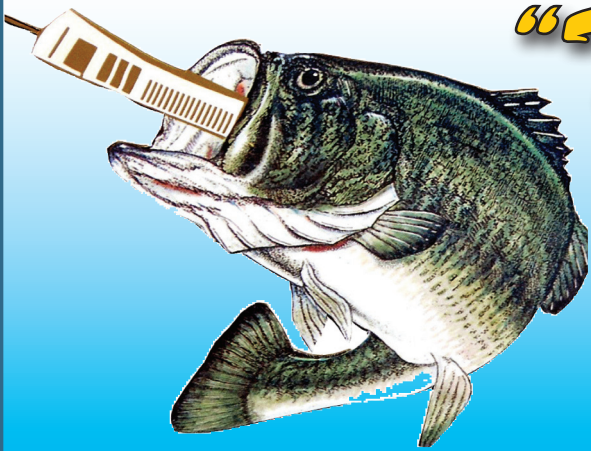


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Vol. 22

May, 2021

No. 261

Sixteenth Annual **LEGEND** OF LAKE FORK Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

Anglers get ready for one of the most exciting, fun-filled bass catching tournaments of the year on Lake Fork.

The 16th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament to be held May 14, 15, 16 and hosted out of Lake Fork Marina. All boats, makes, and models are welcome

to fish the tournament. You couldn't pick a better time of the year to catch that lunker bass and win some cash. There will

(See 16th Annual....
Continued on Page 4)



Lee Livesay, of Longview, Texas, has won the 2021 Guaranteed Rate Bassmaster Elite at Lake Fork with a four-day total of 112 pounds, 5 ounces. His final day weight of 42-pounds 3-ounces propelled him to the top of the leader board winning him \$100,000 cash pay-out. (See Story on Page 7)



Representing Peoples Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Ken Sharp (Lt) and Jim Martin (Rt.) presented a check for \$550 to Wood County Sheriff Kelly Cole to benefit the 2021 Wood County Kid Fish to be held at SRA Park on June 5th.



Lake Fork Guide John Morris caught this hawg in April weighing 12.1-pounds and measuring 27" in length. C.P.R.



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"Have You Smooched The Pooch Today?"

By: Don Hampton

Everyone has a different expression or saying when they make a mistake or mess up. Some will use profanity; curse themselves, their equipment, the weather, the water, their friends or whatever they can think of at the moment to vent their anger and frustrations.

Bubba seems to be lacking when it comes to understanding that type of behavior. First of all you are not going to find him getting too stressed out in life. He loves it too much, because to him fishing is life. Second, if Bubbette ever heard him come out with profanity in mixed company, not only would he have cause to hang his head in shame but he also might wake up with the taste of Ivory soap in his mouth.

Bubba does have his sayings when he makes mistakes. With his he can use them in mixed company and still not have to worry what that soap tastes like. His favorite saying when he makes a mistake or messes up is, "Well, I smooched the pooch that time!" Bubba doesn't take his dog with him but he still finds himself SMOOCHING THE POOCH a lot and usually on a daily basis!

Bubba will be late coming home from a fishing trip and have a cold Bubbette and supper wait-

ing and he'll simply say, "Well, I smooched the pooch this time!" If he did badly in a tournament or on a fishing trip and you ask him about it, you'll get the same answer. If he lost his keys or wrecked his truck, the answer would still be the same. If he sees or hears of someone else messing up he'll say, "Well they smooched the pooch!" This is just Bubba's laid back way of saying everything the hot heads say and express but in a simple, sensible, sociably acceptable way.

Bubba has a lot of other sayings in life he uses in place of profanity and that are inoffensive. "Ole Chips" is probably his most used one. He doesn't like old chips because they are stale and tasteless. If he smashes his finger it's, "Ole chips!" If he bends his license plate while backing up to the boat, it's the same. If he misses a hook set on a big bass, it's the same.

Now Bubba isn't one to call names but on occasions he does express his dislike over someone's behavior. For this he has an especially appropriate word I perfectly understood after he explained it to me. If he sees someone misbehave in a tasteless or unbecoming manner, he'll simply say, "Well, there's a real ashtray!" or "There's someone acting like a real ashtray!"

Being the inquiring mind that I am when I

heard Bubba say this the first time, I wanted to know his philosophy on this one. Believe it or not, Bubba is very philosophical. I came to this conclusion when he explained it to me.

He enlightened me by telling me, "Most ashtrays are always dirty. The sole purpose is for depositing cigarette butts in them and you always find an ash or two around them!" Well, that was descriptive enough for me so that I hope he never calls me an ashtray or says I'm acting like one!

Bubba is not a saint! You won't find him trading in his bass boat to be walking on water in this lifetime. He does try to be as good a man as he can and not using profanity is one of his ways. Growing up his father was a backwoods Methodist preacher that taught him well that bad words made you a bad person. He also found out that a switch isn't just something installed by electricians and that a belt isn't just used to hold your pants up.

So take a lesson from Bubba and his upbringing. If you are in public with other people present and you get angry, keep it to yourself or modify it with pleasantries.

At least that way you won't have anyone come up to you and say, "Ole Chip! You just smooched the pooch, and you're acting like a real ashtray!"

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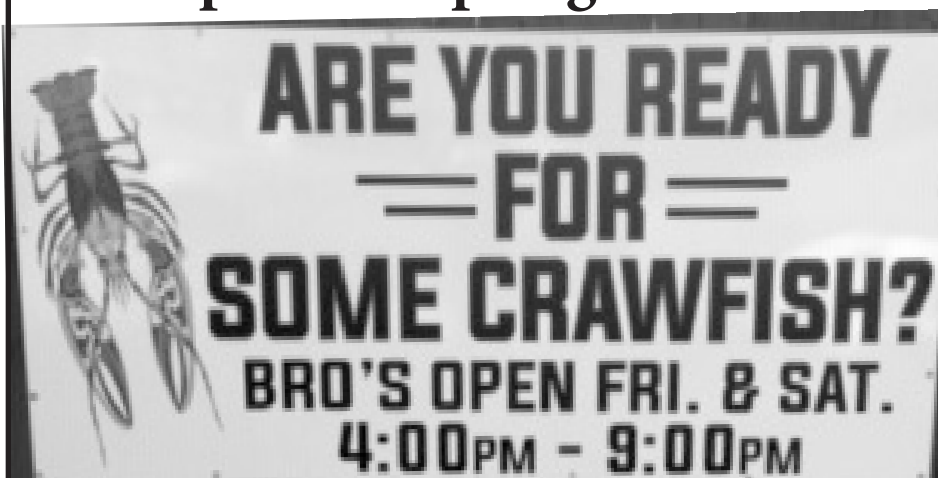
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16th Annual Legend of Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1)

be some big females on the beds, but on the most part they will have already spawned and feeding up with an appetite. At the 15th Annual there were 25 bass over the 24" slot weighed in during the tournament with an 11.97-pound bass taking 1st Place overall and a 10.02-pound bass taking 2nd Place overall.

Fishing hours for the tournament are from 6 am to 2 pm with 11 paid places each hour. To add more fun to the tournament and not break some angler's hearts, the first each hour to be knocked out of 10th Place receives a \$100 gift certificate from one of the spon-

soring businesses here on Lake Fork.

For added incentive to anglers there will be three Xpress bass boats given away. For the heaviest bass over the 24" slot caught during the tournament they will not only be taking home a check for 1st Place in an hour but also an Xpress X21Pro equipped with Yamaha, MinnKota, and Humminbird electronics. This is the same type of boat that Bassmaster Elite Pros, Bill Lowen, Harvey Horne, Dale Hightower, and Caleb Sumrall fish the circuit in.

Having been a guide on Lake Fork for 18 years and owned this newspaper for 22 years

I can contest to many anglers having never caught a bass weighing over 10-pounds. Well, Lake Fork is definitely your best chance to do this. For this very reason when I began this tournament, I wanted an extra incentive for the anglers. This is when my wife and I came up with the great idea to give a grand prize to the heaviest bass under the 16" slot. For the angler that catches the heaviest bass under the 16" mark they will be taking home a check and an Xpress X19Pro fully equipped.

For those that got your entry in early before April 30th you (Continued on Next Page)



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could also be a big winner. In a drawing of all the early entries one lucky angler will be taking home an Xpress H20B, 20-foot center console, equipped with Yamaha, MinnKota, and Humminbird electronics.

There also will be a T-Shirt hour every hour of the tournament. If the angler has a T-Shirt with him when

he weighs his bass and wins 1st Place in the hour they will get an extra \$100.

Anglers can also purchase Killer Outdoors 7'2" MH rods for only \$60 while supply lasts.

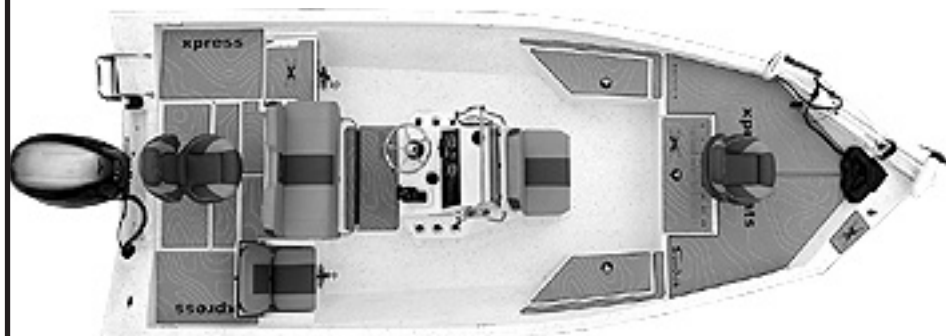
For more information on the tournament see ad on Page 28 or go to www.legendofflakefork.com to download entry and for all tournament rules. If you

should have any questions you can contact me at fishnews@lakefork.net or give me a call at 903-360-6994.

Hope to see you at the tournament or on the lake!

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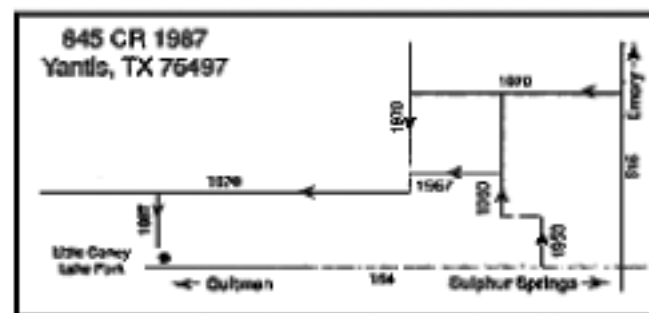
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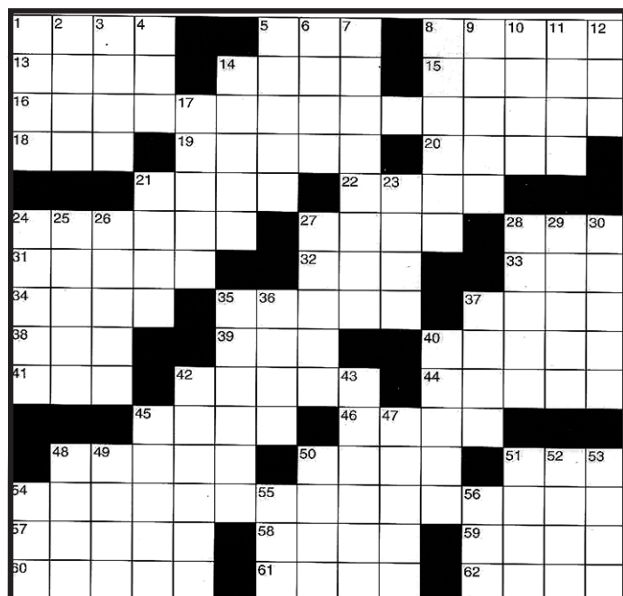
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"Mother Nature had her hand on Lake Fork!"

"Wouldn't ya know that Mother Nature has had a huge hand again this year as to how Lake Fork is setting up heading into May. The big freeze did manage to push things back a bit but it's not much different than 2020. The Bassmaster's Elites showed out and proved that Fork is here to stay. As of their event the bed fish were still days away from moving in hot and heavy and it seems spawning will go on through May. The shad spawn is yet to ramp up and will probably be in full swing by the first week of this month and deliver some shur nuf studs for a photo opt! Keep an eye on the main lake water temps as 70 degrees should move the little filet mignon's to the bank.

To get in on the action early in the A.M. cruise the lake



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Dutch cheese | 37. Indicates pain or discomfort |
| 5. Causing sorrow | 38. Drive obliquely, as of a nail |
| 8. Understands | 39. Sea eagle |
| 13. Woman's undergarment | 40. Person of exceptional holiness |
| 14. Belonging to me | 41. Single-lens reflex camera (abbr.) |
| 15. Supreme being | 42. E.T., for one |
| 16. Market patron of rhyme | 44. Yokels |
| 18. Talipot | 45. Sour |
| 19. Red, pear-shaped tropical fruit | 46. Asian nation |
| 20. Spanish monetary units (abbr.) | 48. Old festival |
| 21. North-central Indian city | 50. Deface |
| 22. Malicious satisfaction | 51. Muslim |
| 24. Call | 54. Top choice |
| 27. Used to have (Scottish) | 57. Changes, in a way |
| 28. College award, in a way (abbr.) | 58. Go down |
| 31. Assumed name | 59. Egg part |
| 32. 7th letter of the Greek alphabet | 60. Belongs to sun god |
| 33. ____ one and only | 61. Lyrics |
| 34. Boundary of a surface | 62. Radioactivity units |
| 35. More uncommon | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Outer (prefix) | 27. James A. ____, playwright |
| 2. East Indian stew | 28. Zeno was one |
| 3. Fish genus | 29. Leg part |
| 4. Wrong (prefix) | 30. Pennies |
| 5. Alaskan town | 35. Assistance in time of difficulty |
| 6. Stake | 36. Dry |
| 7. Transfer power to someone | 37. Very large body of water |
| 8. Struck, in a way | 40. Flows into Lake Chad |
| 9. Most powerful members of a society | 42. Other side |
| 10. Protocist | 43. From Nicaea |
| 11. Decagrams (abbr.) | 45. Conrad ____, American poet |
| 12. Easily startled or frightened | 47. Rattling breaths |
| 14. On a small scale | 48. Legally binding command |
| 17. National capital | 49. Highest point of something |
| 21. Wings | 50. Herringlike food fish |
| 23. Jet or King | 51. Greek portico |
| 24. Minute amounts (Scottish) | 52. Retained |
| 25. Colorless fluid | 53. Galls |
| 26. Offspring of a male lion and a female tiger | 54. School organization (abbr.) |
| | 55. Digit |
| | 56. God of war (Scandinavian) |

Answers on Page 21

and start combing the shore lines for white birds. Bass will push spawning shad up close to the shore lines and the shad cover the sustenance base for all the hungry critters. There are many different ways to tackle these bass feeding on shad but I mainly key on using the squarebill and a small swimbait to bring home the bacon. Once the feeding frenzy subsides, back out into deeper water and throw a 1 1/2 oz spinnerbait to bag the giants. The first hour after daybreak provides the best opportunity to score a trophy bass and the above mentioned tools are a starting point. You can work the squarebill in 2-3ft of water and any shad colored option will work. Cover as many main lake points as possible and pay strict attention to any shad movement. Birds will help you recognize where these shad are grouped up and make your way there as quickly as possible to get in a few casts before they disperse. Option two is a large spinnerbait. Position the boat in 3ft of water and cast back toward the 12ft range. Let it sink for a few seconds and then start a slow smooth retrieve. Expect a jolting strike when they latch onto the bait. A Carolina rig is a must if there is no wind present and fish it in the same areas as the squarebill and spinnerbait. Flukes are my favorite to use on the c-rig along with a 4ft leader. Colors are standard, darker colors on overcast days, more translucent hues on sunny days.

Piece two of the puzzle falls into place as the month of



May progresses, these trophy bass will start to migrate out to deeper water and gang up in large schools. Now is when you start your search using your electronics to find out where they will be taking up residence. The one great thing about this time of the year is that, if you find them, they will be grouped up and much easier to catch. Start your search on main lake points setting your sights in the 20-30ft range. Humps, ridges and roadbeds also come into play. You will probably stumble on herds of sand bass but don't be dismayed. At this time of the year, trophy black bass will run with their cousins and feed along side them on balls of shad. Spoons work well provided that the bottom is free of timber but the c-rig will

(See Mother Nature.....

Continued on Page 20)

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Monster Bag Lifts Livesay To Bassmaster Elite Series Victory At Lake Fork

For three days, Lee Livesay caught quality fish, but nothing close to the Lake Fork potential he intimately knows. On Championship Sunday, the third-year Elite Series pro and local guide showcased his home lake's treasures by winning the Guaranteed Rate Bassmaster Elite at Lake Fork with a phenomenal four-day total of 112 pounds, 5 ounces.

As the 32nd individual to enter the prestigious Bassmaster Century Club (a five-fish limit of 100 pounds or more), Livesay outpaced Day 1 leader Patrick Walters

by a 10-pound margin. Along with his second Elite trophy — his first came last fall at Chickamauga Lake — Livesay won a first-place award of \$100,000.

For Livesay, it was a monster final-day limit that weighed 42-3 and ranks as the third-heaviest, single-day weight in Bassmaster history that sealed the deal.

"I have no words right now, it's amazing," he said. "I've been around them, but I haven't caught any big ones all week; I just survived. Everything just worked out and it never goes like that."

Hailing from

Longview, Texas, Livesay made no assumptions and fished hard until the last minute. But when the smallest bass in your five-fish limit goes 7 pounds, 6 ounces, good things are likely.

"I caught big ones everywhere I went," he said. "I started off with big ones (a 9-2 at 7:14 a.m.) and ended with big ones (7-14 at 1:10 p.m.). It was just one of those surreal days, and it was amazing because I've spent a lot of time on this lake."

Spending his tournament in Little Caney Creek, Livesay rotated among several secondary points where bass

were chasing big gizzard shad. His main spot — a bar extending off a small island — allowed him to sneak into range of bass schooling on the opposite side without spooking them.

Throughout the tournament, Livesay

caught fish on a mixed arsenal that included a 3:16 Lure Company line-through Rising Son swimbait, a 3:16 Lure Company Work Horse glidebait, a Megabass Vision 110 jerkbait, a Carolina rig with a Netbait Little Spanky, a 6th Sense

Magnum Squarebill and a bone color Heddon Saltwater Super Spook.

On Sunday, the latter produced all of his weight fish. A 7-foot medium-heavy Halo HFX cranking rod and

(See Monster Bag..

Continued on Page 10)

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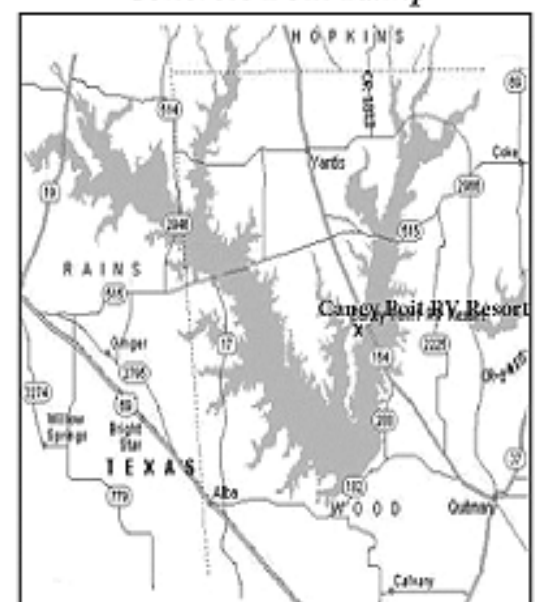
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"The Moon Report"

"May's Crappie Spawn on Fork"

By Terri Moon

Can you believe it has taken till May for the crappie to get serious about committing to the shallows? It's even hard for me to believe – especially after last year when everything started getting shallow in February and March. Water temperature has been the biggest battle this year. Just when the conditions would get almost perfect – BAM – morning temps back to the 30's knocking water temps down 5-10 degrees. Then we would have the added "Bonus" of fronts and storms with 30 to 59 mph winds and downpours, raising water levels causing them to open all flood gates – (if you fish Lake Fork much, then you know Fork's fish do not like current)! So needless to say conditions have been tough on the fish and the fishermen! It really makes you grateful when that "PERFECT" day comes along, especially when this crazy wind finally lays and you can actually fish where you need to be fishing.

Speaking of "Crazy Wind" – I put my Skeeter Solera to the test this spring. It's been a blessing being in a boat that's made for rough water – besides being so dam comfortable to ride and fish out of! You definitely can tell that a lot of thought went in the making of this boat – (I love all the extras!) But, most of all – I feel "SAFE" in it and that peace of mind is priceless! Also, I'm impressed on how shallow of water I can run it in, especially this time of year when we are fishing 1-2 feet of water. So if any of you are thinking about a



new boat, be sure and take a look at this Solera, it's something that can please the whole family! If you see me at Lake Fork Marina, you are more than welcome to check out mine!

Now as far as the crappie fishing – the females are finally moving in, especially with the full moon coming this week. They had been moving in and out with all the changing water temperatures. We've caught them from 1 ft. of water around the edges of the grass or near flooded willows, to as deep as 20 ft. around structure, brush piles, or bridges. It's a good time to have a rod rigged with a slip bobber to check shallow and a rod rigged for deeper water fishing. The crappie depth can change throughout the day, so keep an eye on that depth finder!

If you've fished Lake Fork this spring, the water has been very murky (a little like chocolate milk) because of all the rain run off and wind churning it up, especially up north. So darker jig colors like black/chartreuse and purple/chartreuse have been working. Mid-lake and south the water has been a

little clearer, so brighter colors like chartreuse or white/chartreuse have been working. Some days they want a very slow presentation, and other days they want the bait moving. So change it up to see what will work for the conditions you're fishing.

Now that water temps are finally getting to where it should be for this time of year, it looks like all the species should be moving shallow. Especially the big bream! There is nothing more fun than catching them! Crickets, night crawlers, or just Berkley crappie nibbles will work on a slip bobber or just tight lining in 1 to 10 ft. Just check the same areas you were fishing for shallow crappie. The next couple of months should be pretty awesome. I hope you all have the chance to get out and enjoy Lake Fork.

Our marina dog, Buddy, is doing great!

Happy Mother's Day to you all and especially to my Mom and happy 91st birthday too Mom!
All the Best!



Army Sgt. John Youngblood caught this nice Lake Fork hawg fishing with guide Michael McFarland in April. We thank you for your service. Weight not provided. C.P.R.



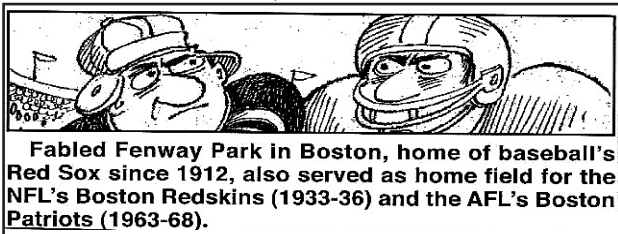
John Hardin from Arkansas was fishing Lake Fork in April when he caught his personal best weighing over 8-pounds. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Scenic 515 Cabins)



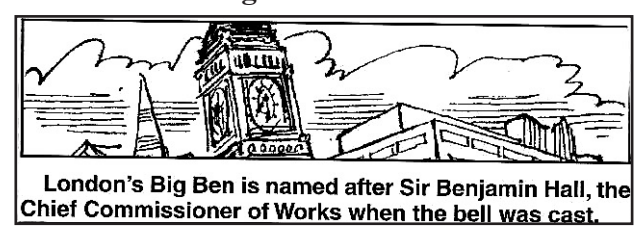
John Boone from Mineola, TX., was fishing Lake Fork on April 18th when he caught this nice hawg weighing 9.12-pounds putting him in the lead for Big Bucks Cash. C.P.R.



A baby blue whale is 25 feet long at birth.



Fabled Fenway Park in Boston, home of baseball's Red Sox since 1912, also served as home field for the NFL's Boston Redskins (1933-36) and the AFL's Boston Patriots (1963-68).



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



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Monster Bag Lifts Livesay To Bassmaster Elite Series Victory At Lake Fork (Continued from Page 7)

40-pound braided line were essential for reaching distant fish and keeping them connected.

"Those fish are wanting to feed up and they're seeing so many swimbaits, they're just not eating them," he said. "I kept getting bites and I kept throwing it.

"Working that big topwater really erratic and just getting them to react was the deal. I think they really think it's a shad."

Livesay kept himself in the hunt all week, starting with a seventh-place bag of 25-6 on Day 1. He slipped two spots on Day 2 after catching 17-14, but put himself within striking distance on Semifinal Saturday by adding 26-14 and improving to fifth.

Overcoming the hometown curse — succumbing to the pressure of local expectations — made Livesay's victory even sweeter.

"I've spent thousands of days with clients and fun fishing on this lake," Livesay said. "I never thought I had it. I knew I was around them, but I never thought I'd catch 42 pounds.

"So, doing it in front of family and friends, and a lot of sponsors were here, too, it's just amazing. I couldn't ask for anything better."

Notably, Walters claimed his second Century

Club belt after earning his first at last November's Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest benefiting Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with a four-day Lake Fork total of 104-12.

Hailing from Summerville, S.C., Walters started strong this week by leading Day 1 with 32-14. He slipped to third on Day 2 with a smaller limit of 15-7.

Walters got back on track Saturday with 22-13 and reached the final round in fourth place. Adding 31-3 Sunday, he tallied 102-5 and was the only competitor to break 30 pounds twice.

He did most of his work at the mouth of Little Caney where prespawners were staging on the breaks. Leveraging his forward-facing Garmin Panoptix LiveScope, he fished a mix of jerkbaits, swimbaits and topwaters.

After a slow start, Walters got rolling with a midmorning rally that produced several big topwater bites. He steadily chipped away at the lead Livesay had built for much of the morning until the leader's midday rally put the event out of reach.

"If you're going to get beat on Lake Fork, it has to be a 40-pound bag," Walters said. "Big hats off to Lee, he is the man. I had a great week; I

really do love this place."

Quentin Cappel of Prairieville, La., held the second-place spot for the first three days and finished third with 99-6. He turned in daily weights of 28-15, 25-13, 19-4 and 25-6.

Cappel targeted shallow areas with shell bottom in Caney Creek looking for submerged root masses, where deflecting a Strike King KVD 4.0 squarebill triggered strikes. When bass drove gizzard shad topside, he threw a Strike King Sexy Dawg topwater.

"The topwater came into play huge today, as expected," he said. "One to 3 o'clock has been my window. I was just pacing around, hitting as much as I could and looking for bait activity.

"When that water temperature got warm throughout the day, they would come up and get active. And when the wind pushed those shad against the bank, they showed themselves."

Clifford Pirsch of Payson, Ariz., won the \$1,000 Phoenix Boats Big Bass award for his 9-13 largemouth. He also won \$1,000 for the biggest bass of Day 2. Walters claimed Phoenix Boats Big Bass honors for Days 1 and 4 (8-14 and 9-5), while Australian pro Carl Jocumsen took the award on Day 3 with a 9-5.

Brandon Card of Salisbury, N.C., took home \$3,000 for being the highest-placing entrant in the Toyota Bonus Bucks program, and Chris Zaldain of Fort Worth, Texas, earned \$2,000 for being the second-highest placing entrant.

As part of the Yamaha Power Pay program, Walters earned \$2,500 for being the highest-placing entrant, while Cappel claimed an additional \$1,500 for being the second-highest placing entrant.

Seth Feider of New Market, Minn., leads the Bassmaster Angler of the Year standings with 436 points. Walters is in second with 432, followed by Drew Cook of Cairo, Ga., with 387, Livesay with 385 and Chris Johnston of Peterborough, Canada, with 384.

Josh Stracner of Vandiver, Ala., leads the Rookie of the Year standings with 333 points.

The tournament was hosted by the Sabine River Authority and Wood County Economic Development Commission.



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Bipartisan Bill to Help Declining Wildlife Introduced on Earth Day in Congress

With as many as one-third of America's fish and wildlife species on the brink of becoming threatened or endangered, a bill introduced April 22 on Earth Day in Congress seeks to reverse this trend, while creating thousands of new jobs and investing in the outdoor recreation economy. The bipartisan proposal has nationwide support from conservationists, hunters, anglers, businesspeople, and the outdoor recreation industry.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide \$1.4 billion to state and tribal wildlife conservation initiatives to support at-risk wildlife populations and their habitats. The funding would come from existing revenues and would not require any new taxes.

Texas would receive more than \$50 million per year for projects to conserve vulnerable wildlife like the much-loved Texas horned lizard, our state fish the Guadalupe bass, and many songbirds and coastal birds. This funding will also help recover species that are already endangered, such as sea turtles and the Whooping crane. The additional resources are urgently needed to aid fish and wildlife populations under increasing pressure from habitat loss, invasive species, emerging diseases, and extreme weather events in Texas and throughout the country.

Texas is home to more than 1,300 of the 12,000 species identified nationwide as Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to change the course of history for declining wildlife and help prevent them from becoming endangered. If a species is in such bad shape that it qualifies for the "emergency room" measures of the Endangered Species Act, it is much more dif-

ficult—and more expensive—to recover the species. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. That is the principle behind this bill.

Janice Bezanson of Texas Conservation Alliance notes that "the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would bring much-needed funding to Texas for projects designed to keep species off the endangered species list, without raising or creating new taxes. This legislation is good for wildlife, good for business, good for Texans."

The Texas outdoor recreation economy generates 327,000 jobs, \$14.4 billion in salaries and wages, and \$3.5 billion in state and local tax revenue (Source: Outdoor Industry Association). This growing part of our economy relies on healthy fish and wildlife populations. This bill will put Americans to work restoring our nation's wildlife heritage and would create an estimated 33,000 new jobs through tree planting, grassland restoration, habitat work, outdoor recreation projects, and wildlife management.

"Healthy fish and wildlife populations are the backbone of Texas' fast-growing outdoor recreation economy, which includes hunting, angling, wildlife watching, kayaking, nature tourism, and hiking," said John Shepperd, a spokesman for the Texas Alli-

(See Bipartisan Bill to Help.....Continued on Page 15)

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Catfish Stocking Heading Back to Neighborhood Fishin' Lakes in Texas

Spring is in the air and with that comes one of Texas' best spring traditions, angling for catfish. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Neighborhood Fishin' program enables friends and families to stay close to home, enjoy time in the outdoors, and have the chance to reel in a catfish.

Starting the week of April 23, TPWD began stocking thousands of catfish at 18 Neighborhood Fishin' lakes, including five in Dallas-Fort Worth, four in the Houston area, two each in the Austin and San Antonio areas, and one each in Amarillo, College Station, San Angelo, Waco, and Wichita Falls.

"Neighborhood Fishin' lakes are conveniently located in urban and suburban areas so that Texans don't have to travel to have a great experience," said Craig Bonds, Director of Inland Fisheries. "Catfish are fun and easy to catch for anglers of all ages and experience levels. If you've never fished before, these are the perfect places to get started. If you are an experienced angler, these are the perfect places

to introduce fishing to a friend or family member."

Each of the lakes will receive channel catfish every two weeks through the end of October – with a brief pause during the heat of August.

Neighborhood Fishin' lakes are located in city and county parks with ample parking, restrooms, lighting, and other recreational amenities, in addition to fishing.

All anglers can keep up to five catfish of any size per day without a minimum length limit. At some locations, cleaning tables are available nearby to make it easy for families to clean their catch. Children under 17 fish for free, but a fishing license is required for all adults who fish. Fishing licenses can be purchased for as little as \$11 for "one-day, all-water" access. All proceeds go toward management and conservation of the fish and their habitats.

To find the Neighborhood Fishin' lake near you or to sign up for email updates, visit www.neighborhoodfishing.org. Stocking location information and dates can also be

found on the Neighborhood Fishin' website.

Anglers are encouraged to use common sense to stay safe and help protect themselves and others. Masks are encouraged in crowded areas where it is difficult to maintain a safe physical distance.

Neighborhood Fishin' is supported by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation through a donation from the 2020 Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest and many local partners across the state.



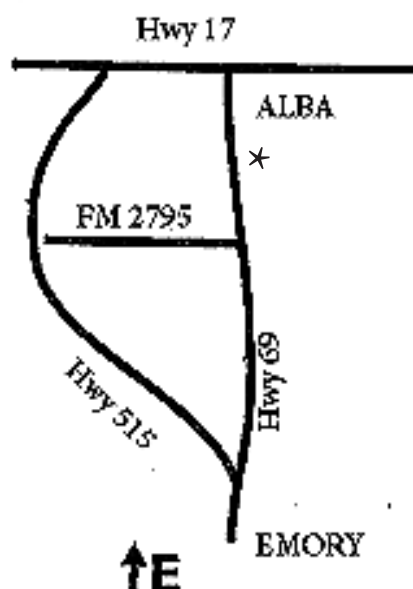
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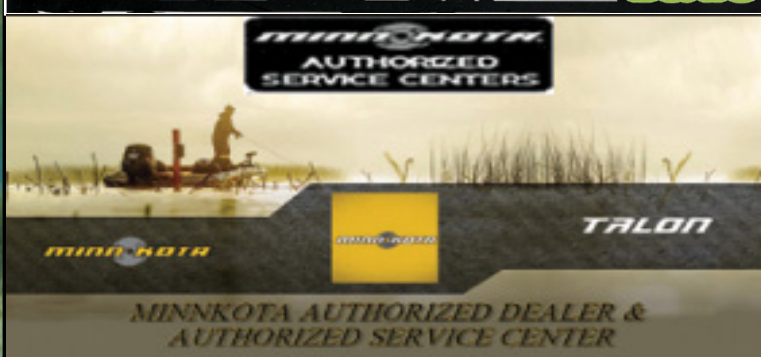
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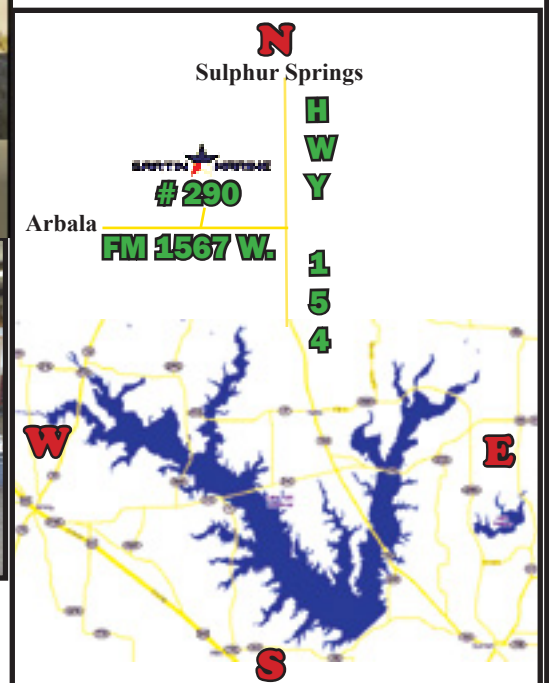
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Greg cruised around in his 21' Phoenix with a smile on his face. Greg was also concentrating on water clarity, water temp and proper bait and location for that particular day. No matter how determined he was on the Bass hunt, Greg always made time to help anyone. If you had trouble on the ramp or needed your broken boat pulled in, Greg was always there to help.

Greg Murphy's Unique Style, Personality and fishing knowledge will remain a Legend of Lake Fork Forever.

Bipartisan Bill to Help *(Continued from Page 11)*

ance for America's Fish and Wildlife. "Research has proven children do better in school when they have a connection to nature. Functioning ecosystems provide food, timber, pollination essential for agriculture, flood mitigation services, and clean water, which benefits all of us."

State wildlife agencies will distribute the money through a competitive grants program. Conservation groups, land trusts, researchers, zoos, nature centers and others will be able to apply for habitat restoration, land protection, research, establishing conservation easements, reintroducing wildlife, and other

initiatives listed in each state's Wildlife Action Plan.

Particularly beneficial for a private lands state like Texas, the funding could expand cost-sharing programs and technical guidance for private landowners to conduct voluntary wildlife and habitat stewardship activities on their property. It will also be used to fund educational programs and introduce more Texans to outdoor recreation opportunities—important now more than ever. Time in nature is proven to have numerous benefits to human health and mental well-being.

This bill is a reminder

that when we work together, we can still accomplish great things. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act gained a lot of bipartisan support in the last congressional session; 185 Members of Congress cosponsored the House bill, including 14 Texans.

The Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife is a coalition of more than 165 organizations and businesses formed to support this important legislation. Every citizen can help, by urging their Member of Congress to co-sponsor Recovering America's Wildlife Act.



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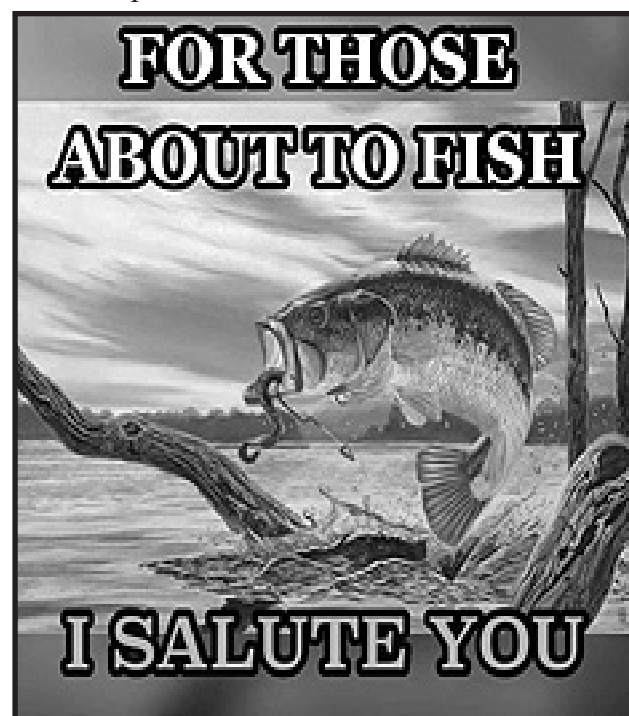
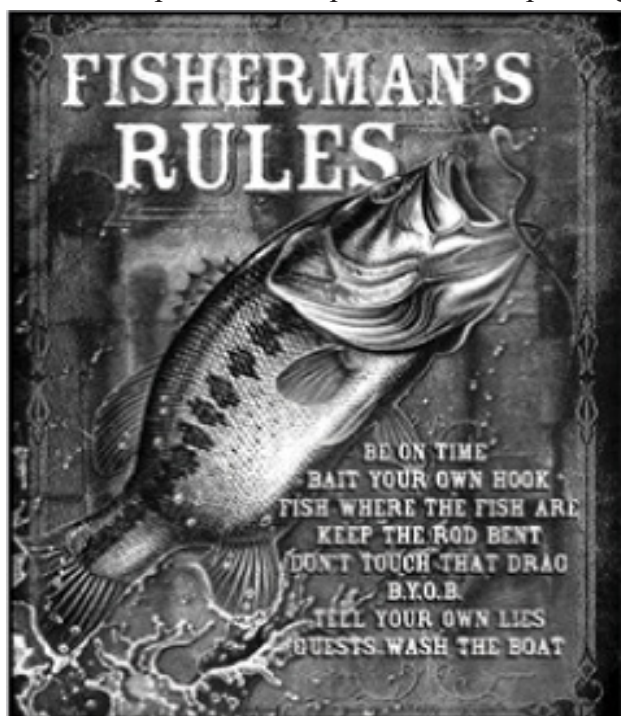
On Thursday, March 18, 2021, Texas Parks and Wildlife-Tyler Division brought their experiment of growing Eel Grass in a greenhouse environment to Yantis High School. With supplies donated by Lake Fork Sportsman's Association, the Yantis Agriculture students transplanted the grass into large tubs equipped to hold the growing grasses. Cari Mills, Yantis Ag Instructor, will oversee the students' caretaking of the experiment.

Carolyn West, LFSA Aquatic Plant Restoration Project Chairperson, gave the students a tutorial of the 5-year history of TPWD, LFSA and Yantis High School working together to grow plants in the greenhouse. In addition to learning the need to replenish grasses in Lake Fork, students learned the practice of re-potting, placing the pots in the aquatic tanks, daily care-taking and eventual planting. The greenhouse, donated by Lake Fork Sportsman's Association from a TPWD grant, can maintain a controlled environment for ideal growing conditions.

The plants will grow in the greenhouse until the Fall of 2022. At that time, the LFSA members with the direction of TPWD will take the students to a designated location on Lake Fork and plant them along the shoreline.

This program is entering the sixth year of operation. During those years, varieties of grasses have been planted as experiments and planting

methods have been tested. A significant survival issue has been hogs as they attack and forage the fresh plantings. Methods of protecting the plants once placed in the lake continue to be developed. The Yantis High School greenhouse has additional space available for project expansion. In April other species will be propagated as greenhouse experiments.



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*For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director
visit our website: www.wishtofishfoundation.com*



"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

May, what a very special month it may be! The lake is full, many of the bass have finished spawning and yet there are still many bass that potentially are still to spawn. Post spawn and prespawn at the same time, it doesn't get much better than that. Because of the 230 hour February freeze here in Texas spring was delayed. During April we experienced a very large and condensed wave of spawning bass many of which were withheld from spawning in early March. The condensation has really grouped the fish up into a single cycle or two, which in

essence should mean bigger groups of offshore schooled up fish in May and June. These fish will be hungry and willing to eat many different types of baits. Generally Gizzard shad & Brim are their first choices so baits that match the prey work best; however, when they are really fired up color doesn't even matter. While the water temperatures remain relatively cool you will first find these big females feeding shallow on main lake points (shad spawn areas specifically), shellbed reefs, secondary points with breaks, channel swings and or tree lines, and many times grass edges very near to where they spawn. Once the shad spawn fin-

ishes and the shallow water temperatures begin to get hot, the big bass will begin to migrate deeper following the shad into the cooler depths and begin feeding in the deep plankton rich shell beds which we will discuss in next months June issue.

During most of May I will start off with top water baits like the Super Zara spook

(walking style bait) and or Yellow magic popper (popping style bait). I definitely want to have a walking bait and a popping bait, no two days are ever alike and they might eat one better on one day and not the next. I will also have a weightless fluke 5", the 4.0 Strike King square bill and an Owner 1/4oz. 6/0 Underspin tipped with a 5" 3:16 minnow.

My first stopping spot will usually be a wind blown point or shallow shell reef preferably with a blue heron present and in the water fishing himself. The blue heron will confirm that there are shad present and give me confidence that there will most likely be feeding bass as well. I will fish fast and move quickly if I'm not getting bites. Making and executing a milk run of multiple wind blown locations is very important but finding the bait and sometimes matching the hatch in these areas is of the essence. May is one of my favorite months of the year and I'm looking forward to the big bass beatdowns we get to experience this year here on the GOAT Lake!

Thank you for reading, please find and follow me on Instagram "The Lake Fork Guide" and or my Facebook business page "Lake Fork Adventures Guide service". God bless and I wish you all great fishing.



Michael McFarland

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New Case of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Confirmed in Texas, First of 2021

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has received test results confirming that Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease virus 2 (RHDV2) was diagnosed in a wild black-tailed jackrabbit in Cottle County. This marks the first confirmed cases of RHDV2 in a wild rabbit in Texas in 2021 and follows the discovery of the disease in domestic rabbits in Tom Green County, which was announced in a recent Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) news release. This is also the first discovery of the disease in a domestic rabbit of 2021.

Rabbit Hemorrhagic

Disease (RHD) is a highly contagious viral disease that can affect both domestic and wild rabbit species including hares, jackrabbits and cottontails. This disease is nearly always fatal and primarily affects adult rabbits. The viral agent, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV), is a calicivirus with two strains, RHDV1 and RHDV2, both being reported in North America in recent years. RHDV appears only to affect rabbit species (lagomorphs). It is not known to affect humans, livestock or pets other than rabbits. However, pets should not be allowed

to consume dead animal carcasses.

TPWD has confirmed RHDV2 in the wild rabbit population of Brewster, Cottle, Culberson, El Paso, Gaines, Hale, Hockley, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Lubbock, Pecos, Presidio, Randall, Terrell, and Ward counties. If sick or dead wild rabbits are noticed, a local TPWD wildlife biologist should be contacted. Learn more about RHDV2 in wild rabbits on the RHD page of the TPWD website.

Often the only clinical sign is sudden death. In less acute cases, clinical signs in rabbits have included the

(See New Case of ...

Continued on Page 21)



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Zebra Mussels Detected at Lake Brownwood

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has detected invasive zebra mussels at Lake Brownwood in the Colorado River Basin, southeast of Abilene. Zebra mussel larvae were detected in plankton samples collected at two sites approximately three miles apart at Lake Brownwood in November. This is the second lake in the Upper Colorado River Basin where zebra mussels have now been detected, which indicates this species is continuing to spread westward.

To date, no adult mussels have been found in the lake. In late March, TPWD staff conducted intensive shoreline and substrate surveys at both locations where larvae were detected. In addition, surveys were conducted at a third marina site, but no settled juvenile or adult mussels were found at any of the sites.

"Zebra mussels are a highly invasive, non-native species that cause damage to boats as well as to infrastructure for water supply and control and other facilities using raw surface water," said Monica McGarrity, TPWD Senior Scientist for Aquatic Invasive Species. "Zebra mussels also negatively impact the ecosystem, competing with native filter feeders and altering the food web and attaching to and harming native mussels. Their razor-sharp shells can litter shorelines and cover underwater hard surfaces, posing a hazard for humans."

The public is asked to be on the alert for zebra mussels at Lake Brownwood on rocks, docks and other hard surfaces, and boats. Anyone who spots zebra mussels should immediately notify TPWD at AquaticInvasives@tpwd.texas.gov with photos. Zebra mussels attach firmly to hard surfaces and have triangular shells, often with tan/brown stripes and grow to approximately 1.5 inches long.

Because zebra mussels are most often transported on or in boats, boaters play a critical role in preventing them from spreading to new lakes. Zebra mussels attach to boats and may also contaminate anchors or plants clinging to boats and can survive for days out of water. Their larvae are microscopic and invisible to the naked eye and can be unknowingly transported in residual water in boats. Boaters are urged to clean, drain and dry their boats and gear before traveling from lake to lake. 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.

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 your boat to another lake, call TPWD at (512) 389-4848 for guidance on decontamination. The transport of aquatic in-

vasive 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.

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

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.

A status map showing all lakes where zebra mussels have been found in Texas is online at tpwd.texas.gov/ZebraMussels. For more information on how to properly clean, drain and dry boats and equipment, visit the TPWD YouTube channel for a short instructional video.

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



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"Mother Nature!" (Continued from Page 6)

do most of the heavy lifting. It's also a good time to tie on a football jig in black/blue or peanut butter/jelly. Any craw trailer will work and be sure to match the skirt of the jig as close as possible. I would also set up an A-rig if an abundance of sand bass are present. Rig this presentation with any white swimbait in the 3 1/2 to 5 inch length. Make a long cast and let it sink to the bottom. Start a slow retrieve and hold on. You may have to weed through several pesky sand bass but a giant could latch on to the rig and totally make your day.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in May 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 dream't of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/davidoziolakeforkguide>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Custom Lures for making my job the blast that it is. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". I wish all of you a blessed day."



Travis McCracken with David Ozio



Dane Carter with David Ozio



Kermit Gable with David Ozio



Tricia Callahan with David Ozio



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New Case of Rabbit Hemorrhagic (Continued from Page 18)

following: dullness/apathy, not eating, bleeding from the nose and eyes or watery, congested eyes. Some may also exhibit neurological signs such as incoordination, excitement or seizure-like episodes.

This is a highly contagious disease that spreads between rabbits through contact with infected rabbits or carcasses, their meat or their fur, contaminated food or water, or materials encountering them. RHDV2 can persist in the environment for a very long time. These factors make disease control efforts extremely challenging once it is in the wild rabbit populations.

Domestic rabbit owners who have questions about RHDV2 or observe sudden death in their rabbits should contact their

private veterinarian. Private veterinarians are requested to contact the USDA-APHIS or the TAHC to report any suspected cases at 1-800-550-8242. Rabbit owners or breeders should practice biosecurity on their farms and in their homes. Re-

port all unusual mass morbidity (sickness) or mortality (deaths) events to the TAHC.

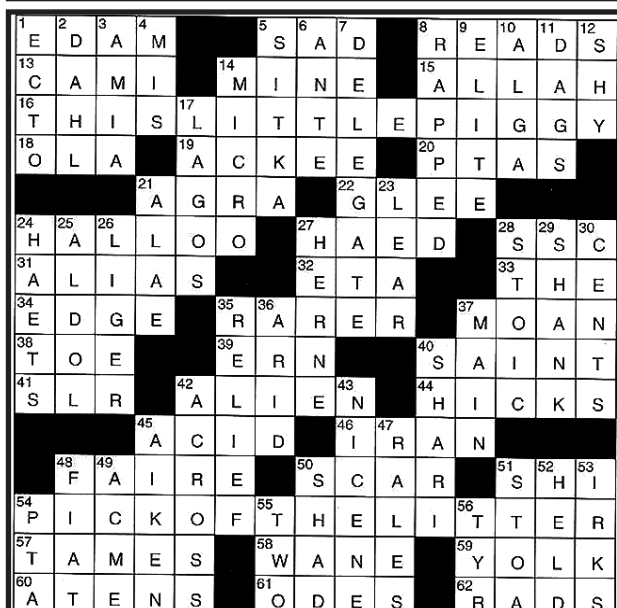
Find more information about RHD on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service fact sheet.

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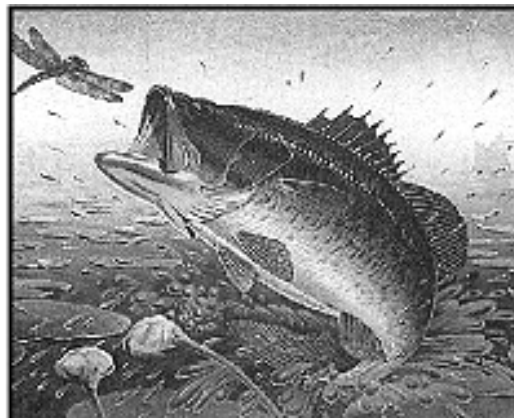


Vegetable Word Find

There are many kinds of vegetables grown on America's farms. See how many you can find and circle in the puzzle below.

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BROCCOLI	EGGPLANT	PEAS
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CARROT	KOHLRABI	RUTABAGA
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Sticky Situation--

A McLennan County Game Warden was responding to a trespassing call from a landowner when the warden came upon the suspect stuck in the mud. The warden interviewed the suspect and discovered that they had also burglarized a vehicle while trespassing. The landowner identified the stolen property and it was returned. The suspect was arrested for burglary of

a vehicle and criminal trespass.

--Helping Hand--

A Washington County Warden received a call of a suspicious boat discovered by a realtor and landowner. A TX number was provided to Austin Dispatch where it was flagged as stolen. The warden made it to the scene and verified the HIN of the boat and VIN of the trailer. Both were confirmed stolen out of Harris County. Investigators from the Marine Theft Investigation Unit were contacted, the original owners were contacted, and the property is being

returned. The investigation is ongoing.

--Mistaken Identity--

A DeWitt County Game Warden received a complaint about a hunter suspected of taking a deer out of season. When the suspect was contacted, her husband's tag was on the deer. The husband initially claimed to have shot the deer. After interviewing both individuals, it was determined that the initial subject had in fact shot the deer. It was not taken out of season, but it was taken without a license. When all was said and

(Continued on Page 24)

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"Summer Grilling With Mushrooms And Shrimp"

By Sue Hampton

You can make a quick, delicious meal with this grilled lemon-and-garlic-flavored shrimp and mushroom dish served on warm pita bread. Get your pita bread from your local grocery or make your own. The recipe is below!

Anytime you're grilling, remember that fresh mushrooms are perfect partners for all sorts of grilling favorites, including beef, seafood and vegetables. In addition to flavor, mushrooms pack a surprising amount of nutrition, contributing to our daily intake of riboflavin, niacin and selenium, with only 20

calories per serving and almost no fat.

GRILLED LEMON SHRIMP AND MUSHROOMS

¼ cup olive oil
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 teaspoons minced garlic
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1/2 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
1 pound large peeled and deveined shrimp
12 ounces fresh white mushrooms
2 medium-sized zucchini, sliced 1 inch thick (about 2-1/2 cups)
1 medium-sized red onion cut in 8 wedges
4 pitas, warmed

Preheat outdoor grill or broiler. In a large bowl, stir together olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, oregano, salt and black pepper. Add shrimp, mushrooms, zucchini and red onion; gently toss until coated. Marinate for 10 minutes. Place vegetables and shrimp on a vegetable grilling rack or a rack in a broiler pan. Grill or broil no more than 6 inches from heat source until vegetables and shrimp are just cooked, about 8 minutes, stirring and brushing occasionally with remaining marinade. Serve on pita bread with plain yogurt and chopped cucumber, if desired.

PITA BREAD

3-1/2 cups bread flour (plus extra for dusting)
1 teaspoon salt

1 packet dry active yeast

1 teaspoon sugar

1 teaspoon olive oil

1-1/3 cups water

Directions: Sift flour and salt together in a large bowl.

Combine yeast, sugar and 1/3 cup very warm water-give a quick stir and set aside for 5 minutes to activate yeast.

Make a well in the flour/salt mixture and add the yeast, 1 cup warm water and the olive oil. Gently stir to gather dough into a ball-you may need a touch more water-depending on where you live, altitude.

Turn out and knead for 10 minutes.

Put into a LIGHTLY greased large bowl, cover and place in a warm spot for around 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

Punch down and knead to smooth.

Cut dough into 12 pieces, form into rounds, roll out and place on a dusted baking sheet, cover and let rest for 45 minutes.

Preheat oven to 500F degrees.

I use my large iron skillet for this part, so I place it in the oven and when really hot I place in two pitas and let them bake for around 3 minutes-you can broil for 1 minute if you like, just to get the tops browned.

This process can also be done on a cooking sheet.



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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

done, violations included hunting without a license, hunting under the license of another, allowing another to hunt under one's license, no proof of sex, and no hunters education. The deer was seized and donated. Restitution is pending.

--That Dog Does Hunt-- While patrolling the Sam Houston National Forest, a Montgomery County Game Warden contacted four individuals who had firearms, rope and GPS tracking equipment. The hunter's claimed that their dogs had gotten off the private property they were hunting, and they were trying to get them back. The warden asked if they knew it was illegal to run dogs in the national forest and they said that they did but were only trying to retrieve their dogs. The warden told them to gather their dogs and leave the forest as soon as possible. Once out of sight, the warden parked his vehicle and doubled back on the group just in time to witness them dragging a pig out of the woods. All four individuals received citations and a few warnings, and one was taken to Montgomery County Jail on local warrants.

--Smile! You're on Camera-- Hardin County Game Wardens wrapped up a week-long investigation that resulted in apprehending two local subjects in the act of taking 35 catfish by way of hoop nets that were placed in Village

Creek near the Polk/Hardin County line. The warden had begun the investigation the week prior and walked several miles along the creek until he discovered a boat that was tied up and unattended in a very remote part of the creek. After a quick inspection of the boat, he believed it was possibly being used to run hoop nets. The wardens devised a plan to enter the property before daylight, ahead of a forecasted heavy rain event, to catch the subjects in the act. After lying in wait for over 6 hours, the wardens heard the subjects arrive by vehicle and get in their boat that was still tied up on the creek. After they emptied one hoop net upstream, they returned to check a net downstream that just happened to be right in front of the wardens hiding spot. The subjects were captured on video removing fish from their nets and the look on their face when they were caught was "priceless." Two hoop nets and 35 catfish were seized and several charges for tak-

ing fish by illegal means and possessing hoop nets in prohibited waters were filed.

--Dug Himself into A Hole-- Houston County Game Wardens were watching bank fishermen on the Trinity River near the Lock and Dam when they observed a fisherman pull in his stringer and remove a white bass. The fisherman then cut off a large portion of the tail, baited his hook with it and reset his line in the water. He then turned around and began digging a hole into the side of the riverbank. The wardens watched as the fisherman then placed the cut up white bass in the hole and covered it up to hide the evidence of what he had been doing. The wardens made contact with the fisherman and after denying even catching a fish he finally admitted to what he had been up to and uncovered the buried white bass. He was charged for using game fish as bait and given a warning for waste of game. Case pend-

(Continued on Next Page)



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--**Not Even Once**--A Henderson County Game Warden received a call from Malakoff Police Department regarding hunting from a public road. Malakoff Police Department had received a call about a suspicious vehicle and while searching the area, observed a vehicle shining a spotlight from a public road. The driver was found to have a cocked crossbow, with a bolt in place, multiple flashlights and methamphetamine. Numerous reports have recently been received on this vehicle regarding suspicious activity, along with numerous deer carcasses being found in the same area. The driver was placed in jail for both the drug and hunting charges. This investigation is continuing.

--**Can't Hide on the Water**-- Beaumont District Game Wardens were on patrol transiting through the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Jefferson County when they observed a bass boat traveling at high speed and attempted to stop it for a water safety inspection. Suspiciously, the bass boat occupants never turned around to observe the wardens and the activated blue lights on the patrol vessel. They were able to catch up to the bass boat after approximately 3 miles at a public boat ramp, and it appeared that the subjects were in a hurry to load their

vessel. Contact was made and upon inspection, the wardens found several water safety and fishing violations. Over the limit of red drum (X4), undersized red drum (X5), and one undersized black drum were some of the violations noted. Multiple citations were issued, and civil restitution is pending.

--**If the Bolt Fits**--A Texas Game Warden was contacted by another Texas Game Warden with information about a white-tail deer that was dead alongside the road in Matagorda County, called in by a concerned Wharton county citizen. The warden arrived on scene to find a white-tail doe shot with a crossbow bolt. While the warden was attempting to retrieve the crossbow bolt, a truck stopped, and a male occupant stated that he may know who shot the deer. On information from the man, the warden drove approximately 50 yards down the road to a residence. In the drive way was a pickup with a male occupant sleeping in the driver's seat with the window down and seat-belt still on. In the passenger seat was a loaded crossbow, with the safety still positioned on fire. In the backseat a loaded crossbow was noted to be on safe. The crossbow bolts were of the same make and model as the one pulled out of the doe. The warden woke the subject and

began an interview. The subject denied shooting the doe at first before the warden told the subject that the crossbow bolt pulled out of the doe matched the crossbow bolts in the subject's truck. The subject confessed shortly after that. Cases are pending for Class A Misdemeanors including: Hunting deer at night, Hunting deer from and public roadway, and waste of game.



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