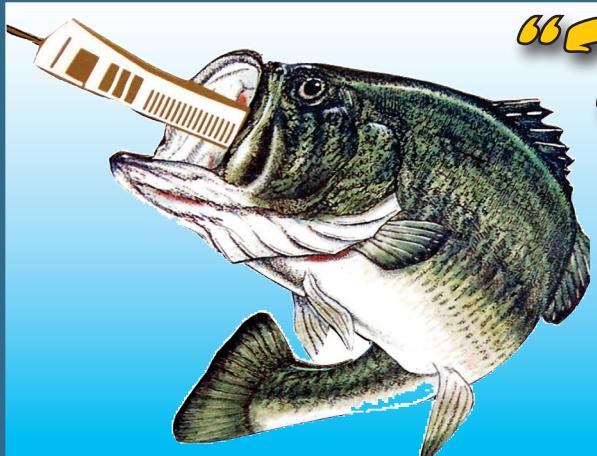


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**Free**

**Vol. 21**

**July, 2020**

**No. 251**



Eddie Bradford from Dayton, TX., caught this nice Lake Fork hawg night fishing with guide Whitt Smith. This was Eddie's personal best as you can tell by the smile on his face. Memories are made on Lake Fork! C.P.R.



**Mega Bass Tournament on Lake Fork**

By Don Hampton

The 12th Annual Mega Bass Tournament presented by BassChamps will be held on July

19th. This is the highest paying amateur single day tournament in the nation. The tournament will be hosted out of Lake Fork Marina

on Highway 17.

Twelve places are guaranteed to be paid per hour regardless

(See Mega Bass.....)

*Continued on Page 4*

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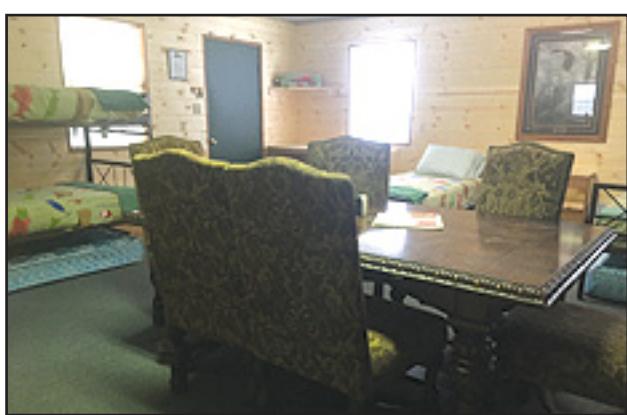
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***"Bubba pushes his luck at being a macho manly chef..."***

By Don Bubba Hampton

A fish fry or barbecue is right up bubba's alley. This consists of manly macho cooking and Bubba seems to think like other outdoorsy type men that he is the best in this category.

One thing for certain, when Bubba is eating someone else's barbecue or fried fish and they proclaim they are the best, he agrees. After all, he is getting a free meal so they can say whatever they want. But, deep in his macho heart he is thinking, "Wait till they taste mine!"

Bubba loves to cook out and volunteers his services not only to try and impress his buds, but also to give Bubbette a night off.

Usually when Bubba volunteers to do the only cooking a "real" man will do, the following chain of events is put into motion.

First of all, Bubbette will go to the store to shop for everything Bubba will need.

Secondly, Bubbette will fix the salad, vegetables, and the dessert.

Thirdly, Bubbette prepares the meat for cooking, places it on a tray along with the necessary cooking utensils and then takes it to Bubba who is lounging beside the grill drinking a beer and telling fishing stories

(FFT's = Fabricated Fish Tales) to his cronies. At this time Bubba slips into his "macho culinary character" and puts the meat on the grill.

Once the meat is on the grill cooking, Bubba goes back to his fish stories with his beer and buds while Bubbette goes inside to set the table and check the vegetables.

Not long after that, Bubbette will come out to remind Bubba to turn the meat. After another period of time, Bubbette will come out to tell Bubba to put his beer down, take a break from his fish tales, and check on the meat because it just might be burning.

At this point Bubba will take the meat off the grill and with the expertise of any great chef, place it tenderly on a platter and hand it to Bubbette. All the while mumbling under his breath how this is his job and he's got it covered, but not loud enough so Bubbette will hear him. Then Bubbette will take the platter, prepare the plates, bring them to the table, and ring the dinner bell.

Upon completion of the meal, Bubbette will clear the table, do the dishes, and clean up the mess.

And another notch is carved in Bubba's spatula and tongs for conducting another of his successful cookouts.

The main confusion of this scenario for Bubba is when he asks Bubbette how she enjoyed her night off!!

Upon seeing her annoyed reaction, he just concludes that sometimes there is just no pleasing Bubbette!!

Maybe next time he will give Bubbette the first choice of steaks and that will make her happier!

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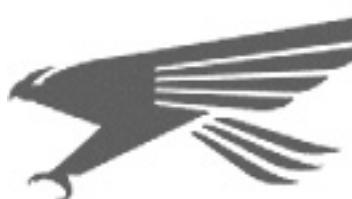
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## Mega Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 1)

of entries. First place heaviest bass of each hour will win \$15,000' 2nd \$1,000; 3rd \$900; 4th \$800; 5th \$700; 6th \$600; 7th \$500; 8th \$400; 9th \$300; and 10th \$250. Eleventh and Twelfth places of each hour are T-Shirt bonus hours. If an angler has purchased a T-shirt for \$10 and ends up in the hour in either position, they will receive a \$200 check.

There will also be Even Weight Bonus dollars available to be won during the event. For the first angler that brings an even weight bass of 2.5-pounds, 3-pounds, 9-pounds, or 10-pounds to the scales, they will receive

\$500 in bonus money.

Anglers can qualify for early entry at bass-champs.com. Early entries are eligible to win prizes from Techron, Berkley, Abu Garcia, Amphibia and more. If unable to get in on the early entry, anglers can enter on sight at Lake Fork Marina on Friday July 17th from 5 to 7 pm, or Saturday July 18th from 12 to 7 pm, or Sunday July 19th at 5 am. Entry fee for the tournament is \$200 per person, this price includes \$10 cash/check discount. No checks will be accepted on site. If registering on sight, be sure to bring cash or credit card.

For additional infor-

mation see the advertisement on Page 28 or go to www.bass-champs.com or you can call 817-439-3274.

I hope to see all of you at the tournament and remember to fish friendly and help keep our lake clean and good luck.

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## Texas Hunting and Fishing License, Boat Registration Offices Open for Appointments Only

All Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement offices statewide and the license and registration office at the Austin headquarters reopened June 1st to customers with appointments. Social distancing, face coverings and other public health measures will be mandatory for all customers.

Appointments will be scheduled in 15-minute increments with the first appointment beginning at 8:15 a.m. and the last appointment at 4:30 p.m. Missed appointments must be rescheduled for another time. Cus-

tomers can schedule an appointment by calling the law enforcement office or license and registration office directly. New business practices will be in effect for all offices including:

\*Only one customer is allowed in the office, unless a caregiver is needed

\*Cash, checks and money orders are acceptable methods of payment. Credit cards and debit cards are not accepted at this time.

\*Customers must complete all necessary forms before arriving for their appointment

\*No walk-ins will be

allowed at this time. Available services at these offices include original titles and registration, registration renewal, transfer of existing titles and registration, replacement certificates for number cards, decals and titles, pre-paid party boat inspections, party boat operators license, addition or release of a lien, commercial licenses and permits, and game warden inspections.

Additional services, only being processed by mail at the Austin headquarters, are bonded titles and abandoned bonded titles.



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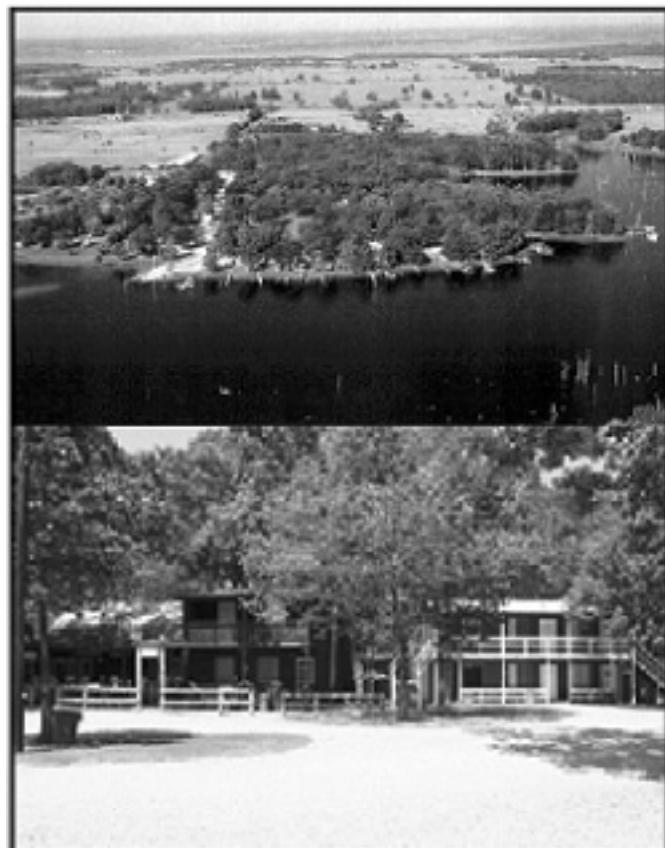
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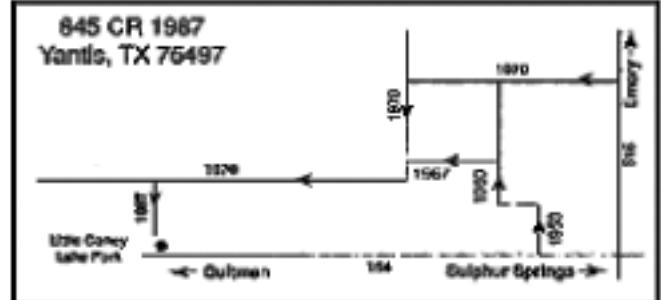
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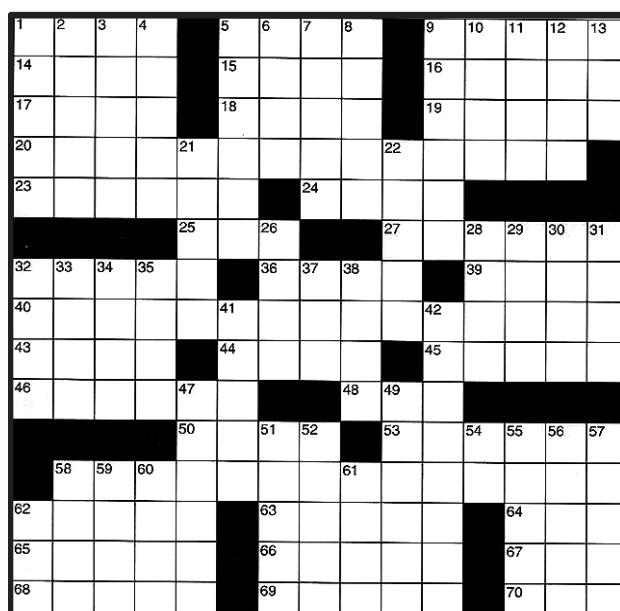
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## "The Summer Pattern Is Here!"

By David Ozio

"The last three post spawn seasons have been eerily similarly as we head into July. Surface temps have been more on the lower side due to the rain and wind. Don't get me wrong, the wind is your friend when it's 90 degrees outside but it may be keeping the green fish from gathering up. As of this writing, the super giants haven't grouped up as they normally would in early June. I'm really expecting it to happen any day now. There have been days where we might catch five or six off one spot but they are not there the next day. The fun part of this is figuring out what they are thinking!"

Big rains this spring has kept the lake over pool for



### CLUES ACROSS

- Wood sorrels
- The lowest part in polyphonic music
- Military authority in Turkey
- Straitens
- Strain
- Town in Surrey, England
- Release
- Tall evergreen of Japan
- Fern seed, for one
- George Stevens' Oscar winner
- Places to stay
- Sped
- Nucleotide, abbr.
- Torment
- Cyprinids
- Ancient Greek City
- Italian Island
- Vacillates
- Hair
- Mental objects
- Cedar Rapids and Des Moines
- Felt
- Vietnamese offensive
- Chinese dynasty
- Write
- Steamed up
- Excessive use of drugs
- Ocean sunfish
- Separate
- One seeded fruit
- Settled down
- A former copper coin of Pakistan
- Mexican Indians
- Ball club
- Pastries

### CLUES DOWN

- Kind of church
- Field (Spanish)
- Inclined
- Stalks of moss capsules
- Worst
- Wild sheep
- Gestures
- Speaks, archaic
- Monetary unit of Spain
- Vipers
- Cabbage, for one
- A wading bird
- They —
- Station
- Russell \_\_, author
- Labourer
- Art \_\_, around 1920
- Radiance
- City 3000 B.C.
- Radioactivity units
- Database management system, abbr.
- Wings
- Steer
- Female sheep
- Confined condition, abbr.
- Geographic region
- Sven \_\_, Swedish explorer of Asia
- Give up
- Excites
- Hacienda, for one
- Promoter
- Weight units
- Go over
- A citizen of Iran
- Capital of Switzerland, var.
- Icelandic poems
- Maori war dance
- Be obedient to
- Turner, rock singer
- Oil company
- An unskilled actor who overacts

*Answers on Page 21*

most of the spring and it is just now receding. The lake is in awesome shape and there has been zillions of people here due to the Covid scare. The small amount of recent rain has allowed the lake to settle down, cool somewhat and clear up. This years rising water in the spring has produced a great spawn and the future for Fork couldn't be brighter. There are tons of small bass rambling the lake and these will grow to the next generations Share-Lunker. July is a great month to target all sizes of bass using top water, crankbaits and drop shots. It's all about locating the fish and then it's game on. Electronics play a huge roll in finding these huge schools of bass and the more time you spend graphing the key locations, the greater the chance to have a monumental day. Main lake points, ridges, road beds and pond dams should be your locations of focus and pay close attention to the 18-24ft range. Even if you only see a group of ten fish at a given depth, pitch out a marker buoy and spend fifteen minutes to see if you can get the bass to commit. If nothing rattles your cage, move on to the next location. Let's say you see a ton of good arc's at the next spot. My first choice is the drop shot rigged with a Talon Carolina Worm or a Roboworm. Use any color you want as long as it is red. Drop straight down to them and barely jiggle the rod tip. Active fish will load the rod and you may think you're hung up. Set the hook and figure out



the rest latter. If the drop shot is not your game, throw a Carolina rig or a football jig to the area where you first spotted the bass. A 3/4 ounce stand up head is also a great choice. On the C-rig, you might try a fluke, brush hog or a Zoom magnum trick worm. Under bright sun, I will use redbug or plum colors and when it's cloudy, any version of green pumpkin will suffice. As for the jig, PB&J, Mexican Heather or black/brown/amber will do the trick. Match a craw trailer to the jig and you're in business. For the stand up head, any big straight tail worm will suffice.

The topwater bite is good early and late on main lake points and a Zara Spook is the ticket. Yellow Magic's

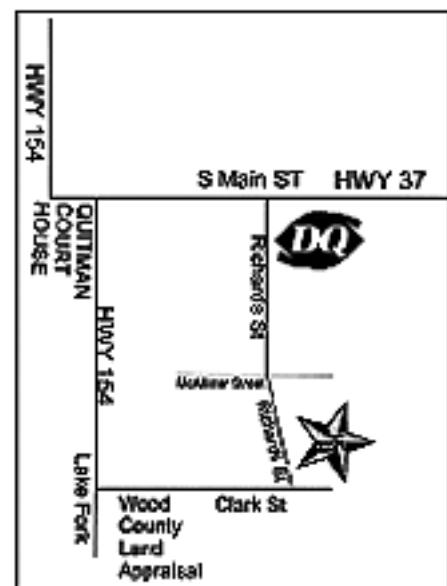
(See The Summer .....  
Continued on Page 20)

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## Stay Safe This Summer at a Texas State Park by Using These Six Heat Hacks

Last year, as temperatures soared into the triple digits in Texas, 48 Texas State Parks handled 129 heat-related illnesses in humans and pets. Now that the summer has officially begun and temperatures are steadily climbing, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is sharing their top six heat hacks for staying safe in the outdoors.

Here are the top six heat hacks recommended for park visitors:

**1. Hydrate-** It's important to drink at least 16 ounces of water every hour in the heat to replenish your body and

prevent dehydration. Don't forget to bring enough for your four-legged family members too.

**2. Block the Rays-** Apply a generous amount of sunscreen or sunblock before heading outdoors. Be sure to reapply every couple of hours, and after swimming or sweating.

**3. Dress Smart-** Wear light, loose-fitting, breathable clothing; a hat, correct shoes, sunscreen and wet bandanas to keep you cool while in the sun.

For pets, protect paws against blistering by hitting the trails during cooler times of the day when the ground

isn't hot or by putting booties on pets to help shield paws from the hot ground. Touch the pavement or ground with the back of your hand. If you cannot hold it there for five seconds, the surface is too hot for your dog's paws.

**4. Stay Salty-** Food helps keep up energy and replace salt lost from sweating. Eating snacks such as jerky, granola, trail mix, tuna and dried fruit is a fantastic way to nourish your body while on the trails.

**5. Buddy System-** Two brains are better than one. It's beneficial to have someone

with you in hot conditions so you can look after each other on the trail. With high temperatures hitting Texas, heat-related illnesses are common and having a friend around to help recognize the early symptoms can save you from getting sick.

**6. Plan Ahead-** Study the map and have it with you. Average hikers move at 2 miles per hour, so allow yourself plenty of time to avoid hiking in the heat of the day. Make sure to rest in a cool or shaded area to recover from the heat if necessary. It is

also a good idea to let someone know your plan before you hit the trails and what time you should be back. That way, if you become lost, people know where to look. For more information about heat safety, visit the TPWD website.

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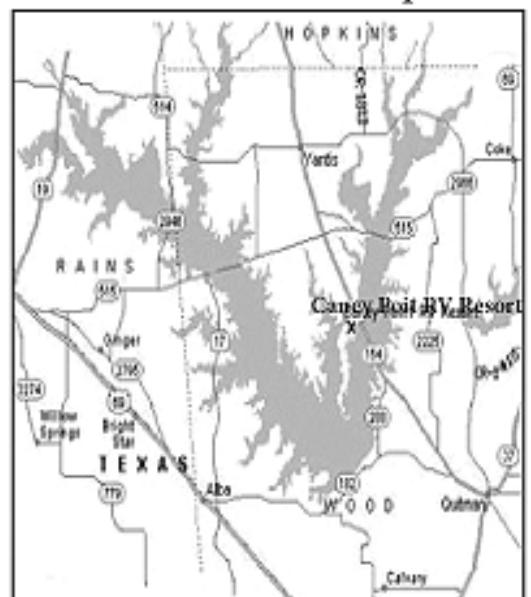
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# **The Moon Report**

## **"Summer Time Crappie"**

By Terri Moon

Well – it is July (already!) and the crappie seem to be settling into their summertime pattern. We are finding them anywhere from 8 to 12 ft. in 16 to 28 ft. of water depending on the time of day or if it's sunny or cloudy. Their depths will change throughout the day so keep monitoring your depth finder to watch for any changes. We've been having fun with the Bonehead and Bubba baits. They both are producing some really nice crappie and a bigger bonus of some really nice bass! Nothing gets more exciting than hooking a 7 to 9 lb. bass on a 5 ft. ultralite Reel Time Rod with 8 lb. test mono! It also makes me appreciate Shimano's ultimate drag system on their reels!

Needless to say, it has been an exciting June. There's been a lot of personal bests being caught which is always fun! We are using a very slow presentation with just a twitch – but, when they are actively feeding they are hitting on the fall.

The colors working for us have been Boneheads Slimstick in white/chartreuse or black/chartreuse (depends on cloud cover or bright skies) and also their Stump Bug



in silver shad and the Bubba baits in cinnamon/blue or LSU. I'm also loving the Bonehead jig heads. They come in 1/16, 1/8, or 1/4 oz. They have them in white, orange, pink and chartreuse. They also have some with a willow leaf blade. These are all available at Lake Fork Marina – plus many other crappie baits. Actually they pretty much carry ALL your fishing needs and then some. It's an amazing tackle store!

The crappie will start to scatter this time of year so also check the deep water humps and any drop-offs, along with vertical timber, lay downs, creek channel bends or the bridges. Another piece of advice – for a successful day of fishing is to keep moving. We might only get 3 or 4 fish per spot – then we move on to another spot. (Besides that it feels pretty good to move around in this heat for a cool off!)

I have another cautionary note – there has been several reportings of whole giant trees floating near boat lanes. We've had many boats not familiar with Lake Fork's underwater timber running through some very dangerous areas and knocking these big trees over, then they are adrift. I've seen some crazy things out there lately! Even just in front of the marina – they are wide open through the forest of trees there! So please keep your eyes open for any hazards in your path!

A big "Thank You" to all who fished with me this past month. It was so good to see all of you that have fished with me over the years and it was great to meet and fish with the newcomers! My best to you all and stay safe during these crazy times!



Rick Wright won Big Bass in the LFA tournament with this nice bass that weighed 9.12-lbs and measured 24.5". Good catch buddy. C.P.R.



Chuck Riley from Denton, TX., was night fishing with Lake Fork Guide Whitt Smith when he caught this nice hawg. C.P.R.



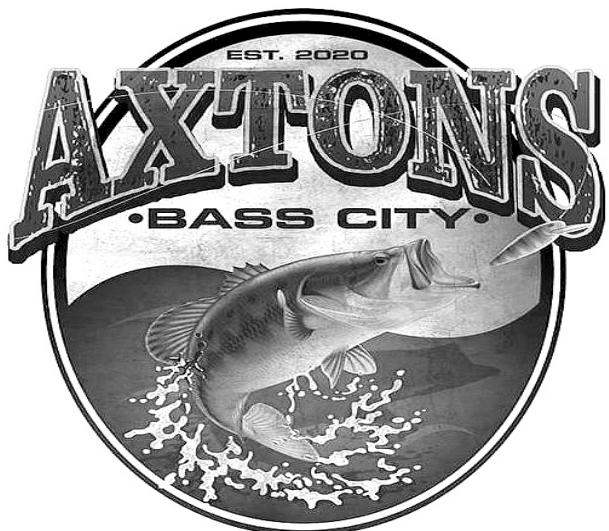
Bob Roberts won Big Bass in the LFA tournament with this nice bass that weighed 9.55-lbs and measured 24.8". Good catch. C.P.R.



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## **Texas State-Fish Art Contest Announces 2020 Winners**

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center is pleased to announce the Texas division of Wildlife Forever's State-Fish Art Contest winners for 2020.

The State-Fish Art Contest is part of an international conservation education program designed to foster youth interest in fish, fisheries, and fishing. The program encourages K-12 students to submit original artwork of any officially designated state fish and an essay or poem about the participant's fish entry, its habitat or efforts to conserve it.

"The State-Fish Art Contest does a tremendous job of exposing students across Texas to the wonders of fish and fisheries resources through the nexus of art," said Tom Lang, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center Director. "We always look forward to this time of year when we are once again amazed by the outstanding work and artistic interpretations of these young Texans."

This year, judges at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center chose the top 12 out of 286 total entries from Texas students. These top 12 works of

art will be featured at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, in the 2021 Texas State-Fish Art Calendar, and at the Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest at Lake Fork November 5-8.

In the K-3 category, winners were: First Place, John Lee of Carrollton; Second Place, Yuna Kim of Allen; Third Place, Anya Hegde of Irving.

In the grades 4-6 category, winners were: First Place, Phillip Kim of Irving; Second Place, Collin Chon of Frisco; Third Place, Taylor Davis of Coppell.

(Continued on Next Page)



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In the grades 7–9 category, winners were: First Place, Amber Li of Coppell; Second Place, Olivia Park of Dallas; Third Place, Arim Jun of Dallas.

In the grades 10–12 category, winners were: First Place, Eunice Kim of Colleyville; Second Place, Madeline Alexander of Keller; Third Place, Juliann Dooley of Warren.

First-place winners

in each of the four age groups advanced to the national level and competed against winners from other states. Three Texas winners were announced as national winners by Wildlife Forever. Amber Li's steelhead trout won first place in the nation for the 7th through 9th grade category. Eunice Kim's cutthroat trout won second place in the 10th through 12th grade division and

Philip Kim's northern pike was selected as the third-place winner in the 4th through 6th grade group. Amber Li's essay, "Steelhead Trout, A Short Biography" also won second place nationwide in the grade 7-9 category. Scholarships for the first, second, and third place Texas winners are provided by the Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest. Scholarships in the grades 10–12 divi-

sion are \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place and \$500 for third place. Awards in the 4–6 and 7–9 grade levels are \$200 for first, \$150 for second, \$100 for third. In the K–3 division awards are \$100 for first, \$75 for second, \$50 for third.

Scholarships for

Texas winners are provided by funds raised through Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest, with additional support for the contest provided by the William E. Armstrong Foundation and Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

"Sponsor support for

the Texas contest has been a key factor in making it the biggest in the nation," said Zoe Ann Stinchcomb, Texas coordinator. "The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center hosts a day of fishing, fun and recognition for the top for-

(See Texas State/Fish...  
Continued on Page 12)

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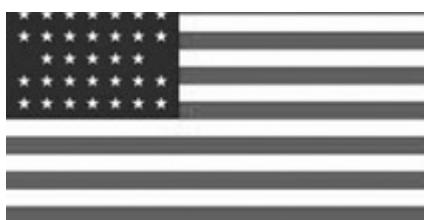
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## Texas State-Fish Art Contest Announces 2020 Winners

*(Continued from Page 11)*

ty winning students, their teachers and families. And each child participating in the Texas contest receives a certificate. None of this could happen without the support of our sponsors."

Stinchcomb also pointed out that research done on the Texas contest shows that participation in the contest makes students more likely to become interested in fishing. "Getting youth involved in the outdoors is a key goal of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and we applaud our sponsors for helping grow the future generation of stewards of our outdoors."

Honorable mentions for Texas students in grades K–3 were awarded to Desmond Low of Irving; Junhee Kim of Flower Mound; Eddie Li of Bellaire; Seha (Stella) Jeong of Lewisville; Emma Nguyen of Southlake; Crystal Shen of Coppell; and Addyson Villarreal of Crosby.

Honorable mentions in grades 4–6 were awarded to: Nysa Nayak of Irving; Gracie Whisneant of Silsbee; Jonah Kim of Flower Mound; Sanjitha Yeruva of Irving; Victoria Jung of McKinney; Stephanie Lee of Frisco; and Caitlyn Nguyen of Southlake.

Honorable mentions for grades 7–9 were: Lydia Harris of Corpus Christi; Margo Johnson of

Corsicana; Alice Won of Flower Mound; Saanvi Mhatre of Houston; Jamie Yoon of Flower Mound; Meera Thamaran of Coppell; and Cindy Wang of Irving.

Honorable mentions for grades 10–12 were: Marvin Deckert of Fred; Stacy Hong of Irving; Yiwei Shen of Coppell; Victoria Gore of Fred; Alexis Hollyfield of Warren; Zoë Montgomery of Warren; and Michelle Huang of Coppell.

Educators who wish to have their students enter the 2021 contest can find entry forms, rules and guidelines and more online. A lesson plan can also be found that offers interdisciplinary curriculum including lessons and activities, a species identification section profiling each state fish, a glossary and student worksheets. Learn more at [www.wildlifeforever.org](http://www.wildlifeforever.org).

The State-Fish Art Contest is a project of Wildlife Forever. Located in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, Wildlife Forever is a nonprofit multispecies conservation organization dedicated to conserving America's wildlife heritage. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to "on-the-ground" efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restora-

tion and enhancement, land acquisition, research and management of fish and wildlife populations.

To view or download high resolution images of the winning artwork, visit the 2020 Fish Art Contest Album on the TPWD Flickr page.



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# "Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

## SUMMERTIME BASS FISHING!!!

Hello friends -- welcome to Lake Fork during the month of July.

July offers some exceptional offshore bass fishing here in north east Texas and Lake Fork is the place to be to catch a giant like this one.

Lake Fork is home to 54 of the states overall largest bass and 8 of the states top 10 record bass thus making it the number one lake in the nation. The lake sets up very nice for offshore structure fishing and the

one major variable each day is the wind. Remember this statement, "wind is your friend." It is most important to use the wind and not run from it. Pay attention to where its blowing and how the wind blown current can specifically effect the structure you are fishing. Bass will set up accordingly on wind blown points, humps, ledges, road beds, tree lines and yes most importantly SHELL BEDS!!

Shell beds are areas that hold a higher source of concentrated plankton. Plankton is the food for the shad and shad are the food for bass. Think of a shell bed area as a deer feeder. Bass will visit these feeding grounds very nomadicly, meaning whenever they desire. The raw summer heat brings hotter water temperatures which will raise the metabolism and digestive rate of the bass causing them to feeding several times a day. Be there at the the right time and you can re-

ally beat them up. If you would like to learn more about finding these shell bed areas, boat positioning and baits of choice please contact me, Mike McFarland "The Lake Fork guide"!

Thank you and I wish you all great fishing.



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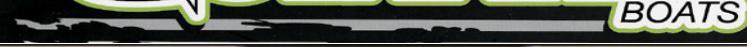
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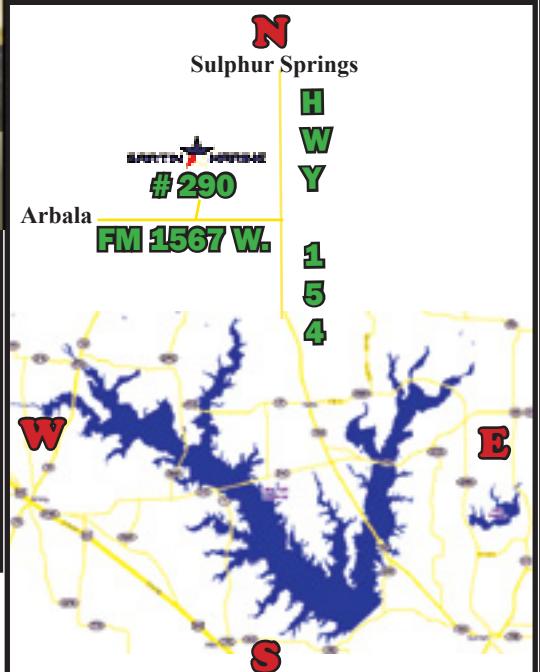


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# Bassmasters of Lake Fork Open Tournament Held June 20th

By Don Hampton

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork held their 39th Semi Annual Bass Tournament on June 20th hosted out of Oak Ridge Marina. Beginning the tournament the weather was fierce with rain and high winds. Typical Texas weather -- it didn't remain that way for long. Drizzle kept most of the morning cool but by noon the sun was bright and the humidity level was high.

Weigh-in for the tournament was held at 3:30 pm. Most anglers reported catching some good fish but there were no over the slots brought to the scales. Five places were paid for heavy stringer and three places for Big Bass.

Winning 1st place and 2nd Big Bass was Kenny LaDuke; 2nd place and Big Bass was Joe Carathers; 3rd place Jody Warren; 4th place and 3rd Big Bass was Ray Vineyard; and 5th place was Louie Pope.

This being a fund raiser tournament for the bass club there were raffle tickets sold during the event. Many of the anglers that didn't receive a check took home some fine prizes they won ranging from rods, tackle packs, gift cards, and much more. Many of the items in the drawing were donated by members of the club. We would especially like to thank Oak Ridge Marina, Sartin Marine, Rogers and O'Brian, Service Marine, Custom Angle Rods, The Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament, and Fisherman's Guide News.

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 boat-

**Fish Friendly**

ers 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.

You can visit our website at [www.texastrails-bassmasters.com](http://www.texastrails-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. Their next tournament will be on Lake Hawkins on July 11th and they will be putting in at the ramp by Little Italy Italian Restaurant.

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!

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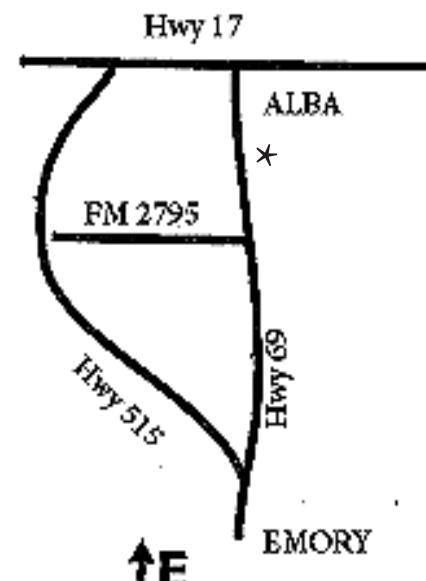
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## Increased Black Bear Activity Observed

Once considered to be extinct in Texas, black bears have steadily recolonized the Big Bend region and other areas of west and southwest Texas since the last decade of the twentieth century. The natural restoration of populations in west Texas has recently resulted in bears being spotted in more populated areas. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists say the dry spring weather conditions have left bears on the move in search of food leading to an increase in sightings in the area.

"There has been a flurry of bear activity in the Trans-Pecos recently. Reports of black bears wandering into Fort Davis, Alpine and Fort Stockton were received recently,"

said Michael Janis, Trans-Pecos District Leader.

Bears have an excellent sense of smell and much of their behavior is driven by their appetite. These natural characteristics can, however, become a problem when bears find an easy meal from a human-related source such as garbage, pet food or corn from a deer feeder. If over time a bear continually finds food around humans, it can become habituated, losing its fear of people and creating a potentially dangerous situation.

TPWD biologists say education is the best way to prevent human-bear conflicts.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure when it comes to preventing conflicts with bears,"

said Janis.

Residents in areas where bears have been spotted should secure anything that could be a potential attractant (e.g. garbage, pet food, bird and deer feeders, etc.). Residents can also choose to invest in bear proof garbage dumpsters, a recourse that many communities in the western U.S. have deployed to reduce or prevent bear encounters. Double-bagging garbage to reduce odors and keeping bags in a secure location until the morning of trash pickup are also encouraged practices.

Similarly, TPWD biologists recommend feeding pets inside or limiting pet food portions to an amount that can be consumed completely at each feeding.

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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

July has arrived. Thanks to some rain showers Lake Fork is still at full pool or close to it. Our association was busy in June.

Fingerling Release- June 10th Texas Parks and Wildlife and Lake Fork Sportsman's Association worked together using our release boat and their boat to release 250,000 Bass Fingerlings into Lake Fork. Thank you to Ed Swenson, Bruce & Cheryl Allen, Ken Jones and a couple of his friends for volunteering to release these Bass Fingerlings to help populate our lake.

Bulrush Planting – June 11th Lake Fork Sportsman's Association also used the release boat to plant 54 Bulrush plants with our groups volunteers in the Glades area and at Popes Landing. Texas Parks & Wildlife also had a crew and one boat to assist. Our association still has not been able to meet yet since March of this year. We have been sending a membership news letter to all members monthly to keep them informed of our projects and updates.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Departments Inland Fisheries Region 2-Tyler Texas- Jacob Norman District supervisor gave us the following information on a project to monitor bass movements and behavior.

Lake Fork went through its worst drought on record from 2010-2015, resulting in 1000's of acres of

lost shallow water habitat (hydrilla, coontail, milfoil, American lotus, willows and buttonbush, etc.). The lost habitat had a direct effect on fish recruitment, and undoubtedly resulted in weaker year classes over that time frame. As Fork came out of the drought in 2015, the term "new lake effect" was the buzz throughout much of the Fork community. The idea of abundant newly flooded habitat (mostly willow and buttonbush) and rebounding vegetation around the lake, and subsequent boom year classes of fish had everyone, myself included, excited. However, by 2019 the recent strong year classes and abundant small fish had not seemingly translated into more fish in the slot (16-24 inches), and anglers were begging to question where these smaller fish are going. Despite angler catch rates suggesting a reduced abundance of slot fish our electrofishing data had remained consistent. This led into the idea of tracking fish and monitoring both their movements and behavior over the course of 1-2 years.

This study goes against the grain of traditional fish management and research. Historically, most studies were designed with the intent of gaining knowledge to better manage a fish population (improve size structure, abundance, growth rates, harvest, etc.). Both the Toledo Bend and Lake Fork studies are focused much more on fish behavior and how that information can directly help anglers and potentially guide them in how they approach fishing the lake. Further, there

has been very little work done investigating how routine noises such as a trolling motor or outboard motor idling by, the clicking sound of sonar or even the noises and actions of various lures potentially reposition or scatter fish. Knowledgeable anglers will likely tell you they see these behaviors in fish often, but very little research has been able to physically track fish and document these behaviors.

Each fish had a small (16 grams) radio transmitter surgically implanted in its abdomen. Learning and practicing this procedure was a fun and nerve wrecking component of this project, as there are several steps and precautions we follow to ensure a successful surgery. The bass will be tracked at least every two weeks by boat using a handheld radio receiver and antenna. When a fish is detected through our radio receiver, we will first try to pinpoint its location (within 10 yards) and create a waypoint. If physically visible, we will record the habitat it's in or near (vegetation, standing timber, brush pile, etc.) We then will attempt to locate the fish with live-scanning sonar (Garmin Panoptix LiveScope) to determine if the fish is by itself, or part of a school and if the fish is suspended in the water column, or bottom oriented. We will also record any structure the fish appears to be relating to (shoreline, point, hump, creek bed, roadbed, bridge, flat, open water, etc.). This data will allow us to

(See Lake Fork Sportsman's.....Continued on Page 21)



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**"The Summer Pattern Is Here!"** (Continued from Page 6)

will catch their share of fish but the spook bags the big one's. This bite only lasts about an hour but it is well worth being on the water early as daylight has it's own majesty. Once this bite stops, move the boat out to about 15ft and throw a C-rig, squarebill or jig up to the 5-7ft range and work it back slowly. This will account for extra bites to fulfill the morning. A Texas rig blue fleck power worm fished with a 3/8 ounce tungsten weight in that same depth range will also deliver some rod bending results.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in July 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 dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/davidoziolakeforkguide>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Custom 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."



**Josh Hartsell with  
David Ozio**



**Zack Turner with  
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I'm pretty sure God is telling  
me to go catch a bass



**Gilbert Little &  
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## Lake Fork Sportsman's (Continued from Page 19)

tease out factors such as overall habitat/structure selection or avoidance and the average distance from shore an individual fish was throughout the year. Lastly, we will continue to track the fish with both our radio receiver and live-scanning sonar, to monitor how the fish reacts to boat noises (trolling motor, outboard, sonar pings) and if possible, how the fish reacts to direct fishing pressure (attempting to catch the fish). Some of the latter data, especially how the fish reacts to angling, will be dependent upon the fish not instantly relocating as we approach it.

The results and future outcomes are more focused on informing our anglers than addressing management concerns or actions. Technology in the fishing industry has drastically improved and I have no doubt that has helped anglers dial in their fishing success even more, but there isn't much traditional management can do about that. In the end, my goal is to provide the best fishing opportunities possible for our anglers. I think studying the actual behavior of bass and passing this information on to the anglers is a great way to do that.

If an angler catches one of our fish, they are encouraged to take a few pictures, record the external tag number (pink tag near dorsal fin) and release the fish. They can contact me directly on my cell phone (618-531-8123) and report the catch. However, if

the fish is legal to harvest or retain (< 16 inches in this case) it is entirely up to the angler whether they release it or not. We do ask that regardless of releasing, harvesting or retaining the fish for a tournament, the angler contacts me at the number above. If harvested

I would like to attempt to recover the transmitter and if the fish is retained for a tournament, I would like to make attempts to release the fish near where it was caught, if feasible.

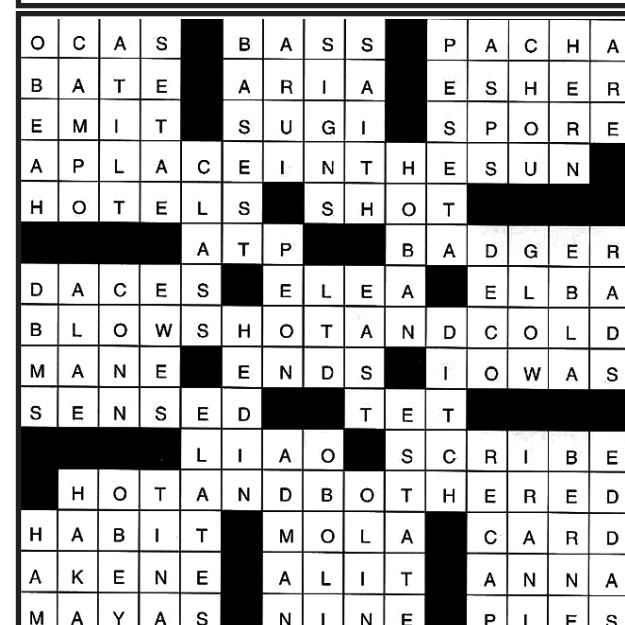
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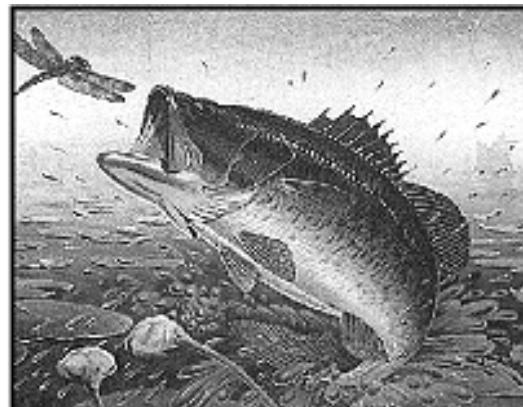
#### *Supply Find*

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

NOTEBOOK  
PENCIL  
PEN  
PAPER  
RULER  
ERASER  
TEXT

SCISSOR  
STAPLER  
PAPER CLIP  
GLUE  
BACKPACK  
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A	P	A	P	E	R	R	F	E	P	R	S
P	I	C	E	N	O	M	E	L	P	C	F
F	O	L	D	E	R	A	T	E	I	E	R
E	C	O	L	U	E	R	A	S	P	N	U
C	O	K	P	P	R	B	S	R	A	R	L
U	N	O	T	E	B	O	O	K	Y	S	I
E	A	E	L	N	R	U	P	C	A	N	C
R	T	U	I	G	C	O	I	A	S	P	N
A	R	A	S	Y	P	L	B	P	L	V	E
S	P	N	T	C	R	K	E	K	E	W	P
E	A	A	A	E	C	R	U	C	M	A	K
R	N	R	P	O	M	E	L	A	A	W	S
V	N	R	L	I	S	I	N	B	R	R	G
G	L	U	E	A	E	L	P	T	X	E	T
P	R	E	R	Z	E	L	S	A	C	M	M
M	I	P	I	L	C	R	E	P	A	P	V



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## Game Warden Field Notes

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

**--Right Place, Right Time--** A Hardin County game warden was patrolling Village Creek by boat when he came across a woman in distress at just the right time. Two ladies had been paddling in two separate canoes when one of the women flipped over in deep water with a strong current and couldn't get loose from the trees or get her belongings out of the canoe. The warden gave her his life jacket and instructed

her to swim away from the canoe and move downstream to a sandbar. He then grabbed the canoe and pulled it in his patrol boat and met both ladies downstream at the sandbar to make sure they were ok. He retrieved the lifejacket that she lost and gave it back to her and they were on their way again.

**--Pinocchio and Pinocchietta--** A Hardin County game warden wrapped an investigation that began when the warden was looking for information on social media about a possible stolen boat. It turned out that the boat wasn't stolen, but

one of the individuals he was investigating had posted a photo last November of his fiancé posing with a white-tailed doe she had harvested. The warden checked his records and saw that the woman had purchased her hunting license at a store near her home the same day as the post, but at 7 p.m. which was later than the social media post. Further investigation revealed that the deer was killed on a ranch in Real County and the warden enlisted the help of a Real County game warden to check the logbooks at the

(Continued on Page 24)

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## 'Curry' on with Flavorful Bistro-Style Cooking

By Sue Hampton

With the arrival of summer fun and entertaining, most people switch to lighter, more seasonal dishes that don't take long to prepare. After all, when the party's going on outside, who wants to be stuck indoors minding the stove? And despite its popularity, there's more to summer cooking than barbecue fare. This is a great time of year to experiment with new flavors and recipes.

Ideal for a quick supper or any festive get-together, add some zip to your summer menu



**Seared Curried Eggplant "Steaks" with spicy yogurt sauce make a great addition to any summer menu!**

with this recipe for seared eggplant with spicy yogurt sauce.

### Seared Curried Eggplant With Spicy Yogurt Sauce

(These eggplant "steaks" are a treat for summer menus. Serve them over your favorite rice!)

2 eggplants cut lengthwise into  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thick slices

Kosher salt

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup rice vinegar

3 cloves garlic

1 tablespoon peeled, chopped fresh ginger

2 shallots, chopped

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup plus 2 tablespoons vegetable oil

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup coconut milk

1-1/2 tablespoons curry powder, toasted

2 teaspoons chile paste

1 teaspoon chopped cilantro

Spicy Yogurt Sauce

2 cloves garlic, chopped

1 tablespoon peeled, chopped fresh ginger

1 cup plain yogurt

1 teaspoon ground toasted cumin seeds

1 teaspoon chile paste plus additional, as needed

Soy sauce

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup olive oil

To prepare the eggplant, salt the slices and let drain on paper towels for about ten minutes. Put the vinegar, garlic, ginger and shallots in

a medium bowl and stir. Add the oil and coconut milk and whisk to mix. Add the curry, chile paste, and cilantro and mix well. Place the eggplant in a large bowl and pour the marinade over it. Marinate for at least 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, prepare the sauce. Put the garlic, ginger and yogurt in a medium bowl and whisk together. Add the remaining ingredients and mix well. Place in the refrigerator until ready to use.

Preheat the oven to 450F. Heat one tablespoon of the oil in a large nonstick sauté pan over high heat until smoking hot. Add as many eggplant slices as will fit in the pan without overcrowding. Brown the slices well on both sides until the eggplant is tender, two to three minutes per side. Transfer to a plate and place in the oven to keep warm, then repeat with the remaining eggplant. If needed, add the remaining oil during the cooking process.

Place the eggplant on a serving platter, drizzle with the sauce and serve.

**Tip:** To toast spices, place the whole or ground spices in a dry skillet over medium-low heat and toast while stirring continuously. Toast whole spices about two minutes, ground spices about three to five minutes, or until they begin to brown and are aromatic. Remove from the heat and set aside to cool

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## Game Warden Field Notes

*(Continued from Page 22)*

ranch. When the Hardin County game warden interviewed the couple, they were adamant that they had purchased the hunting license before they had gone on their week-long trip to the Hill Country and denied buying when they returned. The warden explained to the couple that he had time and date stamped information about when the license had been purchased and they had posted the picture of a harvested deer in Real County the same day she purchased a license in Hardin County. The couple still wasn't convinced, so the warden went to the store where the license was purchased, and the loss prevention manager looked up the transaction. As expected, the video showed the couple together at the store at 7 p.m. purchasing the hunting license. After showing them the pictures of themselves from the video, they admitted to buying the license when they returned from their trip. Citations for taking a white-tailed deer without a hunting license and restitution are being filed. Case pending.

--**Losing all my Cool**-- A Polk County game warden was checking fishermen on a nearby shoreline for freshwater fishing compliance when he spotted a man emerging from under a bridge with a pole and tackle box. When the warden asked if he had a fishing license, the man said he didn't need one because he wasn't fishing. The warden showed the man the fresh bait and wa-

ter dripping off the hook and asked if he would like to start over. The man then confessed to fishing, not having a license and being on probation. When asked if he had any weapons or illegal narcotics, the man said he didn't want to go to jail and admitted to having marijuana in his car. The warden started to do a pat down search when the man turned and tried to distract the warden, then confessed to possibly having cocaine in his possession. The warden found multiple folded dollar bills containing a white powdery substance. A Polk County Sheriff's Office Narcotics and Probation Officer was contacted and took over the case. Charges pending.

--**Guided by Gobbledygook**-- Around 11 p.m., Schleicher County dispatch contacted a local game warden about a 911 call from two lost turkey hunters who stayed out too late and couldn't find their vehicle. The warden called the hunter's cell phone trying to find their location, but they were in a ranch they didn't know the name or

location of and were shown where to park by an out of town guide that was paid in cash and whose first name was all they knew. Due to poor cell service, the call was dropped so the warden texted them asking them to drop a pin of their location and call him back. The warden and two Schleicher County Deputies responded to the location where the 911 call was made, but the hunters had left. They turned on their emergency lights and sirens hoping to reach the hunters through the PA speakers. At 12:45 a.m., the hunters found cell service and called back. Their guide sent the pair a pin of his location and told them to walk to him. This pin was in the opposite direction of law enforcement and four miles away through three additional ranches. The warden confirmed that the hunters could hear the sirens and told them to walk to his location. Around 2 a.m., two very tired and dehydrated turkey hunters emerged from the woods and were given wa-

*(Continued on Next Page)*



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ter. The hunters described the road they drove to the ranch they were hunting on and found out the ranch they were currently on was not where the hunt started. The hunters went through the unlocked, shared neighboring gate thinking it was a pasture gate. The hunters finally contacted their guide who was driving every county road and highway in the area and not at the location of his dropped pin. The warden coordinated with the guide to pick an intersection for them to meet and the hunters were dropped off with the guide around 3 a.m. One citation for no hunting license was issued and strong encouragement to learn the full names of guides and precise locations of any future hunt.

--FIN-itO-- Two Harris County game wardens were searching the web when they saw a restaurant advertising shark's fin and shredded chicken soup on their menu. The wardens visited the location and inspected the restaurant's aquatic resources and invoices. During the inspection, the wardens found what appeared to be frozen shark fins inside one of the freezers. One of the wardens asked the owner about the item in the freezer and they confirmed it was shark fin and showed the warden to a near-by stove where sharks fin soup was being cooked for personal consumption. Shortly after, the second warden found another

piece of shark's fin wrapped in cellophane in a near-by freezer. The owner again insisted that it was for personal consumption. The warden then picked up a menu off a nearby table and pointed to the soup section which listed sharks fin soup for sale. All sharks fin was seized, and charges are being filed with the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

--Oy(ster) Vey-- Three Harris County game wardens were inspecting commercial oyster on Galveston Bay when they came across a boat that had a sack of oysters with 15.29% undersized--three times the allowed limit. When asked about what they were using to measure the oysters, the captain said "Nothing." This was the captain's second time being cited for possessing undersized oysters. Approximately 1,100 pounds of oyster were returned to the reef.

--Road Hunting is Not OK--A Red River County game warden received a report about possible road hunting that had just occurred. According to a witness, the vehicle had an Oklahoma license plate. After receiving information about where the road hunting had happened, the warden set up and waited at the intersection with the only routes back to Oklahoma. A short time later, a vehicle matching the witnesses description approached the intersection and the warden con-

ducted a traffic stop. The passenger admitted to shooting feral hogs from the road on a private property and was taken to the Red River County Jail where the appropriate road hunting charges were filed. The rifle, equipped with night vision and an attached spotlight, was seized. Cases pending.

--Blinded by the Lights-- Two Limestone County game wardens responded to a vehicle accident east of Mexia involving a vehicle overturned in a creek bed with a man trapped inside. Local authorities were able to safely remove the driver from the vehicle and wardens were assisting with traffic control on the road. While traffic was being safely guided, the wardens saw an SUV trying to go around their patrol vehicle, ignoring the emergency lights and roadblock. The wardens signaled the man to stop and when they approached the vehicle, saw that the driver had bloodshot eyes and was slurring his speech. There were also several alcoholic beverages in the vehicle. The driver was detained and admitted to drinking several alcoholic beverages. After failing a field sobriety test, he was placed under arrest for Driving While Intoxicated and transported to the Limestone County Jail for booking.

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## Lake Fork Tournament Schedule July thru Sept. 2020



**July**

- July 4 ~ Fish For Life Veteran Benefit  
Lake Fork Marina
- July 5 ~ JC Outdoors Solo  
Minnow Bucket
- July 18 ~ Media Teams  
Minnow Bucket
- July 19 ~ Mega Bass  
Lake Fork Marina



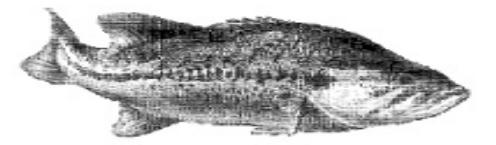
**August**

## No Tournaments on Schedule



**September**

- Sept. 9 ~ JC Outdoors Championship  
Minnow Bucket
- Sept. 18 - 20 ~ Sealy Big Bass Splash  
Lake Fork Marina
- Sept. 26 ~ JC Outdoors Fall Teams  
Minnow Bucket
- Sept. 27 ~ JC Outdoors Solo Champ.  
Minnow Bucket

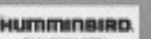


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9th place.....	\$300
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