

Patrick Walters won the 2020 Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest with a total weight of 104-pounds 12-ounces. He topped the rest of the field of competitors by almost 30-pounds.

### Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest Benefitting **TPWD Held On Lake Fork November 5 thru 8**

**By Don Hampton** 

The Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest (TBTF) headed back to Lake and Wildlife Depart-Fork for the second ment. year in a row, bringing world class bass fishing, shopping, and a variety

Texas' most iconic bass demic forced the postfishing lake. The event ponement of the spring was held Nov. 5-8 and benefitting Texas Parks

The tournament was originally scheduled for June 5-9, but the of outdoor activities to ongoing COVID Pan-

competition. The TBTF is a Bassmaster Elite Series tournament, where 85 of the top bass anglers in the world competed for a (See Toyota Bassmasters.... Continued on Page 7)

TUNDR Ð

Frace

Seth Feider caught this Lake Fork hawg on the first day of the 2020 Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest weighing 9.9-pounds. His bass was the heaviest weighed in the duration of the tournament winning him a new Toyota Tundra truck.

*"Merry Christmas & Happy New Year* To One & All!"

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

December



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#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" December Shopping For Bubbette" Don't When and Do's Christmas "Bubba's

**By Don Hampton** 

When buying for your Bubbette this Christmas, take some advice from Bubba on gift selection. Bubba is not the smartest man in the world but he is a quick learner.

Bubba's suggestions of what not to buy:

1.) Don't buy her anything that can be construed or used as a weapon for inflicting pain if she doesn't like it.

2.) Don't buy her anything you could use if she make it easier for you to relax. doesn't like it, (see #1).

3.) Garden tools, lawnmower, or a chainsaw is definitely a no-no, (see #1).

4.) No new tires or parts for the automobile, (see #1).

5.) A new trolling motor will get you hurt, (see #1).

6.) A cover for the boat, (see #1).

7.) Don't buy her any household or kitchen appliances – ever! (#1 could apply).

8.) Tickets to boat shows, fishing seminars or the Bassmasters Classic, (paper-cuts really hurt, see #1).

9.) A gift certificate from a tackle store, (see #8 & #1).

10.) A replica of the biggest fish you've caught 10.) Make sure she knows where the gift is this year, (see #1).

With all ten of these don'ts, Bubba has assured me they have been tried and true...but, for the ten don'ts Bubba suggests he has come up with ten do's. These are called the "Bubba Do's learned by paying his dues!"

Bubba has it down to a fine art now and suggests you try these do's:

1.) Go with the heart and don't try to save a buck. Believe me they will know.

2.) Consider her need for relaxation. This will

3.) Buy jewelry...it always works. (See #1)

4.) If you buy her clothes, know her size; if not, buy a smaller vs. a larger size, (see #1, don'ts list).

5.) Listen for clues, hints, and suggestions. There will be plenty.

6.) Ask her friends, mother, or sister what she wants.

7.) Think of her unspoken wants and be daring and romantic.

8.) Don't be afraid to buy from a store she frequents. Do not buy at a Wal-Mart, she might do a price check on you!

9.) Buy what she wants, but that she would not buy for herself.

from, so she discreetly can return it.

For the last few Christmases, Bubba has practiced these do's and don'ts. I do believe they are working because I have not seen any bumps or lumps on his head after Christmas. Those all appear after New Year's Eve, but that is an entirely different story.

Try some "Bubba Knowledge" shopping this year for your Bubbette. It could save you a lump sum and a bump sum!

Bubbette's suggestion for shopping for Bubba or the fishmen in your life is simple! "Get them some new stuff!" Anything that pertains to fishing, fishing clothes, rods, reels, baits, items to put on their boat, etc. Bubba and fishermen are the easiest to buy for! They all like fishing stuff!

"Merry Christmas from our home to vours!"



In Denmark, the Christmas door decorations known as kiockestrangs also have windows and doors to pop open and serve as an Advent calendar.



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



### *de, News You Can Use" December* Texas Winter Tradition Returns with Rainbow Trout Stocking

November marks the beginning of a winter tradition in Texas for anglers of all ages across the state as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department begins stocking thousands of rainbow trout November 25. The easy to catch rainbow trout are delicious table fare and can be found on many restaurant menus.

"TPWD stocks catchable sized fish during winter months to create angling opportunities throughout Texas," said TPWD's rainbow trout Program Director, Carl Kittel. Rainbow trout love cold water, can be caught on a variety of baits and lures (worms, power bait, corn, spinners, spoons, flies and more), and are great to take home

and eat. Our winter rainbow trout program has been a favorite with anglers for over forty years." TPWD plans to stock a total of 332,188 rainbow trout in Texas from November 25 through March 5, 2021. Because rainbow trout are unable to survive in Texas after the winter, anglers are encouraged to keep up to their daily bag limit of five trout. Rainbow trout are an attractive, tasty fish and anglers can easily find recipes to prepare these fish online. It is also important that all anglers maintain a safe physical distance in accordance with public health guidelines and follow local ordinances due to the ongoing public health situation.

The Neighborhood Fishin' program offers some outstanding opportunities to catch rainbow trout for families and new anglers in and around major cities. TPWD manages 18 Neighborhood Fishin' lakes statewide in most major urban centers, including Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth. Houston and San Antonio. These lakes are frequently stocked with rainbow trout during the winter stocking season and offer plenty of amenities so that family members of all ages can enjoy a fun and relaxing day fishing and connecting in nature.

Tailrace fishing is popular during trout season and for anglers interested in go-*(Continued on Next Page)* 

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

Page 5

ing that route, TPWD will stock rainbow trout into the Canyon Tailrace on the Guadalupe River below Canyon Lake, and the Possum Kingdom Tailrace on the Brazos River below Possum Kingdom Lake. Those locations often have very cool water and provide excellent conditions for trout fishing.

Other stocking locations include dozens of local city and county managed park They can be caught usponds, the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center casting pond, and several rivers including the Frio, South Llano and Guadalupe rivers and the Clear Fork of the Trinity River.

In addition, anglers can pursue a fish in a Texas State Park for free without a fishing license. Anyone planning a trip to a Texas State Park should keep in mind that parks are operating at a limited capacity,

so reserving a day pass in advance is highly recommended since some parks are expected to reach their capacity limit. Day passes can be reserved online through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website or over the phone by calling (512) 389-8900.

The good news is it doesn't take a lot of sophisticated fishing equipment to reel in a rainbow trout. ing simple, light tackle or on hand-tied flies using a fly rod. However, keeping an array of baits and lures nearby while having ice available when harvesting trout to keep them fresh are good points to keep in mind before heading out to the water. For more tips on how to catch rainbow trout, gain some insight from TPWD staff on the TPWD YouTube channel. In Texas, children under

17 fish for free, but a fishing license with a freshwater fishing endorsement is required for adults in the family. An angler fishing in a Community Fishing Lake or from a dock, pier or jetty within a Texas State Park may use no more than two poles. The statewide bag limit is five trout, except on parts of the Guadalupe River where special limits are in effect.

The dates and locations are subject to change due inclement weather to or other unforeseen circumstances. Be sure to check the 2020-21 Trout Stocking Schedule online before you go fishing to confirm the stocking date, check fishing regulations and to find other winter trout stocking program angling tips.

Fish Friendly

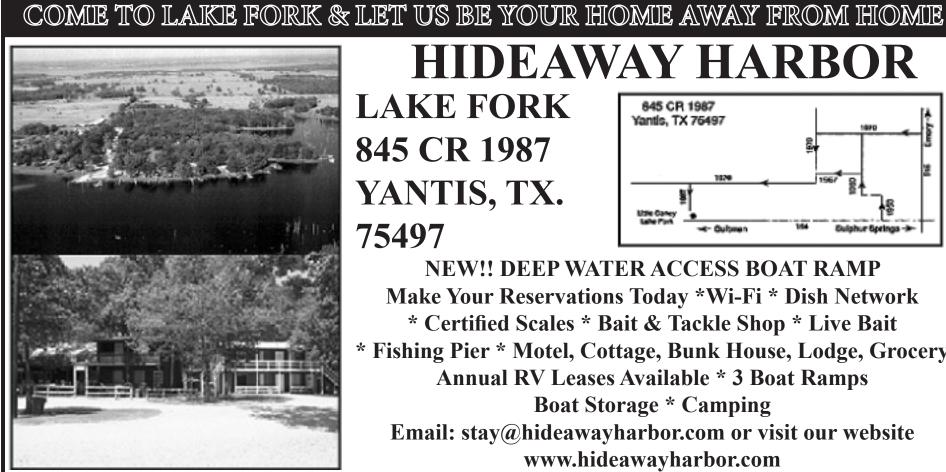


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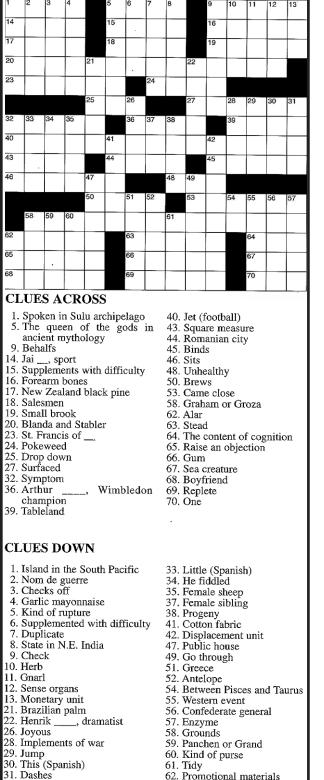
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December

### "Winter is Upon Us!"

#### By David Ozio

"Winter is upon us and, looking back to the past five years at this time, it leaves us with a head scratcher. Last year at this time, the main lake surface water temp was around 57 degrees. As of this writing we currently have a surface temp of 63 degrees. Been a while since we have seen a fall this mild and it is pushing the winter transition back a bit. This points to the fact that there could actually still be some lake turnover headed our way in December. The sixty-four dollar question is "how do we adjust"? The answer may lay in what the baiitfish are currently doing. Example: have you seen any barfish anywhere on Fork in early November? How about shad? I finally started seeing



Answers on Page 21

32. Open

both of the above this past week.

More than a month ago shad were starting to migrate to the backs of the creeks where hungry bass were stocking up for the cold days ahead. Most disappeared in early November. The years lack of rain has the lake about two and a quarter foot low and this may have something to do with it compared to past seasons. The change in water temps should have helped the shallow bite and, oddly enough, these same cooler water temps haven't allowed the big bass to gang up deep as of this writing. This changes our focus to mid depth water patterns and this will continue into December while we are searching for the next Share-Lunker. Provided the water continues to slowly cool heading into Santa month, good electronics will play a key roll in the search of these groups of monster green fish and the best place to start your search will be at the mouth of the major creeks, Birch, Penson, Mustang, Williams, Wolfe and Dale. Focus on the shad and scan for hooks that are surrounding the clouds of bait. All these bass will be suspended so target these fish with a flutter spoon if the wind is an issue or a weightless fluke if the water is calm. Count the bait down to the level where you marked them at the rate of a second per foot. At that point, twitch the fluke or rip the spoon. Stay in touch with the shad and see what happens. Any flutter spoon will do the trick if you are in the mouth of a creek that is inundated with timber. Let it flut-



ter to the bottom and experiment with different retrieves to isolate what the fish favor. A standard spoon in the same silver or gold works better if you are in open water with no obstructions. Pay close attention to your graph and direct your efforts in areas where there are schools of sand bass or bar fish. All year, the big black bass have been mixed in with the schools feeding on the unwitting small bar fish. C-rigs and drop shots have worked well also using redbug and junebug Talon Carolina Worms. Locate the baitfish and go to work.

Once the water cools into the low 50's the shallow bite will still be relevant on sunny days providing the water temps are warming. Rattletraps, squarebills, chatterbaits



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

### Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest Benefitting TPWD Held On Lake Fork Nov. 5-8 (Continued from Page 1)

total prize purse of \$1 million.

This unique tournament "catch-weigh-immediate release" format that included various venwas designed to honor this lake's special size latest fishing merchanlimits and reduce handling stress on large bass. TPWD was on site at the Sabine River Authority to highlight family-friendly fishing, hunting and camping opportunities in the state.

lic health protocols in place, visitors could mingle outdoors with fisheries biologists, state park rangers, outdoor educators and game wardens at more

than nine booths.

Other weekend acshowcased a tivities at 2020 Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest dor booths with the dise, seminars taught by Bassmaster Elite Series pros, the annual Bassmaster High School All-American Fishing Team Tournament and more.

Saturday's entertainment lineup included With proper pub- Elite angler "meet and greets," and several special TPWD ceremonies to honor anglers who have made an impact on fishing this vear.

During the first spe-

honored the three Toyota ShareLunker Legacy Anglers who caught and donated 13-pound or larger largemouth bass to support TPWD's selective breeding program in 2020. This presentation included an official announcement of the winner of the Legacy Class Prize Drawing for a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

TPWD also recognized the 2020 inductee into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. During this presentation, Shane Wilson, of South Padre

outdoor cial ceremony, TPWD Island, was honored for reach programs. his efforts to engage people in fishing.

> a long-term supporter the Texas Parks and of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, donated proceeds from reach programs in Texthe tournament to support TPWD's youth fishing and urban out-

O R

"Since 2007, this tournament has raised more Gulf States Toyota, than \$3.25 million for Wildlife Department's youth fishing and outas," Lang said. "These dollars have made a direct impact on in-

creasing fishing participation in Texas - particularly in urban and suburban areas where access to fishing is limited. We are grateful for this support and look forward to continuing this work to bring fish-(See Toyota Bassmasters.... Continued on Page 11)

Page 7



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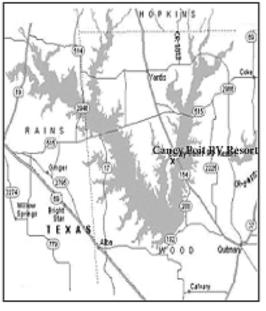
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December

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### **"The** Moon **Report**" "December Crappie"

By Terri Moon

Well – here it is – December - the last chapter of 2020. It's been a year of many challenges for everyone but I'm sure grateful for all the blessings that came through during these trying times. A big "Thank You" to all that were able to fish with me this year and sending prayers to those of you that weren't able to come due to covid. There will be better days in the future! In the meantime, stay safe and please use good judgment!

Our November this year was interesting the early cold snap sent the crappie deeper earlier than usual. One day we are catching them in 12 ft. - then the next we are finding them in 40 ft.! Thank goodness for my "Spotlock" and "Live Scope"! I couldn't imagine my life without them now especially as the crappie head into to remind everyone their winter migration to deep open water. About the biggest problem you will have this time of year is the "WIND"! When Fork's crappie go deep, you are at the mercy of the wind and it can be brutal! (So once again - use good judgment)! Right now we are targeting 20-35 ft. in 25 to 50 ft. of water off main lake points, creek channels, and timber lines. The Live Scope definitely shows you how deep you need to



target. Be sure and keep your bait above the fish.

The crappie are bunching up and with the colder weather coming next week will put them in a feeding frenzy. I can't believe the size of shad that are showing up in their stomachs. So, we are up-sizing our baits to the Bonehead 3 inch size on their  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. bonehead jig head. (Be sure and try their new Brush Glider bait!)

Hey – before I forget December 1st to March 1st – you have to keep the first 25 crappie you catch – NO culling. The 10-inch minimum will not go back in effect till March 1st. This is a very beneficial law. When the crappie are coming up from such deep water, their air bladders blow up on them (like getting the bends) and they can't go back down especially if they are reeled up real fast. So, generally that fish won't live. That's why

they take away the 10inch minimum during this time. So it really is a good thing until they can figure out how to deflate a crappie like they do the bass. That would be great to try to save some of those giant crappie that are caught in the tournaments and they were reeled in too fast from deep water - so they had to throw them back and couldn't weigh them because they were dying. Deflating works on bass - I'm really curious if it would save some giant crappie? That would be awesome!

My December advice is - the colder the water temperature gets, the deeper you need to look for the crappie – follow the bait fish. Also, if you find a day with no wind, bundle up and go have some fun on Fork!

Wishing everyone a safe and blessed Holiday Season!

Practice C.P.R.

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

Page 9



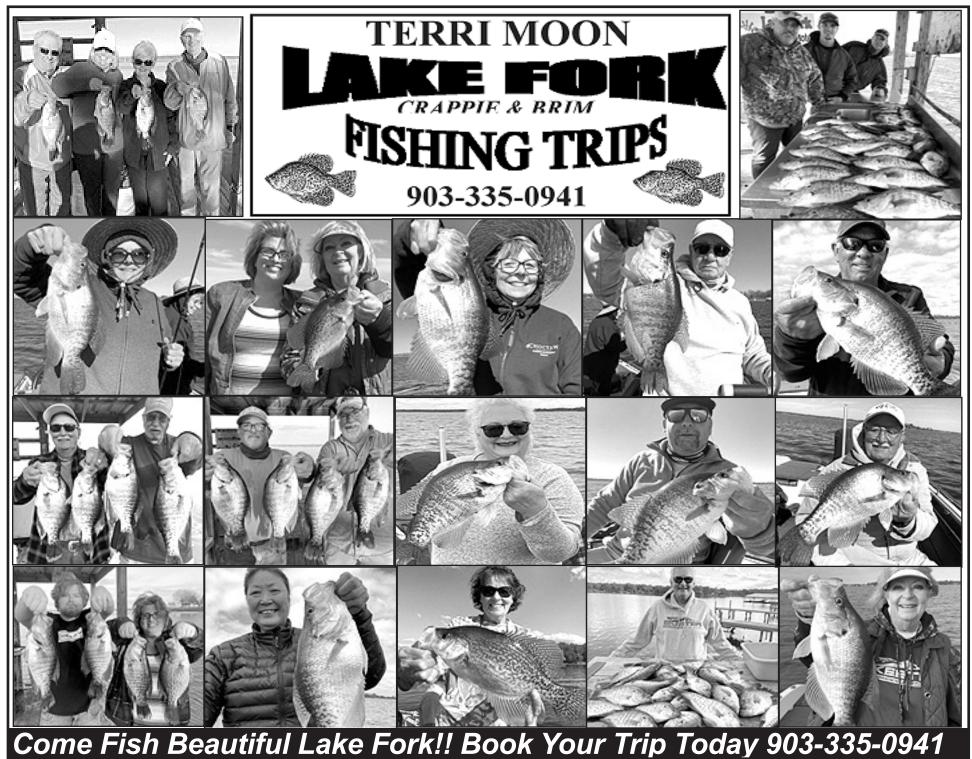
Congratulations to Kurt Blount on his first double digit weighing 10.81-lbs. caught on 11/11 during the GoFish Tournament at Axton's Bass City. C.P.R.



Congratulations to John Cook who shot this David Greer from Baytown, Texas caught this buck of a lifetime 15 points and a 162 in Bowie, Montague County, Texas on 11/7/20.

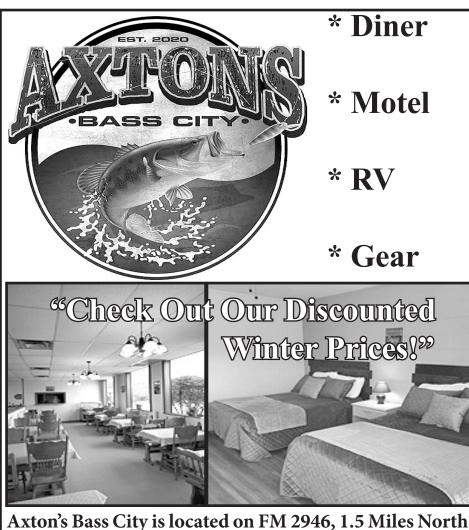


nice bass fishing with Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith on 11/26/20. C.P.R.



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

December



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### **Big Time Texas Hunts Winners Announced**

Wildlife Department conservation (TPWD) has an- draiser for TPWD following personal ers that purchase en-14 lucky individuals. Justin 135,714 entries.

lion was raised this will experience the year from Big Time hunt of a lifetime. If search, habitat man- wildlife hunting.

"Big Time Texas lic hunting lands in continues Texas." Hunts

The Texas Parks and to be an important funnounced the winners and we greatly apof this year's Big preciate the support pherson of Stevens Time Texas Hunts, of our Texas hunt- Point, notification to these tries each year," said The winners were TPWD Private Lands top four premier big selected in a ran- and Public Hunting game species - desdom drawing from Program Director. ert bighorn sheep, "If a hunter is lucky More than \$1.2 mil- enough to win, they pronghorn and mule Texas Hunts entries, they don't, they can other category winand proceeds from feel good knowing ners of this year's the drawing go to the funds from their Big support wildlife re- entry go directly to Hunts: conservaagement and public tion and public ac- Hunt-Jason Haynie, cess projects on pub-

This year's winner of the Texas Grand Slam hunting package, Brad Christo-Wisconsin, is making plans for four separate guided Dreibelbis, hunts for the state's white-tailed deer. deer.

> Following are the Time Texas

Ultimate Mule Deer North Richland Hills, TX

(See Big Time Texas... Continued on Page 18)



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

### Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest Benefitting TPWD Held On Lake Fork Nov. 5-8 (Continued from Page 7)

ing closer to Texans in the years ahead." Local hosts of Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest include the Wood County Economic Development Corporation and the Sabine River Authority.

"These local organizations deserve special thanks for helping us bring a Bassmaster Elite Series event to Lake Fork for the second consecutive year," Lang said. "Without the Sabine River Authority and others, Lake Fork would not be the top trophy bass lake in Texas

Admission for the event was free for the whole family. All attendees maintained a safe physical distance in accordance with public health guidelines and followed local ordinances due to the ongoing public health situation.

The Angler of the Year competition was close on \$20,000; 9th Place Stetson Blaylock with 60-lbs. scoring coming into the 2020 Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest on Lake Fork. The pros in the running for that great achievement gave their best efforts to attain that goal. When all was calculated Clark Wendlandt was declared 2020 Bassmaster Angler of the Year.

reservoir ten anglers rose victorious of the 85 pros participating. Winning first through tenth in order were; 1st Place Patrick Walters with 104-lbs. 12ozs. Winning \$125,000; 2nd Place Keith Combs with 75-lbs. 2-ozs. Winning \$40,000; 3rd Place Jay Yelas with 68-lbs. 14-ozs. Winning \$30,000; 4th Place Brandon Palaniuk with 69-lbs. 5-ozs.

4-ozs. Winning \$20,000; 10th Place Skylar Hamilton with 54-lbs. 4-ozs. Winning \$20,000. Seth Feider caught the largest bass of the tournament weighing 9.9-pounds. For his great catch he took home a new Toyota Tundra truck.

For future dates of Bassmaster events or the After four days of great fishing on this fantastic 2021 Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest check out their website www.bassmaster.com

(For More Photos See Page 13)

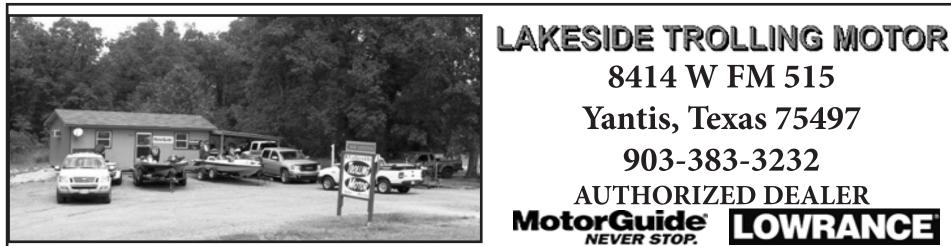




J & M Guide Service



Winning \$22,000; 5th Place Brad Whatley with 68-lbs. 9-ozs. Winning \$20,000; 6th Place Ed Loughran III with 66-lbs 13-ozs. Winning \$20,000; 7th Place Lee Livesay with 64-lbs. 3-ozs. Winning \$20,000; 8th Place Brock Mosley with 61-lbs. 9-ozs. Winning





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Page 11

#### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" Page 12 December Silovsky Wildlife Named John Division New Director

John Silovsky has been selected as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Wildlife Division Director. Silovsky began his career with TPWD in 2014 and served as the District Leader for the Post Oak Savannah Wildlife District before being promoted to the Wildlife Division's Deputy Director position in 2019. He has been serving as the acting director of the division since July 2020.

"With more than 30 years of leadership in wildlife management and conservation across Kansas and Texas, John brings an exceptional breadth of applied and pragmatic experience to his new role as the Department's Wildlife Division Director," said Carter Smith, Executive Director of TPWD. "John's long history working in the field, his wideranging knowledge about the many and varied issues affecting Texas' wildlife and his unvielding commitment to serving the needs of all our stakeholders, from private landowners, to hunters, to non-consumptive users, will be great assets to our Department and the mission we serve. I am excited about John assuming this position and look forward to working with him to help manage and conserve the extraordinary wildlife resources of our home ground."

Silovsky says that on the surface, it appears that fectively utilize their abilities and develop pro-TPWD is very deer-centric but when one looks at the bigger picture, many would be astonished at the diversity and volume of wildlife conservation conducted by the Wildlife Division.

"The Wildlife Division is such a great team to be a part of," Silovsky said. "The work we do is as diverse as the wildlife and natural resources of Texas."

Biologists and staff within the division offer valuable insight and knowledge on everything from butterflies to bats, to the countless environmental assessments the division provides on a large variety of development projects, to offering public hunting opportunities across the state on more than 1 million acres, along with the management of all the other game species that are a large part of Texas' hunting and outdoor heritage.

"The work ethic, professionalism and can-do attitude of a staff of more than 300 makes it easy for me to go to work each day," Silovsky said. "The Wildlife Division is in the opportunity business by providing the opportunity for landowners to enhance the habitat on their property, the opportunity for the public to have an enjoyable outdoor experience and the opportunity for our staff to effessionally."

Silovsky adds that some of his priorities for the Wildlife Division include increasing the public's trust and ensuring that the work the division does is relevant to them whether they be traditional constituents like landowners or more urban constituencies. Additionally, Silovsky hopes that the diversity of the division's employees can reflect the diversity of its constituents, that the division can continue TPWDs focus on the strategic management of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), helping the public find access to the outdoors and the R3 initiative intended to recruit, retain and reactivate Texas hunters and anglers.

Silovsky received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas and soon thereafter began his career with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT). Silovsky held numerous positions with KDWPT including biologist aide, conservation worker and program services manager. Silovsky finished his successful 33-year career with KDWPT as the Regional Public Lands Supervisor for twenty counties in northeast Kansas.



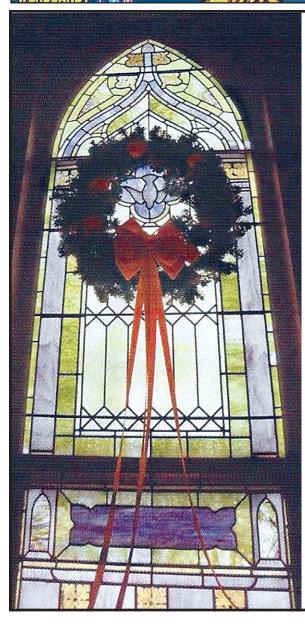
### "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

Page 13









On Behalf of "The Fisherman's Guide News" "Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament" and "The Wish to Fish Foundation" We Wish All Of You A Blessed And Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year! "Remember Jesus Is The Reason For The Season"

> Most Sincerely Don & Sue Hampton





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

### December

### **Recent Data Shows that Hunter Education Improves Hunting and Shooting Sports Safety**

According to the 2019 Texas Hunting Incident Analysis, Texas has seen a substantial decrease in hunting-related accidents and fatalities since Hunter Education became mandatory in 1988. That year, over 18,000 Texans received their Hunter Education certification, but 12 fatalities and 70 accidents were still reported throughout the state. As more Texans have taken to the field and obtained their Hunter Education certification, these numbers have improved, with over 56,000 certifications in 2019 and only 1 fatality, and 21 accidents, reported statewide.

Page 16

"The number one hunting incident during the general season is careless handling of a firearm in and around vehicles," said Steve Hall, the Hunter Education Coordinator for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). "Keep a firearm pointed in a safe direction at all times. This is the cardinal rule of hunting and shooting safety."

Even prior to Hunter Education becoming mandatory in 1988, TPWD has offered hunter education courses since 1972 which have certified nearly 1.5 million students. Today, Hunter Education is required for every hunter in Texas (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after Sept. 2, 1971. The minimum age for certification is 9 years of age and certification is good for life.

There are two course options for anyone who needs to take Hunter Education. The basic classroom course is six hours of instruction and includes skill exercises, a review and then a final exam. These types of courses are most often held in schools or in an indoor venue. The online course, combined with the field course, has two parts: a free online course that should be completed first, and then a field course that typically takes a minimum of four hours to complete. The field course contains a presentation on ethical and responsible hunting, participation in a hunting skills trail, a live-fire exercise, a review of regulations and a final exam.

There is also an online-only course that is restricted to anyone 17 years of age or older. Online coursework varies from 2-4 hours depending on pre-knowledge, age, reading level and other factors.

Hall offers other tips that will help ensure a safe experience for anyone whether they're at their home, in transit to their hunting spot, or spending time in the field.

\*Unload all firearms when not in use, especially in the home, in transport and in the field until ready to shoot.

\*Keep your fingers outside of the trigger guard until ready to take a shot.

\*For waterfowl hunters, the number one hunting incident is drowning, mostly because of capsizing and exposure to cold waters. Always wear

According to the 2019 Texas Hunting Incident room course is six hours of instruction and inanalysis, Texas has seen a substantial decrease cludes skill exercises, a review and then a final in hunting-related accidents and fatalities since exam. These types of courses are most often in the winter months.

> \*For dove, quail and pheasant hunters, the number one incident is swinging on game outside of your safe zone of fire. Communicate and stick to your safe zone of fire and never shoot towards another hunter, domestic animals such as cows, buildings or structures.

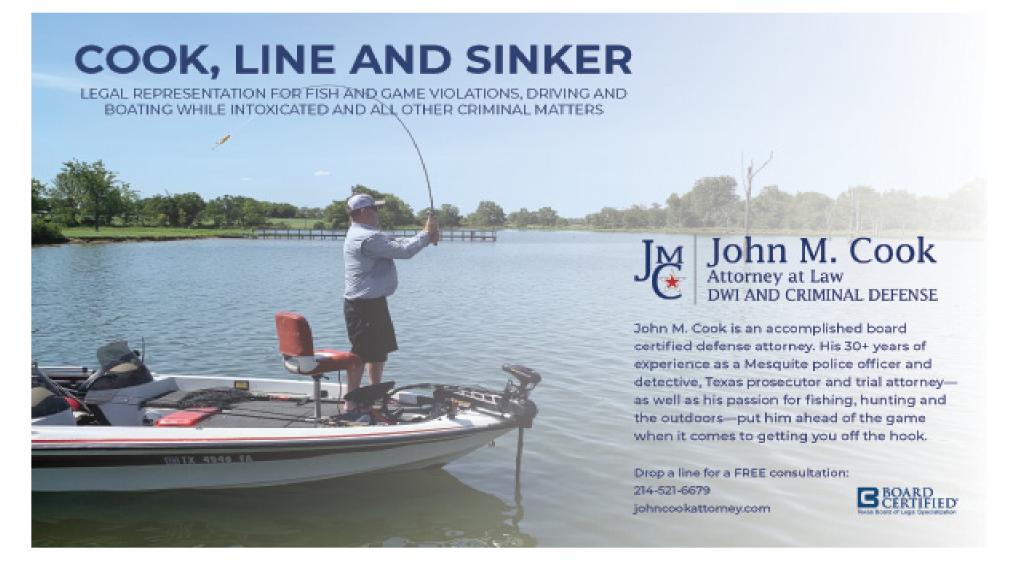
> \*Be sure of your target, what is in front of and behind the target.

\*Wear blaze orange to be seen by other hunters.

Hunters must have proof of their Hunter Education certification on their person while in the field. Hunters have access to their Texas proof of Hunter Education in the free Outdoor Annual mobile app for iOS and Android.

Learn more about Hunter Education, how to sign up for a course and find resources for students on the TPWD website.

Firearm safety doesn't just include knowing how to property handle a gun, it also includes knowing how to keep it from getting in the wrong hands. The Texas Department of Public Safety has launched a statewide campaign to encourage safe gun storage. Find resources, including safe gun storage checklists, and learn how to "Keep 'Em Safe, Texas!" at SafeGunStorageTexas.com



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

## "Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

The leaves have fallen, the morning air has become chilly, Christmas is upon us and soon we'll celebrate a new year. Happy holidays my friends!

If your coming to the Lake Fork area during the month of December, here are some of my best fishing recommendations.

Number 1- Be very prepared for bad and or very cold conditions. Extreme cold fronts can and should be expected so having the proper clothing apparel can make or break your day.

Number 2- Make a decision and commit to it. The less running around you do the better. Running and gunning this time of year can be very cold, uncomfortable and flat out make the day unpleasant.

Number 3- Pay close attention to weather trends. What I mean by this is we tend to have 2 or 3 days of cold weather and cold fronts followed by several days of warm weather trends and semi-tropical weather. Its these warming trends when fishing can be best and here is why. Lake Fork is a very shallow reservoir with lots of expansive shallow backwaters that rapidly warm and cool down from day to day. If we have a warm trend day followed by a warm trend night the shallow back water temperatures increase dramatically. Have 2 or 3 warm days/nights in a row and things can extremely change. I have personally witnessed the main lake water temperatures in the upper 40's to low



Michael McFarland Lake Fork Guide Service Individual \* Group \* Corporate

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50's while the shallow back waters have warm trended more than 15 degrees from day to day. That kind of temperature increase makes a huge difference, trust me. In fact last year up in Little Caney creek the water temperature reached 71 degrees after a 3 day/night warm trend. Awesome fishing for all species that day I assure you. Ok, now you know where to fish during warm trends... what do you do when its cold.

and like my Facebook business page (Lake Fork Adventures Guide Service). Thank you for reading, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Go hunting, lol ! Actually if your willing to go offshore, spend the time to find the deep baitfish and like to use

spoons vertically and or don't mind throwing the Alabama

rig, you can really clean up. Many big schools of big bass

In Lake Fork you might find them as deep as 25 to 35 feet

or more. Find a big school of bass chasing deep bait and

you'll likely have a day of catching you won't ever forget.

Here is one last quick summary to help you out just a little

more. Go north and fish shallow during warm trends and

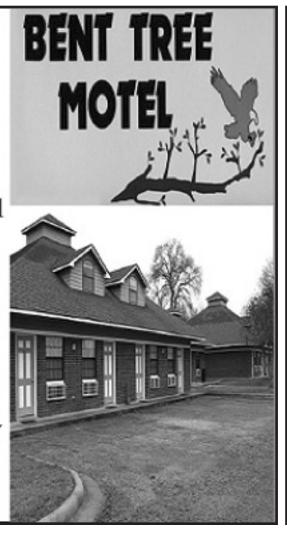
For more local fishing information and lessons please find

can be found deep during the winter months.

go south and fish deep during cold trends.

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

December



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### Big Time Texas Hunts (Continued from Page 10)

Nilgai Antelope Sa- estine, TX Socorro, TX Premium Buck Hunt ber of entries, which – Jonas Brooks, Fort was due in part to the Worth. TX Dillard, Cypress, TX fishing package for Whitetail Bonanza -Spring, TX; Timothy TPWD Senior Mar-Urbanek, Waco, TX; keting Robert Davis, Richland Hills, TX; Tim- keep Big Time Texas othy Beck, Tyler, TX Hunts fresh by add-Big Time Bird Hunt ing new offerings. - Chad Snow, Granbury. TX

Gator Hunt - Todd horn Cast and Blast, Daniels, Arlington, an TΧ

Blast – Roger Wolfe, guest an opportunity Lubbock, TX Wild Hog Adventure wildlife management

- David Ryder, Pal- area on more than

fari – Daniel Mora, "This year we saw an with a guided fishing increase in the numaddition of a combi- year's Big Time Tex-Exotic Safari - Clint nation hunting and as Hunts will go on the first time in the Israel Ball, Manor, program's history," Hunts is made pos-TX; Brandon Kirby, said Janis Johnson, sible with support Specialist. "We always strive to This year we introduced the Powderexciting new package that offers Powderhorn Cast and the winner and their to hunt on our newest

17,000 acres, along trip on Matagorda Bay. "

Entries for next sale May 15, 2021.

Big Time Texas from Toyota and the Texas Bighorn Society.



The German prince, Albert, after his marriage to Queen Victoria, brought the custom of decorating a **Christmas tree to England** and German immigrants brought it to America.



### **Community Archery Programming Provides Training for the Next Generation of Archers**

in full swing but Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Community Archery Program aims to help future hunters prepare for next season or find a hobby with archery sports. Adaptive and accessible to most any audience, the program helps to facilitate the spread of archery skills to those hoping to bring home a meal of wild game, competitive archers and even target shooters who simply enjoy the social and health benefits that the sport has to offer.

"The benefits of archery can include everything from increased focus, improved problem-solving skills, patience and fitness," said Rob Owen, an Outreach and Recruitment Manager with TPWD. "Our programs make use of gear designed for beginners, from youth to adult."

The Community Archery Program works on a "train the trainer" model, training teachers and leaders through a USA Archery curriculum in range set-up, safety, program design and coaching. The curriculum is built for community groups like military bases, veteran's groups, scouts, camps, parks and recreation departments and more. It also provides

archery range with an audience.

"The range can become a Junior Olympic Archery Development club (JOAD), used for outreach and recruitment, or simply an evening of family fun or camp recreation," Owen said.

Explore Bowhunting and Explore Bowfishing programming introduces the skills of bowhunting and bowfishing to new audiences through activities and discussion. TPWD hosts training that provides instructors a set of activities that expands beyond safety and into the skills needed to be a proficient hunter. The programming covers aspects of camouflage, scent control, shot placement, gear, tracking and more.

"The Explore Bowhunting program includes outlines for a leader to host hands on activities that lower the barrier to entry to hunting sports," Owen said. "This type of training helps to ensure a familiarity with, and understanding of, essentials hunting skills. Many new hunters are lacking these if they do not have a mentor to help with what is often learned through years of practice. Archery hunting also opens the doors to thousands

Hunting season throughout Texas is already resources and certification to host a mobile more acres of public hunting land that is otherwise inaccessible to firearm hunters."

Page 19

In addition to these programs, TPWD assists in archery instruction for trainers to host programs like the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP®) in Texas schools and its faith-based equivalent, Centershot Ministries Program.

NASP is designed for school-aged audiences in grades 4-12. Texas NASP builds Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum concepts, from Physical Education to the Sciences, into archery. TPWD offers the applicable Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) training for coaches that facilitate the program with their students. The annual statewide tournament is in Belton each March. Tournament winners receive scholarships and invitations to national tournaments and potentially "Open Tournaments" attended by worldwide participants.

Centershot Ministries offers a similar model for communities of faith and utilizes the same BAI training for the program's local hosts.

To learn more about these programs and how organizations can get involved with TPWD Community Archery, visit the TPWD website.

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A Fresh Selection Just For You!	승규는 것 같은 것 같은 것 같은 것 같은 것 같이 많이 많이 많이 했다.	ri. 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. p.m. Closed Monday			

# Page 20 "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" With the fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

### December

### "Winter is upon us!" (Continued from Page 6)

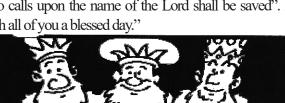
and spinnerbaits will all answer the call to duty. Look for vegetation in the skinny water and pay attention to any baitfish activity. There will also be other patterns that will work during this time of the year, one being the jig and craw trailer fished on the creek bends where wood is present. Black and blue is my fav, especially on cloudy days. If the water is fairly clear, switch to watermelon red front to back. Work it slow, especially through the roots of the trees. Sunny afternoons during this season can also be a gold mine. As the water cools into the mid-fifties, chatterbaits and traps are the go to baits worked shallow and be



409-782-4269

sure to focus on the 2:00 to 5:30pm window. Water warms during the afternoon and the fish will move up for a free meal. Pay attention to any bird activity and they will lead you to the bass.

December/January is also a great month to catch numbers on the power plant lakes. If cabin fever has set in, give me a call and we can wear them out where the water temps are summer like. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in December 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 December and some in January. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Lake-ForkGuideDavidOzio. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Custom Lures for making my job the blast that it is and 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."



Traditionally, the Three Wise Men were known as Melchior, Gaspar and Balthasar, but the gospel of Matthew mentions neither their names nor how many they were.



Clancy Sneed with David Ozio



Mark Spaeth with David Ozio



Gilbert Little with David Ozio

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

Page 21

### Safely Make Your Holidays Merry and Bright at a Texas State Park, THC Historic Site

Although holiday cel- website or over the a Texas State Park. Loebrations look a little phone by calling (512) cal and statewide limidifferent this year, 389-8900. Texas State Parks and the Texas Historical Commission State His- rules including weartoric Sites are hosting ing a mask when inseveral events across the state to help bring in some holiday cheer. They are presenting Christmas themed scavenger hunts, selfguided walks and virtual events.

Anyone planning a trip to a Texas State Park should keep in mind that parks are operating at a limited capacity, reserving a day pass in advance is highly recommended since some parks are expected to reach their capacity limit. Day passes can be reserved online through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)



Practice Safe **Boating** 

We encourage our visitors to follow posted side buildings or when gathered with others at

tations and restrictions apply and can change rapidly, so we recommend checking social media or calling the park directly for updates before traveling.

9(	Just The Right Answers Sponsored By: Wish To Fish Foundation 903-360-6994 www.wishtofishfoundation.com													
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### Supply Find

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

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PAPER							GLUE						
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	E	RAS				LOCK							
		TEX	T			FOLDER							
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# Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Be One With the Tree-- A Bexar County game warden was patrolling the property around Calaveras Lake where access is restricted when two subjects were caught trespassing on powerplant property. When the warden identified himself as law enforcement, the pair fled into the brush. One surrendered and came back to the roadway, so they were cited and released. The other could not be located because of the thickness of the brush. The warden called for backup and a second Bexar County game warden came to assist in the search for the other trespasser. The wardens searched the brush for about an hour and found the subject hiding behind a mesquite tree waiting for a vehicle to pick him up. The man was arrested for criminal trespass and evading arrest or detention, and booked into the Bexar County Iail.

--Creeping on Critters--Two game wardens were conducting night patrols in Kimble County where several reports of possible night road hunting had been occurring. The wardens had been sitting in their location for about 10 minutes when they heard the first of multiple gunshots and saw a group of people spotlighting. With the use of night vision goggles, the wardens located the individuals and made contact with them. The 11 individuals had permission to be on the property they were hunting on, but all were from out of state and did not possess a valid Texas hunting license. The individuals had shot several jack rabbits, raccoons and other non-game animals. The wardens issued 11 cita-(Continued on Page 24)



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

Page 23

### **New Ideas For Christmas Eve Dinners**

#### **By Sue Hampton**

To create the traditional Christmas Eve dinner you'll need to choose which fish dish will be the centerpiece of your feast. Many families lean toward shellfish, preparing lobster, crabs, crayfish and shrimp for their dinners. However, any number of other seafood options would 2 to 4 tablespoons minced garlic make a nice presentation for the holidays.

Why not try a juicy cut of salmon garnished with a mustard glaze. Not only is salmon healthy - chock full of essential fatty acids, it is also a tasty dish that does not have an over-



This Salmon dish along with this delicious cake recipe could become instant holiday favorites! Merry Christmas from our family to yours!

whelming "fishy" flavor, which may work well for finicky eaters.

Enjoy this recipe for "Mustard-Glazed Salmon" at this year's Christmas Eve celebration.

#### **MUSTARD-GLAZED SALMON**

(Serves 6)

1 tablespoon olive oil

1/3 cup whole-grain Dijon mustard

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup dry white wine

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1-2-pound salmon fillet, cut into 8 pieces

Additional olive oil

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste Lemon wedges for garnish

#### Preheat the broiler.

In a small saucepan over low heat, heat the oil and saute the garlic in it until soft. Stir in the mustard, wine and lemon juice until well combined. Remove from the heat. Arrange the salmon on an oiled broiler pan and rub lightly with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Broil for 2 minutes. Remove from the oven and brush the mustard mixture evenly over the salmon. Return to the oven and broil until the Melt butter in sauce pan. Stir in sugar, water salmon is golden brown and cooked through about 5 minutes. Serve with lemon wedges.

For a delicious dessert, try the following cake recipe. The cake's glaze is made with sugar, butter and Bacardi Gold Rum and will add a

sweet, festive flair to any holiday celebration. **Bacardi Rum and Nut Cake With Glaze** <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup Bacardi Gold Rum

#### 1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

One 18-1/2-oz. Pkg. Yellow cake mix One 3-1/2-oz. Pkg. Vanilla instant pudding mix

4 eggs

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup vegetable oil

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup cold water

Preheat oven to 325. Grease and flour a 12cup Bundt pan or 10-cup tube pan. Sprinkle nuts over bottom of pan. In a large mixing bowl, combine cake mix, pudding mix, eggs, Gold Rum, oil and water. Using an electric mixer, beat at low speed until moistened. Beat at high speed 2 minutes. Pour batter over nuts. Bake 1 hour or until a skewer inserted into the cake comes out clean. Cool 15 minutes, then invert onto serving plate.

#### **Glaze:**

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup Bacardi Gold Rum <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> stick butter 1 cup sugar <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup water

and Gold Rum. Boil 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Prick top of the cake with a fork. Spoon and brush glaze evenly over the top and sides. Allow cake to absorb glaze. Repeat until all glaze is absorbed.



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

December

#### tions for hunting non-game animals without a valid boats had dropped their nets in the water and be-Texas hunting license.

--Axis Denied-- An Edwards County game warden and a Real County game warden had been investigating an individual for several weeks for hunting from a public roadway. One day, a landowner called in a suspicious vehicle driving very slowly so the Edwards County game warden responded to the call from several miles away. While in-route he received a second call saying the individuals were seen taking an axis deer from the public road. The individuals were apprehended and confessed. Multiple charges have been filed and cases are pending. --Oh, Crap(pie)--Two Travis County game wardens were patrolling Decker Lake when they encountered two different groups of men fishing with cast nets from boats and jet skis. Upon further investigation, the game wardens found both groups in possession of multiple game fish including bass and crappie. The wardens took possession of the fish and donated them to a family on the shore. Multiple citations and civil restitution are pending. --Shrimpin' Ain't Easy-- A Calhoun County game warden was patrolling Matagorda Bay in the early morning hours when he saw numerous commercial shrimp boats traveling into the bay. The warden observed them for a while when he saw the boats turn their navigation and deck lights off. With the use of night vision, the warden determined that the

gun shrimping. Two commercial shrimp boat captains were issued citations for shrimping at night and all resources were returned to Matagorda Bay

--Follow Your Nose--Two Houston County game wardens were patrolling the northwestern end of Houston County when they entered a tract of land and saw an open field with what first appeared to be dove blinds close to a tripod feeder. One of the wardens crossed the field to check the feeder and as he got closer to the "blinds" he smelled a strong odor of marijuana. The "blinds" were improvised grow houses for many large marijuana plants. The wardens then noticed a car parked behind bushes in front of a dilapidated house and could hear an air conditioner running. Upon further inspection around the house, the wardens found more marijuana plants. The wardens returned to their patrol truck and called the local sheriff's office for back up. They then returned to the site and arrested the suspect. After further investigation, the house was

confirmed to be a grow house complete with lights, fertilizer, surge protectors, timers, air filters, humidifiers and water. The suspect in the house had served time for murder and transporting two kilos of cocaine across the southern border. They were also in possession of a .410 shotgun and .45 pistol. The pistol was reported as stolen. The case and suspect were turned over to the Houston County Sheriff's Office. Cases pending.

--Neighborhood Watch--One evening, a Bosque County game warden received a call from a resident within a local neighborhood who said they had just witnessed their neighbor dragging a deer from a large ranch behind the neighborhood. The warden contacted the suspect at his residence and saw a whitetail buck hanging. When asked why the hunter killed it, the hunter replied to eat. The warden then enlightened the hunter and told him it was not deer season until Saturday. Citations were issued, the deer was seized and donated to a local

(Continued on Next Page)



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

### Page 25

#### family.

--It Belongs in a Museum!-- A Bandera County game warden received a call from a landowner who saw a white pickup on the property and hidden in the brush. The landowner said the driver side door was open, but no one was around the truck. The warden arrived on the property and two individuals, a male and female, were standing near the pickup. The warden met with the landowner and told the couple they were trespassing. The individuals admitted to digging for arrowheads without the consent of the landowner. The pair then led the warden to the location where they were digging, and the couple's tools and cart were still on location. The two individuals were taken into custody and transported to the Bandera County Jail for criminal trespass-natural resource code (antiquities code). Cases pending.

--Tree Envy--A McCulloch County game warden was contacted by a landowner who found a tree stand installed on his property. The tree was near a property boundary fence and a ladder was placed against the fence on the neighbor's side of the property. After a brief investigation, the warden learned the identity of the individual responsible for setting up the stand. A few days later, the warden met with the subject to issue a citation for criminal trespass and during the conversation, the violator explained he didn't think it was a big deal to put his stand on the neighbor's tree since it was only a few feet on the other side of the fence and it was

--Butt-Dial--A Harris County game warden received an Operation Game Thief complaint about two individuals shrimping in nursery waters. The warden responded and saw the individuals leaving the scene in a white boat. After watching the individuals stop at a dock, the warden went to their address, but they had already left. However, the identities of the pair were provided by relatives who owned the dock. The warden again located their white boat further up the channel and saw as the female occupant received a phone call. Both individuals hastily pulled a shrimp trawl into nearby brush on an island before jumping back in the boat and fleeing the area. The warden attempted to contact the woman by phone, but she hung up on the call. The person who reported the incident helped provide the warden a boat ride out to the island to retrieve the shrimp trawl and the several undersized fish in it. The woman later called the warden by accident and a private conversation between the two suspects was heard. The pair discussed dragging the net into the brush and said "maybe the game warden didn't see it..." The next day, two wardens returned to the subject's address and located both individuals. The white boat was trailered in the front yard. After interviewing both subjects, the wardens received a confession. Multiple citations and cases of civil restitution were issued for shrimping in closed waters and failure to possess individual bait shrimp trawl license and the undersized fish.

--Prove It-- One weekend, two game wardens teamed up to patrol La Salle County and made several cases for over the limit of mourning doves, hunting mourning doves over bait and no hunting license. In total, 114 mourning doves were confiscated and donated to families in the community. One of the cases involved four hunters checked at a camp with 68 cleaned mourning doves. The hunters claimed to have hunted near two tanks on a mowed roadway on the ranch. The wardens checked the area on the way out of the ranch and found very little evidence of hunting in the area. The wardens decided to drive around the ranch and discovered tracks leading to a field with a deer feeder converted to a milo feeder next to a water trough. The field had evidence someone had been hunting there. The wardens went back and confronted the hunters. One of the hunters wanted to see the evidence for himself, so he led them back to the field and then confessed to hunting the mourning doves over the baited area. Cases and civil restitution are pending.

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