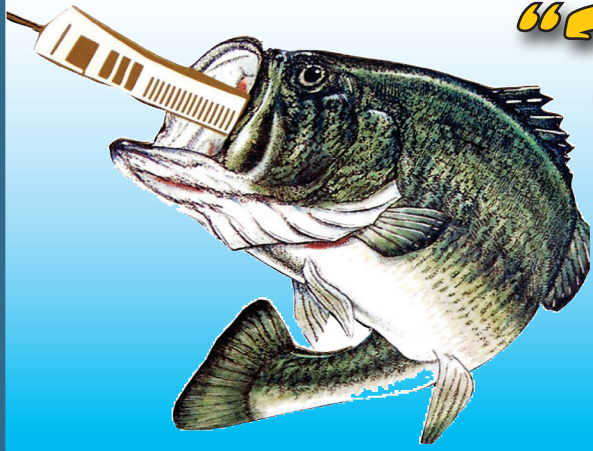


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1 Section

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Vol. 21

February, 2020

No. 246



Mark Talley was fishing Lake Fork in January and caught this nice hawg tilting the scale at 10.10-pounds. C.P.R.



Leon Davis was crappie fishing on Lake Fork in January and caught his limit of really nice crappie. Released to the Grease!



The Official TPWD Eagle Count was held on Lake Fork on January 11th and 12th and organized by Sanford Valentine. The official count was 7 mature eagles. Many large nests were spotted but it is thought that due to the severe cold weather many of the eagles that make their home here on Lake Fork were not in flight.

Lake Fork Kicked Bass Again in 2019 ShareLunker Program

In 2019, anglers entered 327 lunker bass over 8 pounds in the Toyota ShareLunker program from 88 lakes across the state. In addition to helping produce bigger, better bass for Texas lakes, anglers who enter their big bass catches in the program receive special recognition and prizes, including an entry into a year-end drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

"We are excited to announce that after wrapping up another great year of participation in the Toyota ShareLunker program, angler Ryan Waguespack of McQueeney was randomly selected from the 2019 entries to win the coveted year-end \$5,000 shopping spree to Bass Pro Shops," said Kyle Brookshear, Toyota ShareLunker program coordinator. "We want to remind anglers that every certi-

fied ShareLunker entry will earn you a chance of winning this drawing along with many other great prizes in 2020, so be sure to download the Toyota ShareLunker mobile app and get fishing."

Waguespack said although he's thrilled to be the winner of the prize drawing, he's also excited about the opportunity to help make bass fishing in Texas bigger and better. Even though he hasn't caught his goal 13 pound Legacy Class fish yet, entering five other big bass into the other weight categories in the expanded program has provided the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with important data that fisheries biologists and hatcheries staff can use to help produce more lunker bass in Texas lakes.

"I'm very excited, I put a lot of effort and pas-

(See Lake Fork.....Continued on Page 4)



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"Bubba's Valentine Poem to Bubbette !!"

By Bubba B. Tuff

Collards is green, My dogs name is Blue, And I'm so Lucky To have a sweet thang like you.	You have some'a Yore teeth, For which I am proud, I hold my head high, When we're in a crowd.	lives troubles And fix what you can. Yo're as cute as a junebug, A-buzzing overhead. You ain't mean like those far ants,	Despite all the years, Yore age, it keeps hidin'. Me' n' you's like a moon pie, With a RC cold drank, We go together, Like a skunk goes with stank.	From a flea market booth D i a m o n d s are forever, They explain, with suave and Couth.	You sweet thang you. I got you a gift, Without taste nor odor, More useful than diamonds.....
Yore hair is like Cornsilk, A - F l a p p i n g in the breeze, Softer than Blue's, And without all them fleas.	On special occasions, When you shave under yore arms, Well, I'm in hog heaven, And awed by yore charms.	I found in my bed. Cut from the best cloth Like a plaid flannel shirt, You build up my life, More than a fresh load of dirt.	Some men, they buy chocolate, For Valentines day, They git it at W a l - M a r t , It's roman- tic that way.	But for this man, honey, These won't do. Cause yo're too special,	IT'S A NEW T R O L L ' N MOTOR!!!!
You move like the bass, Which excite me in May. You ain't got scales, But I luv you anyway.	Still them fel- lars at work, They all want to know, What I did to deserve Such a pur- dy, young doe.	When you hold me real tight, Like a pad- ded gun rack, My life is complete, Ain't nuttin' I lack.	Some men git roses, On that special day, From the cooler at Brookeshires, That's impres- sive, I say.		
Yo're as satisfy'n as okra, Jist a-fry'n in the pan Yo're fra- grant as snuff, Right out of the can.	Like a good roll of duct tape, Yo're there fer yore man, To patch up	Yore complexion is perfection, Like new vinyl sidin'.	Some men buy fine diamonds,		



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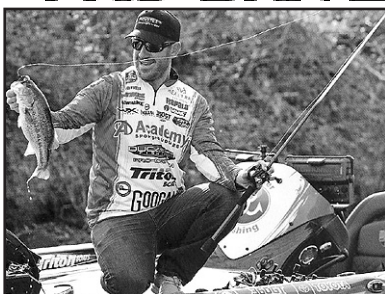
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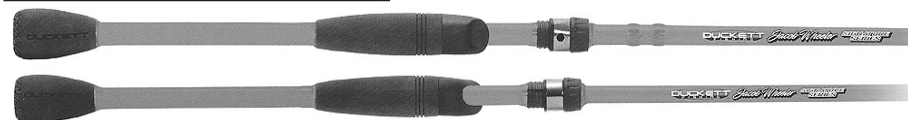
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MODEL	GRIP	GUIDES	LENGTH	POWER	ACTION
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Lake Fork Kicked Bass Again in 2019 (Continued from Page 1)

sion into my fishing and I'm always trying to catch a bigger bass," Waguespack said. "It's also good to be on a list of recognition - especially as a fishing guide, it's a selling point and it shows we're doing something right."

The year-round Toyota ShareLunker program offers four levels of participation for bass over 8 pounds caught in Texas. In 2019, anglers entered five Legacy Class bass over 13 pounds and loaned them to TPWD for the selective breeding and stocking program during the spawning window Jan. 1 through March 31. Additionally, anglers entered four Leg-

end Class bass over 13 pounds that were caught outside the spawning window or not loaned for spawning, 76 Elite Class bass weighing 10 to 12.99 pounds, and 242 Lunker Class bass weighing between 8 and 9.99 pounds or at least 24 inches.

The top five ShareLunker producing lakes in 2019 included Lake Fork near Quitman with 112 entries, Lake Conroe near Houston with 69 entries, Lake Athens in Athens with 48 entries, Sam Rayburn Reservoir near Jasper with 32 entries, and O.H. Ivie Lake near San Angelo with 21 entries.

Lakes producing 13 pound or larger Legacy

Class bass entries in 2019 included Lake Leon with 13.00 pound ShareLunker 581 caught March 29; Lake Conroe with 13.36 pound ShareLunker 580 caught March 9; Lake Fork with 13.73 pound ShareLunker 579 caught March 8; a private research lake with 13.79 pound ShareLunker 578 caught Feb. 8; and Marine Creek Lake with 14.57 pound ShareLunker 577 caught Jan. 26. Three of the Legacy Class fish spawned successfully at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, producing 55,000 offspring that were stocked in

(Continued on Next Page)



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Texas public lakes and another 30,000 pure Florida largemouth bass offspring that were retained as hatchery broodstock so that TPWD can stock these big bass by the millions statewide in coming years.

In return for loaning their Legacy Class fish to TPWD for selective breeding and stocking, anglers receive a catch kit, a 13lb+ Legacy decal, VIP access to awards programming at the Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest and a replica of their fish. Additionally, these anglers receive entries into both the year-end drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license and a special Legacy Class drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass

Pro Shops shopping spree, won by angler Barry Prince of Lindale in 2019.

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 the year-end \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and annual fishing license.

With the 2020 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.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of education, fish, parks and wildlife projects.



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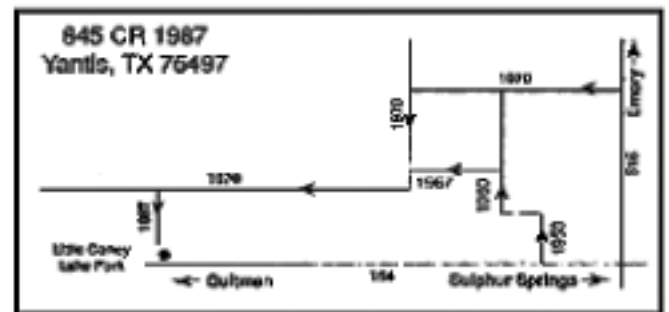


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"February Starts the Big Bass Movement!"

By David Ozio

"Can it be any more miserable outside!!! January has been an ugly month and the big green fish have been parked in their "no eating" haunts and just haven't wanted to come out to play. The good news is that it won't last much longer. I have been navigating around these issues lately by taking clients to all the power plants in the region and the bite there has been stellar! February will start to usher in some movement toward the prespawn mode and the lunkers will start showing up on the typical staging spots. Sunny days will also be a bonus especially in the afternoon time frames as bass will move shallow to soak up the warmth. This can also be an opportunity for the trophy of a lifetime.

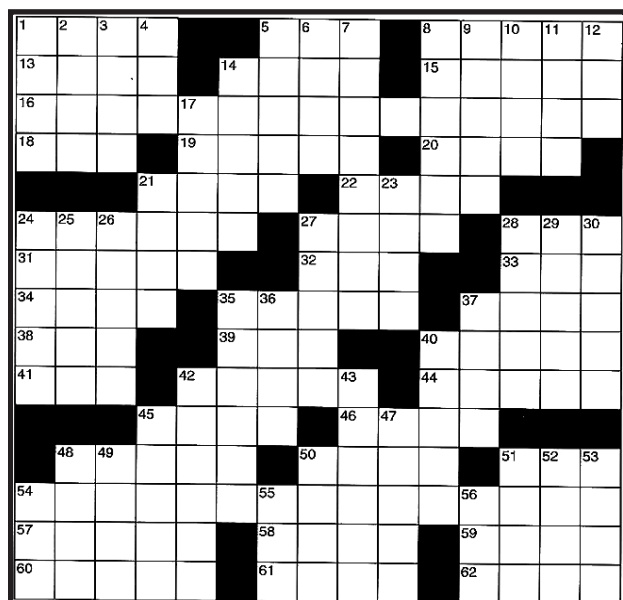
Now let's take a look at the options on how to attack the wary green fish. On the clear sunny days you need to head to the backs of the creeks and pursue the shallow bite particularly in the afternoon. Shallow water will absorb the sun's rays more quickly causing the bass to move up for the warmth. By 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 12-15ft 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" rod. This is a great launching pad for this heavy rig and it allows you to hurl it quite a ways. Once you make 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 slow-

(See February Starts.....
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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This year the guest speaker will be Kurt Kelley, Texas Game Warden. Kurt will tell us about new regulations, developing issues and some interesting arrests. He will also inspire us with the spiritual lessons he has learned from working in law enforcement in the great Texas outdoors.

Country gospel music will again be provided by members of the Cross Country Cowboy Church Band.

Door prizes will include a New Lowrance 9" Elite TI 2 valued at \$1000, approximately 10 guided fishing trips, 6 rod & reel combos, and other merchandise. You must be present to win.

The menu will include dishes made from venison, elk, wild hog, fish, ducks, pheasants, and anything else that is donated and edible.

Tickets are \$10 per person and may be ob-

tained at the church office. This year you can buy a table for 6 that will be reserved for you and your friends until 5:45pm. Capacity is 350 and the event is always a sell out, so get your tickets NOW. You will have a fun evening that could change your life.

If you would like to purchase or reserve tickets or donate some fish or game, please contact the church office at 903-473-9523.

(for more info contact Ted Warren, 903-850-7084.)

Fish Friendly



Kurt Kelley
Texas
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"The Moon Report" "Forks February Transition"

By Terri Moon

It's the first of February and we've had actually milder than normal temperatures making water temperatures a little warmer than past years. It's running in the low 50's and with those temperatures the spring migration won't be far off.

Looking back on past Februarys I've found that some of my biggest crappie have been caught this month. It seems the giants are the first to transition shallow – so, February can be quite exciting (weather permitting).

The water temperature will be the key factor to when these transitions take place. Meanwhile, keep checking the deep water humps, creek channels and main lake points till water temps start to rise between 55 – 60 degrees then start checking secondary points. Also, keep a close eye on that graph 25 – 35 ft. depths have been producing. These fish will be on the move – so, some days you just have to look a little harder for them!

Until the crappie move shallower and are more aggressive, I'd suggest using a very slow presentation – slow motion to no motion. Keep



looking for baitfish and search for warmer water. Also, when fishing deeper, I like to rig 2 jigs about a foot apart – it can be very effective.

My Lake Fork go to baits are Bubba Baits in 1/16 or 1/8 oz. Then in plastics, it's Lake Fork Tackles Live Baby Shad or Bonehead Baits. It never hurts to have some Berkley Power Nibbles on board. Now is the time to stock up on your favorite color baits. If it's too cold to fish, check out your local tackle shows in your area and get your wish list going! Remember the colors producing can change daily so get a good assortment of colors to try out.

The white bass and yellow bass will be holding in that 25 – 35 ft. depths and will bite these same baits around bridges and road beds. Just

bounce the baits off the bottom and hold on!

I hope you all get the chance to check out Lake Fork's springtime crappie this year.

I'm so excited to get to learn and apply the new Garmin livescope technique of crappie fishing and a huge thank you to Bryan Sartin for ordering and installing mine while I've been gone.

Also, I've had another phone crash and lost a lot of info trying to fix it – so please try again if you've tried to reach me and my sincere apologies.

These phone companies sure don't care about these small towns. They just tell you – ok that's our dead zone – sorry!! So, I'll be happy to get back on the grid!

My best to you all and looking forward to an awesome year!



Gerald Brown caught this nice Lake Fork bass while fishing in January. C.P.R.



John Heimgartner caught this nice Lake Fork bass while fishing in January. C.P.R.



Nelson Campbell was night fishing on 1/23 with guide Whitt Smith and caught this nice Lake Fork hawg. C.P.R.



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More Than 5,200 Visitors Roared Into 2020 With a First Day Hike at a Texas State Park

Visitors from every corner of the state headed to a Texas State Park on Jan. 1 to help usher in the new decade with a First Day Hike in a big way. The roaring 20's were welcomed by 5,242 people who hiked, biked and rode a total of 9,564 miles statewide.

This year, a record number of Texans visited 76 parks and participated in one of the 126 events held New Year's Day.

"So many families across the nation take part in First Day Hikes and I was thrilled to see that Texas State Parks had more participants than ever in 2020," said Rodney Franklin, Director of

Texas State Parks. "It is great to see that so many people joined us for what has become a fantastic tradition across the state of Texas. The State Parks team provides such a variety of activities for all and cannot wait to see even more friends and families join us in 2021."

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.

A visitor at Sea Rim State Park participated in the polar plunge in the surf after walking a First

Day Hike and came back to shore with a thumbs up exclaiming "I did it!"

Dinosaur Valley State Park in Glen Rose, about an hour southwest of Fort Worth, had the most participants with 390 visitors taking part in the seven First Day Hike events held throughout the day. Mother Neff State Park near Waco was close behind with 387 visitors and Tyler State Park in Tyler came in third with 262 participants.

Two of the four-legged attendees at Lake Brownwood State Park's dog hike were rescues from the park's Hike with a Homeless Dog event in

(See More Than...
Continued on Page 24)

George's Channel Catfish

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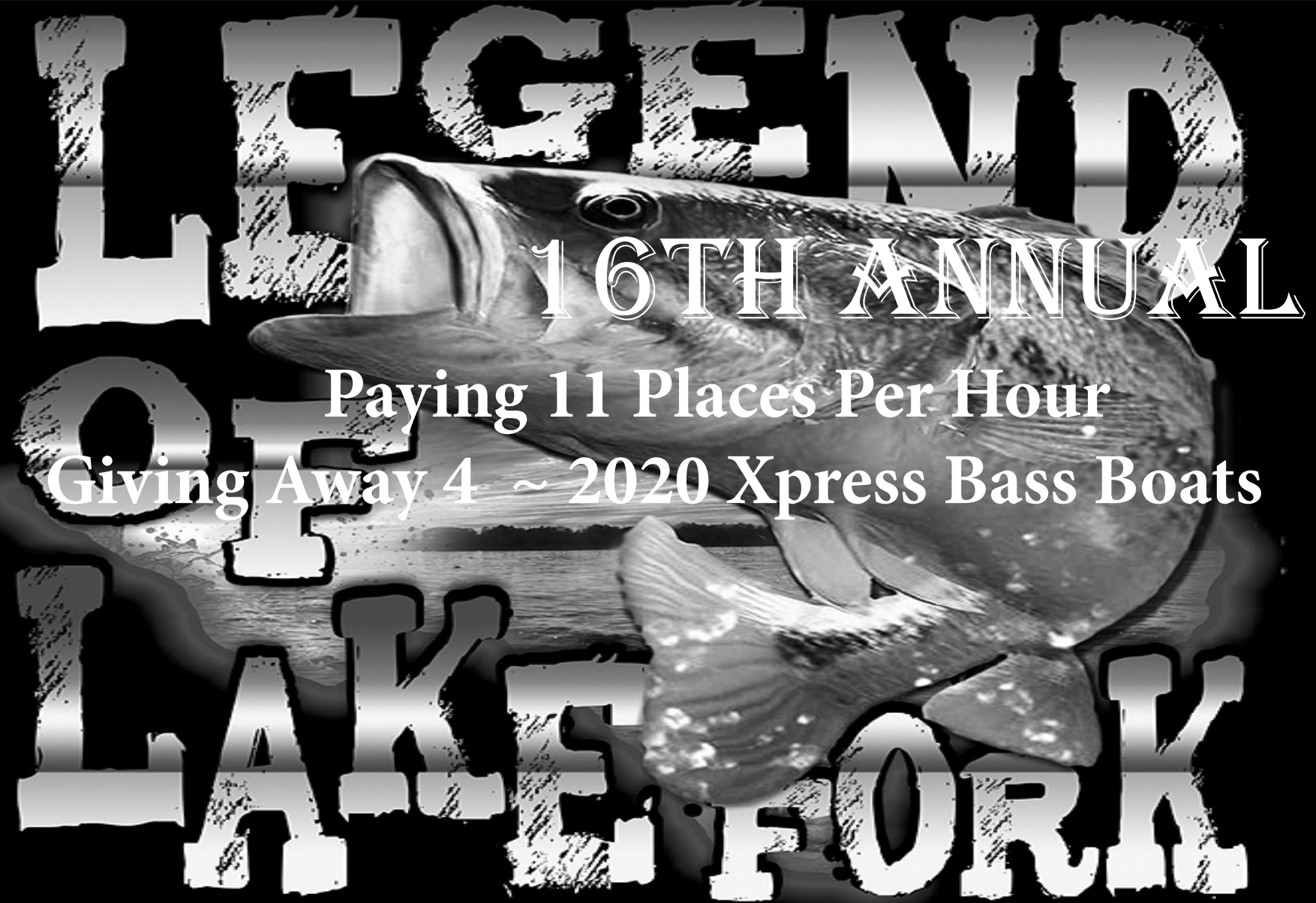


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Crappie USA Travels to Lake Fork

Crappie anglers from several states will travel to Lake Fork in Texas for a Crappie USA Tournament Trail event presented by Bass Pro Shops Cabela's. Local and traveling anglers will be vying for cash, prizes, and an opportunity to compete at the 2020 Crappie USA Classic which will feature a guaranteed payout of \$125,000 in cash and prizes.

Anglers fishing the March 7, 2020 event will be testing their crappie fishing skills against other anglers and whatever Mother Nature has in store.

Lake Fork is known as a trophy bass lake and for all the same reasons it is good for crappie too. The lake has both black and white crappie. Local anglers advise that March is usually a pre-spawn bite so patterning will be important.

The lake was impounded in 1980 with a dam on the Sabine River. The result is a huge lake with plenty of fingers, coves, and open water to investigate. It has a surface area of 27,264 acres and water as deep as 70 feet.

Anglers will find every possible type of structure to fish. The lake is characterized by numerous residential docks, lots of bridges, standing timber, grasses, and flats. Regardless of the fishing method preferred, anglers will be able to try them on Lake Fork.

The tournament is

definitely expected to turn up some bragging size crappie like the white crappie caught in February of 2018 that weighed 3.55 pounds by angler Craig Carpenter of Wylie, TX. The Texas state record is 3.56 pounds.

How to Enter

Teams may consist of one or two anglers, with a third member allowed if the angler is under the age of 16 years old. Early registration can be accomplished on the CUSA website at https://www.crappieusa.com/Tournament_Registration.cfm. Teams may also enter by calling (502) 384-5924 or by entering at the mandatory pre-tournament seminar on the night before the tournament begins. Entry fees vary by length of tournament. All fees are posted on the website linked above. Late entries are subject to a \$25.00 late fee.

Participating anglers must be a member of the American Crappie Association (ACA).

Sign up at https://www.crappieusa.com/Membership_Information.cfm where the various levels of membership are available. Each membership will include a subscription to the Outdoor Journal, the official publication of Crappie USA, and one of the top crappie fishing publications in the nation.

Registration and Seminar

Late registration and a pre-tournament seminar will be held the day before the tournament at the Best Western Plus, Emory@Lake Fork Inn, 1026 E Lennon Drive, Emory, TX.

Late Sign-in begins at 5:00 pm and runs to 7:00 pm. A National Sponsor Field Test Product Drawing accompanies the seminar starting at 7:00 pm local time. This seminar is open to the public. Those not fishing the event are encouraged to attend this meeting and meet some of the region's top crappie an-

glers.

The Weigh-In Site

The tournament weigh-in will be held at Minnow Bucket Marina & Resort, 3035 W Hwy

154, Quitman, TX 75783. The weigh-in begins at 3:00 pm and all anglers are required to be in line by 4:00pm. This is the perfect op-

portunity for non-competitors to learn how the big ones are caught. Interviews of the top 5

(See Crappie USA....

Continued on Page 21)

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"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

February means two things to me. First, spring is in the air and the days are growing longer. Second, big female bass are on the move and spawning will begin very soon.

In fact Mr. Larry Barnes a retired Lake Fork fishing guide caught the giant world famous, double digit Lake Fork bass named Valentine accordingly on Valentine's day. She was made famous by being held in the Bass Pro Shop aquarium at headquarters in Missouri. She was kept there for several years and believe it or not a funeral reception was held after her passing. A fish of a lifetime, and most definitely every fisherman's dream. To catch a fish like this you must be committed and dedicated to spending time in the right areas regardless of the outcome.

Remember your looking for one bite!!! Big females are usually very hungry during this time of year and begin migrating to the shallow backwaters and spawning grounds. The growing eggs and egg sack put a high demand for protein therefore they tend to eat more often regardless of water temperatures and conditions. Bad weather in fact is usually when most giant record breaking bass are caught. Prepare yourself and your equipment for cold or even brutal conditions, after all it is still February. Ok with that being said here are some of the higher percentage and best locations to begin your search. 1- Long main lake points that lead offshore are like highways for the bass to migrate in and out. Any big trees, hard bottom, rock or brush piles along the way can be where they will stop and hold.

2- Creek channel swings that create secondary points are also stopping and or holding spots. Big tree stumps and root systems on or off the edges of the breaks can be deadly.

3- Large tree stumps and shallow breaks nearby or next to shallow spawning flats and areas. This is the last spot before the female bass will go to the spawning bed also known as the staging area. The female will stay here in the staging location sometimes for a week or more as the final incubation

of the eggs occurs. 4- The spawning bed itself. Pretty unlikely to see a spawning bed during February; however, it is Texas and has happened before. In fact there have been spawning fish caught as early as January in the past. Since mother nature and water temperatures determine this factor we really cannot predict; however, in my opinion its unlikely this year.

Now lets talk baits of choice. I like large baits during this time of year. A big willow leaf spinner bait or a chatterbait with a 5" trailer makes a deadly combination. Large square bills, swim-baits and glide baits are also good choices. I'm also sure to have a jig with a large profile crawfish trailer as well. Remember this, a majority of big bass are caught on jig. So again I will repeat myself and say regardless of which technique you choose the most important factor to raise your odds is to commit to spending dedicated time, in the right locations, regardless of the outcome. Thank you for reading, I am Mike McFarland "The Lake Fork guide" Wishing you all great fishing.



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Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame Announces 2020 Inductee

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame committee announced Shane Wilson, retired public educator and founder of Fishing's Future, will be inducted into the hall of fame in 2020.

"This year's inductee to the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame has made unique and significant contributions to freshwater fishing across the state," said Dan Kessler, TFF Hall of Fame Committee Chair. "We are proud to honor him not only for what he's done – but for what he continues to do to promote fishing opportunities and protect our natural resources for present and future generations of anglers."

Shane Wilson, of South Padre Island, is a retired public educator of 35 years and founder of the non-profit organization Fishing's Future – which is devoted to strengthening family bonds through fishing. Wilson started Fishing's Future in Texas in 2007, which has since expanded to 70 chapters in 21 states and the United Kingdom. Fishing's Future's family fishing events have taken hundreds of thousands of Texans fishing in Texas alone and more than a million people fishing across their chapters reach.

Because of Wilson's vision, Fishing's Future has accumulated 28 active chapters in the state of Texas that are embraced by selfless volunteers who contribute their hours to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Angler Education Program. Fishing's Future was named the Conservation Organization of the Year in 2015 by the Kansas Wildlife Federation and in 2016 was nationally recognized by being named the Roland Sigurdson Outstanding Aquatic Education Program by the Aquatic Resources Education Association.

According to the writer of his nomination letter, "Shane Wilson has always been an individual who truly lives to serve... Shane is one of those people who is always anxious to lift a hand and help others wherever and whenever help is needed, all while continuing to host family fishing camps and acting as a pillar in his community."

As a tireless supporter of aquatic resources and fishing, in addition to Fishing's Future, Wilson is a past president of Friends of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, a past president of the Laguna Madre Fly Fishing Association, and has been the chairman of the Board of Sea Turtle, Inc. for the last 17 years.

He was inducted into the Rio Grande Valley Walk of Fame in 2013, honored by the Texas Senate in 2009 with Senate Resolution 864, and was a recipient of the "Council of the Sagamore of the Wabash" an honor bestowed by the Governor of the State of Indiana.

In addition to Wilson's efforts being tremendously impactful to the future of fishing in Texas and beyond, his selfless actions have highlighted the positive effects that fishing can have in strengthening family bonds, reconnecting children to nature, and increasing aquatic conservation. Hence, Fishing's Future motto of "more than a sport."

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."

Wilson will be formally inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center and recognized at the 2020 Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest benefiting Texas Parks and Wildlife Department June 5-9 at Lake Fork.



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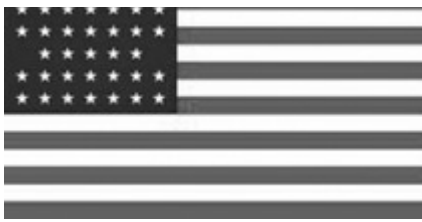
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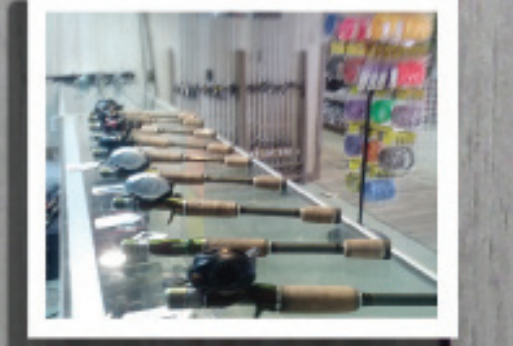
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Pd. Political Ad by Citizens for Kelly Cole for Sheriff

Two K-9 Wardens and Two Texas Game Wardens Recognized by TPW Commission

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPW) recognized two K-9 wardens and two game wardens during a recent meeting for their contributions and efforts supporting the agency mission.

Two K-9 Officers Earn Their Badges

K-9 officers Ruger and Bosch were commissioned and given their badged collars during a recent TPW Commission meeting to recognize their work with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) K-9 team. The program provides state-wide support in search and rescue; human remains recovery; tracking of fleeing subjects; recovery of articles; illicit take, possession and transportation of wildlife; and narcotics detection.

Ruger's human partner is Captain Christy Vales. Together they have assisted not only game wardens, but the FBI, DEA, Homeland Security Investigations, Border Patrol, Texas Rangers, and lo-

cal and county law enforcement officers with recovering multiple firearms, narcotics, and currency. They have also helped locate missing people and have brought poachers to justice.

Bosch joined the TPWD K-9 team in January 2019 and was partnered with his handler game warden Joni Owen. Bosch attended initial in-house training by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's K-9 instructors and also became nationally certified by the National American Police Work Dog Association for human remains detection in September. Bosch and Joni became TPWD's second certified human remains detection team in February 2019. Bosch has assisted game wardens in the recovery of drowning victims and assisted the Texas Rangers, FBI agents and multiple local agencies from around the state on blood evidence searches, cold cases and missing persons cases.

Rachel Kellner Recognized as Game Warden of the Year by the Texas Game Warden Association

Uvalde County game warden Rachel Kellner was named the 2019 Game Warden of the Year by the Texas Game Warden Association.

Kellner has been stationed in Uvalde County during her 16-year career and is the team lead for the West Texas Game Warden Critical Incident team. The team is involved with responding to incidents such as shootings, disasters and many other issues daily.

Recently, Kellner began to fulfill a decade-long dream of bringing a large-scale women's outreach event to the Texas Hill Country and the county where she serves. "Women Who Wander" was started by Kellner and four co-founders and aims to instill passion for the outdoors to women in the community and teach the next genera-

(Continued on Next Page)



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tion to turn to nature for recreation.

This outreach event offers classes in shotgun, kayaking, archery, outdoor cooking, and fly-fishing, just to name a few. More than 600 women participated in the event which took place last March. "Women Who Wander" 2020 will be capped at 800 women.

In addition, Kellner has also been called upon to be a spokesperson to represent Texas Game Wardens during incidents that garner wide-scale media attention including Hurricane Harvey, Tropical Storm Imelda and the historic flooding of the Llano River.

Joseph Quintero Named SEAFWA Texas Officer of the Year

Game Warden Joseph Quintero was named the Southeastern Association of Fish and

Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Texas Officer of the Year. This marks the 50th year this award has been presented to a Texas Game Warden.

Quintero began his career with TPWD in 2015. During his tenure, he has become an active member of the TPWD Honor Guard, the executive protection team and the unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) team.

As a founding member of the Texas Game Warden UAS Team, Quintero utilizes his position, knowledge, and skills to build relationships through training and interdivisional partnerships. He was responsible for teaching 60 new drone operators at the Game Warden Training Center on topics ranging from operations, logistics and intra-agency

coordination, to operating in FAA restricted airspace.

Quintero has coordinated training and informative programs through all facets of community platforms, including schools, civic organizations, conservation partners, private entities and media outlets. His efforts to further build the public's knowledge and understanding of TPWD's mission has undoubtedly improved both TPWD and the community's ability to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas.

Perhaps the most significant evidence

of his commitment to go above and beyond, Warden Quintero was selected to serve on the TPWD Honor Guard, representing the agency and helping to bring honor, dignity and closure to fallen peace officers and their families throughout Texas and the nation.



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Pol. Adv. Pd. for by James Schaffner

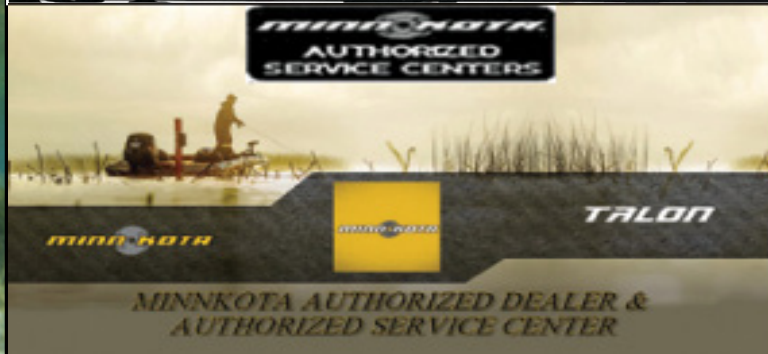
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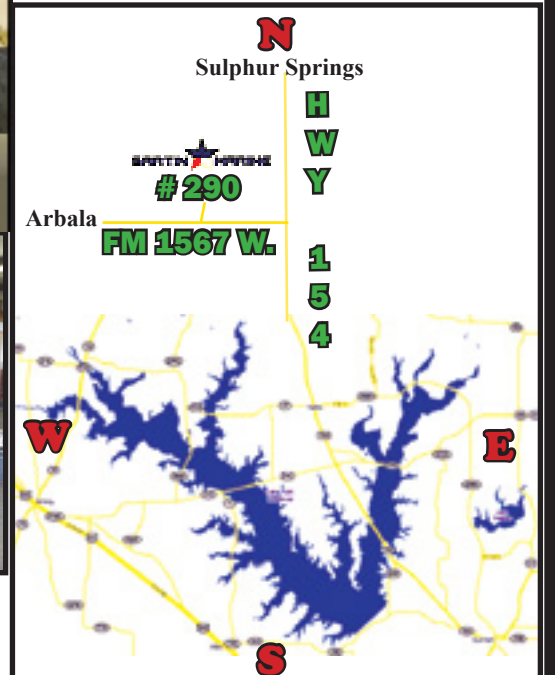


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Lake Fork Sportsman's Association "Preserving the Legend That is Lake Fork"

By Larry Marler, President
Lake Fork Sportsman's Association

Spring is around the corner and our bass are fattening up for their spawn. All fishermen are watching weather, water temperatures and getting ready to chase the Bass, Crappie, Catfish and Carp. Fishermen are putting new line on their reels with a drop of oil and checking out all their lures and gear. Lake Fork Sportsman's Association is gearing up to support tournaments with our Live Release Boat and preparing for our Spring Raffle which helps us support our many activities.

This year we will again grow Aquatic Plants using local high schools in the area. We are also working on a newer program named LCSS- Life Cycle Support Strategy. The program considers the basic needs of fish, including Food, Environment, and Location. An assembly of spawning beds, minnow factories, habitat protection factories, t-habs (vertical and horizontal) will be placed in the lake starting in the shallows and continuing into deeper water.

We are also kicking off our 2020 High School Tackle Program by refurbishing, assembling and cleaning donated fishing rods, lures, reels, tackle boxes which are generously donated by fishermen. The program affords high school teams in the area a chance to continue their participation in the sport without incurring the burden of purchasing the expensive equipment. If you have fishing equipment to donate, please contact Larry Marler at 336-413-3053 or Mike Kostial at 760-458-7885. We can arrange to meet at Lake Fork Marina or we can pick up at your location.

Another of our projects is assisting Texas Parks and Wildlife with their Fingerling release program in Mid-Spring. LFSA's Live Release Boat will be used to distribute thousands of fingerlings in the lake.

Our Lake is about 1.72 feet below pool through mid-January. This compares to last year when we were just below full pool. The difference is lack of rain in 2019 compared to the prior year. We actually are in great shape with the spring rains starting.

Please watch for us at the upcoming tournaments and visit our Live Release Boat and booth. Based on all the reports we are receiving from local experts, this should be an outstanding fishing year.

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association meets on the 2nd Tuesday each month 6:30 P M at Tiffany's Restaurant at Lake Fork Marina. Please come visit, meet our members and join us in Preserving the Legend of Lake Fork.



Lake Fork Sportsman's Association
Preserving The Legend

TACKLE DONATIONS NEEDED
Rods, reels, tackle, and fishing-related equipment are needed to support the High School Fishing Tackle Program sponsored by Lake Fork Sportsman's Association. LFSA requests donations of new and used fishing articles that will be cleaned, assembled, and refurbished. Items will be further donated to area high school fishing teams.
Call Larry Marler, 336-413-3053, or Mike Kostial, 760-458-7885, for more information or to arrange a donation.



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"February Starts the Big Bass Movement!" (Continued from Page 6)

ing 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 rattletail 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. Using the right equipment is critical at this time of the year. I use the Okuma Scott Martin and EVX Carbon rods to get the job done. For giant swimbaits use an extra heavy rod, chatterbaits I use a heavy rod and for small swimbaits my go to is a MH rod. For traps and small squarebills I use a medium rod which offer more bite forgiveness. I don't get too crazy with reel gear ratios as I mostly use 6:3 to 1 selections.

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/DavidOzioLakeForkGuide>. 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."



Clancey Sneed with David Ozio



Derek Baker with David Ozio

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Crappie USA Travels to Lake Fork *(Continued from Page 12)*

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The Lake Fork area welcomes all Crappie USA anglers and their guests to the area and hope they take the opportunity to enjoy the local attractions. For more information on the area visit the website at <https://lakeforkchamber.org/> or call (800) 846-1859.

Host lodging is provided by the Best Western Plus Emory, 1026 E Lennon Drive, Emory, TX, 903-473-8072. The number of rooms in the area may be limited. It is recommended that participants make their reservations early.

Crappie USA "Free Crappie Kids Rodeo"

A FREE Crappie Kids Fishing Rodeo will be held in conjunction with the tournament at the Minnow Bucket Marina & Resort.

Sign up for the Kids Rodeo will be Saturday morning at 8:00 am with fishing from 9:00 am - 11:00 am. The Crappie USA Kids Fishing Rodeo is a chance for children of the area to get out and enjoy nature, do a little fishing and win some prizes. An adult must accompany all participating children. The event is free to all children 12 years

of age and under. All participants are eligible for a chance to win one of the six, Crappie USA \$1,000.00 scholarships. The scholarships are awarded annually at the CUSA Classic.

Crappie USA and their anglers have contributed \$372,000.00 to the

"Crappie Kids" Scholarships since 1997. CUSA is very proud to be a part of the education process for the youngsters who participate in the tournaments as adult/youth teams and those who fish in the Crappie USA Kids Fishing Rodeos.

Just The Right Answers

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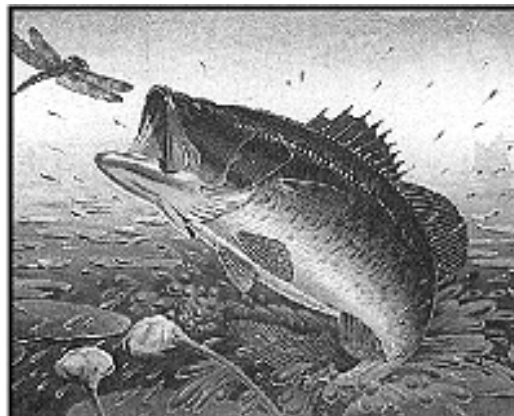
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16	G	E	N	E		17	R	A	L	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	
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			21	A	B	L	Y		22	C	A	R	Y					
24	D	A	L	L	A	S		27	S	A	L	E		28	R	A	30	P
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60	E	T	H	E	R			61	T	O	R	E		62	S	E	S	S

Country Find

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

- | | |
|---------|---------------|
| ALGERIA | IRELAND |
| AUSTRIA | ITALY |
| BELGIUM | MEXICO |
| CANADA | POLAND |
| CHINA | PORTUGAL |
| FRANCE | SPAIN |
| GERMANY | UNITED STATES |

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 E U A L R N E X L G I U
 G S N G E I X I A T E O
 U T D E L A G U T R O P
 M E N I A P S T I T C O
 R F R A N O P A N A I L
 I R L N D L A C H I N A
 A L G E R M A N Y S E N
 I A N I C N N E A U X D
 R N E C N A R F S A I T
 T D G A L Y E O P L C A
 S U A N O A L C A G A N
 U T L A P N D I N E R I
 A R N D G E A X I R E T
 S E T A T S D E T I N U
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Excitement To Look Forward To In 2020

By Don Hampton

In the upcoming year there is much to look forward to with plenty of excitement for the entire family.

Fishing University will be on Lake Fork filming the latter part of February. Host of the show Charlie Ingram and Ray Brazier will be fishing with Joe and Jim Doris, owners of Charger Boats. Anglers can view the program on three different Outdoor Sports Channels.

Each month JC Outdoors and Media will be having their Solo and Team Tournaments for anglers. On March 7th, USA Crappie will be having their pro and amateur divisions crappie tournament on Lake Fork. March 10th

through the 18th Major League Bass will be fishing and filming on Lake Fork. On March 22nd BassChamps will be having their Mega Bass Tournament. February 29th BassChamps North Region on Lake Fork.

On April 18th, Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 39th Semi Annual Open.

May 15th, 16th, 17th marks the 16th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament.

June 5th through the 9th the 2020 Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest. On June 6th the Wood County Kid Fish will be conducted along with the Texas Fest. June 12th and 14th Lake Fork will be hosting the Skeeter Owner's Tournament.

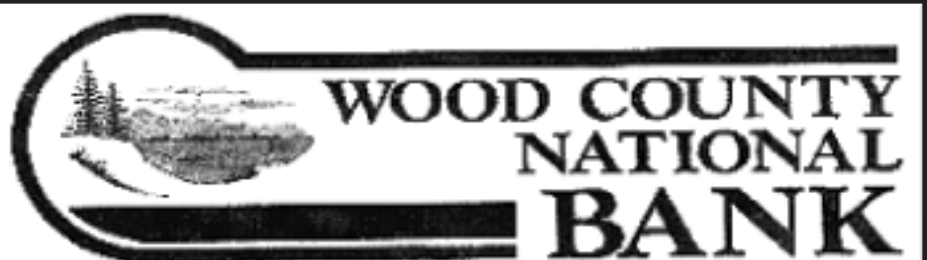
In July and August anglers will be hooking Lake Fork hawks doing a lot of night fishing to avoid the heat.

In September on the 18th, 19th, and 20th anglers can look forward to Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash.

October marks the lake's transition month with the lake beginning to turn over but the excitement doesn't stop. Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be having their 40th Semi Annual Open. On October 17th and 18th Berkley Tournament presented by BassChamps.

It is going to be an exciting year on Lake Fork. I hope to see everyone on the water.

Fish Friendly



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TPW Commission Approves Rule Changes to Assist with Growth of Managed Lands Deer Program

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has approved changes to the Managed Lands Deer Program (MLDP), which provides landowners and land managers with additional flexibility to manage deer populations, improve habitats, and provide greater hunting opportunities under the guidance of department biologists. The approved changes include clarifying existing program provisions and establishing fees for participation in the growing program.

"In the last 20 years the MLDP has grown from 800 tracts of land on 3 million acres to more than 12,000 tracts of land on 28 million acres, but in that time we have not had a source of funding to hire any new staff to help address the challenges we face with that growth," said Alan Cain, TPWD white-tailed deer program leader. "The revenue generated by the new fees will be used to hire new field biologists to meaningfully engage with MLDP participants, meet technical guidance requests, and administer the MLDP."

The fee amendment establishes a \$30 fee for each management unit within a property that is enrolled in the Harvest Option (HO), provided the property is not part of an ag-

gregate acreage enrolled in the MLDP; a \$30 fee for each aggregate acreage enrolled in the HO; a \$300 fee for the first management unit of each property enrolled in the Conservation Option (CO) plus a \$30 fee for each additional management unit of a property enrolled in the CO; a \$300 fee for each aggregate acreage enrolled in the CO; and a \$30 fee for each management unit of a wildlife management association or cooperative enrolled in the CO.

The fee amounts were selected by the department after soliciting and receiving input

from department staff, stakeholder groups, and advisory committees regarding what would be a reasonable fee for participation in the MLDP considering the benefits received, the demands on department staff in administering the various options available to landowners under the MLDP, and which would not result in significant attrition from the MLDP by landowners.

The department will begin collecting MLDP participation fees in the spring of 2021 in preparation for the 2021-22 hunting season.



Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith was doing some night fishing on Fork on a warmer night when he caught this hawg in January. Weight not provided. C.P.R.

PRACTICE CPR • Catch • Photo • Release

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

39th Semi-Annual Open Tournament

April 18, 2020 * 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>1st Place \$1,040.00 2nd Place \$780.00 3rd Place \$520.00 4th Place \$260.00 5th ~ 10th \$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> <p>1st Place \$500 2nd Place \$300 3rd Place \$200</p>
--	--	---

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00
2. Early entries must be postmarked by April 11, 2020.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Apr. 18, 2020.
4. Check in times: Fri., Apr. 17, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Apr. 18, 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

Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Apr. 11, 2020 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

TTB USE ONLY

Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Chk# _____

More Than 5,200 Visitors Roared Into 2020 With a First Day Hike (Continued from Page 10)

October.

Several parks had more than 100 people participate in a single event. One event at Ray Roberts Lake State Park- Isle Du Bois Unit had 231 visitors, the most participants of any event across the state.

The backcountry hike at Tyler State Park had 204

participants on the 3.1-mile guided hike. During the rest stops, rangers talked about how to navigate using clues in nature, the health benefits of hiking in the forest and bear safety (even though bears do not live in the park).

Below are highlights from the field during this year's First Day Hike

events:

*A park police officer from Brazos Bend State Park near Houston picked a retirement date of Jan. 2, 2020 a year and a half ago so he could lead one more First Day Hike. After 25 years of state service and more than 1,000 guided hikes led, this was his last hike

as an employee.

*The First Day Hike at Caprock Canyons State Park in the Panhandle was a great success with visitors being stewards of the park by picking up any trash they saw along the trail.

*Eisenhower State Park in North Texas held two First Day Hikes, one at 10 a.m. and another at 2 p.m. A total of 171 visitors braved the muddy trail conditions and started the year off on the right, albeit muddy, foot. The 10 a.m. hike had 79 people attend for a total of 118.5 miles hiked. The first event became somewhat of a reunion hike because at least a dozen folks in attendance realized friends, family

and acquaintances had elected to attend the same hike.

*At Falcon State Park in South Texas, the hike went off without a hitch except for a stubborn rattlesnake that refused to move from the trail. Park rangers moved it aside with snake grabbers and the hike continued without incident.

*Participants of the First Day Hike at Goliad State Park walked a mile down the River Trail to the dining hall for snacks and drinks. It started to drizzle as the group walked the second mile down the road to the hike and bike trail, but nobody let a little drizzle get them down. It began raining a little harder just as they

got back to the parking lot and many people remarked on the perfect timing of their return.

*At Lake Somerville State Park- Birch Creek Unit, the group spotted a juvenile American bald eagle during the hike. One of the Master Naturalists set up a scope and everyone had an opportunity to see it.


*During Tyler State Park's birding the lakeshore First Day Hike event, 57 participants and two dogs walked 2.10 miles around the park's lake and identified 26 bird species.

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

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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Passing the Buck--Harris County game wardens stopped by a Spring taxidermy shop for a compliance check. In the course of inspecting several trophy white-tailed racks, one of the wardens discovered two sets of antlers allegedly killed by the same 8-year-old hunter. The heads had been turned in by the father, but reported under the juvenile's license. Further investigation revealed the father had advised the taxidermist he had killed one of the bucks, but the wardens found no record of the individual possessing a valid hunting license for the year in question. Subsequent contact and interviews with the father and son confirmed the father had, in fact, killed the trophy buck in Val Verde County without a valid hunting license. The father was cited for hunting without a license, and civil restitution for the whitetail buck is pending.

--A Combustible Situation--Gonzales County game warden received a tip that a white-tailed doe may have been shot during or before a grass fire started in the southern part of the county. Armed with details about a vehicle that had burned in the fire, the warden pieced together information that led to a group of hog hunters who had entered the field, where one of them shot a white-tailed doe. At some point after the doe was shot, the hunters' vehicle

caught the field on fire, along with their vehicle. Cases filed include hunting without a valid license, taking white-tailed deer in closed season and civil restitution. Assistance from the Nixon-Smiley Police Department was paramount in the investigation.

--Naked and Impaired-- Johnson County game warden was about to launch his patrol boat onto Lake Pat Cleburne when he observed a car parked near the boat ramp, facing the water. Being a popular area for bank fishermen, the warden approached to check for fishing compliance. Instead, he found two unclothed individuals inside the car and, in plain view, a glass pipe with an off white substance commonly used to smoke methamphetamine sitting on the center console. Both subjects were ordered to put their clothing on and were removed from the vehicle. The warden discovered various drug paraphernalia and narcotics, and arrested both individuals. The cases are pending.

--Y'all Aren't from Around Here, Are Ya?-- A Val Verde County game warden was patrolling near Langtry when he made contact with two groups of out of state reptile hunters. The non-game collectors were found to lack the required reptile/amphibian collector's permits. They were also educated on Texas laws pertaining to hunting from a public roadway. Appropriate charges were filed and are pending.

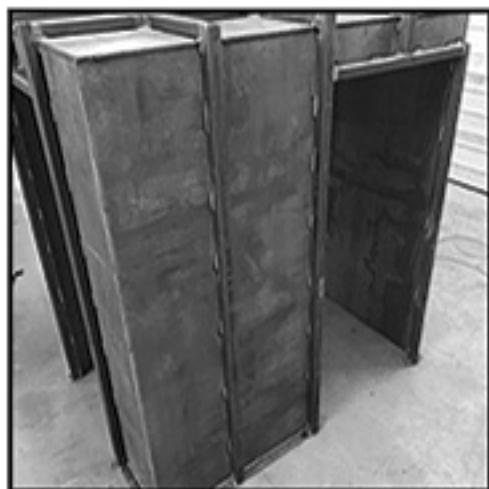
--Dumping the Dump Truck--Navarro County

game wardens responded to a call of a possible vehicle submerged in a flooded gravel pit. First responders found evidence that a dump truck had gone over an embankment and into an old flooded gravel pit, which was 35-40 feet deep. Wardens noted a small oil slick forming on the surface of the water, called for a dive team and launched their patrol boat. The Waxahachie Fire Department Dive Team arrived on scene and located the missing dump truck. Divers entered the water and found the dump truck resting upside down with the driver still in the cab. The driver did not survive.

--Ignorance Is Not an Acceptable Excuse-- Game wardens patrolling Choke Canyon Reservoir for water safety and fishing violations came across information someone might be alligator hunting on the lake. The wardens went to the reported location and found two men sleeping in their truck. Upon questioning, both men confessed to having set out eight baited lines to catch alligators. Both men stated they were not clear on the regulations and didn't know they were doing anything wrong. Several other violations were discovered during the investigation, including undersized catfish and no fishing and hunting licenses. All lines were picked up and no alligators were caught. Several cases are pending.

--A Shot in the Dark-- A game warden received a call about a man in Titus County who had acciden-

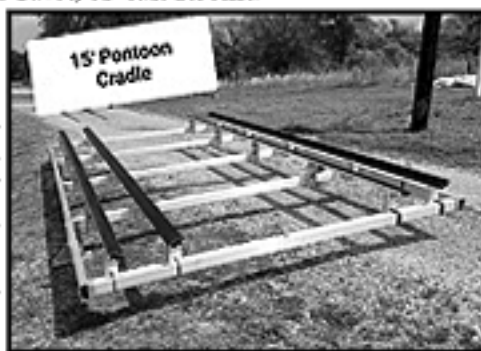
(See Game Warden....Continued on Page 26)



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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 25)

tally shot himself while out on his deer lease preparing for the upcoming hunting season. The man was driving his side by side UTV back to the house around 9 p.m. the previous night when the accident occurred. A battery on the seat next to the victim fell into the floorboard. In the dark the man reached for what he thought was his spotlight to try and locate the battery. The man mentioned that the grip of the spotlight and his Glock Model 22 have the same feel. Instead of pulling the switch to his spotlight, the man pulled the trigger on his handgun, discharging a round into his upper leg. The man was able to drive to the house and then make a 25-minute drive to the hospital. An investigation concluded the man suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Doctors said the bullet missed bone and major arteries and the man was discharged from the hospital with no complications. He is expected to make a full recovery.

--We Charge a Rehoming Fee--Harris County game wardens found a posting on the "Offer Up" app advertising a "toy" alligator for sale with a winky face ;). The seller was contacted by game wardens posing as an out of town rancher wanting a gator for his private pond and asked if his ranch hand could come pick it up. The wardens set a time and place to meet. The suspect was surprised to

find out the rancher and ranch hand were wardens. Charges were filed.

--Look Before You Leap--Tarrant County game wardens patrolling Lake Grapevine noticed an unusual clustering of people close to the water's edge below a 25 foot cliff. Seems a middle-aged man had jumped from the cliff into what he thought was 10-12 feet of water that turned out to only be 2 feet deep. The leap resulted in a compound fracture of his lower leg. The wardens contacted local EMS, enlisted the help of some of the bystanders to stabilize the leg, and loaded the injured man onto their patrol vessel. The wardens then transported the man to a location where EMS could make a safe and speedy transfer. The wardens stayed with two juvenile boys who were with the injured man until a parent could be located. Alcohol played a factor in the incident.

--Not Your Sign-- Pecos County game warden was checking public access points to the Pecos River. The warden parked his patrol vehicle near a bridge crossing the river and walked underneath it to check out the area. While under the bridge the warden heard the sound of metal being cut with a power tool. As he made his way back up to the bridge the warden observed two men; one served as a lookout while the other used a right angle grinder to try to

cut down a road sign marking the Crockett County line. After being caught in the act, the subject doing the cutting admitted he was trying to take the sign because "my last name is Crockett and I thought it would be cool to have the sign." The individual was charged with criminal mischief, a Class B misdemeanor, subsequently pled guilty and received six months' probation.

--Holy King Mackerel--Game wardens in Brazoria County investigating an Operation Game Thief crimestoppers call about a violation of over the daily bag/possession limit of king mackerel made a shocking discovery. The tipster claimed a group of five was stockpiling king mackerel in a boat storage facility in Freeport. Armed with description of the suspects' vehicles and boats, wardens began checking vessels near the Freeport Jetties and came across a boat that fit the description. The occupants were in possession of king mackerel in excess of the daily limit, and while escorting them back to the boat ramp, the wardens made contact with the other culprits. The suspects were brought to the commercial boat storage, where wardens gained access to a unit that contained 30 king mackerel stuffed into a freezer, in addition to the 16 king mackerel the

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

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Hearty, Healthy Chicken Stew! Perfect for Cold & Flu Season!

By Sue Hampton

We all know that there is still plenty of chilly winter days left to the cold-and-flu season. And while there is still no cure for the common cold, there is a tried-and-true remedy – chicken soup!!

Along with rest and plenty of fluids, chicken soup has been used as a cold and flu remedy for hundreds of years. While medical experts are still not certain of the actual mechanism, research indicates that a number of factors, including nutrient content, ability to aid in hydration and clearing of mucous do provide some relief.

Whether you're laid up with a fever or just want



Hearty Chicken and Vegetable Stew is a perfect way to take the chill off of those mid-winter days. And it's good for you, too!

to add a little extra warmth to a dinner gathering, try your hand at this easy-to-prepare hearty chicken and vegetable stew.

HEARTY CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE STEW

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 tablespoons butter (1/4 stick)

1 pound skinless, boneless chicken-breast halves, cut into 1-1/2-inch pieces

1/2 pound mushrooms thickly sliced

3 medium carrots (about 8 ounces), cut into 1-inch pieces

2 medium leeks (about 4 ounces each) cut into 3/4-inch pieces

1 fennel bulb (about 1 pound), trimmed and cut into thin wedges

3/4 pound red potatoes, cut into 1-inch pieces

1 bay leaf

1/4 teaspoon dried tar-agon

1/2 cup dry white wine 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) chicken broth or 1-3/4 cups homemade

1 cup half-and-half or light cream

3 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1 cup frozen peas, thawed

3/4 teaspoon salt

1. In a 5-quart Dutch oven or saucepot, heat 1 tablespoon olive oil over medium-high heat until hot. Add 1 tablespoon butter, melt. Add chicken and cook until chicken is golden and just loses its pink color throughout. With slotted spoon, transfer chicken to medium bowl.

2. Add mushrooms to Dutch oven and cook until golden (do not overbrown). Transfer mushrooms to bowl with chicken.

3. Add remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil to Dutch oven and heat until hot. Add remaining 1 tablespoon butter; melt. Add carrots, leeks, fennel, potatoes, bay leaf and tarragon. Cook vegetables ten to 15 minutes, until fennel is translucent and leeks are wilted, stirring occasionally.

4. Add wine; cook two minutes, stirring. Add chicken broth and 1/4 cup water; heat to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 20 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

5. In cup, mix half-and-half and flour until smooth. Stir half-and-half mixture; heat to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat to medium; cook one minute to thicken slightly. Stir in chicken, mushrooms, peas and salt; heat through. Discard bay leaf.



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

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

five fishermen had on board both vessels. After lengthy interviews, several citations were written to the five individuals for exceeding their possession limit of king mackerel. The cases and civil restitution are pending.

--Caught Red-Handed-- Cameron County game wardens received a call from South Padre Police Department stating they had come across an ice chest full of red snapper during a traffic stop and believed the occupants to be over their possession limit. Contact was made with the three individuals and consent was given to inspect the fish. The story given was inconsistent

between the three individuals, who claimed they got the fish from friends, but could not produce any proof. Although they had been out on a fishing trip all day with the unnamed sources, they had taken no photos of the others onboard. A bag count showed the group was 16 red snapper over their daily bag limits, including two undersized fish. All three individuals received citations with restitution. The fish were donated to the public.

--Step Away from the Grill-- Jasper County game warden was notified by Martin Dies Jr. State Park staff that a group of campers may have taken an alligator

illegally. The warden made his way to the campsite and confronted the group. After hearing conflicting stories from two male subjects, the warden finally got a confession from one that he had killed a small alligator. The culprits were actually in the process of getting rid of the evidence when the warden showed up; had already seasoned the meat, wrapped it in foil and set to go on the campsite barbecue grill, which was still warming up. The warden seized the gator hide, head and meat. Several citations are pending, along with civil restitution.

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The male guppy courts the female, showing off its beauty and grace by dancing around her constantly.

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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*



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**Lake Fork Tournament
Schedule Feb. thru Apr.
2020**



February

Feb. 15 ~ Media Teams
Minnow Bucket
Feb. 23 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket

March

Mar. 7 ~ Crappie USA
Minnow Bucket
Mar. 7 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket
Mar. 10-18 ~ Major League Fishing
Oak Ridge Marina
Mar. 14 ~ Media Teams
Minnow Bucket
Mar. 15 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
Mar. 22 ~ BassChamps Mega Bass
Lake Fork Marina

April

Apr. 5 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
Apr. 11 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket
Apr. 18 ~ Tex. Trails Open
Oak Ridge Marina
Apr. 18 ~ Media Teams
Minnow Bucket

**16th Annual Legend of
Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament
May 15, 16, 17**



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**Lake Fork Sportsman's
ASSOCIATION**

Preserving The Legend

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm at Tiffany's Restaurant, Lake Fork Marina

Sixteenth Annual
LEGEND

OF LAKE FORK
Big Bass Tournament

All Boats, Makes, Models Welcome
May 15, 16, 17, 2020

\$285,000 Guaranteed in
Cash & Prizes

Benefiting "The Wish to Fish Foundation"

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

GRAND PRIZES INCLUDE:

(4) 2020 Xpress Boats, Powered by Yamaha, MinnKota, HUMMINBIRD Electronics
To Be Awarded For: 2 for the 2 Heaviest Over The Slot,
1 for Heaviest Bass Under The Slot, 1 for Draw Boat
(Early Entries ONLY and must be present to win.)

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

BONUS T-SHIRT HOUR EVERY HOUR OF THE TOURNAMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 903-360-6994 OR 903-383-7748 EMAIL: FISHNEWS@LAKEFORK.NET





MEGA BASS

\$20,000 CASH

GUARANTEED - EVERY HOUR

12 Places per hour
GUARANTEED
 regardless of entries
EVERY HOUR

- 1st place.....\$15,000
- 2nd place.....\$1,000
- 3rd place.....\$900
- 4th place.....\$800
- 5th place.....\$700
- 6th place.....\$500
- 7th place.....\$350
- 8th place.....\$300
- 9th place.....\$250
- 10th place.....\$200



T-shirt bonus
\$10.00

- 11th\$150
- 12th\$150

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

Amateurs Only - Open to all boat brands

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



Lake Fork
Sunday, March 22, 2020

Lake Fork Marina
 Entry Fee: \$200 per person
 (Includes \$10 cash/check discount)
 Checks NOT accepted on site
On site registration times:
 Sat 3/21: 12-7 PM Sun 3/22: 5 AM

EARLY REGISTRATION DRAW PRIZES

Entries received before March 18th are eligible to win prizes from: Techron, Berkley, Abu Garcia Amphibia & More.

For additional info. and rules go to 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 & 15 places every hour are guaranteed regardless of entries.

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