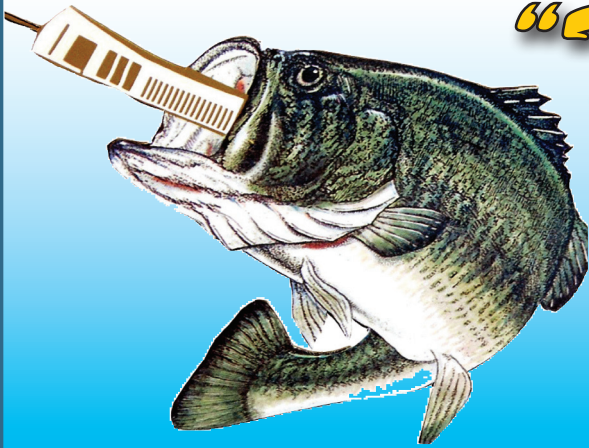


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Vol. 22

January, 2021

No. 257



Jo Camper, Cedar Creek, Texas and a Lake Fork homeowner caught this double-digit hawg, her personal best, night fishing with guide Whitt Smith on December 21. C.P.R.



Mike & Darrin Smith were fishing with guide Michael McFarland and Mike thought his first big bass was going to be his birthday bass until he caught this double-digit in December. C.P.R.

Two Texas Game Wardens Recognized as Officers of the Year

Two Texas Game Wardens were recognized recently for their outstanding efforts and contributions toward supporting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) mission.

Shikar-Safari Club International Recognizes Justin Solis as Texas Wildlife Officer of the Year

Aransas County game warden Justin Solis was named the 2020 Texas Wildlife Officer of the

Year by the Shikar-Safari Club International. This marks the 41st year this award has been presented to a Texas Game Warden.

Solis was a graduate of the 58th Game Warden cadet class in 2013 and began his career as Texas Game Warden in Webb County. In 2016, he transferred to his hometown of Rockport in Aransas County.

Solis' dedication to his community is evident during the yearly kid fish event that he has organized, planned and led for the last three years. The event, called "Go for fish, not drugs", is held annually during Free Fishing Day and allows kids and parents to enjoy the outdoors and learn about fishing laws, boating safety and fish identification.

(See Two Texas Game.... Continued on Page 7)



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By Don Hampton

Well Bubba had just a great Christmas with his family coming to his homestead. He does love his kids and grand-kids. What he says he really enjoys is spoiling his grand-kids while they're at his house, giving them candy and cookies and then sending them home for his kids to go through what he had to go through raising them. He does have a sense of humor when it comes to that.

I do believe what he enjoyed the most was the eating and opening presents though. I'm not real sure just how much he loved picking up all the wrapping paper and the cleanup afterwards, but we all know he can put on a good show and how much he loves that crap!

It is a good thing he got some fishing stuff from Santa to play with because his New Year just isn't starting off with him in the best spirits. The way he has been acting you would think his dog ran away and he had a fish hook stuck in his back side. The main reason for his change of attitude is his boat is broke. It would seem just before the holidays he hit a stump (his lack of judgment I'm sure) and broke the driveshaft in his motor. Well with the holidays you can't get parts because everyone is celebrating with their families. According to Bubba this is all just wrong when it comes

to his boat getting fixed!

A bad part of the situation is he has good insurance and they have already sent him the check to have it fixed. He will sit staring at the check in his hand and whining like his little great grandson when Bubbette won't give him candy or let him have his way. Whenever Bubba can't just get up and go fishing when he wants, you would think the world came to an end. To top it all off, all his fishing buds are spending holidays with their families and won't take him fishing. To Bubba this ain't right either!!! He believes holidays, anniversaries and birthdays are great fishing times! Sunshine, rain, sleet or snow, a fishing he will go!

To top it all off, Bubbette isn't making matters any better. With Bubba around the house more, she's putting him to good use. She has him running errands, helping with house chores, going shopping with her, exchanging gifts, visiting friends. You know, all that crap Bubba really loves!

Bubbette is getting so tired of his moping around the house, she's ready to smother him with a pillow in his sleep, run away from home or buy him a boat to get him back to normal. Bubba would really like the last one, he doesn't care much for the others though. Especially the one with the pillow. She does believe he loves that boat way too much! At times she gets a little jealous of how much

Bubba loves his boat and fishing but she knows there are a lot of worse habits a man could have.

The best thing is within the next week Bubba will be back in his boat and on the lake and doing what he loves with a passion! This will give his mechanic, his dealership, Mercury, his friends, his relatives and everyone involved and around Bubba a reprieve and make him and them happy once more!

Happy New Year, God Bless & Stay Safe!!



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Emergency Resuscitation Kits Aid in Rescue of Five-Year-Old in Starr County

Thanks to funding provided by state lawmakers during the last legislative session, 500 Texas Game Wardens and Texas State Park Police Officers across Texas have been trained and equipped with emergency first aid and oxygen kits to help them respond to drownings and other emergencies. This newest addition to law enforcement's arsenal came in handy recently when a five-year-old boy was rescued from a well in Starr County.

"Texas Game Wardens are always ready to serve those in need

and are grateful for the collaborative efforts on that evening between state and local agencies that resulted in the successful rescue of a young child," said Col. Chad Jones, Law Enforcement Director at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

At 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 8, Starr County dispatch received a 911 call about a child who had fallen into a well on a ranch. Multiple law enforcement agencies, including the Texas Game Wardens, were dispatched to the scene. When they arrived,

they saw the child, a five-year-old boy, was stuck in the well facing upward with his hands above his head. The boy's hands were secured and stabilized, and game wardens utilized their emergency air tanks to supply fresh oxygen to the child until larger tanks were available.

The boy was rescued around 10:30 p.m. and was flown to the McAllen Medical Center responsive and alert with no visible injuries. As of a recent report, the boy was reported to be in stable condition.



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TPWD Wildlife Biologists Confirm Rare Mountain Lion Sighting Near Rowlett

Despite the rarity of mountain lion sightings near home ranges and urban areas, a recent mountain lion sighting on private property in Rowlett has been verified by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists. Biologists suspect that this mountain lion is most likely a transient juvenile male that is just passing through the area as it searches for a home range.

Biologists say that another sighting of this mountain lion is highly unlikely as these animals are naturally secretive and elusive, have extremely large home ranges and travel many miles during a week. This mountain lion will likely move on and never be seen again.

While mountain lion's food sources do include deer, biologists note that there is not a large deer population in the area where this lion was spotted. However, feral hogs do occupy the area and are also a food source for mountain lions.

In response to a reported mountain lion, the first thing wildlife biologists or game wardens

do is interview the person that reported the sighting and gather further information. Depending on the nature of the report, biologists or wardens may go to the site, look for evidence such as tracks, scat or other signs to try and confirm the sighting. The person who reported the sighting can then discuss any concerns they may have with wildlife experts who can then provide guidance on how to co-exist with mountain lions, how to pro-

(See Mountain Lion....
Continued on Page 10)



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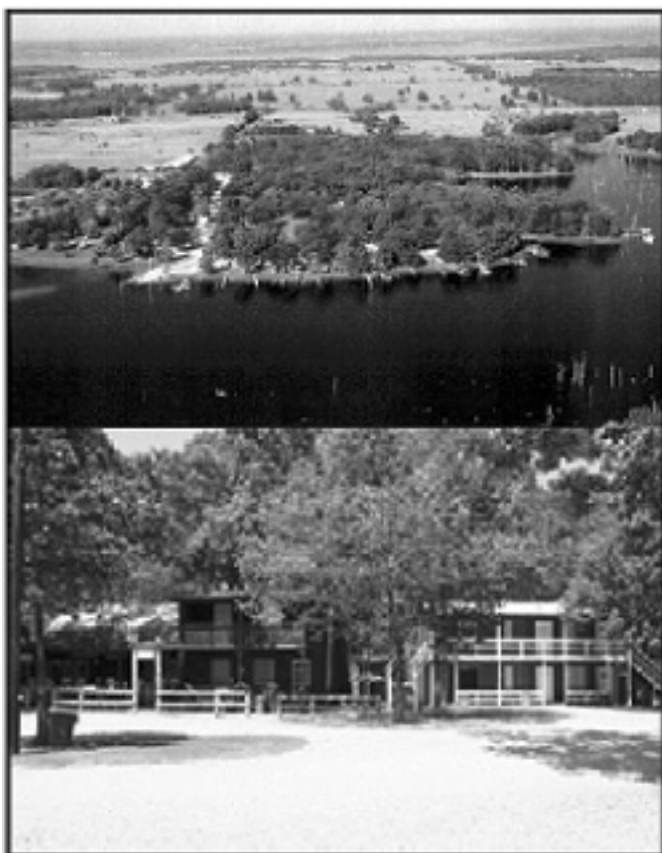
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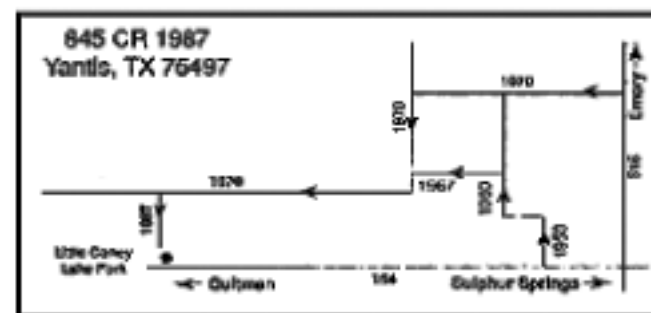
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"Break out the super cold weather gear!"

By David Ozio

It's time to tackle the cold water giants. The winter solstice has past and now the days are starting to grow longer and that means the huge green fish will be looking for a place to winter close to the favored spawning grounds. If you can stand less bites for a day on the water, this may well be you're chance to snag the trophy of a lifetime. There are certain places on Fork these monsters will hide and January is the month to capture them.

As it stands now, the lake is two and a half under pool and the water temps are hovering around the low 50's which points to solidify the fact that most bass

should have set up for their long winter nap. There are a few caveats that will move them to grab a meal and the plan is to shed some light on what should or can happen. Stable water in January will move the green beasts to their typical winter lairs and can be caught on the right day. Their feeding habits are slowed down due to the cold water and one good meal could last them a while. The key is to target schools of shad and bar fish in the 20-30 foot range. Good electronics are the key and pay strict attention to the hooks that surround the school. The A-rig will be the go to set up to target these monster bass and rig it with any five inch swimbait on a 3/16 oz head. A flutter spoon or jigging spoon will also do the trick and my color choice will be gold. Focus your search on humps, roadbeds, long points and pond dams. If you notice the big arches laying on the bottom, switch to the Carolina rig or football jig in black/blue to attract the larger bites. Use a long leader on your C-rig with a 3/0 or 4/0 hook. Creature baits, large worms or giants lizards will be the baits of choice. I use blue fleck and chartreuse pepper on cloudy days and watermelon red or watermelon candy colors when the suns beaming down in full force. Drop shots will play a huge roll in the coming months especially if the lake stays at this level or slightly below. January is the time of the year when the ultra giants are moving around and it of-

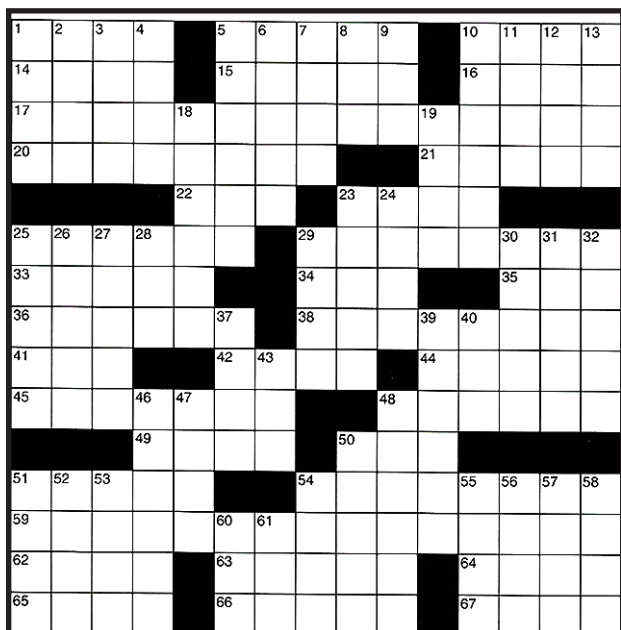


fers the extreme possibility to boat the trophy of your dreams.

An alternate pattern targets the skinny water. Fishing shallow on the bright sunny days is the place to be, especially between 2:00 and 5:00pm. It is the warmest part of the day and the top layer of water offers comfort to the sluggish bass. Vegetation is the attraction for these bass and I would throw a rattletrap or chatterbait to draw a strike. Depending upon the water temp, a suspending jerkbait would be the ticket if the temps are lagging into the mid 40's. Red colors are the main choice for the moving baits and I would have a chrome version tied on as a back up. Gold has worked well on partly cloudy

(See Break out the....

Continued on Page 20)



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Featured dish | 38. Pharaoh was one |
| 5. Oats | 41. Volcanic mountain in Japan |
| 10. Herringlike food fish | 42. Hymenopterans |
| 14. Car | 44. Sharp, narrow ridge found in rugged mountains |
| 15. African river | 45. Affixed (biology) |
| 16. Organized-crime head | 48. Becomes |
| 17. Speculated | 49. Unstressed-stressed |
| 20. Followers | 50. Chinese Muslim |
| 21. Jumpers | 51. Bosnian ethnic group |
| 22. Crunches federal numbers | 54. With embellishment |
| 23. Greek portico | 59. Living dangerously |
| 25. Abode of God and the angels | 62. Snake pose |
| 29. Vertical spar for supporting sails | 63. Raccoonlike mammal of Central and South America |
| 33. Joe ____, British actor and playwright | 64. Remove the edges from |
| 34. Compass point | 65. & & |
| 35. Characters in 1 inch of tape (computers) | 66. Substance produced from pine |
| 36. Name of God | 67. New England river |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Joseph ____, stage producer | 29. 12 inches (plural) |
| 2. Little ____, comic character | 30. True firs |
| 3. Essential oil obtained from flowers | 31. Slew |
| 4. Miniatures | 32. Prongs |
| 5. About a South American mountain system | 37. Pea stem (British) |
| 6. In ____, made in glass | 39. Local church community |
| 7. Root of "out" | 40. Denotes three |
| 8. Born | 43. Long, projecting nose |
| 9. Branch | 46. Greek propheticesses |
| 10. Utter a cry | 47. Romanian city |
| 11. Maori war dance | 48. Bush's state capital |
| 12. Caricatured | 50. Country on Hispaniola |
| 13. Intersperses | 51. Prevents harm to creatures |
| 18. __ O'Neill, playwright | 52. __ gate, lengthen |
| 19. Medicinal plant | 53. Foray |
| 23. Birdcalls | 54. __ the night before Christmas |
| 24. Card having three spots | 55. Semiaquatic salamanders |
| 25. Georgetown team | 56. Turkish monetary unit |
| 26. Wipe out | 57. __ Clapton, musician |
| 27. Greek mountain | 58. Showing |
| 28. Swearing to the truth | 60. Company that rings receipts |
| | 61. Any thick, messy substance |

Answers on Page 21

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Two Texas Game Wardens Recognized as Officers of the Year (Continued from Page 1)

Solis has also partnered with Flatsworthy, a local conservation chapter, to help design a watercraft that would allow increased patrols to far reaches of the bays in Aransas County while conserving sensitive bay bottom habitat. Solis' invaluable feedback led to the creation of a "flats" boat that was donated to TPWD and has been instrumental during recent conservation and water-safety patrols.

Solis is a member of the Law Enforcement Region 8 Fisheries Team that is dedicated to the enforcement of fisheries laws via coordinated patrols in areas

of high commercial activity. As a member of the fisheries team, Solis routinely travels to areas outside his assigned county where he ensures the importation of aquatic products follow the regulations set forth by the department.

Jon Kocian Named 2019 Midwest Officer of the Year

The Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers recognized game warden Jon Kocian as Midwest Officer of the Year for his service and accomplishments.

Kocian graduated from the 48th Game Warden cadet class in 2003 and has served

in Victoria County for over 17 years. Kocian holds a bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University and is a licensed Texas Master Peace Officer.

Kocian was awarded the TPWD Director's Life Saving Citation in 2016 for rescuing and saving the lives of two women kayakers when their kayaks overturned due to swift water in the Guadalupe River.

In 2019, Kocian led Operation Tres Bahias which spanned over five counties and involved 25 Game Wardens. During the operation, Kocian briefed the team of wardens before each operational day on the specifics for alcohol

detection on the water and provided support to wardens during the operation that resulted in: 140 vessel contacts, 11 warnings, 16 citations, 8 boating while intoxicated arrests and the recovery of a stolen boat.

In 2020, Warden Ko-

cian was instrumental in the update and launching of the new Field Training Officer program (FTO) for both Texas Game Wardens and State Parks Police Officers.

The Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforce-

ment Officers is comprised of 29 member agencies from the United States and Canada. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has been a member since 1995.

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"The Moon Report"

"New Year - New World"

By Terri Moon

Needless to say – last year at this time we had no idea what was ahead of us but our world turned into something that was unimaginable! I want to send out thoughts and prayers to all that have been tragically touched by this sad situation. Special prayers are also going out to one of Lake Fork's greatest guides, Mark Pack, who is fighting to beat this virus. It has hit him really hard and needs all our prayers and also for his family and for all the doctors and nurses caring for him. It has been a heartbreaking year that has affected us all in one way or another. I'm just grateful for the blessings that I've witnessed during all these heartbreaking times, and praying for a better year ahead.

With the last minute COVID cancellations before Christmas, I thought it would be a good time for Buddy and I to go spend Christmas with Mama Nova. But before I left, I just had to go have some fun with my Garmin Livescope! (I just love a day off so "I can go fishing")! It's just amazing to actually see the reactions of the crappie when you are targeting them – then you can change up your approach as needed. The only tough thing about this time of year has got



to be the wind. We are fishing timber in 30 to 60 ft. of water along the creek channels and you just can't find 60 ft. of water out of the wind! The crappie were hitting as shallow as 12 ft. to 30 ft. – but, the bigger ones were under the smaller ones so you had to go to a little more weight to get it there quicker. We've been having luck on Bonehead ¼ oz. jig heads with 3" slimsticks Silver Shad or Slick Neon.

One thing about when it is windy, I'm so grateful for my Skeeter Solera. It was definitely made for tough water. I've never felt safer in a boat than in this one! My new Solera is on order so this one will be available soon. If anyone is interested, I'd be happy to show it to you.

I hope you all have had as good a holiday as possible, and hopefully by spring things might be a little safer. It's good to see so many take all this serious by masking up and self distancing – Thank You!

Stay safe and blessings to all!

Also, on December 12th at around noon I found this Skeeter boat seat just east of the 515 W. bridge (before 17N). I posted it on facebook hoping to find the owner – but no luck! Hopefully we can still find the owner. So, if you've heard of someone losing it, please contact me and we'll get it back to the owner. Thanks for your help!

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Mike Huggins was fishing Lake Fork with guide Michael McFarland when he caught this hawg weighing 10.74-lbs. C.P.R.

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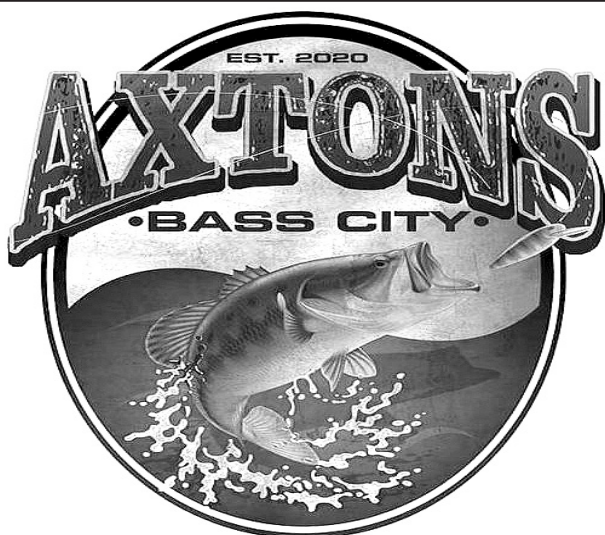
Lane Moore caught this nice Lake Fork hawg while fishing with guide Michael McFarland in December. (Weight not provided) C.P.R.



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Mountain Lion Sighting (Continued from Page 5)

protect pets or livestock and what to do if confronted.

Mountain lions are a component of the natural landscape in many parts of Texas and unless they are in what biologists would consider a "no-tolerance zone" such as near a school, or if the lion has exhibited threatening behavior, then no action is taken. TPWD does not remove mountain lions or other native wildlife species from a property simply because people do not want the animal there.

Seeing a mountain

lion in the wild is an extremely uncommon occurrence as mountain lions are crepuscular and primarily hunt at night. A mountain lion attack on people or pets is highly unlikely, however, TPWD biologists suggest that residents keep their pets indoors at night, don't leave out pet food and secure their trash.

If a person encounters or sees a mountain lion, it's important that they do not run away from the animal but instead throw rocks and make loud noises in

an effort to appear big and intimidating to the lion.

The public is encouraged to report any suspected mountain lion activity to Texas Game Wardens or a biologist in their area. More information about mountain lions can be found on the TPWD website

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Community Archery Programming Provides Training for the Next Generation of Archers

Hunting season program helps to facilitate the spread of archery skills throughout Texas is already 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 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 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 more acres of public hunt-

(See Community Archery...
Continued on Page 21)

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Lake Buchanan Designated as "Infested" with Zebra Mussels

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has designated Lake Buchanan, located west of Burnet and north of Inks Lake in the Colorado River Basin, as "infested" with invasive zebra mussels. Infested status signifies that there is an established, reproducing population of zebra mussels in the lake. The designation is a result of recent sampling efforts that revealed new evidence of a reproducing population of zebra mussels in the lake.

Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) scientists discovered zebra mussel larvae in plankton samples taken from three sites around the lake in October. TPWD then confirmed the identity through microscopic and genetic analysis. The LCRA analyzed samples collected in November and again found zebra mussels at two of the three sites. Then in early December, crews working on a floodgate project at Buchanan Dam discovered several settled zebra mussels.

Additional surveys for settled mussels were conducted by LCRA on the shorelines while Lake Buchanan Conservation Corporation volunteers also checked their installed settlement samplers. Zebra mussels were not detected at any of these locations. Although few settled mussels were found at the dam, the presence of both larvae and adults and detection of young larvae in samples taken a month apart indicate that a reproducing population is present in the lake.

"At this time, the results indicate that the population in the lake appears to be small," says Monica McGarrity, TPWD Senior Scientist for Aquatic Invasive Species Management. "However, as we have seen in other Texas lakes, the population is likely to increase rapidly over the next few years."

To date, zebra mussels have not been found in nearby Inks Lake, but due to its location immediately downstream from Lake Buchanan, it is likely to become infested in the near future. Shoreline surveys at Inks Lake conducted by LCRA and TPWD, as well as checks of settlement samplers by Boy Scout citizen science partners did not locate any settled mussels. Fall plankton samples were also free of zebra mussel larvae. However, zebra mussel environmental DNA was detected in fall samples from one site on the lake, which could be an early indicator of zebra mussel introduction.

TPWD is encouraging boaters and home owners on both Lake Buchanan and Inks Lake to keep an eye out for settled zebra

mussels and report any suspected organisms with photos to aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov. Zebra mussels grow to approximately 1-1.5 inches in length and have triangular, typically striped brown/tan shells. Unlike native mussels or non-native Asian clams, zebra mussels adhere strongly to hard surfaces.

"Although zebra mussels are now found in 31 Texas lakes, there are still many other lakes in the state that they haven't invaded. Boaters play a critical role in preventing them from spreading to new lakes. Before

traveling from lake to lake, clean, drain and dry your boat and gear. Remove plants, mud and debris, drain all the water from the boat and gear, and then open up compartments once you get home and allow everything to dry completely," advises Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries Regional Director.

If you have stored your boat in the water at a lake with zebra mussels, it is likely infested with zebra mussels and poses an extremely high risk for moving this invasive species to a new lake. Before moving

(See Lake Buchanan.... Continued on Page 18)


Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

41st Semi-Annual Open Tournament


March 20, 2021 * Lake Fork, Texas

Oak Ridge Marina * Hwy 154 N.

Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries **903-360-6994**
Drawings Held After Weigh-in for prizes



1st Place	\$1,040.00
2nd Place	\$780.00
3rd Place	\$520.00
4th Place	\$260.00
5th ~ 10th	\$100.00



There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry
Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)

1st Place	\$500
2nd Place	\$300
3rd Place	\$200

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Mar. 13, 2021.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Mar. 20, 2021.
4. Check in times: Fri., Mar. 19, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Mar. 20, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at Oak Ridge Marina.
5. To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
6. Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station). NO FISHING from midnight till start time.
7. Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer fishing allowed).
8. Contestants must fish from a boat. NO-bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
10. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
12. Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (or state law limits at the time of the tournament).
13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
14. Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.
15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
16. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
18. Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of TTB and will be released (with the exception of trophy or dead fish).
19. In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following positions will be combined and evenly divided between the tying contestants.
20. Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to the tournament.
21. Contestants may fish with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.
22. Use of alcoholic beverages or controlled drugs are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.
23. Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.
24. Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon TTB's effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualification from this and all future TTB tournaments.
25. Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.
26. All protests must be registered in writing with the tournament judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.
27. All boats must be 18 ft. in length or longer. An aerated livewell is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish.
28. All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this TTB event.
29. Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information or for information on joining Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork visit our website: www.texastrailsbassmasters.com

Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Mar. 13, 2021 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (Optional). Print clearly.

Name: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____
Having read and understood all the tournament rules, by my signature I agree to accept all decisions of the judges final, by my signature I waive, release and hold harmless all members, officials and sponsors of any and all alleged liabilities to me or my equipment.
Contestants Signature _____
Minor's Release: Signed by _____

TTB USE ONLY

Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Chk# _____

Parent/Guardian



**Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork
Open Tournament March 20th**

Oak Ridge Marina

Sign-Ups Mar. 19, 4 pm to 9 pm

Mar. 20, 5 am to 6 am

Tournament Hours 6 am to 3:30 pm

Entry Fee; \$45 ~ \$10 Big Bass Optional

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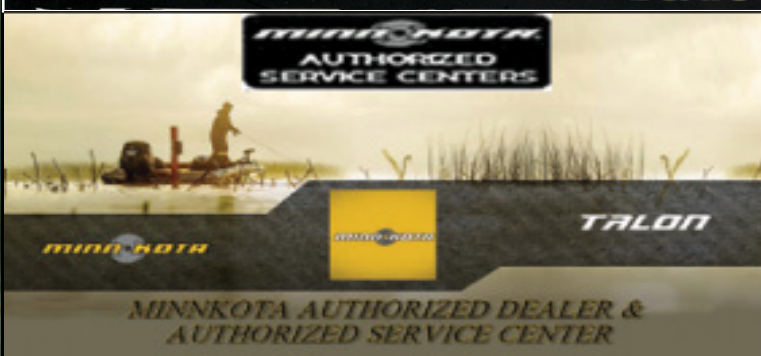
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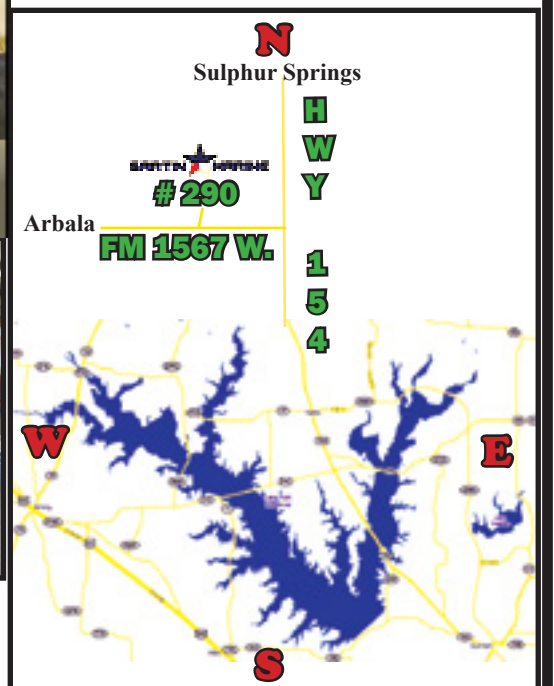
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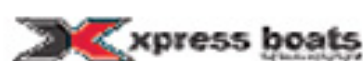
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• 6TH - \$150 • 7TH - \$135 • 8TH - \$125 • 9TH - \$115 • 10TH - \$110 • 1st Out of 10th \$100 GC

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



Winter Season Offers Multiple Opportunities for Texas Bird Hunters

While winter in Texas is often synonymous with spending dawn and dusk in a deer blind, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) wants to remind hunters of the various upland and migratory bird hunting seasons that are still open throughout the colder months.

Hunters can take part in several seasons for a range of species including dove, quail, duck, turkey and Sandhill Cranes. The winter months are also a good time to take part in lesser-utilized seasons, hunting for species like woodcock, and chachalacas.

A few of the winter bird hunting season dates are as follows:

- * Second segment of the statewide dove season;
- * North Zone – open through Jan. 3, 2021
- * Central Zone – open through Jan. 14, 2021
- * South Zone – open through Jan. 23, 2021
- * Quail;
- * Statewide through Feb. 28, 2021
- * Regular duck season and "Dusky" duck;
- * High Plains Mallard Unit and North Zone open through Jan. 31, 2021
- * South Zone – open through Jan. 31, 2021
- * Turkey (Fall Season);
- * North Zone – Open through Jan. 3, 2021

- * South Zone – Open through Jan. 17, 2021
- * Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg and Willacy Counties – Open through Feb. 28, 2021
- * Sandhill Cranes;
- * Zone A – Open through Jan. 31, 2021
- * Zone B – Open through Jan. 31, 2021
- * Zone C – open through Jan. 24, 2021
- * Woodcock;
- * Statewide open through Jan. 31, 2021

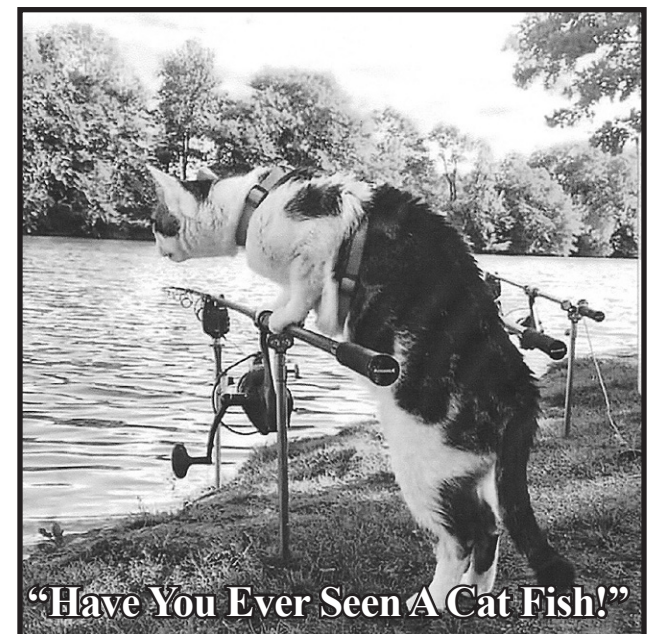
- * Chachalaca;
- * Open through Feb. 28, 2021

Season dates for other species including pheasant, common snipe and geese along with bag limits and specific license requirements for each season, can be found in the TPWD Outdoor Annual. Hunters can access the Outdoor Annual online or via the Outdoor Annual app.

Texas hunters, residents and non-residents, are required to have a valid Texas hunting license and an upland game bird and/or a migratory game bird endorsement depending upon what species they plan to hunt. A Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification is required for those hunting migratory birds. Various statewide conservation projects, as well as public land hunting op-

portunities, are funded in part by migratory and upland game bird endorsement funds.

Those who need a place to hunt in Texas can take advantage of over 1 million acres of publicly accessible hunting land. Texas public land hunters need to have an Annual Public Hunting (APH) Permit in addition to their hunting license. A map booklet of public hunting areas and information on how to purchase an APH permit can be found on the TPWD website.



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"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Happy New Year and welcome to the Lake Fork area. If you are new to bass fishing, then here are some things you should know about Lake Fork. First of all Lake Fork is known as the "GOAT" lake. This means Greatest Of All Times. Why you ask? Texas records show that 54 of the top 75 largest bass were caught from Lake Fork. In addition 8 of the top 10 overall largest bass and the states record bass of 18.6lbs have also all come from this magnificent fishery. These are undisputed and unbelievable statistics that make it safe to say there is no other lake quite like it. Ok that

being said, how should you fish and what do you look for?

Generally in the coldest of the winter months bass fishing can be very slow and seem brutal and tough. Yes, during the cold water months most bass do become lethargic; however, the big giant female bass are growing eggs and this creates a very high demand for food regardless of how cold it is. They will even eat in deep water where the bait is present and then sun bathe in the shallow water for digestion. This is why many giant bass are often caught in very shallow water during the winter months. Here is a rule of thumb that you can apply that can help a lot. Fish deep during

5" flukes and black & blue 1/2oz. Santone Rattling jigs tipped with a green pumpkin Strike king menus. I fish exceptionally slow and methodically. I also tend to stay put, call it camping if you will. Overall I really do not move around or chase them down very much. Now, how about the warm trends?

During afternoon warm trends and more importantly multiple day warm trends you will want to commit to the shallows. I Look for shallow south wind blown flats, coves and pockets that can warm up quickly. Shallow vegetation, matted debris or even just simple red clay areas can really be good. Sometimes I will even look in areas that are sheltered from the wind. My favorite baits are both lipless and square bill crank baits. 1/2 oz. for the lipless and the 2.5 size for the square bill. I choose colors in reds, oranges or even a combination of both red orange and chartreuse. These are moving baits and I tend to fish them fast. I'm looking for reaction strikes. I cover lots of water and move briskly. Once I catch a fish I will slow down in that area and be more thorough. Winter fishing is cold and not all that popular but it truly can be one of the best times of the year to catch a giant. Any way you look at it fishing is fishing and its always fun.

If your interested in learning more about Lake Fork, please follow my Facebook business page "Lake Fork Adventures Guide Service" and subscribe to my U-tube channel "The Lake Fork Guide".



Michael McFarland
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Lake Buchanan Zebra Mussels *(Continued from Page 12)*

your boat to another lake, call TPWD at (512) 389-4848 for guidance on decontamination. The transport of aquatic invasive species can result in legal trouble for boaters or transporters. Transporting prohibited invasive species in Texas is illegal and punishable with a fine of up to \$500 per violation. Boaters are also required to drain all water from their boat and onboard receptacles, including bait buckets, before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water.

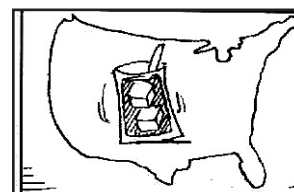
A status map showing all lakes where zebra mussels have

been found in Texas is online at tpwd.texas.gov/zebramus-sels. For more information on how to properly clean, drain and dry boats and equipment, visit the TPWD YouTube channel for a short instructional video. TPWD and partners monitor for zebra mussels in Texas lakes, but anyone who finds them in lakes where they haven't been found before should report them by emailing photos and location information to aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov to help identify new introductions. Any-

one who spots them

on boats, trailers or equipment that is being moved should immediately report the sighting to TPWD at (512) 389-4848.

To learn more about zebra mussels and other invasive species in Texas, visit tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives. Information for marinas and owners of boats stored in the water on lakes with zebra mussels can be found on the TPWD website.



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

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association (LFSA) has done much to preserve and enhance the Lake Fork fishery. Work done on the Live Release Boat has lowered the morbidity and mortality rates of bass caught during tournaments. They have assisted the Texas Parks and Wildlife in dispersing fingerlings in a way that makes them less susceptible to predators. LFSA has built minnow "factories" and Life Cycle Support structures providing spawning beds through lunker hides. Their work on replenishing the lake's depleted habitat includes the installation of both artificial bass attracting structures as well as the planting of native bushes and grasses.

Less widely known is what LFSA does to help others in our community enjoy the lake. Each year, for the last five years, LFSA has made a generous donation to several high school fishing teams.

Donations of equipment come from LFSA members and donations they solicited from the community as well. This year, several hundred lures and over 50 rods and reels were donated to local high school fishing teams from Winnsboro and Rains County. LFSA's Mike and Pat Kostial dedicate their time to refurbishing the rods and reels so that they perform as almost

new units. A group of rods, reels, baits and other equipment are provided to fishing team coaches/sponsors who disperse them to deserving students. These donations help assure that all high school students who want to fish are equipped to hit the waters and enjoy the sport.

This year's donations were formally presented to fishing coaches at a ceremony that took place during LFSA's November membership meeting. If you enjoy fishing at Lake Fork and want to help preserve and enhance the lake and/or want to help others enjoy it, consider joining LFSA.



The organization meets at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month at Tiffany's Restaurant at the Lake Fork Marina.

The LFSA membership extends get well wishes to President Larry Marler and High School Tackle Program Chairman Mike Kostial. Both are recovering from non-covid related serious health issues. The year 2020 has been a challenge for LFSA; however, the association has remained strong with their efforts to continue the good work done on Lake Fork.



TACKLE DONATIONS NEEDED

Rods, reels, tackle, and fishing-related equipment are needed to support the High School Fishing Tackle Program sponsored by Lake Fork Sportsman's Association. LFSA requests donations of new and used fishing articles that will be cleaned, assembled, and refurbished. Items will be further donated to area high school fishing teams.

Call Larry Marler, 336-413-3053, or Mike Kostial, 760-458-7885, for more information or to arrange a donation.



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& Cheese**

**Hours: Tues. thru Fri. 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sat. ~ 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed Monday**

"Break Out the Super Cold Weather Gear!" (Continued from Page 6)

days and I always keep one handy on whatever lure I present. Don't be afraid to hurl them into the thick grass and rip it out as bass will hit it once it clears the outer edge. Experiment to see where the green fish might be positioned. Make some casts out to the deep edge of the grass and slow roll the bait back to the boat. You might be surprised at the results.

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

January searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook and Instagram at <https://www.facebook.com/DavidOzioLakeForkGuide>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing USA and Talon Fishing Unlimited 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."



Aaron Von Rosenberg with David Ozio



Zach Turner with David Ozio



Mark Spaeth with David Ozio



James Mason with David Ozio



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Justin Sparling from Cedar Park, TX., caught this Lake Fork hawg weighing 10.6-lbs. night fishing with guide Whitt Smith on 12/22/20. C.P.R.

Community Archery Program (Continued from Page 11)

ing land that is otherwise inaccessible to firearm hunters."

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, Center-shot 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.

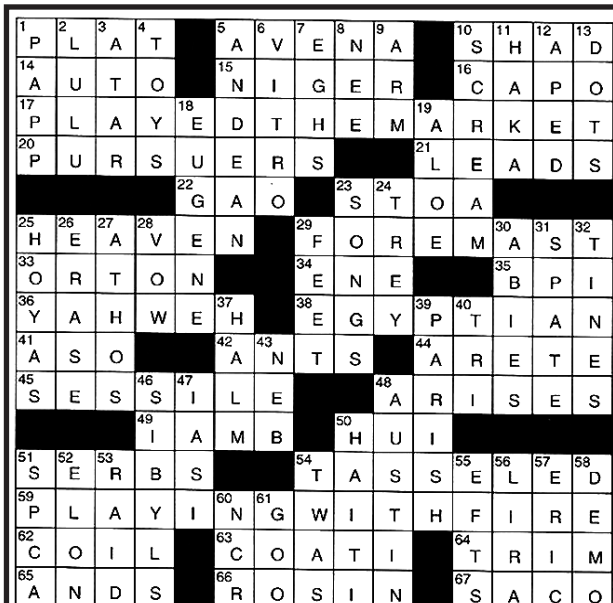
To learn more about these programs and how organizations can get involved with TPWD Community Archery, visit the TPWD website.

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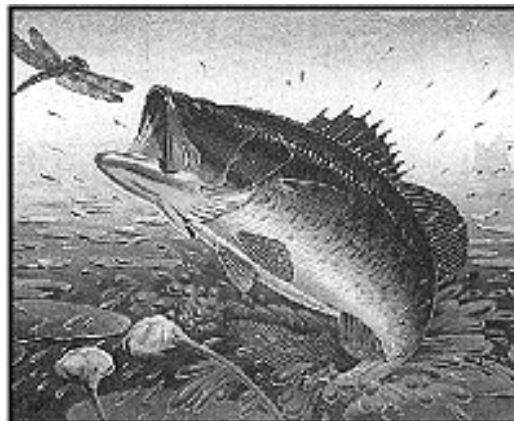


Up, Up and Away Word Find

Search up, down and diagonally to find and circle each of the "high-flying" words in the puzzle below. Ready for takeoff?

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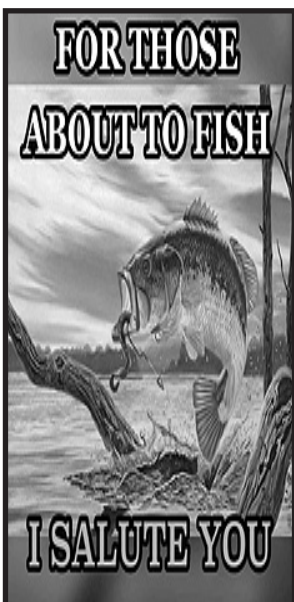
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Fool Me Once--
Two Maverick County game wardens paired up with a Zavala County game warden to patrol the county line for illegal dove hunting and managed lands deer program violations. While checking a camp several miles off the highway, the wardens came across a plastic zip lock bag containing two fresh whitetail

deer backstraps. After talking to three different individuals in the camp, one admitted to cutting the backstraps out of a deer hit by a car on the highway. After the individual was given a second chance to tell the truth, he admitted to shooting an eight-point buck on the ranch the evening before, cutting the backstraps out and leaving the rest of the deer to waste. The individuals were cited for hunting a whitetail deer in closed season and waste of game. One

of the individuals was also cited for not having a hunting license for killing a raccoon.

--Lost and Found--
Two Angelina County game wardens responded to a call about a lost hunter in Angelina National Forest. Upon arrival at the scene, the wardens found out the man had been missing for several hours and was a diabetic. Temperatures were dropping because of an approaching cold front so the wardens called UAV operators from TP- (Continued on Page 24)

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Warm Up With A Hearty And Wholesome Pork Dinner

By Sue Hampton

For a quick yet satisfying weeknight dinner that can be cooked stovetop, try the "Pork Tenderloin with Balsamic Olive Oil Sauce". A simple rub of olive oil, salt and pepper infuses the meat with flavor while the olive oil also seals in the natural juices to ensure tender results. Topped with a savory sauce, it's a great way to quickly turn any weeknight dinner into a gourmet feast.

Pork tenderloin is too little to be treated like a roast and too large to be treated like

a steak. Butterflying the tenderloin lengthwise, however, makes it possible to quickly cook this cut stovetop. If the tenderloin is too long for the pan, simply cut off the thin tail end and cook it in the skillet alongside the main piece.

Pork Tenderloin With Balsamic Olive Oil Sauce

2 small pork tenderloins (about 12 oz. each), patted dry and sliced lengthwise almost all the way through, then opened up

3 tablespoons olive oil

Salt and ground black pepper

¼ cup balsamic vinegar

¼ cup chicken broth

1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil

Pour olive oil into a shallow pan. Dip each side of each tenderloin in the oil to completely coat, then sprinkle each side with salt and pepper.

Heat a 12-inch, heavy-bottomed, nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add tenderloins. Cook until pork develops a thick, golden-brown crust, about 5 minutes. Turn pork and cook until remaining side develops the same crust, about 5 minutes longer. Remove pork from heat and let stand while making sauce.

Add vinegar and chicken broth to the skillet; boil until reduced to ¼ cup, about 1 to 2 minutes. Whisk in extra virgin olive oil.

To serve, slice tenderloins in half lengthwise and then into 1-inch slices. Serve with sauce.

(6 servings; about 4 oz. each.)

Try these "Sweet Potato Brownies" for dessert. Sweet potatoes are the #1 most nutritious vegetable packed with vitamins, high in fiber and low in fat so you can enjoy these brownies and feel good about it!

Sweet Potato

Brownies

1-1/2 cups flour

2 cups sugar

1 teaspoon salt

1 cup butter softened

4 eggs

2 teaspoons vanilla

2 cups grated sweet potatoes

1 cup chopped pecans

Mix sugar and butter together. Add remaining ingredients stirring after each addition. Bake in a 10X13 inch greased pan for 30 to 40 minutes until toothpick comes out clean.

Glaze

1 cup powdered sugar

Milk

¼ stick melted butter

Mix powdered sugar, butter and enough milk to make a thin glaze. Spread on brownies while hot. Cool and slice when ready to serve!



Tasty tenderloins of pork are fast and easy to prepare and these brownies are tasty and loaded with health benefits! Happy New Year everyone!

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

WD's Wildlife Division and a Tyler County game warden, and a TPWD K-9 handler for assistance as part of a joint operation with U.S. Forest Service rangers, Jasper County EMS, a Texas Department of Public Safety helicopter and fire department volunteers. After searching for several hours, the wardens received a GPS coordinate of the missing man and they were able to locate him in the woods. He was in a pre-hypothermic state when he was found and was treated by EMS.

--When Will You Learn?-- Two Polk County game wardens were on night patrol with their deer decoy "Corby" when Corby caught someone's eye. A truck passed the decoy, slowed to a stop, then quickly reversed and the headlights were positioned onto the decoy. After a brief pause, the sound of a small caliber rifle shot was heard from the vehicle. The wardens approached the subject and they were apprehended without incident. A .22 caliber rifle was found in the back seat of the truck with a spent casing still in the ejection port of the rifle. The subject also admitted to being charged for spotlighting on a public roadway near the same area a few weeks prior to this incident by

a different Polk County game warden. The subject was charged with hunting white-tailed deer at night, hunting white-tailed deer using artificial light and multiple Class C citations and warnings. Cases pending.

--Liar Liar Deer on Fire-- An Upshur County game warden received a call about two deer carcasses dumped along a shared fence line with a neighbor. The caller said the two carcasses had not been quartered and only some of the meat had been taken off of the two deer. The warden called for additional back up from another warden and when they arrived at the property, the two deer were no longer on the fence line. The wardens interviewed the property owner, but he denied knowledge of the two deer. After a quick investigation, it was determined that a nine-point buck was harvested that morning by his juve-

nile son. When asked about the carcass, the landowner said they had taken the carcass to a creek a mile away to dispose of it. When questioned about the second deer, the landowner continued to deny claims of there being another deer. After further questioning, the landowner confessed to not harvesting all of the meat from the nine-point buck that morning and showed the wardens to a burn pile on the property where they found the wasted buck with its two front shoulders intact and on fire. The landowner continued to deny there had been another deer until one of the wardens found a partially quartered doe hidden in the high brush. The landowner then confessed. Multiple cases pending.

--If I Could Turn Back Time-- Henderson County game wardens were conducting an

(Continued on Next Page)



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inspection on a local processor when they came across a license that did not have an archery endorsement. During the inspection, wardens found out the deer was harvested the same day the license was purchased, but the license was bought by the hunter later in the evening. The wardens visited the hunter and learned that the deer was harvested under the license of another individual. After further questioning, it was discovered that the hunter asked his wife to go buy a hunting license the same day he harvested the deer so that he could use her tag to harvest another buck. After denying the incident, the wardens were able to use cell phone photos with consent from the couple to put together a timeline proving the deer was harvested by the hunter before the license was purchased by his wife. To further the false claims that his wife had harvested the deer, he had her pose for photos with the deer, which wardens found on the phone. Cases pending.

--Oh Deer-- A Lavaca County game warden was on patrol when they heard a rifle shot come from an area where they had previously seen deer hunting violations.

When they went to investigate, the warden saw a man drive out of the brush, head home, pick up his wife and then return to the woods. An hour later, the wife returned to the house with the head and meat of a white-tailed buck. The warden approached the wife, who then lead the warden to where she was meeting her husband in the woods. The man was surprised when his wife showed up with the game warden to their hidden cleaning rack. Citation was issued for taking a white-tailed deer in closed season and civil restitution was filed. Case pending.

--Crossbow Drive-by-- Two Trinity County game wardens received a call from the local sheriff's office about a hunter who had just shot a buck in a yard from a vehicle. The landowner thought a rifle was used and was able to write down the license plate number and get a good description of the vehicle. The wardens and sheriff's office called a local constable who lives in the same neighborhood for some back up. The constable was able to find the vehicle quickly while the wardens traveled to the scene. After a brief interview upon their arrival, the hunter admit-

ted to shooting the buck out of his vehicle with a crossbow from the public roadway. Wardens filed multiple charges for hunting from the public roadway and hunting during closed season. Cases pending.

--Drunk and on the Hunt-- A Cass County game warden was on patrol when they saw a vehicle stop twice near a large pasture and stick what they thought was a rifle out of the window. While following the vehicle to confirm what they had seen, the subject was driving erratically on the county road. When the vehicle stopped again, the warden conducted a traffic stop. The warden then approached the vehicle and saw an AR-15 rifle in the passenger's seat. The weapon was secured, and the driver was checked for warrants. The warden noticed the thermal scope was still on, so they asked the driver about hunting and told him that they had seen him stick the rifle out of the window. The driver then admitted to hunting the field for hog and admitted to being intoxicated. The driver was arrested and charged with hunting without landowner consent and hunting non-game from a motor vehicle.

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