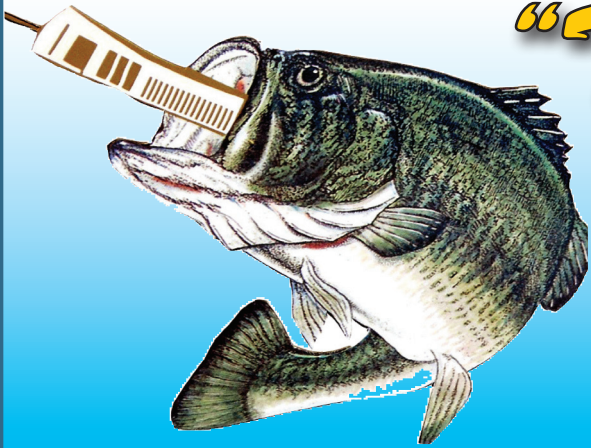


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**Vol. 23**

**May, 2022**

**No. 273**

*Seventeenth Annual*  
**LEGEND**  
**OF LAKE FORK**  
**Big Bass Tournament**  
**All Boats, Makes, Models Welcome**  
**May 13, 14 & 15, 2022**



Chris Lewis from Idaho caught this nice Lake Fork lunker while fishing with guide Whitt Smith. C.P.R.

**By Don Hampton**

Anglers get ready for one of the most exciting, fun-filled bass catching tournaments of the year on Lake Fork. Don't worry about getting on the lake! There are at least fifteen boat ramps you can launch from.

Great news anglers -- the boat ramp at Lake Fork Marina is now open along with 14 others on the lake.

If you missed out on the early incentive, you can still get in on the tourna-

ment. We will be at Lake Fork Marina, Tournament Headquarters, on Thursday May 12th from 12 to 10 pm taking entries and for check ins.

The 17th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament to be held May 13, 14, 15 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 be

some big females on the beds, but on the most will have already spawned and feeding up with an appetite.

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 sponsoring businesses here on

(See *Seventeenth Annual ..*  
*Continued on Page 7*)



Lake Fork guide Tom Evans caught this hawg weighing 11.14-lbs. in April. C.P.R.





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# "Bubba Has Rhythm If It is Fishing or Isn't More than a Two Step"

By Don Hampton

Bubba has rhythm. If you had ever seen him work a Texas or Carolina rig, you most definitely would agree.

He will most deftly slowly lift the rod tip with a couple of subtle twitches until he has the rod tip at 12 o'clock and then without creating any slack in the line or moving his bait, reel down to 4 or 5 o'clock in one smooth motion to begin again. He has the same methodical rhythm when he is cranking a chatter bait, spinning bait, deep water crank, or a lipless crank. With a smooth stop of the reel he will gently raise the rod tip or tweet it a bit, let it set for a second and then begin again.

When it comes to dry land and music, Bubba isn't quite as adept as he is fishing. You might be able to say that Bubba is just too content in being old fashioned. He even comments a lot that the old fashions are coming back in style. He just believes that if he can hang around long enough, heck, he might be back in style!

If it isn't a waltz or involves more than a two-step, he could care less and just doesn't want to get involved. Bubba is countrified, through and through. When he was younger he'd tear the dance floor up! Now he prefers fishing to the dance floor. When asked why, he told me, "Dancing, I'm good for

about 5 minutes...fishing I can go night and day!" I wonder if that is what he was really talking about!

Bubba loves music, but restricts himself to only country and golden oldies. I think he listens to golden oldies because it makes him remember about once being young. He even knows some of the words to some of the songs. If you have ever had the displeasure of hearing him sing, you know what I mean. He does halfway alright singing along, (until he runs out of the 4 or 5 words he knows of the song), then you hear a lot of da da da's or do do dooo's!

Never get into a conversation with Bubba about music unless you wish to stick with Hank's, Lefty's, or Willie's. With Bubba the best conversations are about fishing, lakes, and his outlook on life. (The last can be quite amusing.)

Music and the art of music is not Bubba's forte' or strong suite. I know this because I made the mistake of engaging him once in a lengthy conversation about it.

To Bubba a symphony is something you give to a person in time of grief or to his buddies when their wife won't let them go fishing, or to himself when Bubbette makes him go to WalMart with her.

"Rock" to Bubba is the rocks. The ones he has to dodge! Just like the one Bubbette hit him with when he brought home a \$300 fishing rod, or the

ones he dodges when he says he is going fishing and doesn't want to go to WalMart unless he can buy some 'fishing stuff'!

"Rap", now that is something Bubbette does to his new stuff he gets for his birthday, Father's Day, or Christmas or does to him on the top of the head when he says he needs some new "fishing stuff"!!

The "Blues", now this was a good one. The "Blues" to Bubba is part of the color spectrum and consists of five shades and he has fishing lures with every shade on them!

"Classical", well, go figure. Every year the BASS Classic is held, last year's was the classical.

If you have the pleasure of riding with Bubba in his truck or boat, you will listen to KMOO mostly. This is because that is Bubba's music. I believe it is because he can pronounce it so well and he likes saying it. Since Bubba heard the pretty lady on the station say, "Go ahead say it, KMOOOO, now doesn't that make you feel better", he does just that.

Sometimes when it is quiet Bubba will blurt out as loud as he can K-MOOOO, scaring everyone around him half to death. When asked why he did that, all he will say is "I feel better now!"

So, if you are out on the lake or even in a public establishment and you hear a loud K-MOOOO, don't be too alarmed. It isn't the cows coming home... it's Bubba "just feeling better now!"

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Think Everyone Knows When You Have A Sale; *Don't Advertise!*

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## Catfish Stocking Returns to Neighborhood Fishin' Lakes in Texas

Springtime and catfish angling are back at Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Neighborhood Fishin' Lakes across the state. The program provides friends and families the opportunity to participate in the Texas traditions of outdoor recreation and reeling in catfish close to home.

Starting the week of April 15, 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 Austin and San Antonio, 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 far 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 cat-

fish every two weeks through the end of October – with a brief pause during the heat of August. This ensures there are plenty of angling opportunities for everyone throughout the spring, summer and early fall.

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

Anglers can keep up to five catfish of any size per day. At some locations, cleaning tables are available nearby to

(See Catfish Stocking... Continued on Page 21)

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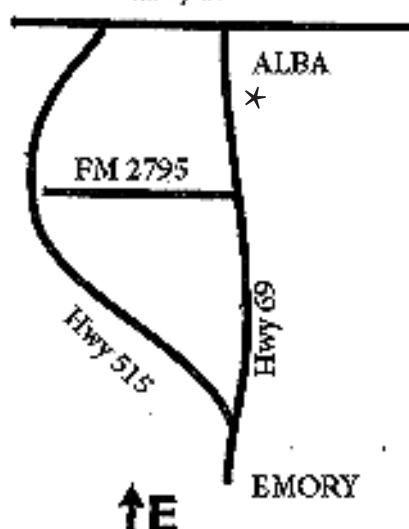
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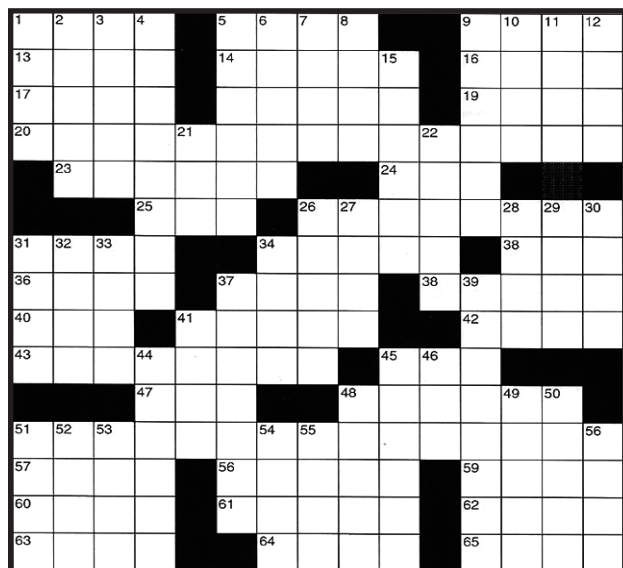
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## "Early Action is the Best Way to Start Your Day!"

By David Ozio

"Lake Fork spring fishing for the past three years has been nothing short of an adventure. High water one year, the lake frozen over the next year and now the lake being less six feet low and the bed fish have no clue what to do. Strange that we are heading into May and the masses seem to be avoiding the shallows. Truly a head scratcher! As with last year it seems that the major spawn will drift into May and possibly coincide with the shad spawn. Water clarity has recently been an issue as small rains create run off from the mud banks and render shallow water visibility to the "not so good"



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Container for shipping
5. Strikebreaker
9. City in Northeastern Uruguay
13. Basis for sauces
14. Trapped
16. Slang term for "yes"
17. Impulse
18. More scarce
19. Rundown neighborhood
20. Feeling of elation
23. A covered passageway
24. Hole puncher
25. Decorate a cake with frosting
26. Branched
31. Missing soldiers
34. Awards
35. Edgar Wilson \_\_, American Humorist
36. Competent
37. Abnormal breathing
38. Wrap
40. Wreath
41. Pacific islands
42. Surfaced
43. Points
45. Temporary military housing
47. Gov't agency of U.S.
48. 2000 Yankees vs. Mets contest
51. "Constant as \_\_," Shakespeare
57. Halo
58. Charles Brit author 1814-1884
59. City south of Moscow
60. Streetcar
61. Belgian city
62. October 15 and March 15
63. Otherwise
64. Any habitation at a high altitude
65. French cookery

### CLUES DOWN

1. Leg shank
2. Artery
3. Fructose, for one
4. Training by multiple reps.
5. Walk
6. Wading bird
7. Affirm
8. About aviation
9. I
10. Like an eel
11. German physicist, Max \_\_
12. UK abbrev., "On Her Majesty's Service"
15. Gentle
21. Cavity
22. Type of cheese
26. Purposes
27. Afresh
28. Japanese waist pouch
29. An unfledged or nestling hawk
30. Sandy piece of seashore
31. Characteristic of a man
32. Wild mountain goat
33. Settled down
34. An account of incidents or events
37. Wed again
39. Esthetic
41. Melon, cucumbers, pumpkin
44. Rechristen
45. Unbelief
46. Vase
48. Passover feast and ceremony
49. Opus
50. Starchy food made of dried orchid tubers
51. \_\_ Gallery
52. Throw forcefully
53. Geological times
54. Used for insect sterilization
55. Hurry
56. Tear down

Answers on Page 21

range. We haven't even discussed the relentless idiotic winds that have plagued Fork for the past six weeks. Nonetheless, fishing has been a handful.

In the near term the best way to start your day is to get in on the action early in the A.M. Cruise the lake and start combing the shore lines for white birds. Bass will push spawning shad up close to the bank lines and the shad will provide 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 or chatterbait. Run these two offerings by every stump that is available on a main lake or secondary point. Use



a fast retrieve at first to see if the fish are positioned high on the stumps and if no one cooperates, slow down the lure and let it descend down towards the roots to trigger the strikes. 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

(See Early Action....

Continued on Page 20)

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## Seventeenth Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament *(Continued from Page 1)*

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 23 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 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

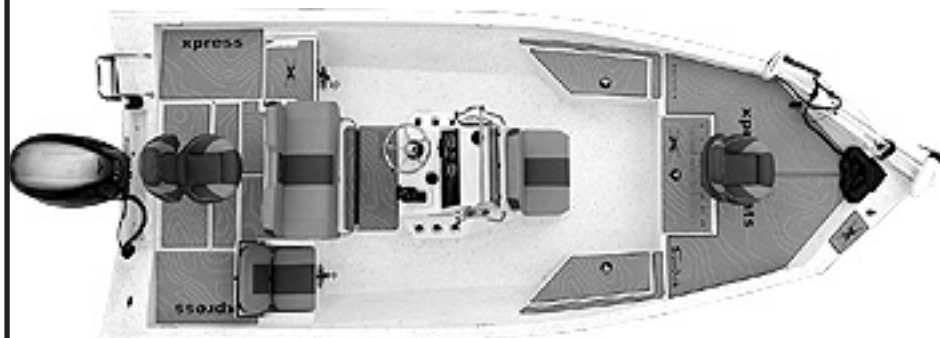
purchase TFO 7'4" MH rods for only \$65 while supply lasts.

For more information on the tournament see ad on Page 28 or go to [www.legendoflakefork.com](http://www.legendoflakefork.com)

to download

an entry and for all tournament rules. If you should have any questions, you can contact me at [fish-news@lakefork.net](mailto:fish-news@lakefork.net) or give me a call at 903-360-6994.

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# "The Moon Report"

## "May Crappie or Morels"

By Terri Moon

Yep – every year at this time I face this dilemma! The big crappie finally commit to the shallows and the bobber action is incredible. Then I get the call from Missouri that the morel mushrooms are showing up. There is only a short window of time to pick the morels in the spring, and you can catch crappie year round. So, the morels win again. It also means I can be there for Mama Novas 92nd birthday!

But, before I left in 4 ft. of water on jigs under bobbers around the trees, the crappie were biting as fast as you could throw in. It was awesome! Even the bass wanted to play! It sure seemed like it took forever for the water temps to get where they needed to be this year – so, everything was late spawning. Then came the "WINDS" – Holy Cow! You just can't do much in 30 to 40 mph winds. But, I'm so grateful and blessed to be in a Skeeter Solera that was made for rough water – besides being so darn comfortable to ride in and fish out of! You definitely can tell that a lot of thought went into 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 wa-



ter I can fish it in, especially this time of year when we are fishing 1 – 2 ft. of water. It's just an amazing all around boat especially in tough conditions! (But, I still wish this wind would take a break!)

Now is a good time to have a rod rigged with a slip bobber to check shallow water or suspending fish in 1 – 6 ft., and also have a rod rigged for deeper water fishing. The crappie depth can change throughout the day – so keep an eye on that depth finder to see what depth to target. If your in murky water go to darker jig colors – black chartreuse – navy chartreuse. If your in clearer water, try white/chartreuse or yellow. I use Skipper jigs or Bonehead baits and Limits Tackle – all available at Lake Fork Marina.

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 are fishing.

When the water temps get to 68 -75 degrees, the bream will start their spawn. There is nothing more fun or better to eat! They sure go good with morels! Crickets, nightcrawlers, or just Berkley crappie nibbles will work on a slip bobber or just lightlining for them just off the bottom. They will go shallow during the new and full moon throughout the summer. Just check the same areas you caught crappie shallow.

There will be another wave of crappie come in to spawn the next full moon – in the meantime, back out deeper 16 to 24 ft. around tree lines, bridges and brushpiles.

Happy Mother's Day to you all and especially to my mom who will be 92 this month! Happy Birthday Mama Nova! Blessings to all!





Craig Kelly from Oklahoma was fishing Lake Fork with guide Danny Holder when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.



Jason Gray from Kansas was night fishing in April with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this Lake Fork hawg. C.P.R.



Chris Kelly from Oklahoma was fishing Lake Fork with guide Danny Holder when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.



HAPPY 92nd BIRTHDAY  
MOMA NOVA



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## Please, Don't Touch the 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 can be mistaken as abandoned. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) experts caution against lending a helping hand.

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

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 it has been abandoned by its mother

and needs help. This is rarely the case.

Leave all young animals alone unless it is obviously injured. 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 feathers and is hopping around, mom and dad are likely nearby. Grounded fledglings will usually be up and flying within a few days.

Various turtle species are also often picked up by well-meaning citizens to assist them in crossing the road. While this is perfectly harmless if it can be done safely, biologists ask that the public not take these animals home with the intention of gaining a new pet. These turtles are wild animals and must remain wild in order to be healthy.

If 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.

Find more tips from biologists regarding fawns and baby birds on the TPWD YouTube channel.



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## Public Fishing, Paddling Access Expands with Two New Sites

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is expanding public fishing and paddling opportunities in the state with the addition of two leased river access sites through the River Access and Conservation Area (RACA) program.

The new site at Cupgrass Cabins provides a second leased access point near County Road (CR) 150 on the South Llano River, giving ample public parking at this popular crossing. The new RACA site at John Knox Ranch is the first on the Blanco River.

"Both the Blanco and South Llano rivers are beautiful Hill Country streams just a short drive away from major urban areas like San Antonio and Austin," said John Botros, TPWD River Access Coordinator.

"Historically in Texas, recreation on rivers has been limited by a lack of public access points. These new sites are an important step in expanding the public's options for safe, legal and high-quality fishing and paddling access on rivers."

Anglers will find a gated entrance to Cupgrass located off U.S. 377, approximately 0.24 miles southwest of CR 150, near Junction. TPWD River Access at Cupgrass offers a complimentary parking area and an access point to the South Llano River via Bailey Creek. Access for launching non-motorized boats, canoes or kayaks for the purpose of fishing is open from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

to cast for largemouth and Guadalupe bass while channel catfish and sunfish are also prevalent.

The new river access area at John Knox Ranch is located off FM 179, approximately 0.25 miles west of the "Slime Bridge" crossing of the Blanco River. John Knox Ranch offers a complimentary parking area for TPWD leased access users, and access to the Blanco River for fishing and paddling purposes. Access for wade fishing and launching non-motorized boats, canoes, kayaks or other floatable devices for the purpose of fishing is open each day from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Visitors must email John Knox Ranch at [jkrofice@missionpby.org](mailto:jkrofice@missionpby.org) before they arrive to make a reservation and ensure the availability of parking space. Visitors are required to make a reservation in advance. The code in the confirmation email is needed to unlock the gate and gain access the parking area.

The site provides new and exciting opportunities for anglers to catch some of Texas' most popular sport fish. This segment of the Blanco River has abundant populations of largemouth bass, channel catfish and Guadalupe bass, which is the state fish of Texas. Anglers are encouraged to practice catch-and-release of sportfish.

Reservations to park on the property must be made in advance by texting the visiting vehicle make and color to (512) 407-9357. Canoes and kayaks can be launched in Bailey Creek and ingress/egress to the South Llano is a short paddle out. This segment of the river offers ample opportunities

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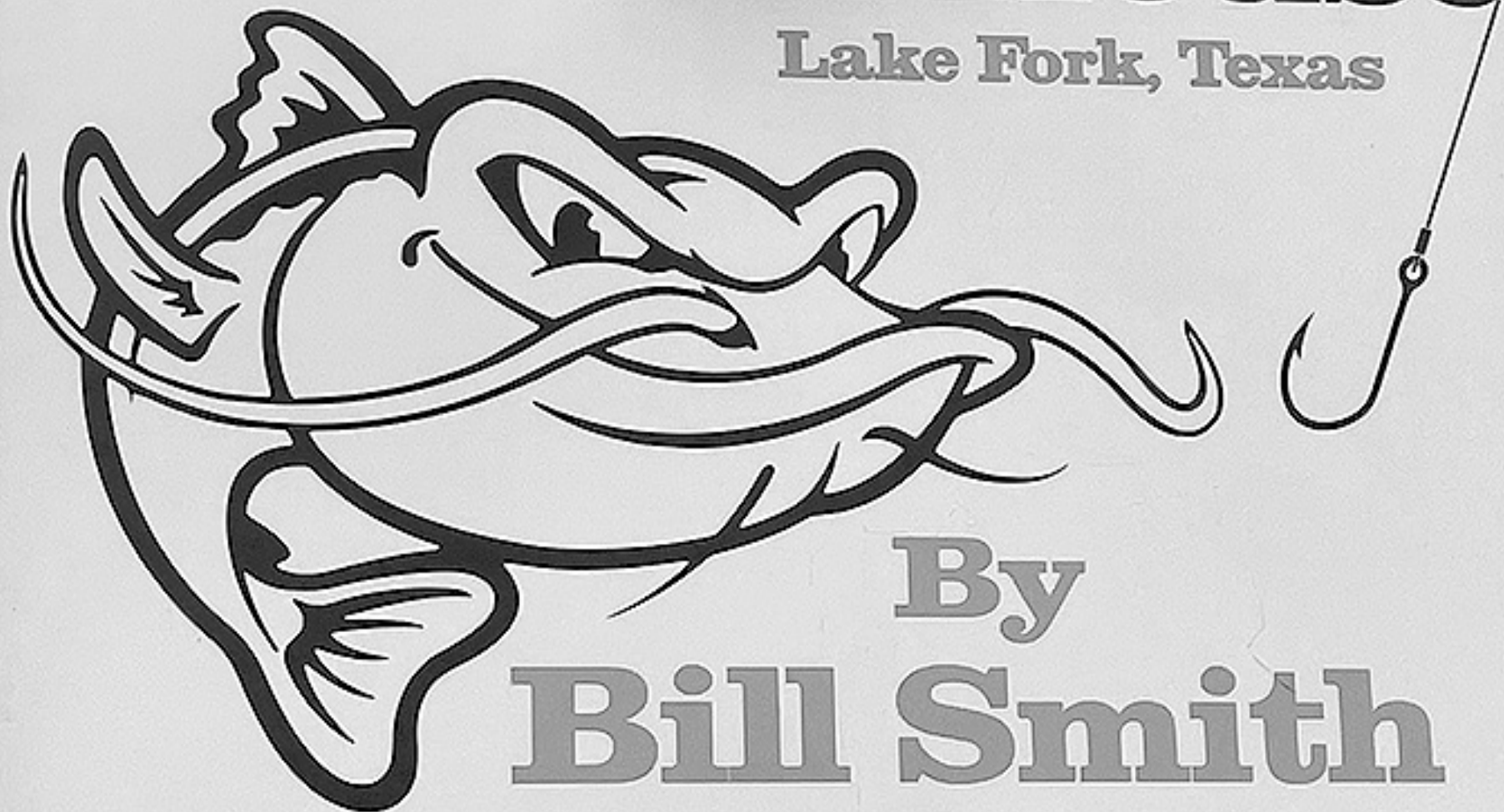
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## Quagga Mussels Detected for First Time in a Texas Reservoir

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) reports that invasive quagga mussels have been detected for the first time in Texas. The quagga mussel discovery was made by National Park Service (NPS) staff at the International Amistad Reservoir in the Rio Grande basin along the Texas-Mexico border near Del Rio.

Quagga mussels are a close relative of the zebra mussel, which has invaded 33 Texas lakes across six river basins since it was first introduced in Texas in Lake Texoma in 2009. In addition to being the first detection of quagga mussels in Texas waters, this is also the first finding of any invasive mussel species in the Rio Grande basin.

"This detection of invasive quagga mussels is a very unfortunate first for Texas," said Monica McGarrity, TPWD Senior Scientist for Aquatic Invasive Species. "Quagga mussels can inhabit greater depths and are also able to settle on soft substrates like mud or sand in addition to hard surfaces like rock or infrastructure—unlike zebra mussels—meaning they can colonize more of the lake."

"Quagga mussels are very prolific and can



form larger populations that can have greater effects on the lake ecosystem overall, especially in deep lakes," added McGarrity. "Even the lakes that already have zebra mussels are at risk of having quagga mussels introduced and monitoring of these lakes for signs of quagga mussels will be necessary."

The NPS staff monitor Amistad Reservoir for early detection of invasive mussels using sampling for plankton (microscopic organisms) to detect their larvae and conducts settlement and shoreline sampling to survey for juveniles and adults. In June 2021, a single quagga mussel larva was detected and confirmed by DNA testing at Diablo East. In May, August, and September, single quagga mussel larvae were

detected at a second site, Rough Canyon.

The NPS staff have been actively monitoring Amistad Reservoir for zebra and quagga mussels since 2014. Early detection monitoring can assist in preventing spread to other water bodies as well as providing an early warning for mitigating impacts on infrastructure for facilities using raw surface water. Currently, NPS employees conduct monthly inspections from docks and structures at several sites on the reservoir.

Since July 2021, NPS staff have also conducted multiple shoreline surveys using mussel detection dogs. To date, the NPS has not detected juvenile or adult mussels that might indicate population establishment. NPS staff will continue monitoring for quagga mussel larvae as well as juvenile and adult mussels and any future population establishment and will be exploring potential opportunities for containment should a full infestation develop.

TPWD is designating the reservoir as "positive" for quagga mussels. Positive status indicates mussel larvae have been repeatedly detected, but no juveniles or adults have been

*(Quagga Mussels...Continued on Page 15)*



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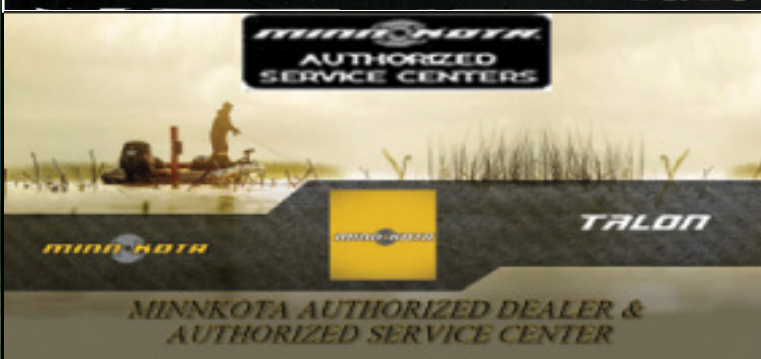
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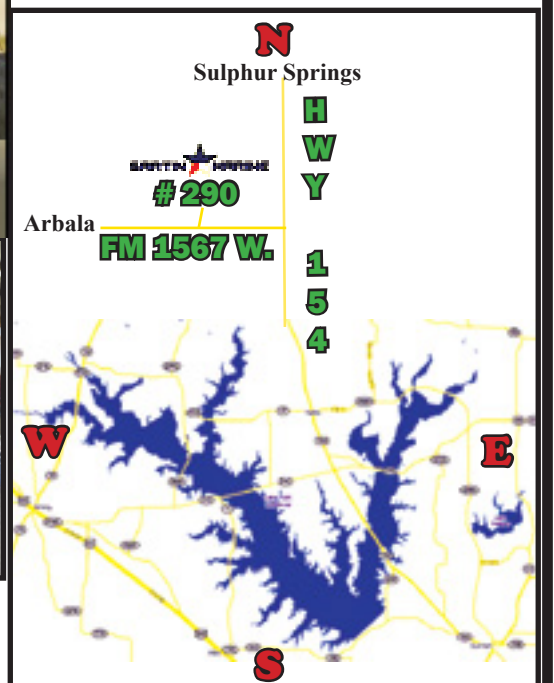
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## Quagga Mussels Detected for First Time in a Texas Reservoir *(Continued from Page 13)*

found and there is not yet evidence of a fully established population. The detection of quagga mussel larvae underscores the critical need for lake users to follow TPWD's prevention guidelines when visiting Amistad Reservoir.

In addition to reducing the risk of further introductions of quagga mussels that could contribute to establishment, there is a need to prevent the introduction of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species. The NPS and TPWD encourage all visitors to follow the "Clean, Drain, and Dry" actions for watercraft and equipment before entering and after leaving the lake.

Because quagga mussels are present in other areas of the U.S. in the Great Lakes region and some western states, there was already a risk that boats could transport them to Texas lakes. However, their introduction into a Texas reservoir significantly increases the risk they could be transported by boats and introduced into other waterbodies in the state. The TPWD and partners will continue monitoring at-risk waterbodies for early detection of both zebra

and quagga mussels. Prevention signage will also be updated at Amistad Reservoir.

Quagga mussels, in the same manner as zebra mussels, are often transported to new lakes by boats. Therefore, TPWD and partners will continue public awareness outreach efforts to encourage boaters to take steps to clean, drain, and dry their boats and decontaminate boats with attached mussels to prevent the spread of these invasive species.

"Unfortunately, invasive mussels have now spread to 34 Texas lakes, with 28 fully infested, but there are far more lakes that still haven't been invaded and are at risk," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries Regional Director. "Each boater taking the necessary actions to clean and drain their boat before leaving the lake and allowing compartments and gear to dry completely when they get home can make a big difference in protecting our Texas lakes."

Because invasive mussels are most often transported on or in boats, boaters play a critical role in preventing their spread to new lakes. Invasive mussels attach to boats, and anything

left in the water, including anchors, and can survive for days out of water, often hiding in crevices where they may not be seen easily. 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 water from the boat and gear, and then open compartments once you get home and allow everything to dry completely for at least a week if possible.

If you have stored your boat in the water at a lake with invasive mussels or purchased a boat that has been stored on one of these lakes, it is likely infested with invasive mussels and poses an extremely high risk for moving these invasive species to a new lake. Before moving your boat that has been stored on a waterbody known to have either zebra or quagga mussels or if you purchase a boat from out-of-state and have questions, call TPWD at (512) 389-4848

*(Quagga Mussels...Continued on Page 18)*



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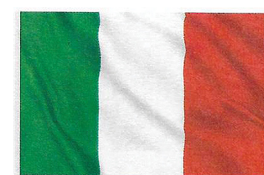
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## New Report Shows Hunting Accidents in Texas are at a Record Low

Hunting-related accidents in Texas are at an all-time low since Hunter Education became mandatory in 1988, according to the 2021 Texas Hunting Accident Report released by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

Of more than 49,000 certifications in 2021, Texas experienced only one fatality and 11 accidents statewide, according to the report.

"In 2021, three quarters of the incidents were what we call 'swinging on game outside of a safe zone of fire,'" said Steve Hall, the Hunter Education Coordinator for TPWD. "This is the most common mishap in Texas besides careless handling in and around vehicles. The cardinal rule of hunting and shooting safety is keeping the muzzle of a firearm always pointed in a safe direction."

This marks a significant decrease since 1988, when more than 18,000 Texans received their Hunter Education certification but reported 12 fatalities and 70 accidents throughout the state. As more Texans have taken to the field and obtained their Hunter Education certification, these numbers have greatly improved. Even prior to Hunter Education becoming mandatory in 1988, TPWD has offered hunter education courses since 1972, certifying nearly 1.5 million students. Today, Hunter

Education is required for every hunter in Texas (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after Sept. 2, 1971. The minimum age for certification is nine years of age and certification is good for life.

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

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

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

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

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

\* Waterfowl hunters should wear protective clothing, waders and approved life jackets while in boats or around water, especially in winter months. Drowning ranks as the number one hunting incident for these hunters.

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

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

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

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

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

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## Quagga Mussels Detected *(Continued from Page 15)*

for guidance on decontamination. Other equipment stored in infested lakes such as barges, docks, hoists, and pumps etc. are also potential vectors for spreading invasive species so those items also need to be fully decontaminated before transporting to another waterbody.

The transport of aquatic invasive species can result in legal trouble for boaters or transporters. Transporting prohibited invasive species in Texas is illegal and punishable with a fine of up to \$500 per violation. Boaters are also required to drain all water from their vessel and onboard

receptacles, including bait buckets, before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water.

Additionally, anyone who spots invasive 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 invasive mussels in Texas lakes, but anyone who finds them in lakes where they haven't been found before should report them immediately by emailing photos and location information to [AquaticInvasives@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:AquaticInvasives@tpwd.texas.gov).

A status map showing all lakes where invasive mussels have been found in Texas can be viewed online. 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 or buyers of boats stored in the water on lakes with zebra mussels can be found online. To learn more about invasive mussels and other invasive species in Texas, visit [tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives](http://tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives).

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

By Carolyn West, President LFSA

Is a Lake Fork ramp open for launching or is it closed because the water is low, repairs are in process, or other reasons? Lake Fork Sportsman's Association, as a public service, has created a list of ramps around Lake Fork with a status of their availability. Ed Swenson, Member of the Board of Directors, contacted owners, and compiled a list of many ramps, detailing contact information and current state of the ramps. LFSA had received input from a major tournament director who was concerned that this type of information needed to be made public. The dam repair had caused many ramps to be non-accessible and anglers had a difficult time finding a safe open ramp. Below is the status as of April 19, 2022. Boaters are provided phone numbers and are now able to call the ramp owners for current status.

This list will be posted on LFSA's Facebook page and Web page and updating will occur when owners notify us of a changed status.

We hope this is helpful information to the public. Thanks to Ed for his continued contributions to our Association.

The Association is in the process of reactivating our Face

## TPWD Lake Fork Boat Ramp Access 4/19/2022

ID:	Facility	Type	Ramp Status	Phone
A:	Lake Fork Marina	Private/Fee	Open	(903) 765-2764
A1:	Rains County Ramp	Public	Open	(903) 473-5000 198
A5:	West Fork (Val's) Landing	Private/Fee	Open	(903) 473-3868
B1:	FM 17 Ramp	Public	Open	(903) 878-2262
B2:	Lake Fork Resort	Private/Fee	Open	(903) 765-2987
C1:	Tackle Factory	Private/Fee	Open	(903) 765-3398
C4:	Pope's Landing	Private/Fee	Open	(903) 765-2385
C5:	Mustang Resort	Private/Fee	Open	(903) 765-2548
D1:	Chaney Point RV Park	Private/Fee	Open	(903) 474-4616
E1:	Quail Hollow	Private/Fee	Open	(432) 271-2712
E2:	Hide-Away Harbor	Private/Fee	Open	(903) 383-2733
E5:	Highway 515 East Ramp	Public	Open	(903) 878-2262
F1:	Highway 154 Ramp	Public	Open	(903) 878-2262
F2:	Minnow Bucket Marina	Private/Fee	Open	(903) 878-2500
F3:	Oak Ridge Marina	Private/Fee	Open	(903) 878-2529

Book and Web Page. Misty Belk, Pat Kostial, and Bob Roberts will head a committee to update our activities and post information we all can use. Information such as the Ramp Access Status, once we update the sites, can be found on our social media sites.

LFSA hosted Cody Roberson from the Army Bass Angler organization. Cody shared a wealth of knowledge about the huge organization that has grown from Army Bass. Thanks to Cody for sharing his experiences as the group expanded into a mega-501(c)(3) chain of groups helping our warriors.

May's meeting will be a membership expansion event with a picnic on May 10.. Anyone interested in joining LFSA, please call Carolyn West, 903-752-2014 or Ed Swenson, 417-270-7158 to receive an invitation to the picnic. LFSA will review the active projects and famil-

iarize the attendees with our mission of Preserving the Legend of Lake Fork.

June's meeting will be a training session on the Live Release Boat. Boat Captain Bruce Allen will teach preparing the boat for tournaments, filling the three one-hundred-gallon tanks with water and treatment, handling the fish that are caught and brought to the boat, and the procedure to release the fish from the holding tanks.

Last, but certainly not least, LFSA annually conducts two raffles to raise funds for their many activities. The Spring Raffle is now active. Tickets are \$5.00 each and five tickets for \$20.00. Tickets are sold at major tournaments on Lake Fork, as well as by LFSA members. Call Carolyn West, 903-752-2014 for more information about the raffle items, which include guns, rods and reels, gift certificates, a drone, coolers, plus more.

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"Early Action is the Best Way To Start Your Day!" (Continued from Page 6)

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 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, Talon Custom Lures, Skeeter Boats and Dakota Lithiums 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."



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## Catfish Stocking Returns (Continued from Page 4)

make it easy for families to clean their catch. Children under 17 fish for free, but adults who fish must have a fishing license. 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.neighborhood-fishing.org](http://www.neighborhood-fishing.org). Stocking locations can also be found on the Neighborhood Fishin' website.

Neighborhood Fish-

in' is supported by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation through donations from many local partners as well as the local municipalities across the state.

**Practice C.P.R.**

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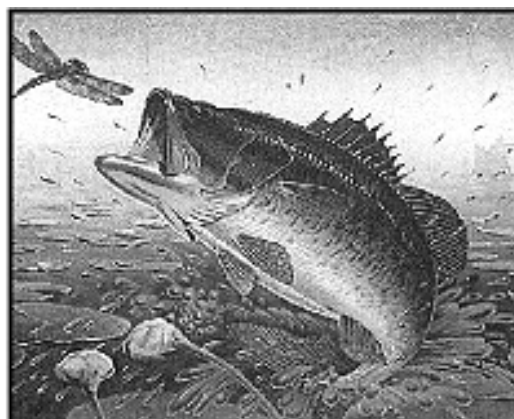
### Weather Find

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

TEMPERATURE  
BAROMETER  
DEGREES  
CUMULUS  
METEOROLOGIST  
WEATHER  
RAIN

FRONT  
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## Game Warden Field Notes

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

--How do you Solve a Problem Like Maria?-- A land-owner called Texas Game Wardens when a group of quail hunters requested assistance rescuing a dog that had fallen into an abandoned grain silo-turned well. The dog, Maria, had chased a wounded bird through thick brush when she disappeared from her owner's sight. After searching, the owner found the dog trapped

50 feet below. Two Game Wardens arrived on the scene with hundreds of feet of rope, a wire dog kennel and the know-how to build a pulley hoist system. Wardens baited the kennel with recently harvested quail and slowly lowered it down to Maria. With some encouragement from her owner, the dog was coerced to enter the kennel. Wardens carefully lifted her out of the well and into the loving arms of her owner. Upon inspection, she appeared unharmed and fully alert, with all four limbs fully functional. Emergency responders, the

dog owner, several fellow quail hunters and the landowners' family were amazed how this situation had unfolded. The owner transported Maria home and scheduled her for a follow-up with a veterinarian for precautionary measures.

--Fortune Favors the Bald (Tire)--A local sheriff's office reached out to Texas Game Wardens about a stolen vehicle from New Mexico heading into Texas. A warden located the vehicle under an irrigation pivot. After back-up arrived, the subject attempted to evade officers by driving through

(Continued on Page 24)

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## Celebrate Shrimp Season With The Flavors of New Orleans

By Sue Hampton

Whether tossing it on the grill, piling it high on a crusty roll or topping a fresh summertime salad, shrimp's versatility has made it an American favorite. Shrimp fans consume more than 1 billion pounds each year – making it the top-selling seafood in this country.

Since shrimp is available year-round, it's easy to overlook the pleasures of enjoying it at the peak of freshness. The Gulf Coast fresh shrimp season "officially" kicks off in May and runs through early fall.



Celebrate shrimp season with the rich and zesty tastes of two delicious shrimp recipes!!

Enjoying the rich and zesty taste of New Orleans Barbecue Shrimp is an easy and authentic way to celebrate shrimp season. There are many twists on this "Big Easy" classic – and none would dare include barbecue sauce! Bursting with the flavors of Worcestershire, Zatarain's Creole Seasoning, cracked black pepper and beer, the sauce is perfect for sopping up with lots of crusty bread.

### New Orleans Barbecue Shrimp

½ stick butter  
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce  
2 teaspoons Zatarain's Creole Seasoning  
1 teaspoon minced garlic  
½ teaspoon coarse ground black pepper  
½ teaspoon rosemary leaves crushed  
1 pound large shrimp (26 to 30 count)  
¾ cup beer, at room temperature

MELT butter with Worcestershire sauce, Creole Seasoning, garlic, pepper and rosemary in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add shrimp; cook and stir 2 minutes.

POUR beer into skillet. Cook and stir 3 minutes longer or just until shrimp turn pink. Serve immediately with French bread.

**Makes 4 servings.**

The following is another tasty shrimp recipe! Enjoy!

### Cheese and Shrimp Strudel

**(Makes 16-18 slices)**

1 half of a 17.25-ounce package (1 sheet) frozen puff pastry, thawed  
1-1/2 cups (6 ounces) shredded Swiss cheese  
½ cup sour cream  
¼ cup thinly sliced green onion  
1 cup (4 ounces) cooked shrimp, chopped, or 4.5 ounces canned shrimp, rinsed, drained and chopped  
1 egg, beaten

On a lightly floured surface, roll the thawed puff pastry to a 10" x 18" rectangle.

Place rectangle of pastry on a lightly greased, large baking sheet.

In a medium-sized bowl, stir together cheese, sour cream, onion, shrimp and half the beaten egg (about 2 tablespoons).

Spread the mixture length-wise down half of the rectangle. Brush edges of pastry (using pastry brush) with some of the remaining beaten egg.

Carefully fold dough over the filling and seal edges with the tines of a fork. Brush top and sides of strudel with remaining egg.

Bake at 400 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown.

Remove from oven and cool 20 minutes before slicing. With a very sharp knife, slice slightly on the diagonal.



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# Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

fields. When the driver lost the tread on a tire, he stopped the vehicle and was met by the warden and a local deputy. The subject, who was a suspect in a New Mexico murder case, was taken into custody for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, evading in a motor vehicle and multiple other offenses. Cases and investigations for both states are pending.

**--Stuck in the Middle with You--** Val Verde County Game Wardens received information about a fishing boat that ran aground on the Rio Grande River. The area recently accumulated excess silt from the Amistad Dam. Combined with decreasing water levels on the river, the exposed silt became sticky and acted as quicksand. The two boaters were unharmed but unable to vacate the vehicle without sinking into the mud. One of the wardens moved to an overlook point and located the boat. The wardens confirmed there was no way to reach them through waterways or on land. A call was placed for a helicopter with hoist capability. A municipal helicopter reached the individuals, and the rescue was completed successfully. The boaters did not require medical attention.

**--Mama Mia--** A landowner notified Henderson County game wardens about someone who shot a deer on their property from the road. The landowner received word that the suspected shooter was bragging about the act on social media. A

quick search of social media revealed the suspect's mother posted about grinding up deer meat for chili. The wardens contacted the mother. She said her son shot a deer on their property, and she was processing it. The wardens interviewed the suspected shooter and he quickly confessed to shooting the deer on the caller's property from the road. It was further determined that the mother believed the deer was shot on their property and was very upset when she learned the truth.

**--Help! I Need Somebody!--** A Karnes County game warden patrolling a local highway came across a deer laying in the middle of the road. Realizing it could be a safety hazard, the warden turned around to remove the buck. After exiting his vehicle, he noticed someone walking near the front gate of a residence in the dark. The warden thought it could be the landowner coming out to ask about the deer. Upon further observation, he realized the man was stumbling. The man said he hit the deer with his motorcycle which was

heavily damaged and was now laying in the bar ditch up ahead. The motorcyclist did not know how long he had been in the ditch. Thankfully, he wore a helmet. The warden notified dispatch and requested an ambulance over a possible broken hand. EMS and a sheriff's deputy arrived on the scene. The warden called the man's wife, informed her of what happened and that he was in the care of EMS.

**--Here's Your Sign--** A Texas Game Warden received a call from a landowner concerned about road hunters driving near his property, shining a light and shooting guns. The warden met up with a deputy sheriff who had just intercepted the vehicle with three male subjects. In the bed of the truck, the warden found multiple loaded weapons, two dead jackrabbits, two dead raccoons and a piece of deer backstrap. After a roadside investigation, it was determined that the three subjects had spent the night driving around on the public roads,

*(Continued on Next Page)*

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shooting animals and stop signs. Two adults were arrested for hunting from a vehicle and one juvenile was released pending charges. A total of seven firearms and two varmint game calls were seized for evidence. Additional charges are pending.

--**This is Hawkward**-- A Hardin County game warden was at the Beaumont District Office when he received a call from the manager of the local Office Depot store. The manager said they had a small hawk flying around inside the store and couldn't get it to leave, even though they had the front and back roll-up doors open. The warden recruited a licensed falconer who was experienced in handling and trapping birds of prey to help him catch the hawk. After the falconer arrived on scene with a hawk trap and some live bait, they soon discovered that although the bird resembled a hawk, it was in fact a large nightjar or "nighthawk" which feeds on insects, rendering the trap idea useless. Undeterred, the warden and his falconer friend resorted to the old game warden standby — a ladder and a net. After what resembled a scene from America's Funniest Home Videos, they were able to finally corral the bird in a back hallway and catch it in the dip net. It was released outside, where it flew off unharmed. The manager of the Office Depot store was very grateful that the bird was removed and would not be setting off the

alarm system after closing.

--**Bad Idea, This is**-- A Hays County game warden received an image from a cellphone game camera showing a man and woman trespassing and digging an archeological Native American burial site. The warden went to the property and found the couple in a large hole previously dug by trespassers. Before the warden could say anything, the man stood up immediately and said he wasn't digging for arrowheads and hates diggers. The couple were husband and wife out on a date. They were both detained in handcuffs and separated at the front and back of the warden's vehicle. The man admitted that he had a glass pipe in his pocket that he uses to smoke CBD oils. After a quick examination, the Baby Yoda glass pipe revealed small, clear and white crystals that looked like crystal meth. The warden placed the pipe on the hood and went to the back of the vehicle to speak with the woman. She said she didn't know the property was private, despite walking past multiple no-trespassing signs. The warden then walked back to the front of the vehicle and noticed the pipe was no longer on the hood. The man said he didn't know where the pipe went. Several feet in front of the vehicle, the pipe was found broken in half in the middle of a fresh footprint. Upon further examination of the hole where the couple was found, the warden found

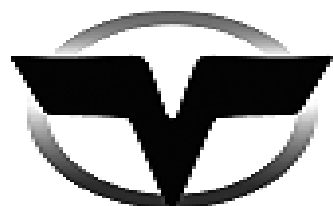
a small hand saw and freshly disturbed dirt. The woman's purse contained several gray rubber gardening gloves, each containing four Native American artifacts. The San Marcos Police Department took the couple to the Hays County Jail. While en route to jail, the man said he believed he had the coronavirus. He leaned forward against the partition and aggressively coughed toward the officers. Both subjects were charged with criminal trespass and Antiquities Code violations. The husband was also charged with possession of a controlled substance, tampering with evidence and harassment of a public servant. Cases pending.

--**The Scope of the Problem**-- A Freestone County game warden was contacted by a landowner who said he allowed a man to hunt feral hogs on his property but had killed a deer in addition to the hog. The landowner explained that while driving his property, he found a fresh hog carcass, along with a fresh white-tailed doe. The landowner asked the hunter what happened and was told that he "accidentally shot the doe when he was shooting at a hog." The warden contacted the man, who admitted to shooting the doe, saying his "scope was off." Charges include hunting a white-tailed deer in closed season, failing to take hunter education and hunting without a license.

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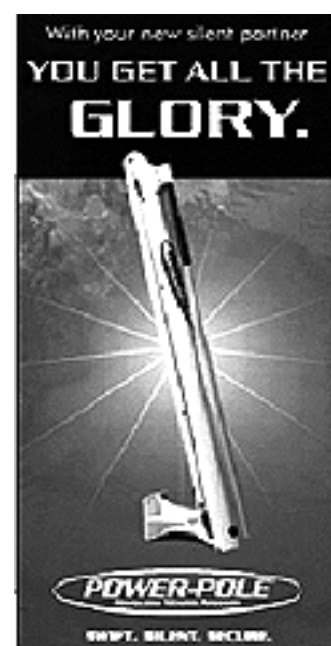


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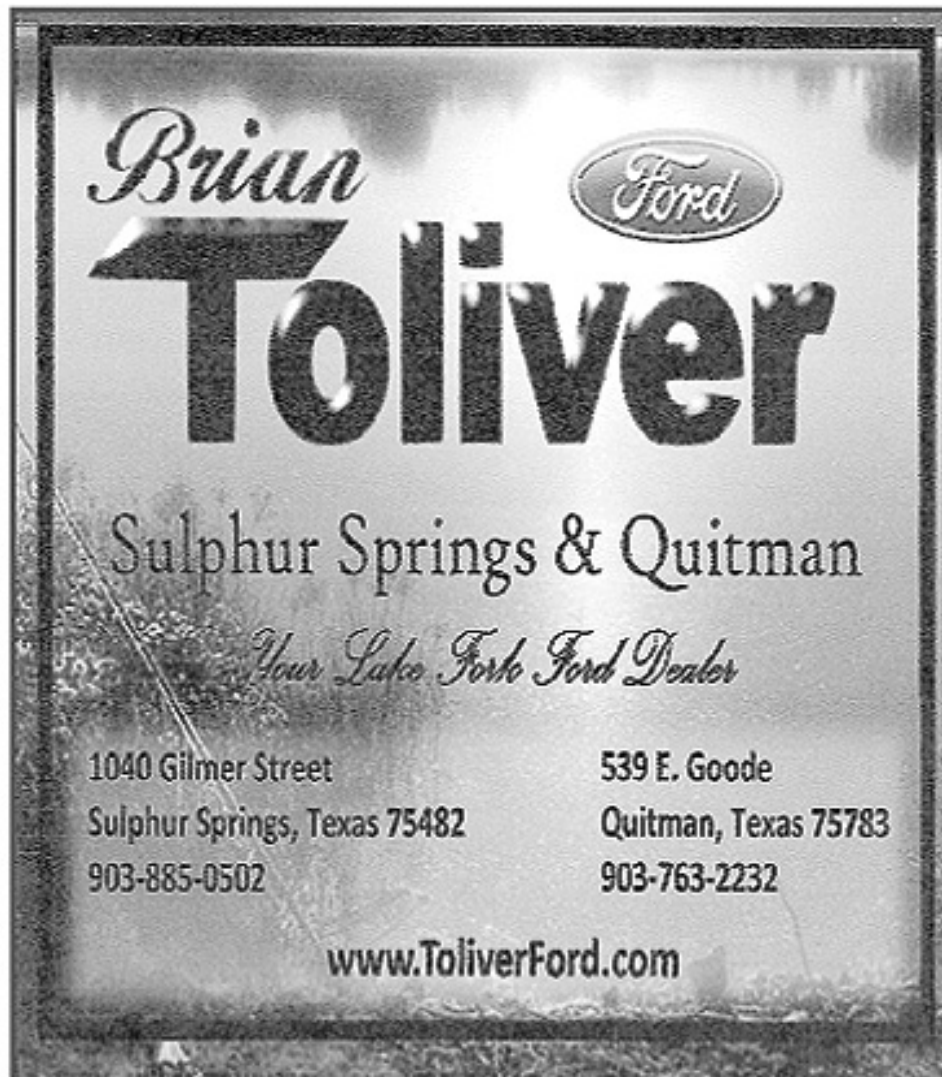
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June 4 ~ JC Outdoors Teams  
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## July

July 2 ~ JC Outdoors Teams  
Minnow Bucket

July 9 ~ Media Teams  
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July 10 ~ JC Outdoors Solo  
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July 23 ~ JC Outdoors Teams  
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