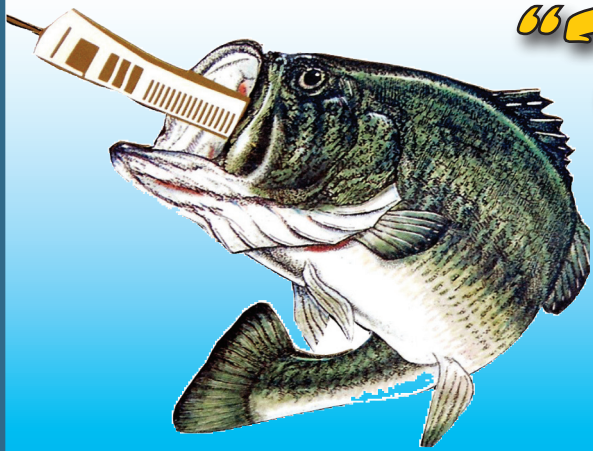


# LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas"



## "The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" "Lines To Get Hooked On"

1 Section

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Vol. 22

July, 2021

No. 263



Shawn O'Malley weighed in this lunker bass during the 13th Annual Sartin Marine Open Tournament weighing 9.98-pounds.

### 13th Annual Sartin Marine & Friends Open

By Mark Howard

Seventy Three Teams hit the water early at the 13th Annual Sartin Marine & Friends Open in hopes of catching that Lake Fork Monster Bass! The scales tilted to long time JC Outdoors Anglers Shawn O'Malley and Steve Hodge when a Giant Spawning Bass weighing 9.98 lbs nailed Shawn's wacky worm offering at 8AM. With a bloody tail and a belly full of eggs I allowed them to return her to the exact area where she was caught in hopes she would get right back to business. Shawn and Steve's limit weighed 15.84 and earned them the \$3500 First Place Prize and \$400 First Place Big Bass. Meanwhile Don Overstreet and Haden Sickles were on the struggle bus with a 5 pound limit and with 10 minutes to go Don catches an 8.87 for 2nd Place Big Bass and 2nd Place Overall with 12.95 earning them \$875+\$150 BB. Rounding out the Top 3 was Texas Trolling Motor Repair owner Chuck Rizuto with a limit of unders weighing 9.79 earning him \$730. All the anglers were treated to Pulled Pork sandwiches, chips and some locally sourced homemade fried pies for dessert from The Cafe @ Lake Fork Inn just North of the 154 Bridge.

Thanks Again to Billy and Lana Sartin, Josh Edwards from Steve's Custom Props, Slade Dougherty with Lake Fork Electronics Training and Mike and Peggy McWhorter from ClownCo Printing for allowing JC Outdoors to run this event each year, it's one of our favorite events.



Arlen Hauschild from Sequin, TX topped over 1900 anglers at the 2021 Skeeter Owners Tournament with this 9.82-lb. lunker winning him a new Skeeter FXR-20.

### Skeeter Owners Tournament on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

The 2021 Lake Fork Skeeter Owners Tournament was held on

June 5th and 6th and hosted out of Lake Fork Marina by Bass-Champs.

Over 1,900 anglers

came to cast a line to try and win the many cash and prizes to be given away. All were

(See Skeeter Owners.....  
Continued on Page 18)



Arianna Marsh seen with her father Chad, won at KidFish in the bass category 0 to 4 year old division with this 1.60-lb. bass. C.P.R.





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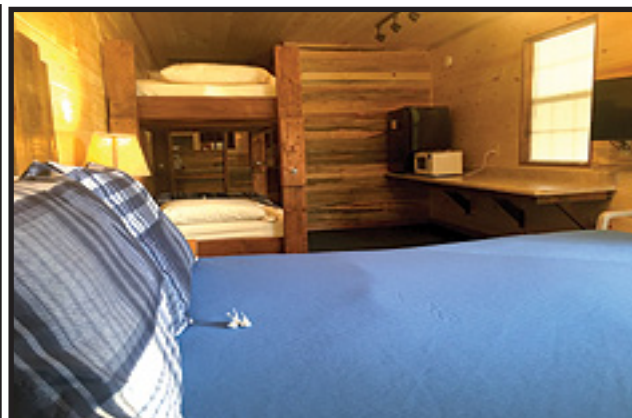
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# "Bubba Can Only Win The Battle Of Wits When Bubbette Lets Him!"

By Don Hampton

Bubba was attending his bass club's monthly meeting and had just told all his fishing buddies he couldn't make the tournament scheduled for the next Saturday because his wife wouldn't let him go because of their anniversary.

After listening to the jeers and other remarks from his fellow fisherman friends about his manhood and something about being whipped, Bubba left to go home.

When Bubba's friends started arriving at the boat ramp for the tournament, who should be there but Bubba sitting on the deck of his boat, tying on one of his favorite lures.

"How'd you talk your Bubbette into letting you come, Bubba?" asked one of his buds.

"I didn't have to," was Bubba's reply. "When I got home last night I was feeling sad about not being able to fish today so I just slumped down in my chair with a beer to drown my sorrows. Then Bubbette snuck up behind me, covered my eyes, and said, 'Surprise!'"

"When I peeled her hands back she was standing there in her beautiful flannel pajamas and she said, 'Carry me to the bedroom,

lock the door and you can do whatever you want."

"So here I am and she's still locked in the bedroom!"

Who knows what happened when he got home! I'm sure he will never tell!

Bubbette thinks faster than most people and Bubba doesn't slide by with much and neither do some others that have a battle of wits with her.

One morning Bubba returned after several hours of fishing and decided to take a nap after lunch before going back on the lake.

While he was napping Bubbette decided to take his boat out and enjoy the cool breezy day. She motored a short distance, anchored and started reading a book.

She hadn't been there long before a Game Warden pulled up along side her in his boat and says

"Good afternoon Bubbette. What are you doing?" She replied "Reading a book, isn't that obvious?"

"Well, I need to see your fishing license," he informed her.

"Sorry officer, but I'm not fishing and I don't have a fishing license. I'm reading!" Bubbette replied with a little agitation.

"Yes, but you have all this equipment. For all I know you could start fishing at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up!" the officer stated.

"What, for reading a book?" Bubbette asked.

"No, for fishing without a license" he replied.

"But I'm not fishing, I'm reading" she replied.

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start fishing at any moment." he again replied. "I have to take you in and write you up!"

"If you do that I'll have to charge you with sexual assault", said Bubbette.

"But I haven't even touched you", said the Game Warden.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment." Bubbette stated flatly.

"Have a nice day Ma'am", said the Game Warden as he was leaving.

There it is! Now you know who really has the brains in Bubba's family! When he gets by with something it is only because Bubbette let him!

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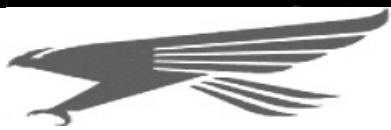
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## Wood County Annual Lake Fork Kidfish

By Don Hampton

The Wood County 27th Annual Kidfish was held on Lake Fork on June 5th. This annual celebration is held each year on the first Saturday of June to introduce the youth to the pleasure of fishing. It truly serves to them off the streets and on the creeks.

It is presented by

the Wood County Sheriff's Department, Texas Game Warden Peace Officer Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Sabine River Authority and is held at Sabine River Authority Headquarters. All are to be commended for their diligent hard work and the many hours they put in to make this event such

a success for our chil-

dren.

This year over 250 youth accompanied by parents, grandparents, or guardians from all over the area came to enjoy the beautiful weather and a day of fishing Lake Fork. For some children this would be considered their first tournament of many more to come in their lifetime. The love of fishing for these children could be accredited to Kidfish.

During this event no one participating in the event is required to have a fishing license. This gives parents that do not usually fish an opportunity go spend this time with their

*(Continued on Next Page)*



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children and perhaps introduce the love of fishing to the whole family.

The event is free to all children and their parents. Each child is given their own rod n' reel, bait and tackle are furnished. Cold drinks, refreshments, hot dogs and chips are provided for the parents and children. This year serving the parents and children were the many volunteers that give their time for the event.

The format of this event is a mock tournament and divided in age group divisions. These divisions included 4 years old and younger, 5 to 8 year old, 9 to 12 year old, and 13 to 16 year old. Each child weighing in the heaviest fish of

that species in their age group wins a trophy and a year's worth of bragging rights. As an extra benefit there is a drawing at the end of the award presentations and bicycles are given to the winners. For a list of all the winners in the event see the chart on page 13.

Texas Trails Bassmaster of Lake Fork did an excellent job of weighing in all the fish and of course the turtles. This was Don Hampton's 24th year to be the weight master over the event. Volunteers from Lake Fork Sportsman Association did an excellent job of keeping the scores as the fish were weighed and keeping the scoreboard in order.

This year Kidfish was visited by a very spe-

cial guest. Mr. Hank Parker and his filming crew was present filming the event which will be seen on his television show. You couldn't ask to meet a nicer guy. He posed for pictures, visited with everyone, and spoke to the audience before the presentations.

A very special thanks goes out to all of the great sponsors that make this event possible. Afterall, our children are the future.

Photos of the winners and the event can be viewed on Pages 13 and 15.

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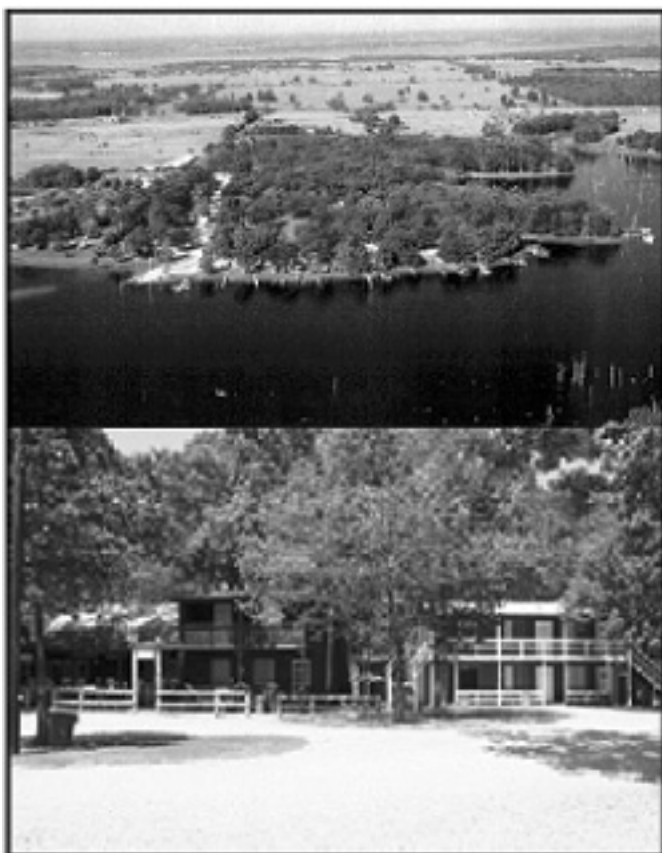
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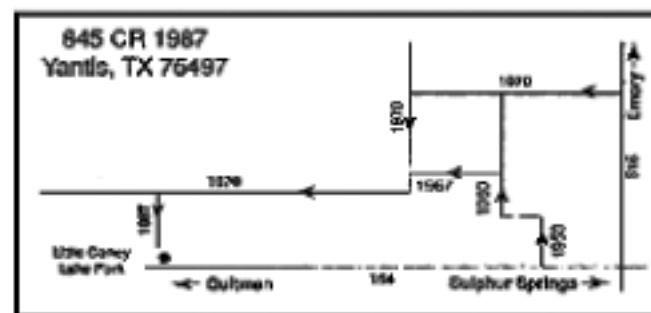
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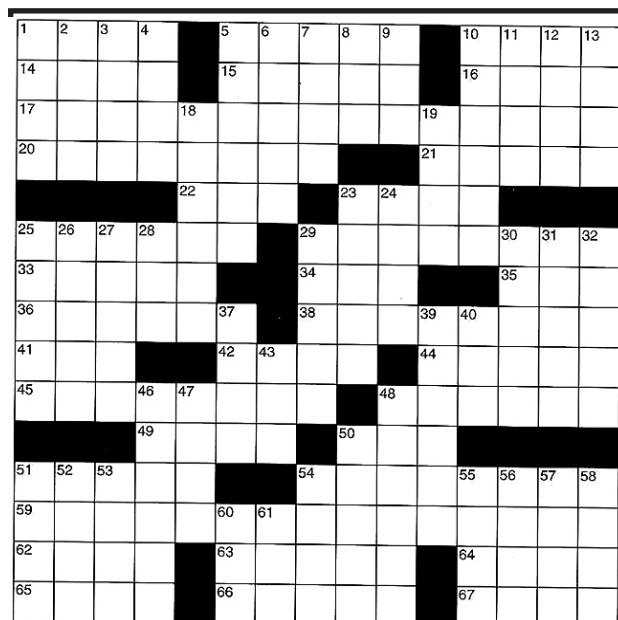
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## "Lake Fork Showing Similarities!"

"Here we are heading into July and we are witnessing similarities from years past with regard on how Fork is setting up. Surface temps have been more on the lower side due to the rain and wind. Don't get me wrong, the wind is your friend when it's 90 degrees outside, but it may be keeping the green fish from gathering up. As of this writing, the super giants haven't grouped up as they normally would in early June. I'm really expecting it to happen any day now. There have been days where we might catch five or six off one spot but they are not there the next day. The fun part of this is figuring out what they are thinking!

Big rains this spring has kept the lake over pool for most of the spring and it is just now receding. The lake



### CLUES ACROSS

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Picasso's mistress               | 38. Column carved in the shape of a person |
| 5. Turned                           | 41. Shock therapy                          |
| 10. Wainscot                        | 42. Imitates                               |
| 14. Algae                           | 44. A long, narrow range of hills          |
| 15. Oak fruit                       | 45. Regenerates                            |
| 16. _____ Blyton, children's author | 48. Motions                                |
| 17. An angler's tale                | 49. Wood file                              |
| 20. Cyclical                        | 50. Unprocessed                            |
| 21. Pulls                           | 51. Sus scrofa                             |
| 22. Nothing                         | 54. Pariahs                                |
| 23. 24 hours (Old English)          | 59. Salinger novel, with "The"             |
| 25. Fixing                          | 62. Herbaceous plant                       |
| 29. Capital of Malta                | 63. Host                                   |
| 33. Flows                           | 64. Fallow deer                            |
| 34. Potato state, abbr.             | 65. Cheap lodging (slang)                  |
| 35. Mineral                         | 66. Baked goods                            |
| 36. Widen                           | 67. Card game                              |

### CLUES DOWN

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Computer Apples            | 30. Holdalls                               |
| 2. Wings                      | 31. Stale                                  |
| 3. Largest known toad species | 32. Yellow-fever mosquitoes                |
| 4. Tabloids                   | 37. Sensory receptors                      |
| 5. Feline treat               | 39. A name of God                          |
| 6. Number system base 8       | 40. Bird genus                             |
| 7. German Chancellor Helmut   | 43. Make lively                            |
| 8. Before                     | 46. Hints                                  |
| 9. Dun & Bradstreet, abbr.    | 47. Commitment                             |
| 10. College award             | 48. Lists                                  |
| 11. Small buffalo             | 50. _____ Dubos, French naturalist         |
| 12. Ring                      | 51. Carangid fish                          |
| 13. Lyric poems               | 52. Ring                                   |
| 18. Unostentatious            | 53. Native American people                 |
| 19. Romantic interlude        | 54. -ory, of the walnut family             |
| 23. Fathers                   | 55. Danson and Turner                      |
| 24. Winged                    | 56. Persian Gulf country (var.)            |
| 25. Secretes milk             | 57. Molding                                |
| 26. Cost                      | 58. Chair                                  |
| 27. Tartan skirts             | 60. Old World, new                         |
| 28. Environmental agency      | 61. Returned material authorization, abbr. |
| 29. Bad habits                |  |

**Answers on Page 21**

is in awesome shape and there has been zillions of people here due to the Covid scare. The small amount of recent rain has allowed the lake to settle down, cool somewhat and clear up. This years rising water in the spring has produced a great spawn and the future for Fork couldn't be brighter. There are tons of small bass rambling the lake and these will grow to the next generations Share-Lunker. July is a great month to target all sizes of bass using top water, crankbaits and drop shots. It's all about locating the fish and then it's game on. Electronics play a huge roll in finding these huge schools of bass and the more time you spend graphing the key locations, the greater the chance to have a monumental day. Main lake points, ridges, road beds and pond dams should be your locations of focus and pay close attention to the 18-24ft range. Even if you only see a group of ten fish at a given depth, pitch out a marker buoy and spend fifteen minutes to see if you can get the bass to commit. If nothing rattles your cage, move on to the next location. Let's say you see a ton of good arc's at the next spot. My first choice is the drop shot rigged with a Talon Carolina Worm or a Robo-worm. Use any color you want as long as it is red. Drop straight down to them and barely jiggle the rod tip. Active fish will load the rod and you may think you're hung up. Set the hook and figure out the rest later. If the



drop shot is not your game, throw a Carolina rig or a football jig to the area where you first spotted the bass. A 3/4 ounce stand up head is also a great choice. On the C-rig, you might try a fluke, brush hog or a Zoom magnum trick worm. Under bright sun, I will use redbug or plum colors and when it's cloudy, any version of green pumpkin will suffice. As for the jig, PB&J, Mexican Heather or black/brown/amber will do the trick. Match a craw trailer to the jig and you're in business. For the stand up head, any big straight tail worm will suffice.

The topwater bite is good early and late on main lake points and a Zara Spook is the ticket. Yellow Magic's will catch their share of fish but the spook bags the big

(See Lake Fork.....

Continued on Page 20)

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## Applications Being Accepted for 2021 Bird City Texas Program

Audubon Texas and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), partners in the Bird City Texas program (BCT), are excited to announce the launch of the 2021 BCT application process. BCT was launched in 2019 as a way to recognize the work communities are doing in the name of conservation. Now in its third year, the program has seven certified communities, overseeing care and action on more than 75,000 acres of city-owned parklands. BCT certified

communities are taking tremendous steps forward for birds, wildlife and future generations. "Birds hold a special place in our hearts" says Yvette Steward, BCT Program Coordinator for Audubon Texas. "They're visually stunning and enchant us with their songs and behaviors. Regardless of age, race, and social status, appreciation of birds is universal. This is why the Bird City Texas partners focused conservation efforts on this incredible, diverse group of animals.

They truly foster engagement and connection."

BCT partners are eager for more communities to get involved, step up their conservation action, and receive recognition for their impactful activities. More information and resources can be found on the Bird City Texas website. Communities interested in applying for Bird City Texas recognition can learn more on the "How to Apply" page of the Bird City Texas website. Certification is based on work in

three categories: education and engagement, habitat management and improvement, and removing threats to birds. Visit the Bird City Texas FAQ page to learn how the program benefits

communities. Those Bird City Texas on interested can also the TPWD YouTube Channel. learn more by watching a video about



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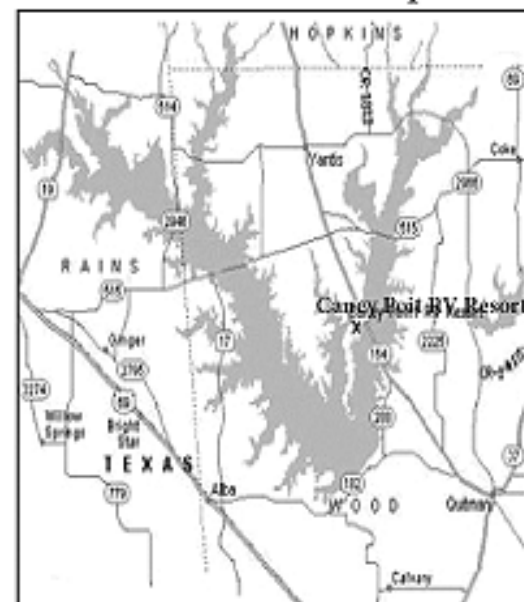
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# "The Moon Report"

## "Forks Summer Crappie"

By Terri Moon

Well I don't know about you but I'm not ready for these 90 to 100 degree days! I'm just grateful for any cloud cover we get and a breeze is great – but Lord, these winds can sure restrict your options some days.

The crappie are transitioning to their summertime pattern. Early in the day we've found them 10 to 15 ft. – then as the sun gets up, we're checking that 15 to 25 ft. depths. Although we're catching a lot of smaller fish, the keepers we're getting are really nice 12 – 16 inches. There are some days when you will catch five small fish to every keeper. When this happens, please take extra special care of these small fish. They are our future keepers.

We are using a very slow presentation with just a twitch but when they are actively feeding, they are hitting on the fall. The best piece of advice I can give you is to constantly watch your line. If the crappie are pushing the bait up, your line will go slack and if your not looking, you will miss your opportunity. We are targeting three lines, brushpiles, edges of the creeks, and the bridges.

The baits working for us have been Boneheads Slimstick and Stump Bugs in white/chartreuse, purple/chartreuse, and on cloudier



days black/chartreuse. Also, there is a new hand tied jig now available at Lake Fork Marina and that's "Skippers" jigs. There is a full assortment of colors and sizes 1/16 oz. to 1/4 oz. These are locally made here in Alba, Texas. You'll have to check them out!

Now – my other favorite fish to catch is the bream. I haven't had a lot of time to look for these. I've been so busy with the crappie, but, the next full moon, I'll definitely be on the hunt for them. Right now they are in that 8 to 20 plus ft. around treelines, brushpiles, bridge ledges and embankments. But, my favorite is when they go shallow on a bobber. Crickets, nite crawlers, or meal worms will do the trick! I've had them for dinner 3 times last week and they are so good. I'm on a mission to catch some more!

Needless to say, it has been an exciting June! There has been a lot of personal bests being caught plus some BO-

NUS bass – (they seem to like the Bonehead Stumpbugs too!)

Many thanks to ALL of you who found the time to bring their kids, or grandkids fishing, making memories they will remember for a lifetime!

Also, it was great to once again have the Skeeter Boat Owners Tournament back on Lake Fork, hosted by Lake Fork Marina. Another amazing job by all!

Sending a BIG thank you to all the Lowrance crew for helping me with my units and a special thanks to Bryan Sartin (Sartin Marine) for saving the day when the belt on my Ulterra broke! (Also, thank you Chuck Rizuto for helping me manually raise the trolling motor!) It seems to take a village to keep me going and I appreciate each and every one of you!

Be safe out there – the holidays can be a little crazy. My best to you all and sending love and prayers to my family in Missouri!





Cathy Nester, from California, with her new Giant PB she caught with guide Whitt Smith on her Spinning Rod! C.P.R.



Scotty "BassBlaster" Oellerich caught this 9-lb. 23.5" Lake Fork hawg fishing with his friend John Boone. C.P.R.



RIP Delores Knight from La. She loved her trips to Lake Fork with her son Lynn Roller. Thanks for all the great memories!



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## State Park Police Celebrate 50 Years Protecting Texas' Wild Places

Since 1971, a special group of law enforcement officers have been responsible for the safety, security and protection of the natural jewels in Texas and those who visit them. In 2021, Texas State Park Police celebrate a half-century of serving these special places and the 10 million state park annual visitors.

"Our State Park Police officers are among the most highly skilled and trained officers in the state," said Rodney Franklin, Director of Texas State Parks. "They have the critical responsibility of keeping the states most treasured and beautiful places and landscape safe for millions to enjoy. When visitors and communities are in need, our State Park Police are among the first to help. I am beyond proud of the dedication and service displayed by these brave professionals as they protect the legacy of parks for generations to come."

As the main law enforcement presence at Texas State Parks, Park Police officers protect the state's natural and cultural resources through community-oriented policing and emergency response.

"State Park Police officers are one of the most

unique law enforcement entities in the state," said Wes Masur, State Park Police Chief. "In addition to being unique, the job can be demanding and difficult, but rewarding. State Park Police Officers must think about customer service and educational discretion. They are also trained and capable first responders in both urban and wildland environments utilizing specialized equipment including 4x4 patrol vehicles, boats, kayaks, drones, high angle rescue gear, UTV's and ATV's, bicycles and even horses, to name a few."

State Park Police officers' daily job is not limited to proactive patrols, dogs off the leash, or parking on the grass, added Masur. Officers must be proficient in the understanding and enforcement of all state law and do not have the luxury of focusing or specializing in one area. On any given weekend, parks become full with visitors and resemble small cities. In addition to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code related to cultural resource protection, officers are often faced with and must enforce the Penal Code, Transportation Code, Health and Safety Code much like their law enforcement

colleagues in neighboring communities.

As state peace officers, they are called upon to assist in protecting communities surrounding parks. From natural disasters to responding to critical incidents, State Park Police stand ready. These men and women are on patrol every day along the coast, in the forests and mountains, in the desert, in cities and on the border.

"Called by different names and shouldering different patches on different uniforms, the police officers of the State Parks Division have been forged by challenge and change," says Doug Huggins, State Park Police Major. "The 50th anniversary is a significant milestone and the perfect time to shine a light on a vital part of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the history of the great state of Texas."

In 1971, a dozen carefully selected volunteers started the evolution to what is now the State Park Police force. Today, the number has grown to approximately 140 highly trained police officers.

Never knowing what each day may bring, State Park Police serve with honor, dedication, heroism, and even an often-welcomed sense of humor. Look for their stories of setbacks, successes, and growth in the December issue of the Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPW) Magazine, on the TPW Magazine blog and on social media.

For more information about becoming a Texas State Park Police Officer, visit the career opportunities page on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website. The page includes information about the working conditions of the position, requirements, and the cadet applicant process.



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## Texas Game Wardens Wrap Up Busy Memorial Day Weekend Safety Efforts Statewide

The Memorial Day weekend proved extremely busy for Texas Game Wardens, despite severe weather including storms, downpours and flooded rivers in some areas. Boating incidents statewide surpassed last year's Memorial Day weekend numbers in almost every category.

"The increase in boating safety incidents over the Memorial Day weekend is attributed in part to many variables including the increase in new boaters since the start of the pandemic in 2020, severe weather, lack of use of life vests, abuse of alcohol, and not following general rules of safe boating," said Cody Jones, Assistant Commander of Marine Enforcement for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). "Flooding, heavy rains, storms, high winds and tor-

nados in parts of Texas — coupled with the higher-than-usual anticipated holiday-seekers on the waterways and elsewhere — kept Texas Game Wardens on heightened alert."

Game wardens conducted safety checks on more than 11,283 vessels state-wide between Friday and Monday and issued 1,283 citations. Wardens also issued 1,639 warnings for various boating safety law violations, arrested 36 individuals for Boating While Intoxicated and filed another five charges for Driving While Intoxicated. Additionally, another 42 people were arrested for various other crimes.

Furthermore, game wardens investigated 17 boating accidents across the state and responded to three boating-related fatalities that occurred on Lake O' Pines,

Toledo Bend and Canyon Lake. Game wardens also responded to six open water drownings.

"Drownings and deaths on the water are never easy to deal with, and arguably one of the toughest, least desirable parts of the job, since we'd like to see everyone return home safely...we know, though, that it's even

more challenging for the families who've unexpectedly lost their loved ones," said Jones.

Over the weekend, game wardens were involved with medical emergencies on the water, sinking vessels, jet ski incidents, and boater/water rescues — among others. Due to heavy rains, flooding posed some issues throughout the state. Two kayakers without personal floatation devices (PFD) were stranded in the flooded Sabine River currents were rescued and returned to safety in Longview area. Game wardens made another water rescue on the Sabine river and rescued two adults and a two-year old baby as a result of an overturned kayak on Lake Livingston.

"A number of water safety incidents over the busy Memorial Day boating weekend could have been avoided by using life vests and taking boater education," said Kimberly Sorensen, TPWD boating education manager.

On more than one occasion, game wardens also were involved in search and rescue activities, responding to boating accidents, and engaging in kayak rescues in which PFDs were not being worn.

In addition to the boating incidents over Memorial Day, Texas Game Wardens statewide juggled numerous other non-boating related incidents, including illicit drug use, illegally harvested animals, felony and parole violation arrests, shooting incidents, domestic violence, and runaway incidents, among others.

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## New Program Expands Fishing Access across Texas, Supports Freshwater Fish Habitat Projects

The new Habitat and Angler Access Program (HAAP) will award grants to develop and increase shoreline and bank fishing access as well as restore and enhance fish habitat in Texas' public inland waters. August 20 is the deadline to apply for grants under the new Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) program, which is funded from the sale of freshwater fishing licenses.

The program will enable the TPWD Inland Fisheries Division to support habitat and angler access improvement projects led by eligible groups such as local municipalities, water authorities, educational institutions, and other civic and conservation organizations. TPWD started requesting applications for the HAAP June 21.

"The Habitat and Angler Access Program is an exciting opportunity for us to collaborate and support partners interested in expanding fishing opportunities and bettering the quality of fisheries for Texans," said Michael Homer Jr., fisheries biologist for the TPWD Inland Fisheries Division. "The program is intended to identify and implement projects with the highest potential to enhance freshwater fisheries resources and improve

bank and shoreline access in public waters."

Grants of up to \$50,000 may be awarded to support individual fish habitat improvement and angler access projects on public ponds, large reservoirs, streams and rivers. The HAAP will support fish habitat improvement projects such as bank and shoreline stabilization projects, installation of erosion control features, deployment of artificial habitat structures, and dredging excessive silt and organic materials from reservoirs that have high potential for quality fishery development.

Bank or shoreline-based angler access projects that could be supported through HAAP include the development or improvement of fishing piers, installation of fish attracting features (e.g., underwater dock lighting and habitat structures), the creation of jetties, as well as the construction of non-motorized boat launches for kayaks, canoes, and other small watercraft for fishing access.

For more information or to submit an application, please see the Habitat and Angler Access Program on the TPWD Grants Page. Organizations interested in partnering with TPWD on a potential project are strongly encouraged to coordinate

with their local Inland Fisheries Management biologist. Additional information regarding the program may be obtained by contacting FishGrants@tpwd.texas.gov



Chris Johnson from Cordell, OK., caught his PB night fishing Fork with guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.

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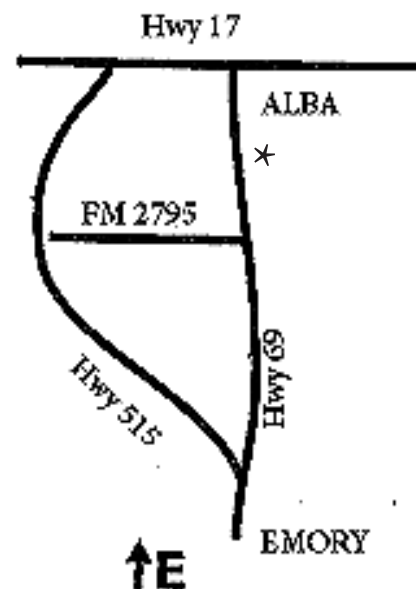
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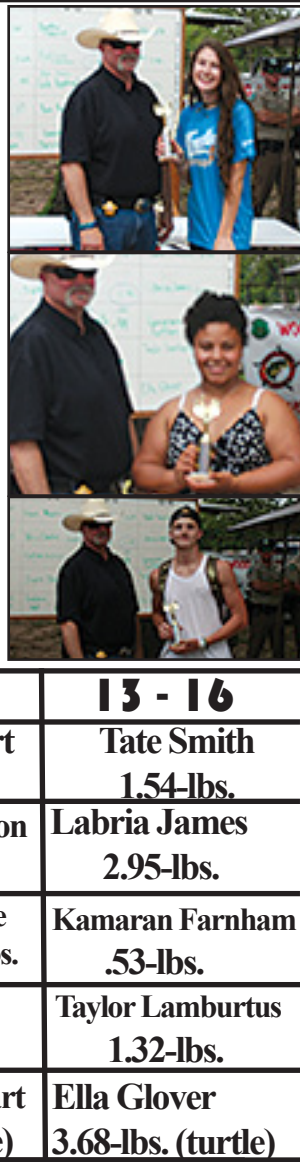
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More Kidfish  
Pictures Page 15

Age Groups	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 12	13 - 16
<b>BASS</b>	Arianna Marsh 1.60-lbs.	Graysca Mapes 3.12-lbs.	Bentley Calvert 1.69-lbs.	Tate Smith 1.54-lbs.
<b>CATFISH</b>	Case Caddell 2.43-lbs.	Wes Clanton 3.68-lbs.	Madilynn Clanton 5.95-lbs.	Labria James 2.95-lbs.
<b>PERCH</b>	Cade Lingo .45-lbs.	Cohen Umbrell .45-lbs.	Ian Jones & Cole Applegate .44-lbs.	Kamaran Farnham .53-lbs.
<b>CRAPPIE</b>	No Entry	Bowen Steel .85-lbs.	Ryan Ringold 1.19-lbs.	Taylor Lamburtus 1.32-lbs.
<b>OTHER</b>	Matthew Perez 2.18-lbs. (turtle)	Laynee Hull 3.59-lbs. (drum)	Konner Barnhart 4.80-lbs. (turtle)	Ella Glover 3.68-lbs. (turtle)



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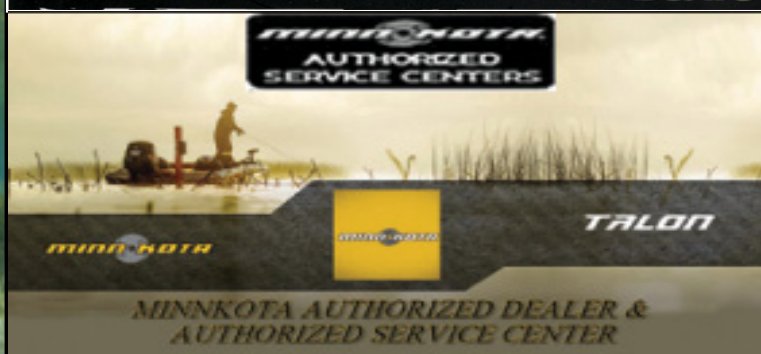
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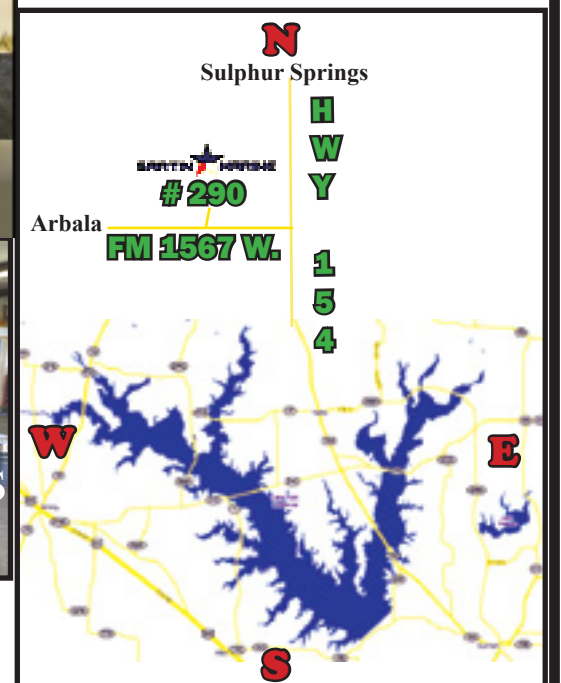
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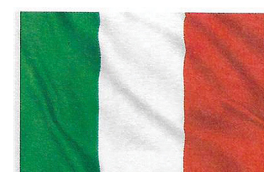
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## New Monarch Butterfly Conservation License Plate Available for Texas Drivers

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) launched the long-awaited Monarch Butterfly conservation license plate on June 21 that will raise money to help conserve monarch butterflies and other native Texas, non-game, at-risk species.

"The monarch butterfly is a species that is beautiful and iconic in that it is one of nature's great migration stories," said John Davis, TPWD's Wildlife Diversity Program Director. "This species migrates through Texas from Mexico in the spring making its way to the northern extremes of the U.S. and into Canada, then reverses that feat in the fall to overwinter in Mexico. This great migratory story is in jeopardy with the overwintering population experiencing steep declines in the last decade. By adding the monarch to our family of plates, we hope to increase support for this beautiful migration event and through our conservation efforts, brighten the future for this, and many other species."

The public was invited to vote for their favorite design for the new monarch butterfly license plate last September and the winning design is on the new plate. The design shows one large monarch butterfly and three smaller ones seem-

ingly flying off the plate, as if starting their famous spring migration journey up north. The license plate design appeals to those who garden, enjoy wildlife watching or simply appreciate the beauty of monarch butterflies.

"To save the monarch butterfly and its unique long-distance migration, we must promote initiatives that support the species and its conservation," said Dr. Rebeca Quiñonez-Piñón, monarch outreach coordinator at the National Wildlife Federation. "At the National Wildlife Federation, we are proud to join the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in the fight to preserve the iconic monarch butterfly and bring awareness to the dangers it is currently facing."

The TPWD Conservation License Plate Program has raised around \$10 million in the last 21 years for wildlife and habitat conservation in Texas, according to program marketing lead, Janis Johnson. The 10 conservation plate designs include a horned lizard, largemouth bass, hummingbird, white-tailed deer, bluebonnet, desert bighorn sheep, and others. These plates benefit Texas fisheries and rivers, state parks, big game research and management and non-game wildlife species management. All TPWD conserva-

tion specialty plates cost \$30 a year, with \$22 going to TPWD to support various programs and efforts. Plates can be purchased for vehicles, RVs/travel trailers, trailers and motorcycles.

"TPWD uses conservation license plate funds to conduct research and management activities benefitting the state's most at-risk species," Davis added. "The conservation license plate program creates license plates that people enjoy and want to buy while also knowing their plate fee goes to the worthy cause of helping wildlife and plants in Texas."

Learn more about monarch butterflies and other native, non-game species on the TPWD website. To buy a Monarch Butterfly plate or for more information on TPWD's conservation licenses plates, visit [www.conservationplate.org](http://www.conservationplate.org).



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visit our website: [www.wishtofishfoundation.com](http://www.wishtofishfoundation.com)





# "Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Its July in north east Texas and its hot and humid! The water temperatures at the lake are also reaching their peak summer temperatures and the big bass have gone deep! Finding these big bass at Lake Fork can be very difficult due to the immense amount of submerged trees and timber. When you do find them, they are usually grouped up and sometimes grouped up in very large schools.

I have found schools of bass with as many as a dozen or so and then other times several hundred, seriously several hundred in one school. The best thing you can do is get very familiar with the topography and offshore structures & contours. In other words study a map of the lakes con-

tours and offshore structures. Second, is to use your sonar to search and study these deep offshore locations.

Your looking for offshore humps, ledges, long points with shallow water nearby, old road beds, submerged bridges and culverts, deep tree lines and or deep submerged trees themselves. The larger the structure and or area the more possibilities for larger numbers of schooled up bass. Once I have located a school of bass I will first set up the boat away from the area and make long casts as to keep from spooking the school of fish. Sometimes you will only catch one or two and sometimes you may catch a bunch it just varies from day to day. The best thing is the bass will generally remain in these same areas for several weeks or at least until the next big cool down or cold front. Here are

some of my favorite baits and techniques to catch them.

•3/4oz Santone football jig with 4" Strike King rage craw trailer ( brim colors/ green pumpkin)

Drag this bait along the bottom off long points, deep humps and through the shell beds.

15-30 ft

•1/4oz. Texas rigged 10" & 12" Berkley worms

(Plum, green pumpkin/ chartreuse tail, blue fleck,

red shad, camo) Fish the big worm just about everywhere especially in the trees and heavy cover areas. 10-30 ft.

•1oz. Carolina rig with 4 to 5 ft. leader. M-Pack 7" shad (watermelon red, disco green & disc violet) I tend to use this everywhere as well but it seems to be best on roads, trees lines and shell bed areas. There are other baits and methods you can use to catch these offshore schooled up summertime bass so don't be afraid to explore.

If your wanting to learn more about Lake Fork bass fishing subscribe to my U-tube channel (The Lake Fork Guide) and watch my weekly fishing reports, lessons and videos. You follow me on Instagram "The Lake Fork guide" or Facebook "Lake Fork adventures guide service"

Thanks for all the support and following. I wish you all great fishing.



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## Skeeter Owners Tournament (Continued from Page 1)

in hopes of winning the Grand Prize of a new Skeeter FXR20, powered by a Yamaha SHO, MinnKota trolling motor, and a Power Pole.

In the tournament there were seven bass over the slot weighed in. James Lawler from Elkhart, Texas weighed in a 6.53-pound bass; Brad Hensley from Cleveland, Texas weighed in an 8.06-pound bass; David Crumpton from Mountain Pine, Arkansas weighed in an 8.11-pound bass; John Lewis from Kilgore, Texas weighed in an 8.14-pound bass; John Heggins from Dierks, Arkansas weighed in an 8.29-pound bass;

Kevin Wiggins from Winterhaven, California weighed in an 8.60-pound bass; and Arlen Hauschild from Seguin, Texas weighed in a 9.82-pound bass winning the overall largest bass of the tournament and the new Skeeter bass boat.

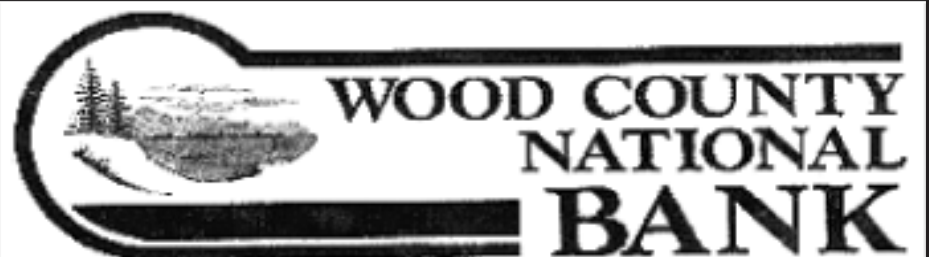
The heaviest bass under the slot was caught by Timothy McNeal from Knoxville, Tennessee and weighed 3.08-pounds. For his great catch he took home a Yamaha Wolverine X4 XTR.

In the lady's division first place was won by Megan Johnson from Rowlett, Texas with a bass weighing 2.58-pounds. Second place was won

by Teri Norwood from Gilmer, Texas with a bass weighing 2.47-pounds. Third place was won by Jeanne Gizzi from Security, Colorado with a bass weighing 2.41-pounds.

Lake Fork Sportsman Association is to be commended. With their Live Release Boat and crew on hand taking care of all the bass brought to the weigh in, they were released back into the lake to be caught another day.

Skeeter Owners Tournament on Lake Fork is always held on the first weekend of June. If you own a Skeeter make your plans now and Fish Friendly.



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## Biologists Remind the Public Not to Touch Wildlife

With more people enjoying the outdoors this spring season, you may start to notice more wildlife in your backyard, neighborhood or surrounding areas. Species including birds, deer and snakes are active this time of year and their young often stray or appear to be abandoned. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) experts caution against lending a helping hand.

Animals that are most often picked up by well-meaning citizens are baby birds and deer fawns. However, it is important to realize that many such human-animal encounters are unnecessary and can even be detrimental to the wildlife concerned.

The deer fawning season begins in early to mid-May. A newborn fawn's mottled coat and mother's care usually hides them from predators. As fawns mature, they shed these coats for a more adult color which causes them to catch the eye. A doe may leave her fawn for hours at a time while she is browsing for food. During that time people may spot a fawn lying alone in tall grass or in a brushy area. Many people interfere with the fawn

thinking that they have been abandoned by their mothers and need help. This is rarely the case.

Leave all young animals alone unless it is obviously injured or orphaned. To be sure, spend time observing the wild animal from a distance to make that determination. Staying too close may deter the mother from returning. Interfering too soon may do more harm than good.

The same principals apply to young birds, who might be out of their nests but cannot fly. If the bird's eyes are open, it has a coat of feathers and is hopping around, it is probably fine. Grounded fledglings will usually be up and flying within a few days.

If it is determined that a wild animal is sick or injured, TPWD encourages citizens to contact a permitted wildlife rehabilitator. Please note that TPWD staff advise the public not to handle or attempt to transport injured, sick or orphaned wildlife. Learn more about what to do upon encountering orphaned or injured wildlife, and how to contact rehabilitators on the TPWD Wildlife Division website.



Haden Sickles and his grandfather Don Overstreet won 2nd place in Sartin Marine Open Tournament held on Lake Fork on June 26 with the help of this kicker hawg weighing 8.87-lbs.

*Practice Safe Boating*

*Practice C.P.R.*



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## "Lake Fork Showing Similarities!" (Continued from Page 6)

one's. This bite only lasts about an hour but it is well worth being on the water early as daylight has it's own majesty. Once this bite stops, move the boat out to about 15ft and throw a C-rig, squarebill or jig up to the 5-7ft range and work it back slowly. This will account for extra bites to fulfill the morning. A Texas rig blue fleck power worm fished with a 3/8 ounce tungsten weight in that same depth range will also deliver some rod bending results.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in July 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 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."



Cheyenne Barrett with David Ozio



Curtis Daniels with David Ozio



Mike Fox with David Ozio



Ruan Mordecai with David Ozio

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## New Texas State Park Reservation Features Bring Opportunities for Summer Adventure

Find adventure with friends and family this summer at a Texas State Park. Two new features, now available on the Texas State Park Online Reservations webpage, make it easier than ever to plan spontaneous camping trips. Visitors can now see and reserve available campsites for the same day and for the upcoming weekend.

The new Camping This Weekend tab on the on-line reservation system shows visitors where tent camping sites, RV/trailer sites and lodging are available for the coming weekend (Friday and Saturday nights). The search results can even be narrowed down by park or by city, so if a popular park isn't available, you can find other state parks nearby to explore.

The reservation system has also been upgraded to allow spontaneous park goers to make same-day overnight camping reservations online or by calling the customer service center. Previously, same day reservations could only be made by contacting the park directly. Same-day reservations can be made online or through the customer service center until 4 p.m. every day and are only available for camping, including campsites with full hookup, electricity, and water.

Texas State Park reservations can be made on-line anytime or by calling the Texas State Park Reservation Center at 512-389-8900 on week-

days during normal business hours. Overnight reservations can be made up to five months in advance, and day passes can be reserved up to 30 days in advance. If your plans change, please modify or cancel your reservation as soon as

possible to allow someone else to enjoy the park.

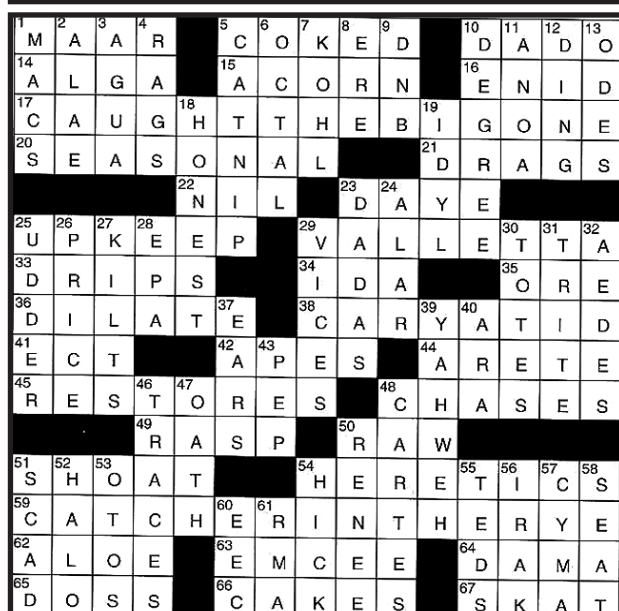
For more information about Texas State Parks reservations, visit the reservations webpage on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website.

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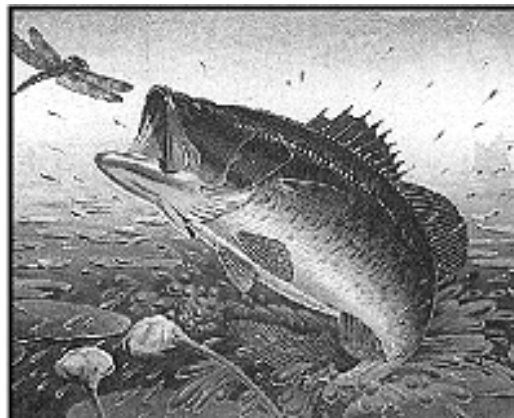
### Vacation Search

There are 14 items that people may need while on vacation hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

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C O O L E R H A E B R A  
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A O E N T T N E T C E Y  
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T E T H A T A C R O C O  
I D D O U A S U S W L N  
U I I E S L S C R E A P  
S U N S C R E E N L T B  
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## Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Honesty Goes a Long Way--A Newton County game warden was patrolling southern Newton County when he saw an ATV being illegally operated on a public roadway while the occupants were holding rifles. When the warden contacted the suspects and noticed they had a spotlight with them. The warden asked them what they were doing, and the group said they were rid-

ing around looking for animals to shoot from the roadway, but they hadn't killed anything yet. Cases are pending

--He's a Rescue--Texas Game Warden and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agents inspected some antique resale stores. These locations had alligator skulls, black bear mounts, waterfowl mounts, raptor mounts and migratory bird mounts for sale. During the inspection of one store, an individual entered with a pet possum. In order to possess, sell, or purchase a fur-bearer,

a person must have a valid Fur-bearing Propagation Permit. The possum was confiscated and re-located to a licensed rehabber. Citations were issued and cases are pending.

--Dude, Where's My Car?-- A Bexar County game warden was patrolling Calaveras Creek by boat because the banks are closed to the public when they saw a person trespassing then hide in the mesquite brush. The warden called for backup and two additional wardens and a K-9 officer arrived to as-

(Continued on Page 24)

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## "The King of Seafood on Fourth of July"

By Sue Hampton

Independence Day festivities are chock full of fun. From spirited parties to fireworks in your backyard, Fourth of July brings out the child in everyone.

Nothing sums up the holiday better than spectacular fireworks displays. Why not bring the excitement of those sparklers, rockets and noisemakers into your holiday meal by putting some bang into the

food you serve.

This simple tasty recipe for "Tequila Shrimp" is sure to bring excitement to your holiday gathering!

### "TEQUILA SHRIMP"

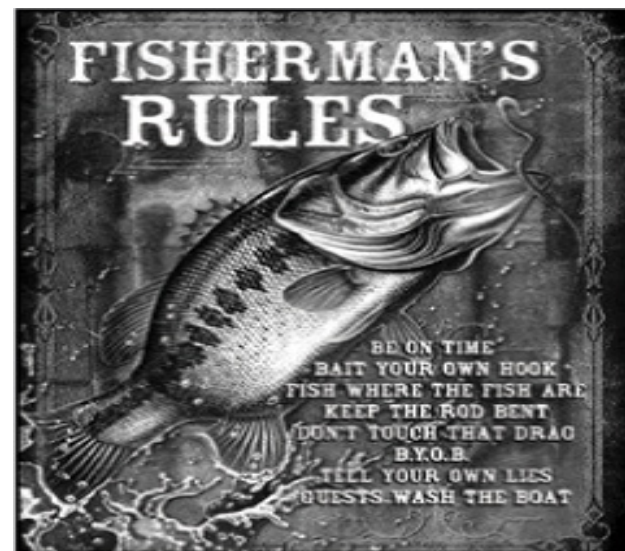
1 lb. shrimp  
 ½ cup butter  
 3 Tbsp cooking oil  
 2 Tbsp soy sauce  
 1 Tbsp. lemon juice  
 ¼ tsp garlic powder  
 ¼ to ½ tsp. Tabasco sauce  
 ¼ cup tequila

Rinse shrimp under cold running water and drain thoroughly on paper towels. Do not peel. Arrange shrimp in a baking pan. Combine butter, oil, soy sauce, lemon juice, garlic powder, and Tabasco in sauce pan; bring to a boil, stirring to melt butter. Remove from heat and stir in tequila. Pour mixture over shrimp, making sure all are coated. Bake in a 425-degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring once or twice. Transfer shrimp and remaining sauce mixture to a serving bowl. Peel and eat at the table.

\*Note: When purchasing fresh shrimp, be certain to buy from a reputable source. Once home, uncooked shrimp should be stored as fish and used the same day as purchased. Purchasing frozen shrimp is a great option; it can keep in the freezer for approximately two months in adequate temperatures. Use the refrigerator for thawing frozen shrimp or run it under cold tap water for a quicker thaw. When shrimp is fully cooked, the flesh color becomes opaque and changes from a gray-green to a pink or orange color.



Tequila shrimp served with tortillas makes a great appetizer or entree! Happy Fourth of July to each and every one of you!



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# Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

sist. After an exhaustive search, they were still trying to locate the subject. One of the wardens continued navigating their vessel farther north into the creek when they spotted someone walking on the other side. The subject was stopped and told he was trespassing. He said he didn't have any fish or fishing gear and was walking back to the roadway where his van was parked. The subject said his friend brought him to the property but had already left and was waiting at the van. The warden exited the vessel and walked along the subject's path where they found an ice chest with six tilapia, one black bass and a cast net. The man said he left the ice chest on the trail because he got scared. The K-9 handler radioed the warden to let them know the other suspect and van were gone. The man said, "How am I supposed to get home?" He told the warden his phone, wallet and money were in the van and his friend was supposed to wait for him and take him home. The warden arrested the man for criminal trespass, had him board the vessel and transported him to the Bexar County Jail. Case pending with the District Attorney's office.

--Gig 'Em--A Uvalde County game warden found an unaccompanied vehicle at a Nueces River crossing. Believing the occupants got

into another vehicle and drove down the river, the warden drove to a hill overlooking the river a couple of miles away. There they saw four individuals walking down the river, three with gigs and spears and one with a fishing pole. The warden saw two of the individuals with snorkeling gear dive into the river with the gigs. Another person in the group waved to the divers, who proceeded to dive and emerged with a catfish at the end of a gig. The warden drove down to the group and discovered a fishing pole but no other fishing, gigging or snorkeling equipment. After searching the area, the warden found the gigs and spears, which had been thrown in the water and concealed. The gigged catfish were nowhere to be seen. The warden interviewed the four individually and found none of them had a fishing license. After talking with each subject, one finally admitted to gigging a catfish and leaving it at

their last fishing spot some distance away. The catfish was retrieved and seized along with three gigs and spears. Multiple citations were issued with civil restitution.

--Not so Happy Hour-- A Coryell County game warden and Falls County game warden were patrolling the Lake Waco area of McLennan County when they noticed a vehicle pulled over to the side of the road. When the wardens attempted to pass the vehicle, a truck cut them off, driving down the wrong side of the road. The vehicle pulled back over to the side of the road and waved the wardens to drive by. During the traffic stop, the wardens noticed the driver was unable to turn down the music on his radio. When asked what he was doing, the driver said, "I was just trying to..." The driver then picked up his beer and handed it to the wardens. The driver's speech was slurred, and he

*(Continued on Next Page)*



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was unable to keep his balance as he exited the vehicle. After the Standard Field Sobriety Test was administered, the driver was transported to the McLennan County Jail and was booked into jail for a DWI. A blood specimen was obtained. The case is pending.

**--And That's the Boattom Line--** Three Bell County game wardens were patrolling Lake Belton checking crappie, white bass and tournament fishermen when they came across a vessel hull identification number that did not conform to the U.S. Coast Guard standards. The wardens ran the TX number and the vessel was flagged for a mandatory boat inspection. The man operating the vessel had purchased the boat several days ago from another person who didn't put the vessel in their name and failed to provide a title to the boat. The wardens contacted the current registered owner who said the boat had been stolen from Belton in 2009. A police report was never made. The vessel was seized and citations were issued to the subject who sold the vessel.

**--His Name is Mudd (Bugs)--** A Jefferson County game warden followed up on information from a social media post where a subject was selling live crawfish. When the

warden contacted the seller, he claimed to own a catering company that sold live crawfish to local restaurants and individuals. The sale of live crawfish for commercial and personal use would require a Texas Wholesale Fish Dealer License. The man claimed over the phone that he was properly licensed in Texas and Louisiana. After requesting an in-person meeting with the subject, the warden discovered that the subject did not possess any type of commercial license and his vehicle was not properly marked to transport aquatic products.

**--Don't be Shellfish--** Two Jefferson County game wardens were patrolling the ship channel near Port Arthur when they saw a commercial truck about to be loaded with a pallet of shrimp at one of the local wholesale shrimp processing facilities. They stopped to inspect the vehicle and discovered it already had a cargo of 15 crates of fresh blue crab on board. The driver was acting very suspicious and claimed to have bought the crabs legally in Louisiana and transported them into Texas, which requires a Texas Wholesale Fish Dealer License. The driver could not produce a wholesale license or an aquatic product transportation invoice, or other documenta-

tion for where the crabs had originated. Wardens for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries were contacted to assist with the investigation. They interviewed the dealer in Louisiana where the driver claimed the crabs had originated and discovered that the driver was being deceptive. Texas game wardens seized all 15 crates of crabs and sold them to the highest bidder as required by law. The driver was issued citations and given warnings.

**--Oh-Fishially in Trouble--** Galveston County game wardens received a call about two individuals who were catching sheepshead fish with a net and keeping over their bag limit. The wardens saw two over-flowing coolers with fish. When the wardens asked how they caught all the fish, they said, "with the net". When inspecting the coolers, the wardens found two hidden bags also containing fish. The two individuals were in possession of 47 sheepshead (27 undersized), three speckled sea trout and one 28" red drum. Multiple citations were issued to each individual. Cases are pending.

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July 17 ~ Media Teams  
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## September

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