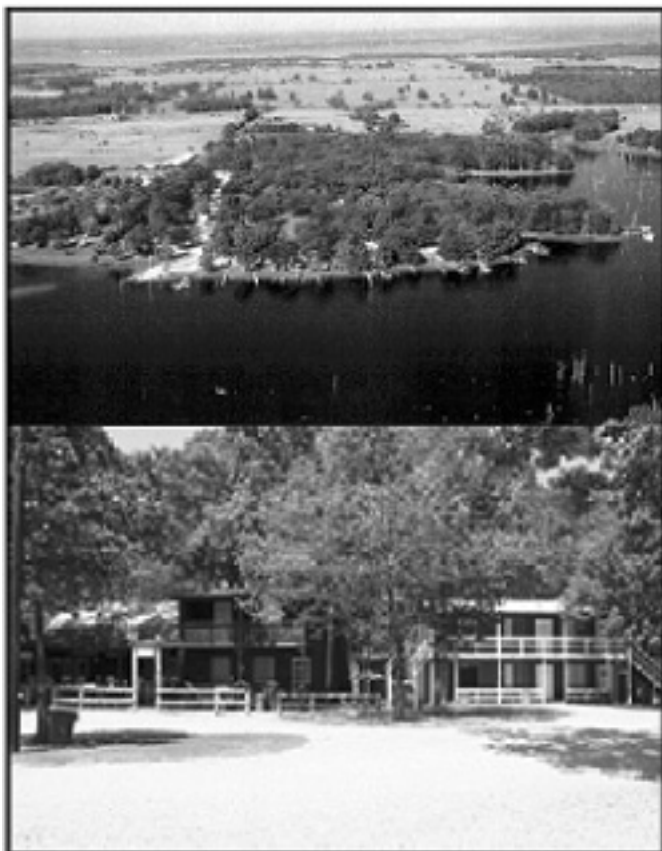
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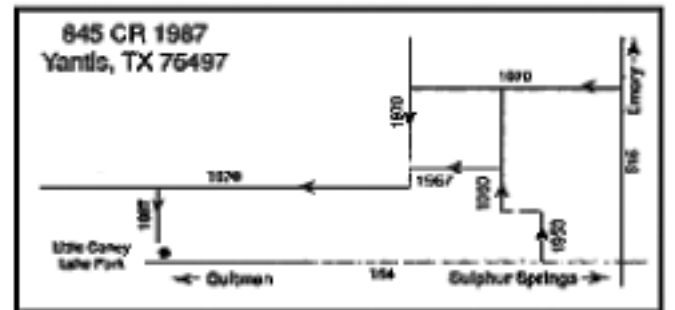


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# "The Bass Foodfest Finally Here!"

By David Ozio

"The long awaited bass food fight is upon us and it couldn't have come soon enough. Hot summer temps have sent all anglers scrambling and it's time for everyone to take advantage of cooler air temps and get on the hunt for the giant green monsters that lurk in the depths of Lake Fork. As water temps begin to fall, this sends a signal to the baitfish to migrate into the creeks and you know what will follow. Currently, there are more shad on the lake than I have seen in years. This signals a great opportunity to book your favorite guide and go after one of the many super slouches that are parked on this impoundment.

Early October can officiate a small drawback called "Lake

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

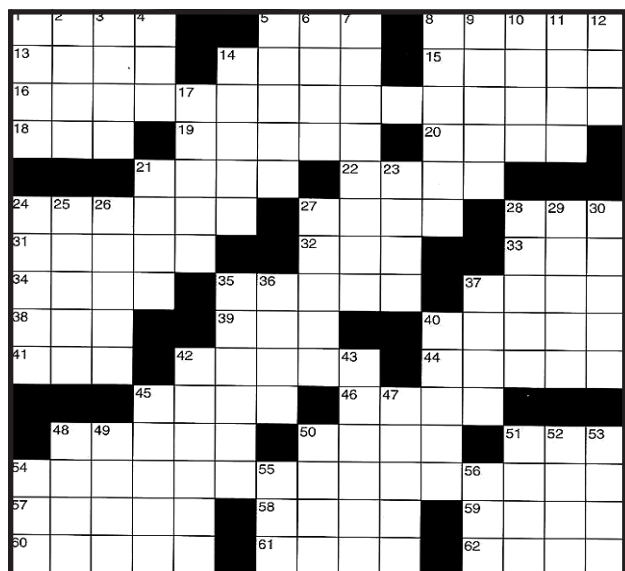
Gear up with a top water for the early bites and focus on any vegetation that you can find such as coontail, lily pads or alligator grass. There is a little bit of hydrilla available but you have to hunt high and low to find it. Zara Spooks are my all time favorite and will draw strikes from the largest bass around. Buzzbaits, Yellow Magic's and frogs are also excellent choices and truly have a place on the deck of the boat. Once that bite tapers off, I will switch to a Texas rig worm of any sort and work the same areas until noon. If the vegetation is more sparse, use a 1/8th ounce tungsten weight with



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

Falling water temps will also issue in a better deep bite as bass start to group up. Deep structures, road beds, points and ridges should all come alive as these fish search for food to fatten up for the winter. Once the afternoon rolls around, start

(See The Bass....  
Continued on Page 20)




**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Biu-Mandara
- 5. Dip lightly into water
- 8. Saucy
- 13. Highly excited
- 14. Long, single-edged machete
- 15. Related on the mother's side
- 16. Bush-Gore contest
- 18. Arabian, for one
- 19. Edward \_\_\_\_\_, playwright
- 20. Approves food (abbr.)
- 21. Competently
- 22. \_\_\_\_\_ Grant, actor
- 24. Big D
- 27. Cut-rate event
- 28. Pat
- 31. Saint
- 32. School organization (abbr.)
- 33. Building extension
- 34. Cubic content unit
- 35. Take off
- 37. Islam
- 38. Holds
- 39. Skeletal muscle
- 40. Abu \_\_\_\_\_, United Arab Emirates capital
- 41. Collection of anecdotes about a person or place
- 42. Cubes
- 44. Fanatical
- 45. Having a pleasant appearance
- 46. Vividly colored fish
- 48. Grapes
- 50. Smallest merganser
- 51. New location (abbr.)
- 54. Concern of Bush-Gore contest
- 57. Reconnaissance (slang)
- 58. Develops, in a way
- 59. Fall down
- 60. Anesthetic
- 61. Plucked
- 62. Dried leaves of the hemp plant

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Decagrams (abbr.)
- 2. James \_\_\_\_\_, American writer
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ fide (Latin)
- 4. Deteriorate
- 5. Stereo sound
- 6. Away from wind
- 7. Skunks
- 8. Assure payment of
- 9. Fidgety (slang)
- 10. Arab king
- 11. Greek portico
- 12. Japanese monetary unit
- 14. Wraps around
- 17. Capital of Morocco
- 21. \_\_\_\_\_ Ladd, actor
- 23. Wings
- 24. Russian country house
- 25. Scottish resort island
- 26. Capital of Tibet
- 27. Good deal
- 28. Place that treats addiction
- 29. Defense
- 30. Cloth having a crisscross design
- 35. Call forth
- 36. Contest of speed
- 37. Ruler of Iran
- 40. Slow speech pattern with prolonged vowels
- 42. Type of party
- 43. Austere
- 45. Daughter of your sibling
- 47. Green vegetable (archaic)
- 48. Assist in some wrongdoing
- 49. Hyperbolic cosecant (abbr.)
- 50. Edible lily bulb
- 51. Nat or Natalie
- 52. Native American people
- 53. Vipers
- 54. 100 square meters
- 55. Take in solid food
- 56. Records that play for about 20 minutes a side (abbr.)

Answers on Page 21



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# Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash (Continued from Page 5)

8.86-pound; Gary Bell from Pine Bluff, Arkansas with a 7.02-pound; Blake Hardy from New Waverly, Texas with a 10.61-pound; Brigham Bigby, Jr from Colmesneil, Texas with a 9.32-pound; Chance Stone from Mabank, Texas with a 7.83; Ken Kerns from McAlester, Oklahoma with a 9.01-pound; and Raymond Springer from Ashdown, Arkansas with an 8.70-pound.

Winning 1st Place overall heaviest bass in the tournament was Blake Hardy from New Waverly, Texas with his 10.61-pound

bass. He took home \$3,000 for the hour, a 2020 Triton 19 TRX, powered by Mercury, a RAM Truck plus an additional \$7,000. Second Place overall with a weight of 10.06-pounds was Jimmy Qualls from Euless, Texas. He took home \$1,500 for the hour, a 2020 Triton 18 TRX, powered by Mercury, a RAM Truck and an additional \$2,000 in cash. Third Place overall weight was Burl Blosser from Abilene, Texas with a 9.77-pound bass. For his efforts he won \$3,000 for the hour, a 2020 Triton

18 TRX powered by Mercury, and an additional \$1,000 in cash. Fourth Place was Brigham Bigby, Jr. from Colmesneil, Texas with a 9.32-pound bass. He won \$900 for the hour plus an additional \$8,000 in cash. Fifth Place was Carl Parks from Hemphill, Texas with a 9.25-pound bass. He took home \$1,500 for the hourly plus an additional \$6,000 for his catch.

The Elimination Draw Boat was won by Rocky Ramshur from Winnfield, Louisiana. He took home a 2020 Triton 189 TRX powered

by Mercury. In the open drawing Johnathan Davis from Rison, Arkansas won an Academy Shopping Spree and a Fire Disc Grill.

Winners in the Little Anglers Division are to be congratulated also. They were Kaleb Woodard, Jackson Ivie, Luke Tomlinson, Luran and Hunter Laskoskie, Kaden Lynch, Evan Culbertson, Ashlyn Edens, Logan Gaitan, Griffin Blundell, Hunter Cevan, Jackson Ivie, Colton Mackey, Hudson Blundell, Evan Culbertson, Bowen Jones, Bruce Blackwell, Lo-

gan Gaitan, Jaykob Netherland, Legend Woodard, Lane Miller, Ty Waldenville, and Casen Turner. These young anglers are the future of our sport and we will be seeing them tournament fishing in the future.

The Lake Fork Sportsman Association Live Release Boat did an excellent job returning all of the bass into the lake in great health to grow bigger and to be caught again another day. This organization truly looks out for the future of Lake Fork! Also, a big thank you goes out

to the TPWD Game Wardens for the outstanding job they do. All of our prayers and thoughts go out to those effected by Hurricane Imelda.

We hope to see you all again next year on Lake Fork.

For more information and the daily hourly weights go to [www.sealyoutdoors.com](http://www.sealyoutdoors.com). To learn more about Sealy Outdoors Tournaments and schedules you can contact Nicole Sealy at [nicolesealy@sealyoutdoors.com](mailto:nicolesealy@sealyoutdoors.com) or call 409-382-3876 or 888-698-2591.

*(See All Big Bass & Photos on Page 17)*

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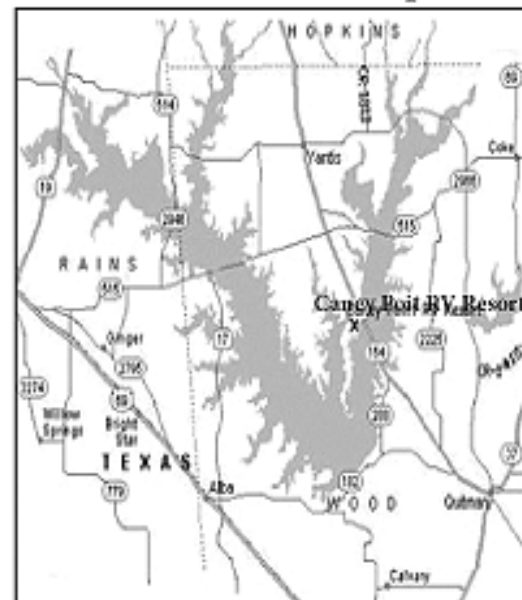
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# "The Moon Report"

## "Forks

## October

## Fishing"

By Terri Moon

Well after a tough month and a half in Missouri taking some family time, I'm finally back to Lake Fork. It sounds like it was a good time to be gone with all the 100 degree days down here! (But it also sounds like I missed some really good fishing!)

As luck would have it as soon as I got back, fishing turned tough – even the guys with "Livescope" said the crappie got finicky – only a couple per spot especially in the mornings. (So, I was glad to hear it wasn't just me!) But, they also said they finally started feeding later in the day. (Sorry I missed it!) But, the mornings should gradually get better when the major feeding times shift around.

When the weather finally starts to cool off, the crappie will start showing up in the mouths of the creek arms and will work up to secondary creek arms. Right now they have been as shallow as 6 ft. and as deep as 18 ft. around bridges, brush piles, and standing timber. These fish haven't bunched up yet and are spooky – so, you will have to keep moving around for a productive day. Also water clarity and light conditions will make a difference on what color will produce a strike so don't be afraid to change up colors to see what will work for that time of day.

Also, if the fish are finicky, try tipping a jig with a minnow or make sure



you keep a jar of Berkley Crappie Nibbles in the boat. They can make all the difference in triggering a strike. Don't be afraid to change up your presentation. Some days they want it "dead still" and other days they want it moving. But, keep a close eye on that depth finder. It is your best tool in the boat! (I'm sure grateful for my Lowrance HDS units) because you have to know how deep the fish are holding so you know what depth to target.

I'm very excited about the new "Livescope" technology that's hit the industry. It's become a "game-changer" in the fishing world. (Looks like I'm going to have to add one of these to my arsenal!) I can't wait to put one on my new Skeeter Solera 205 that I've ordered!

Now as far as the baits we're using – Boneheads Stump Bug in slick neon or pearl white & chartreuse, or Lake Fork Tackle live baby shad in money milk, or pink & pearl have been producing.

Cooler weather is on

the way – I can't wait! I call October and November "TROPHY TIME". Many of my customers have caught their personal best during these months and not just for crappie but all species! I just love Forks fall fishing and cooler temperatures!

For those of you looking for bream, we are finding some in the timber 5 – 15 ft. and around crossmembers of the bridges. Crickets, or night crawlers will work and we even get a few on small jigs.

Once again, it's great to be back on the lake. I know Buddy is happier than me to be back. He has been such a trooper and good traveler and he made lots of new friends while in Missouri but sure was happy to see all his Lake Fork Marina friends!

My best to you all and sending thoughts and prayers to my family in Missouri and sending special prayers to my great nephew, Marine Kaenan Burkhardt and his bride Jayda in their new military journey!

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# TPWD Taking Public Comment on Proposed Regulation Changes for Trotlines and Other Related Gears

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is seeking public comment on proposed changes to the regulations on passive fishing gear (jug lines, minnow traps, perch traps, throwlines, and trotlines), which includes adding requirements and specifications for floats and reducing the valid period for gear tags to reduce the negative impacts of

abandoned passive fishing gear in Texas public waters.

"Abandoned passive fishing gear is not easily identified and can harm fish and wildlife resources and present a nuisance and safety hazard to recreational users of public water bodies," said Jarret Barker, TPWD Assistant Commander for Marine Enforcement. "These proposed

changes would aid in identifying and monitoring lawful passive fishing gear and help facilitate the removal of abandoned gear."

The proposed changes would require that passive fishing gear have properly marked gear tags and floats attached to aid in distinguishing active fishing gear from abandoned fishing gear and litter. These changes include add-

ing a customer number from a valid fishing license on the gear tag and marking all passive fishing gear with floats that are at least 6 inches in length and not less than 3 inches in width. Floats for recreational anglers can be any color other than orange. Commercial fishing license holders will be required to use orange-

*See TPWD Taking...  
Continued on Page 22)*



Gary Apple caught these two nice bass fishing with Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith on September 16. C.P.R.



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**1 for Heaviest Bass Under The Slot, 1 for Early Entry Incentive**

*(Early Entries ONLY received before 4/30/20 and must be present to win.)*

**11 Places Paid Hourly 1st - \$600 \* 2nd - \$400 \* 3rd - \$300 \* 4th - \$200 \* 5th - \$175**

**6th - \$150 \* 7th - \$135 \* 8th - \$125 \* 9th - \$115 \* 10th - \$110 \* 1st Out of 10th - \$100 GC**

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



# Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork 38th Semi-Annual Open Tournament

By Don Hampton

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 38th Semi-Annual Bass Tournament on October 12th hosted out of Oak Ridge Marina. Any of you anglers coming to fish the 14th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on October 19th and 20th, this is a chance to do some pre-fishing and enjoy the great fishing Fork has to offer.

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

to be weighed in.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork pays back 80% of all entries. There is also a Big Bass Pot, optional to anglers. To get into the Big Bass Pot it is an optional \$10 with 100% payback to the top three biggest bass. Entry fee for the tournament is \$45 with \$10 Big Bass option. Texas Trails Bassmasters will be taking entries from 4 pm to 9 pm on Friday, October 11th, and again on Saturday, October 12th from 5 am to 6 am.

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

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

can't go wrong with Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork. We are now accepting both boaters and non-boaters to our club.

Dues to join the club are a mere \$30 per year and if you join now your membership will

be good through 2020. Cost for tournament is \$25 with a \$5 Big Bass Option. There is also a progressive side pot that is optional for \$5 for the first 7-pound or over bass.


For more information or to obtain an entry

form for the tournament see ad below. You can visit our website at [www.texas-trails-bassmasters.com](http://www.texas-trails-bassmasters.com) or give Rodney Ellis, President a call at 903-714-6473 or Don Hampton, Vice President, Tournament Director a call at

903-360-6994.

Fishing is going to be great! Come out and fish with us! Who knows you may catch that bass of a lifetime and finish in the tournament a big winner!

**Practice C.P.R.**





## Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

### 38th Semi-Annual Open Tournament

October 12, 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

1st Place	\$1,040.00			There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)	
2nd Place	\$780.00			1st Place	\$500
3rd Place	\$520.00			2nd Place	\$300
4th Place	\$260.00			3rd Place	\$200
5th ~ 10th	\$100.00				

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Oct. 5, 2019.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Oct. 12, 2019.
4. Check in times: Fri., Oct. 11, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Oct. 12, 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 fishing 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.texas-trails-bassmasters.com](http://www.texas-trails-bassmasters.com)

---

**Entry Application**

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Oct. 5, 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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Contestants Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Minor's Release: Signed by \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian

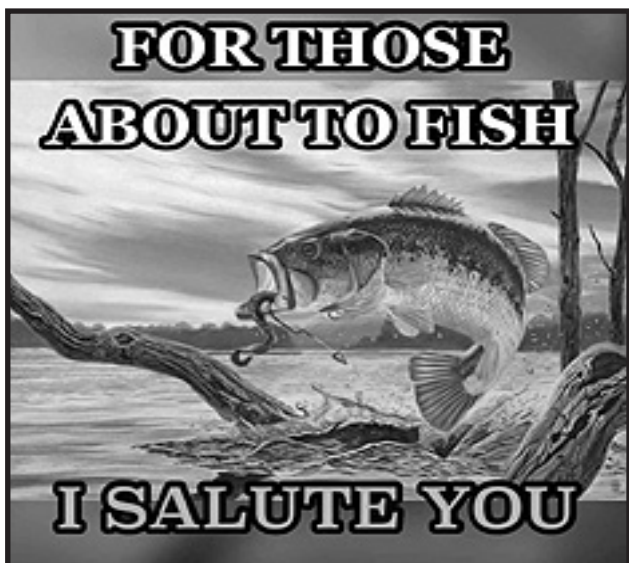
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Entry # \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Big Bass \_\_\_\_\_

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# "Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Shallow or deep, Lake Fork is a great place to be in October.

This is one of my most favorite months of the year to fish here at Fork. Cool crisp fall air and the thrill of an early morning boat ride to your favorite spot is exhilarating. Many anglers are busy hunting this time of year which means a lot less pressure on the fish. Having the lake a little more to yourself is definitely a bonus but now lets talk about what to look for. In the early spring I constantly search, study and follow the fish eating birds, they are the best fishermen out there. Blue her-

ons, white egrets, seagulls and turns can really help get you in the right area which is always the most important factor in fishing. Where there's baitfish there's predator. So similar to spring I will search for shallow baitfish by following the birds as they migrate in and out of the main lake creeks and drains. Once I find a good source of baitfish I began looking for nearby shallow creek bends, secondary points with wood, grass edges and large stumps and trees that can create ambush or holding locations for the bass. Always pay close attention to the baitfish and do your best to match size and color. I don't get too mixed

up with all kinds of colors I simply prefer a light version and dark version. Example: pearl, Ayu shad, green gizzard shad, black back/chartreuse.

Top waters, square bills, spinner baits and chatterbaits are my first choices but many times a 1/4 rattletrap ends up being my choice search bait. Early mornings and late evenings will tend to offer more activity but my favorite days are the overcast ones, sometimes the fish will bite all day. You can also find fish deep if you prefer. Look for deep baitfish around bridge corners, road beds, pond dams, long points, ledges and breaks. Again once I find the right school of deep baitfish I will throw a 3/4 oz. football jig or a 5" flutter spoon. I usually start by hopping my spoon off the bottom looking for the more aggressive fish first, then I will slow down and pick the area apart very thoroughly. So remember shallow or deep Lake Fork is a great place to be in October.



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# "14th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork"

By Don Hampton

For all of you anglers that are not only big fans of fishing Lake Fork but also love doing it with Berkley Baits, here is the time you have been waiting for. The 14th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork hosted by Bass Champs, Inc. will be held on October 19th and 20th. The tournament will be held out of Lake Fork Marina just off Highway 17N. Registration times will be Friday October 18th from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm, and on October 19th

and 20th from 5:00 am to 7 am at tournament headquarters. Anglers can fish one or both days. Entry fee for one day is \$160 or \$200 for both days.

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

There is over \$150,000 guaranteed

in cash and prizes with 20 places paid per hour during the two-day tournament starting at \$1,000 for 1st place, down to \$200 for 10th place; 11th thru 15th place win an Abu Garcia Reel and 16th thru 20th place win an Abu Garcia Rod.

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

MinnKota trolling motor, and Lowrance electronics.

There is also available 'Exact Weight Bonus Cash'. There is \$1,000 for the angler that brings in an exact 2.5, 3.00, 9.00, and/or a 10-pound bass. Also, during the tournament there will be a Junior Division and a Women's Division. So bring the whole family to get in the action. Do not forget the Berkley Empty Bag Give-Away. Bring an empty package from any Berkley bait with your name written on it legibly and put it in the bin for drawing of extra prizes.

This tournament

is not only a great fishing experience but also terrific entertainment for the entire family. Fish Burne will be present with a laugh or two and WFN will be on hand filming the television show.

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

Hourly updates can be heard on KMOO radio station 99.9 FM, so be sure to have a radio in your boat. I hope to see everyone there. For more information and details check out

their ad on Page 32 or go to their Website; [www.bass-champs.com](http://www.bass-champs.com) or for more details you can call them at 817-439-3274.

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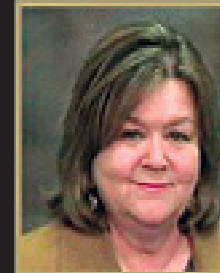
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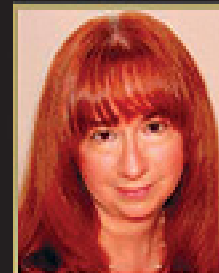
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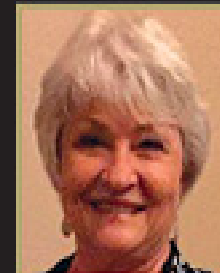
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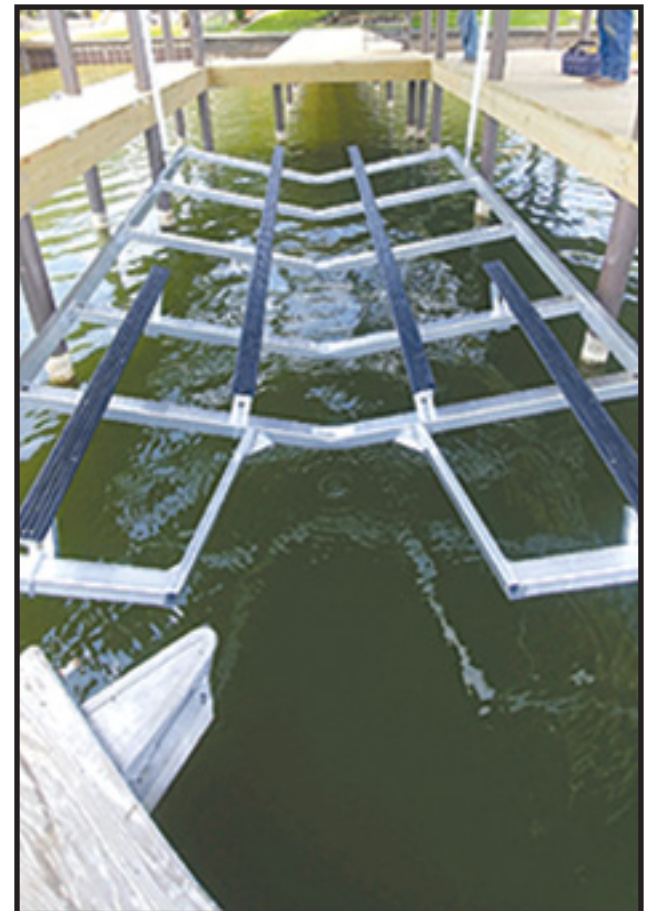
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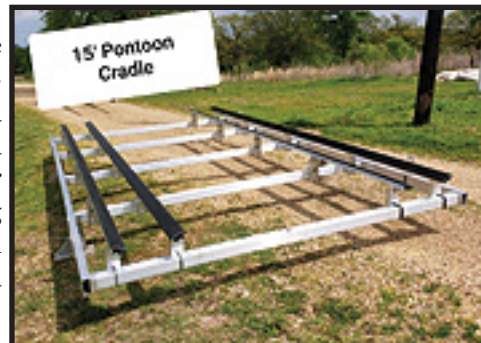
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*"We take pride in protecting your family as our own family"*

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

By Carolyn West  
President LFSA

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association had a booth from Thursday, September 19 through Sunday, September 22 at the Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash. As a welcome to the registrants, each first day registrant was given a chance to win a \$100 gift card from LFSA. The winner was Mike Goodman of Buna, Texas. Big Bash Splash guaranteed \$516,000 in cash and prizes and included \$171,150 in hourly payouts. Held at Lake Fork Marina, this tournament always brings fishing excitement to the entrants and the supporters.

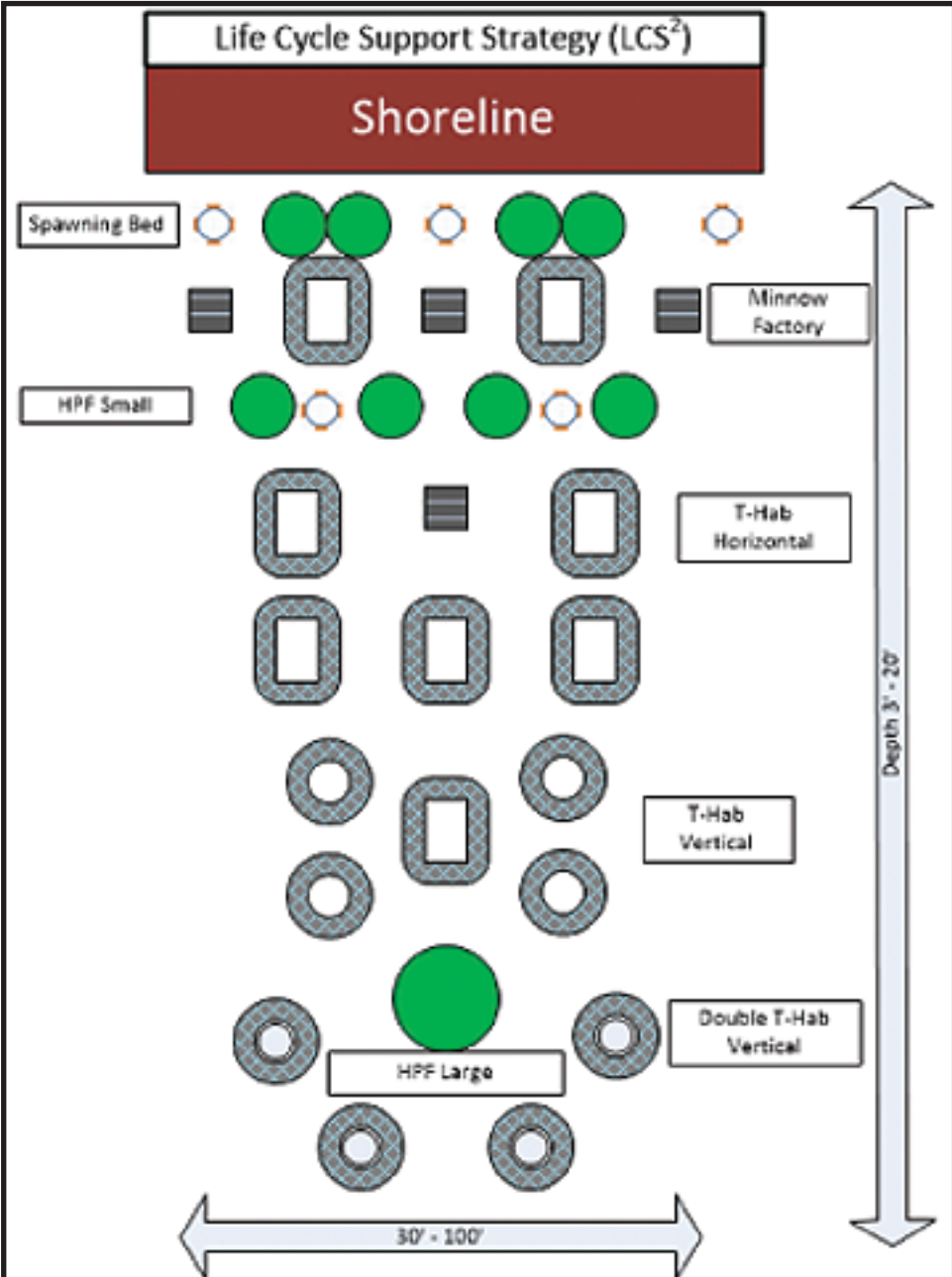
The Live Release Boat worked by Association members received the fish caught during the 3-day tournament and cared for them until their release back into the lake. The LRB will be available for three more tournaments this Fall:  
October 5 -6 - Bass Cat Owners Tournament at Lake Fork Marina  
October 12 - Texas Trails Bassmaster's Open at Oak Ridge Marina  
October 19-20 - Berkley Open Tournament at Lake Fork Marina


LFSA's Fall Raffle will be drawn at the Berkley Tournament on October 20 at approximately 2:30 p.m. Anyone interested in buying tickets for the raffle should call 903-752-2014 or contact any LFSA member. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00.

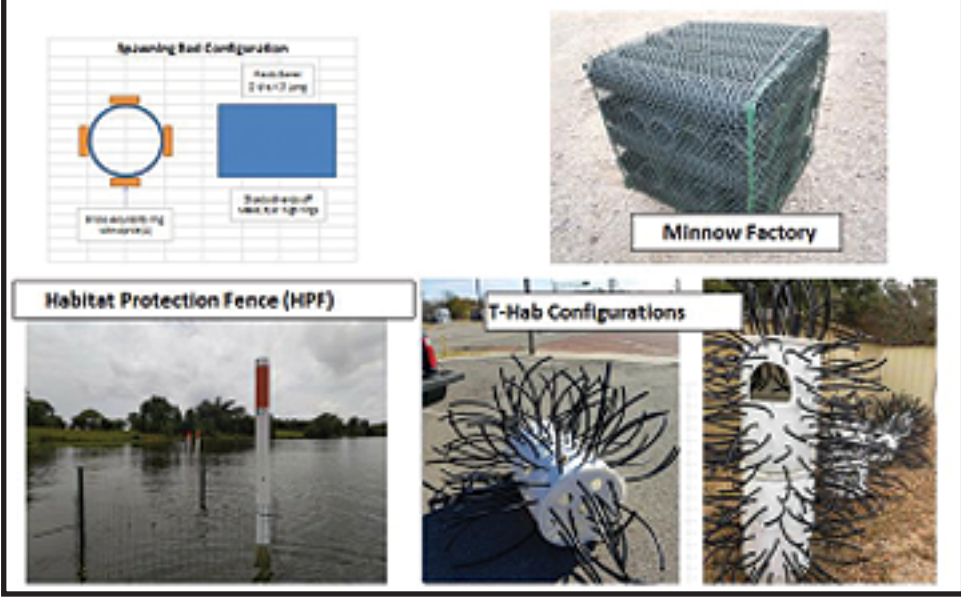
As discussed last month in this article in The Fisherman's Guide, the Association has developed, in conjunction with

Texas Parks and Wildlife, a project called Life Cycle Support Strategies. The design theory is to provide full-life habitat from pre-spawn to "overs" growth assistance, virtually providing a "fish city". Six sites will be developed in suitable locations utilizing components seen in the matrix below. Major components are Spawning Beds, Minnow Factories, Habitat Protection Fencing, T-Habs in vertical and horizontal positions at depths from 3' to 20'. T-Habs and Hydrilla Fencing have been tested and currently 152 T-Habs are in Lake Fork. Coordinates were published in the September paper and are on both TPWD and LFSA websites. The components will be built

and deployed by Lake Fork Sportsman's Association meets at Tiffany's Restaurant, Lake Fork Marina at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday evening of the month. Memberships are \$50 yearly. Call 903-752-2014 for more information about LFSA.



 <b>Life Cycle Support Strategies (LCS<sup>2</sup>)</b>							
Pre-Spawn	Spawn	Fry	Fingerling	Juvenile	Slot - Junior	Slot - Senior	Overs
<b>Food</b>							
Primary/Secondary Sources							
Location							
<b>Environment</b>							
Structure/Feeding Routes							
Temperature							
<b>Location</b>							
Resting/Foraging							
Depth							







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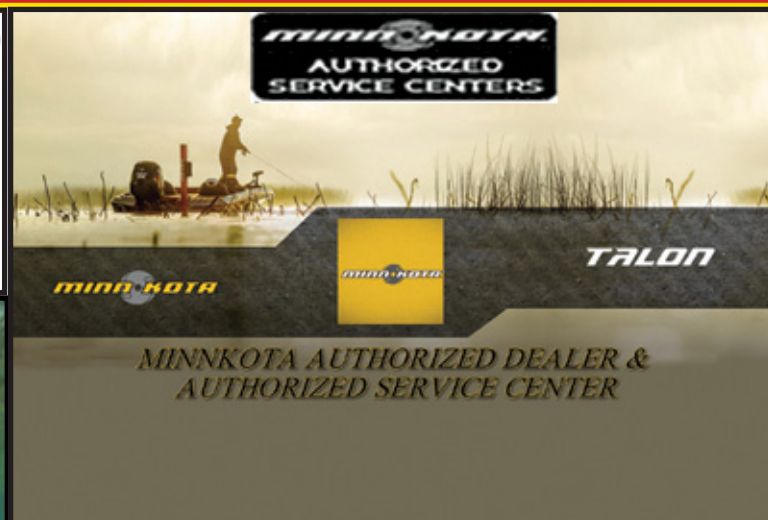
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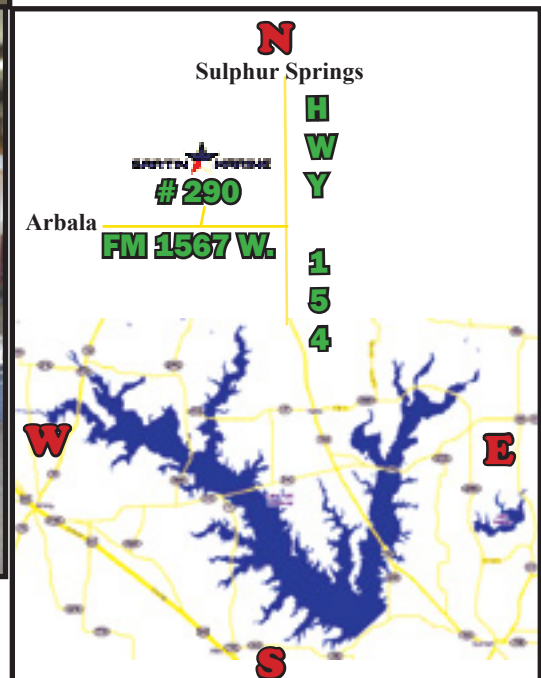


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# Expectations High for Archery-Only Hunting Season

The hot, dry conditions that have been gripping most of Texas could make the recent archery-only white-tailed deer season opener a challenge for bowhunters, yet those who knew how to work the conditions could still find good hunting. For the first time this fall, hunters are required to report all antlerless deer harvested in 21 south-central Texas counties--see details below.

"Although dry conditions should encourage deer to frequent feeders more consistently and more often, the hot temperatures may curtail movement during much of the day except for the periods around dawn and dusk," said Alan Cain, TPWD white-tailed deer program leader. "Until cooler temperatures arrive and deer movement picks up hunters may consider using game cameras to narrow down peak deer movement near their favorite hunting location and increase chances of success."

Texas boasts a robust white-tailed deer population of about 5.3 million deer which should contribute to hunter success this season. Despite the deterioration in range conditions over the last several months with the 100-degree weather and wind, Cain notes "Hunters should expect an excellent deer season with above average antler

quality and fawn recruitment." Cain explained that good rains early in the fall of 2018 that set the stage for an excellent crop of winter weeds lasting well into the spring. The excellent habitat conditions continued into early July and were critical in providing the nutrition bucks needed to maximize antler growth.

While the archery-only season kicked off Sept. 28th and runs through Nov. 1, the general gun season opener is still more than a month away on Nov. 2. A special youth-only weekend season is set for Oct. 26-27. The general season runs through Jan. 5, 2020 in North Texas and Jan. 19, 2020 in South Texas. A late youth-only season is also slated for Jan. 6-19, 2020. For additional late season deer hunting opportunities and county specific regulations, consult the 2019-2020 Outdoor Annual of hunting and fishing regulations.

New this fall, hunters in parts of south-central Texas will be required to report all antlerless deer harvest in Austin, Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Dewitt, Fayette, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Karnes, Lavaca, Lee, Waller, Washington, and Wilson. Counties also included in that change are Goliad, Jackson, Victoria, and Wharton counties north of U.S. Highway 59 and Comal,

Hays, and Travis east of IH-35.

Any antlerless deer harvested during the archery, youth-only, muzzleloader, and the 4 doe-days during the general season is required to be reported to the department within 24 hours of harvest using either the "My Texas Hunt Harvest" mobile app (for iOS and Android) or on TPWD's My Texas Hunt Harvest web page.

Anyone can get the "My Texas Hunt Harvest" app at [tpwd.texas.gov/myhunt](http://tpwd.texas.gov/myhunt). The app works without a data signal as long as it has already been downloaded to the device. The app is also bilingual and available in Spanish to customers who use Spanish as the main language setting on their phone or other mobile devices.

Hunters are also reminded to review the TPWD chronic wasting disease regulations for information about CWD testing requirements and carcass movement restrictions for the 2019-2020 season. Also as a reminder, Texas hunters harvesting deer, elk, moose, or other susceptible species in other CWD-positive states must also comply with carcass movement restrictions when bringing those harvested animals back into Texas. Additionally, the Texas Animal Health Commission has mandatory testing requirements that apply to elk, red deer, sika, moose, and reindeer.

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Boneless Pork Chops	St. Louis Ribs	Boneless Chicken Breast	Deli Meats & Cheese
<p><i>Hours: Tues. thru Fri. 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sat. ~ 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed Monday</i></p>			

**"The Bass Foodfest Finally Here!"** *(Continued from Page 6)*

looking deep for bait and you will find bass that just flat live there year round. The electronics are key to this success and once you locate a sizeable wad of fish, pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. You can start with a Carolina rig using any big worm to fool the bass. Blue fleck, Watermelon red and plum all work well. A stand up head is also a great tool for these fish using the same worms. My mantra is "if I can see them, I can catch them". It's game on for video fishing and the drop shot rules the roost for this type of play. Put the worm right in front of their nose and wait for the rod to load up. It don't get much better than that. If you spot the big

arc's suspended, dig out a 5 inch Talon spoon, count it down and hold on. A magnum fluke will work equally well if the wind is not howling. Use a heavy rod and 20lb line for this application.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in October searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in October and some in November. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook and Instagram at DavidOziolakeForkGuide. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Lures for making my job the blast that it is. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". I wish all of you a blessed day."



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### New Texas Laws Affecting Feral Hog Hunting, License Validation Took Effect Sept. 1

Feral hogs are so loathed by landowners in Texas for their habitat destroying behavior that as of Sept. 1, you don't need a hunting license to pursue them on private property. That's when a new law took effect removing even more obstacles from controlling hog numbers.

The new law, SB 317 by Sen. Bryan Hughes (Mineola), passed during the 86th Texas Legislature and exempts any person (resident or nonresident), with landowner consent, from a hunting license requirement to hunt feral hogs. It is still a violation to hunt without a license if hunting without consent. The new law removes any reference to depredation and the ex-

emption applies for the take of all feral hogs.

The new law only applies to private property, and is irrelevant of whether or not it is a paid hunt, although allowing hunting access in return for financial or

other consideration still requires a hunting lease license from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. A hunting license is still required on public land. Hunter education requirements also still apply.

### Just The Right Answers

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1	D	A	B	A		5	D	A	P		8	S	A	S	S	12	Y	
13	A	G	O	G		14	B	O	L	O		15	E	N	A	T	E	
16	G	E	N	E		17	R	A	L	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	
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				21	A	B	L	Y		22	C	A	R	Y				
24	D	A	L	L	A	S		27	S	A	L	E		28	R	A	30	P
31	A	R	H	A	T			32	P	T	A			33	E	L	L	
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57	R	E	C	C	E			58	A	G	E	S		59	P	L	O	P
60	E	T	H	E	R			61	T	O	R	E		62	S	E	S	S

### Food Find

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

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| APPLE PIE  | ICE CREAM |
| CAKE       | MOUSSE    |
| CHEESECAKE | PUDDING   |
| COOKIES    | SHERBET   |
| CUSTARD    | SORBET    |
| FRUIT      | SOUFFLÉ   |
| GELATIN    | SUNDAE    |

C	O	O	K	T	I	U	T	B	R	O	S
R	E	A	C	M	A	E	R	C	E	C	I
K	E	I	H	O	S	L	D	I	I	U	C
A	M	C	E	U	S	A	D	N	P	S	E
C	H	E	E	S	E	C	A	K	E	T	R
F	U	O	S	S	T	I	I	A	L	A	E
T	E	B	R	E	H	S	N	L	P	R	A
P	U	D	D	I	N	G	G	E	P	D	M
S	F	G	A	C	R	D	E	N	A	U	S
O	F	E	K	E	O	R	L	A	R	E	E
T	L	T	E	P	U	D	A	K	D	T	E
E	K	A	C	U	S	I	T	I	N	I	A
B	E	R	C	O	O	K	I	E	S	U	D
R	B	E	T	D	S	T	N	E	B	R	N
O	E	S	C	D	E	N	I	U	R	F	U
S	O	U	F	F	L	E	D	R	A	T	S



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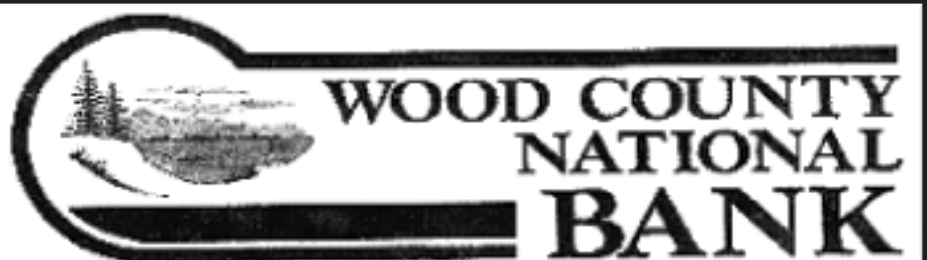


**TPWD Taking Public Comment** *(Continued from Page 9)*

colored floats. The changes would also reduce the period of validity for a gear tag from 10 days to four days to shorten the fishing time between angler inspections of their gear. Scientific investigations conducted by the department show that fish mortalities as a result of "ghost fishing" (the continuing of effect of unattended passive gears) can increase after four days. Such devices can continue to fish and represent a danger to fish and other aquatic organisms when they are abandoned. Requiring the gear tag and the accompanying gear to be checked more frequently than 10 days should reduce those un-

intended mortalities. Additionally, the removal of abandoned fishing gear will have the additional benefit of reducing threats to human health and safety. The proposed regulation changes are available for review in the September 27 edition of the Texas Register. The public comment period is open through Nov. 7, when the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission will meet to vote on adopting these changes.

Comments on the proposed changes may be submitted to Jarret Barker by phone (512) 389-4853 or email [jarret.barker@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:jarret.barker@tpwd.texas.gov). Comments also may be submitted via the department's website at [https://www.tpwd.texas.gov/business/feedback/public\\_comment/](https://www.tpwd.texas.gov/business/feedback/public_comment/) or in person during the TPW Commission meeting Nov. 7 at 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744.



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## Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame Nominations Accepted Through Nov. 1

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame committee is seeking nominations for individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to freshwater fishing in Texas for next year's hall of fame through Nov. 1, 2019.

"The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is made up of a growing list of 35 individuals and organizations who have made a significant impact on freshwater fishing in the state," said Dan Kessler, TFF Hall of Fame Committee Chair. "Whether it's an outdoor writer, pro-angler, fishing club or leader of industry, we look forward to continuing to honor and recognize everyone that helps make Texas fishing the best it can be."

The nominees will be evaluated by the members of the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame committee made up of anglers, industry professionals and organizations in Texas freshwater fishing. Inductees will be chosen based on the following criteria: ethics, leadership and commitment, unselfish contributions to the sport, scope of impact on freshwater fishing and fishing/fisheries management expertise and impact.

The winners will be announced in spring 2020 and will be presented with their awards in a special ceremony during Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest benefitting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest is without a doubt one of the most exciting bass fishing events in Texas," Kessler said. "We are excited to review all of this year's nominations and welcome the winners on stage surrounded by Texas fishing fans and professionals next year."

The most recent inductees to the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame include Alan Haynes in 2019 and Shannon Tompkins and the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association in 2018.

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is housed at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. 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."

Nomination forms and instructions are

available online or by calling (903) 676-2277.

A video highlighting the 2019 TFF Hall of Fame winner can be found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's YouTube Channel under the title: Alan Haynes: Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame 2019.



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# CWD Sample Collector Trainings in the Panhandle and Trans-Pecos

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service have partnered to coordinate Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) post-mortem sample collection trainings in the Panhandle and Trans-Pecos. As part of the state's increased CWD surveillance, this opportunity is being provided to landowners/managers, taxidermists, and veterinarians to be trained and certified by TAHC to be official CWD sample collectors.

This will be a classroom format as well as hands on training for sample collection. Trained individuals will then be able to sample harvested CWD susceptible species such as white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, red deer, sika, etc. on their properties or for other hunters and provide those samples to TPWD for CWD testing to meet mandatory testing requirements in the Panhandle and Trans-Pecos CWD Zones. Individuals who participated last year must also attend this year's training to receive necessary tissue sampling supplies.

Space is limited to the first 50 participants for each training and registration is mandatory to attend. Please sign up as soon as possible. Details for the trainings are below:

**Amarillo**  
 AgriLife Extension Building, 6500 W Amarillo Blvd  
 9 AM - 12 PM on Oct 9  
 Please contact James Hoskins with TPWD at (806) 420-0439 or james.hoskins@tpwd.texas.gov to sign up for the Amarillo training.

**El Paso**  
 Texas AgriLife Research Center, 1380 A&M Circle

9 AM - 3 PM MST on Nov 16  
 Please contact Jose Etchart with TPWD at (432) 207-2110 or jose.etchart@tpwd.texas.gov to sign up

for the El Paso training. Please visit [www.tpwd.texas.gov/cwd](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/cwd) and [http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal\\_health/elk-deer/](http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/elk-deer/)

for more information about CWD, CWD management, and CWD regulations.

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## Game Warden Field Notes

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

**–Something Fishy on the Menu–** Earlier this month, game wardens wrapped up an investigation into a Bastrop restaurant illegally selling white bass caught in public waters in Lee County. The subjects first denied selling the fish, but when confronted with their "fresh fish for sale" postings on Facebook, along with photos of the fish, they quickly changed their story and confessed. Seventy-seven white bass were seized and citations were issued.

**–Let's Make a Boat Deal–** A boat dealer in the Waco area alerted game wardens that a car dealer in Robinson was selling boats without a marine dealer license. A warden located the car dealership late on a Saturday night and recorded three boats, motors and trailers on the lot. After checking the history of the vessels through different databases and resources, the warden returned to the dealership during business hours. He noticed a pontoon boat he had observed previously was missing and asked about it. The owner proudly stated he had sold it, adding that the vessel was there on consignment. The car dealer asked if there was a problem, to which the warden replied that there was no problem, but he needed to see their marine dealer license. The owner said he did not need a license since it was there on consignment. The warden then asked to see the audit trail of the boat and found out the owner traded it to the car dealer for a tractor and the car dealer then sold it

for \$17,000. After making it clear the dealer was in violation of failure to have a marine dealer license, the warden assisted him in the application process. A follow-up revealed the application was approved and the case was resolved with compliance.

**–Putting Out the Cat–** Game wardens in northeast Texas were recently patrolling at night while four separate predator hunting tournaments were taking place simultaneously in surrounding counties. Using a twist on the "Bucky the deer decoy" setup wardens have relied on for years to catch road hunters, they put out a bobcat decoy. It didn't take long before a tournament participant came along and shot the decoy with a rifle from a public roadway. Multiple cases are pending.

**–Crossing the Line–** While patrolling the Rio Grande upriver from Laredo on March 23, game wardens observed multiple limb lines and jug lines set from the U.S. bank. Further investigations revealed fresh bait on the hooks and a 20-pound blue catfish caught on one of the jug lines. None of the limb lines or jug lines had a valid gear tag affixed. Patrol efforts continued upriver where wardens discovered about 200-feet of illegal gill net tied to the U.S. bank, and stretched to an underwater tree limb in the middle of the river. The gill net yielded multiple fish. The gill net, limb lines and jug lines set out were not accompanied by any fisherman at the time of detection nor did any contacts along the river that day connect any

fisherman to the illegal devices. All illegal fishing devices were seized, removed from the river, and the fish were donated to a family in need in Laredo.

**–A Game Show Host–** A Zavala County game warden recently completed a year-long investigation involving a ranch manager who was selling hunts without the consent of the landowner. The ranch manager even brought in a camera crew from a well-known outdoors television show to video the hunts. The unauthorized activities resulted in the illegal harvest of 11 white-tailed bucks off the property. The ranch manager was indicted on 11 state jail felony counts of hunting without landowner consent, along with multiple other charges.

**–Alexa, Where Does the Game Warden Live?–** An Ellis County game warden responded to a call from a ranch manager who had witnessed two subjects shooting out into his pasture from the county road. The ranch manager and another farmer chased the subject's vehicle down the highway, while the warden headed to their location from the opposite direction. The ranch manager advised the vehicle was turning into a driveway, which just happened to be the warden's private property. The warden arrived at his residence shortly and confronted the pair – a father and his 17-year-old son from Ft. Worth. The dad claimed they were just driving around, showing his son "how to load a gun, shoot in a safe direction . .

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



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**Always Think...**

**Safety First**

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## Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 25)

. and you know, gun safety stuff." After the warden issued a citation for discharging a firearm from a public roadway, and provided a brief primer on firearms safety, the father asked, "Did I really pull into your driveway?" The warden nodded and smiled. "That was kinda convenient," replied the man.

**-Did You Lose Something?**- An Ellis County game warden received a call from a landowner who had evidence of someone hunting on his property without consent. The land-owner showed the warden an image from his game camera of a hog that was shot under a feeder. The image only captured the subject's backside. The warden did find a bloody knife that was left at the scene. During his investigation, the warden learned that several individuals had permission to hunt on a neighboring property, and photos of a couple of dead hogs had been posted to one of their social media accounts. The warden paid a visit to the residence of one of the teens who posted the images and spoke to his father, who confirmed his 17-year-old son and some friends had shot two pigs the previous weekend. The warden asked him if they cleaned the hogs at the house or on the property they hunted. The man replied it was out at the property, and unfortunately, his son said he lost his knife in the process. The warden told the father the reason for his visit, asked if this looked familiar, and showed him the lost knife. The next day the boys gave a full confession. The cases are pending.

**-Anti-Social Media Behavior-** Game wardens in Limestone and Leon counties recently completed a several month long investigation into an animal cruelty case. The suspect had used fireworks to torture a live, previously injured raccoon and posted the act on social media. The suspect was recently indicted by a Limestone County Grand Jury and warrants for his arrest were obtained. The suspect was arrested and placed in the Limestone County jail. The case is pending.

**-Unintended Consequences-** On March 22, a Matagorda County game warden received a complaint about several sick and/or dead eagles and buzzards on a local ranch. Upon arriving at the location, he observed a dead feral hog that the birds had obviously been eating. Three dead bald eagles and a few buzzards were located in the immediate area. Several more buzzards and a caracara that were too sick to fly were also observed. Suspecting the possibility that the pig may have been poisoned, and because of the bird species involved, the warden contacted a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agent and brought him in on the investigation. They made contact with a neighboring farmer, who admitted to soaking corn in a poison and putting it out to get rid of the feral hogs in the area. The federally-protected birds had ingested the poison. The violations were turned over to USFW for prosecution.

**-Snakes Alive!-** At about 1 a.m. on March 25, game

wardens were on patrol when they encountered a pickup truck traveling through a remote area of Zapata County. After conducting a traffic stop on the vehicle, it was found that the driver, a person with an extensive history of game and fish violations, was hunting rattlesnakes from the roadway. Two citations were issued, and two rattle-snakes were seized. After traveling to the violator's residence to retrieve other illegally harvested snakes, it was found the violator had picked up another rattlesnake on the roadway immediately after receiving citations and being released from the first contact that night. Additional citations were issued for hunting from the public roadway and 11 more rattlesnakes were seized from the residence. The cases are pending.

**-Tag Team-** In early March, a Smith County game warden received a call from a Virginia game warden concerning some Texas deer confiscated from a taxidermist in Virginia who was operating without a license. There were three sets of antlers, and two of the tags came back to Smith County. The third buck, a 10 point, had a name but no tag. The warden was able to obtain an identity and interviewed the man whose name was attached to the 10 point buck, and determined the deer was taken illegally. The subject was coyote hunting and saw a deer he couldn't pass up. The subject had no hunting license. The

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

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# Enjoy a Spicy Celebration of a Culinary Legend

By Sue Hampton

There has never been anything mild about chili. Ever since the ancient ancestors got the idea to cook chile peppers with meat, the desire to brew up the best bowl of chili in the world has been a fiery part of the collective human experience. And while just about every state in the American Southwest lays claim to the title "home of the best chili," the truth is that the mixture of meat, beans, peppers and herbs was known to the Incans, Aztecs and Mayans long before the arrival of Spanish conquistadors.

Chile peppers were used in the cuisines of ancient



With deer season right around the corner, now you can dish up your own "bowl of red" for friends and family with this no-sweat recipe for "Red Hot Venison Chili"!!

China, India, Indonesia, Italy, the Caribbean, France and parts of the Middle East. However, many food experts believe that cattle drivers and trail hands of the 19th-century American Southwest are most likely responsible for popularizing the spicy specialty during their travels across the countryside. Legends abound – from a range cook who planted herb gardens along the cattle trails to ensure he'd always have enough spices for chile, to Jesse and Frank James, who are said to have enjoyed a few "bowls of red" before several of their more famous bank robberies. The legend lives on the hearts, cooking pots and chili cook-offs of "chiliheads" around the world.

## RED HOT VENISON CHILI

(Proclaimed the state dish by the Texas legislature in 1977, it is one of the most famous local preparations and the topic of many heated conversations over ingredients and whether beans or tomatoes should be included. If you're not a devotee of beans in chili, simply omit them. The fry bread is typical of the fried dough cooked by Native Americans for centuries!)

### Chili

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 1 bell pepper, finely chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 pounds ground venison
- 2 jalapeno chiles, minced, or to taste
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon chile powder
- ¾ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2-1/2 teaspoons ground cumin

- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 (15-1/2-ounce) can red kidney beans, drained
- 1 (28-ounce) can tomato paste
- 3-1/2 cups beef stock
- 1-1/2 teaspoons salt

### Indian Fry Bread

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons solid vegetable shortening
- 1 cup milk
- Vegetable oil for frying

Heat the oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Sauté the onion, bell pepper and garlic until tender. Add the venison and cook through, breaking up the ground meat. Drain any liquid. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered, for about two hours. Stir occasionally. Adjust the seasonings.

To make the fry bread, sift together the flour, baking powder and salt. Cut the shortening into the flour. Add the milk and stir to form a ball. Knead the dough on a floured surface for about three minutes, until the flour is incorporated and the dough is smooth. Dust with flour if the dough feels tacky. Divide into eight equal pieces, roll into balls and put back into the bowl. Cover and let rest for 30 minutes. On a floured surface, roll out each ball into a round about 1/8-inch thick. Cut a quarter-sized hole in the center of each round.

Heat 1 inch of oil in a deep pan to 370F. In batches, add the rounds and fry, until golden brown, about 1-1/2 minutes on each side. Transfer to paper towels to drain. Serve the chili and the fry bread piping hot!

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

warden then interviewed a second subject, who had a blank tag on one of the other bucks seized. His deer was killed legally but he failed to fill out his tag, harvest log, and did not have the required hunter education certification. Cases and warnings were filed for no hunting license, untagged deer, improperly tagged deer, harvest log and hunter's education violations. Civil restitution is pending.

**—Couldn't Escape the Net—**A Freestone County game warden had just checked and released a boat of Dallas area fishermen who were cast netting for tilapia and running jug lines on Lake Fairfield. Shortly after releasing the group, she discovered an

illegal gill net near where she first made contact with the group. After hauling in the 500-foot net, the warden made her way back to the Dallas anglers to ask about the gill net. As she reapproached, the group quickly pulled up their jug lines and sped off toward the boat dock. The warden called a state park police officer for backup at the boat ramp, and after questioning, the suspects confessed to having placed the net out earlier in the day. Citations were issued for the illegal net and for taking game fish by illegal means/methods. Numerous largemouth bass and tilapia caught in the net were released back into the lake. **—Facebook Advertising Works—** On April 3, game

wardens received an Operation Game Thief crime stoppers call alleging an individual was trying to sell an alligator on Facebook. Wardens quickly determined the man was actually looking to sell the rifle pictured in his post, not the alligator, which still begged the question "Where did he get the gator?" Wardens continued the investigation and learned the individual harvested the alligator illegally in San Jacinto County. During an interview on April 13, wardens gained a full confession from the individual. Appropriate charges and restitution were filed.

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*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 Marina  
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Lake Fork Marina  
Oct. 26 ~ Texas High School E Division  
Lake Fork Marina  
Oct. 26 ~ JC Outdoors Fall Teams  
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**Alba \$315,900**

**LOOKING FOR DEEP WATER?** Lake Fork, waterfront home sits on 4+ acres features log siding, deep water private boat ramp in Dale Creek and a fishing pier with 500' of frontage on Lake Fork. Home has 2 master bdrms, 2 full baths, wbf, utility room with sink, shelving & a shower. Huge master bdrm has walk-in closet and a gorgeous bathroom with walk-in shower. Panoramic view of the lake from every room. Shop bldg is perfect for your large bass boat & has an attached carport for 4 vehicles.



**Emory \$315,000**

**HOME ON LAKE FORK GOLF COURSE** One of Lake Fork's best subdivisions with community boat ramp to Lake Fork. 2,600+ sqft home is on the 8th hole of golf course and features an open floor plan, large kitchen, beautiful brick fireplace, vaulted ceilings and lots of windows for great country and golf course views! There is a 10x30 front porch and 8x35 covered patio out back that is perfect for entertaining your fishing & golf buddies! 10x18 golf cart garage or could be a great workshop.



**Yantis \$799,000**

**EXPOSURE FOR YOUR NEW BUSINESS** 40.9 acres has no known restrictions or zoning on the corner of Hwy 154 and FM 515. Property has a 2,100 sqft brick home on CR 1905, built in the early 1970's with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths needs updating but is perfectly livable. Property has large mature trees, 2 ponds, 2 barns and is fenced, currently used for livestock with AG exemption in place. This corner would be perfect for a large retail development or investment! Brand new survey too!



**Quitman \$177,900**

**LAKE LYDIA WATERFRONT HOME!** This recently remodeled home is waterfront on Lake Lydia, a private lake. Property features boat house, guest quarters, 2 car garage with workshop area, hardwood floors, gas fireplace, office & a sun-room. 3 bdrms and 1 full bathroom with claw foot bathtub in the main house & an all wood interior guest room with a 3/4 bathroom behind garage. Home sits high on a hill on a large lot with great view of the lake and plenty of privacy! Furnishings Negotiable.

### List Your Property With Me And See It Here



**Quitman**

**3 OPTIONS... THE CHOICE IS YOURS!** 4.507 unrestricted acres (3 lots) on Hwy 154 frontage for **\$79,900** that would be excellent exposure for your new business OR 10.354 unrestricted acres on CR 1214 with a 784 sqft single wide mobile home that has 2 bedrooms & 1 bathroom PLUS a 30x50 metal building with 3 10' roll-up doors for **\$139,900** OR just the mobile home and metal building on .861 acre lot on CR 1214 for **\$89,900**. Less than 5 mins to Lake Fork boat ramp. Call JR for appt.



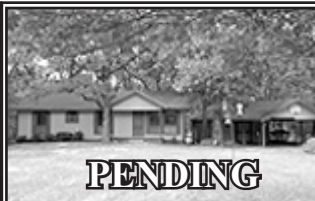
**Yantis \$209,000**

**GREAT LAKE FORK, 1 OWNER HOME!** Located in the Big Oaks Subdivision, homes in this area do not come available very often! Home sits on almost 1 acre lot +1 acre of leaseback. Lake Views in this area are to die for! Home features three bedrooms, 2 full baths and all appliances are included with the sale! 24' Deep garage for your boat, or there is a carport outside also. Fenced back yard. Brand new roof installed May 1st 2019. This is a hard to find home, in this price range. Call today!



**Emory \$225,000**

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



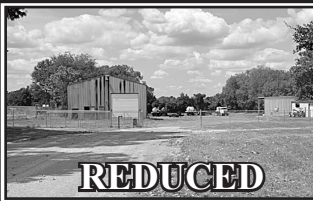
**Quitman \$117,900**

**PERFECT FOR THE FIRST TIME BUYER!** This 3 Bedroom, 2 bath home has fresh paint inside and out, new roof, new electric hot water heater, new flooring and sitting on .66 wooded acres with a 20x20 workshop building. Home has a 4x14 covered front porch and a 10x19 covered rear porch. This home is truly move-in ready! Property is located walking distance to Lake Fork! You need to come see this one before its too late! Call me today!



**Winnsboro \$127,400**

**GREAT HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY!** Located just outside Winnsboro and just south of Mt. Vernon in Franklin County with Mt. Vernon Schools. This home is truly move in ready, neat and clean! Fenced yard for your pets or the kiddos, metal roof, nice covered front porch and a new aerobic septic system. Three bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms and a large utility room. BIG open floor plan perfect for the family. Appliances will convey to buyer at closing. Let's go take a look at this one today!



**Winnsboro \$244,900**

**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!



**Alba \$229,000**

**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.



**Yantis \$399,000**

**BRING YOUR BEST OFFER!** This original home place features 44 gorgeous acres, partially fenced and has a pond for your livestock. Property has 1,400+ ft of good country road frontage. This 2 story, 3 bdrm 2.5 bath home has 2,236 sqft. Home is 530' from road with plenty of privacy! Metal roofing, covered wrap-around front porch, 16'x20' back deck, 18'x23' garage with 7' door, 7.5'x18' sunroom with access from living & master bdrm. Living room has brick wbf that is double sided to master bdrm.



**Yantis \$295,900**

**3/24 CUSTOM BUILT HIGH QUALITY** Move-in ready located in a restricted Lake Fork subdivision, no HOA fees, deed restrictions only. Private community boat ramp 300 yards away. Brick & Stone with Cedar trim, hardwood floors, ceramic tile, hickory cabinets, stainless appliances, Jacuzzi tub, Aspen walls & Ceilings, knotty pine doors everywhere and a stone gas fireplace. Two garages for your vehicles and your boat. Gym equipment negotiable. All appliances convey to buyer.



**Point \$169,900**

**FOUR BEAUTIFUL ACRES WITH POND** Fenced on 3 sides with electric security gate and paved roads on property with courtesy lighting. 30x40 concrete RV pad. 200 amp electrical, water, aerobic septic system AND an additional RV site with full hook-ups. 16x20 storage shed, 16x24 storage shed, fenced garden area and a fenced chicken house. Private subdivision boat ramp to Lake Tawakoni is walking distance from the property! PLUS, World Famous Lake Fork is only 15 mins away!



**Yantis \$839,000**

**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 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.

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Registration: Lake Fork Marina

Registration Times:

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