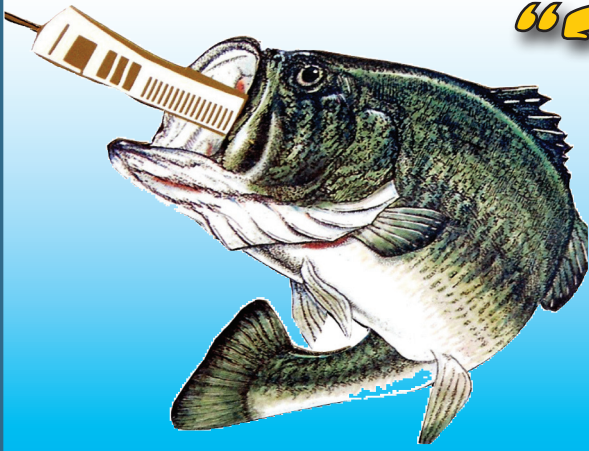


LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas"



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1 Section

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Vol. 21

August, 2020

No. 252



Tommy Ellis from Athens, Louisiana beat the heat and over 1,800 other anglers to win the 12th Annual Mega Bass Tournament on Lake Fork with this nice 10.49-pound bass. For his great catch he took home \$15,000 in hourly and a new Skeeter ZX 200, powered by a Yamaha SHO 200.

12th Annual Mega Bass Tournament on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

Hot, hot, and hotter is how you could describe the 12th Annual Mega Bass on Lake Fork. This applies not only to the weather but also the fishing. With this being the highest paying single day tournament in the country put on by BassChamps, a large attendance was anticipated.

In the midst of the Corona Virus pandemic, BassChamps did an excellent job in following the health guidelines set by Governor Abbott. Anglers were encouraged to enter online to keep the lines down and anglers in the weigh-ins were kept at a social distance. To discourage spectators, no seating arrangements were provided. There was

no elaborate show presentation as in the past. Over 1,800 anglers, many from other states participating, they were more interested in fishing Lake Fork than being entertained. With the safety factors adhered to the T-Shirt Bonus hours were suspended but with the amount of entries, BassChamps added two additional pays per hour.

Fishing on Lake Fork was phenomenal with the weather being as warm as it was. Anglers woke that morning to 84-degree weather, and it peaked about noon at 96 degrees.

Taking in consideration the slot limit on Lake Fork being anything between 16" and 24" many

(See Mega Bass.....Continued on Page 4)



Bob Wallace caught this nice long bass night fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.



Alex Hoyes from Highland Park caught his personal best fishing Lake Fork with guide Danny Holder. C.P.R.



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Lake Fork

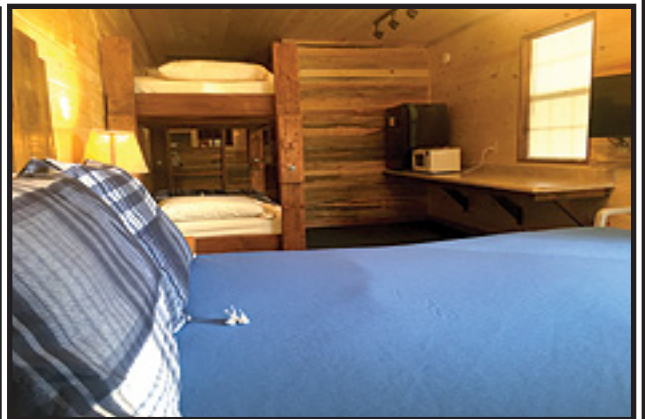
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"If it ain't big, it ain't Lake Fork!"

By Don Hampton

Everything is big on Lake Fork. That could be the reason one of Bubba's New Year's Resolutions was to lose some weight. He was not too excited about that one though. He likes his fried fish, chick fried steaks, mashed potatoes and gravy. Bubba is also kind of proud of his size. He says, "People can see I'm healthy and with my longer arms I can make longer casts!" Well, that's Bubba for you...always looking for the positive in a situation. He even wants to get a bumper sticker for his truck that says, "Made in Texas By Texans". His truck was built in Detroit so we know he's not referring to that! Big is the reason Bubba chose to live on Lake Fork – for the big bass and I do believe for the big stories and the number of restaurants that have "All You Can Eat", while you tell these exaggerations!

Bubba has a tendency to tell a few tall-tales himself. With him when he is exaggerating a story he does it in full jest. Fishing is just too much fun to fib about it. Bubba's stories range from the bass he caught that was so big, that when he pulled it out of the water, the lake level dropped two feet or the one that was so big it struck at his boat thinking it was a topwater lure. My very favorite one he told me was about the one he hooked under the 154 bridge. This hawg was so big and strong it pulled him from the bridge to the dam. It was so strong and fast he was passing other boats that were on plane. When the fish got him in deeper water, he had to cut his line because he was afraid the fish was going

to pull his boat under like a bobber on a cane pole.

One of Bubba's favorite past times is sitting around making up exaggerated funny fishing stories. It is like some of the jokes he makes up. He'll practice them on Bubbette until she gets so tired of them she runs off to WalMart and then he rehearses them to himself. When he gets to a point where he laughs at them, then look out world here they come! With his stories a person knows they are all in jest and only for the fun of telling. You know right away his stories are literally, "unbelievably funny".

With some anglers and their fish stories you can just watch and listen to Bubba to determine if he believes them. If you or someone else is telling Bubba a fish story that he just isn't quite buying, you can tell right off. If his only comment during the story is "Right" or "Really", he isn't going for it! If he finds the story just too unbelievable, "Right" and "Really" will be long and drawn out with too many syllables in the pronunciation. So much so he sounds like he is doing an impression of Dr. Evil in the Austin Powers movie.

A perfect example of one of these stories is when an angler, (we won't say his profession), told Bubba he caught a double-digit bass everyday for 28 days in a row fishing Lake Fork. All Bubba said was "Riiiggghht!"

What Bubba really wanted for his 25th Anniversary he didn't get! But, he had already figured out that Bubbette wouldn't be able to find it, so he wasn't too disappointed. He wanted one of those fancy reels that some of these anglers must have in their possession. The kind

of reel that has the built-in scale and measuring tape. He has some nice reels that Bubbette has bought him on special occasions but none that tell him how long or heavy the fish was that broke off.

Bubba knows these reels must exist, if only for the most elite fishermen, because otherwise how could they tell these stories with such preciseness. One angler told Bubba, "I hooked an 11.4 pound bass over 24" but never got it to the surface before it wrapped me on a stump and broke my line!" Bubba's reply, "Riiiggghht!" Another angler told Bubba just after a tournament, "I almost had you beat! I had an 8-pound 10-ounce bass all the way up to the boat before it broke my line!" Bubba's reply, "Riiiggghht! You want to see my check?"

Bubba has decided these anglers must have one of those fancy reels that tells exactly how much a fish weighs upon hook-up! He's weighed a lot of fish in his time but he couldn't tell you exactly what a fish weighed on the end of his line while its still in the water.

After much thought and pondering on Bubba's part he came to a conclusion. "These big fish tales are like big people getting their pictures taken. Each one will have you convinced that a photograph adds 10 pounds to their weight!"

But truth or not, Bubba finds this all very entertaining! He told me the most entertaining are when some of the guys tell him about a big fish they caught. Then they forgot they told him about that catch and tell him again later. Well, by then the fish has gained another 2-pounds. All Bubba can say is "Reeeaaalllly!"

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Mega Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 1)

anglers were disappointed at close catches. Some were just over 16" and others were reported being caught close to 24". All the anglers knew close would not pay them money but cost them money if they brought one in the slot to the weigh-in.

This tournament truly goes down in the history books. The lightest bass under 16" to receive a check weighed 2.23-pounds with the highest weighing 2.82-pounds.

What really made history in this tournament was the 22 over the slot bass that were brought in. This many had never been weighed in a

single day since the upper end of the slot went to 24".

It started in the 8 o'clock hour when Jerry Dean II from McKinney, Texas weighed in a 10.02-pound bass and Shawn Wasurick from Greenville, Texas weighed in a 6.46-pound bass. In the 9 o'clock hour there were three overs brought to the scales; Steve Trimble from Duncanville, Texas weighed in a 9.10-pound; Danny Kraatz from Azle, Texas weighed in an 8.35-pound; and George Shippey from Mount Pleasant, Texas weighed in a 7.37-pound. In the 10 o'clock hour

there was only one weighed in and that was by Joshua Pearce from Murchison, Texas with an 8.98-pound. During the 11 o'clock hour there was one brought in by Brad Rogers from Yantis, Texas weighing 8.63-pounds. During the 12 o'clock hour there were four overs brought in. Tommy Ellis from Athens, Louisiana with a 10.49-pound; Darrell Dodd from Como, Texas with a 9.81; Penny Linkinhoker from Kilgore, Texas with a 7.84-pound; and Mark Shores from Irving, Texas with a 6.39-pound. In the 1 o'clock hour there were

(Continued on Next Page)



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Henry from Milledgeville, Georgia with a 7.70-pound; Michael Sierra from San Antonio, Texas with a 7.48-pound; and Brandon Marks from Buna, Texas with a 7.24-pound.

The heaviest bass of each hour took home a check for \$15,000 and 12th Place each hour a check for \$200 with big money in between. Tommy Ellis' great catch of 10.49-pounds held up as the heaviest of the tournament winning him not only the \$15,000 check but also a new fully outfitted Skeeter ZX200 powered by a Yamaha 200 SHO.

BassChamps puts on some really great tournaments around the state. If you would like

Watch and come fish their Berkley 15th Annual Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork on October 17th and 18th.

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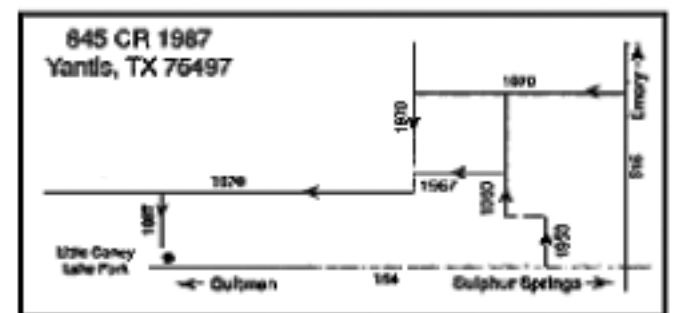
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"Summer pattern is back to normal!"

By David Ozio

"Seems like this summer is somewhat back to normal compared to this time last year. Surface temps are much higher than last summer and bass catching is following suit. We recently witnessed the rescheduled Mega Bass Tournament on July 19th where they landed 22 overs for the day. That's a lot for one day but you do have to consider there were around 1800 anglers. Nonetheless, the fishing was good which was demonstrated by the number of heavy two pound class bass that made it to the stage. Quit impressive! Lake Fork in full swing, ya gotta love it!

Lake Fork is currently about seven inches under pool level and water clarity is incredibly good across the expanse of

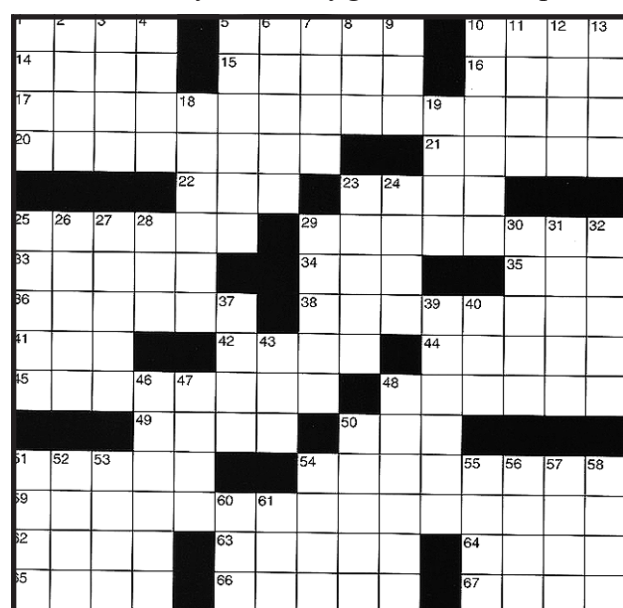
the impoundment. Surface temps have been ranging from 87-91 degrees recently and these extremes have recently delegated where the bass have been holding with regard to structure. Shallow water temps have been much higher based upon lake location. I saw a 9.25 just the other day in the back of one creek. Even with the surface temps are in the upper range, bass seem to be holding on the bottom relating to points, pond dams, ridges, roadbeds and hard structures. As of this writing I have been catching bass shallow early and then fading back to the 20-26 ft range on the same structures to tangle with the bruisers. Targeting these fish is the directive and your electronics will be the tool to getting the job done. I suspect as we roll into August the thermocline will rise up in the water column causing the bass to suspend. With the water temps being this warm at the moment, I really could see this happening at any time. Break lines have been the key to date as the big green fish just refuse to move up onto the tops of the humps and ridges. Could it happen in August, stay tuned.

Morning and late evening bass are no huge challenge as they will hit topwater baits along with the squarebill crankbaits. Shad colors are always recommended and focus these efforts on main lake points. This action will be short lived as the bite dissipates as the sun starts to peek over the tree lines. This is when you shift gears and tie on a deeper diving crankbait and back out on these points and focus on



the 8-15ft depth range. Same colors apply during this time of the year and covering water will be the ticket to success. Once mid morning is upon you, this will be the time to break out the Carolina and Texas rigs to probe the 20-26ft depths using any plastic of your choice. Big worms usually will get the job done and I favor any version of red during the summer months. Redbug is hard to beat especially if you see the bass on the screen and decide to tackle them using a drop shot. I opt for 12lb line on the drop shot in this situation and use a 3/8 ounce weight on calm days, 1/2 ounce weight on the windy outings. If you are strictly after the biggest fish in any school, break out the one ounce football jig with matching trailer and hang on for dear life

(See Summer pattern
Continued on Page 20)



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Pea stem (British) | 38. Act of facilitating |
| 5. Inner circle | 41. Anger |
| 10. Slip | 42. This (Spanish) |
| 14. Phil ____, former CIA officer | 44. Pierce |
| 15. Winged | 45. Takes a breath |
| 16. Knitting stitch | 48. Cabs |
| 17. College-football favorites | 49. Fertilizer |
| 20. Most bloodless | 50. Gash |
| 21. Heron genus | 51. Samurai clan |
| 22. Predict | 54. Continually nagging |
| 23. Concern | 59. Bowl games |
| 25. Blare | 62. Basics |
| 29. Being airborne | 63. Polish city |
| 33. Nocturnal lemur | 64. Hebrew calendar month |
| 34. Cause to end | 65. Enlarge a hole |
| 35. New location (abbr.) | 66. Indian instrument |
| 36. Bobs up | 67. ____ Redgrave, actress |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Door catch | 30. Ancient Celtic tribe |
| 2. Water (Spanish) | 31. Present occasion |
| 3. Limbs | 32. Barriers |
| 4. Core | 37. Dried-up |
| 5. Business | 39. Triumphal |
| 6. "____ Lady," Cather novel (two words) | 40. Take to the limit |
| 7. Vascular tissue | 43. Body of water |
| 8. Consumed | 46. Insistence on traditional correctness |
| 9. Fifth sign of the zodiac | 47. Asian nation |
| 10. Scanter | 48. "____ & Hooch," 1989 film |
| 11. Scandinavian city | 50. Appendage, pincer |
| 12. Strong impulse | 51. Despot |
| 13. Ancient Greek city | 52. French river |
| 18. Carbohydrate | 53. South American Indian |
| 19. Raw | 54. Blemish |
| 23. Hip joints | 55. Prosperity |
| 24. Bird class | 56. ____ 500, car race |
| 25. ____ voyant | 57. Interpret |
| 26. Peter ____, actor | 58. Wading bird |
| 27. Ram | 60. Runs PCs |
| 28. Wrong | 61. Indicates near |
| 29. Small amounts (Scottish) | |

Answers on Page 21

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Online Education Expanded as Anglers Take to the Water Across Texas

With more Texans heading to the water during quarantine to recreate and physical distance naturally, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has seen an uptick in fishing license purchases compared to this time last year. Recognizing this, TPWD has expanded its outdoor education curriculum to include online classes open to new anglers wanting to learn about fishing before heading to Texas waterways.

"The TPWD Angler Education Program is rising to the challenge to find new ways to deliver valuable educa-

tional content in online and safe physical distancing settings," said Karen Marks, Aquatic Education Manager for TPWD. "The agency is teaming up with Fishing's Future to provide online Instructor workshops for teachers and youth group leaders. Volunteer Instructors are also offering online fly fishing and basic fishing classes that are an interactive online experience class and include Basic Knots, Fish ID, Basic Tackle. Online Scout programs include the Cub Scout "A Bear Goes Fishing" classes."

The aquatic education

program typically has 600 volunteers each year that contribute 20,000 plus hours and reach more than 65,000 people per year. From April to June of this year, about 60 percent of classes were conducted online while other events were small and hosted by nature centers, parks, and scout camps. Classes ranged from basic angler skills, to fly tying and fly-casting clinics, and a class on fishing for flounder.

"For the in-person events, safe physical distancing practices are put into place and great effort is made to secure

plenty of equipment, so no one has to share and pass items around," said Marks. "In addition, exceptional care is taken to prepare a safe place to hold the class, including vigorous cleaning of the space and equipment prior to

and after the class to disinfect."

TPWD offers several additional resources to provide fun, high quality fishing opportunities to anglers of all skill levels and ages, including:

(1) Fishing 101 - Learn

the basics of fishing with tips and a variety of videos. Resources for how to get started, safety, supplies and gear, casting and baiting and cleaning and storing fish can be

(See Online Education....
Continued on Page 10)

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"The Moon Report"

"Kids and Crappie"

By Terri Moon

Well this has been a month that has really touched my heart! If you notice, all of my photos this month are focused on all the kids that came to fish with me – and, these weren't just any kids – most of them were kids that had started fishing with me as early as 4 to 6 years old – when usually it was their grandfathers that would bring them to introduce them to their love of fishing. Those childhood memories stayed with them all and now some of them are in junior high, high school and some even out of college now! I just LOVE that they are coming back to reconnect with those childhood memories! It all sure takes me back to my lifetime memories of my Grandpa teaching me to fish when I was just big enough to walk and hold a rod! Needless to say, those precious childhood memories ended up bringing me to where I am today – a guide on one of the greatest lakes around – Lake Fork!

So, I want to thank all the parents and grandparents who take the time to pass on this love of fishing to their little ones. It is heartwarming to see how many of these kids remember their first



fishing experiences with their loved ones! So, whether it's fishing off the bank, off a dock, or in a boat, I hope you'll all take a little time to make your special lifetime memories with your kids and grandkids and believe me, they will remember it!

Now as far as the fishing – the best advice I can give you is to stay in contact with your bait because loose line will lose fish. If you're not watching your line, you are going to miss a lot of fish. Also, the biggest mistake I see people make is once they set the hook, they will drop their rod tip, leaving slack line and by the time they catch up to it, the fish is gone! So, keep that rod tip up and the line tight. A slow motion or no motion presentation is working best for us right now. So, try hard not to overwork your bait. The

colors working for us have been Monkey Milk, Blue Ice, Caddo Morning or Threadfin Shad. It just depends on the water clarity in the area we are fishing and the brightness of the time of day.

The crappie have been in and out of the bridges and showing up on main lake points, humps, and creek channel bends. Keep watching for the baitfish. They will give you an indication on how deep to fish. Now that the crappie are moving deeper, we have been targeting 16 – 20 ft. in 20 – 30 ft. of water. It looks like a thermocline is starting to set in at about 20 ft. I know these 90 to 100-degree days are tough but the mornings are quite doable. The last couple of weeks the bite gets better after mid-morning – so, drink lots of fluids and use

(See Kids & Crappie...
Continued on Page 21)



Bobbi Sisk was doing some night fishing with Lake Fork guide Randy Oldfield when she caught this hawg weighing 11-lbs. C.P.R.



Hunter McClain from Forney, TX., was fishing Lake Fork with Jason Smith and caught this bass weighing 7.07-lbs. measuring 24.25".



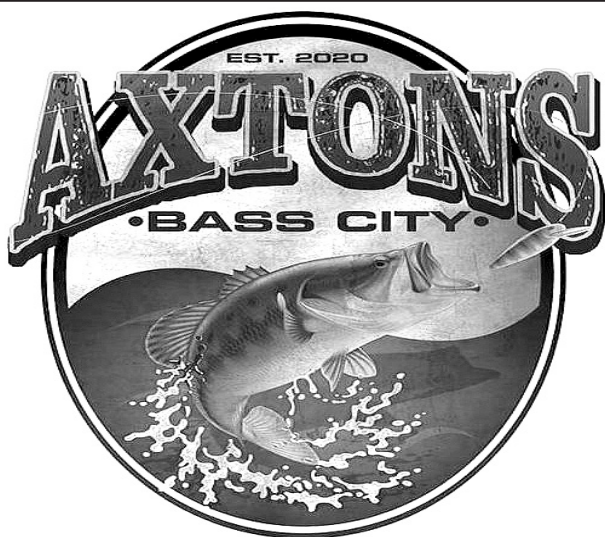
Bill Walters from Mississippi was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this nice hawg. C.P.R.



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Online Education (Continued from Page 7)

found on the TPWD Learn to Fish webpage.

(2) Find a Place to Fish close to Home –

Lakes and rivers across the state provide Texans with many opportunities to fish throughout the state. Check out the May issue of Fish Texas to learn more about how you can find the perfect spot nearby. Included in this issue is the Lake Finder where anglers can search by region or alphabetically if you have a specific lake already in mind.

Access to information and fishing tips on more than 150 lakes are available. Also, check out community fishing lakes which can be

great options as well.

(3) Kayak/Canoe Fishing –

Heading out on a lake or river to fish on a canoe or kayak can be a great way to fish and remain at a safe physical distance. TPWD maintains multiple paddling trails and River Access and Conservation Area sites that give the public access to some outstanding fishing spots. There are also numerous lakes that can be found using the Lake Finder mentioned above.

(4) Help the Conservation Effort with your License Purchase – Did you know that 100% of your fishing license fees

go to TPWD for on-the-ground conservation efforts such as fish stocking, that help make Texas one of the best places in the country to fish? For more information on licensing, visit the TPWD licenses page.

There are multiple benefits for those who choose to venture out on the water. The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation recently launched their "Get on Board Campaign" which highlight's the mental health benefits of being on the water. Dr. Sue Varma is a nationally recognized psychiatrist

(See Online Education....

Continued on Page 18)



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TPW Commission Approves Changes to Freshwater Fishing Regulations for 2020-21

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted multiple changes to the freshwater fishing regulations for the upcoming 2020-2021 season at the meeting held virtually May 21. Modifications include length limits and harvest regulations at some waterbodies for largemouth bass; blue, channel, and flathead catfish; and black and white crappie. The expiration date of August 31, 2020 was removed for the five-fish daily bag limit for alligator gar at Falcon International Reservoir.

The changes that were implemented for the 2020-21 license year are listed below. In addition, the details of these new regulations will be incorporated into the 2020-21 edition of the

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outdoor Annual:

Moss Lake (Cooke County) – Modify the 14-inch minimum length limit for largemouth bass to a 16-inch maximum length limit.

Brushy Creek Lake and Brushy Creek (Williamson County) – Modify harvest regulations for Brushy Creek Lake by changing from an 18-inch minimum length to the statewide 14-inch limit for largemouth bass. On the section of Brushy Creek downstream from the lake to the Williamson/Milam County line, reduce blue and channel catfish daily bag limit from 25 to 5 fish and remove the 12-inch minimum length limit. Gear restrictions also adopted limit anglers to pole-and-line angling only and two poles.

Lake Nasworthy (Tom Green County) – Modify harvest regulations for black and white crappie by removing the current 10-inch minimum length limit. The daily bag limit for crappie will remain at 25 fish.

Lake Texoma and the Texas waters of the Red River below Denison Dam (Cooke and Grayson Counties) – Standardize harvest regulations for blue, channel, and flathead catfish in the Texas and Oklahoma waters of Lake Texoma and on the Red River below Lake Texoma. In Lake Texoma, remove the 12-inch minimum length limit for blue and channel catfish, and for flathead catfish, remove the 18-inch minimum length limit. In the Texas waters of the Red River below Lake Texoma (from Denison Dam downstream to Shawnee Creek), in addition to the removal of the minimum length limits for catfish, reduce the daily bag limit for blue and channel catfish from 25 to 15 fish.

Falcon International Reservoir (Starr and Zapata Counties) — The five-fish daily bag limit for alligator gar will remain in effect.

The changes to the 2020-21 Statewide Recreational and Commercial Fishing regulations take effect on Sept. 1, 2020. All fishing regulations can be found in the Outdoor Annual on the TPWD website.

The online version of the TPWD Outdoor Annual will not reflect any new changes until mid-August. More information regarding these amendments for the 2020-21 season can be viewed on the TPWD website.

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Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Approves Hunting Regulation Changes for 2020-21

Hunting regulations for the 2020-2021 season were approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at its public meeting held online May 21. Hunters will see some hunting regulation changes this fall, including the implementation of automated processing of pronghorn and antlerless mule deer applications and permits, a decrease in the daily bag limit for scaup and a decrease in the daily bag limit for light goose during regular season.

The following modifications and clarifications to the 2020-21 Statewide Hunting Proclamation have been approved by the TPW Commission:

*Implement rules to administer an automated process for the application and issuance of pronghorn and antlerless mule deer permits

*Establishment of seasons and bag limits for the take of migratory game birds for 2020-21

*Decrease the daily bag limit for scaup from three to one in all zones

*Decrease the daily bag limit for light goose daily bag limit from twenty to ten during the regular season in both zones

*Shift goose seasons (and light goose conservation season) in the Western Zone one week later than in previous years

*Shift snipe hunting season dates two weeks later than in previous years

Additionally, the TPW Commission has adopted rules establishing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management zones to further detection and response efforts among white-tailed deer. The rules implement a Containment Zone (CZ) and a Surveillance Zone (SZ) in Val Verde County, a new SZ in Kimble County in response to the discovery of CWD, and slightly expands the current CZ in Medina, Bandera, and Uvalde counties after additional cases of the disease were detected.

Finally, the TPW Commission adopted amendments that clarify existing fees and permitting procedures surrounding the hunting, farming, sale, import and export of alligators.

Hunters hitting the field in the upcoming season should make note of these changes and follow all regulations set for species, tagging, bag limits, counties, season dates and means and methods. Hunters can check the online version of the Outdoor Annual for complete and updated regulations. Information currently in the online version of the Outdoor Annual reflects last season's information. The 2020-21 season

information will not be online until mid-August per usual practice.

More information regarding these amendments and hunting season dates for the 2020-21 seasons can be viewed on the TPWD website.



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"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Hello freinds, welcome to north east Texas, home of the world famous Lake Fork. In last month's July edition we talked about offshore deep water structure fishing. Locations such as deep road beds, humps, ledges, long points, steep channel swings and deep shell beds were the places to be. Its now August and the heat is on! Some people call the month of August "The dog days of summer" and here is why. Calm no wind days allow for greater and deeper sun light penetration which creates an offshore thermocline. All of the deep offshore locations I have described last month now begin to change dramatically. What once was a cooler, more oxygenated area offering bait fish and

food has now become oxygen free and potentially a dead zone. Once the thermocline is established there tends to be little or no oxygen below it thus forcing the fish into suspension above it. The water is still cooler below the thermocline but with little or no oxygen the fish rarely go below it. Bass and other species will suspend just above the thermocline in about 18-20 feet. They will use tree tops in deep water that set up perfectly for them to suspend in. In other words a full oak tree in deep water with its tree top limbs in about 18-20 feet.

Both finding and catching these bass can be extremely tricky. I use my sidescan to locate deep trees usually located in 40 to 50 feet of water. Finding tree tops with suspending bass arcs and or bait balls above them is my main objective.

Weightless baits such as the M-Pack shad or the Yamamoto senko fished painfully slow are your best bets. By using lighter line and a count down method these fish can be caught and they can be caught well. Another great method is to use a large spoon like the LFT lures 5" flutter spoon. Again by using a count down method to reach the tops of the trees ultimately allowing the spoon to just tick the tops of the tree

limbs, timing is crucial. One last way to catch these bass and it can truly be my favorite is to use a vertical drop shot method. Today its known as video game fishing.

I position the boat directly over the tree or fish and vertically drop the drop shot rig while watching it fall on the sonar the entire time. With proper sonar settings you can actually see the bait fall to depth you desire and watch the fish interact with it. By dead sticking the dropshot rig in the tree top or at the desired depth of the fish themselves you can coax them to bite. August heat is no joke, if your going fishing during the dog days of summer please make sure you are well prepared and stay hydrated.

If you would like to learn more about finding these bass and using these techniques to catch them please consider booking a trip with me.



Michael McFarland
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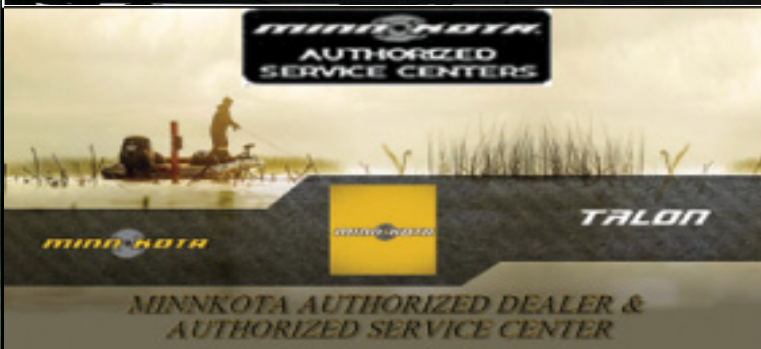
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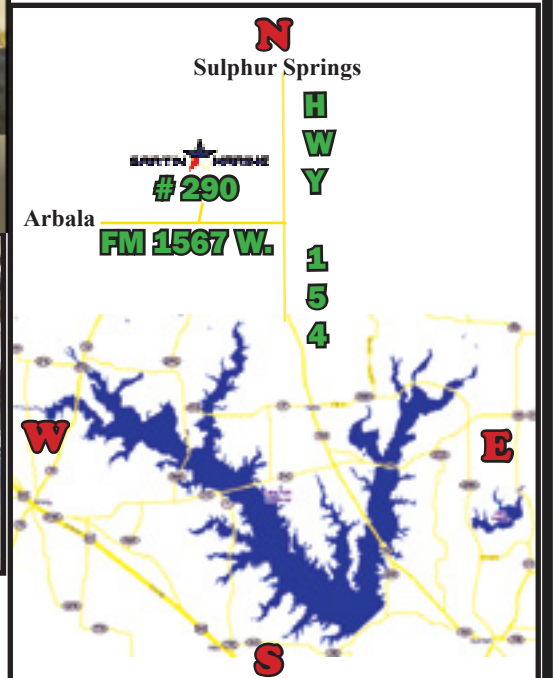
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Toyota ShareLunker Program Generates Thousands of Big Bass Offspring in 2020

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Toyota ShareLunker Program is having another outstanding year in its goal to create, bigger, better bass in Texas. After obtaining two successful spawns from one of the four 13 pound or larger Legacy Class bass loaned to the selective-breeding program in 2020, the department's hatchery staff produced more than 28,000 fingerlings to benefit Texas public waters.

"We are pleased with the number of ShareLunker offspring produced this year, and we couldn't have done it without the anglers who generously loaned us their 13 pound and larger bass for our selective-breeding program," said Kyle Brookshear, Toyota ShareLunker Program Coordinator. "This generosity doesn't just increase the lunker potential of the lakes where those fish were caught, it also helps us in our effort to convert our entire hatchery broodstock to ShareLunker offspring, which will benefit every lake in Texas."

This year, fingerlings were produced and stocked in the 2020 Legacy Class donation lakes – including Alan Henry, Nacogdoches, and O.H. Ivie. A portion is also being held back to further our hatcheries future broodfish creation so that TPWD can stock these big-bass offspring by the millions statewide

in coming years. In addition, 14,203 advanced fingerlings (excess future broodfish from the 2019 Legacy Class Spawns) were stocked in 2020 into Gilmer reservoir, Lake Pflugerville, Kurth, Lake Tyler, ponds within the future footprint of Bois d'Ark Lake, and Murval.

One of the Legacy Class fish, from which there were two successful spawns, was donated to the program and will be a part of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center aquarium exhibits for visitors to enjoy. One fish did not spawn, but the angler has allowed TPWD to retain the fish in order to attempt to spawn it next spring. It will be returned to Lake Alan Henry at the conclusion of the spawning process. Unfortunately, two of this year's Legacy Class donations perished due to extenuating circumstances. However, in the last five years, the program has achieved an excellent overall fish survival success rate of 86 percent during that time span.

The anglers who loaned TPWD a Legacy Class fish through the entry cutoff date of March 31 receive a large prize package. The package includes a replica of their fish, which is planned to be presented on stage at Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest in November, and entry into a separate \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree drawing.

Even though the donation season for Legacy Class fish has ended, anglers are still able to enter all largemouth bass eight pounds or larger through the end of the year to help expand catch data for fisheries biologists. As of July, 200 of these fish have been entered from 75 lakes across the state.

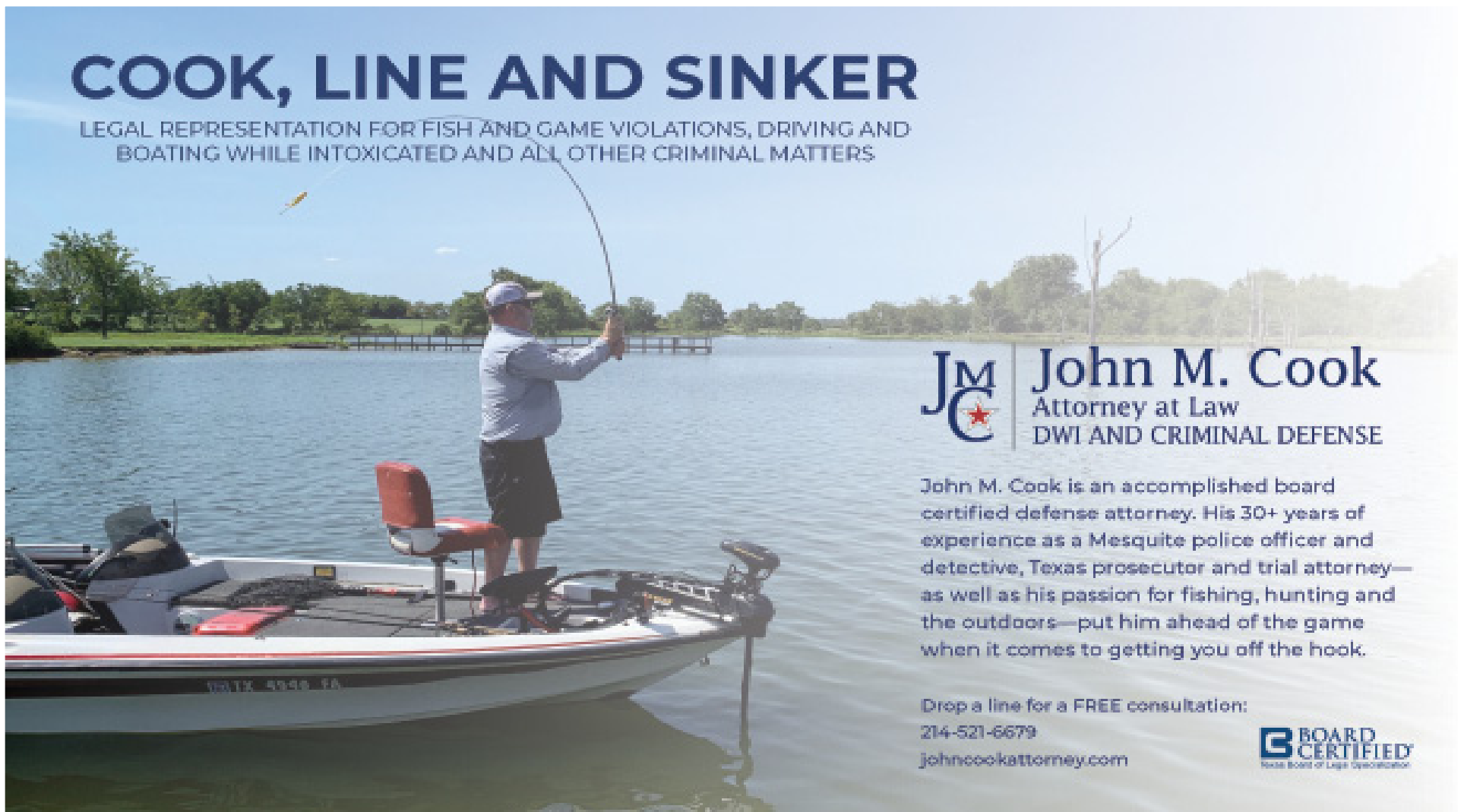
Anglers earn prize packages for each approved bass they enter throughout the year in all categories. This package includes a Toyota ShareLunker Catch Kit containing branded merchandise, an achievement decal, merchandise and other giveaways. In addition, anglers are entered in the year-end ShareLunker Prize Drawing for an annual fishing license and \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree.


Anglers who reel in a bass eligible for the program can enter it using the Toyota ShareLunker app – available for free as a download from the Apple Store and Google Play – or by using a form online at <https://texassharelunker.com/>. Anglers can quickly and easily submit photos of the fish being properly measured, weighed, and held using the digital entry forms on both platforms. These forms also include simple instructions for anglers who would like to provide a sample of fish scales from their lunker bass to TPWD for genetic analysis.

(Continued on Next Page)

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"Anglers who enter catch data about their eight pound and larger bass are giving our fisheries management biologists important information about which lakes are producing big bass in Texas," Brookshear said. "Sending a scale sample with your entry gives TPWD even more information to use in the management of our world-class bass fisheries because it provides us with valuable genetic data and helps us monitor the impact of stockings."

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.

Additional support for the program is provided by prize donors Bass Pro Shops, Lake Fork Taxidermy, American Fishing Tackle Co., and Stanley jigs.

For updates on the Toyota ShareLunker Program, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ShareLunkerprogram> or <https://texassharelunker.com/>



Larry Stewart caught this hawg weighing 10.25-lbs. fishing with guide Randy Oldfield.



Peggy McWhorter caught this nice bass while fishing Lake Fork. I'm sure her husband Mike had to give her a dollar for the biggest fish of the day. C.,P.R.

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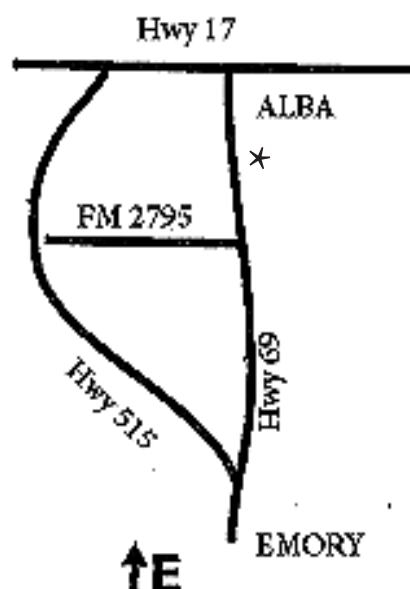
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Online Education (Continued from Page 10)

partnering with Take Me Fishing.

"The outdoors is a welcome remedy to stress and anxiety," said Varma. "Being in nature supports each of the four 'M's of mental health: mindfulness, mastery, meaningful engagement and movement."

Fishing in particular encourages mindfulness by helping you get away from distractions, Varma added.

"It supports mastery by teaching you a new skill, it provides meaningful engagement through quality time with others you may be quarantining with, and it promotes physical movement by getting you outside without

requiring a strenuous workout," said Varma.

"Looking at fishing from a psychiatrist's perspective, it's a smart way to follow social distancing guidelines while prioritizing your health and wellness."

Before heading out to the water, the public is encouraged to check with the managing authority of the waterbody they intend to visit

for any local ordinances in place. Also, boaters and anglers should continue to maintain a safe physical distance while on the water in accordance with recommended public health guidelines. In addition to physical distancing, remember to wash your hands thoroughly and stay home if you aren't feeling well.

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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

August is here already. I hope you all are safe and taking care of yourselves through this pandemic. Lake Fork Sportsman's Association is actively working our release boat at fishing tournaments. We have not had a membership meeting since March but hope Texas starts to rebound so we can meet as a group in the near future. We continue to send a monthly newsletter to our membership to keep them informed of our activities. Due to the rules of social distancing the tournament directors made the decision not to have vendors so as not to have people hanging in groups on the tournament grounds until it is safe for everyone. Based on this action, the Sportsman's Association made a decision to cancel our raffle for this year. We have been contacting all who bought tickets so far and are returning their money to them. Some have made donations to us and we are very appreciative of this.

We will continue to receive donations

for our high school fishing teams. Any donations please call Larry Marler at 336-413-3053 or Mike Kostial at 760-458-7885. The need continues for fishing poles, reels, tackle boxes and lures. We ask the local high schools that have fishing teams if they are in need of these supplies for some of their team members. It is a great program and we love to do this.

We are also reviewing our web site and trying to improve upon information about us and to add a new member application.

The association have some minnow factories we are working on to distribute in the lake in the near future. It is part of our Life Cycle Support Strategy program. We also have our aquatic Plant Program where we raise plants, such as Bulrush. Our greenhouse will be full this September for future plantings. We planted 54 Bulrush plants over 6 feet tall in June and we hope to double that count for next year.

If you are interested in joining our association we welcome you. Please call Larry Marler who can send you a mem-

bership application. Phone number 336-413-3053.

Be safe and good fishing.



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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"Summer Pattern Is Back to Normal!" *(Continued from Page 6)*

when the rod tip loads up. Fluorocarbon lines in the 17-20lb range work well for this application and make sure you use the San Diego Jam knot to reduce break offs. As a matter of fact, use the jam knot on all line sizes of fluorocarbon line. It will be a very smart move.

The other half of this deep bass equation equates to these suspended fish. These are much tougher to catch and require great patience both in locating them and putting them into the boat. Again, the electronics play a huge roll in determining where these fish are holding in the water column and then there is the challenge of matching the right lure

with the conditions. If it is windy on that given day, choose the flutter spoon as your means of attack. Size may matter so try smaller versions first then gravitate to the magnum beast if the bite is good. Colors may also vary based upon cloud cover, silver on clear days and gold when the light level is much lower. If there is no wind period, tie on a magnum fluke in any shad color using a 7/0 hook only. In both cases, experiment with the countdown to establish the correct depth range of the given lure. Remember that sequence when a toad grabs hold of the bait and stretches your line into oblivion.

I hope this helps and gives you a starting point on your Lake Fork adventure. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in August searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in August and some in September. 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 skee-t21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DavidOzioLakeForkGuide>. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing USA and Talon Lures for making my job the blast that it is.

I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". I wish all of you a blessed day."



Bob Reeves with David Ozio



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Kids and Crappie (Continued from Page 8)

lots of sunscreen.

Before I close, I want to apologize to those of you who have tried to reach me. Once again Verizon has let me down. My phone will not let me make calls and the calls I receive can't hear me. I am on my

second trouble ticket with them and hope the problem will be resolved soon! So, please keep trying. I lost a lot of my info when having to do hard resets. Thanks for your patience!

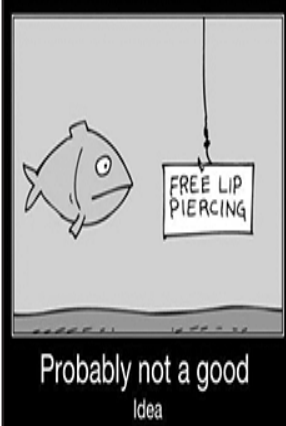
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your fishing and crappie fishing supplies!

Once again, my heartfelt thanks to all who came to fish with me and especially the kids! Keep making those memories! Stay safe and love, hugs and prayers to my family in Missouri!



The first newspaper advertisement appeared in a French newspaper on October 14, 1612.



Probably not a good idea

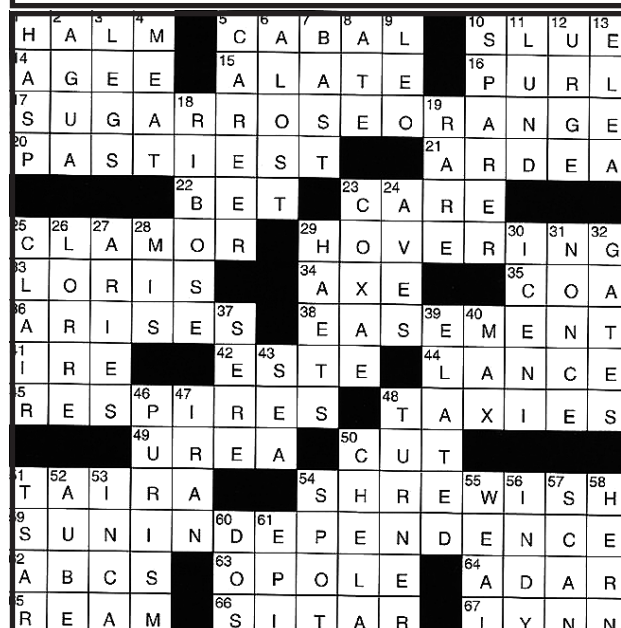
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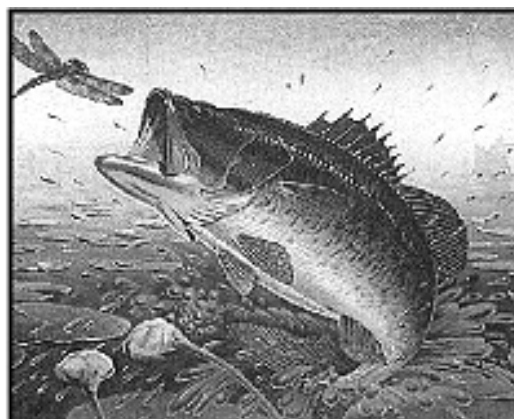
Football Find

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

FIELD GOAL
 FIRST DOWN
 FUMBLE
 GROUNDING
 HOLDING
 LATERAL
 OFFSIDE

PASS
 RUSHING
 SACK
 SAFETY
 SNAP
 TACKLE
 TOUCHDOWN

T A L N W O D T S R I F
 A S P S E F R A S A F I
 E D I S F F O C A E T E
 F I E A L D K S P A N L
 F G R C K I L E P W O D
 S A P K M S I M B L E G
 D O A D I E F I G A L O
 F G N I H S U R N W O A
 U L S A G D M E I F E L
 B A A D I G B N D R P A
 E S F U M L L B N O S T
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Acting Squirrely--
An Angelina County game warden was approaching a boat ramp on the Angelina River just before dark when he saw someone driving in his direction. A man quickly laid a gun on the bow of the boat and walked away. When the warden approached the two people aboard the vessel, one decided to change out of wet socks while the other kept talking on their cell phone. The warden unload-

ed the .22 rifle left on the bow and inspected the cooler in the boat which contained a squirrel that was dressed and put on ice. Since the man started squirrel season six days early, he was issued a citation for hunting squirrels during a closed season. Case is pending.
--That's a Twist; That's Very Twisty--
A Williamson County game warden was contacted by a Travis County Sheriff's Deputy about a boat the deputy had stopped on Lake Travis that had the boat hull identification number visibly re-

moved. The operator of the boat said he bought the vessel a short time ago and showed the officers a title and bill of sale. The deputy and warden investigated the paperwork of the vessel and found out the title was legitimately signed, but the bill of sale was falsified. Upon further inspection, the officers determined that the vessel didn't match the paperwork the operator of the boat had presented. The registration number on the paperwork belonged to a Wellcraft, and the validation number
(Continued on Page 24)

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Healthy Entertaining: The Sweet Benefits of Raisins

By Sue Hampton

Party food doesn't have to be fattening. There are a number of festive, delicious – and healthful – dishes you can serve at parties and get-togethers. For instance dishes prepared with raisins are tangy, flavorful and provide numerous health benefits. Raisins are loaded with vitamins, minerals, powerful anti-oxidants, potassium, vitamin B6, and they are also fat- and cholesterol-free. Here is a sampling of an easy-to-prepare dish perfect for a party.

Tropical Shrimp Cocktail



Serve this delicious and healthful Tropical Shrimp Cocktail as a refreshing starter or main course!

Dressing

Juice of one lime
Juice of one orange
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 small jalapeno pepper; seeded, deveined and minced
2 tablespoons finely diced red onion
Kosher or sea salt and freshly ground pepper

Shrimp Salad

16 large cooked, peeled and deveined prawns (size 16/20)
1/3 cup golden raisins
1 cup diced fresh pineapple
1 ripe mango, diced
1 firm-ripe avocado, diced
2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
2 tablespoons chopped mint
Lime wedges; for garnish

Dressing

Whisk ingredients together and season with salt and pepper to taste. Refrigerate until needed.

Shrimp Salad

In a medium mixing bowl, toss the prawns with 2 tablespoons of the dressing to coat and set aside. Add remaining salad ingredients except for lime wedges to the bowl and toss with

remaining dressing. Cover and chill well.

Divide the chilled fruit mixture among 4 stemmed cocktail glasses or small bowls. Top with the prawns (4 or more per serving) and garnish with wedges of lime.

Salad ingredients should be prepared up to 1 hour in advance and refrigerated until ready to serve.

(Serves 4)



Jim Devore was fishing Lake Fork with Mike McWhorter when he caught this nice bass over the 24" slot. C.P.R.

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

belonged to the operator but for a Kayot boat. Additionally, the engine horsepower, serial number and sterndrive number returned to a Baja vessel. The Baja was listed as stolen out of Travis County in January, along with the trailer. The owner of the Baja was contacted, and the boat was verified as the stolen vessel. The vessel and trailer were returned to the original owner and the operator of the vessel was charged with possession of stolen property.

--Bare Necessities-- While patrolling near Lake Sam Rayburn, a Sabine County game warden noticed a naked man running across the road from the water into a makeshift tent. The man soon emerged wearing an oversized pair of pants. The warden then contacted dispatch, who advised that the subject was wanted on three felony warrants out of Sabine County. The man's actions and demeanor led the warden to ask a female subject with the man for consent to search their vehicle but was denied. A canine officer was called and upon arriving to the scene quickly alerted to the presence of narcotics. Meth, along with the man's wallet, was located inside a pair of pants in a bookbag found in the bed of the truck. He was arrested and taken to Sabine County Jail. The case is pending.

--Having a Baaaad Day-- Game wardens were

conducting water safety patrols of Lake Amistad when they encountered a baby goat in the water near shore. The goat had fallen into the lake and due to a broken leg was unable to get back out. The game wardens found the goat in the nick of time and saved it from potential starvation or drowning.

--Grin and Bear It-- A Titus County game warden and a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist responded to a call about a black bear that had been photographed from a homeowner's back porch. This was one of five bears that had been photographed in the northeast Texas region this season alone.

--Pier Pressure-- Two Polk County game wardens were patrolling Lake Livingston when they began watching a vessel as it approached a boat ramp nearby. Onboard, the male operating the boat switched places with a female subject before switching again once they approached the dock. When the wardens contacted the

male subject, they detected a strong smell of alcohol. A standard field sobriety test was conducted, and the male was arrested for Boating While Intoxicated. His charges were enhanced to a Class A misdemeanor due to this being his second intoxication offense. Charges are pending.

--Whiskey River-- While patrolling the Neches River, a Hardin County game warden stopped a small aluminum boat for not displaying navigation lights. Three men were in the boat, one of whom was passed out on the floor of the boat. The warden performed a water safety inspection and in addition to there not being enough life jackets on board, the warden found beer cans and whiskey bottles strewn about the boat. The boat's operator admitted that he had consumed several beers, and had taken a couple of shots of whiskey, prior to operating the boat. The warden conducted a standard field

(Continued on Next Page)



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sobriety test once the subject was on shore. The man operating the boat was placed under arrest for Boating While Intoxicated and then booked into the Harden County Jail. His case is pending.

--Up to the Gills in Trouble-- After observing signs of possible illegal gill netting activities along the Nueces River, game wardens patrolled the area for two days before observing two men launching a small paddle boat into the river. The men had no fishing poles but instead had two large buckets with lids. The wardens walked the shoreline, following the boat for over a mile, obtaining video of the individuals actively gill netting from the concealment of brush. The men attempted to hide the gill nets in the buckets upriver, prior to loading up the boat. Once the boat was loaded, one of the subjects returned to retrieve the buckets. Wardens contacted the men and found 200 yards of gill net along with six large alligator gar. The boat and illegal fishing devices were seized. Multiple cases were filed including Over the Daily Bag Limit on alligator gar, Illegal Means and Methods and Insufficient Number of PFDs. One of the men had been caught by wardens before for the same violations.

--Tell Tailed Sign-- After an initial complain-

ant of a Felon in Possession of Firearms and Taking a Deer in Closed Season, a Williamson County game warden obtained a search warrant on a local residence. Assisted by wardens from Travis County, Bell County and Milam County, the team executed the search and secured the house. They located a .410 shotgun with 15 boxes of ammo, meth, three deer antlers and deer meat in the freezer. A white-tailed deer carcass was also dug up in the backyard of the home. Two of the wardens received information of the suspect's possible location along with a description of the suspect's girlfriend's vehicle. Wardens intercepted the vehicle and conducted a field interview. The girlfriend confessed that she had dropped her boyfriend off nearby and that he had recently shot a white-tailed deer and a feral hog. The Williamson County warden obtained a felony arrest warrant for the suspect and the case is still under investigation.

--Noodle Over It-- Hill and Bosque County game wardens were hidden among trees while patrolling the Brazos River when an airboat approached. The two occupants, a male and a female, stopped along the shoreline to swim. One of the wardens watched the subjects with binoculars and it appeared that the two may

have been noodling. The subjects then left the airboat, returning to the shoreline just below where the wardens were staged. Once the male subject walked back into the water, it became evident that he had a pole with a hook on it. The wardens approached and the man dropped the pole but admitted that he was noodling. Charges for illegal means and methods were filed.

--On the Fence-- A Colorado County game warden received a call of a large alligator that had climbed the fence of a residential home and made itself comfortable in the backyard. The game warden, along with a DPS Trooper, were able to capture and relocate the alligator to a safe place outside of town.

--Guard Gator-- In Cameron County, game wardens received a call regarding an alligator that was roaming around inside a detention center facility. A facility staff member had reportedly stepped on its tail while exiting his vehicle in the parking lot. With the assistance of the facility staff, the wardens were able to safely relocate the almost 11-foot-long alligator.

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Sept. 27 ~ JC Outdoors Solo Champ.
Minnow Bucket



October

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Oct. 10 ~ Texas Trails Bassmaster Open
Oak Ridge Marina
Oct. 10 ~ Jake Wilson Memorial
Minnow Bucket
Oct. 11 ~ Billy Dyson Memorial
Lake Fork Marina
Oct. 17 -18 ~ Berkley Big Bass
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