

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas"



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

1 Section

"Lines To Get Hooked On"
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No. 323



Jake Norman, TPWD Marine Biologist assigned to Lake Fork, and his crew recently inserted telemetry devices into bass on Lake Fork for a study tracking bass movements. (Courtesy Photo TPWD)

Study Tracking Bass Movements on Lake Fork

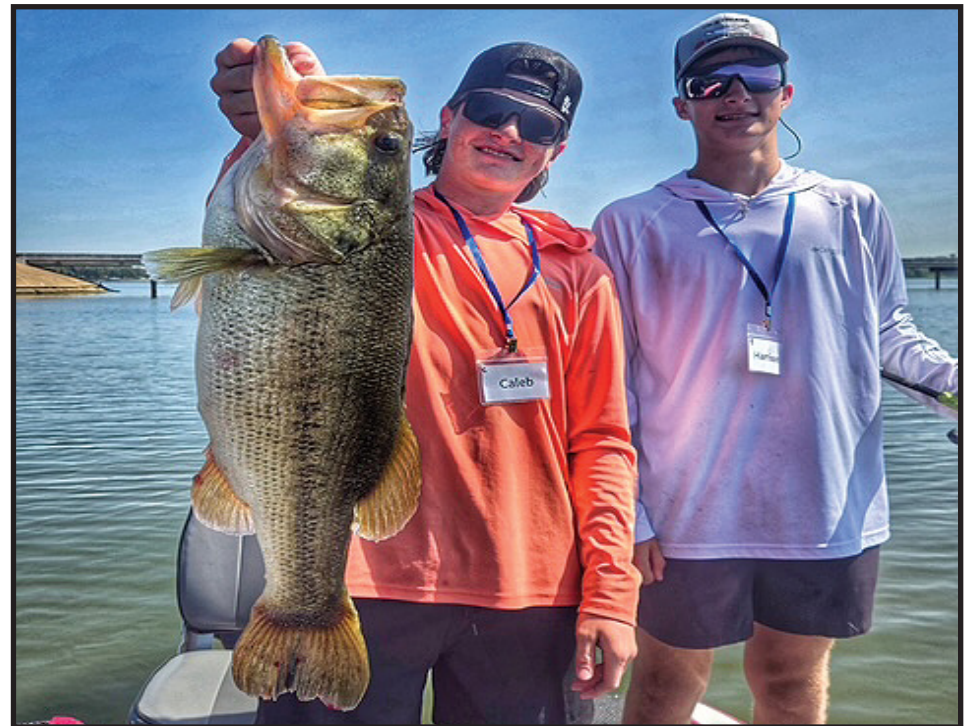
By Don Hampton

Jake Norman is one of the most prominent fisheries biologists in Texas. He has set his

sights on uncovering the movements of bass on Lake Fork. From early childhood as a fisherman his dream was to really

delve into the biology of bass. He attained this goal by first getting a bachelor's degree. (See Study Tracking ... Continued on Page 4)

Camp Bass on Lake Fork



Caleb Karr took top honor of Angler of the Year at Camp Bass when he landed this hawg weighing 9.4-lbs fishing with guide Rick Carter. C.P.R.

Don Hampton

Camp Bass was held on Lake Fork July 20 through July 24 and hosted out of Lake Fork Marina.

There were 42 junior

anglers participating this year, representing six states. CampBass offers a variety of classes to its Jr Anglers such as: Rod Building Advance Electronics Class, Bait Manufacturing, Lure Making,

and much more! A variety of Lake Fork guides donate their time to this great cause as Lake Fork Marina and Lake Fork Sportsmans's Association. (See Camp Bass... Continued on Page 9)



Debbie Craig was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when she caught this nice bass. C.P.R.



Mike McWhorter caught this nice bass while fishing Lake Fork out of a Bullet Boat. Great catch. C.P.R.



Chad Callum was fishing Lake Fork with guide Whitt Smith when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.

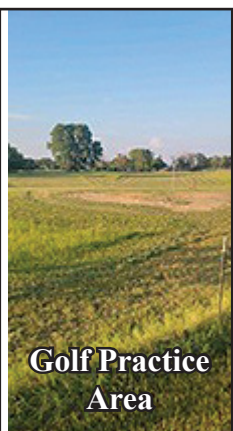
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If Fishing Involved a Classroom, Bubba Would Be Playing Hooky On The Lake!

By: Don J. Hampton

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

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

Bubba believes having free stuff and not having to worry about your next

boat payment would help anyone's fishing abilities improve. After all, an angler can only pitch and cast until perfection is reached or else they have gained the height of their limitations. Some anglers get precise with hitting their target, they'd put a major league pitcher with a "No Hitter" to shame.

Another aspect of this equation is the movement of the lure. An angler can only move, shake, twitch, and twist their presentation so much. Then how do you explain dead-sticking, or the stories about the angler that cast out, was getting a drink or lighting a cigarette and caught the biggest bass of their life?

This is where Bubba's definition of fishing

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

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

Bubba's belief in the

luck factor of fishing is almost borderline superstition. He has his lucky shirt, his lucky rod, his lucky shoes, his lucky socks, and his lucky underwear. As a matter of fact anything Bubba was using, wearing, or had in the boat when he caught a big fish is a new lucky token, and like an American Express Card, he won't leave home without it. It would not surprise me at all that if Bubba ever catches a "State Record" we will probably see him on television. Can't you just picture it coming on your TV, "Hi I'm Bubba, You don't know me, that's

why I carry this card and 40,000 other things in my boat! Cause you never know when you'll need more stuff!" With his luck he'll probably do it some day!

Bubba also believes that practice makes perfect! This is really a benefit to himself the most. To acquire the proper talent and techniques of fishing a lot of practice is required. This requires Bubba to do a lot of fishing when Bubette will let him and when he doesn't have to work to make boat payments and buy stuff. Somewhere down the line it has changed from, "Honey can I go fish-

ing?" to "Honey I need to go practice!" I don't know how this sounds to Bubette but to me it sounds more like piano lessons than fishing. But, it seems to work for Bubba and like he says, "Why change your line if it ain't frayed?"

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

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Study Tracking Bass Movements on Lake Fork *(Continued from Page 1)*

gree in fisheries and wildlife at the University of Missouri. Then he attended Southern Illinois University to obtain a master's degree in zoology, specializing in fisheries science and management.



Telemetry device inserted into bass to study tracking and behavior.

His dream continues with the study of bass movement on our great reservoir. As soon as the bass is in the boat, the surgeons drop their rod and reels to pick up scalpels and stitches. Carefully and quickly as possible, they cradle the bass, place it under electro anesthesia with a low voltage current, pump oxygen rich water over its gills and set to work implanting a telemetry device into its stomach. For TPWD fisheries biologists it's a critical step toward research.

In a very short time the bass is released back into our lake. Repeated several times, the procedure helps create a data set for researchers with the state fish and wildlife agency to study. The goal is to better understand how fishing patterns affect fish movement within this East Texas Reservoir.

Do bass change behavior because of fishing pressure? For two years, biologists have

played the part of surgeons on one of the premier lakes in America. At the head of the operation room, Jake Norman, a lifelong bass angler with a thirst for knowledge, has been calling the shots.

"The whole project was based on angler concerns," said Mr. Norman, the project lead. "We did it because anglers were telling us the fishing wasn't as good as it should have been. We went out with the mindset of trying to look at these fish in crazy, heavily pressured systems and learn if they have adapted to avoid angling in general."

Rumors have never been more widespread in the world of bass fishing as in the present. If an angler has a bad day on their trip, word is it's not their fault it is the lake and the pressure on the lake. While anyone can make a post or spread rumors to cover their inept ability on a certain trip, it's still up to biologists to actually manage public fisheries and use science to cut through the chatter with irrefutable facts.

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Nearly 180 Species of Greatest Conservation Need Noted by Texans During City Nature Challenge

On Lake Fork, common theory around a perceived drop in the quality of bass fishing has been feeding rumors for the past several years. For the fifth year in a row, several Texas cities ranked in the top ten globally during the City Nature Challenge (CNC), one of the world's largest community science events.

Globally, the 107,906 participants of the 2026 CNC recorded more than 2,880,111 observations with 75,155 species documented, including 5,628 rare, endangered or threatened species. The CNC had participants from 747 cities in 62 countries and six continents. All of these categories saw increased numbers from the 2025 CNC.

Fourteen Texas metropolitan areas participated in the challenge and logged a whopping 322,416 observations. Participants recorded more than 9,500 different species with more than 176 of those being Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including the Texas horned lizard, zone tailed hawk, tricolored bat, and Texas tortoise.

Four Texas urban areas ranked in the top 15 globally for number of observations, and Texas as a whole accounted for 11 percent of global observations.

The San Antonio Metro Area ranked second in both the number of observations and species observed, and first in number of observers,

and the Dallas/Fort Worth Area ranked third in number of observations and third in number of species observed.

CNC is a global community-based scientific effort, co-organized by San Francisco's California Academy of Sciences and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. It invites current and aspiring citizen scientists of all ages and backgrounds to observe and submit pictures of wild plants, animals and fungi using the free iNaturalist mobile app.

TPWD's Texas Nature Trackers program supports the CNC in Texas.

Visit the City Nature Challenge online to find links to Texas projects and learn more about the global project on the website.



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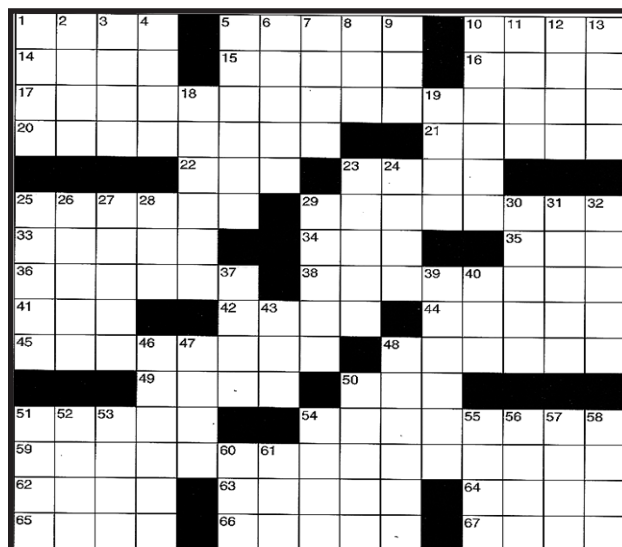
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"The Neko Rig"

By Whitt Smith

The Neko Rig, another bass fishing technique that originated in Japan, is an amazing tool to catch Bass in tough conditions!

It's a technique, most often utilizing a straight tail worm, that competes and often outshines a



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Anger | 38. Monkeys' vantage points |
| 5. Degrade | 41. Obeah |
| 10. Catch sight of | 42. Primates |
| 14. Collect | 44. Manservant |
| 15. Outdoes | 45. Renews |
| 16. Orthodox Islam | 48. Mixture |
| 17. Like a new father | 49. Opera feature |
| 20. Work surface | 50. One of 12 sons of Jacob |
| 21. Understands through intuition (slang) | 51. Old World lizard |
| 22. Allow | 54. Suffers a nervous breakdown |
| 23. Vegetable root | 59. Like a newborn babe |
| 25. Delays | 62. Hawk |
| 29. Power unit | 63. Bewilder |
| 33. Tailor | 64. Czech river |
| 34. They _____ | 65. Privation |
| 35. Hoof | 66. Cola |
| 36. Ordered around | 67. Interpret |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Acknowledgment (abbr.) | 30. Coral island |
| 2. Light | 31. Pith helmet |
| 3. Clod | 32. Petulant |
| 4. Hebrew calendar month | 37. Iranian |
| 5. Decreases | 39. Smoothly |
| 6. Muddle | 40. Small amount |
| 7. As fast as can be done (abbr.) | 43. Field or snow |
| 8. Engine additive | 46. Most unexciting |
| 9. Compass pt. | 47. Toward the mouth |
| 10. Part of some contracts | 48. African country |
| 11. Turn away | 50. Martial-art places |
| 12. Open a lock | 51. Afresh |
| 13. Laughs | 52. Indian sacred city |
| 18. Expunge | 53. Kwa |
| 19. North-central Indian city | 54. Raise an objection |
| 23. Districts (abbr.) | 55. Cain and _____ |
| 24. Phil _____, former CIA agent | 56. Type of tree |
| 25. Small drum | 57. Nuclear near reach weapon (abbr.) |
| 26. Brick | 58. Promised land |
| 27. Rationale | 60. Nucleotide (abbr.) |
| 28. Lasting records (abbr.) | 61. The woman |
| 29. Family unit | |

Answers on Page 21

Shakey Head worm. It also allows you to fish faster than a Wacky Rig, if you want to/ need to cover more water. Usually a 5-7" straight tail worm is used.

On Lake Fork, I prefer to use a straight shank hook that is made for Neko Rigs and has a weed/brush guard. Not only is this due to the fact that Lake Fork has many things to snag your hook, but I find that the Neko Rig really excels when Bass are holding tight to wood cover, grass or the edges of it and are not in the chasing mood. This can be due to high barometric or angling pressure.

You can utilize O-rings, commonly used to Wacky Rig or specially designed bands to slip over the worm to aid in holding the hook. You can also just directly attach the hook to the worm with neither ring or band. The key is always attaching the hook to the side of the worm so the hook point is on the tail side of the worm and the



fat end of worm is on the shank of the hook side. This ensures you'll hook the Bass in the top lip or roof of the mouth and increase hook-up and landing ratios.

To weight the worm, insert a nail or screw-in type weight into the head of the worm. You can add a dab of super glue gel to the nail weights to save them from being shaken out when Bass head shake.

Place the band or o-ring, hook to the worm about a third to half-way up the worm from the head or fat end.

Of course, just adjust your weight size to the depth of water you're fishing and the weight of the plastic worm you're using.

A lightly weighted Neko rig can be pitched to and in some vegetation without bogging down like a Shakey Head would, but still offering the stand up worm profile that triggers bites in tough conditions.

The Neko Rig is fantastic blind casted to

(See The Neko Rig..
Continued on Page 21)

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Texas Game Wardens Remove 62 Impaired Operators, Report No Boating Fatalities Fourth of July

Texas Game Wardens maintained a strong presence on lakes, rivers and coastal waters across Texas during the Fourth of July holiday weekend. They contacted more than 10,800 vessels while participating in Operation Dry Water, a nationwide campaign focused on reducing the number of alcohol- and drug- related incidents and fatalities through awareness and enforcement of boating under the influence on the state's waterways.

Between July 3-5, 417 game wardens contacted 10,817 vessels, issued 1,466 citations and 1,974 warnings for various boating safety violations, filed 62 boating while intoxicated (BWI) charges and four driving while intoxicated (DWI) charges. Wardens also made 20 additional arrests for various other offenses.

The 62 BWI charges represent the highest number filed by Texas Game Wardens during the Fourth of July holiday weekend since 2019.

Despite responding to 25 boating incidents over the weekend, game wardens did not receive any reports of boating-related fatalities, although numerous incidents involved serious bodily injury. There were also two open-water drownings; one at Lake Hawkins in Wood County and one at Lake Palo Pinto in Palo Pinto County along with numerous calls for boating assistance statewide.

"Thousands of Texans and visitors safely enjoyed time on the water this holiday weekend, and we're grateful the majority of boaters made responsible decisions by wearing life jackets, avoiding alcohol and watching out for each other," said Col. Ron VanderRoest, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Law Enforcement Division director. "At the same time, the two lives lost are a sad reminder of how quickly tragedy can strike and the importance of remaining vigilant."

In addition to boating safety enforcement, game wardens responded to numerous significant incidents, including several vessel collisions, a reported hit-and-run involving a personal watercraft, medical emergencies, arrests for possession of controlled substances, multiple suspected human trafficking cases discovered during calls for service and proactive enforcement, and the rescue of a kayaker who had been in the water for approximately three hours without a life jacket after capsizing.

Boating safety education was a priority throughout the weekend. Through TPWD's Adopt-A-Ramp program, our invaluable volunteers made 393 contacts with boaters at Joe Pool Lake, Lake Lavon and Lake Bastrop, sharing information about boating laws, life jacket use and safe boating practices before people launched.

(See Texas Game Wardens.....Continued on Page 12)



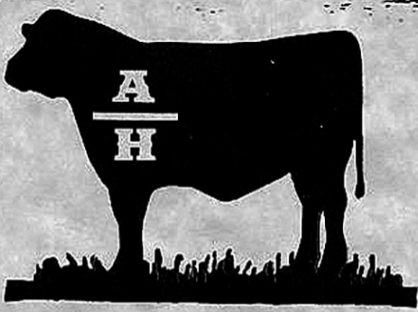
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"The Moon Report"

Forks August Crappie Fishing

By Terri Moon

When August rolls around on Lake Fork the thermometer climbs past 100 degrees. Many anglers decide it's simply too hot to fish. But, for those willing to brave the Texas heat, some outstanding crappie fishing is still happening. The biggest key to success is understanding that the fish haven't disappeared – they've simply gone deeper. As the surface water heats up, crappie gather around brush piles, standing timber, and creek channels in 18 to 30 ft. of water where temperatures are more stable and baitfish are plentiful. The first few hours of daylight often produce the fastest action before the sun bears down.

Once the heat settles in, slowing your presentation becomes critical. Whether you're dropping live minnows or easing a small hand-tied jig through deep brush, patience will usually outfish speed. On Lake Fork, brush piles in the deeper areas of the lake continue to hold schools of crappie throughout the hottest part of the summer.



Electronics have become one of the greatest tools an angler can own. Instead of fishing empty water, modern sonar allows you to locate brush, identify schools of fish, and present your bait right where the crappie are holding. In August, precision makes all the difference.

Of course, the fish aren't the only thing affected by the triple-digit temperatures. Staying hydrated, wearing lightweight sun protective clothing, and knowing when to head back to the dock are just as important as choosing the right bait. No limit of crappie is worth risking your health in the Texas heat.

August may test an anglers endurance, but it also rewards persistence. While many boats stay on the trailer waiting for cooler weather, those who adapt to the conditions often enjoy some of the most consistent summertime crappie fishing of the year.

The "dog days" of summer don't signal the end of the season – they simply remind us that the best catches often belong to the anglers willing to work a little harder. On Lake Fork, even when it's 100 degrees outside, the crappie are still biting.

The heat can be brutal, but August can still produce some outstanding fishing. While others are waiting for cooler weather, we're out there enjoying another day on the greatest crappie lake in Texas.

Now for those of you who still wait for cooler
(See The Moon Report....Continued on Page 22)

Camp Bass on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1)

tion also does. (See More Photos on Page 15)

What Is Camp Bass?

Their goal is to help develop future leadership in the fishing industry, in hopes that one day they will give back to the youth. Selected youth from all over the nation come together at the end of July to fish on the Premier Large Mouth Trophy Lake in the country, Lake Fork. Not only do they get to fish Lake Fork but they get to do it with the professional fishing guides of Lake Fork. The professional guides donate their time and skills to teach these Jr. Anglers.

Camp Bass ends with a banquet. The parents, Jr. Anglers and guides get to eat great barbecue and en-

joy the awards ceremony. They share in fond memories created during the week. They have awards from the Anti-Lunker to Camp Bass Angler of the Year. Their most prized award which is sought after all week is presented by Lake Fork Taxidermy. The largest bass over 24" receives a beautiful replica of their bass.

The future looks bright for Camp Bass. Each year gets better and better. They have many thanks to give to many people. The community of Lake Fork has been great to them. Ken and Dana Donahue of Lake Fork Marina and Motel have selflessly opened their doors to them. They could not imagine a bet-

ter place with better accommodations for them to hold Camp Bass. Also they would like to thank the guides of Lake Fork. For it is these great guides who have helped create Camp Bass. All have spent the extra time to make recommendations to improve the experience for the youth and help make them become the best in the nation. If you would like to be involved with Camp Bass or would like more information you can contact them at campbass@gmail.com




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TPWD Accepting Drawn Hunt Permit Applications for 2026-27 Season

Hunters have an exciting lineup of opportunities and a chance to experience the beautiful scenery of Texas through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) drawn hunt permits program.

The drawn hunts program issues permits to hunters for drawn hunts on both public and private lands throughout Texas. Applications are

now being accepted for a shot at nearly 9,800 permits in more than 60 high-quality hunt categories.

"It is an affordable way to get to hunt, but more importantly, the offerings in the public hunt draw system allow you to potentially hunt one end of Texas to the other for potentially every species Texas has to offer!" said Kelly Edmiston, TPWD

public hunting coordinator. "From the Panhandle to South Texas, to the Trans-Pecos and the Pineywoods, you could be selected for a hunting spot at a state park, wildlife management area, national wildlife refuge or pri-

ivate property. Variety is the key and the opportunity is there."

Hunts for white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorn, turkey, alligator and dove, plus guided packages for exotic species and bighorn sheep are a few of the hunts available through the Texas public drawn hunt system. Last year, more than 500,000 applications were submitted to TPWD.

Thanks to 154 hunts across 55 state parks, hunters will also have the chance to explore Texas State Parks. Public hunting opportunities at State Parks have increased for the 2026-27 season compared to last year, with a 20 percent increase over the past five years.

Key additions for the 2026-27 season include a mentored dove hunt at Lake Corpus Christi State Park along with deer and exotic game hunts at

(Continued on Next Page)

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newly acquired Bear Creek and Silver Lake State Parks. Other recently acquired state parks properties providing public hunts include Post Oak Ridge and Caprock Canyons State Parks, along with Enchanted Rock and Honey Creek State Natural Area.

Application deadlines are the 1st and 15th of each month between Aug. 1 and Nov. 1. For example, applications for all alligator hunt categories and private land dove hunts are due Aug. 1, while deadlines for archery deer, archery mule deer, pronghorn, private land pronghorn and javelina are Aug. 15.

Application fees range from free to \$3 to \$10, depending on the hunt category. If selected, adult hunters may need to pay a special permit fee of \$80 for regular hunts or \$130 for extended hunts. Categories such as youth-only hunts and speci-

fied others do not require application or permit fees. Permits are open to residents and non-resident hunters alike.

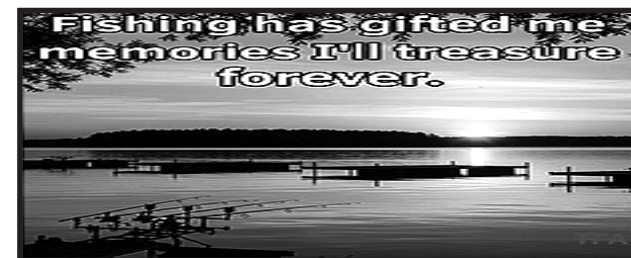
To apply for e-Postcard hunts and U.S. Forest Service antlerless deer permits, applicants must have a current Annual Public Hunt Permit (APH). APH permits go on sale annually on Aug. 15. Last year, 60,713 APH permits were sold, generating approximately \$2.8 million in revenue for wildlife conservation and public hunting opportunities.

The Drawn Hunts Catalog interactive map shows all drawn hunt opportunities by category or by area. All applications, fee payments and permit issuance are handled electronically. All applicants will need internet access, an email address and a credit or debit card to participate. The most effective way to access the system is through the

customer ID number from the applicant's hunting or fishing license.

Visit the drawn hunt website for a full list of category deadlines. Hunters can apply until 11:59 p.m. CST on the application deadline. Applicants can check their drawing status online at any time.

For more information or to start the application process, visit TPWD Drawn Hunts. For questions, contact hunt@tpwd.texas.gov or call (512) 389-4505 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.



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Texas Game Wardens Remove 62 Impaired *(Continued from Page 7)*

As part of the outreach effort, TPWD also hosted a Fill the Boat life jacket donation event at Cedar Hill State Park. The event collected 23 adult life jackets, three youth and infant life jackets and three canine life jackets. Once inspected, the donated life jackets will be distributed to area life jacket loaner stations to help make safety equipment more accessible to the public.

"Texas Game Wardens did exactly what Operation Dry Water

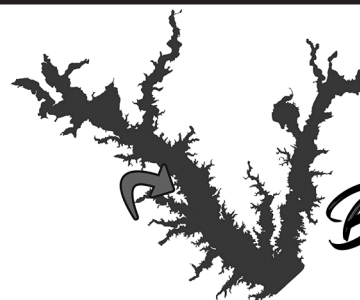
is designed to do by identifying and removing impaired operators before someone gets hurt," said VanderRoest. "While we're proud of the work wardens accomplished, the safest holiday weekend is one where everyone chooses to avoid alcohol and drugs on the water."

Texas Game Wardens will continue proactive boating safety patrols, education efforts and outreach throughout the summer, encouraging everyone on the water to wear a prop-

erly fitted life jacket, designate a sober operator, monitor changing weather conditions and complete boater education.

More information about boating safety, boating laws and boater education requirements is available at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/>.

Watch our communication channels for future opportunities to help us Fill the Boat. A life jacket you donate could be the one that saves someone's life.



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Man Recovered Following Search at Benbrook Lake

Freddy Ferrer witnesses reported Bracamonte, 62, a man went under of Fort Worth, was water in a designated swimming area near Mustang Benbrook Lake shortly after 9:30 a.m. Monday, July 13.

Game wardens, along with personnel from the U.S. Texas Game Warden's in Tarrant County responded to a report of a possible water-related fatality after

witnesses reported Search efforts resumed Monday morning with assistance from Tarrant County Fire and Fort Worth Fire Department and Dive Team.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Ferrer's family and friends during this difficult time.

Practice Safe Boating



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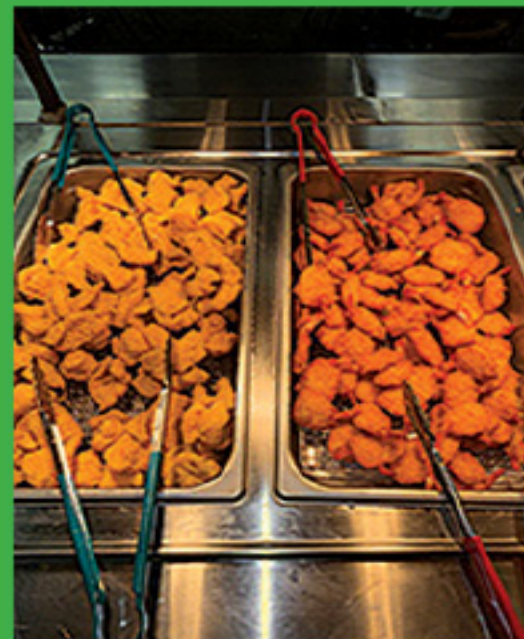
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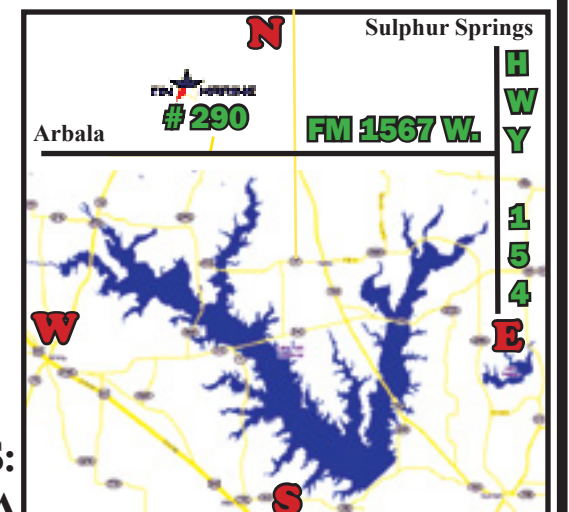
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Tournament Hours 6 am to 3:30 pm

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Gracie Teetz from Texas during Camp Bass.



Sofia Hart from Illinious during Camp Bass.



Emory Reynolds from Wylie, Texas during Camp Bass.

Todd Pilcik Named James "Randy" Fugate Memorial Wildlife Division Professional of the Year

The 2026 recipient of the James "Randy" Fugate Memorial Wildlife Division Professional of the Year award is Todd Pilcik, a district wildlife biologist in southeast Texas.

The award was established in 2021 to honor a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Wildlife Division staff member who exemplifies a positive attitude in all aspects of their work, delivers exceptional customer service, builds trusting relationships and consistently exceeds expectations in advancing the agency's mission.

Pilcik has been a part of the Wildlife Division since 1994 where he worked with the phone bank and Migratory Program at TPWD headquarters in Austin until 1997. He then transferred to San Marcos as a technician with the White-wing Dove program and in 2000, accepted a biologist position covering Lampasas, Coryell and Bell Counties as a natural resource specialist. Pilcik served in this position for

nearly two years before transferring to Matagorda, Brazoria and southern Jackson Counties. He continues to work in those counties today conducting wildlife surveys and assisting private landowners with emphasis on wildlife management.

"Todd always has a positive attitude and loves his job," said Alan Cain, TPWD Wildlife Division Director. "Like Randy Fugate, Todd maintains a light-hearted attitude, always has a smile on his face, and is always willing to assist staff when and where needed."

Pilcik's 30 years with the Department lends a hand to historical knowledge and a wealth of hands-on experience. He has provided and continues to provide mentorship to staff as they begin their careers at TPWD. He has been a mainstay in helping with prescribed fires on TPWD Wildlife Management Areas as well as carrying out public hunts and providing expert wildlife technical guidance to private

landowners.

"Todd makes the priorities of his co-workers and constituents his own," said Cain. "He goes the extra mile to make staff feel welcomed and to get to know his constituents on a personal level. Todd is trusted by staff and constituents alike because they know he cares."



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

By Don Hampton
LFSA President

It was a very interesting July for the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association. Even hot weather cannot detour this great Association to accomplish their ongoing goal to Protect, Preserve, and Promote our Premier area of Lake Fork.

This past month our High School Fishing and Tackle committee headed up by Ken West and volunteers began the arduous task of relining reels, selecting the reels to go on rods and getting all the tackle sepa-

rated and divided up to present to different High Schools in our area. This great project helps a youth that may not be able to get on a high school fishing team because of cost of equipment the opportunity. This program supplies them with rod and reels, lures and fishing equipment. When I began fishing it was with a Zebeo 202. Telling my age you could buy that combo for less than \$4.00. Those days are past and gone!

At our monthly meeting we had the privilege of having Christine Thomas, Executive Director of

Wood County Economic Development Committee as guest speaker. She covered a large spectrum of topics and the importance of tourism to our area. These cover not only our Lake Fork area but all of the most interesting as-

pects of our great Wood County.

If you are interested in becoming a member or just come as a guest, our meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Jamie's Restaurant beginning at 6:30 pm.



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.

Lake Fork Sportsman's ASSOCIATION
Preserving The Legend

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 Don Hampton, 903-360-6994 or Ken West, 903-752-2016 for more information or to arrange a donation.

Lake Fork Sportsman's ASSOCIATION
Preserving The Legend

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm at Jamie's Restaurant off Hwy. 17N

"Wish To Fish Foundation"
903-383-7748

Needs Your Help!!!
If you know a family that has a child that meets our criteria, just have them call us. We'll take over from there!

*"Every child deserves a chance to fish!" Children diagnosed or who have experienced a life-threatening illness or accident sometimes do not have that opportunity. Now through the "Wish to Fish Foundation" they can have that day in the sun with their family. Any family with a child between the ages 3 to 18 years of age that has been diagnosed or treated for a life-threatening illness or accident is invited to come fish Lake Fork for any species of fish at **NO COST!** Lodging, meals, and fishing are provided for. This allows the family to spend quality time together fishing without worries or expenses. The outing includes one night lodging, meals, refreshments, snacks, all on a 26' Tritoon Pontoon, (accompanied with a 9-1-1 chase boat for any emergency that may occur. All bait and fishing equipment provided. If you are, or know of a family that meets the above criteria, contact us! Help us spread the word, we are here for the children!*

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



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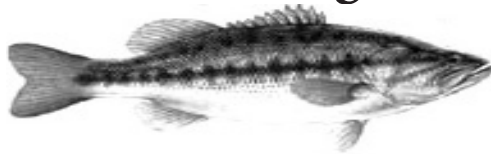
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**Lake Fork Tournament
Schedule Aug. thru Oct.
2026**



August

NO NOTIFICATIONS AS YET
FOR SCHEDULED
TOURNAMENTS
IN AUGUST



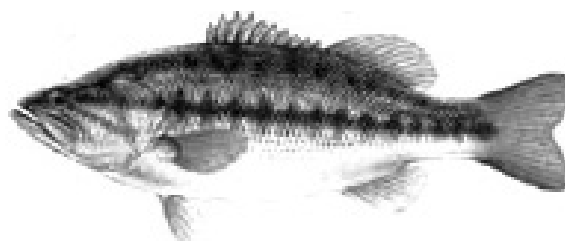
September

Sept 5 ~ JC Outdoors Team
Minnow Bucket
Sept 12 ~ Tex. Trails Open
Oak Ridge Marina
Sept 18,19,20 ~ Sealy Outdoors
Lake Fork Marina



October

Oct 3 ~ JC Outdoors Team
Minnow Bucket
Oct 17~18 ~ Berkley Big Bass
Lake Fork Marina
Oct 31 ~ JC Outdoors Team
Minnow Bucket



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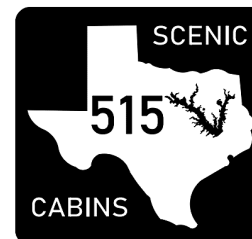
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Cedar Hill State Park's Renovated Shady Ridge Camping Loop Reopens

Cedar Hill State Park has reopened the Shady Ridge Camping Loop after being closed since 2022 for repairs and renovations.

Cedar Hill, nestled within Dallas County, is a great local park destination for those in the DFW metroplex to get outside. The park is often visited by folks from all corners of Texas because of its lakeside access and quiet oasis away from the big city.

"We love having our facilities opening back up for the public," said Assistant Superintendent, Daniel Palmer. "It's always nice having visitors from near and far come to enjoy the peace and quiet we have to offer here, and getting these campsites back online means we can have more people come and stay."

After a flood in 2015 caused erosion to

the park's shoreline on Joe Pool Lake, repairs were made and the loop was reopened. In 2022, the Shady Ridge loop was closed again for further repairs and enhancements.

The Shady Ridge Camping Loop offers a variety of styles of campsites, with lake-side views and shady sites to beat the heat. The loop provides a considerable amount of access to the shoreline for people to enjoy.

The enhancements to the area included having the roadway repaved, new camping pads laid, new picnic tables and covered picnic tables, as well as two new restroom facilities constructed with refreshed utilities put in. There are now 68 public camping sites within the loop, including four new ADA-accessible sites, all with 30-amp

electricity and running water. Soon to open in the loop is a group tent campsite, a first for the park, that is also ADA-accessible.

Cedar Hill SP will soon have an additional camping loop reopened in Eagle Ford. This area is poised to be accessible in the fall. The loop up on the ridge has undergone reinforcement of the shoreline and has an increased number of sites available. When Eagle Ford comes back online, the park will return to full capacity. This loop is known for its longer camping pads and full-hook up back-in campsites. Once complete, it will boast two new restrooms, a re-paved road, new parking pads and new ADA-accessible sites.

For more information on Texas State Parks, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

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"The Neko Rig" (Continued from Page 6)

cover or used in conjunction with Forward Facing Sonar.

If a bite isn't received on the fall, a slow drag back to the boat will work. You can implement small, subtle hops/ shakes, as well.

I mostly often use bait casting gear when Neko Rigging on Lake Fork, because I like to turn and control Bass around wood cover, grass and docks.

Like the Drop-Shot Rig detailed here last month, I recommend not instantly setting the hook when you feel a bite on the Neko

Rig. I like to reel down and then set the hook.

I hope this helps you catch 'em next time Power Fishing techniques aren't. Tight lines and Lunker Luck!

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

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14	C	U	L	L		15	B	E	S	T	S		16	S	H	I	A	
17	P	R	O	U		18	D	A	S	A	P	E	19	A	C	O	C	
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36	B	O	S	S	E	D			38	T	R	E	39	40	E	T	O	
41	O	B	I			42	A	P	E	S			44	V	A	L	E	
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65	W	A	N	T		66	P	E	P	S	I		67	L	I	M	N	

Math Find

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

ADDITION
CARDINAL
COSINE
DENOMINATOR
DIVISION
FRACTION
INTEGER

MULTIPLY
NEGATIVE
OPERATION
ORDINAL
PRODUCT
SUBTRACTION
SUM

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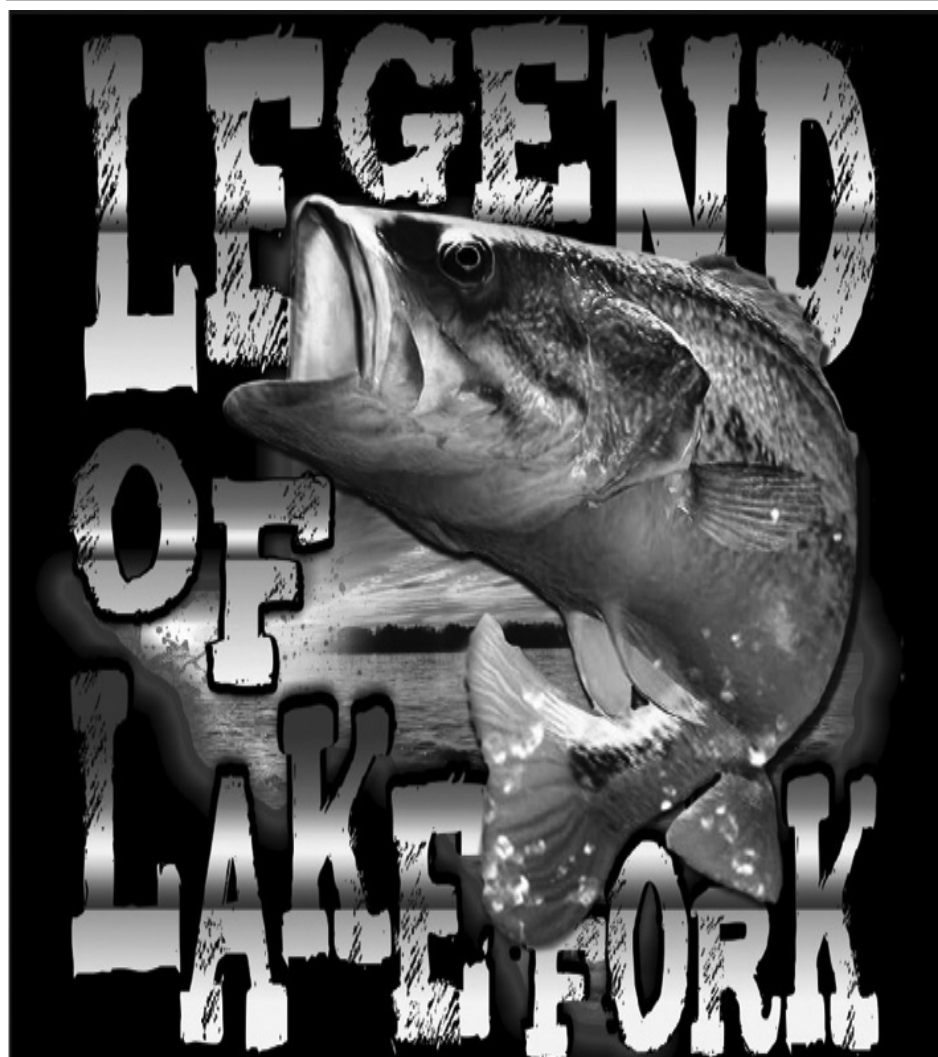
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Game Wardens Are Hawk Rescuers, Too--

A Val Verde County game warden responded to a call from the local sheriff's office about an injured hawk a traveler on a nearby state highway had seen on the side of the road. Working with the sheriff's office, regional TPWD biologists, a Kinney County game warden and the caller, the warden and other law enforcement officials successfully

transported the hawk to a raptor rehabilitator in Uvalde County. The hawk is on its way to a full recovery.

--Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign--

A Nolan County game warden was patrolling the Lake Trammel area after dark when he noticed vehicle headlights shining around an upcoming turn in the road. The vehicle appeared to be stationary. As the warden rounded the turn, he saw a truck backed up to a speed limit sign and a man standing in the truck bed attempting to remove the sign. While the warden interviewed

the man and the driver, both individuals said the speed limit sign was the only one they had tried to take that night. However, the warden found several more road signs covered by a mat in the bed of the truck. The men admitted to taking the signs. The warden issued citations to both individuals and had them spend the next hour returning the signs to their original locations. Cases against the men are pending.

--Muddy Tracks Lead the Way--

A Gonzales County game warden responded to a call

(Continued on Page 24)

The Moon Report *(Continued from Page 8)*

weather, now is the time to get your fall fishing trip on the calendar. October through November is one of my favorite times to chase Lake Fork crappie. As the water begins to cool, the fish become more active, and some of the years best action is just around the corner. If you are planning a family getaway, there is no better place to stay than Lake Fork Marina (903-765-2764). With their assortment of comfortable accommodations, there's easy access to the lake, and everything you need

for your stay. Whether you're bringing your kids, the grandkids, or life-long friends, Lake Fork Marina is the perfect place to start your next family adventure, making those lifetime memories. Book early because this beautiful place fills up fast for the fall fishing.

Also, for your crappie fishing adventures, you can reach me at 903-335-0941, and you can follow my Facebook posts to enjoy the video diaries I make on each trip. Its one of my favorite parts of being a guide – capturing the

smiles, the laughter, and those unforgettable catches so families can relive those special moments for years to come. I look forward to seeing you on Lake Fork this fall!

Also, a BIG "thank you" to Skeeter Boats for making such an awesome boat to make these memories in, my Solera 205. If you are wanting info on any of the Skeeter products, contact Sartin Marine right here at Lake Fork. They are the best!

Best Regards!

Terri Moon

Bake a Batch of 'Yammy' Biscuits

By Sue Hampton

To some people there is nothing better than pulling apart the flaky layers of a warm biscuit. These quick breads come in all shapes and sizes – drop or rolled –

and a variety of flavors. Traditional biscuit recipes contain a few basic ingredients, but there is no limit to the type of biscuit you can create.

Sweet potatoes or yams baked in their skins, split open and sprinkled

with toasted pecans, are superbly sweet. And, if you incorporate the same ingredients into a mouth-watering biscuit, the result can be something quite delicious. Serve the biscuits with apple butter or orange marmalade for an early autumn snack or to accompany a full meal.

Sweet Potato Pecan Biscuits

Yield: About 8 biscuits

1 orange
1/3 cup milk
2 cups whole wheat pastry flour
1/2 teaspoon sea salt

1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 cup lightly toasted pecans, coarsely chopped
3/4 to 1 cup mashed baked sweet potato or yam
3 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 tablespoon maple syrup
Maple syrup for glazing

Preheat the oven to 450 F.

Finely grate the orange zest into a medium-sized bowl. Juice the orange and measure the juice. Add milk to equal 2/3 cup of liquid; set it

aside to curdle.

Sift the flour. Measure 2 cups of the sifted flour back into the sieve; set aside the remaining sifted flour for kneading and shaping. Sift the measured flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda into another bowl. Stir in the chopped nuts.

Add the mashed sweet potato, oil and syrup to the orange zest and mix thoroughly. Beat the curdled mixture.

Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients. Pour in the wet ingredients all at once and mix gently, just un-

til a soft dough forms. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead gently a few times. Pat or roll the dough about 1/2 inch thick. Cut out biscuits and arrange them on an ungreased or parchment-lined baking sheet.

Bake 15 minutes, or until the biscuits have browned and a tester inserted in the center comes out clean. Place them on a cooling rack and lightly brush the tops with maple syrup. Cool the biscuits about 15 minutes before serving.



August is a very hot month but it reminds us that 'Autumn' is on the way!!



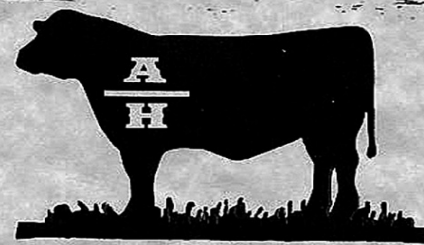
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

about a poaching incident on a county road in an area notorious for road hunting. The complainant supplied the warden with a description of the vehicle, a license plate number and a description of the suspects. The complainant, who had confronted the suspects for trespassing and shooting in his backyard, also warned the warden the suspects were drinking and armed. The game warden responded to the landowner's property but found no evidence of an incident. Due to heavy rain, the warden suspended the search for evidence and instead followed muddy tracks in the road, which led him to the suspects. The suspects admitted to having shot at wild pigs running across the road and searching for the wounded animals on the landowner's property. The next day, the warden met the men, who were all from North Carolina, at the Justice of the Peace office in Gonzales County. The suspects paid more than \$1,700 in fines.

--DPS Detains Drunk Driver-- A Gonzales

County game warden was checking fishermen on the Guadalupe River when he got a call for assistance from the local sheriff's office about a possible intoxicated driver on a nearby road. The warden spotted the vehicle in question and followed it. Noticing the driver weaving from side to side and crossing the highway's centerline, the warden stopped the vehicle and observed signs of intoxication in the driver. He detained the suspect on a charge of driving while intoxicated. The responding DPS trooper arrested the suspect, who provided a blood alcohol sample of three times the legal limit.

--Working the Devils River-- Two Val Verde County game wardens patrolled a rural part of the Devils River by kayak. Because of the river's location, it can be difficult to get the kayak and other equipment to the put-in point and then get it all out at the take-out point. Despite the logistical challenges, the game wardens were able to safely pa-

trol the river, checking 12 kayakers and river users, with high voluntary water safety compliance.

--Turkeys Are Not Toys-- An Atascosa County game warden received a tip about a person keeping a wild Rio Grande turkey in captivity on his property. The warden responded to the location and found the turkey tied by its leg in a makeshift coop. The suspect admitted to chasing the turkey down and capturing it. The warden cited the suspect, seized the turkey and released it in suitable habitat along the Atascosa River.

--The Devil's in the (Expired) Details-- After an Atascosa County game warden noticed a vehicle with an expired registration pulling into a Wal-Mart parking lot, he pulled the vehicle over and made contact with the driver. Upon running her license information, the warden found the female driver had an active felony arrest warrant for violation of probation for cocaine possession. The warden im-

(Continued on Next Page)



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pounded the female's vehicle and transported her to the Atascosa County jail.

--Flee on Foot-- Two game wardens were checking a fisherman at a local lake in Lubbock when they discovered the man did not have a fishing license. Upon further investigation, the wardens learned the man, who had several felony arrest warrants, had given them a false name. When the wardens confronted him about the warrants, the man tried to flee on foot, though he did not get far before the wardens caught up to him and arrested him. Several charges, including failure to identify as a fugitive, resisting arrest and evading arrest, are pending against the fisherman.

--Restricted Air Space-- A game warden received a call from an Archer County landowner about a helicopter illegally hunting over his property. The warden visited a nearby property, where he found the helicopter, pilot and crew. The warden interviewed the pilot and crew, who said they had flown over the landowner's property to film feral hogs for

a television show. After consulting the landowner and a game warden captain, the warden determined the crew was in violation for managing wildlife by aircraft, a Class A misdemeanor, without landowner consent. "Managing" wildlife includes photographing wildlife. The warden arrested four crewmembers for managing wildlife by aircraft without landowner authorization. The cases are pending.

--Buy and Bust-- A Gonzales County game warden and a Guadalupe County game warden teamed up with a special operations sergeant to set up a buy/bust operation in Gonzales County. The investigation was a response to an Operation Game Thief call the wardens received a few weeks prior about an individual selling wild-caught raccoons over the Internet. The wardens' investigation revealed the suspect did not possess a current furbearing animal propagator's permit. The wardens successfully caught the suspect in the illegal act of selling several live, wild raccoons. Cases are pending against the seller.

--Can't Outrun the Game Wardens-- Two Calhoun County game wardens were patrolling Keller Bay for commercial oystering compliance when they saw a boat crew harvesting oysters in closed waters. Once the crew spotted the wardens, they attempted to elude them, but they didn't get far. The wardens arrested two individuals for oystering in closed waters, which is a state jail felony. The cases against the individuals are pending.

--Scary Catch-- Two Aransas County game wardens assisted the Aransas County Sheriff's Department and the Corpus Christi Police Department bomb squad in responding to a potential bomb threat on the water. A commercial oyster boat had accidentally scooped up several old U.S. military mortar rounds. The crew was afraid the mortar rounds could still be active and called the CCPD bomb squad to inspect the rounds and take possession of them. The wardens assisted because of their knowledge of the bay system and the dynamics of oyster boats.

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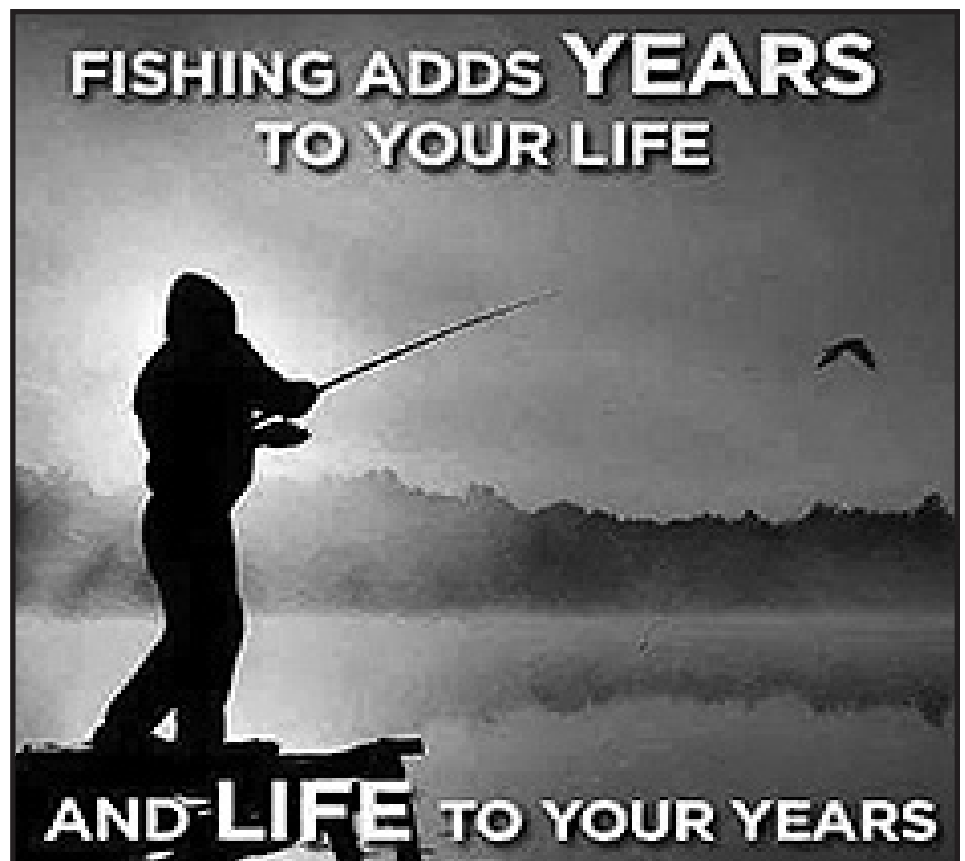
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