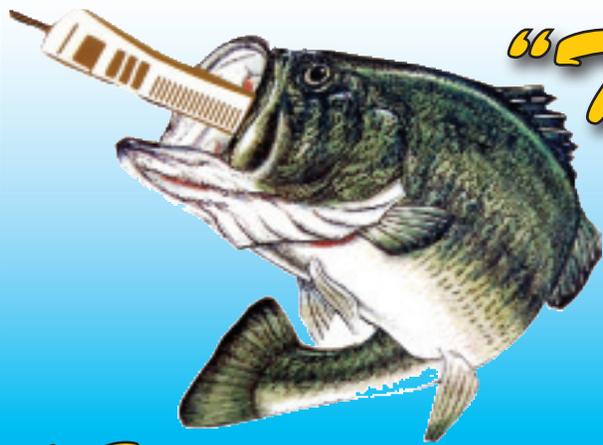


LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas"



1 Section

*"The Fisherman's Guide,
News You Can Use"*

"Lines To Get Hooked On"
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Vol. 27

March, 2026

No. 318

Protect * Preserve * Promote



Lake Fork can only get better with the assistance of LFSA, TPWD, and SRA.

By Don Hampton

The Lake Fork Sportsman Association lives up to their moto of Protect, Preserve, and Promote our great reservoir.

On February 5th LFSA, along with Jake Norman and staff of Texas Parks and Wildlife, and members of Sabine River Authority joined to secure the future and

the betterment of Lake Fork. On February 3rd, staff from TPWD drilled holes for the anchor rods in the chosen area.

There were 332 Christmas trees covering 1,000 feet of shoreline placed. The trees were all joined with cable, joined together through drilled holes in each tree and anchored and weighted with cinder blocks.

Quite the endeavor and hard work.

Trees were placed in 2-ft. of water so when the lake reaches full pool they will be in 5-ft.

This will assist the spawn and also provide protection for the fry once they have hatched. An added advantage is the trees will create a barrier to prevent erosion on the shoreline.



Lake Fork guide Randy Oldfield was fishing on Lake Fork on a cold February morning when he caught this lunker hawg weighing 14.25-pounds. No stranger when it comes to monster bass and a bass of this size would be a trophy to any angler. Caught, weighed, photo, released.



Roger Stroman was fishing Lake Fork in February when he caught this really nice hawg weighing 11.02-lbs. C.P.R.



Don Stapleton was fishing Lake Fork in February when he caught this nice bass. Weighing 11.34-lbs. C.P.R.

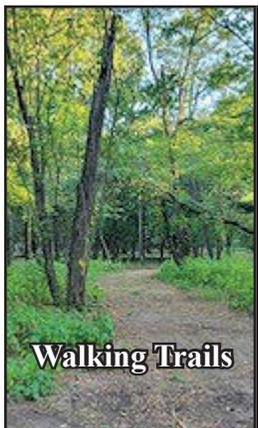


Norman Barnes from Madisonville, TX was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith on 2/12 when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.

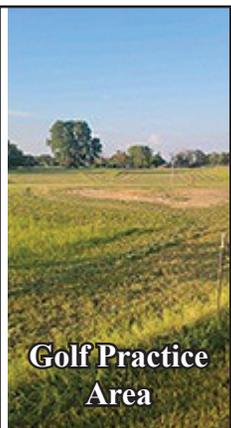
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"Life Changes and so does Bubba and Bubbette!"

By Don Hampton

As is with life, everything and everyone goes through changes. Such is the way with Bubbas'.

There have been jokes cracked about Bubba and Bubbette's favorite source of entertainment being a bug-zapper and a six pack of beer.

You could sit around a bug-zapper and hear exclamations like, "Wow, that must have been a really big one," or "Holy Cow, it really fried that one!"

The bug-zapper will still serve its purpose and the six pack will remain, but now there is a better source of enter-

tainment for Bubba. He found at one of the many boat shows he attends a bug zapper tennis racket that runs on batteries. Bubbette admits it is good exercise for Bubba. He will run around the yard imitating John McEnroe's back swing chasing bugs. He even shows some of the same attitude when Bubbette makes him quit chasing her, the dog and cat around the house. He is smart enough not to touch any of them with it when it is turned on!

The cat would scratch him, the dog would bite him, and he doesn't even want to think about what Bubbette would do

to him.

Bubba hasn't given up his singing bass. He still keeps enough batteries around the house to keep it singing. This bass looks just like a wall plaque replica bass and when you push the button, it starts singing. That is right, a singing bass that does two songs, "Don't Worry, Be Happy", and "Take Me to the River, Throw Me In The Water." Bubbette is about to put a catch and release on that toy of his. You may see that one at Goodwill or she may take it to the river and throw it in the water! When this does happen it will be one

bass Bubba won't be able to catch!

You might wonder why Bubba has been so intrigued with this novelty item for so long? It's just a recording! Not so!

As the music starts, the bass starts flapping its tail to the music and in certain segments of the song the bass turns its head to face you and with lips moving, sings to you.

Well this to Bubba, even at his age, is amazed, and six pack or not, he thinks this is one of the funniest things he has ever seen. Everyone I know has seen one, either owns one or is in search of one. If you are

in search of one, you can find them at Bass Pro Shop. They say laughter is the best medicine and I think this keeps Bubba young at heart because he laughs every time it plays.

This is just another example how times change and with them even Bubbas and Bubbettes change.

Here are some classic examples of just how Bubbas and Bubbettes change...

In their younger years they had long hair... now they long for hair;

Entertainment was Frank Zappa... now it is the bug-zapper?

Before, it was all about

a Keg...now it's all about an EKG.

Earlier it was Acid Rock...now it is Acid Reflux.

The goal of those days was to find a new "Hip Joint"...now it is trying to get a new hip joint.

Then it was about getting life insurance, now it is all about keeping your own Ensure for longer life

One constant in life is that things are going to change. If we accept the changes and keep our sense of humor, the strength we gain will make us all a better person.

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Lake Fork 'CRAPPIEFEST 2026' to be held March 27, 28, 29

By Cassandra Gann

One of East Texas's most anticipated outdoor events returns this spring as CRAPPIEFEST 2026 takes over the SRA Caney Point Recreation Area on beautiful Lake Fork. Anglers, families, and festival-goers will gather March 27-29 for three days of fishing, prizes, entertainment, and community celebration.

CRAPPIEFEST is more than a fishing tournament — it's an inclusive event with multiple divisions including Boat/Open, Kayak, Bank, and Youth, welcoming anglers of every ability and age. With over \$100,000 in payouts and prizes, competitors of all skill level have a shot at big rewards while enjoying the camaraderie of Lake Fork's legendary fishing scene. — It is truly one lucky fish!

CRAPPIEFEST at its core exists to bring friends and families together from all over the nation - present with one another away from the busyness

of life and electronics, promote the sport of crappie fishing and the next generation, and honor our veterans who make it all possible.

Investing in the Next Generation

One of the driving forces behind CRAPPIEFEST is its commitment to youth involvement. This event was built with the next generation in mind.

CRAPPIEFEST offers two FREE dedicated Youth Divisions in its Saturday event, giving young anglers the opportunity to compete on a big stage, win real money, experience tournament fishing firsthand, and build confidence on the water. Significant prize opportunities — including a \$10,000 3-pound bonus provided by Toliver Ford of Mineola for a youth angler — show that kids are not an afterthought; they are a priority.

Beyond the competition, all youth participants registered to fish on Saturday will receive a rod and reel combo from Mr. Crappie, Wally Marshall, a WindRider fishing shirt, and a bait package from

Bobby Garland Crappie Baits!— Note they will pick these up on Friday evening at the FREE FISH FRY. Youth anglers will also have exposure to industry professionals, conservation education, and encouragement from experienced anglers who are passionate about mentoring. The goal isn't just to help kids catch fish — it's to teach patience, responsibility, sportsmanship, and a love for the outdoors.

In a time when screens dominate attention, CRAPPIEFEST is intentionally creating space for kids to unplug, connect with nature, and build real relationships with family and mentors. The event serves as a launching pad for lifelong outdoor involvement and a reminder that investing in youth today strengthens our communities tomorrow.

Promoting the Sport

CRAPPIEFEST is a learning experience with free educational segments scheduled Friday evening to teach and encourage new anglers including:

(Continued on Next Page)

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Crappie Behavior Seminar — A deep dive into how crappie think and feed, presented by Lake Fork biologist Jake Norman. This session focuses on fish behavior and ecology, giving anglers a strategic edge on the water.

Mr. Crappie, Wally Marshall – Come listen and learn from Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, the legendary Mr. Crappie, and gain insights straight from one of the most iconic names in the sport!

Pro Panel Q&A - A panel of seasoned crappie professionals take the stage for an interactive Q&A. This expert panel shares real-world tips, techniques, and insights about crappie fishing — from seasonal patterns to tackle choice and more. Come ask all of your questions!

These education segments are designed to help anglers of all skill levels improve their understanding of crappie behavior and sharpen fishing skills ahead of tournament days.

Honoring Our Veterans

A meaningful highlight of CRAPPIEFEST is its Honoring Our Veterans program, designed to cele-

brate and give back to those who have served in the U.S. military. Every veteran who enters the tournament will receive a special loaded jig box from Slab Syndicate Crappie Jigs and a FREE raffle ticket for exclusive prizes just for veterans.

In addition, CRAPPIEFEST offers the “Nominate a Veteran” program — a chance to recognize a deserving veteran with an unforgettable CRAPPIEFEST experience. A selected veteran will receive:

- Full tournament entry paid by CRAPPIEFEST
- Pairing with a top crappie angler
- A rod and bait package
- Official recognition as a Veteran Honoree
- A VIP CRAPPIEFEST experience

Nominations are open through early March, and the veteran honoree will be announced mid-March ahead of the event — a special moment to honor service, sacrifice, and community spirit.

These efforts reflect CRAPPIEFEST’s deep appreciation for veterans and its desire to create memorable outdoor moments for those who served.

Festival Fun Beyond Fishing

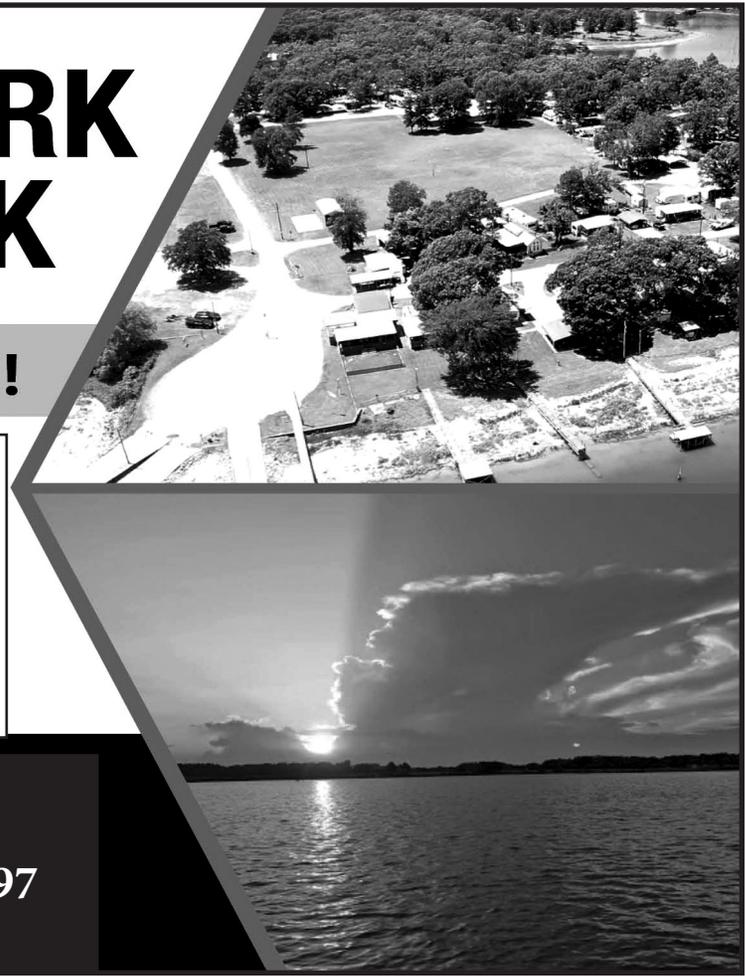
CRAPPIEFEST isn’t just a fishing tournament — it’s a full weekend festival packed with entertainment, food, shopping, and family-friendly activities for all ages. Festival gates open Friday March 27th at noon with a free crappie fish fry on Friday evening to kick off the weekend — courtesy of Bobby Garland Crappie Baits and Chef Rande’s crew.

Live music is a cornerstone of the celebration. Friday night gets underway with One Horse Town, a high-energy country dance band that will have the pavilion moving. On Saturday, gates open at 11:00am with Chris Colston performing a blend of country and red dirt sounds that perfectly suit the outdoor atmosphere.

Saturday night culminates with Cody Cannon of Whiskey Myers taking the stage for a special concert beginning at 7:30 PM — an evening highlight that brings nationwide festival energy to Lake Fork. Festival entertainment for kids and families runs throughout the weekend and offers something for *(See Lake Fork CRAPPIEFEST...Continued on Page 7)*



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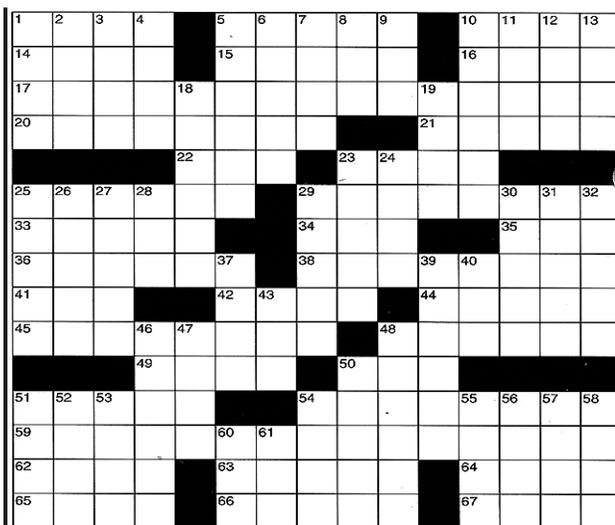
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"The March is on!"

By Whitt Smith

After an unseasonably warm February, March is finally here. The warm weather of February moved in many Male Bass to the shallows. The females we caught in February were staging on wood along creek



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. ½ of famous couple | 41. Worked |
| 5. Arranged in a container | 42. American state |
| 10. Avoid | 44. Steadies |
| 14. Exude | 45. Algonquians |
| 15. Search engine | 48. Prettiest |
| 16. Makes older | 49. Smart |
| 17. Heard on March 20 | 50. Jewellery |
| 20. Tasty | 51. Hafez al-____, Syrian president |
| 21. Belongs to sun god | 54. Bode |
| 22. Act in concert | 59. "I'm always ____" |
| 23. Clock time | 62. Fish |
| 25. Carry off | 63. Causes to be heard |
| 29. Rental | 64. Sword |
| 33. Freshens | 65. Armor plating |
| 34. Near, against | 66. Anchor rope passes through this hole |
| 35. Company that rings receipts | 67. Phonograph record |
| 36. Artful | |
| 38. Type of delivery | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Linear unit | 30. Bless |
| 2. Anticipation | 31. Shenanigans |
| 3. ____ Pound, poet | 32. Max ____, Dadaist painter |
| 4. Imaginary numbers | 37. German river |
| 5. Young swan | 39. Perspicaciousness |
| 6. Expressed pleasure | 40. Tell on |
| 7. Herringlike fish | 43. Nestling |
| 8. Goddess | 46. States of matter |
| 9. Runs PCs | 47. German car |
| 10. Jean Paul ____, author | 48. Purplish red |
| 11. Caused by sporozoan parasites | 50. Staircases |
| 12. ____ diagram (Math) | 51. Hurt |
| 13. Heat units | 52. Do a dance |
| 18. Not at all | 53. Japanese beverage |
| 19. Pope John ____ | 54. Think (archaic) |
| 23. Central Chinese province | 55. In bed |
| 24. Churches | 56. Indian helmet |
| 25. Os | 57. Sheeps |
| 26. Column span | 58. I |
| 27. Bird genus | 60. Ordinal |
| 28. Increase motor speed | 61. Indian city |
| 29. Soul and calypso songs | |

Answers on Page 21

channels or hard spots, humps, shell beds and points leading into spawning creeks. This pattern will hold up all of March, as different Moon phases and warming water bring in different waves of Bass.

Bass have started to sparsely bed in some areas. This will obviously increase as the month of March rolls along, but many will be moving shallow, set up and roaming. Covering water with a red or chartreuse square bill Crankbait around wood and a red lipless crankbait or Chatterbait in aquatic vegetation will locate Bass on some days. Don't forget to Yo-Yo retrieve these so they contact grass and then rip them up and let 'em fall. On tougher days post cold front or after bass you locate stop biting, the Shakey Head will turn a day around or mop up ones that shut down. March can fish wide open on patterns and styles with Bass in both Pre-Spawn



and Spawn. Main lake Points, Secondary points, docks in back of creeks/coves, road beds and pond dams are a few of the types of structures that can hold staging Bass. A Spinnerbait with an orange or red blade has been a great choice for as long as I can remember here, slow rolled in March around brush and wood in spawning pockets.

It's a very busy and exciting month here. The lake is hovering around 3 ft low, give or take. For all these reasons, be very aware, careful and patient while enjoying this beautiful lake.

If you are interested in booking a trip with me on Lake Fork you can contact me at 972-743-2046 or go to my website www.lakeforkbigbass.com

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Lake Fork 'CRAPPIE FEST' 2026 (Continued from Page 5)

everyone. Attendees can enjoy free balloon creations and juggling acts by everyone's favorite clown -5 String Green, and face painting by Mrs. Shannon Rose.

Kids of all ages are welcome to join in on action-packed fun with Blue Line Mobile Gellyball games, Rowdy Goose Parties' laser tag, putt putt golf, and gem mining, and Esparza's Party Rentals mechanical bull and the eliminator. Younger guests can also go for pony rides with the Living Carousel — all designed to keep smiles, laughter, and memories flowing.

For those who love to shop, CRAPPIEFEST's vendor village features 150+ booths offering everything from fishing gear and outdoor brands to handcrafted goods, artisan crafts, apparel, local foods, and unique boutique finds — giving attendees the chance to browse, sample, and shop while enjoying the festival atmosphere. Be on the look-

out for giveaways and special show prices. Stop by and visit and maybe become a member or buy some raffle tickets at the Lake Fork Sportsman Association booth. This organization has Protected, Preserved, Promoted this great reservoir for 26 years making this lake even greater. They will also have their Live Release Boat present to help return the healthy crappie back into the lake.

CRAPPIEFEST is also a food lover's paradise! If you love fried crappie, do not miss the free community fish fry Friday March 27, from 4-7pm. You will also find Cousins Main Lobster, Juicy J's TX Melts, The Backlash Grill, Slice of Smoke, Lakeview Tacos, Texas Tails Crawfish and Shrimp, Sweet G's Sausage, 2nd Hand Smoke Turkey Legs and more, Ol Smokey Kountry BBQ, Mama B's Burgers, Chef Rande's fried fish, Claudia's Hibachi, TK's Loaded Teas, Sweet Stacks mini donuts, The Southern Squeeze Lemonade, The Little Green Ice

Cream Machine, Dado's Shaved Ice, Julie's Coffee and Cocoa, and Slow Poke's Specialty drinks.

Whether you're enjoying the tunes, grabbing a bite, making a new craft discovery, or watching kids laugh and play, CRAPPIEFEST delivers big-time family fun well beyond the fishing lines.

Mark Your Calendar

Local businesses are gearing up for the event, expecting a boost in tourism and community engagement as visitors flock to Lake Fork for what has become the nation's premier fishing festival.

Whether you're in it for the competition, the festival fun, or to support veterans and families, CRAPPIEFEST 2026 promises a weekend full of community pride, outdoor adventure, and unforgettable memories.

For full details on registration, schedules, and the veterans program, visit Crappiefest.com



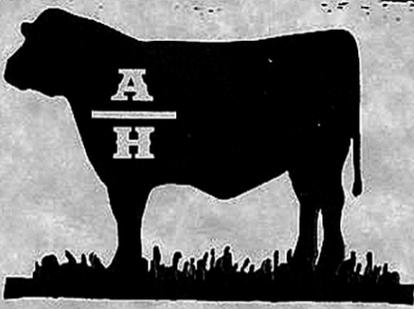
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"The Moon Report"

"March Crappie Excitement"

By Terri Moon

First off – my apologies to anyone trying to reach me lately while I was “off the grid” at Mama Nova’s in Missouri. It’s been a tremendous mountain to climb sorting through her 92 years of collected memories of not only hers and Pops, but also of things that belonged to the rest of my family that had all passed before us. So I just want you to know I appreciate your patience in trying to reach me. This has been quite the journey and emotionally tough to leave and say goodbye to your family’s “home” for the last time.

I’m finding life is full of “last times”! Even when it comes to fishing—there will be a point in time where “one last cast” will be our last and we won’t even know it. That’s why I’m excited to be back in Texas continuing what I love making every cast count! I’ve realized the pain of a “last time” is proof that something mattered deeply. So, make those plans, book those trips, make those memories with family and friends, and make those “last times” in your life memorable.

There is nothing more memorable than springtime on Fork. The pre-spawn crappie in March may be the most exciting time of year. The dogwoods start blooming and those deep water crappie start their transition to the banks. The March water tempera-



tures on Fork typically climb from the low 50’s into the upper 50’s or low 60’s. That temperature swing is the trigger. Crappie don’t rush to the bank all at once. Instead they stage.

In early March fish hold near deeper creek channels, 18-25 ft. especially around timber and brush. Mid March as temps reach mid 50’s, males begin moving up to 10-15 ft. on secondary points and channel swings. In late March with consistent upper 50’s to 60’s, females follow and group up around areas just outside of spawning flats.

The key word in March is transition. So, focus on creek channels leading into spawning coves, secondary points halfway back in the creeks, brush piles 12-18 ft., and timberlines near flatter pockets. Crappie use these areas like stepping stones. They won’t travel far at one time. They move up – hold, feed, then move again when conditions are right.

Good electronics help tremendously this time of year. Seeing fish stacked up on timber in 15-20 ft. can save hours of guessing. So, don’t waste time fishing too shallow too soon. Water temps need to be stabilized in the upper 50’s for them to move shallower. After a cold front they will back off a little deeper, so slow down your presentation. Then after 3 to 4 stable warming days, expect a push towards spawning flats and check 6-10 ft. near protected pockets. Consistency in temperature is more important than a single warm afternoon. Water temperature is definitely the key to March’s pre-spawn crappie.

Hey don’t forget the 10 inch minimum goes back in effect March 1st!

Be sure and stop by Lake Fork Marina for all your fishing needs – they have it all!

Also, I can’t begin to tell you how excited I am to (See March Crappie..

Continued on Page 21)

Texas Game Wardens, Local Agencies Responded to Fatal Incident in Fannin County

On Jan. 26, multiple local and state agencies in Fannin County and the surrounding area responded to an emergency call for three brothers (ages 6, 8 and 9) who fell through ice on a private pond off Rec Road #3, just outside of Bonham.

The 8- and 9-year-old were pulled from the water by the first arriving responders and a neighbor. Medical care was immediately administered before being transported

to a local hospital by ambulance. The 6-year-old did not resurface but was later recovered by Texas Game Wardens after an extensive search of the pond. All three children have been pronounced deceased.

Out of respect for the family and their privacy, the children's names were not released.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and all affected by this tragic incident. May

God be with the family.

The Fannin County Sheriff's Office and Texas Game Wardens appreciate the quick response and assistance of Bonham Fire Department, Bonham Police Department, Lamar County emergency responders, Fannin County Emergency Management, the Texas Department of Public Safety and members of the community that stepped up to assist in this difficult time.



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Wildlife Health Alert: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detections Continue in Portions of North Texas

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) urges caution as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) continues to circulate among wild birds in Amarillo and Lubbock.

Detected in all 50 states across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, HPAI is a highly contagious zoonotic virus (meaning that humans can catch the virus) that transmits easily among wild and domestic

birds. It can spread directly between animals and indirectly through environmental contamination. The congregation of waterfowl and other migratory birds around food, water sources and backyard flocks increases the potential spread of the disease.

The public can assist in interrupting HPAI transmission by limiting all unnecessary contact with wild birds. In areas that currently have a higher

number of HPAI detections, TPWD discourages the public from feeding wildlife, which includes the use of bird feeders. Staff also recommends the hazing of wildlife away from food and water sources.

The public should take general precautions by not handling any sick or dead wildlife and by not allowing pets to interact with sick or dead wildlife. If a pet frequents areas with wildlife, they should make sure their pets are up to date on vaccinations.

If you encounter a wild animal with signs consistent with HPAI, contact your local TPWD wildlife biologist. What is Avian Influenza: Avian Influenza, caused by influenza type A viruses, is a contagious viral disease that poses a major threat to the poultry industry and animal health. Migratory waterfowl and other waterbirds are a natural reservoir for this disease as they congregate on wintering grounds. There are many strains of the virus that vary in severity based on the species affected. These

(Continued on Next Page)

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strains are put into two general classifications—low pathogenic (LPAI) and highly pathogenic (HPAI). LPAI generally causes only minor illnesses and occurs naturally in migratory birds. HPAI spreads rapidly and has a high death rate in birds. Additionally, select mammal species are highly susceptible to HPAI including domestic cats, skunks, foxes, raccoons, bobcats, mountain lions and black bears. Due to the ease of transmission, TPWD recommends wildlife rehabilitators remain cautious when handling wild animals with clinical signs consistent with HPAI and quarantining animals to limit the potential for HPAI exposure to other animals within the facility. Backyard poultry may infect or be infected by contact with wild birds. If a wildlife rehabilitator suspects HPAI in an animal, contact TPWD within 24 hours of intake.

Clinical Signs and Transmission:

Clinical signs include neurological disease such as incoordination or stumbling, lethargy, trembling, seizures, lack of fear of people, coughing and sneezing and sudden death, though birds infected with HPAI may not always have outward signs of infection. The virus may spread in a variety of ways, including through contact with infected wild and domestic birds as well as by contaminated equipment, clothing and shoes of caretakers. For mammals, transmission occurs primarily through the consumption of infected animal carcasses and contaminated equipment. Currently, the transmission risk of avian influenza from infected birds to people remains low, but the public should take basic protective measures if contact with wild animals cannot be avoided. Public and health care profession-

als can find more information about HPAI in humans from the Texas Department of State Health Services. If you develop signs of illness after you have been in contact with an HPAI-positive animal or animal with clinical signs suspicious for HPAI immediately contact your healthcare provider and let them know about the exposure.

Prevention:

TPWD currently suggests discontinuing the use of bird feeders but if they are left up in areas with higher detections numbers then the bird feeders and water sources should be cleaned at least every two weeks with a solution of one part household bleach to nine parts water. Change water in birdbaths every few days and regularly remove wet feed and seed from feed and water sources.

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49th Semi-Annual Open Tournament

Mar. 21, 2026 * Lake Fork, Texas

Oak Ridge Marina * Hwy 154 N.

Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries 903-360-6994
Drawings Held After Weigh-in for prizes



1st Place	\$1,040.00
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 Mar. 14, 2026.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Sat., Mar. 21, 2026.
4. Check in times Fri., Mar. 20, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Mar. 21, 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 fishing 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 are welcome to participate. 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

Early Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Mar. 14, 2026 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

TTB USE ONLY

Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Chk# _____

Toyota ShareLunker Program Climbs to New Heights in 2025

The 2025 Toyota ShareLunker season re-wrote the record books again thanks to 469 anglers who entered a record 1,071 largemouth bass into the program throughout the year from 93 Texas public waterbodies.

The total included 714 in the Bass Pro Shops Lunker Class (weighing between 8 and 9.99 pounds or at least 24 inches), 335 Strike King Elite Class (weighing 10 to 12.99 pounds), 14 Legacy Class (weighing

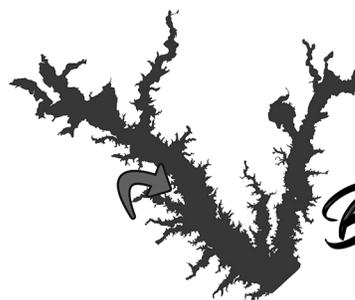
13 pounds or more and caught between Jan. 1 and March 31) and eight Lew's Legend Class Lunkers that were 13 pounds or more caught outside the collection season.

These entries provided valuable data to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists across Texas in their ongoing efforts to manage largemouth bass populations. Anglers also submitted 201 DNA samples from their catches in 2025. The

samples enable TPWD biologists to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

"The 40th anniversary season has arrived! After an epic 2025, we're ready to see Texas anglers make history in 2026.

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 stock- (Continued on Next Page)



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ing program. These anglers can call the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 through March 31, 2026.

Anglers must weigh their potential Legacy Class fish on a certified scale. A list of official weigh stations can be found on the ShareLunker Official Weigh and Holding Stations website.

Anglers who catch and loan a 13-plus pound lunker earn Legacy Class status, receive a catch kit filled with merchandise donated by program sponsors, a 13lb+ Legacy decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker Annual Awards event, a high-quality replica mount of their fish from Lake Fork Taxidermy and ShareLunker branded apparel provided by AFTCO.. Anglers 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.

The year-round Toyota ShareLunker Program offers anglers three additional levels of participation for catching bass over eight pounds or 24 inches in Texas public waters. Each of these levels provide

vital data to TPWD fisheries biologists, helping them continue to create bigger, better bass in Texas.

Anglers who enter data for any lunker they catch greater than eight pounds or 24 inches also receive a catch kit, a decal for their vehicle or boat, a one-month subscription card to Bass University and an entry into the year-end grand prize drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree. ShareLunker entry classes include the Bass Pro Shops Lunker Class (8 lb.+), Strike King Elite Class (10 lb.+) and Lew's Legend Class (13 lb.+).

Once a qualified 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 at TexasSharelunker.com.

In addition to providing basic catch information, anglers have the option to send a DNA scale sample from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis. Anglers who contribute a sample to the program will receive a Lew's reel while supplies last, with a limit of one reel per angler. Instructions for submitting DNA samples are located

on the Toyota ShareLunker website.

TPWD and the Toyota ShareLunker Program are once again partnering with AFTCO on the AFTCO Guide of the Year award for the 2026 ShareLunker season. The AFTCO Guide of the Year award recognizes a fishing guide who contributes to conservation and enhancement of largemouth bass in Texas.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous title 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.

Additional vital program support comes from Legend Class category prize sponsor Lew's, Elite class category prize sponsor Strike King, Lunker class category prize sponsor Bass Pro Shops, AFTCO, Bass Forecast, Bass University and Lake Fork Taxidermy. For updates on the Toyota ShareLunker Program, visit facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram/, https://www.instagram.com/TexasShareLunker/ or TexasSharelunker.com



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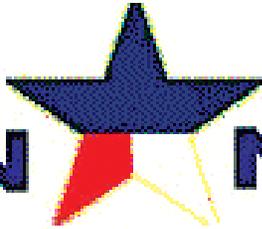
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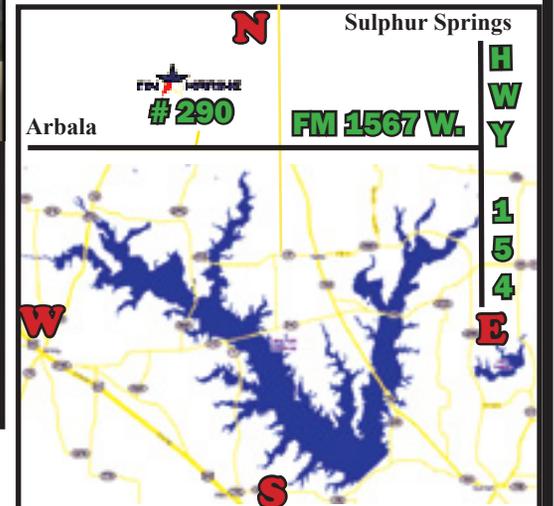
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Amendment II
A Well Regulated Militia -
"A militia, when properly formed, are in fact the people themselves" whose ability to act in both personal and common defense must be well maintained.

Being Necessary to the Security of a Free State -
Secure in personal liberty (the state of being free), and the governance of a free people (the State securing the rights of a free people).

The Right of the People -
"The whole of the people"; an individual right, independent of government.

To Keep and Bear Arms -
To own and carry "arms" of whatever type necessary to effectively provide for personal defense and defense against tyranny.

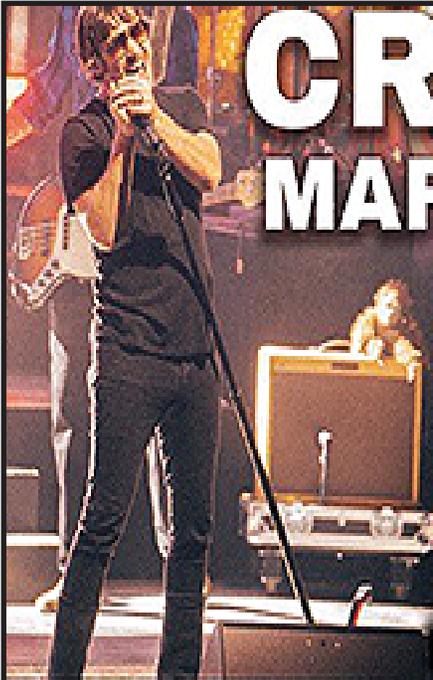
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Lake Fork Sportsman's Association "Preserving the Legend That is Lake Fork"

By Don Hampton, LFSA President

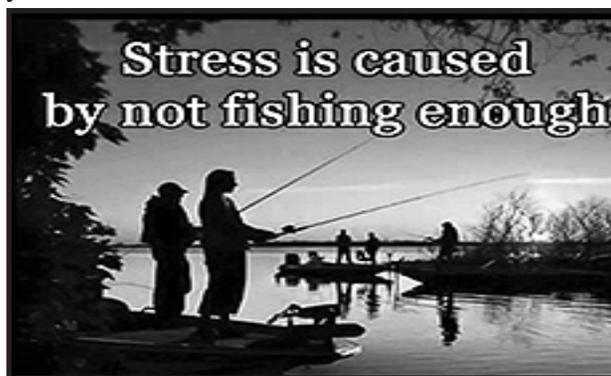
The Lake Fork Sportsman Association welcomed Cassandra Gann, Public Relations of CRAPPIE-FEST 2026 on Lake Fork. This great event will be hosted out of Caney Point Park and Pavillion on March 27th through the 29th. This is truly going to be not only a crappie fishing event but also family oriented with live entertainment, games for the children, booths and lots of fun. Everyone is invited out to have a great time and enjoy some fishing.

Also in February the LFSA along with TPWD and SRA staff put out 332 Christmas trees covering 1,000-ft of shoreline on Lake Fork. The trees were placed in approximately 2-ft. of water. When our lake reaches full pool they will be in close to 5-ft. of water. This will protect the spawning beds in this area, provide protection for the fry once they hatch. As an added advantage this will create a barrier that will help prevent future erosion of the bank line.

Watch for our new website coming soon. It was

voted on by the Board of Directors and approved and voted to approve by the membership to have a new website designed for the future progress of the association. The new website will provide activities and plans, the dates and locations, pictures of project events, and links for businesses, guides, and information of Lake Fork.

If you would like to become a member of this great organization and help "Preserve the Legend that is Lake Fork", you can contact me at 903-360-6994 or email fishnewslakefork@gmail.com. Hope to see you!



For the past 26 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.



"Wish To Fish Foundation"

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If you know a family that has a child that meets our criteria, just have them call us.

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



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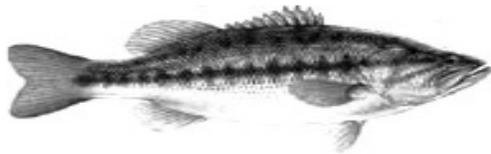
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Lake Fork Tournament Schedule Mar. thru May 2026



March

Mar. 7 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket

Mar. 21 ~ Tex. Trails Open
Oak Ridge Marina

Mar. 28 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket



April

Apr. 4 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket

Apr. 12 ~ Mega Bass, BassChamps
Lake Fork Marina

Apr. 25 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket

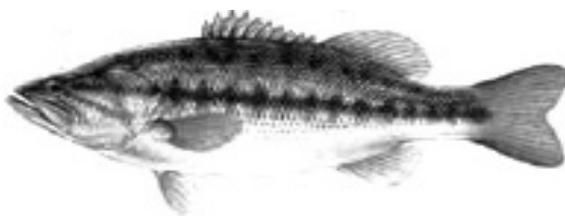


May

May 2~ JC Outdoors Team
Minnow Bucket

May 15,16,17 ~ Legend of Lake Fork
Lake Fork Marina

May 20 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket



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Wood County Prepares for 2026 Ruck for the Fallen — A Tribute to Heroes and a Boost for Veterans

The 2026 Wood County, Texas — Ruck for the Fallen is set for Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Governor Jim Hogg Park in Quitman, and organizers are preparing for another powerful day of remem-

brance, service, and community involvement.

Following a highly successful 2025 event that raised more than \$11,000 for the veteran non-profit Boot Campaign, the Ruck for the Fallen continues to grow in both participation and impact. The event challenges participants physically while honoring the sacrifices of America's fallen service members and supporting those who continue to serve and protect our nation.

The Ruck for the Fallen is open to runners, walkers, ruckers, veterans, civilians, families, and teams. Participants may choose from several race options, including non-ruck distances of one mile, 5K, and 10K, as well as 5K and 10K ruck divisions. Ruck participants carry a minimum of 35 pounds in their packs, symbolizing the burden carried by service members both in combat and beyond.

All races take place on scenic routes through Governor Jim Hogg Park. Ruck weights are verified

before the start and after crossing the finish line to ensure fairness and safety. Awards will be presented to top male and female finishers in the ruck divisions, as well as to Battle Buddy and Fire Team groups, reinforcing teamwork and camaraderie — core values of military service.

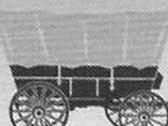
More than just a fitness challenge, the Ruck for the Fallen serves a greater mission. Ninety-nine percent of proceeds from the 2026 event will benefit Boot Campaign, a nationally recognized non-profit organization dedicated to uniting Americans to honor and restore the lives of veterans and military families. Boot Campaign provides individualized, life-improving programs that address issues such as mental health care, transitional support, and long-

(Continued on Next Page)



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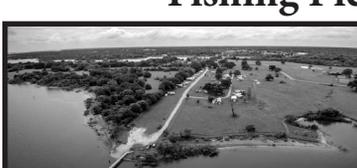


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TEXAS**



Never Forget

RUCK FOR THE FALLEN

term wellness.

An additional one percent of proceeds will support the Quitman Lake Country Charitable Foundation, which assists individuals, families, and animals in need throughout the local community.

The inaugural 2025 Ruck for the Fallen demonstrated the strength and generosity of Wood County and surrounding areas. Participants, sponsors, and volunteers came together to remember the fallen, support veterans, and strengthen community bonds.

Organizers invite everyone — from competitive athletes to first-time participants — to take part in the 2026 Ruck for the Fallen. Whether carrying a ruck, walking in remembrance, or cheering from the sidelines, every participant plays a role in honoring those who gave everything for our freedoms.



March Crappie *(Continued from Page 8)*

pick up my new Skeeter Solera with the Yamaha 250 and get it rigged and ready for the 2026 season! My best to you all! You can reach me at 903-335-0941 to reserve a date, and you can also follow my adventures on Facebook. Plus, "Special blessings" to those who helped me off the Giant Mountain of my families collections. I'm forever grateful!

Blessings to all!

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1	C	2	H	3	E	4	R	5	C	6	A	7	S	8	E	9	D	10	S	11	A	12	V	13	E								
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Tool Find

There are 14 home-improvement-project needs hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

- | | |
|---------|--------------|
| BOLTS | PLIERS |
| CLAMP | RATCHET |
| HAMMER | SANDER |
| LEVEL | SAW |
| MALLET | SCREWDRIVER |
| NAILS | TAPE MEASURE |
| NIPPERS | WRENCH |

R	S	L	I	A	M	A	L	L	E	T	E	
A	C	R	E	N	C	R	H	S	U	A	R	
C	E	E	P	A	T	A	N	M	E	P	A	
T	W	V	M	O	L	T	A	S	C	E	W	
E	R	I	A	S	R	C	I	A	H	M	R	
H	I	R	L	I	E	H	L	E	V	E	L	
R	E	D	N	A	S	E	S	A	N	A	A	
S	A	W	R	N	C	T	E	T	H	S	M	
T	R	E	I	R	D	M	A	L	C	U	A	
L	O	V	R	V	E	S	L	I	E	N	R	L
L	O	H	C	N	E	R	W	P	V	P	E	E
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S	R	P	I	N	I	P	T	L	L	A	M	
C	A	T	H	C	L	A	M	P	I	A	N	
R	T	B	O	L	P	T	S	A	N	P	A	
E	C	H	N	E	W	R	E	M	M	A	H	



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Self-Discharge Rate	< 1% / month
Operating Temperature	-20°C ~ 60°C
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Dimensions	~ 130x50x30mm

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Game Warden Field Notes

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

—Investigators at the Ready— While responding to an anonymous call about alligator poaching on the Neches River, game wardens from Anderson, Henderson and Smith counties found an alligator shot with a compound bow behind the Lake Palestine Spillway. After injuring the 4.5-foot alligator, the suspect jumped into the river to retrieve the alligator. Two other people assisted in dispatching it with a knife before the trio began taking pictures and

a video to post on social media. Eventually, the two accomplices left the scene with the alligator while the shooter remained behind and was discovered by the Henderson and Smith County game wardens. The shooter initially swam to the other side of the river, but ultimately returned to the wardens. After interviewing the suspect, the wardens pieced together a timeline of events and gathered enough evidence to file appropriate charges against the shooter. However, their attempt to locate the alligator and the second and third suspects proved unsuccessful until the shooter provided vid-

eo to the Anderson County Game Warden better identifying the individuals. As a result of the wardens' investigation, multiple cases were filed including hunting during a closed season and hunting without a license. The cases are currently pending along with civil restitution.

—Hi, I'm the Problem, It's Me— While patrolling over Labor Day weekend, Panola County Game Wardens contacted several dove hunting groups across the county. While most of their interactions were positive, the wardens contacted three different groups hunting doves over

(Continued on Page 24)

THERE'S A FEELING YOU GET FROM
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THAT YOU DON'T GET ANYWHERE ELSE

'Steak'-out the All-American Dinner

By Sue Hampton

"Steak and potatoes" is about as American as dinner gets, just as a slice of homemade apple pie is the quintessential all-American dessert. London broil,

Porter-house, flank, pick a cut – you'll find customers lining up for hours at their favorite steakhouses nationwide for a bite of their favorite cuts of juicy, tender steak.

One of the most pop-

ular and easiest cuts of steak to prepare is the T-bone. Try your hand at this easy recipe!

T-BONE STEAK WITH SKILLET POTATOES

3 pounds potatoes, unpeeled

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 onion, in 1/4-inch slices

Pinch of sugar

3 strips thick smoky bacon

1 tablespoon bacon drippings

2 tablespoons butter

Pinch of salt, coarsely ground pepper, and sugar

2 tablespoons chopped

garlic

2 tablespoons thinly sliced scallions

4 (25-30 ounce) T-bone steaks

Salt and black pepper

Cook the potatoes in boiling water. Drain then refrigerate the potatoes for about 2 hours or until cool. Peel and slice 1/4- to 1/2-inch thick.

Heat the oil in a small skillet over medium heat and add the onions. Stir constantly as the onions sizzle and begin to brown. Add a pinch of salt, pepper and sugar and

cook until brown and caramelized. Remove from the heat and set aside.

In a castiron skillet, cook the bacon until crisp. Remove and drain on absorbent paper. When cool, crumble the bacon and set aside. Drain the bacon drippings from the pan except for 1 tablespoon. In the same pan, add the butter to the bacon drippings. Add the sliced potatoes, season with salt and pepper, and cook over medium heat until the bottom is crisp. Turn the po-

tatoes over and season the other side with salt and pepper. Add the garlic, caramelized onions, scallions and crumbled bacon. Cook until they are tender then keep warm while cooking the steak.

Prepare a hot grill. Season the steaks with salt and pepper and cook for approximately 8 to 10 minutes per side for medium-rare, or as desired. Remove from the grill and top with a spoonful of parsley butter. Serve with skillet potatoes.



"Steak and Potatoes" is about as American as dinner gets! Enjoy!



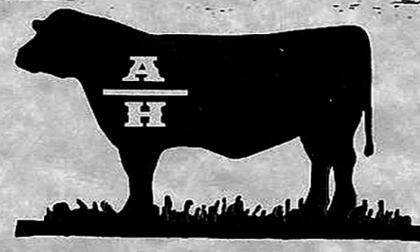
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

baited areas. They issued a total 19 citations for hunting over bait and seized 108 doves from the three parties.

—Jumping Through Hoops—While Texas Game Wardens from the Zapata District were patrolling Falcon Lake, wardens found eight hoop nets on the Texas side containing bluegill, channel catfish, blue catfish, freshwater drum, common carp and Rio Grande cichlid. Wardens seized and destroyed the nets and returned the fish to the water alive and well.

—In a Heap of Trouble—A Smith County Game Warden received a call from a landowner about materials dumped along a bridge and creek on his property. While the materials included mostly sheetrock, housing trim and lumber. The warden did find a box with a bar code that allowed him to trace the materials to a local store and, ultimately, the owner of the credit card used for the purchase. The warden interviewed the cardholder, who had just completed a home remodel for his family. He told the warden someone familiar with his family had offered to haul off the unused materials for a small fee. The suspect

kept the money and dumped the trash onto private property. Along with Smith County Sheriff's Office environmental deputies, the warden served a warrant for felony commercial dumping over 200 pounds. When arrested, the suspect had more building materials and trash in the truck.

—Just Winging It—A Karnes County Game Warden received a call from someone asking if dove season was open because their neighbors were shooting excessively. When the warden arrived at the location, he could hear shooting. Making his way to the back of the property, he witnessed several subjects hunting doves and found they were over their bag limit of mourning doves, as Karnes County is in the Special White-Wing Dove Zone. Additionally, two of the hunters did not have valid hunting licenses, nor had they taken hunter's education classes. The warden issued citations, seized and donated 29 doves.

—Ignorance Isn't Always Bliss—A landowner notified a Hays County Game Warden that a hunter killed

a whitetail doe out of season. The hunter, who paid a fee to hunt hogs that day, was visiting from Maryland with his son. The landowner found out about the doe after he received pictures from the hunter and his son posing with their harvest and asking for a ride back to their truck. The hunters became irate after the game warden told them it was not deer season. The landowner provided the game warden the signed liability waivers from the hunters, which only mentioned hog hunting. The hunters said they were never told they needed hunting licenses and that they should have been provided with certain services like a hunting guide, verbal education on hunting regulations and signage around the site stating hunting laws. They also assumed that, like Maryland, they didn't need a hunting license and could hunt anything on private property. The hunters stated that after a day without services and no animal sightings, they became upset with the landowner. During a phone conversation, the landowner stated, "everything is open." The hunters interpreted the landowner's

(Continued on Next Page)

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BECAUSE
WITHOUT IT,
I'M BASICALLY A
2-YEAR-OLD
WHOSE BLANKIE
IS IN THE WASHER.**

statement as every animal on the property is open to be killed, when instead, the landowner was referring to every blind and stand being open for the hunters to use. The game warden issued citations for hunting and possessing whitetail deer in a closed season and not having a nonresident hunting license.

—Flushing Out a Poacher— Henderson County Game Wardens filed charges against a man for hunting without landowner consent. The wardens had been investigating the suspect since last deer season, when they found an unusual hunting blind made out of a converted porta-potty. Unable to catch the suspect last year, wardens set up a game camera along the property line in hopes the hunter would return to hunt the same unusual blind. On the opening morning of deer season, the camera captured the suspect walking to his "toilet stand." Not long after, wardens confronted the hunter and he confessed to hunting without permission. Charges were filed, and the man removed the blind and feeder from the property.

—Bailout Results in Bale-Out— While assisting other law enforcement agencies as part of Operation Lone

Star, a Texas Game Warden and his K9 partner, Jake, were called to track a bailout suspect. Before starting their search for the bailout, though, Jake alerted to the vehicle — an indication people could be inside. However, Jake and his partner began pursuing the track of the bailout suspect and left the vehicle alone so it could be processed for evidence. After successfully locating and aiding in the apprehension of their suspect, the game warden received a call from the agent at the scene and were surprised to learn the haybale in the bed of the truck had just flipped over and requested assistance. Officers discovered 10 undocumented individuals hiding inside the fake hay bale.

—Venom and Vice—A Milam County Game Warden received a call from a concerned landlord about a tenant reportedly keeping several venomous snakes in an apartment near the Cameron ISD Middle School. Given the nature of the call and the tenant's history, game wardens from Travis and Williamson counties, along with the Milam County Sheriff's Office, assisted with the investigation. Upon contact, the tenant admitted to possessing multiple snakes and allowed wardens to inspect them. In-

side the apartment, wardens observed what appeared to be methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia in plain sight. A field test confirmed the substance as methamphetamine, and the suspect was arrested for possession of a controlled substance. The tenant's apartment is located within 1,000 feet of a school, placing the offense within a designated drug-free zone. After being Mirandized, he confessed to keeping a monocled cobra, a green bush viper, rat snakes, bull snakes and approximately 25 rattlesnakes—without the required permit or a hunting license. Due to the presence of the openly visible narcotics, wardens obtained a search warrant, which led to the discovery of additional narcotics, drug paraphernalia and more unlawfully possessed snakes. Wardens seized the reptiles and transferred them to a licensed permit holder who is equipped to care for them.

The suspect now faces multiple charges, including possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1, possession of drug paraphernalia, no valid hunting license and a violation for the lack of a non-indigenous snake permit.

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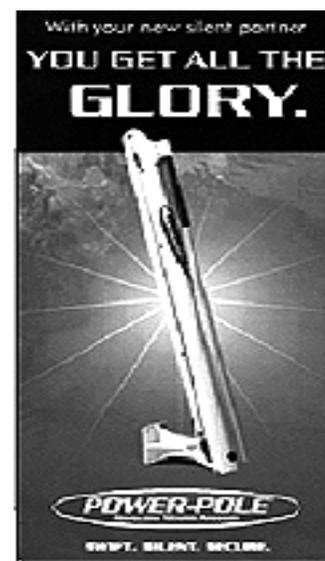
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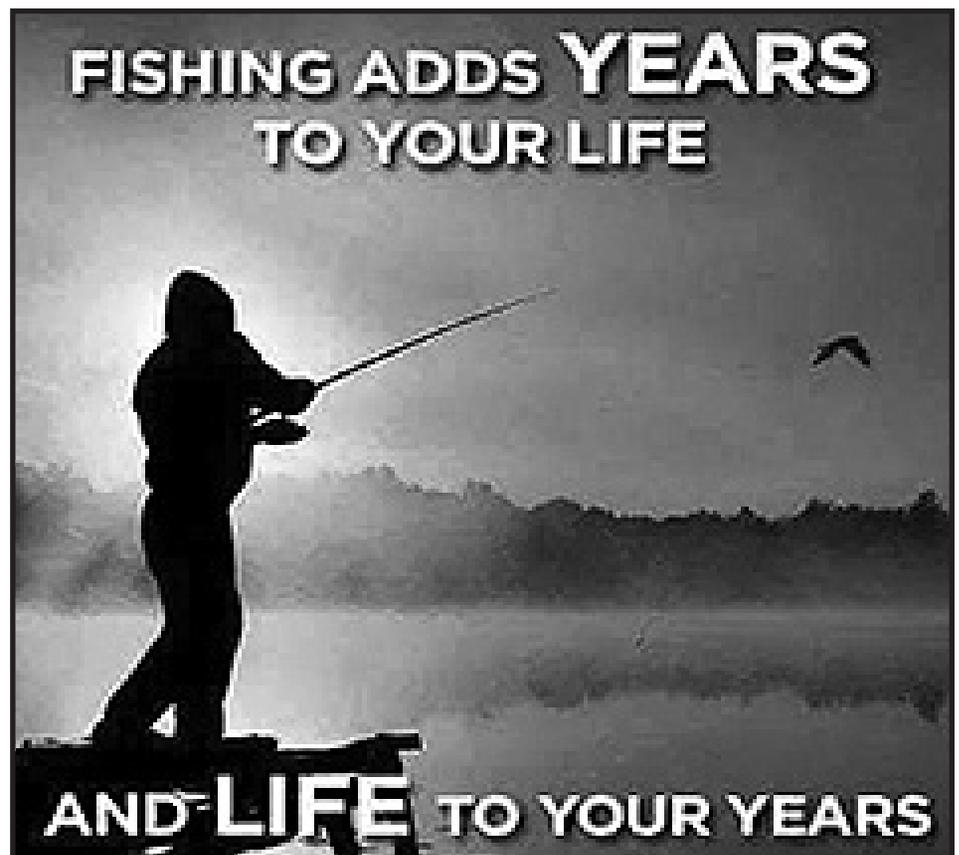
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8th place.....	\$500
9th place.....	\$500
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