

Danny Dulude outfished 2,431 other anglers to win the 34th Annual Sealy Outdoors Lake Fork Big Bass Splash with this catch of an 8.80-pound bass. For his great catch he took home a RAM Truck, 2020 Triton 19 TRX and \$8,500 in cash.



On September 26th Lake Fork came alive to show their love for God, Country, Law and Order in support of our President Donald J. Trump to be re-elected as the leader of our great nation for the next four years. Not only did hundreds of boats displaying their Trump flags to show their support, but both sides of Highway 154 bridge were lined with supporters, and the 154 Boat Ramp and lot was filled. This was truly an inspirational event. There was great music, terrific speakers, the Pledge of Allegiance (with One Nation Under God), prayer, and everyone stood and put their hand on their heart during the National Anthem. VOTE

Larry Delong caught an exact weight bass of 2.50-pounds on Friday of the tournament. His catch was also the heaviest bass under the slot for the day. This bass netted him a total of \$10,800 in take home bonus pay-out. (See Full Story on Page 5)

#### Berkley Big Bass Tournament Oct. 17 & 18

#### **By Don Hampton**

For all of you anglers that are not only big fans of fishing Lake Fork but also love doing it with Berkley you have been waiting for. The 15th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake both days. Fork hosted by Bass held on October 17th and 18th. The tournament will be held out year. With the cooler of Lake Fork Marina temperatures

Registration times will be Friday October 16th from 11 am to 7 pm. and October 17th and 18th from 5 am to 7 am at tournament headbaits, here is the time quarters. Anglers can topwater baits and the fish one day or both days. Entry fee for one day is \$160 or \$200 for

For anglers partici-Champs, Inc. will be pating this will be one of the most exciting tournaments of the setting

just off Highway 17N. in, the bass are sure to be feeding up and respond well to both Berkley hard and soft baits. Check out some of the new baits, especially the new line of General.

> There is over \$150,000 guaranteed in cash and prizes with 20 places paid per hour during the two-day tournament starting at \$1,000 for 1st place, down to

(See Berkley Big Bass..... Continued on Page 10)

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October



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# October"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"Page 3""BubbapracticesforHalloweenallyearlong!"By Don Bubba Hamptonbutton. With the alarm and horn blaring, and lights flash-allyearlong!"

Bubba's favorite holidays are coming up and he is geared up and ready for them. He loves Thanksgiving and Christmas mainly because of all the great food, the get-togethers, (as he calls them), and of course getting new stuff! One of his favorite holidays and Bubbette's worst is Halloween.

This is one "Spooktacular Holiday" that Bubba practices year round. He's like an oversized lapdog when it comes to the treats and a scary movie when it comes to the tricks. He is most childlike on Christmas morning opening his presents and getting new stuff, but he is even more so when it comes to jumping out and scaring someone.

He practices mostly on Bubbette and how either of them has survived these many years is a testimony to "True Love"! On more than one occasion she has threatened his health with a rolling pen but Bubba doesn't take the threats too seriously. I couldn't even tell you if he hears them over his own laughter.

Bubba practices his scare tactics constantly to stay in true form. He has Bubbette shaky like a squirrel on a high-line every time she walks in the house. The only time he is quiet is when he's about to spring with a goulish holler. It doesn't even matter to him if she has an arm full of groceries. If the timing and setting is right he'll make his move and then laugh for days afterwards. To Bubba harmlessly scaring someone is one of the funniest things in life. He really must have had a missed childhood or else he just doesn't wish to grow out of it!

I do believe that Bubba bought Bubbette a new car, not for her benefit but rather for his entertainment. As is with most new vehicles this one has an alarm system with remotes. For the first week they had it Bubba couldn't stop laughing and it wasn't from the joy of having a new vehicle. Every time Bubbette would go to get in her car Bubba would be hiding around the corner. Her hand would no sooner touch the car door than Bubba's finger would push the alarm

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Don Hampton, Publisher/Owner Member Texas Community Newspaper Association

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button. With the alarm and horn blaring, and lights flashing, Bubbette would be jumping around thinking she did something wrong, while Bubba would be rolling on the ground with laughter. Needless to say that only lasted for a week because he no longer has a set of keys and alarm remote to Bubbette's new car.

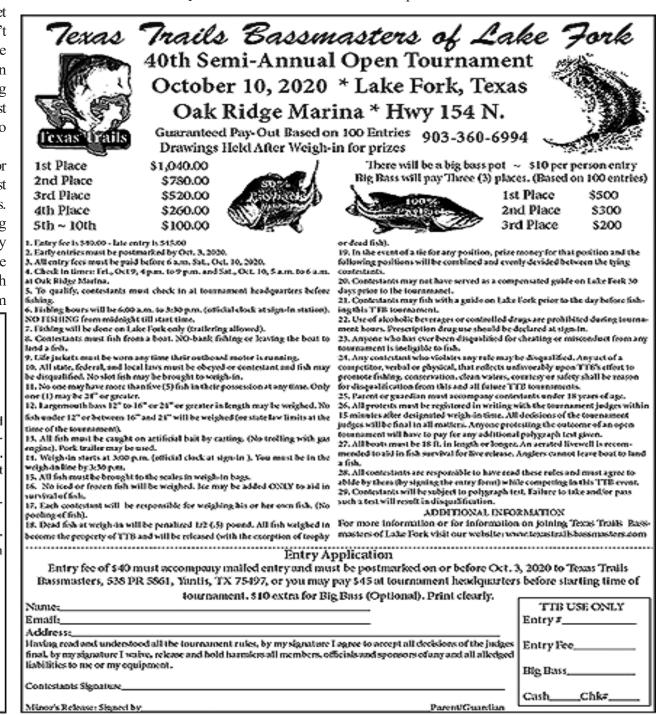
Bubba doesn't just practice his scare tactics on Bubbette while at home. Even the dog and cat have to hide from him. He'll catch them in one of their deep naps, sneak up as close as possible, get on his hands and knees and commence barking and growling like a maddog. Yes, Bubba has been bitten by his own dog, scratched by his own cat, and clobbered by his own wife.

One of the reasons Bubba can't keep a partner on the "Team Tournament Trail" he fishes isn't because of the number of fish caught. It is because their heart can't take it! Bubba watches his partners closely to make sure they are on their toes during a tournament. If they seem to be day dreaming when the action slows down, he has a rude awakening for them too! He will catch them in one of their relaxed moods and then set his plan in motion. He will in-

tentionally get his lure hung up while they are not watching. Once he has it securely stuck he'll jump up excitedly and holler, "It's a big one get the net!" At this time he has his rod bent going from side to side acting like he has a real hog on the end of the line. This gets his partner throwing his rod down, scrambling all over the boat to get the net and ready to do his job. When his partner finally gets the net ready Bubba will roll with laughter and say, "Just kidding I'm hung up and wanted to see if you were still with me!" I think Bubba has probably been bit, scratched, and clobbered by some of his fishing partners too! He has had five different fishing partners in the past four seasons and not even that will stop Bubba's sense of humor or his enjoyment of a good laugh.

Maybe there is a lesson for all of us here to learn from Bubba. It is possible that if we all kept a childlike quality in our hearts and didn't take ourselves quite so seriously we could find the smaller things in life much more humorous. Then we would all be able to laugh at the bites, scratches and clobberings that life has to offer.

"Have a Spooktaculer Halloween!" Bubba will!



#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"



#### October Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash By Don Hampton

about it that Sealy Outdoors cares about the health and welfare of their anglers. This was quite evident at their 34th Annual Big Bass Splash held on Lake mph. Fork, September 18th, 19th, and 20th. Each fishing in the midst of angler coming to have their fish weighed had their temperature taken before proceeding. All of the chairs were separated at a social distance for the safety of bass over the 24" slot. anglers placing in each With the slot on Lake hour.

this great event. Some came from as far as New Hampshire and

150

staff could not believe the moderate tempera-There is no doubt tures they were gifted with. The temperature in the morning each day starting off was in the upper 50's with a slight Northeast wind ranging from 5 to 15

a norther is not the best choice, but most anglers reported the bite being on. There were a lot of 2-pound plus bass brought in and 21 Fork being between A total of 2,431 an- 16" to 24" no bass beglers participated in tween those measurements could be brought in. Some anglers did learn the hard way

Arizona. Anglers and to measure their bass properly.

On Friday, the first day of the tournament there were eight bass over the slot brought to the scales. In the 7 to 8 o'clock hour Kyle Keating from Barry, Texas weighed in a 7.69-pound bass; in As all anglers know, the 8 to 9 o'clock hour Christopher Gordon from Natchitoches, Louisiana weighed in an 8.59-pound bass and Jason Phillips from Rison, Arkansas weighed in an 8.28-pound bass; in the 9 to 10 o'clock hour Danny Dulude from Grand Saline, Texas weighed in an 8.80-pound bass; in the 11 to 12 o'clock hour Kevin Porche (Continued on Next Page)

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#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

Page 5

siana weighed in a in the 11 to 12 o'clock 5.13-pound bass; in the hour 12 to 1 o'clock hour Bobby Myers from Brookhaven, Mississippi weighed in a 7.93- pound bass and Dan Telesko from Ft. Worth, Texas weighed weighed an 8.18-pound in a 6.53-pound bass; in the 1 to 2 o'clock hour Haslet, Texas weighed in a 7.62-pound bass.

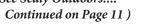
On Saturday, the second day of the tournament five bass over to the scales. In the 7 Lumpkin from Wind-Si Donkeson from San from Keith White from De- hour

from Loranger, Loui- an 8.73-pound bass; Christopher Ford from Winnsboro, Texas weighed in a 7.47-pound bass; in the 12 to 1 o'clock hour David Kirkland from Marshall, Texas bass.

On Sunday, the last Robert J. Little from day of the tournament there were eight bass over the slot brought to the scales. In the 7 to 8 o'clock hour Coy Worley from Alba, the slot were brought Texas weighed in a 7.84- pound bass; Clint to 8 o'clock hour John Farris from Streetman, Texas weighed crest, Texas weighed in a 6.82-pound bass an 8.47-pound bass and and Trevor Teague Bixby, Okla-Angelo, Texas weighed homa weighed in a an 8.24-pound bass; in 6.56-pound bass; in the 8 to 9 o'clock hour the 8 to 9 o'clock Dana Deacatur, Texas weighed son from Longview,

Texas weighed in a 6.22-pound bass; in the 9 to 10 o'clock hour Jay Jeffress from Fairfield, Texas weighed a 6.90-pound bass; in the 12 to 1 o'clock hour Thomas Kressley from Irving, Texas weighed an 8.13-pound in bass and Kenneth Barfield from Belton, Texas weighed in a 6.50-pound bass; in the final hour of the tournament 1 to 2 o'clock hour Rick Clark from Terrell, Texas weighed in an 8.09-pound bass.

In Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash Tournaments on Lake Fork the first exact weight of a 2.50-pound bass is worth \$5,000 and for any day that exact weight is not caught there is a drawing for (See Sealy Outdoors....

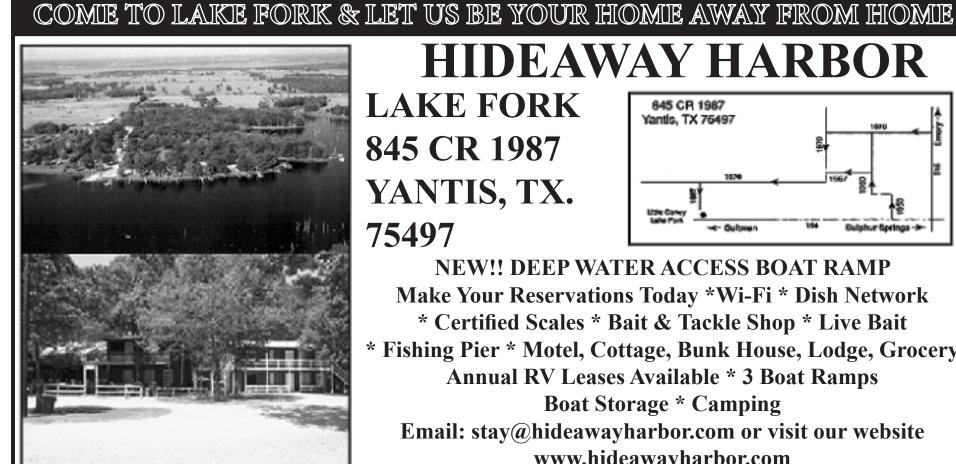




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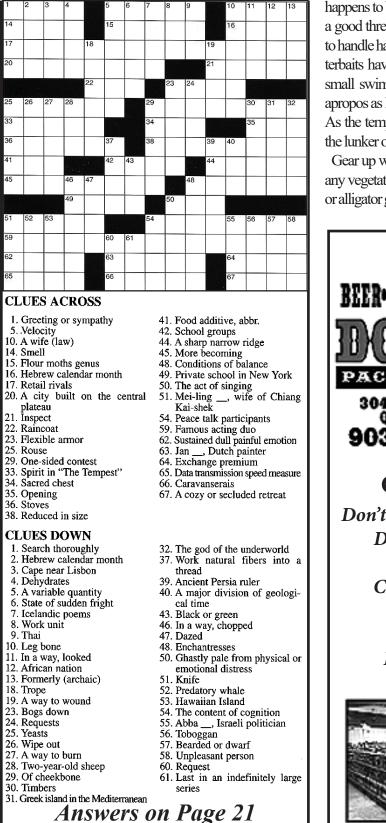
#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

October

## "Fall Bass Habits on Lake Fork!"\_

#### By David Ozio

"Fall is approaching and wouldn't you know it, this season is going to be way different than the 2019 October season. As of this writing Lake Fork has already turned over to a certain extent due to two unseasonably early cold fronts. Surface water temps have dropped ten degrees and that is quite unusual for this time of the year. Brown bubbles have been floating every where and the brown scum line on my boat points to the proof that this phenomenon is under way. Bass fishing will slow in this situation as it will take some three weeks to settle down. The Sealy Outdoors Tournament was a good barometer as to whats going on



as the winning bass was only an 8.80. That is way below normal! The good news is that by early October the water should be stabilized and the bite will be "game on!' October can be an insanely fun fishing month!

Not all parts of the lake will turnover at once as some areas cool faster than others. During this transition period, you will need to read the conditions and adapt accordingly. Fall will usually issue in more cloudy days and as the water temps decline, fish will migrate to the shallows in search of food and suitable water conditions thus opening the door to easier catches on moving baits. Where do we start? The answer to that question is wrapped up in the fall bass habits. Creeks will be your starting place and finding the shad will lead you to some of the best bass fishing of the year. That happens to be where I am currently catching them and it is a good three weeks ahead of schedule. The biggest factor to handle has been water color and how to adapt to it. Chatterbaits have worked really well at this point along with small swimbaits and rattletraps. Shad colors are always apropos as long as the water temps stay above 65 degrees. As the temps decline, there are other tactics that will bag the lunker of a lifetime.

Gear up with a top water for the early bites and focus on any vegetation that you can find such as coontail, lillypads or alligator grass. There is a little bit of hydrilla available but



you have to hunt high and low to find it. Zara Spooks are my all time favorite and will draw strikes from the largest bass around. Buzzbaits, Yellow Magic's and frogs are also excellent choices and truly have a place on the deck of the boat. Once that bite tapers off, I will switch to a Texas rig worm of any sort and work the same areas until noon. If the vegetation is more sparse, use a 1/8th ounce tungsten weight with a 3/0 hook and rig it with your favorite worm. Trick worms, curl tails or speed worms all work great. For thicker grass, move up to a 5/16 ounce weight so that it will get down to where the monsters live. As for worm colors, stick to dark hues on cloudy days and more translucent



#### October "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" **Twelve Hot Spots to Fish for Crappie in Texas**

Texas is renowned for world class bass fishing and offers some of across the state, stood the best destinations in out as providing conthe country to reel in the catch of a lifetime. However, Texas also provides anglers with excellent opportunities to reel in a sometimesoverlooked species: crappie. Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries Division set out to determine some of the best hot spots for crappie fishing in the state. "We are excited to feature these 12 destination a bag of 30.72 lbs. (14 lakes for our anglers to fish), the 10th place check out on their next fishing excursion," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries Re-

gional Director. "These Beyond tournament relakes, which are located sistently strong crappie fishing right now. We hope anglers take advantage of all the excellent fisheries that the state has to offer."

Here are the lakes se-The Texas lected by TPWD staff:

> \* Crappie Masters visited Quitman's Lake Fork in 2019 and helped showcase the crappie fishing in this renowned water body. The firstplace team weighed in team checked in at 28.69 pounds, and then 50th place was still an impressive 23.61 pounds.

sults, the lake has consistently been ranked in the top five best crappie lakes in the country the last few years.

\* Abilene's Daniel Reservoir landed on the list as one of the top crappie lakes in Texas and is one of the area's best producers of large crappie. In multiple population surveys, many legal-sized (10 inches and larger) crappie upwards to about 15 inches were sampled. This reservoir does not typically get a lot of angling pressure but may produce good harvest rates.

Population surveys at Granger Lake near Austin have consistently shown a high abundance of white crappie. TPWD has installed brush piles throughout this reservoir, which enhance angling opportubank anglers. Crappie fishing from the bank is very popular on Granger Lake and is at its best

0 R

in the spring with solid fishing in the fall as well.

\* Recent data has shown that angler harvest rates on Lake Conroe are nities for both boat and strong, so anglers have the potential for great success on this lake. Lake Conroe, close to Houston, is a large res-

ervoir, but many anglers do well fishing under the major bridges or on artificial habitat structures that have been placed by local fishing groups. Some anglers have also had success fishing piers located on points into the main (See Twelve Hot...

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Continued on Page 18)

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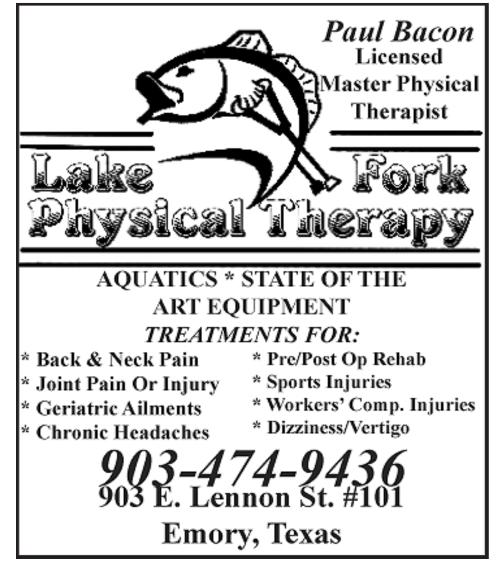
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#### **"The** Moon **Report**" "October on Fork"

#### **By Terri Moon**

Wow – finally going to have some cooler weather – I love it! I'm so glad to have the 90-100 degree weather behind us. I know the fish are going to love it too!

They have been bunching up but not aggressively feeding yet. These cooler mornings should start triggering the "Dreaded Turnget past that, hang cies.

vember has always fish. I call it "Trophy up to secondary to 28 ft. of water -1

day you will probup. Some days they tions. As far as baits, want it moving fast, I'm using Bonehead,



over". But, once we some days they want Bubba it dead still, and Lake Fork Tackle on it's gonna get some days you have baits. good - for ALL spe- to downsize your bait for a slower fall say I've been do-October and No- over your target.

been two of my fa- make a difference enough that the parvorite months to too. On cloudy days ents and grandparwith low light condi- ents that brought Time". The crappie tions, go to a darker their kids and grandare showing up in the color bait and on kids to fish - now mouths of the creek brighter days with the kids and grandarms and will work clearer water, go to kids are grown and your brighter col- are returning bringcreek arms. We've ors. It also doesn't ing their parents and found them as shal- hurt to add a Berk- grandparents low as 8 ft. and as ley crappie nibble to fish. I'm thrilled deep as 20 ft. around or tip your jig with a to be a part of those bridges, brush piles, minnow. So, if what awesome memories! and standing timber. your doing isn't Many thanks to all! Also finding them 20 working, change it up till you key in on years in my 1997 to 3 cranks off the what and how they Champion, my cusbottom around the want it for that day. tomers have loved mouths of the coves. The colors that have the upgrade to my For a productive been producing are "Luxury grey w/black tail, Skeeter Solera 205 ably have to move black w/chartreuse, for the last three around a lot. Also chartreuse w/white, years! The keep in mind that orange w/blue tail. fort and fish abildifferent days might I'm using bonehead ity of this boat is take different pre- jig heads in 1/16 oz., off the chart! A sentations - so, don't 1/8 oz. and 1/4 oz. 'BIG' thanks to all be afraid to change it depending on condi- at Skeeter Boats and

Baits and

I guess you could ing this guiding for Bait colors can a long time. Long back

> After fishing 20 Liner" com-

(See October on Fork..... Continued on Page 21)

#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

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Owen Adamski, Bob Roberts grandson from Katy, Texas was fishing Lake Fork in September when he caught this nice bass measuring 23". Great Catch. Weight not provided. C.P.R.

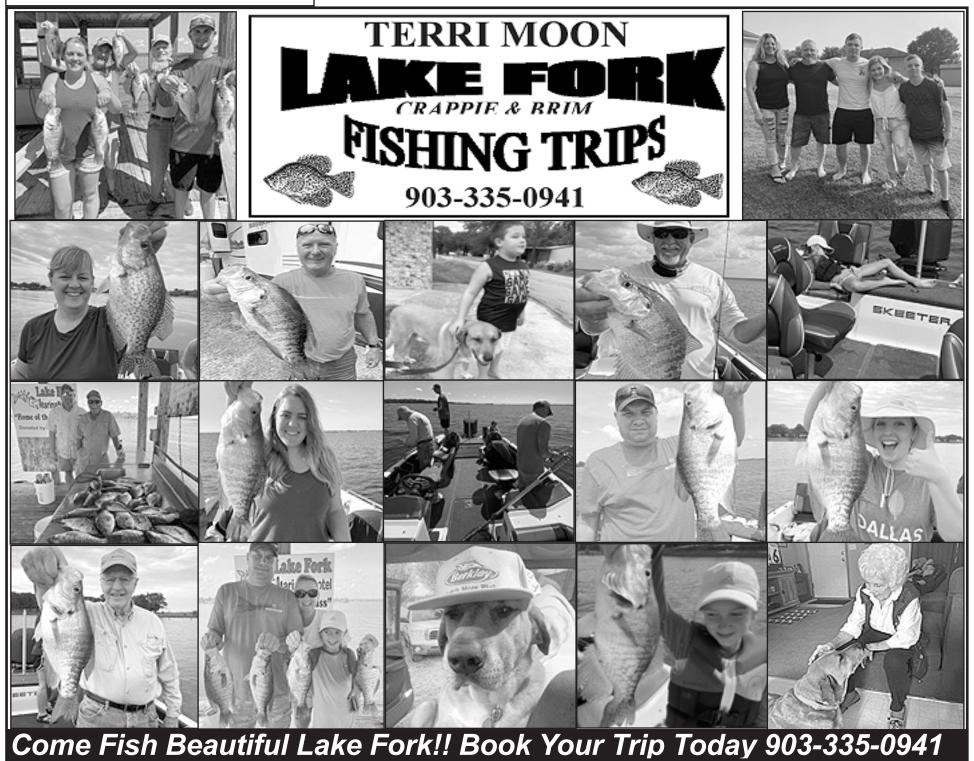
SUM London's Big Ben is named after Sir Benjamin Hall, the Chief Commissioner of Works when the bell was cast.



with guide Randy Oldfield when he caught this hawg weighing 11.75-lbs. C.P.R.



Shawn Swenson was night fishing Lake Fork Gary Apple, Lewisville Fire Captain, caught this nice hawg fishing with Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith on 9/25/20. C.P.R.



#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

\* Diner

\* Motel

\* **RV** 



#### Berkley Big Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 1)

11th thru 15th place win an Abu Garcia Reel and 16th thru 20th place win an Abu Garcia Rod.

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

There is also available "Exact Weight Bonus Cash'. There is

\$200 for 10th place; \$1,000 for the angler that brings in an exact be heard on KMOO 2.5, 3.00, 9.00 and/or 99.9 FM, so be sure 10-pound bass. Also, during the tournament there will be a Junior For the lucky angler Division and a Women's Division. Don't forget the Berkley Empty Bag Give Away. Bring and empty package from any Berkley bait with your name written on it legibly and put it in the bin for drawing of extra prizes. This tournament is

> not only a great fishing experience but also ter-

rific entertainment for

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ent with a laugh or two

and WFN will be on

hand filming the televi-

son show.

website: 3274.



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## October "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash (Continued from Page 5)

the prize money. The heaviest under the 16" slot on any day of the tournament wins \$5,000.

The only 2.5-pound exact caught in the tournament was by Larry Delong from Kemp, Texas. His bass was also the heaviest of the day earning him an extra \$5,000. With his 3rd Place prize money he took home a total of \$10,800. On Saturday of the tournament the heaviest bass under the slot weighed 2.46-pounds and was caught by Mark Biondi from Burleson, Texas winning him an extra \$5,000. On Sunday the heaviest under the slot was 2.75-pounds caught by Harvey Sharp from Hemphill, Texas winning him an extra \$5,000.

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Since there wasn't a 2.5-pound exact caught on Saturday or Sunday there was a drawing after the tournament for that prize money. In the drawing Magdalena Hodorowicz from Bubank, Illinois and Dalton Phelps from Edgewood, Texas had a surprise win of a check for \$5.000 each. pay, a 2020 Triton 18 TRX powered by Mercury equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance, a RAM truck and \$2,000 in cash. Winning 3rd Place overall was Christopher Gordon from Natchitoches, Louisiana with a weight of 8.59-pounds. For his efforts he won \$3,000 hourly pay plus

In the elimination drawing Josh Ohls from McAlester, Oklahoma won a 2020 Triton 189 TRX powered by Mercury, equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance. Mike Fitzerald from San Saba, Texas won a Fire Disc Grill.

Danny Dulude from Grand Saline, Texas won 1st Place overall for heaviest bass caught in the tournament with his 8.80-pound bass. For his

efforts he won \$1,500 hourly pay, a 2020 Triton 19 TRX powered by Mercury equipped with MinnKota, Navionics, Power Pole, a RAM Truck plus \$7,000 cash. Winning 2nd Place overall with a weight of 8.73 was Keith White from Decatur, Texas. He took home \$3,000 in hourly

pay, a 2020 Triton 18 TRX powered by Mercury equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance, a RAM truck and \$2,000 in cash. Winning 3rd Place overall was Christopher Gordon from Natchitoches, Louisiana with a weight of 8.59-pounds. For his efforts he won \$3,000 hourly pay plus a 2020 Triton 18 TRX powered by Mercury equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance and \$1,000 in cash. Winning 4th place overall with a weight of 8.47-pounds was John Lumpkin from Windcrest, Texas. He took home \$3,000 in hourly pay plus a check for \$8,000. Coming in 5th Place overall was Jason Phillips from Rison, Arkansas with a weight of 8.28-pounds. His bass won him \$900 in hourly pay plus a check for \$6,000.

It was disappointing that the double-digit bass Lake Fork is known for did not bite, but the weather was great, safety factors were taken, and the bite was good.

For more information on Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash visit their website at www.sealyoutdoors.com

God Bless America, Fish Friendly, and I hope to see you on the lakes.

**SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 13** 

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#### **Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork** Texas **40th** Semi-Annual Open Tournament

**By Don Hampton** 

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 40th Semi-Annual Bass Tournament on October 10th hosted out of Oak Ridge Marina. Any of you anglers coming to fish the 15th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on October 17th and 18th, this is a chance to do some pre-fishing and enjoy the great fishing Fork has to offer.

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

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork pays back 80% of all entries. There is also a Big Bass if you join now your membership will be good

Pot, optional to anglers. To get into the Big Bot through 2021. Cost for tournament is \$25 with is an optional \$10 with 100% payback to the top three biggest bass. Entry fee for the tournament is \$45 with \$10 Big Bass Option. Texas Trails Bassmasters will be taking entries in the white trailer by the lake from 4 pm to 9 pm on Friday, October 9th, and again on Saturday, October 10th from 5am to 6 am.

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

progressive bass fishing club with ties to the Wish to Fish Foundation and weight masters for the Wood County Annual Kid Fish. If you are thinking of joining a bass club, you can't go wrong with Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork. We are now accepting both boaters and non-boaters to our club.

Dues to join the club are a mere \$30 per year and

a \$5 Big Bass Option. There is also a progressive side pot that is optional for \$5 for the first 7-pound or over bass.

For more information or to obtain an entry form for the tournament see ad on Page 2. You can visit our website at www.texastrailsbassmasters.com or give Rodney Ellis, President a call at 903-714-6473 or Don Hampton, Vice President/Tournament Director a call at 903-360-6994.

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





#### "The Fisherman's Guilde, News You Can Use"

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Keith White from Decatur, Texas won 2nd Place heaviest bass with this 8.73-lb bass.



Christopher Gordon from Natchitoches, LA. won 3rd Place heaviest bass with this 8.59-lb bass.



John Lumpkin from Windcrest, Texas won 4th Place heaviest bass with this 8.47-lb bass.



Jason Phillips from Rison, Arkansas won 5th Place heaviest bass with this 8.28-lb bass.



Kyle from KMOO provided a roost for Petey the Pigeon until Petey took a poop on his hat!



These tennis shoes were voted "Best In Show" at the tournament. At least by me!!!





Let us put you on the water in a super new 2020 Bullet, Falcon, Xpress, SeaArk, Veranda or a quality used boat!



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"The Fisherman's Guilde, News You Can Use"

October





We all should be grateful for our Game Wardens! Not only do they protect our Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife but also administer 1st Aid when needed as Kurt Kelley did with this man's head wound from a fall in his boat.



A big welcome to our new Game Warden to the area, Mr. Lee Hall who took the place of Derek Spence when he got promoted to Captain.

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#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

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## "Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Hunting or fishing? That is the decision to be made over the next few months. Although I really do enjoy a little hunting let's keep it to the topic of fishing Lake Fork in the fall. So, much like last months article Lake Fork is in great shape and most of the fall turnover is behind us now. The water temperatures are slowly beginning to cool down and the creeks and backwaters are filling up with more and more baitfish each and every day. The baitfish will tend to stay in the backwaters until the water temperatures get to cold usually around 55 degrees. The bass will gorge on this easy grouped up prey and since shad

digest quickly the bass will eat quite often making it seem like the bite is on all day when in fact its just random. The key is to find some groups of baitfish, preferably broken. \*Remember round bait balls are safe. Elongated and broken bait balls have most likely been recently under ambush. A great tip is to find the fish eating birds like the blue heron and white egret. If the birds are in the water chasing the baitfish most likely so are the bass in that general area. My choice baits are all in shad pattern colors, and first out of the box is a topwater. There is nothing like a good fall topwater bite! I prefer the popping type with feathers on the back hook. A good ole fashioned buzz bait is hard to beat as well. Around heavy veg-

etation I will use a weedless popping and or buzz frog instead.

Next are moving baits like the spinner baits, underspins or chatterbaits. I will also often throw a small square bill crankbait as it makes for a good search bait. Once I have found an area holding fish I am likely to go back through and pick it a part with Texas rigged worms and small creature baits. A weightless fluke or senko is also something I will always have out on the deck this time of year. Both baits are perfect to use all by themselves but even better to throw on missed top water strikes. The final fall equation I will leave you with is the boat docks. There are many boat docks on Lake Fork, not all of them hold fish. Only specific docks with the right combination of depths, cover and position will hold bass regularly. The ones closest to deep water will often be more consistent but my best advice is study a map and pay very close attention to all details. I absolutely love fishing and guiding on Lake Fork during the fall season. Less traffic, less fishing pressure and great fall weather makes for even a better day on the greatest lake of all times.

Thanks for reading I wish you all great fishing.



Michael McFarland Lake Fork Guide Service Individual \* Group \* Corporate \* Instructional & Beginner Trips All Fishermen Welcome! Ust the best rod & reels and tackle all provided and inclusive with this ad. Specializing in teaching basics all the way through to the career pro level. High school team discounts!!!? Remember to take a kid fising or hunting. There is nothing more rewarding then the outdoors itself!

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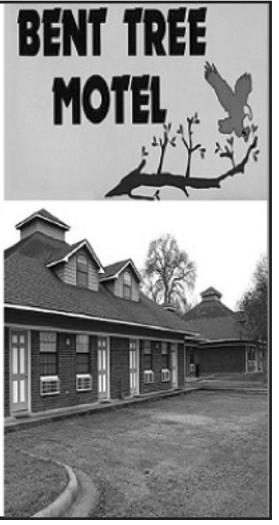


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body of the lake. \*Coleto Creek Reservoir provides some bigtime crappie angling opportunity near Victoria. The reservoir often supports a robust crappie population providing fast and furious action. Angler harvest rates over time have been solid. In the spring, crappie can be caught in shallow water near submerged brush while summertime anglers focus in on the main creek channels near submerged timber. \*White Rock Lake in which is noted for crapthe heart of Dallas is not a large reservoir but has an excellent crappie population. Catch rates of crappie in population surveys are some of the highest of any Texas reservoir. The lake has a

boat engine horsepower limit (9.9), which might discourage some boat anglers from fishing it, but it certainly makes it kayak and canoe angler friendly. The lake features fishing piers for anglers without boats or kayaks, and reed beds provide cover for fish.

Twelve Hot Spots For Crappie (Continued from Page 7)

\*Lake Lavon is located northeast of Dallas and is the childhood stomping grounds of professional crappie angler, Wally Marshall (Mr. Crappie). The lake, pie fishing, boasts high harvest rates of quality fish. In the winter, crappie are usually found around deep structures, especially on southfacing shorelines. The fish migrate to shallow

water in the spring to spawn, providing anglers with ample opportunities to reel in quality crappie.

October

\*Sam Rayburn Reservoir near Jasper draws a lot of anglers, but anglers have plenty of room to spread out on "Big Sam" as it's the largest reservoir completely within Texas. Crappie spawning is relatively stable and tends to reduce the "boomand-bust" crappie fishing that can occur at some smaller reservoirs. Although crappie fishing can be good yearround, most anglers target crappie from May - October when many of the fish can be found on main-lake brush piles (See Twelve Hot... Continued on Page 25)



#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" October Page 19 Lake Fork Sportsman's Association "Preserving the Legend That is Lake Fork"

**By Larry Marler, President** Lake Fork Sportsman's Association

Tournaments are now starting this fall. We had a great tournament in mid-September with Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash. The 3 day event had an estimated 2500 fisherman this year. October

brings us: The Bass Cat Owners October 3-4- Lake . Fork Marina

Texas Trails Bass Master Open- October 10th Oak Ridge Marina

Jake Wilson Memorial- October 10th-Minnow Bucket

Billy Dyson Memorial- October 11th Lake Fork Marina

Fork Marina

J C Outdoors Fall October 24th- Minnow Bucket

DPS Troopers Open October 24th Lake Fork Marina

Texas Toyota Fest November 5-8 Sabine **River Authority Headquarters** 

J C Outdoors Fall Teams November 7th Minnow Bucket

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association will have our release boat at some of these tournaments so

make sure to come by and see us.

October is the month we will begin our planting of Aqua Plants with Yantis High School. We also may be adding another high school which I will announce once it is final. Students make this one of their school projects and raise the plants to maturity. We then, with Texas Parks and Wildlife, will take them with a few students and plant them in strategic areas to establish plants for our fish habitat.

Fall is also the time we need to watch our weather. We could have cold spells, rain and also beautiful weather for fishing. Lake Fork has had an excellent summer with water levels staying near full pool. We had some good rains which helped keep it up. We are seeing lots of bait fish Berkley Big Bass- October 17-18 Lake out there so we know our Bass will be fattening up.

> Fall is a great time for fishing our lake and we wish you success.

> The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association meets the second Tuesday of each month at Tiffany's Restaurant 6:30 P.M. located at Lake Fork Marina. Come and join us. Our meeting in October will be October 13th. We hope to see your there. Get there a little early and have dinner. Great food and lots of Lake Fork fish stories.

See you soon.





**FACKLE 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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# Page 20"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use""Fall Bass Habits on Lake Fork!" (Continued from Page 6)

shades on sunny days. If the water has pitiful clarity, go with the darker colors. If the wind is howling, head to the windiest bank and throw a Talon spinner bait. If the water is on the clear side, use the willow blades. Murky water will call for the Colorado blades.

Falling water temps will also issue in a better deep bite as bass start to group up. Deep structures, road beds, points and ridges should all come alive as these fish search for food to fatten up for the winter. Once the afternoon rolls around, start looking deep for bait and you will find bass that just flat live there year round. The electronics are key



409-782-4269

to this success and once you locate a sizeable wad of fish, pitch out a marker buoy and go to work. You can start with a Carolina rig using any big worm to fool the bass. Blue fleck, Watermelon red and plum all work well. A stand up head is also a great tool for these fish using the same worms. My mantra is "if I can see them, I can catch them". It's game on for video fishing and the drop shot rules the roost for this type of play. Put the worm right in front of their nose and wait for the rod to load up. It don't get much better than that. If you spot the big arc's suspended, dig out a 5 inch Talon spoon, count it down and hold on. A magnum fluke will work equally well if the wind is not howling. Use a heavy rod and 20lb line for this application.

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



Clancy Sneed with David Ozio



Zack Turner with David Ozio



Mark Spaeth with David Ozio

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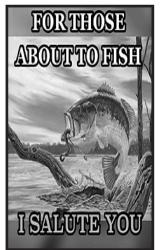
### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

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#### October on Fork (Continued from Page 8)

this opportunity. It's time to order the in hopes of see-2021 Skeeter Solera ing my brother who we all get to HUG or 205 so my 2020 Sol- started Comfort Care era 205 is now avail- (Hospice) recently more time. able for a new own- because of his serier. It is fully rigged with Lowrance and of course a Garmin entry. So, my heart caught in the middle Livescope. Also, a breaks for any of of all this mess! MinnKota Ulterra trolling motor with automatic stowe and deploy feature. Plus all the bells and whistles that Skeeter offers, and transfer of warranty. So, if anyone is interested in owning one of these awesome boats, it's now available. This is one the whole family will enjoy! Feel free to contact me and I will be happy to show it to you.

Before I close, I want to send out my "heartfelt" thoughts and prayers to any of you that are dealing with a loved one in a nursing home or care facility that's on lock-down, and basically imprisoned - being denied ANY physical contact with their family since this whole crazy Covid started



ous health decline, and thanks to all the but we were denied caregivers that are

Diamond Sports for the first of the year. I you that are having just drove 500 miles to deal with this too. Sending prayers that hold their hands one

Stay safe you all

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#### Animal Find

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

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# Game Warden Field Notes

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

-Teamwork Makes the Dream Work-A game warden was traveling back to Bell County from Lake Travis when he heard several deputies, several volunteer fire fighters, Temple technical rescue and Starflight in route to a call near a river. The warden called the local dispatch for more information and learned that a minor was operating an ATV and went off a sheer 35-40 ft. cliff into the Little River. Additional assistance was requested because the terrain was difficult to navigate and needed a four-wheel drive vehicle. The warden reached out to another warden also in the area and they responded to the scene. Upon arrival, Temple Fire Department's technical team prepared a repelling system pully system and various personnel from seven different agencies assisted in recovering the patient, two of his friends and several rescuers up the sheer 35-40 ft. diff. Due to the excellent teamwork and communication the operation was successful, and the patient was transported to the hospital in stable condition with a few broken bones.

-Strike a Pose-A Houston County game warden was patrolling Houston County Lake when he noticed a man in possession of a slot limit bass. The man said he was going to take a photo with the fish and then release it back into the lake. The warden asked to see the fish and when the man removed it from the live well, the warden saw that it was dead and beginning to turn stiff. Case pending.

-Curiosity Caught the Cat-- A game warden received a call from an Andrews County deputy asking about the legality of shooting mountain lions in Texas. After explaining the regulations, the deputy told the warden someone had daimed to have seen several mountain lions hanging around an old abandoned house near the state line. The warden contacted the individual who had allegedly seen the cats and located where he had (Continued on Page 24)



#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

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## Get 'Roasted' With a Tasty Oktoberfest Recipe

#### By Sue Hampton

When people think of beer they often picture a smoky bar filled with men hooting and cheering for the football game. Or perhaps, a group of teenagers who think they're enjoying a sip unbeknownst to their parents. Most are not, however, thinking of fine cuisine.

Beer is a social drink, and when enjoyed responsibly, can be a refreshing treat after a long day. What many do not realize is that beer is also a useful cooking ingredient – and not just for beer-battered onion rings. Much like wine, beer brings out the flavor of food and it can be used in many recipes. A large selection of



Hope everyone has a safe and "Happy Halloween"!!

brews gives cooks a wide choice, which means that everything from fish to beef to pork can be matched with beers that complement flavors and intensity.

In celebration of Oktoberfest, a German festival of music and dining, a pot roast with onions and beer would work well among the joyous revelry. Surprise guests by showing them that beer can be enjoyed through food as well as in a frosty mug.

#### Four-Onion Pot Roast With Beer

2 tablespoons olive oil

- 4 to 5-pound chuck roast, boned and tied
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 1 tablespoon dried sage
- 2 large onions, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 pound leeks, washed and thinly sliced
- 1 cup pearl onions
- 1 carrot, peeled and diced
- 1 celery stalk, diced
- 2 large potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-1/2 inch cubes
- 2 shallots, chopped
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 tablespoon molasses
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 12-ounce bottles of dark beer
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> bunch scallions, chopped

In a large roasting pan large enough to hold the roast, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Season the roast with salt, pepper, thyme and sage. Place the roast in the pan and sear on all sides.

Remove the roast, add all the vegetables and saute' for about 2 minutes. Add the molasses and continue to cook for about 5 minutes, stirring continuously to prevent burning.

Place the roast back in the pan and add the bay leaf and beer. Cover and cook for about 1-1/2 to 2 hours over low heat, until the meat is tender. Remove the meat and keep it warm.

Degrease the liquid in the pan and stir in the mustard and vinegar. Reduce the liquid until it is thick enough to coat the back of a spoon. Adjust the seasoning and add the scallions. Slice the roast and serve it with the sauce and vegetables.





# Page 24"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"Game Warden Field Notes<br/>(Continued from Page 22)

October

spotted them. The warden spoke to the landowners in the area and found out the individual did not have permission to be on their property. After investigating further, it was determined that four individuals were trespassing on the ranch. Appropriate charges were filed and are currently pending.

-Punch Buggy! Wait... That's MY Buggy!- A Polk County game warden was patrolling an area recently hit with several burglaries when he noticed an unoccupied UTV. While searching the UTV for a serial number, a person pulled up in a truck screaming for help. The person claimed that someone had just broke into their property, then said "Hey! That's my buggy!" The thief had used the UTV to transport stolen goods from the burglary that morning. Trail cameras, which were also stolen, sent partial images of the thief to the owner's cell phone. The next day, the warden visited a nearby house that was being worked on to see if anyone recognized the subject. One of the workers said, "Yes, that guy borrowed my phone, he said his buggy broke down." The warden saw the text messages the subject sent and was able to gather their name and address. The case was handed to Polk County Sheriff's Office due to subject being part of an organized crime ring in Polk, Liberty and San Jacinto Counties. Multiple warrants have been issued. -We Found Dove in a Hopeless Place--Two game wardens responded to a call regarding individuals shooting birds near a gun range in Donna. With the wardens approaching the area from opposite directions, two men were found exiting a brushy area carrying a rifle and piece of plywood with a target affixed, while a third man was sitting under a blue tent near his pickup truck. The wardens confronted the men and asked if either

of them owned the property or had the landowner's permission to be there. They readily admitted that they did not have permission, although one offered that he had hunted there a couple of years before. They were then asked if they had been hunting birds, but categorically denied it. Unfortunately for them, the Wardens were able to find the seven white-winged dove they had hidden in a bait bucket. After consulting with the landowner, it was determined that "Criminal Trespass – Agricultural Land" and "Hunting During Closed Season" would be the charges filed. In addition, the individual claiming to have killed the birds was assessed the civil restitution value for each of the white-winged dove.

-We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together-A Montgomery County game warden received a complaint from a woman saying her boyfriend and his friend had killed a deer a couple of days ago and still had it hanging in the garage. The warden arrived at the location and found the deer had gone to waste. The boyfriend admitted to shooting the deer from a public road at night and was arrested for a Felony Warrant, Hunting at Night and Failing to Retrieve or Keep in Edible Condition. The next day, the warden contacted the friend who had admitted to helping the boyfriend kill the deer and leaving it hanging in the garage without processing it completely. After further investigation, the warden found that the friend also had a felony warrant. He was arrested for the Felony Warrant, Hunting at Night and Failing to Retrieve or Keep in Edible Condition.

-**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 sepa-rate cances 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 cance. The warden gave her his life jacket and instructed her to swim away from the cance and move downstream to a sandbar. He then grabbed the cance and pulled it in his patrol boat and met both ladies down-stream 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 look-ing for information



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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 ranch. When the Hardin County game warden inter-viewed the couple, they were adamant that they had pur-chased 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 li-cense had been purchased and they had posted the picture of a harvested deer in Real County the same day she purchased a li-cense 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.

\*Data from recent angler surveys at Lake O' the Pines, which is near Marshall, indicated that 25-35 percent of the fishing pressure was by anglers targeting crappie throughout the year. There is a special harvest regulation on the reservoir from Dec. 1 through the end of February that requires anglers to keep the first 25 crappie they catch regardless of size.

\*For anglers near San Angelo, crappie fishing at Twin Buttes Reservoir has been exceptional this year. Anglers are consistently catching limits, including many fish that measure around 14 inches. Recent population surveys

**Twelve Hot Spots For Crappie** (Continued from Page 18) in 15- to 30-foot depths. indicated that an excel- tary trees in the mouths lent crappie population of creeks and on main was present.

> \*In the vicinity of Waco, Lake Limestone provides more solitude for Lake Arrowhead has anglers who want to avoid the crowds. During the summer, fishing can be good as crappie gather around large soli-

lake points, suspending 10 to 20 feet deep.

\*Near Wichita Falls, historically been considered the area's best crappie fishery. Crappie can be found throughout the reservoir, but

some of the most popular shoreline angling locations are Lake Arrowhead State Park and the four bridges. The bridges are also popular with boat anglers seeking crappie.

To learn more, check out all the great resources TPWD has to offer on the fishing website.



Mr. Crappie, Wally Marshall was on Lake Fork shooting a show in September and had to make a Fisherman's One Stop to visit his friend John Heimgartner and show his new Lew's rod he is coming out with.







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