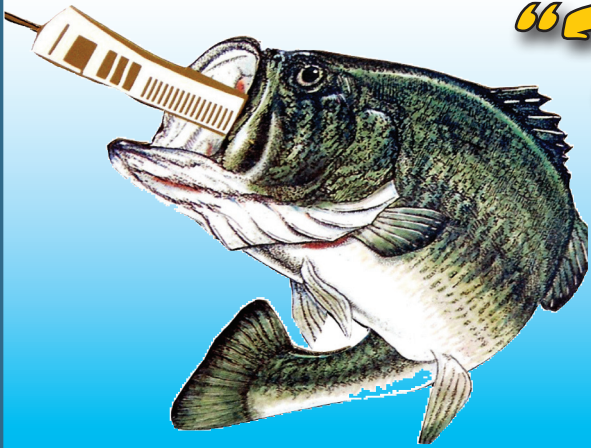


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Vol. 23

August, 2022

No. 276



Lake Fork Trophy Lures, staying in tradition of sponsoring 'Bass Camp' on Lake Fork welcomed the young anglers with open arms. Giving them a full tour of the factory and how the baits are made and making sure each of the youth left with a full bag of baits to help them catch the big one and further their love of fishing in the future.



Dr. Sam Trinca had a great day in August fishing Lake Fork with Johnny Guice. This is two of the nice bass he boated and between the two of them they had caught 32 by 10:30 a.m. C.P.R.

KETK LIVE ON LAKE FORK



SMALL TOWN LIVE: LAKE FORK
BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF QUITMAN, ALBA, EMORY AND YANTIS

LIVE

Neal Barton, KETK 56, first interview about Lake Fork began with Don Hampton, Owner/Publisher "The Fisherman's Guide News". Topics included the history of this great reservoir, water level, conditions of the catch ratio, and "The Legend of Lake Fork Tournament".



SMALL TOWN LIVE: LAKE FORK
BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF QUITMAN, ALBA, EMORY AND YANTIS

LIVE

During the 5 o'clock hour KETK Anchor Neal Barton, interviewed Troy Henry, SRA Lake Fork Management program. The interview included regulations, job duties and special programs being underway for the lake including the renovations in Swearingen Park.



SMALL TOWN LIVE: LAKE FORK
HOME OF THE STATE'S BIGGEST MONSTER BASS

LIVE

In the 6 o'clock hour Mr. Barton met with Carolyn West, President of Lake Fork Sportsman's Association. The interview included the work with local high schools on the aquatic plant program, high school fishing tackle program and the Live Release Boat and more.



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"If Fishing Involved a Classroom, Bubba Would Be Playing Hooky On The Lake!"

By: Don Hampton

When you listen to the professional anglers doing interviews, they all have a different definition for the success of fishing.

Some will say it is scientific, while others accredit it to the study of marine biology. If this is truly the case, Bubba is going to be playing some "hooky" from those classes. Even in school he was never good at science class. When it came to dissecting a frog Bubba always thought of it as cut-bait. When he finally passed biology class it was with a C, but only after a "C ya next year" to the teacher!

Bubba believes having free stuff and not having to worry about your next boat payment would help anyone's fishing abilities improve. After all, an angler can only pitch and cast until perfection is reached or else they have gained the height of their limitations. Some anglers get precise with hitting their target... they'd put a major league pitcher with a "No Hitter" to shame.

Another aspect of this equation is the movement of the lure. An angler can only move, shake, twitch, and twist their presentation so much. Then how do you explain dead-sticking, or the stories about the angler that cast out,

was getting a drink or lighting a cigarette and caught the biggest bass of their life?

This is where Bubba's definition of fishing would come in. If anyone ever had the courage to interview him on fishing he would say, "Fishing is luck, religion, and practice, and not necessarily in that order!"

Bubba believes there is a lot of religion in fishing. He'll start his day off with a prayer of thankfulness for all he is blessed with and the beauty of nature for him to enjoy, and pray for the fish to bite. When the fish aren't biting he'll pray more than a circuit preacher at a revival meeting. Then when he catches one, his favorite prayer is, "Thank You Lord, May I Have Another One?" Bubba believes there are a lot of prayers conducted in all bass boats, not just his.

Bubba's belief in the luck factor of fishing is almost borderline superstition. He has his lucky shirt, his lucky rod, his lucky shoes, his lucky socks, and his lucky underwear. As a matter of fact anything Bubba was using, wearing, or had in the boat when he caught a big fish is a new lucky token, and like an American Express Card, he won't leave home without it. It would not surprise me at all that if Bubba ever catches a "State Record" we will

probably see him on television. Can't you just picture it coming on your TV, "Hi I'm Bubba, You don't know me, that's why I carry this card and 40,000 other things in my boat! Cause you never know when you'll need more stuff!" With his luck he'll probably do it some day!

Bubba also believes that practice makes perfect! This is really a benefit to himself the most. To acquire the proper talent and techniques of fishing a lot of practice is required. This requires Bubba to do a lot of fishing when Bubbette will let him and when he doesn't have to work to make boat payments and buy stuff. Somewhere down the line it has changed from, "Honey can I go fishing?" to "Honey I need to go practice!" I don't know how this sounds to Bubbette but to me it sounds more like piano lessons than fishing. But, it seems to work for Bubba and like he says, "Why change your line if it ain't fraid?"

So, while some anglers are taking Fishing 101 and learning about the advantages of rising and falling barometric pressures and migratory patterns of our scaly friends, Bubba will be playing hooky, hooky, hooky on the lake. He'll be out there practicing fishing, praying, and hopefully being lucky.

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Texas Game Wardens Wrap up Another Busy July Fourth Weekend of Statewide Enforcement

As Texans hit the waterways across the state to recognize July Fourth, Texas Game Wardens were out in force to ensure everyone stayed safe on the water.

"Texas Game Wardens partnered with thousands of law enforcement agencies across the country for Operation Dry Water to focus on impacts of alcohol on boaters during high-traffic weekends like July 4th," said Cody Jones, Assistant Commander for Marine Enforcement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "These efforts are represented in the work we did during the July 4th weekend."

In addition to issuing 1,560 citations and 1,976 warnings for various boating safety law violations, wardens arrested 49 individuals for Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) and filed eight other charges for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI). Additionally, another 23 people were arrested for various other charges.

Texas Game Wardens also conducted multiple search and rescues over the holiday weekend. Additionally, they assisted with 38

reportable boating accidents at several Texas lakes and rivers.

Game wardens were involved statewide with numerous waterway assists or other incidents.

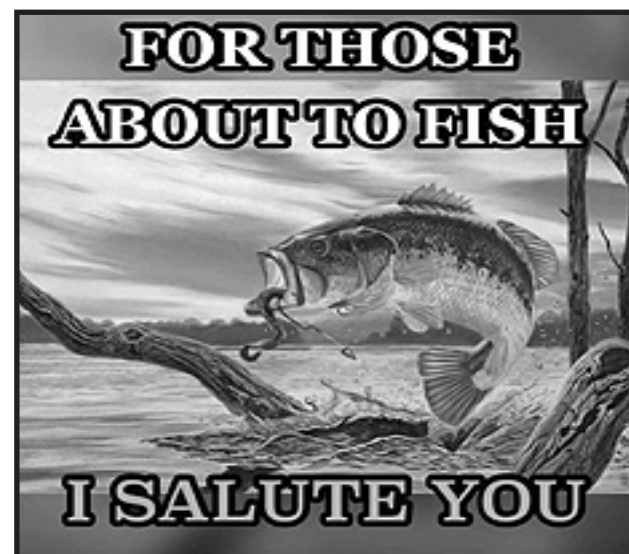
In Hunt County, game wardens responded to a reported drowning in the swim beach at West Tawakoni City Park. The patient was airlifted in critical condition but now is expected to make full recovery.

Willacy County game wardens conducted a boating rescue just outside Port Mansfield Harbor. A recreational vessel capsized within the intercoastal waterway on the way into Port Mansfield. Game wardens rescued four occupants who were in the water without personal floatation devices (PFDs). All occupants were safely taken to shore without injuries.

Game wardens patrolling South Padre Island encountered a boat with too many people on board. When wardens approached to conduct a safety check, the boat took on water over the bow and three passengers fell off. No one was injured and all passengers were

transported safely to land.

Texas Game Wardens also dealt with one boating fatality and 10 open-water fatalities on Texas waterways over the Independence Day weekend. The boating-related fatality occurred on Canyon Lake. Open-water fatality locations included the Lake Ray Hubbard, West Galveston Bay, Lake Houston, Lake Conroe, Guadalupe River, Lake Travis, Lake Texana, Canyon Lake and the Gulf of Mexico.



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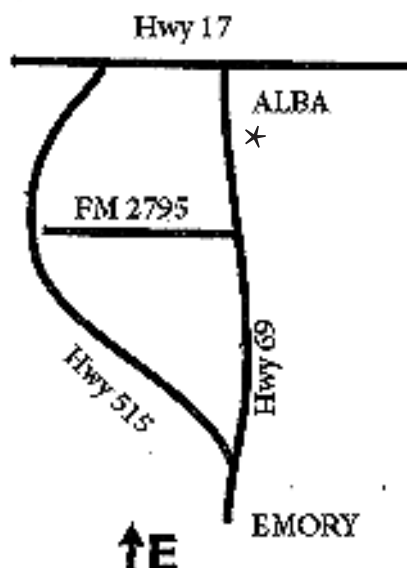
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Commercial Gulf Shrimp Season Opened July 15

The Gulf of Mexico commercial shrimp season for both state and federal waters reopened July 15, 2022. Biologists evaluate the biological, social and economic impact when deciding the opening date to maximize the benefits to the industry and the public.

In making its determination, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries Division used the best available data from samples collected during routine trawls and bag

seines in June.

"The annual mid-May closure protects brown shrimp until they can reach larger, more valuable sizes during their major period of emigration from the bays to the Gulf of Mexico," said TPWD's Coastal Fisheries Division Director Robin Riechers.

Federal waters (from 9 to 200 nautical miles offshore) opened at the same time that state waters opened. The National Marine Fisheries Service chose to adopt rules compatible

with those adopted by Texas.

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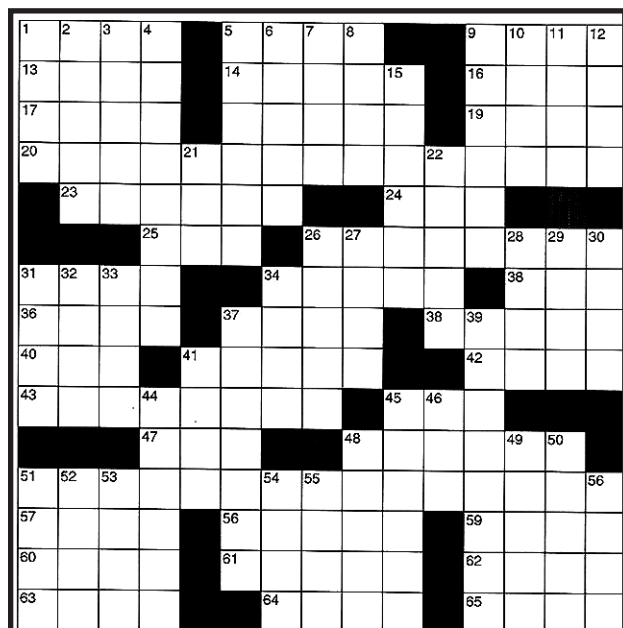
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"Really Pointing the Finger at the Weather!"

By David Ozio

"If you hang around Fork for any length of time you undoubtedly have noticed the drastic changes this lake has gone through especially on a year-to-year basis. I'm really pointing the finger at the weather and how it has affected the lake moving out of winter into spring then into the summer months. Last year we were way behind the curve on the summer pattern set up and this year it started two weeks before any normal time frame in the past. Couple that with many 100+ degree temp days in June, which is rare, followed by the same inferno days in July and it makes for a much different fishing environment. Add to the fact that the lake is almost seven feet low at the moment and the head scratching starts.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Seen as fool (slang)
5. Girls
9. Sock
13. Hebrew month
14. Opera songs
16. Egyptian Sun god
17. Monetary unit of Western Samoa
18. It's only, (slang)
19. Digs up
20. Let go
23. Ran before the wind
24. Ancient Egyptian King
25. Bouncer
26. Versified
31. Strong woody fibers
34. Olaf __, Swedish statesman
35. A metal-bearing mineral
36. Outer garments
37. A witty person who makes jokes
38. Movie unit
40. Sink in
41. Eduard __, Czechoslovakian President
42. Used to have (Scottish)
43. Expunctions
45. I.M., architect
47. The compass pt. between east and southeast
48. Of cadmium
51. Drink for the newly-hatched
57. Skunk genus
58. Detection device
59. Indian music
60. Enlarge hole
61. A sharp narrow ridge found in rugged mountains
62. Breezed through
63. Further
64. Greek goddess of discord
65. An open skin infection

CLUES DOWN

1. Waist band
2. Cognitive contents
3. Miraculous food
4. Portends
5. Puffed
6. Jack-in-the-pulpit genus
7. Waterfall (Scottish)
8. Jonas __, cured polio
9. South Pacific island
10. At the peak
11. Vegetable
12. Japanese waist pouch
15. Plan of action
21. Flower petals
22. Stringed instruments
26. Whittles
27. GM auto
28. Larval crabs
29. Bulky grayish-brown eagle
30. Transfer property
31. Shaver
32. Mirish
33. Heroic tale
34. Sheet of glass
37. Neural structures
39. Chimaeras
41. George, Jr.
44. East Indian annual erect herb
45. Fathers
46. Doctor of Education
48. Omnivorous mammal of Central and South America
49. Plum-shaped whitish to almost black fruit used for preserves
50. Basketball player
51. A companion (archaic)
52. State of Cambodia
53. Geological times
54. Infrequently used or experienced
55. A European river
56. Visually

Answers on Page 21

As I stated Lake Fork is currently about seven feet under pool level and water clarity is incredibly good across the expanse of the impoundment. Surface temps, at times, have been ranging from 88-92 degrees then we will have a nice segment of rain which drops it to the 85-87 level. These extremes have recently delegated where the bass have been holding with regard to structure. Shallow water temps have been much higher based upon lake location. Saw 92.5 just the other day on the main lake after several days of zero wind. Even with the surface temps are in the upper range, bass seem to be holding on the bottom relating to points, pond dams, ridges, roadbeds and hard structures. I have recently noticed when the surface temps are super high bass tend to be camped in the 12-16ft range. When the clouds and rain roll in, they drop back to the 20-24ft levels. As of this writing I have been catching bass shallow early and then fading back to the 20-24ft range on the same structures to tangle with the bruisers. Targeting these fish is the directive and your electronics will be the tool to getting the job done. I suspect as we roll into August the thermocline will rise up in the water column causing the bass to suspend. With the water temps being this warm at the moment, I really could see this happening at any time. Break lines have been the key to date as the big green fish just refuse to move up onto the tops of the humps and ridges. Could it happen in August, stay tuned.

Morning and late evening bass are no huge challenge as they will hit top water baits along with the squarebill crankbaits. Shad



colors are always recommended and focus these efforts on main lake points. This action will be short lived as the bite dissipates as the sun starts to peek over the tree lines. This is when you shift gears and tie on a deeper diving crankbait and back out on these points and focus on the 8-15ft depth range. Same colors apply during this time of the year and covering water will be the ticket to success. Once mid morning is upon you, this will be the time to break out the Carolina and Texas rigs to probe the 20-26ft depths using any plastic of your choice. Big worms usually will get the job done and I favor any version of red during the summer months. Redbug is hard to beat especially if you see the bass on the screen and decide to tackle them using a drop shot. I opt for 12lb line on the drop shot in this situation and use a 3/8 ounce

(See Pointing the finger....
Continued on Page 20)

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New Greater Roadrunner Conservation License Plate Available for Texas Drivers

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) launched the long-awaited greater roadrunner conservation license plate recently. The plate will raise money to help support and expand wildlife viewing programs and habitat conservation work in Texas.

"The greater roadrunner is an iconic image for Texans that can be seen in every county of the state and is one of the toughest birds around—it's even known for eating rattlesnakes," said Shelly Plante, TPWD's Nature Tourism manager. "It's also one of the few birds people recognize and remember the first time they see it, given its unique profile—all of which makes it the perfect symbol for Texas wildlife viewing and nature tourism."

The public was invited to vote for their favorite design for the new roadrunner license plate last April and the winning design is on the new plate. The design shows the roadrunner in a proud, confident stance, a signature look for this Texas bird.

Texas wildlife photographer Hector Astorga has generously donated the image appearing on the plate. In 2020, Hector was named one of the "We Will Not Be Tamed" ambassadors for the Texas

Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

"Wildlife photography opens people's eyes to what we need to protect," Astorga says. "That leads to conservation and preserving the habitat that these wild creatures need to survive."

Funding from sales of the roadrunner conservation license plate will help support and expand programs such as the Great Texas Wildlife Trails, Texas Paddling Trails and Great Texas Birding Classic, making it easier to find great places for Texans to view wildlife and enjoy nature.

The TPWD Conservation License Plate Program has raised \$10.5 million in the last 22 years for wildlife and habitat conservation in Texas, according to program marketing lead, Janis Johnson. The 11 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 conservation specialty plates cost \$30 a year, with \$22 supporting various programs and efforts. Plates

can be purchased for vehicles, RVs/travel trailers, trailers and motorcycles.

"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 fund conservation projects in Texas," added Plante.

Learn more about roadrunners in Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine: "Wild Thing: A Need for Speed".

To buy a roadrunner plate or for more information on TPWD's conservation licenses plates, visit www.conservationplate.org/roadrunner.



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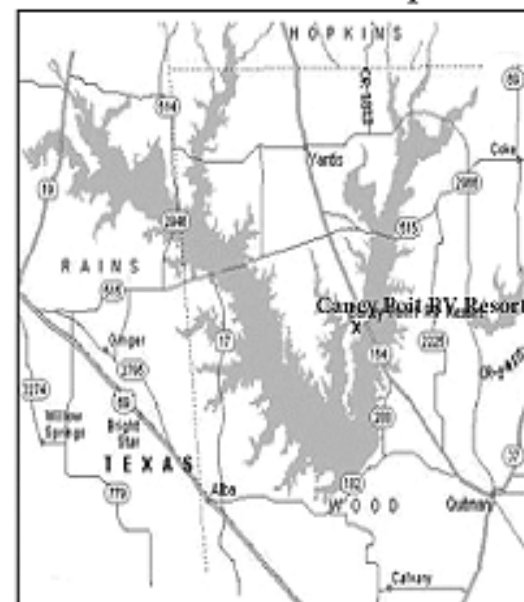
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"The Moon Report"

"Fork's Summertime Crappie and Bream"

By Terri Moon

It finally set in – those 100 degree days! The afternoons are way too hot for me – but, the mornings are very do-able! In fact, surprisingly pleasant!

The bite has been best around mid-morning. They are gradually moving deeper and this week they are biting 16-20 ft. in 20-30 ft. of water. I'm starting to see a thermocline set in at about 20 ft. It's been a very light bite.

You need to really watch your line or you're going to miss a lot of bites! It can be as subtle as a line twitch or if it goes slack, you need to instantly react. Stay in contact with your bait because loose line will lose fish! The crappie haven't been on a feeding frenzy so you really have to optimize every opportunity. The biggest mistake I see people make is once they set the hook, they will drop their rod tip leaving slack line and by the time they catch up to their bait, the fish is gone. So, keep that rod tip up and the line tight! A slow motion – no motion – presentation is working best for us right now so try real hard not to overwork your bait.

The colors working for us are Monkey Milk, Blue Ice – also Threadfin Shad or Caddo Morning. It just depends on the wa-



ter clarity in the area we're fishing and the brightness of the time of day.

The crappie have been in and out of the bridges and showing up on main lake points, humps and creek channel bends. Look for areas with drop-offs with access to shallower water. Look for balls of baitfish with your graph. This will give you an indication on how deep to fish.

Now as far as the bream fishing, it's been fun! I have to admit I've been sneaking out there on my days off just to catch "me" some! These are hands down MY favorite fish to catch and eat! It's really been a "hoot" watching the kids this month reel in these hard fighting bream! It's so cute to watch them make memories they'll remember for a lifetime!

We're finding them in 1-5 ft. around grasslines and willows. Then after the new and

full moon times, they will back off in 5-15 ft. in that same general area. Nightcrawlers or crickets on a slip bobber or tightlined will work. I also keep a jar of Berkley's Gulp 1" minnows in the boat in case I run across some nice bream in a brush pile!

Wish you all the best out there. Stay hydrated, plenty of sun block and a bigger hat and enjoy the summer.

Before I close, I have to send a "HUGE" thank you to Brian Sartin for always being there for me when my trolling motor quits me! He has saved the day for me so many times and just want him to know how much all of us guides appreciate him!

Also sending thoughts and prayers to all who are going through tough events in their lives. Wishing you all many blessings!

Practice C.P.R.



Lake Fork guide Randy Oldfield caught this nice hawg 7/28/22. Caught, Photo, & Released. C.P.R.



Peggy McWhorter caught this nice Lake Fork bass while fishing with husband Mike. She caught the largest. Out fished you again.L.O.L.



Marshall Higginbotham caught this Lake Fork bass while fishing with guide Randy Oldfield in July.C.P.R.



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TPWD Accepting 2022-23 Drawn Hunt Permit Applications

New opportunities and scenery are available to hunters this fall through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) drawn hunt permits program, now accepting applications for a shot at almost 10,000 permits in 62 hunt categories.

The permits allow drawn hunts on both public and private lands throughout Texas. Among the offerings available through the online system are hunts for white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorn, turkey, alligator, dove and guided packages for exotic species and bighorn sheep.

"This season, we will conduct drawings in 62 hunt categories," said Kelly Edmiston, TPWD Public Hunting Program Coordinator. "These drawings include selections for U.S. Forest Service Antlerless Deer Permits, both adult and youth hunts, 18 e-Postcard Selections for hunters using the \$48 Annual Public Hunting Permit (APH), and hunts conducted on 10 National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) in Texas."

Applicants for e-Postcard hunts and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Antlerless Deer Permits must have a current APH permit to apply.

New areas included in this year's drawn hunt catalog include the Muleshoe NWR and Powderhorn State Park. Devil's Sinkhole SNA, Lost Maples SP, Village Creek SP, and Ste-

phen F. Austin SP have re-entered the program this season. TPWD also created two new NWR hunt categories, for Antlerless Deer and Alligator.

An interactive map shows all drawn hunt opportunities by category or by area, and all applications, fee payments and permit issuance are handled electronically. To participate, applicants will need internet access, an email address and a credit or debit card. The customer ID number from the applicant's hunting or fishing license is the most effective way to access the system.

Application fees are \$3 or \$10 depending on the hunt category. Adult hunters that are selected may also need to pay a Special Permit fee of \$80 for regular hunts and \$130 for extended hunts. Some categories, such as the Youth-Only hunts, require no application fees or permit fees. Permits are open to resident and non-resident hunters alike.

The first application deadlines are in August. Aug. 1 is the deadline for the alligator hunt categories, pronghorn, and private lands dove hunts, and Aug. 15 is the deadline for archery

deer, general exotic and javelina. Application deadlines are the 1st and 15th of the month from Aug. 1 to Nov. 1. A full list of category deadlines can be found online. Hunters can apply up to 11:59 p.m. Central Time on the application deadline, and after the application is submitted, they can check their drawing status online at any time.

For more information or to get started in the application process visit the TPWD drawn hunts webpage. For questions, contact hunt@tpwd.texas.gov or call (512) 389-4505 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



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World's Largest Birding Tournament Raises Big Money for Texas Birds

Famous for being the biggest, longest, wildest birdwatching tournament in the country, this year's Great Texas Birding Classic raised \$45,000 for projects to benefit birds and other wildlife. Celebrating its 26th year, the tournament has raised \$1.1 million for on-the-ground conservation work to acquire, restore and enhance wildlife habitat.

More than 1,000 Texans from across the state participated in the all-ages competition to watch and listen for as many species of birds as possible.

"The Great Texas Birding Classic takes place during the spectacular spring migration and this year did not disappoint," said Shelly Plante, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Nature Tourism Manager. "Participants spotted a record 425 species of birds. The tournament gives people a fun way to spend time outside while raising money for a good cause."

Youth team mentor Nicole Biggerstaff said, "We were so impressed with the kids' ability to focus and identify birds. They were completely loving it. I real-

ly feel we've ignited a love for nature, the outdoors and birding in these young kids' lives!"

Winning Birding Classic teams get to select which projects to fund. The following is a list of this year's conservation grants awarded throughout Texas:

CENTRAL TEXAS

\$5,000 Intact Flock Lower Texas Coast Big Day Conservation Grant – Selected by Parking Lot Birders

Project: Kerrville Bird Observatory Network – submitted by Schreiner University, City of Kerrville, Riverside Nature Center, Nobilitea, Texan by Nature

Project Location: Kerrville, Kerr County

\$5,000 State Park Conservation Grant – Selected by Armadillo by Morning

Project: Prairie Preservation, submitted by Mother Neff State Park Association
Project Location: Mother Neff State Park, west of Moody, Coryell County

\$1,000 Heart of Texas East Big Sit! Conservation Grant – Selected by Birding on Broadmeade

Project: Enhancing Circle Acres Nature Preserve Grassland and Wetland Habi-

tats – submitted by Ecology Action of Texas

Project Location: Austin, Travis County
DALLAS/FORT WORTH AND EAST TEXAS

\$5,000 Lone Star Bird Award Conservation Grant – Selected by Shore I Saw It
Project: Birding Platform at Gazebo Nature Preserve (at Lake Livingston Dam), submitted by Piney Woods Lakes Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist

Project Location: Livingston, Polk County

\$1,000 Prairies and Pineywoods West Big Sit! Conservation Grant – Selected by Shore I Saw It

Project: Trinity River Audubon Center-Prairie Restoration – submitted by Trinity River Audubon Center

Project Location: Dallas, Dallas County
GULF COAST

\$10,000 Dispersed Flock Statewide Big Day Conservation Grant – Selected by Two Eagles & a Chick, sponsored by Deep South Marine, LLC

(See World's Largest Birding.....

Continued on Page 13)



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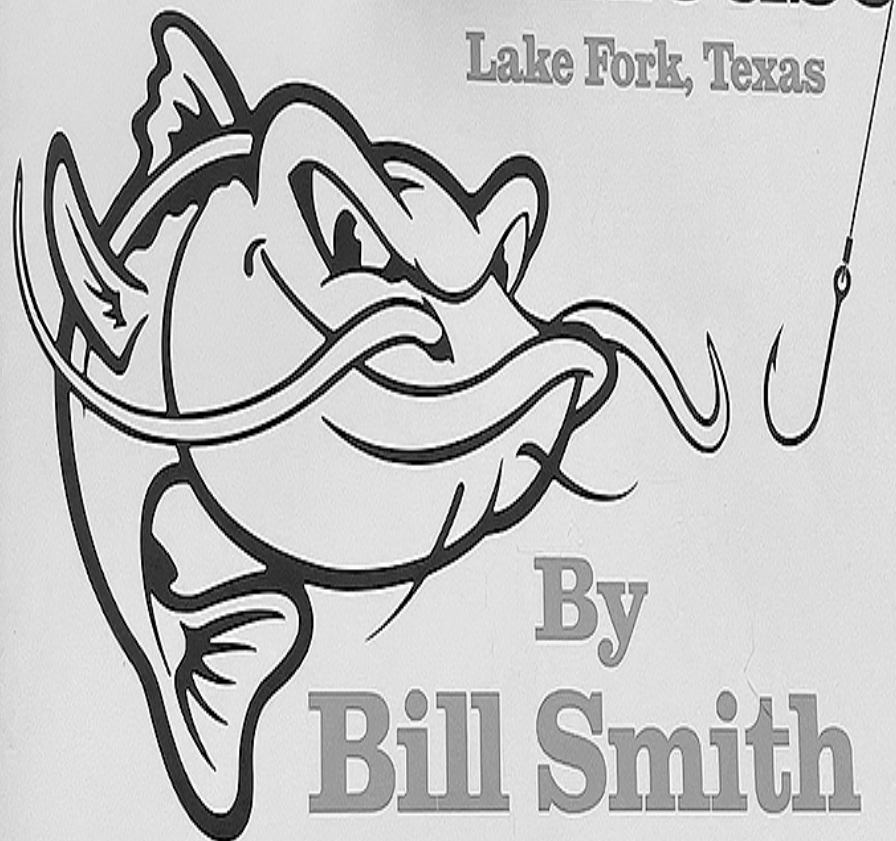
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2nd Place \$780.00
3rd Place \$520.00
4th Place \$260.00
5th ~ 10th \$100.00



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



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

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Oct. 15, 2022.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Oct. 22, 2022.
4. Check in times: Fri., Oct. 21, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Oct. 22, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at Oak Ridge Marina.
5. To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
6. Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station). NO FISHING from midnight till start time.
7. Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer allowed).
8. Contestants must fish from a boat. NO-bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
10. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
12. Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (or state law limits at the time of the tournament).
13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
14. Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.
15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
16. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
18. Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of TTB and will be released (with the exception of trophy

- or dead fish).
19. In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following positions will be combined and evenly divided between the tying contestants.
20. Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to the tournament.
21. Contestants may fish with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.
22. Use of alcoholic beverages or controlled drugs are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.
23. Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.
24. Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon TTB's effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualification from this and all future TTB tournaments.
25. Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.
26. All protests must be registered in writing with the tournament judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.
27. All boats must be 18 ft. in length or longer. An aerated livewell is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish.
28. All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this TTB event.
29. Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Oct. 15, 2022 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (Optional). Print clearly.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Having read and understood all the tournament rules, by my signature I agree to accept all decisions of the judges final, by my signature I waive, release and hold harmless all members, officials and sponsors of any and all alleged liabilities to me or my equipment.

Contestants Signature _____

Minor's Release: Signed by _____

Parent/Guardian _____

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Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Chk# _____

World's Largest Birding Tournament Raises Big Money for Texas Birds *(Continued from Page 11)*

Project: Indiangrass Preserve Bird Blind and Wetland Restoration Project – submitted by Coastal Prairie Conservancy
Project Location: northwest of Houston (near Waller), Waller County

\$5,000 Intact Flock Central Texas Coast Big Day Conservation Grant – Selected by Party Fowl

Project: Packery Channel Oak Motte Sanctuary – submitted by Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi

Project Location: Corpus Christi, Nueces County

\$6,000 Total Grants:

\$5,000 Sunrise to Noon Conservation Grant – Selected by Swarovski Wandering Hawks, sponsored by Swarovski Optik, North America

\$1,000 Central Texas Coast Big Sit! Conservation Grant – Selected by Swarovski Optik Sitting Hawks, sponsored by Swarovski Optik, North America

Project: Polliwog Pond – submitted by Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi
Project Location: Corpus Christi, Nueces County

\$1,000 Adult Statewide Big Day Dis-

persed Flock Conservation Grant – Selected by Swarovski Optik Scattered Hawks, sponsored by Swarovski Optik, North America

Project: Seabourne Creek Nature Park-Wetland Enhancements – submitted by Coastal Prairie Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist

Project Location: Rosenberg, Fort Bend County

\$1,000 Upper Texas Coast Big Sit! Conservation Grant – Selected by Centerpoint Wirebirds, sponsored by Centerpoint Energy

Project: Creation of Bird Viewing Area with Bird Bath/Water Feature at Bayside Regional Park – submitted by Galveston Bay Area Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist

Project Location: Bacliff, Galveston County

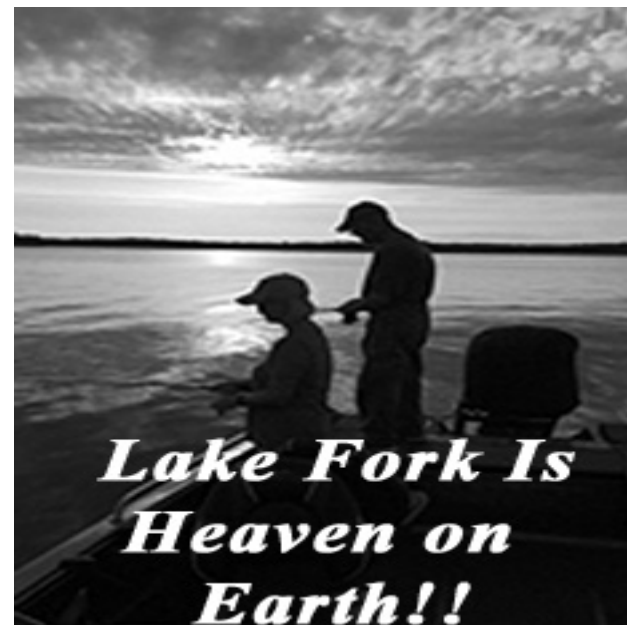
WEST TEXAS

\$5,000 Intact Flock Toyota Upper Texas Coast Big Day Conservation Grant – Selected by Free Falling Falcons

Project: BJ Bishop Wetlands: Creating Space for Birds and People – submitted

by Big Bend Conservation Alliance
Project Location: Presidio, Presidio County

This event is made possible by team sponsorships and registration fees, donations from event sponsors Toyota and Texas Ornithological Society, and awards ceremony sponsor, Audubon Texas. For more information, visit the TPWD Great Texas Birding Classic page





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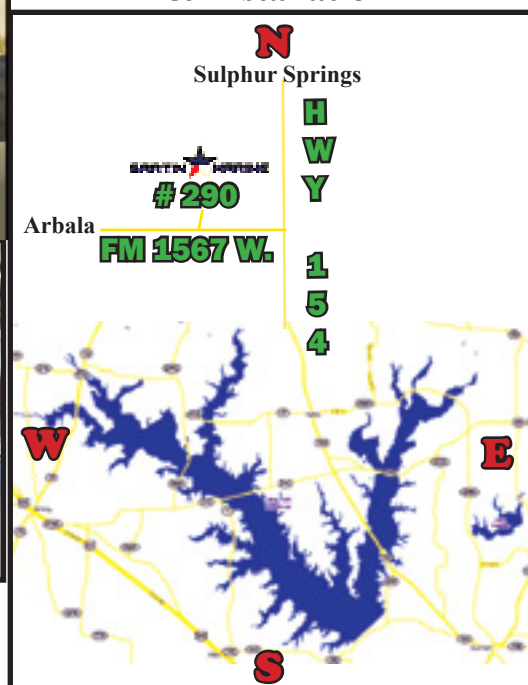
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Palo Duro Began Closing Four Trails During Extreme Heat Days for Visitor's Safety

To curb the risk for heat exposure to visitors, Palo Duro Canyon State Park began closing select trails between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. when the National Weather Service issues heat advisories for the area.

Extreme heat at Palo Duro Canyon State Park led to 47 recent rescue calls in under 48 hours. Every year, the park experiences a slew of distress calls during the hot summer months, stretching park staff and emergency services thin.

"Days when Palo Duro Canyon sees extreme heat are not only dangerous for visitors, but also our first responders from around the community," said Joe Allen, Superintendent of Palo Duro Canyon State Park. "This change will emphasize safe recreation in the heat and reduce the demand on fire and rescue teams."

The trails subject to closure include Lighthouse; Comanche; Givens, Spicer,

Lowry (GSL); and Rock Garden. These trails historically have had the most heat-related incidents and provide minimal shade for hikers. Closures will be posted in advance on the Palo Duro Canyon State Park Facebook page and visitors will be able to access the trails during the cooler portions of the day.

"Our number one priority is the safety of our visitors and staff," added Allen. "This change will help protect our visitors during the most dangerous part of the day on days with elevated risk. Fortunately, visitors will be able to experience the canyon on other trails during the heat of the day and all trails during the cooler times of the day."

During these closures, there continue to be numerous other trails and recreational opportunities to explore.

"Trails like Rojo Grande and Paseo del Rio are more shaded and offer a great experience to guests," said Allen. "The

Lighthouse formation is observable from the Visitor Center and Canyon Gallery's viewing scope from the comfort of air conditioning. Visitors to the park will still have a great experience and we hope a safe one."

The park has a longstanding partnership with Texas Tech University's West Texas Mesonet project and the National Weather Service to collect temperature data daily on both the top rim and floor of the canyon. The data collection has produced beneficial information over time including a real-time weather dashboard at the park Visitor Center.

In 2018, data collection led the National Weather Service to classify Palo Duro Canyon State Park as its' own unique weather zone. The canyon represents a stand-alone microenvironment where weather events are unique. Heat radiates from the sun directly and from the rocks and soil on the canyon floor.



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Join Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine's Great Outdoor Scavenger Hunt for Fun Summer Adventure

Summer's going by fast but there's still time to jump in the car for an unforgettable road trip, near home or across the state.

The Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine's Great Outdoor Scavenger Hunt (GOSH) returns for a third year of carefree fun across Texas. Travel to various locations on the magazine's list, take a selfie and post it with the hashtag #GOSH2022. Discover history, wildlife, parks, waterways and quirky attractions — plus some classic eateries to visit and an iconic Texas soundtrack on Spotify and Apple Music as a "bonus" to enjoy along the way.

The GOSH 2022 challenge ends at midnight on Labor Day, Sept. 5.

Select from seven regions: Dallas, Central Texas, Houston, East Texas, Panhandle, South Texas and West Texas. Register on the Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine website or the contest page, then find the spot, take a smiling selfie and tag it on Twitter or Instagram with #GOSH2022. Participants can also post and tag it on the magazine's Facebook page. Complete one or all GOSH activities.

"We are so ready to hit the road for some fun," says Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine editor Russell Roe. "GOSH inspires those day trips that make lifelong memories. Pack the ice chest and your swimsuits and hit the road for a summer of

fun. Share selfies everywhere you go, and you'll have bragging rights for being great Texas adventurers."

East Texas road trippers can celebrate the "birthplace of boogie woogie" by taking a selfie at the Ginocchio Hotel's commemorative marker in Marshall, then head over to the Children's Wading Pool at Tyler State Park for a cool-off. Fill up on your favorite smoked meat at Stanley's, then walk it off on shady trails at Mission Tejas State Park, Lake o' the Pines or Atlanta State Park. All the details can be found at GOSH 22 East Texas Region.

In the Dallas area, take selfies on the terraced steps at the Fort Worth Water Gardens and in front of the family's 1876 farmhouse at Penn Farm at Cedar Hill State Park. Stop in at Babe's Chicken Dinner House to see the electro-magnetic wave contraption and go take a gander at the quirky Chairy Orchard in Denton. Explore the post hospital at Fort Richardson State Park and Historic Site. Check out more locations for the Dallas area at GOSH 2022 Dallas Region.

In Central Texas, learn about the Great Western Cattle Drive at Western Trail Heritage Park in Bandera. Take a refreshing break in the pool at Lockhart State Park and find Bear Creek Falls at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve. Search for mermaid statues all around San Marcos and the

Willie Nelson statue in Austin. Step under the huge cherry pie slice sculpture over the door to indulge yourself at the Texas Pie Company in Kyle. Visit GOSH 2022 Central Texas Region for more information.

In the Houston area, head to the five miles of coastline at Sea Rim State Park and snap your selfie on the nature boardwalk. Enjoy a musical interlude with Janis Joplin's Porsche replica in Port Arthur and follow the Father of Texas to Stephen F. Austin State Park in San Felipe. Have some Blue Bell from the factory in Brenham while you enjoy the world's longest car wash at Buc-ee's in Katy. GOSH 2022 Houston Area has more details.

In the Panhandle, check out the Texas State Longhorn Herd, then snap a selfie under the "Texas" archway at the Pioneer Amphitheater at Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Spend a day in nearby Canyon exploring the exhibits at Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. At Lake Fryer, or camp out and enjoy the fishing. Movie buffs will enjoy seeing the Tower Station in Shamrock for a glimpse at the inspiration for a location in Pixar's Cars. For more information about GOSH 22 locations in the Panhandle, check out GOSH 2022 Panhandle Region.

In South Texas, wildlife abounds, so follow the *(See Great Outdoors Scavenger ... Continued on Page 18)*

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2022 Skeeter FXR20 APEX

YAMAHA TECHNICIAN IN HOUSEwww.diamondsportsmarine.com**Great Outdoor Scavenger Hunt** *(Continued from Page 17)*

birds to Quinta Mazatlan, one of nine World Birding Center spots in the region and snap a selfie by the ornately carved door. Sea Turtle Inc. on South Padre Island is a must-see for up-close experiences, then head over to the Laguna Madre Nature Trail's boardwalk to walk among roseate spoonbills and herons. Snap a selfie at world's largest killer bee statue in Hidalgo. Visit GOSH 2022 South Texas Region for more information.

In West Texas, Balmorhea is back after repairs, so it's time to swim with the fish in the state park's incredible spring-fed pool.

The Barton Warnock Visitor Center, at the eastern entrance of Big Bend Ranch State Park, is newly renovated or find the "best little bird blind in Texas" at Davis Mountains State Park. Turn the camera around to place yourself among your musical heroes at the Printco Building mural in Alpine. Visit GOSH 2022 West Texas for more information.

See how to enter, rules, where to upload your selfies and more information on challenge locations regionally or statewide at TPWD GOSH 2022.

Complete all the activities in a region and you'll get a handsome,

downloadable certificate commemorating your achievement, along with a shout-out in a future issue of Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine, in which we'll salute our GOSH participants. State-wide completers win a chance at other prizes.

Regional graphics highlighting GOSH challenge locations across Texas can be found on the TPWD Flickr Page.

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

By Carolyn West, LFSA President

July has been a brutal month for Lake Fork. Breaking one high temperature record after another has caused evaporation from this great reservoir. On a positive note, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. We are seeing families enjoying the newly created "sandbars" with their children swimming and floating as they picnic.

Another noticeable change is the growth of vegetation seen along the shoreline behind homes and around docks. I recently met with Jake Norman, Division Supervisor of Texas Parks and Wildlife and two technicians from the Tyler Fisheries. I was part of a discussion a couple of weeks ago about the huge amount of grass and weeds growing along the shorelines in residential areas and there were suggestions that the grass could be removed or cut down. Jake remarked that he had calls from landowners asking for advice about controlling the grasses. He reminded them that he recognizes the growth may be thick and high but that too is part of Lake Fork. He would suggest if the grass has surrounded a dock and made it difficult to use the dock, clearing enough for access and use of the dock would be understood. However, he said Texas Parks and Wildlife wants the vegetation to stay in place elsewhere. It should not be mowed, chopped, or removed. When the lake level returns to normal, the grasses will be good for the lake. After all, it is habitat for the fish, helps to prevent erosion and is a natural occurrence as the lake changes.

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association has traditionally been a sponsor of a raffle at the local tournaments as our main source of revenue annually. We have a Spring Raffle and a Fall Raffle. During our Spring Raffle 2022, we noticed a change in the participation from those attending the Bass Tournaments. So many comments were made about the attendees having to limit their

spending due to the rising cost of gas, food, and incidentals. We understand completely as we saw the costs of our raffled items increase. LFSA has made the decision to forego the Fall Raffle and reconsider in 2023. If the economy returns to a healthier state, we will love to be back at the tournaments with our raffle greeting the tournament entrants and their families as we have for many years.

Currently, our membership is in the procurement stage of the Lake Fork Habitat Enhancement Project as a result of a grant awarded to us through the Habitat and Angler Access Program from TPWD. A newly designed Fragment Seed Generator will be used to grow vegetation and harvest the seeds for distribution in Lake Fork.

Floating planters will be deployed with grasses such as Coontail. Local high school greenhouses will be used to grow vegetation to be planted in Lake Fork by the Agriculture students. This project has been planned for almost a year and finally, all hurdles have been solved and when the schools open for the new school year, LFSA will proudly work with the students to build the structures and grow the grasses.

Lake Fork was recently chosen by the Tyler NBC Channel KETK to be featured on their Small Town Texas series. The crew produced a nice tribute to the lake and as part of the live broadcast, Lake Fork Sportsman's Association had a brief chance to talk about our mission and projects. We were proud to be a part of the series.



Lake Fork Sportsman's Association
Preserving The Legend

TACKLE DONATIONS NEEDED
Rods, reels, tackle, and fishing-related equipment are needed to support the High School Fishing Tackle Program sponsored by Lake Fork Sportsman's Association. LFSA requests donations of new and used fishing articles that will be cleaned, assembled, and refurbished. Items will be further donated to area high school fishing teams.
Call Pat Kostial, 760-458-7885 or Terry Long, 214-206-7504 for more information or to arrange a donation.



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"Pointing the Finger at the Weather!" (Continued from Page 6)

weight on calm days, 1/2 ounce weight on the windy outings. If you are strictly after the biggest fish in any school, break out the one ounce football jig with matching trailer and hang on for dear life when the rod tip loads up. Fluorocarbon lines in the 17-20lb range work well for this application and make sure you use the San Diego Jam knot to reduce break offs. As a matter of fact, use the jam knot on all line sizes of fluorocarbon line. It will be a very smart move.

The other half of this deep bass equation equates to these suspended fish. These are much tougher to catch and require great patience both in locating them and putting them into the boat. Again, the electronics play a huge roll in determining where

these fish are holding in the water column and then there is the challenge of matching the right lure with the conditions. If it is windy on that given day, choose the flutter spoon as your means of attack. Size may matter so try smaller versions first then gravitate to the magnum beast if the bite is good. Colors may also vary based upon cloud cover, silver on clear days and gold when the light level is much lower. If there is no wind period, tie on a magnum fluke in any shad color using a 7/0 hook only. In both cases, experiment with the countdown to establish the correct depth range of the given lure. Remember that sequence when a toad grabs hold of the bait and stretches your line into oblivion.

I hope this helps and gives you a starting point on your Lake Fork adventure. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in August searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in August and some in September. 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 would also like to thank Okuma Fishing USA, Talon Lures 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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Texas Trails Bassmaster of Lake Fork

By Kenny LaDuke

Lake Hawkins was the site of the Texas Trails Bassmasters 8th tournament of the 2022 season.

It has been a hot summer already in Texas with multiple days over 100 degrees which can make the fishing a little difficult but if you can make the sacrifices and get on the water early and enjoy the cooler morning temperatures, it is always rewarding. Reports of a lot of smaller fish being caught seemed to be the overall consensus and the bigger fish being elusive but a few anglers were able to catch some and bring them to the scales.

Guest Ryan Robinett brought in 4 fish for the win with a weight of 9.93 Lbs. Kenny LaDuke weighed in 4 fish at 7.19 lbs for 2nd place. Chad Marsh 3rd place with 3 fish for 7.02 Lbs. Kevin Bates brought in the biggest fish of the day at 4.02 lbs.

Texas Trails Bassmasters is a club around Lake Fork, Texas and they fish surrounding lakes with one tournament a month (mostly on Sat.) and a two day

club championship. If you are an angler that is looking for a great group of fellow outdoorsmen, then please feel free to contact me, Kenny LaDuke, or Don Hampton and join our club. We have had several new members join

this year and you could be part of the fun.

Come out and fish our open on Lake Fork on October 22, 2022. Great fun and raffle prizes will be available. See ad on Page 12 for more information and entry form.

Just The Right Answers

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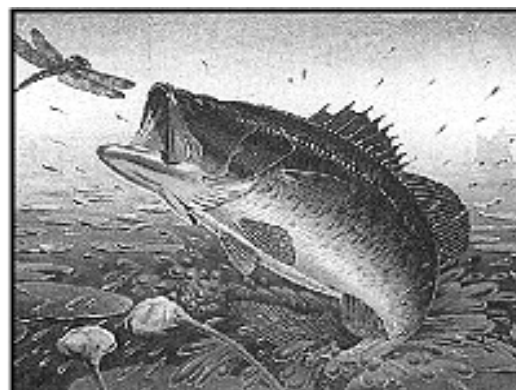
Health Search

There are 14 parts of the human body 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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EARLOBE
FINGER
HAIR
HEART
KIDNEY
KNEECAP

NOSE
PELVIS
SKIN
THROAT
TOENAIL
TONGUE
WRIST

A C E N K I N S R I A H
R W R I S T O E E N I A
I A H G E R E U G N O R
F Y E N D I K O N E M T
P E A L V S E B I O L E
E A R B O T L I F A I N
V E T O N E O M D B A D
L I R V E E C E S O N I
I M H E M R A T O M E K
S K T A O R H T E P O F
E S O K D U P G N A T I
N L N I B T E H O C H N
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--A Sinking Feeling--While patrolling along the Trinity River, a Houston County game warden saw some unusual tire marks near the riverbank. A month later, he was notified that local authorities had spotted a partially submerged vehicle in the river where he had previously spotted the tire marks. Leon County game wardens then responded by boat in order to assist with the truck's

recovery. After further inspection, the truck was found to be stolen out of Brazos County a month prior. The investigation is still ongoing.

--Don't Bother Knockin'-- An Orange County game warden received a call from a Bridge City resident who had discovered a large alligator on their front porch. At this point, there was no time to refer the resident to an animal control technician, so the warden responded himself. When he arrived, he discovered that the home was located next to a drainage

ditch that connected to a nearby marsh. The resident's fence had been damaged during a recent thunderstorm, allowing the alligator access to the area. The warden was able to capture the gator, which measured close to eight feet, and relocated it to a marsh within a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Wildlife Management Area.

--Ya Snooze Ya Lose--While patrolling around Lake Somerville, a Washington County game warden noticed a vehicle parked in the road with its flashers on.

(Continued on Page 24)

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Shake Your Pork Chop Paranoia

By Sue Hampton

In the quest for a healthier lifestyle, many people limit their consumption of meat, thinking it contains high amounts of saturated fat and cholesterol. However, in most instances that's not the case at all. Pork, for example, despite its bad reputation is one of the healthiest meats out there. Did you know that a three-ounce serving of pork tenderloin – the leanest cut – contains only 139 calories and 4.1 grams of fat, amounts comparable to a skinless chicken breast? Pork



There's no need to shun meats like pork in order to stay healthy. Enjoy this delicious pork recipe!

is called a "white meat" because of its color as well as its low fat content.

Try this delicious pork recipe!

Pan-Seared Loin of Pork With Derry Apple Relish

- 1 – 2-pound boneless loin of pork trimmed of excess fat
 3 tablespoons butter
 1 onion, diced
 ¼ cup all-purpose flour, seasoned with salt and pepper
 1 tablespoon safflower oil
 2 Granny Smith apples, cored and sliced
 1 rib celery, diced fine
 1 teaspoon finely chopped sage
 ½ teaspoon chopped rosemary
 ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 2 teaspoons orange zest
 1-1/2 cups apple cider
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper (fresh basil leaves, for garnish)
1. Slice pork into eight equal pieces.
 2. In a heavy-bottomed skillet, over medium heat, melt butter. Add onion and celery, sweat, without coloring, two minutes. Transfer to 2-quart casserole dish.
 3. Dust pork pieces with seasoned flour.
 4. In a skillet, over high heat, sear pork pieces in the oil. Remove.
 5. Arrange apples on top of onion in the

casserole dish. Add the pork, mixed with the remaining ingredients.

6. Bring to a boil. Cover, lower heat and simmer for one hour.

7. Transfer the pork, apple and onions to a serving platter. Reduce the cooking liquid by half. Strain and pour over the pork. Garnish with fresh basil leaves.





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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

When the warden approached the vehicle, he noticed that the subject inside had fallen asleep. Upon waking the person, the warden asked him to step out of the vehicle, revealing a meth pipe in plain view. The subject was then detained, and a search was performed on the vehicle. The search turned up almost 6 grams of suspected meth, tablets of suspected Xanax and marijuana, along with multiple forms of paraphernalia. The subject was taken into custody and multiple citations were issued.

--**Ghosted**--Lake Belton is known as a great spot for jugline fishing. However, this can sometimes cause problems with "ghost fishing", killing fish and littering in the lake. A Bell County game warden cleaned up over 40 improperly marked or derelict juglines along the north end of the lake. Unfortunately, there were many juglines that the warden had to leave behind as his boat couldn't store any more. As a result of his clean-up effort, one 20" and one 16" blue catfish were returned to the lake. Multiple citations were issued to all individuals identified with illegal juglines. More patrols will be scheduled to pick up remaining equipment and citations will be issued.

--**Wait Until Your Mother Hears About This!**--A McLennan County game warden contacted a subject that had been identified through a Face-

book post sent to him by a Colorado game warden. The post was made in December of 2019 but then quickly deleted. In the post the subject admitting to shooting ducks over the limit and wounding several more. The same individual had been cited earlier in 2020 for duck hunting a week early. The subject was eventually located after contacting his mother. When the game warden presented the subject with the Facebook post, he confessed to shooting four red heads and two mallards over the limit the day the post was made. He then confessed to there being a second individual with him that day that shot two mallards and three Wigeons over his limit. Contact was made with the second subject and he also complied, giving a full confession. Both claimed they read the Outdoor Annual incorrectly. Citations were issued and restitution was assigned.

--**Ditch and Pitch**--A Burleson County game warden was dispatched to a call of a man walk-

ing down a road yelling for help. More information then came in regarding a single roll-over accident near the same location. The game warden was the first on scene and discovered a vehicle in the roadway with its front smashed in. Witnesses still on scene with the vehicle said that the driver left on foot. Another vehicle was found in the ditch nearby with the driver still inside. The game warden dispatched medics to the area. Once backup arrived, the warden drove the immediate area searching for the man who fled the scene. A man fitting the description was located at a nearby gas station. The man's story didn't make sense, but he did admit to drinking that night. The man had seatbelt burns on his stomach and chest. The witnesses to the accident were brought over for a drive-by ID and confirmed he was the individual they had seen leaving the scene. The incident was handed over to DPS and charges are pending.

(Continued on Next Page)

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--**Bare Necessities**--While patrolling near Lake Sam Rayburn, a Sabine County game warden noticed a naked man running across the road from the water into a makeshift tent. The man soon emerged wearing an oversized pair of pants. The warden then contacted dispatch, who advised that the subject was wanted on three felony warrants out of Sabine County. The man's actions and demeanor led the warden to ask a female subject with the man for consent to search their vehicle but was denied. A canine officer was called and upon arriving to the scene quickly alerted to the presence of narcotics. Meth, along with the man's wallet, was located inside a pair of pants in a bookbag found in the bed of the truck. He was arrested and taken to Sabine County Jail. The case is pending.

--**Having a Baaaad Day**--Game wardens were conducting water safety patrols of Lake Amistad when they encountered a baby goat in the water near shore. The goat had fallen into the lake and due to a broken leg was unable to get back out. The game wardens found the goat in the nick of time and saved it from potential starvation or drowning.

--**Grin and Bear It**--A Titus County game warden and a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist responded to a call about a black bear

that had been photographed from a homeowner's back porch. This was one of five bears that had been photographed in the northeast Texas region this season alone.

--**Pier Pressure**--Two Polk County game wardens were patrolling Lake Livingston when they began watching a vessel as it approached a boat ramp nearby. Onboard, the male operating the boat switched places with a female subject before switching again once they approached the dock. When the wardens contacted the male subject, they detected a strong smell of alcohol. A standard field sobriety test was conducted, and the male was arrested for Boating While Intoxicated. His charges were enhanced to a Class A misdemeanor due to this being his second intoxication offense. Charges are pending.

--**Whiskey River**--While patrolling the Neches River, a Hardin County game warden stopped a small aluminum boat for not displaying navigation lights. Three men were in the boat, one of whom was passed out on the floor of the boat. The warden performed a water safety inspection and in addition to there not being enough life jackets on board, the warden found beer cans and whiskey bottles strewn about the boat. The boat's operator admitted that he had consumed several beers, and had taken a couple of shots

of whiskey, prior to operating the boat. The warden conducted a standard field sobriety test once the subject was on shore. The man operating the boat was placed under arrest for Boating While Intoxicated and then booked into the Harden County Jail. His case is pending.

--**Up to the Gills in Trouble**--After observing signs of possible illegal gill netting activities along the Nueces River, game wardens patrolled the area for two days before observing two men launching a small paddle boat into the river. The men had no fishing poles but instead had two large buckets with lids. The wardens walked the shoreline, following the boat for over a mile, obtaining video of the individuals actively gill netting from the concealment of brush. The men attempted to hide the gill nets in the buckets upriver, prior to loading up the boat. Once the boat was loaded, one of the subjects returned to retrieve the buckets. Wardens contacted the men and found 200 yards of gill net along with six large alligator gar. The boat and illegal fishing devices were seized. Multiple cases were filed including Over the Daily Bag Limit on alligator gar, Illegal Means and Methods and Insufficient Number of PFDs. One of the men had been caught by wardens before for the same violations.

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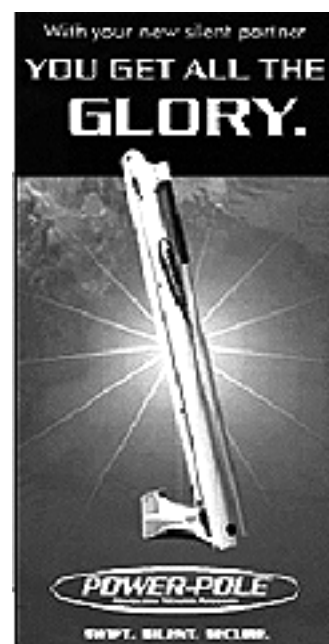
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- Oct. 8 ~ Maddog
Oak Ridge Marina
- Oct. 15&16~ Berkley
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