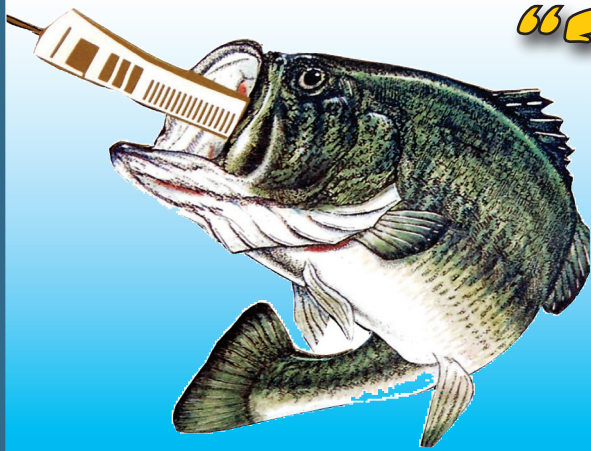


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1 Section

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Vol. 24

January, 2023

No. 281



Matt, from Oklahoma, was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this "Big 'Un" while doing a little night fishing on December 9, 2022. C.P.R.

Toyota ShareLunker Program Launches 37th Season

Anglers across Texas and the nation have their calendars marked for opening day of a new Toyota ShareLunker season. The 37th season kicks off New Year's Day as anglers cast their lines in hopes of landing a Legacy Lunker largemouth bass (13-plus pounds) in Texas' world-class fisheries. The Toyota ShareLunker program has played an integral part in making Texas a destination for hundreds of thousands of anglers in search of this prized sport fish. Grabbing a pole, hitting the water and hauling in a 13-pound plus large-mouth bass would be a great way to jumpstart the new year. The cast of the line, the lure landing just right on the water and a strike from a possible fish of a lifetime is what many anglers strive to experience. (See Toyota ShareLunker.. Continued on Page 11)



"Eagles are flying on Lake Fork!" The Lake Fork Mid-Winter Survey will be held on the morning of January 7th and 8th from 8 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Meeting location will be Oak Ridge Marina on Lake Fork. As in previous years, volunteers will meet early for breakfast and enjoy sharing eagle stories and fellowship. Don't forget those cameras and binoculars. (Lake Fork Eagles, Photos by Don Hampton, Fisherman's Guide News)



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"Bubba's Making a Naughty or Nice Shopping List for Next Year!"

By Don Hampton

Twas the season, and as far as Bubba is concerned it's "Tis the season," still. While everyone else was making a list of New Year's resolutions, Bubba is making out his Christmas shopping list for December, 2023. While a resolution for the New Year is made to improve one's character or habits, Bubba's list is going to make better shoppers next year out of his family and friends.

Just like Santa, he has a list and he is checking it twice to see exactly who shopped naughty or nice for him. For those that bought Bubba "Fishing Stuff" their names are going on the nice list. This will be very beneficial for these individuals because he'll shop for them very meticulously and with much thought and care. I would believe his motives for this are truly self-serving.

His two favorites and on the top of his 2022 nice list were Bubbette and Bubba, Jr. They know him real well and know about the list he makes after Christmas each year. They always know just the right items to buy him. It also makes shopping for him real easy. Each year they buy him gift certificates so he can go buy his own "Fishing Stuff". Bubba keeps their names on the top of his list.

For those individuals that gave Bubba a present that didn't include "Fishing Stuff" and bought him

items that just cannot or will not fit into his way of life or thinking, well, they will find their name on his naughty list.

I quoted the old cliché to Bubba, "It's not the gift that counts but the thought!" Of course he quoted me back one of his own, "Well, they should have put a little more thought into these," he said holding up a paisley tie and a potted plant. On those two presents I had to agree with him.

I've known him longer than anyone and I haven't seen him in a tie for at least 30 years. I've gone to weddings, graduations, funerals, baptisms, and even a couple of bar mitzvahs with him and he has never worn a tie. He cleans up pretty nicely but you can't force him to wear a tie. He has even informed me that when the good Lord takes him he will not be wearing a tie. I'd say he feels pretty strongly about a tie.

Bubba is the type that wouldn't say anything to the person that gave a present to him and he wouldn't even try to take something back to a store but he always seems to find a good use for everything. So don't be surprised or laugh when you see his boat tied up to a stump on Lake Fork with a paisley tie, unless you're the one on his naughty list.

When it came to the potted plant, this really spurred my curiosity. Whoever gave Bubba this surely didn't know about his naughty list. I even had the pleasure

of watching him open this one. What really surprised me at first was how many times he checked the name card. I asked him later why he kept checking the name card and he explained, "The first three times I was just making sure it wasn't meant for Bubbette and the fourth time I wanted to make sure I remembered who sent that to me!" I'm going shopping with Bubba next year just to see what that individual is going to get. Knowing Bubba the way I do it will probably be purchased at a gas station.

I did ask Bubba what his plans were for the potted plant just because I have one of those inquiring minds and you know how that goes. He had two options he was going to go with. First he was going to see if Bubbette wanted it, but since she doesn't really have a green thumb either I expect it will go to Bubba's second option. He's going to put some earthworms in it, keep the soil moist, put some coffee grounds in it occasionally so the worms will reproduce. That way he'll have plenty of bait for bream fishing in the summer.

If he does do the latter though, wouldn't that mean that person should be transferred to the nice list because technically it is now "Fishing Stuff". If that is the case and he uses the tie the way he plans to, shouldn't that person's name be transferred to the nice list. Oh well, I guess it really is the thought that counts.

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

Think Time at The Same Location Is Your Best Advertisement;
Don't Advertise!

Think Everyone Knows You Have Trained Staff;
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Chronic Wasting Disease Detected at a High Fence Release Site in Kaufman County

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was detected on a high fence release site in Kaufman County. This is the first positive detection of CWD in the county.

The white-tailed buck, harvested at a high-fence release site located in a CWD Surveillance Zone, was delivered to a Hunt County CWD check station in compliance with surveillance zone requirements. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) received notice of the CWD-positive test result from the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) on Nov. 14.

Prior to this detection, the high-fence release site was identified as a "trace herd" property to the Hunt County CWD-positive deer breeding facility reported on March 31, 2021, meaning deer were transferred from the Hunt County facility to this release site prior to discovery of CWD in that facility. Plans to conduct additional CWD investigations are underway.

"The incubation period of CWD can span years, creating disease detection and man-

agement challenges as seen in this recent detection," said Andy Schwartz, TAHC Executive Director and State Veterinarian.

Animal health and wildlife officials will continue investigations to determine the extent of the disease within the property and mitigate risks to Texas' CWD-susceptible species. Adequate surveillance and quick detection of CWD can help mitigate the disease's spread.

"The discovery of CWD on this ranch is an unfortunate situation that TPWD and TAHC take very seriously," said John Silovsky, TPWD Wildlife Division Director. "Both agencies will respond appropriately to this matter to protect the state's susceptible species from further disease exposure. Hunters are reminded of the requirement to bring their harvested deer to the check station within 48 hours of harvest."

First recognized in 1967 in captive mule deer in Colorado, CWD has since been documented in captive and/or free-ranging deer in 30 states and three Canadian provinces. To date, 420 captive or free-ranging cervids — including white-tailed deer, mule deer,

red deer, and elk — in 17 Texas counties have tested positive for CWD. For more information on previous detections visit the CWD page on the TPWD website.

Testing for CWD allows wildlife biologists and animal health officials to get a clearer picture of the prevalence and distribution of the disease across Texas. Proactive monitoring improves the state's response time to a CWD detection and can greatly reduce the risk of the disease further spreading to neighboring captive and free-ranging populations.

This confirmation is a good reminder to those hunting in CWD surveillance and containment zones to know the submission requirements for CWD susceptible species. Additionally, hunters outside of established surveillance and containment zones are encouraged to voluntarily submit their harvest for testing at a check station, for free, before heading home from the field. A map of TPWD check stations for all CWD zones can be found on the TPWD website.

For more information about CWD, visit the TPWD web site or the TAHC web site.

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Public Access Lease Opens for Guadalupe River Trout Fishing

Texas anglers have access to a prime location for rainbow trout fishing during the cold weather stocking season through a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) "no fee" public access lease on the Guadalupe River.

Camp Huaco Springs, located between New Braunfels and Sattler, features nearly a half-mile of bank access along alternating pools and riffles on the Guadalupe River. Anglers can use the bank, which is gently sloped and rocky, or wade fish both upstream and downstream to take advantage of a low-water dam at the upper end of the property or a deep pool at the lower end. They can also launch non-motorized boats, canoes, kayaks or other floatable devices for the purpose of fishing.

Public access opened Dec. 2 and is available 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset through March 4.

"This lease location provides great bank angler access to river trout fishing coupled with gorgeous Guadalupe River scenery," said Patrick Ireland, TPWD Inland Fisheries Division San Marcos and Austin District Supervisor.

TPWD will stock this and other sections of the Guadalupe River, also known as the Canyon Reservoir Tailrace, with more than 20,000 rainbow trout during weekly stockings from early December through late-February. Check the 2022-23 Trout Stocking Schedule online before you go fishing to confirm the stocking date and to find other winter trout

stocking program angling locations and tips.

Camp Huaco Springs falls under the statewide trout regulations so, anglers may keep up to their daily bag limit of five trout with no minimum length limit. Trout anglers 17 years of age and older will need a valid fishing license that includes a freshwater fishing endorsement.

Anglers may find public access to the river in other areas being stocked with trout—including Guadalupe Park, operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—but should note that special regulations and limits are in effect starting 800 yards downstream from the Canyon Dam release to the second bridge crossing on River Road.



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"Challenge for the Lunker Hunter on Lake Fork!"

By David Ozio

"The year of 2022 is now in the rearview mirror and it issued it's own set of challenges for the would-be lunker hunter on Lake Fork. Extreme low water conditions for the entire year put a lot of anglers off their game and this may continue into 2023 at least for a while. The lake has actually come up two and a half feet due to recent deluges and it is everyone's hope that spring rains will cap the lake off at pool level. Surface temps are now plummeting which will set these monster bass up into their normal winter haunts

enabling bass hunters the opportunity to bag a trophy when weather permits.

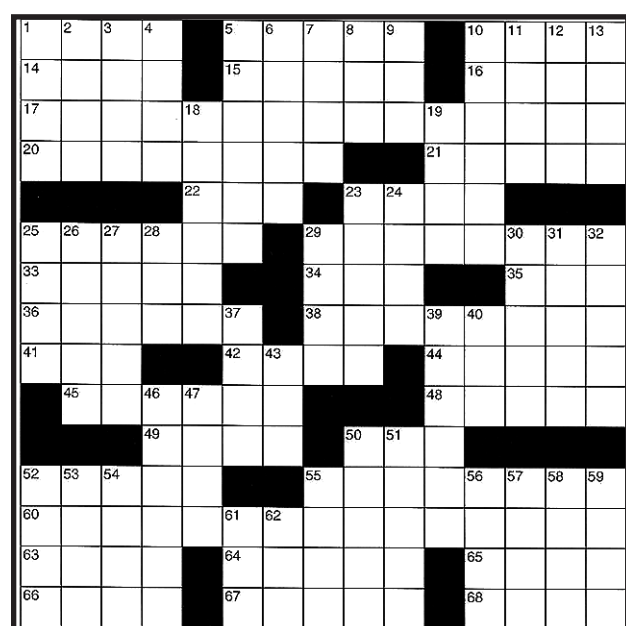
As it stands now, the lake is about five feet low and the water temps are hovering in the vicinity of 50 degrees which confirms the fact that most bass have set up on their winter haunts out in deep water. Their feeding habits are slowed down due to the cold water and one good meal could last them a while. The key is to target schools of shad and bar fish in the 20-30 foot range. Good electronics are now an integral part of the game and strict attention should be paid to the hooks that surround these large schools. The A-rig will be the go to set up to target these monster bass and rig it with any five inch swimbait on a 3/16 oz head. A flutter spoon or jigging spoon will also do the trick and my color choice will be gold. Focus your search on humps, roadbeds, long points and pond dams. If you notice the big arches laying on the bottom, switch to the Carolina rig or football jig in black/blue to attract the larger bites. Use a long leader on your C-rig with a 3/0 or 4/0 hook. Creature baits, large worms or giants lizards will be the baits of choice. I use blue fleck and chartreuse pepper on cloudy days



and watermelon red or watermelon candy colors when the suns beaming down in full force. Drop shots will play a huge roll in the coming months especially if the lake stays at this level or slightly below. January is the time of the year when the ultra giants are moving around and it offers the extreme possibility to boat the trophy of your dreams.

An alternate pattern targets the skinny water. Fishing shallow on the bright sunny days is the place to be, especially between 2:00 and 5:00pm. It is the warmest part of the day and

the top layer of water offers comfort to the sluggish bass. Vegetation is the attraction for these bass and I would throw a rattletrap or chatterbait to draw a strike. Depending upon the water temp, a suspending jerkbait would be the ticket if the temps are lagging into the mid 40's. Red colors are the main choice for the moving baits and I would have a chrome version tied on as a back up. Gold has worked well on partly cloudy days and I always keep one handy on whatever lure I present. Don't be afraid to hurl them into the thick grass and rip it out as bass will hit it once it clears the outer edge. Experiment to see where the green



CLUES ACROSS

1. To clean for payment
5. Uncovers
10. Hindu calendar month
14. Necromancers
15. Make somebody laugh
16. Wings
17. Practice sessions
20. One who delivers
21. Lifting device
22. Restaurant or sleeping ____
23. Hammer end
25. Evil doers
29. Having development checked or reversed
33. Mountain nymph (Greek)
34. Wrong (prefix)
35. Ethan Hawke's wife
36. Pancakes
38. Wood alcohol
41. White-wine drink
42. Miri
44. Fill with high spirits
45. Popular children's street
48. Tears down (var.)
49. Overly precious (British)
50. Being a single unit or thing
52. Wigwam
55. Candlewood
60. Bend, in a way
63. Family or fig ____
64. Cognizant
65. Wife (law)
66. "Strong" trees
67. Proceeded toward an object
68. Sharp barks

CLUES DOWN

1. Military leader (abbr.)
2. Hurry
3. Elderly people
4. Move upward
5. Mixologist
6. Former ruler of Afghanistan
7. German river
8. Compass point (abbr.)
9. Large body of water
10. Brothers
11. Jai ____, sport
12. Girls
13. Command
18. Way to break up
19. Syngman ____, Korean president
23. Inquisitive searcher
24. Formerly (archaic)
25. Dark beer
26. Ridge on a Doric column
27. Makes tractors
28. Represent, in a way
29. Objects fired from a gun (informal)
30. Skipjacks
31. Way to behave
32. Valleys
37. Unchanged
39. To this
40. In the manner of
43. Carpenter, for one
46. Vascular systems
47. Frightened
50. Orange yellow (var.)
51. Widely known and esteemed
52. Barn-owl genus
53. Weasel genus
54. Look furtively
55. Old Irish alphabet (var.)
56. Subject to accident, chance or change
57. Angolan monetary unit
58. Artificial source of illumination
59. Hear ye
61. Bravo!
62. ____, Jima, World War II battle-field

Answers on Page 21



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(See Challenge for.....
Continued on Page 20)

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from the Canyon Dam release to the second bridge crossing on River Road.

Camp Huaco Springs is located at 4150 River Road in New Braunfels. For more information, or to find leased River Access and Conservation Areas on other rivers in Texas, visit the RACA program website.

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"The Moon Report"

"Lake Fork Crappie 2023"

By Terri Moon

Well – Happy New Year to everyone! I'm so excited for the coming year. My beautiful new Skeeter Solera 205 is here and ready to go! (A big thank you to Bryan Sartin and Richard McCarty for figuring out how to mount my Livescope on the new hull design.) I love it!

Now that it's January there won't be many fish-able days so it's time to check out all the boat and tackle shows that are going on in your area. It's incredible to see the growth of the crappie fishing industry! Whether you fish a little or a lot, it's always exciting to see what's new in the fishing world.

It sure was good to get that early winter blast behind us that hit just before Christmas. (Now if we can just get some consistent rain to get our lake level back up would be awesome!) The water temperature dropped drastically but has stabilized with the milder temperatures to the upper 40's to lower 50's. So, the crappie are bunching up and starting to fatten up.

It's time to target 35 – 55 ft. of water



along creek channels, deep bridges, main lake points, humps and definitely deep ledges. Keep a close eye on that graph to see how deep to target. These crappie can be 20 to 30 ft. down but around the new or full moon they may be 8 -15 ft. in the water column. This is where the Livescope shines finding the underwater timber along the creek channels and knowing exactly how deep to fish.

The baits that have been producing are Skipper Jigs ¼ oz. black/chartreuse or white/chartreuse. Also, Limits tackle 1/8 oz. in grey/black or pink/chartreuse, or Bonehead ¼ oz. jighead with 3 inch Slimsticks in silver shad, or slick neon. These are all available at Lake Fork Marina store along with all your crappie fishing needs.

Now for those of you new to Lake Fork – our lake level is still over 5 ft. low. So, it's important to exercise extreme caution if your going to be on the water. There are still hazards even in the boat lanes because not all channel markers are where they are supposed to be. It would be wise to invest in a Lance Vick boat lane chip, and still when in doubt – just idle!

I hope you all have had as good a holiday as possible, and wishing you all the best and many blessings in 2023!

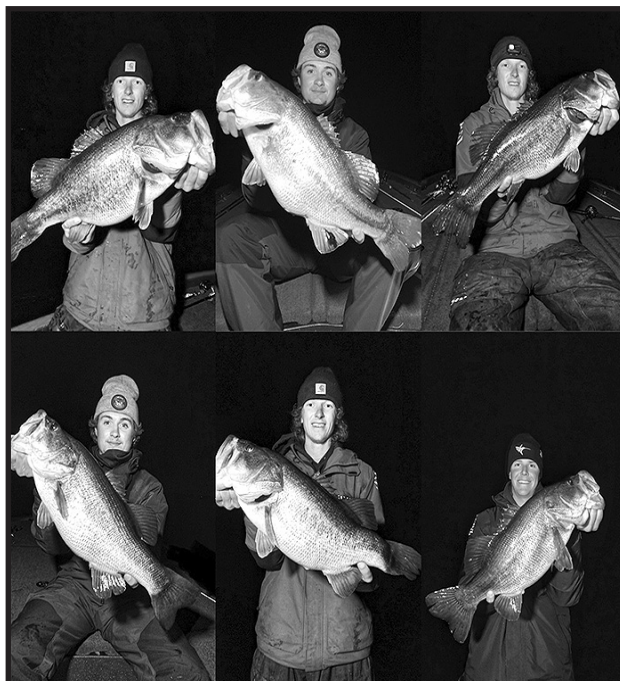
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Texas is known for its oil but the state is also a leading wind energy producer with wind projects generating over 1,200 megawatts.



Danny Weems was fishing Lake Fork with guide Danny Holder when he caught this nice crappie. Released to the Grease!



These clients of Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith came all the way from Minnesota to do some night fishing in December and were not disappointed C.P.R.

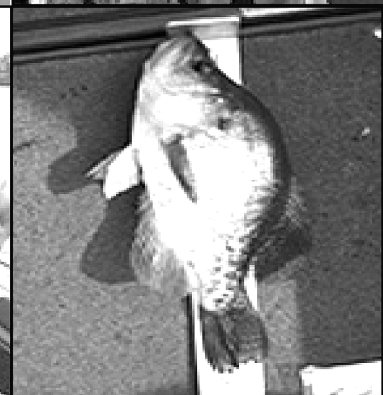
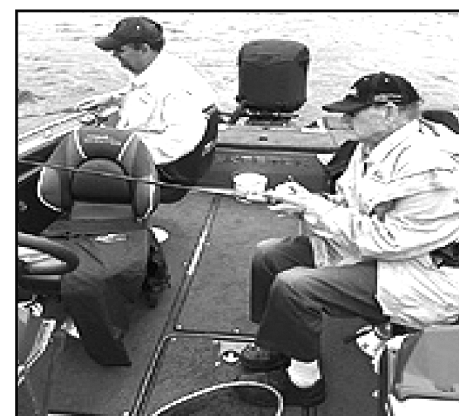
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Mitch Szembrook was fishing Lake Fork with guide Danny Holder when he caught this nice crappie. Released to the Grease!



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TPWD Collaborates with MLF on Habitat Restoration Project at Lake Bryan

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries Division, local anglers and the Bryan Texas Utilities Department (BTUD) collaborated with Major League Fishing (MLF) on a recent project to install new fish habitat in Lake Bryan.

MLF Fisheries Management Division, in partnership with Berkley Labs, spearheaded the initiative to improve catfish, crappie, largemouth bass and bluegill spawning survival, adult population density and catchability. TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division deployed its brand-new habitat barge to aid in the installation of the new habitat structures, assembled by TPWD, MLF and BTUD staff along with local volunteers. The

two-day project showcased how the agency, industry and anglers can work together to enhance Texas fisheries.

"We were excited when we were contacted by Steven Bardin (MLF Fisheries Management Biologist) about this project," said Niki Ragan-Harison, Fisheries Biologist for the College Station — Houston Inland Fisheries Division District. "BTUD has been a tremendous asset as well by not only allowing the project to take place, but also by providing their equipment, facilities, and manpower, as well as contributing to the habitat additions. Exciting things are happening at Lake Bryan and we all look forward to seeing how the fishery responds in the coming years."

ceptacle enclosures for use as catfish spawning habitat. Lowe's of Bryan donated 100 cinder blocks for the MossBack structures and pea gravel to fill the spawning beds.

Within the next few weeks, TPWD will post GPS coordinates for the new fishing structures on the Lake Bryan fish habitat structures website. Coordinates will also be available in downloadable files.

For more information and photos of the project, visit the Inland Fisheries Division College Station-Houston District Facebook page and the MLF website.

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Toyota ShareLunker Program Launches 37th Season *(Continued from Page 1)*

rience.

"We are excited to kick off another ShareLunker season," said Toyota ShareLunker Program Coordinator Natalie Goldstrohm. "The ShareLunker program contributes to the selective spawning and stocking of these world-class offspring and also helps us gather vital catch and genetic data to help our biologists better manage bass populations throughout the great fisheries of Texas."

The 2022 season was one for the record books, with multiple milestones reached and memories made by anglers working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries staff that make the program a success. Key highlights from the 2022 Toyota ShareLunker collection season include:

- * 24 Legacy-class ShareLunkers caught this season, the most during January through March since 1995 (27)
- * Nine different water bodies produced ShareLunkers in 2022
- * Lake Daniel became the 75th public water to contribute a Legacy-class ShareLunker
- * Four entries were new lake records (Lake Daniel (Twice), Eagle Mountain Lake, O.H. Ivie)
- * The new O.H. Ivie waterbody record, set at 17.06 pounds, was the biggest in 30 years, and is

the seventh largest largemouth bass ever verified in Texas (private or public)

- * Four fish made Texas' Top 50 biggest largemouth bass of all-time list

- * Five entries were greater than 15-pounds, including three over 16-pounds

Anglers have submitted 632 Legacy Lunkers in the first 36 years of the ShareLunker program and during the 2022 collection season, 100 percent of all the loaned fish were healthy and returned to the lake where they were caught.

During the first three months of the season (Jan. 1 through March 31), anglers who reel in a 13-plus pound bass can loan it to TPWD for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program. These anglers can call the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 through March 31, 2023.

Anglers who catch and donate one of these 13-plus pound lunkers earn Legacy Class status, receive a catch kit filled with merchandise, a 13lb+ Legacy decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker Annual Awards event and a high-quality replica mount of their Lunker fish from Lake Fork Taxidermy. These anglers will also receive entries into two separate drawings – a Legacy Class Drawing and the

year-end Grand Prize Drawing. Both drawings will award the winner a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual Texas fresh and saltwater fishing license.

The year-round Toyota ShareLunker program offers four levels of participation for catching bass over eight pounds or 24-inches in Texas.

As of Dec. 20, 496 ShareLunker catches by 340 anglers across all size categories are approved into the program in 2022. One of those anglers has reeled in a remarkable 14 ShareLunkers. O.H. Ivie leads all waterbodies with 144 approved entries during the 2022 season. Anticipation is high for what 2023 could have in store for anglers across the state and the nation.

Anglers who enter data for any lunker they catch greater than eight pounds or 24-inches during the calendar year 2023 also receive a catch kit, a decal for their vehicle or boat and an entry into the year-end Grand Prize Drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and annual fishing license. ShareLunker entry classes include the Lunker Class (8 lb.+), Elite Class (10 lb.+), and Legend Class (13 lb.+).

In addition, a new procedure is in effect beginning with the 2023 season. Legend Class Share-
(See Toyota ShareLunker Program.....

Continued on Page 12)



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Toyota ShareLunker Program *(Continued from Page 11)*

Lunkers no longer need to be weighed on a certified scale for entry. Anglers must include a photo of their Lunker on a digital scale in order to qualify for Legend Class.

Once a lunker is reeled in, anglers need to enter the catch data on the Toyota ShareLunker mobile app – available for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play – or on the Toyota ShareLunker online app at TexasSharelunker.com. In addition to providing basic catch information, anglers can also provide a DNA scale sample from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and TPWD, providing major funding for a wide variety of fisheries, state parks and wildlife projects.

Prize donors including Bass Pro Shops, Lake Fork Taxidermy, American Fishing Tackle Co., Stanley Jigs and 6thSense Fishing also provide additional support for this program. For updates on the Toyota ShareLunker Program, visit [facebook.com/](http://facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram/)

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Biologists Stress Testing Harvests for Chronic Wasting Disease During Deer Season

With the recent discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Kaufman County, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists are stressing the importance of testing harvested deer taken this hunting season to curb the spread of this deadly disease.

CWD is a highly contagious and fatal neurological disease affecting members of the deer family such as white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose. Hunters and landowners can voluntarily submit their harvest for free CWD testing at a TPWD check sta-

tion or by contacting local wildlife biologists.

First recognized in 1967 in captive mule deer in Colorado, CWD has since been documented in captive and/or free-ranging deer in 30 states and three Canadian provinces. To date, 428 captive or free-ranging cervids — including white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer, and elk — in 17 Texas counties have tested positive for CWD.

Eradication of CWD is very difficult if not impossible when established in free-ranging deer populations and in the environment. Testing for

CWD allows wildlife biologists and animal health officials to get a clearer picture of the prevalence and distribution of the disease across Texas. Proactive monitoring improves the state's response time to a CWD detection and can greatly reduce the risk of the disease further spreading to neighboring captive and free-ranging populations.

Those hunting in CWD surveillance and containment zones need to know the submission requirements for susceptible species before hitting the field

(See *Biologists Stress...*

Continued on Page 21)



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

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

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Mar. 11, 2023.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Mar. 18, 2023.
4. Check in times: Fri., Mar. 17, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Mar. 18, 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.texas trails bassmasters.com

Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Mar. 11, 2023 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 _____

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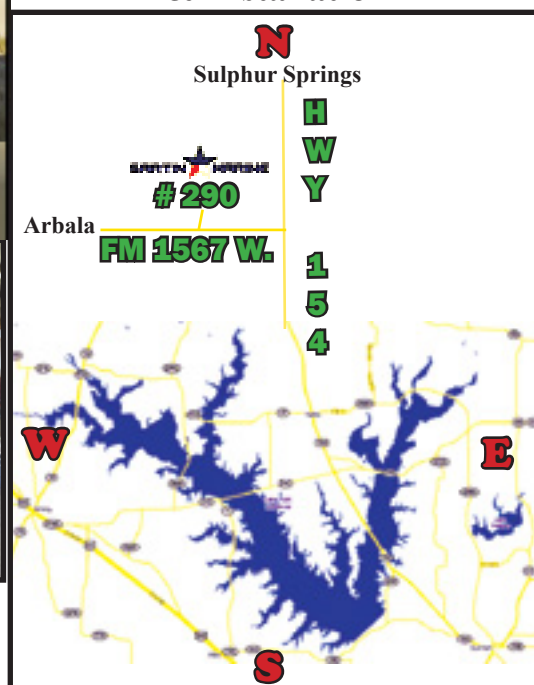
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TPWD Responds to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Decision to List the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) executive director David Yoskowitz, Ph.D. said recently he applauds 16 years of "tremendous" voluntary collaboration with private landowners and industry to conserve lesser prairie-chicken habitat and reiterates the department's opposition to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listing the species.

"This decision jeopardizes decades of voluntary conservation efforts, increases regulatory burden and does not assure recovery of the species," Yoskowitz said.

USFWS published a final rule Nov. 25 listing the lesser prairie-chicken under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Once implemented in January, the decision would affect 14 counties in Texas, listing the bird as threatened in some and endangered in others.

"Notwithstanding this very unfortunate decision, TPWD stands committed to working with private landowners and industry to conserve the lesser prairie-chicken and its habitat, just as we have for decades," Yoskowitz said.

The new USFWS designation comprises a Northern Distinct Population Segment (DPS), where the bird will be listed as threatened in

seven counties in the northeast Texas Panhandle, and the Southern DPS, where the species will be listed as endangered in seven counties in the southwest Texas Panhandle. The listing under the ESA goes into effect Jan. 24, 2023 and makes "take" of lesser prairie-chickens or their habitat a federal violation. Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Incidental take refers to takings that result from, but are not the purpose of, conducting an otherwise lawful activity.

Under the final USFWS ruling, a 4(d) rule for the Northern DPS provides for incidental take exemptions for routine agricultural activities on cultivated lands, prescribed grazing conducted under an approved plan and prescribed fire. Landowners in the northeast Texas Panhandle interested in receiving an approved prescribed grazing plan under the 4(d) rule should contact a USFWS-certified prescribed grazing planner to initiate enrollment into that plan. A list of FAQs and certified planners will be continuously updated and available at www.fws.gov/lpc, and a list of FAQs is available on the USFWS Lesser Prairie-Chicken Listing FAQs

website.

Ongoing Efforts

In 2006, TPWD entered a 20-year Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) with USFWS to work with private landowners to manage and improve lesser prairie-chicken habitat in exchange for assurances that no additional regulatory burden would be placed on participants if the species were listed. The 91 properties currently enrolled in the program, which cover 649,780 acres across 19 Texas Panhandle counties, are exempt from take and habitat management restrictions while they operate under a TPWD-approved wildlife management plan.

Enrollment for the Texas lesser prairie-chicken CCAA program is open until the official effective date of Jan. 24, 2023. Private landowners within the lesser prairie-chicken range are encouraged to contact the TPWD Panhandle Wildlife District prior to the effective date to initiate the enrollment process.

"The CCAA provides landowners the assurances that they can continue to manage their properties to meet their goals while also benefiting the lesser prairie-chicken." (See TPWD Responds to U.S. Fish and Wildlife....

Continued on Page 18)



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TPWD Establishes Two New Surveillance Zones to Test for Chronic Wasting Disease

Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has directed Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Executive Director Carter Smith to establish by emergency rule two new chronic wasting disease (CWD) surveillance zones located primarily in Gillespie and Limestone counties. The two new surveillance zones will go into effect prior to the start of the general hunting season which began Nov. 5.

TPWD developed the zones following the detection of CWD earlier this year in a deer breeding facility located in Gillespie County and a deer breeding facility located in Limestone County.

Surveillance zones cover areas where the presence of CWD could reasonably be expected and enhance efforts to monitor and contain disease spread. Surveillance zone rules require hunters who harvest mule deer or white-tailed deer within the zone to bring their animals to a TPWD check station within 48 hours of harvest. Hunters must check each animal harvested and receive a CWD receipt before taking any part of that animal, including meat or quartered parts, from the zone.

"Testing for CWD allows wildlife biologists and animal health officials to get a clearer picture of the prevalence and distribution of the disease in those areas," said TPWD Wildlife Division Director John Silovsky. "Proactive monitoring improves the state's response time to a CWD detection and can greatly reduce the risk of the disease spread-

ing further to neighboring captive and free-ranging populations."

The surveillance zone located primarily in northwest Gillespie County encompasses 117,282 acres and includes parts of Kimble and Mason counties.

TPWD will establish two check stations – one in the city park in Harper, and the other on the grounds of the community center in Doss – along with self-serve drop boxes.

The surveillance zone located primarily in northern Limestone County encompasses 118,687 acres and includes parts of two other counties – Navarro and Hill – allowing access to a processor in Hubbard and a check station in Coolidge.

Hunters can find maps of these and other zones, along with locations and hours of check stations and self-serve drop boxes, on the TPWD website.

First recognized in 1967 in captive mule deer in Colorado, CWD has since been documented in captive and/or free-ranging deer in 30 states and four Canadian provinces. To date, 409 captive or free-ranging cervids — including white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer and elk — in 16 Texas counties have tested positive for CWD.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease affecting certain susceptible cervid species including white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer, and elk. The disease is highly transmissible and can remain infectious on the landscape for several years. If left unman-

aged, CWD can have long-term impacts on the native deer herd and local economies. Clinical signs may include progressive weight loss; incoordination; excessive thirst, salivation, or urination; loss of appetite; teeth grinding; abnormal head posture; and/or drooping ears. These signs may not become evident until years after animals first become infected. Therefore, testing remains the best available tool for detecting CWD at an early stage and containing it with appropriate management strategies.

TPWD encourages hunters outside established surveillance and containment zones to voluntarily submit their harvest for testing at a check station, for free, before heading home from the field. Hunters who harvest a CWD-susceptible species outside a CWD zone and wish to have the animal tested should contact their local TPWD wildlife biologist. If someone is interested in becoming a certified CWD sample collector, they should contact their local TPWD wildlife biologist or regional Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Region Office.

To date, the risk of CWD transmitting to humans appears to be low; however, as a precaution, public health authorities recommend not consuming meat from infected animals.

For more information about CWD, visit the TPWD web site or the TAHC web site.

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TPWD Responds *(Continued from Page 15)*

efiting the lesser prairie-chicken," said John Silovsky, TPWD director of wildlife. "We appreciate the tremendous collaboration with private landowners during the past 16 years and we want to continue those important partnerships for the benefit of the lesser prairie-chicken habitat."

In 2013, TPWD along with the state wildlife agencies for Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico and Oklahoma, developed the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-Wide Plan (RWP). The plan established population goals for four lesser prairie-chicken ecoregions and design-

nated focal areas and connectivity zones to incentivize voluntary conservation for the species and its habitat.

Under the direction of WAFWA, the RWP also produced a CCAA for oil and gas companies to voluntarily mitigate for new development and operations across the species' range. This CCAA provides funding to private landowners to improve or maintain lesser prairie-chicken habitat on their lands and provide a net conservation benefit to the species and regulatory certainty for industry.

Since then, USFWS has also approved

an Oil & Gas Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Renewables HCP that provide additional opportunities for industry to mitigate for the incidental take of the species.

Landowners or industries interested in the Texas Lesser Prairie-Chicken CCAA, industry CCAA or HCP options should contact Brad Simpson, TPWD Panhandle Wildlife District Leader, (806) 651-3012 brad.simpson@tpwd.texas.gov or Russell Martin, TPWD Panhandle Wildlife Diversity Biologist, (806) 452-9616 russell.martin@tpwd.texas.gov.



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

By Terry Long, President 2023 LFSA

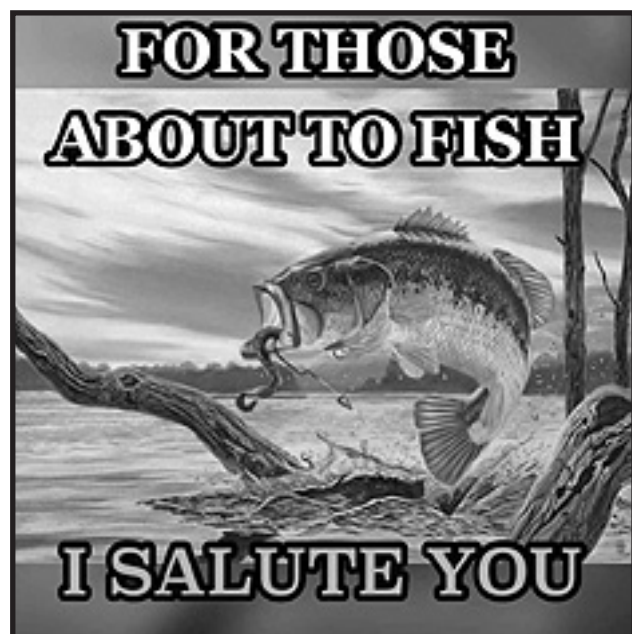
Hope everyone has had a great holiday season! Hard to believe it is now 2023. During the LFSA December membership meeting we elected new Officers for the Board of Directors. Before I introduce the new board, I would like to thank the outgoing Officers for all their hard work and dedication to LFSA. Carolyn West-

President, Ed Swenson-Secretary, Bruce Allen-Treasurer, Katie Carter-Member at Large and Michael Kostial-Member at Large. The new Officers are Terry Long- President, Ted Warren-Vice President, Misty Belk-Secretary, Vivian Leopold- Treasurer, Roger Belk- Member at Large, Pat Kostial- Member at Large, Peggy York- Member at Large and outgoing President Carolyn West as advi-

sor. I look forward to working with each of you in 2023.

LFSA meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in Lovell's restaurant at Lake Fork Marina and everyone is welcome to attend.

Tight lines!



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.



For the past 24 years Lake Fork Sportsman's Association has been Preserving the Legend that is Lake Fork with their Live Release Boat at tournaments releasing catches back healthy in the lake, planting new grasses, and establishing fish habitat.

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

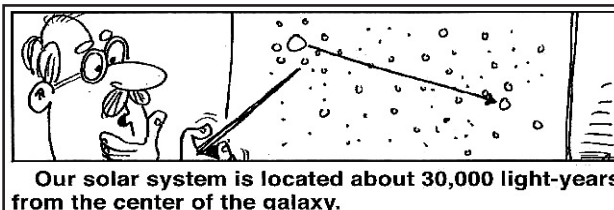


"Challenge for the Lunker Hunter on Lake Fork!" (Continued from Page 6)

fish might be positioned. Make some casts out to the deep edge of the grass and slow roll the bait back to the boat. You might be surprised at the results.

January is also a great month to catch numbers on the power plant lakes. If cabin fever has set in, give me a call and we can wear them out where the water temps are summer like. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in January searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I also have gift

certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Lake-ForkGuideDavidOzio>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I run a Skeeter FX21 with a Yamaha 250SHO and would like to thank Skeeter for making my office on the lake the best in the country. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing USA, Talon Custom Lures, Skeeter Boats, Dakota Lithiums and Hennessey Outdoor Electronics for making my job the blast that it is. A special shout out to Nautical Mile Marine in Tyler, Service Marine in Emory and Sartin Marine in Sulphur Springs for all their help in keeping me on the water seven days a week with no issues. 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."



Coleman Bishop with David Ozio



Zach Turner with David Ozio



Daniel Garcia with David Ozio



David Ozio

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Biologists Stress Testing *(Continued from Page 13)*

this season. Anyone hunting in an established CWD zone must bring their deer to a check station within 48 hours of harvest for testing.

There are about 30 check stations and drop boxes across the state in Kimble County, far West Texas, South Central Texas, the north-west Panhandle, Val Verde County, Hunt County, Lubbock County, Gillespie

County, Limestone County and Duval County.

For more information about CWD, visit the TPWD website, the Texas Animal Health Commission website, or read about how hunters

can help protect deer from CWD with a story from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine.

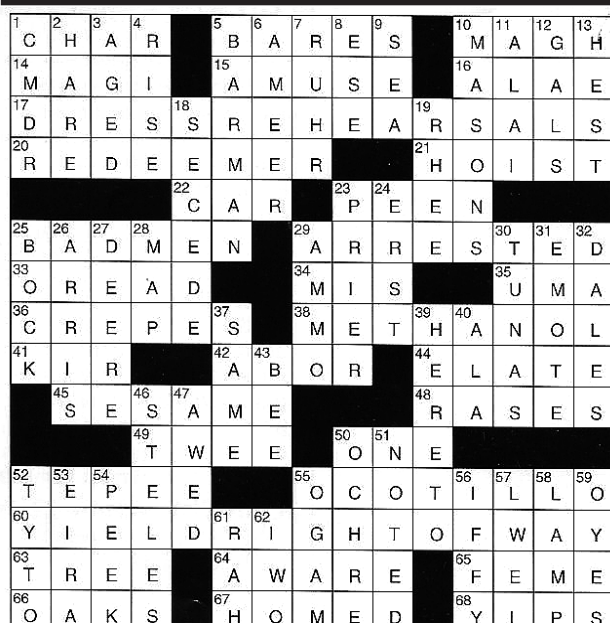
Find TPWD veterinarians speaking about CWD on the TPWD YouTube page.

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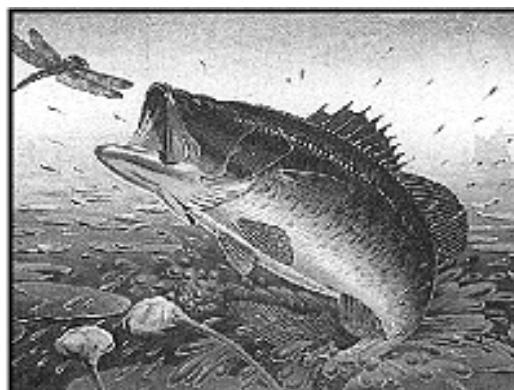
Grammar Find

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

APOSTROPHE
CLAUSE
COLON
CONJUNCTION
OBJECT
PARAGRAPH
PERIOD

PHRASE
PREDICATE
PUNCTUATE
SENTENCE
SUBJECT
SYNTAX
TENSE

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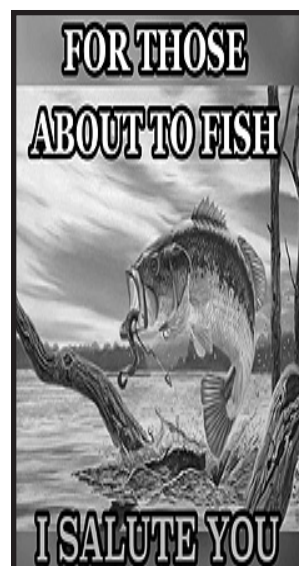
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--If You Liked it, Then You Should Have Put a Tag on it-- A Lubbock County game warden was sitting near a well-known road hunting area when he saw a suspicious vehicle driving slowly down the public road. When the vehicle reached the bottom of a hill, it stopped and remained stationary for several minutes until the warden heard two gunshots. The warden approached the vehicle and found

a man and his fiancée trying to load a mule deer doe into the bed of the small pickup. Upon further investigation, the warden learned that the man shot the deer with a .22 rifle off the roadway using the headlights of his vehicle. Multiple cases were filed and civil restitution for the deer was charged.

--Double Whammy-- When patrolling the Little Brazos River, a Brazos County game warden contacted two people fishing near one of the river access points. Both individuals did not have a valid fishing license and one of them didn't have

any identification. The warden asked both for their information and when they were run through dispatch, there was a hit. Turns out, the man who had no identification had an outstanding warrant. The warden placed him into custody and transported him to the Brazos County Jail. Once at the jail, it was discovered that he gave the warden fictitious information that belonged to one of his friends who, unbeknownst to him, had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The man was then properly identified, and it was revealed that he had two

(Continued on Page 24)

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By Sue Hampton

Holiday time means turkey, and turkey usually means leftovers. Now you can jazz up roast turkey and watch it disappear.

The Reuben Tortilla offers another opportunity to savor the holiday leftovers. It's easy to make and thanks to sauerkraut, it's healthy.

Reuben Tortilla

4 8-inch tortillas, softened

½ cup Thousand Island dressing



Combining flavors and ingredients in new ways can give leftovers a new life! Happy New Year to all of you from our family to yours!

4 oz. cooked turkey

4 slices (¾ oz. each) Swiss cheese

1 cup well-drained Krrrrisp Kraut (my choice Bush's Best Sauerkraut)

Spread each tortilla with 1 Tbsp. Dressing. Top with 1 oz. turkey, 1 slice cheese and ¼ cup sauerkraut. Fold opposite edges of tortilla over to cover filling. Roll up from one unfolded edge to the other, forming wrap sandwich. Microwave each 20 seconds to 30 seconds or serve at room temperature. Serves four.

Another idea for your leftovers... "Zesty Idaho Potato Cakes"

Cooking spray

2 cups leftover mashed Idaho Potatoes (home-made works best)

½ cup corn kernels (if frozen, thaw first, then squeeze out excess water)

1/3 cup frozen, diced red and green sweet peppers (thaw, then squeeze out excess water)

1 egg white

½ cup shredded taco cheese (cheese blend with added seasonings)

4 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon minced, dried onion

1 teaspoon salt

¾ teaspoon chili powder

1/8 teaspoon ground cumin

Optional garnish: ¼ cup shredded taco cheese

Preheat the oven to 375 F. Coat a baking sheet with a liberal amount of cooking spray.

In a medium mixing bowl, combine all ingredients and mix well with a fork or wooden spoon.

Spray a 1/3-cup measuring cup with cooking spray. Using the cup, scoop up the potato mixture and level it off with your clean hand. Invert the filled cup over the prepared baking sheet to release the potato mixture. Continue to scoop, making 8 portions (you may need to respray the cup once or twice to help release the potato mixture). Gently press the portions with your palm to form pancakes about ¾-inch thick.

Spray the tops of the pancakes lightly with cooking spray. Bake for 20 minutes. Using a metal spatula, flip the pancakes and bake another 15 minutes. Transfer pancakes to a serving platter using the spatula, then sprinkle them with additional taco cheese, if desired. Serve hot. Serves 4. Happy New Year to all of you from our family to yours!



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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

outstanding warrants. The man admitted that he intentionally gave the warden false information because of his arrest warrants. The individual was booked into the jail for Failure to Identify Fugitive (class A), and the two outstanding warrants.

--Oh Deer-- **While stopped at a gas station, a** Lavaca County game warden noticed multiple elk antlers and legs sticking up from the bed of a pickup truck. The warden pulled up and congratulated the man icing the animals down and saw two whitetail deer. The man then told the warden about the high-fenced ranch the animals had been taken from. The ranch happened to be one that the warden investigated last year due to multiple hunters on the ranch hunting without licenses. After a short discussion, it was determined that the man's girlfriend, who was also on location, had killed one of the bull elk and had not purchased a hunting license in five years. The animal was seized, cleaned and donated to a local charity organization. Case pending.

--Mistaken Bacon-- A Gaines/Andres County game warden received a call from a landowner about possible spotlights on her land. After making his way to the property, the warden approached two individuals that were hunting around a wheat circle. They claimed they were pig hunting and had harvested a pig earlier. The warden asked the subjects if he could see the pig

they shot and it was determined that it was not a pig, but a javelina. Charges and restitution are pending.

--How Trashy-- A Lubbock district game warden received a call about several illegally dumped sandhill cranes in a community dumpster. The Lubbock police department officer on scene climbed into the dumpster to confirm that the birds were not breasted out and the warden responded to collect evidence and begin interviewing possible suspects and neighbors. The dumpster was next to a Texas Tech University fraternity and a large apartment complex. After interviewing multiple individuals, the suspect was discovered and admitted that he and his friend left the cranes in the back of his truck the day prior and thought that the temperature was too warm to keep the meat. Waste of game charges were filed on both individuals.

--Two Hearts That Beat as One-- Anderson County game wardens were patrolling near High-

way 155 for deer hunters. While traveling, the wardens noticed a freshly caped whitetail deer hide stretched and tacked on a 4x8 sheet of plywood and a gentleman observing it. After turning around to make an inspection, the gentleman and his wife both noticed the game wardens making an effort to approach their residence and left the scene. After further inspection, two undersized buck heads were found along with the deer hide. Time elapsed and after a brief wait, the female suspect returned to the scene. The wardens questioned her about the deer and the location of her husband. She stated that she dropped her husband off at work. After further investigation the husband was located at the local Walmart and later returned to the scene. The husband admitted to killing a doe and said that his wife killed an illegal buck a few weeks prior. As for the other whitetail buck, the couple removed its head from the median of Highway 155. Multiple citations

(Continued on Next Page)

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were issued including hunting under the license of another, allowing another to hunt under his/her license, and no hunting license. The case is still under investigation and pending.

--See You Later-- A Pecos County game warden acquired a search warrant for a residence in Fort Stockton that was known to have a live American alligator as well as other illegally obtained live species. Unfortunately, the resident of the house had moved out a week prior to another location in town. Left at the house were two ornate box turtles and one red-eared slider which were re-located at the request of the landlord. Later in the day, the wardens were able to meet with the suspect to conduct an interview. The suspect was asked to write and sign a statement about all the animals he has had, where he got them, how he got them, and where they are now. The written statement admitted that he had possessed an American alligator and other species but had released them a week ago near the road where he collected them. The suspect consented to a search of his new residence to prove he no longer had any other animals. Citations issued, cases pending.

--SnapTrap-- A Henderson County game warden received information from an individual who said he saw a Snapchat video of a young man

shooting off the highway multiple times at night. After reviewing the video, the warden was able to obtain the shooter's name and location. Game wardens interviewed the individual who said that he was shooting at some pigs crossing the road and didn't know that the passenger was recording him with her phone. He was unaware it was going to be posted to social media. Cases pending.

--Drive-by Poaching-- A Henderson County game warden was contacted by a landowner who said he heard a gunshot near the end of his driveway right after sunset. The landowner walked down to the county road and found a freshly wounded doe in the ditch. Approximately 45 minutes after the doe was shot, the warden was talking to the landowner when a truck stopped for a few seconds where the deer had been shot, then proceed to leave the area. The warden made contact with the driver who said he was going to his girlfriend's house. The warden noticed a shotgun in the passenger seat and again asked the driver what he was doing in the area. After a short discussion, the driver admitted to shooting a deer from the county road and said he had come back to pick it up after he made sure no one heard him shoot. As the warden was busy with the driver of the truck, the landowner came to the scene with another individual. The land-

owner stated he watched this individual, with his thermal scope, as he tried to drag the doe to the county road so they could load it up. Both individuals were arrested and booked into Henderson County jail for multiple violations.

--Bag o' Bass-- A Williamson County game warden received a telephone call from a complainant regarding a fisherman keeping undersize striped bass in Lake Georgetown. The game warden arrived on scene and made contact with a fisherman matching the description the complainant gave. The game warden immediately observed three undersize striped bass flopping on the ground next to the fisherman. The fisherman had a red bag that was open and in plain view there was a fish tail sticking out. The warden identified the angler and checked for a valid fishing license. The angler said all of the fish were his and said they were white bass. The game warden explained to him the difference between white bass and striped bass. The angler had a total of 7 undersize striped bass measuring 15-16 inches. Four of them were in plastic bags, wrapped with black electrical tape, and stuffed in his bag. The angler was issued citations and civil restitution was filed. The fish were donated to a family in need.

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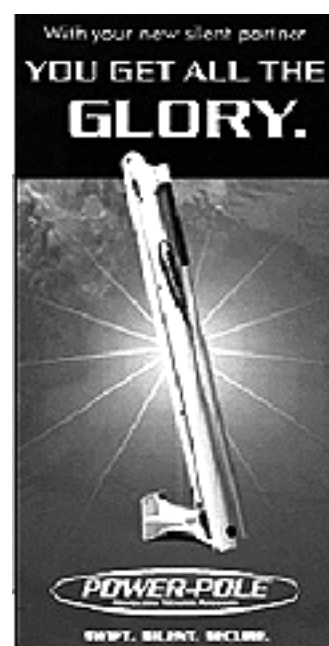


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February

Feb. 18 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket

Feb. 19 ~ Media Bass
Minnow Bucket

Feb. ~ BassChamps N. Div.
Lake Fork Marina

Feb. 26 ~ JC Outdoors Individual
Minnow Bucket



March

Mar. 4 ~ Media Bass
Minnow Bucket

Mar. 18 ~ Tex. Trails Open
Oak Ridge Marina

Mar. 19 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket

Mar. 25 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket

Mar. 26 ~ Mega Bass (Bass Champs)
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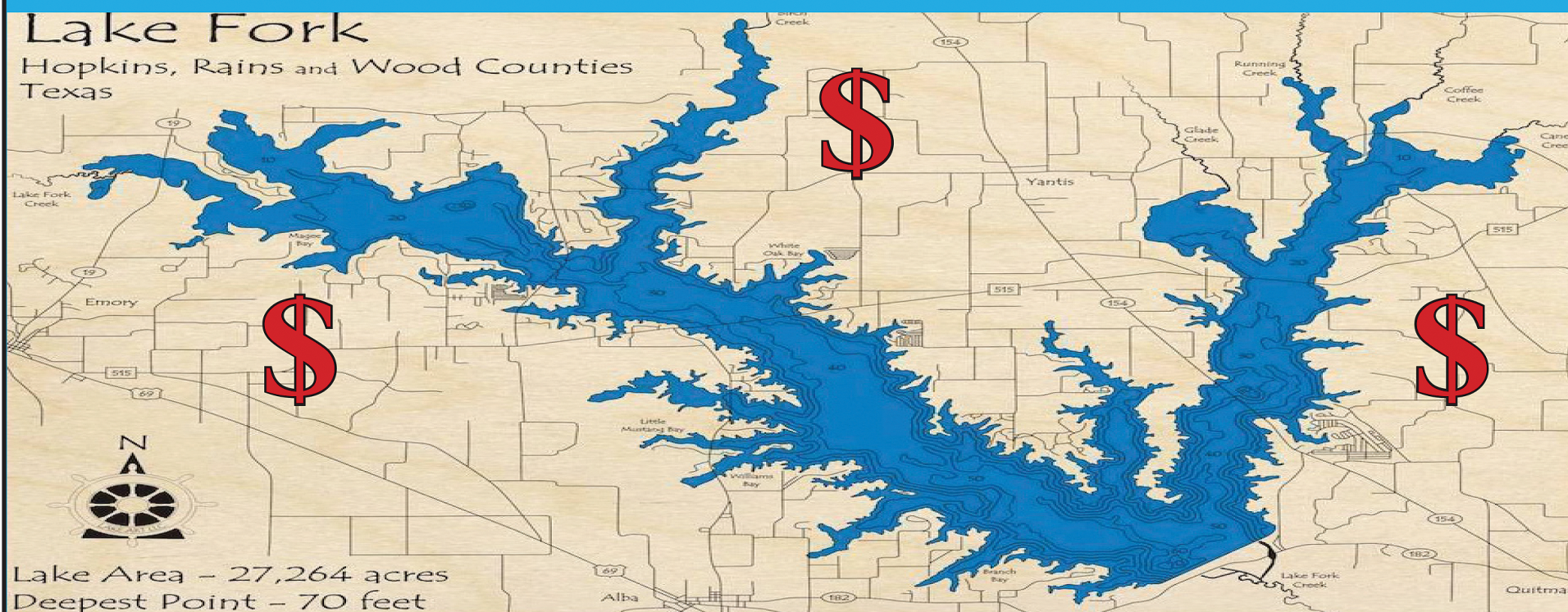


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