

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas"



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

"Lines To Get Hooked On"

1 Section

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Free

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No. 325



Lake Fork
Sportsman's
ASSOCIATION



Preserving The Legend

By Don Hampton

For the past 26 years the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association has protected, preserved and promoted this great

reservoir. Through their diligent hardworking volunteers they purchased a Live Release Boat that all bass caught in tournaments would be released back

into the lake in good health to reproduce and be caught another day. They have been instrumental in placing cover and habitat (See Lake Fork Sportsman's Continued on Page 2)



21st Annual Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

For all of you anglers that are not only big fans of fishing Lake Fork but also love doing it with Berkley

baits, here is the time you have been waiting for. The 21st Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork hosted by BassChamps will be held on Octo-

ber 17th and 18th. The tournament will be held out of Lake Fork Marina just off Highway 17N. Registration times (See 21st Annual... Continued on Page 9)



Tony Hill of Glenwood, AR, weighed in this 10.15 Lake Fork hawg during the 12-1 T-shirt hour, doubling his first-place hourly winnings and moving him straight to the top of the leaderboard. He held the lead to be the Overall winner of the 2026 Sealy Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork.

42nd Annual Lake Fork Big Bass Splash

By Don Hampton

The 42nd Annual Sealy Big Bass Splash held on September 18th, 19th, and 20th, was great for the area

and this great reservoir responded.

Over 2,300 anglers participated in this great event. Some came from as far as Wisconsin and California.

The anglers could not have asked for cooler weather. Temperatures reached 100 degrees and the lake being 4.5'

(See 42nd Annual.... Continued on Page 7)

Lake Fork Sportsman's Association
in our lake and helping TPWD in the restocking plus many more activities constantly for the betterment of Lake Fork. For these plus many more reasons they were entered into the Texas Fishing Hall of Fame. If you love

(Continued from Page 1)
Lake Fork why aren't you a member?

On Tuesday, September 8th they celebrated their 10th Annual High School Tackle Program furnishing tackle and

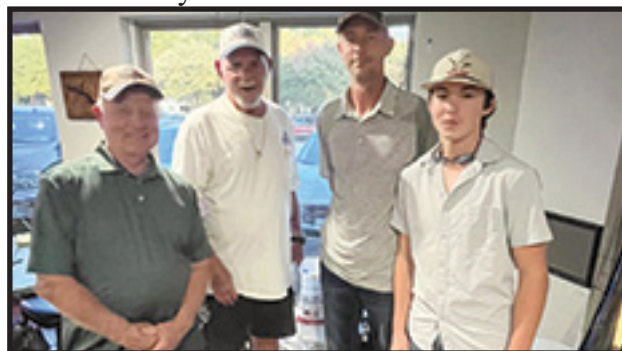
(See Lake Fork Sportsman's Continued on Page 4)



Athens High School Fishing Team



Lone Oak High School Fishing Team



903 Anglers - 18 teams from multiple schools.



Grand Saline Fishing Program



Winnsboro High School Fishing Board Members.

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"Bubba practices for Halloween all year long!"

By: Don Hampton

Bubba's favorite holidays are coming up and he is geared up and ready for them. He loves Thanksgiving and Christmas mainly because of all the great food, the get-togethers, (as he calls them), and of course getting new stuff! One of his favorite holidays and Bubbette's worst is Halloween.

This is one "Spooktacular Holiday" that Bubba practices year round. He's like an oversized lapdog when it comes to the treats and a scary movie when it comes to the tricks. He is most childlike on Christmas morning opening his presents and getting new stuff, but he is even more so when it comes to jumping out and scaring someone.

He practices mostly on

Bubbette and how either of them has survived these many years is a testimony to "True Love"! On more than one occasion she has threatened his health with a rolling pen but Bubba doesn't take the threats too seriously. I couldn't even tell you if he hears them over his own laughter.

Bubba practices his scare tactics constantly to stay in true form. He has Bubbette shaky like a squirrel on a highline every time she walks in the house. The only time he is quiet is when he's about to spring with a goulish holler. It doesn't even matter to him if she has an arm full of groceries. If the timing and setting is right he'll make his move and then laugh for days afterwards. To Bubba harmlessly scaring someone is one of the funniest things in life. He real-

ly must have had a missed childhood or else he just doesn't wish to grow out of it!

I do believe that Bubba bought Bubbette a new car, not for her benefit but rather for his entertainment. As is with most new vehicles this one has an alarm system with remotes. For the first week they had it Bubba couldn't stop laughing and it wasn't from the joy of having a new vehicle. Every time Bubbette would go to get in her car Bubba would be hiding around the corner. Her hand would no sooner touch the car door than Bubba's finger would push the alarm button. With the alarm and horn blaring, and lights flashing, Bubbette would be jumping around thinking she did something wrong, while Bubba would be

rolling on the ground with laughter. Needless to say that only lasted for a week because he no longer has a set of keys and alarm remote to Bubbette's new car.

Bubba doesn't just practice his scare tactics on Bubbette while at home. Even the dog and cat have to hide from him. He'll catch them in one of their deep naps, sneak up as close as possible, get on his hands and knees and commence barking and growling like a maddog. Yes, Bubba has been bitten by his own dog, scratched by his own cat, and clobbered by his own wife.

One of the reasons Bubba can't keep a partner on the "Team Tournament Trail" he fishes isn't because of the number of fish caught. It is because their heart can't take it! Bub-

ba watches his partners closely to make sure they are on their toes during a tournament. If they seem to be day dreaming when the action slows down, he has a rude awakening for them too! He will catch them in one of their relaxed moods and then set his plan in motion. He will intentionally get his lure hung up while they are not watching. Once he has it securely stuck he'll jump up excitedly and holler, "It's a big one get the net!" At this time he has his rod bent going from side to side acting like he has a real hog on the end of the line. This gets his partner throwing his rod down, scrambling all over the boat to get the net and ready to do his job. When his partner finally gets the net ready Bubba will roll with laughter and say,

"Just kidding I'm hung up and wanted to see if you were still with me!" I think Bubba has probably been bit, scratched, and clobbered by some of his fishing partners too! He has had five different fishing partners in the past four seasons and not even that will stop Bubba's sense of humor or his enjoyment of a good laugh.

Maybe there is a lesson for all of us here to learn from Bubba. It is possible that if we all kept a childlike quality in our hearts and didn't take ourselves quite so seriously we could find the smaller things in life much more humorous. Then we would all be able to laugh at the bites, scratches and clobberings that life has to offer.

"Have a Spooktacular Halloween!" Bubba will!

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Lake Fork Sportsman's Association (Continued from Page 2)

equipment to five area High School fishing programs for a total of 50 young anglers. This program gives our youth a step up in their fishing abilities and in the program.

To date the LFSA has furnished rods, reels and tackle to 365 young anglers. This truly promotes the future of fishing and could possibly change a life for a young person. I'm quite sure there are some parents that cannot afford to buy nice tackle for their children that wish to be on the High School Fishing Team. This is where the LFSA program assists. Each angler on the High School Teams that contact the Association receives two bait casting rod and reels, a spin casting rod and reel, and for each two anglers they receive a 5 gallon bucket of lures and tackle. This year we donated 150 rod and reels and 23 five gallon buckets of lures and tackle. All reels have new line on them and have been gone through and completely refurbished like new. All tackle is collected throughout the year from do-

nations by giving anglers and a big help from our corporate sponsor Bass Pro Shop in Grapevine.

The High Schools represented photos are on Page 2 and they are as follows: **903 Anglers** - 18 teams from multiple schools. Pictured left to right: Ken West, LFSA H.S. tackle program chair; Don Hampton, LFSA President; 903 Anglers Brad Robison, boat sponsor; Eli Robison, fishing team member (3rd year); **Athens High School** - Pictured left to right: Ken West, LFSA H.S. tackle program chair; Francesca Rich, Athens fishing program sponsor (6th year); Anna Newman, fishing team member (2nd year); Donna Carpenter, fishing team member (3rd year); Don Hampton, LFSA President. Athens has 6 teams; **Grand Saline** - Pictured left to right: Ken West, LFSA H.S. Tackle program chair; Don Hampton, LFSA President; Sarah Foster, Grand Saline fishing program secretary; Coby Tardy, fishing team member (2nd year); **Lone Oak High School** - Pictured left to right: Ken West, LFSA



Mike and Pat Kostial were the LFSA members that began the High School Tackle Program 10 years ago.

H.S. Tackle program chair; Brent Shockley, Lone Oak boat captain; Don Hampton, LFSA President; Wayne Shepherd, Lone Oak director of fishing program (9 teams); Bella Jones, fishing team member (2nd year); Ayla Stricklet, fishing team member

(Continued on Next Page)

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(2nd year); Korah Schockley, fishing team member (2nd year); **Winnsboro High School** - Pictured left to right: Ken West, LFSA H.S. Tackle chair; Terry Hayley, president of the board for Winnsboro's fishing program; Marci Baker, board member; Christine Robinson, treasurer; LFSA President Don Hampton; Brian Spencer, board member.

A special thank you to Pat Kostial, school team interface; Richard Nipp, reel line replacement; Brandon Smith, baitcast reel checkout/repair; Dru Melend, spincast reel checkout/repair; Rick Wheeler of his business warehouse at Air Control in Emory, they housed our inventory and provided space for the team to work on the assembly process; and thank you to all the LFSA members that worked so diligently to put this all together. Come be a member of this great organization.



Kimberly Guice with KMOO covered the presentations and did an excellent job. View the presentation at 99.9 KMOO Facebook.



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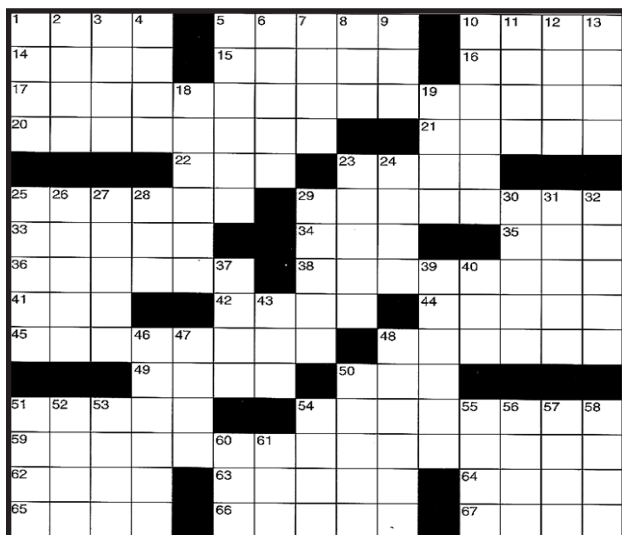


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October brings on subtle changes on Lake Fork

By Whitt Smith

October is upon us and it's a great time to get out on beautiful Lake Fork. It's the beginning of archery season for deer hunting across much of the country and that means fewer anglers on the lake and less fishing pressure.



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Extinct | 38. Type of delivery |
| 5. Drop-offs | 41. Greek letter |
| 10. Path | 42. Whale ship captain |
| 14. Mythological mountain | 44. Russian river |
| 15. Foots | 45. Helps |
| 16. Stock Exchange | 48. Tenders |
| 17. Heat source | 49. Aroma |
| 20. Beehives | 50. Ad _____ |
| 21. Gnawing mammals | 51. Pippin, for one |
| 22. Type genus of the Muridae | 54. Blithe |
| 23. Wild goose having white adult plumage | 59. Pal Joey song |
| 25. Used to refer to cited works | 62. Traditional belief |
| 29. Shore | 63. In a way, removes from office |
| 33. Bitter chemical | 64. Charge |
| 34. Indian writing paper | 65. Dark bluish black |
| 35. Energy unit | 66. Distributes |
| 36. Kitchen appliances | 67. Favorites |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Drug for Parkinson's disease | 30. White aspen |
| 2. Stock plan | 31. Characteristic of acting |
| 3. _____ Spumante (Italian wine) | 32. Bonitos |
| 4. Biu-Mandara | 37. New England river |
| 5. Hairlike projection from the surface of a cell | 39. Long-legged shorebird |
| 6. Rattling breaths | 40. West Chadid |
| 7. Friends (French) | 43. Of she |
| 8. Includes Ewe and Fon languages | 46. Bombard |
| 9. _____ Caesar, comedian | 47. Cognitive content |
| 10. Spanish American | 48. Mire |
| 11. Psychic disturbance | 50. Velocity |
| 12. Russian river | 51. King of Huns (Scandinavian) |
| 13. X X X | 52. Sound unit |
| 18. Type of weasel | 53. Look up |
| 19. Network architecture | 54. Roman wicker receptacle for funeral processions |
| 23. Slang for famous person | 55. Bind securely |
| 24. Robert _____, poet | 56. Feel intense anger |
| 25. Whittles | 57. Utter sounds |
| 26. Alar | 58. Epic poem |
| 27. Measuring instrument | 60. Noun suffix denoting territory |
| 28. Person's name, abbr. | 61. Chinese |
| 29. Soul and calypso songs | |

Answers on Page 21

October is a good month to fish shallow, flip and pitch Texas Rigs and jigs, cast smaller Spinnerbaits, shallow Crankbaits, small Underspinnings and small topwater lures.

The lake will experience a turnover in water layers, as we begin experiencing several successive cool days and nights. This will help the shallower bite, as the better oxygen content will be in shallow water during this period causing more Bass to move shallow.

The lake level is approaching 4 1/2 feet low, as I write this, so please use more caution when you are on the lake.

Thanks to the SRA for resurfacing the parking lots at the Public Ramps around the lake.

It's been a hot Summer and I hope you get a chance to enjoy some cooler, beautiful weather out on Lake Fork this month!

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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42nd Annual Lake Fork Big Bass Splash *(Continued from Page 1)*

low, this didn't stop the bass from feeding with 42 overs being weighed in. Pretty phenomenal this being the 42nd Annual and 42 overs weighed in. With two Phoenix Bass Boats, and \$550,000 guaranteed they came to win.

As anglers are quite aware of the reason it is called fishing and not catching is that the bite isn't always what they want or expect. There were a lot of 2-pound plus bass brought in and 42 bass over the 24" slot. With the slot on Lake Fork being between 16" to 24" no bass between those measurements could be brought in.

A few anglers did learn the hard way to measure their bass properly. Many of the anglers reported catching bass just short of the 24" line that they could not bring to the weigh-in. This shows Lake Fork is strong and doing great.

On Friday, the first day of the tournament there

were fourteen bass over the slot brought to the scales. It all began in the 7 to 8 o'clock hour. Glenn Allen from Fairfied, Texas earning him \$2,500 when he weighed in a 9.32-pound bass for 1st Place for that hour.

On Saturday, the second day of the tournament fifteen bass over the slot were brought to the scales. In the 7 to 8 o'clock hour the day once again started great when Crystal Cryer from Lufkin, TX., weighed in a 9.67-lb. bass.

On Sunday, the last day of the tournament, there were thirteen bass over the slot brought to the scales.

The day started in the 7 -8 o'clock when Carson Kirkhuff from Dallas, TX., weighed in an 8.10-lb. bass.

Winning an additional \$5,000 in the exact weights drawings of 2.25-pounds was Craig Woods from

Pearland, TX. on Friday; Buck Blackwell from Pine Bluff AR. on Saturday; and Mike Paul Marshall from Frisco, TX., on Sunday.

In the elimination drawing Stevie Huflin from Pine Bluff, AR., won a Phoenix 819 PRO powered by Mercury, and equipped with MinnKota and Humminbird.

Tony Hill from Glenwood, AR. won 1st place overall for heaviest bass caught in the tournament with his 10.15-pound bass. For his efforts he won \$5,000 hourly pay, a Phoenix 721 ZXL powered by Mercury equipped with MinnKota, Humminbird, & Power Pole. Winning 2nd Place overall with a weight of 10.08-lbs was Clifford Wyrick from Luling, TX. and took home an extra \$15,000. Winning 3rd place overall was Crystal Cryer from Lufkin, TX. with a weight of 9.67-pounds. For her efforts she won an ex-

(See 42nd AnnualContinued on Page 10)



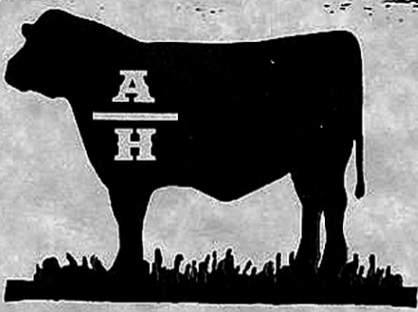
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"The Moon Report"

"Lake Fork's October Fun!"

By Terri Moon

October is one of the most enjoyable times of the year to chase crappie on Lake Fork. As the first real cool fronts begin to roll through East Texas, the air turns crisp, the lake grows a little quieter after the busy summer months, and the crappie begin to feed more actively in preparation for winter. For anglers who love both the catch and the fall scenery, October delivers some of the best action you'll see all year.

By October, Lake Fork water temperatures typically fall into the upper 60's to low 70's, and that change triggers crappie to move shallower than they were in the hot summer. While many fish still hold on mid-depth brush piles, standing timber, and bridge columns, you'll also start finding more activity around creek channels, submerged timberlines, and staging areas near spawning flats. This mix of patterns makes October fishing both ex-



citing and versatile – you can catch crappie in a variety of spots and depths.

Brush piles and timber 12-20 ft. of water remains productive, especially on man-made brush piles and submerged hardwoods. Lake Fork bridges are famous for holding crappie especially in October – they're often stacked around pilings 15-25 ft. As the shad migrate into the creeks during the fall, schools of crappie follow. Focus on bends, ledges, and drop-offs where bait is present.

Electronics play a huge roll in locating schools this time of year. Livescope and modern sonar make it easier than ever to spot suspended crappie and target individual fish. In October, crappie feed heavily on shad – so shad colored jigs and minnows are top producers. Soft plastics in white, pearl, monkey milk, and chartreuse jig bodies paired with 1/16-1/8 oz. jig heads will produce. Also, Skipper hair jigs 1/16-1/8 oz. in black/chartreuse, chartreuse/blue, and orange/blue tail, or white/chartreuse are productive.

If you find the crappie finicky after a cold front – by all means – tip that jig with a minnow or a Berkley power nibble.

Vertical jigging is effective on timber and bridge columns. Then casting and swimming jigs is great for creek channels and brush

(See Lake Fork's October Fun.....Continued on Page 22)

21st Annual Lake Fork Berkley Tournament *(Continued from Page 1)*

will be Friday October 16th from 11 am to 7 pm, and October 17th and 18th from 5am to 7am at tournament headquarters. Anglers can fish one day or both days. Entry fee for one day is \$160 or \$200 for both days.

For anglers participating this will be one of the most exciting tournaments of the year. With the cooler temperatures setting in, the bass are sure to be feeding up and respond well to both Berkley hard and soft baits. Check out some of their new line of baits.

There is over \$150,000 guaranteed in cash and prizes with 20 places paid per hour during the two-day tournament

starting at \$1,000 for 1st place, down to \$200 for 10th place; 11th thru 15th place wins an Abu Garcia Reel, and 16th thru 20th wins an Abu Garcia Rod.

For the lucky angler that catches the heaviest bass over the slot, that angler will be taking home a new Skeeter ZX-200 powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor. For the heaviest bass under the slot, that angler will be taking home a new Skeeter ZX-150 powered by Yamaha, MinnKota trolling motor.

There is also available "Exact Weight Bonus Cash". There is \$1,000 for the angler that brings in an exact 2.5, 3.00,

9.00, or 10-pound bass. Also, during the tournament there will be a Junior Division and a Women's Division. Don't forget the Berkley Empty Bag Give Away. Bring an empty package of any Berkley bait with your name written on it legibly and put it in the bin for drawing of extra prizes.

The tournament is not only a great fishing experience but also terrific entertainment for the entire family.

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42nd Annual Lake Fork Big Bass Splash (Continued from Page 7)

tra \$10,000. Winning 4th place overall with a weight of 9.61-lbs. was Nathan Byrd from Midlothian, TX. He took home an extra \$5,000. Coming in 5th place overall was Joseph Martin, from Abilene, TX. with a weight of 9.60-pounds. For his catch he took home an extra \$2,500.

During the course of the tournament there were 42 bass weighed in over the slot. On Friday

there was a total of 260 bass weighed for a total weight of 591.94-pounds. On Saturday there were 231 bass weighed for a total weight of 542.60-pounds. On Sunday there were 243 bass weighed for a total weight of 544.47-pounds. Total bass weighed in the tournament was 734 for a total weight of 1,679.01-pounds. The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association did an excellent job with their Live Release Boat returning all the bass back into the lake in healthy condition to be caught another day.

It was great to see all of the over 24" bass come to the scales. Lake Fork did prove up to its name as the

Largemouth Capital of Texas. The great weights shows this lake is not one to be overlooked.

For more information on Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash visit their website at www.sealyoutdoors.com.

God Bless America, Fish Friendly, and I hope to see you on the lake. *(More Photos on Pages 13 & 16)*



Clifford Wyrick from Luling, TX., was in the lead on Friday when he caught this 10.08-lb. bass in the 10 to 11 o'clock hour on Friday.

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Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame Invites Nominations Through Nov. 1

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame committee is accepting nominations for next year's induction. Nominees can be either individuals or organizations who've made important contributions to fishing in Texas. Applications will be accepted through Nov. 1.

"The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame honors a growing list of 41 individuals and organizations who have made a significant impact on freshwater fishing in the state," said Kelly Jordon, Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame selection committee chairman. "Whether it's an outdoor writer, accomplished angler, conservationist, fishing club or industry leader, we look forward to continuing to honor and recognize everyone helping to make Texas fishing the best it can be."

The nominees will be evaluated by the hall of fame committee, which is made up of industry professionals comprising anglers, fisheries biologists and organizations involved in Texas freshwater fishing. The committee will choose the inductee(s) based on the following criteria: ethics, leadership and commitment, unselfish contributions to the sport, scope of impact on freshwater fishing, fishing/fisheries management expertise and overall impact.

The honoree(s) will be announced in Spring 2027 and officially inducted during a special ceremony and banquet in the fall.

"We are excited to review all of this year's nominations and welcome the newest inductee(s) into this prestigious group of individuals and organizations who have contributed so much to the world-class

fishing that Texas offers," Jordon added.

The Pierce brothers (Clayton and late brother Jason) of Alba and Michael Scherer of Houston – the 2026 Inductees – will officially be inducted at the annual Hall of Fame banquet this October at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens.

The Pierce Brothers own and operate Lake Fork Taxidermy, which creates fish replicas for clients across the world, including replicas awarded to anglers who contribute Legacy Class fish to the Toyota ShareLunker Program. Scherer, program director of Fishing's Future, has shaped angler education throughout Texas with countless volunteer hours through TPWD's angler education program

(See Freshwater Hall of Fame...Continued on Page 21)

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What is New for Hunting Season 2026-27

The 2026-27 hunting season has kicked off successfully with the dove opener across Texas on Sept. 1. However, hunters should be aware of regulation changes before entering the field.

Licenses Changes

Updated identity verification rules are now in effect for Texas hunting and fishing license purchases to combat residency fraud and support Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement. Additional information can be found at the License ID Validation FAQ page or the Purchase Requirements for Licenses, Endorsements and Tags page on the TPWD website.

All recreational licenses and endorsement stamps also have a digital option. The digital license option is available through online purchase only. Digital license holders must keep their digital license available via mobile device while in the field or on the water as they will not receive a printed license or tags. License holders must access and use their digital tags through the Texas Hunt & Fish mobile app. Digital

licenses can be viewed through the Texas Hunt & Fish and TPWD Outdoor Annual mobile apps.

Regulation Changes

* "Doe days" expanded in 21 counties from four to 16 days.

* Earlier start for the South Zone Dove regular season.

* Elimination of Special White-winged Dove Days.

* Matagorda and Wharton counties now closed to Wild Turkey hunting.

* Harvest of unbearded Wild Turkey hens now prohibited statewide.

* Definition of muzzleloader modified to allow for use of new muzzleloading technology.

Season Date Changes

Hunters should be aware of several season date changes for the 2026-27 hunting seasons before their first hunt, including:

The regular dove seasons are as follows:

* North Zone: Sept. 1 – Nov. 8, resuming Dec. 18, 2026 – Jan. 7, 2027

* Central Zone: Sept. 1 – Oct. 25, resuming Dec. 11, 2026 – Jan. 14, 2027

* South Zone: Sept. 1 – Oct. 25, resuming Dec. 18, 2026 – Jan. 21, 2027

The expansion of "doe days" in Austin, Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Comal (east of IH 35), DeWitt, Fayette, Goliad (north of U.S. Highway 59), Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays (east of IH 35), Jackson (north of U.S. Highway 59), Karnes, Lavaca, Lee, Travis (east of IH 35), Victoria (north of U.S. Highway 59), Waller, Washington, Wharton (north of U.S. Highway 59), and Wilson counties will provide hunters with more opportunities to harvest antlerless white-tailed deer.

The expanded doe day season in these counties is:

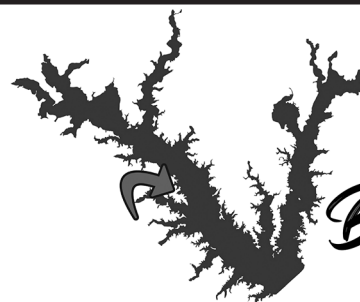
* Nov. 14 – 29, 2026 (second Saturday of November through the Sunday immediately following Thanksgiving)

The chachalaca season dates have been updated to be the same as quail season Nov. 1 – Feb. 28, 2027.

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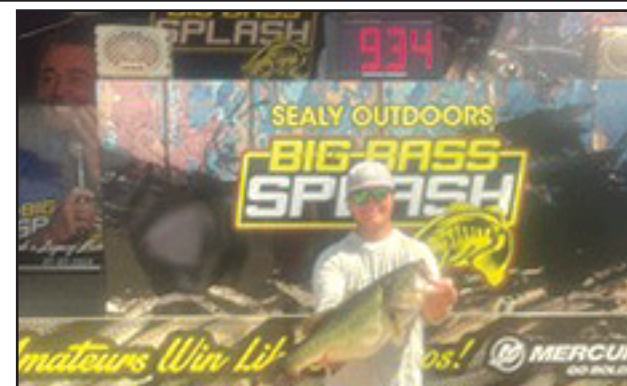
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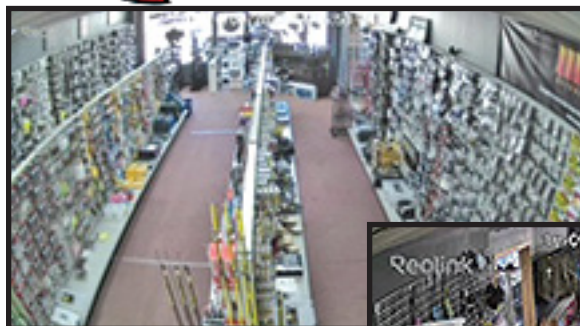
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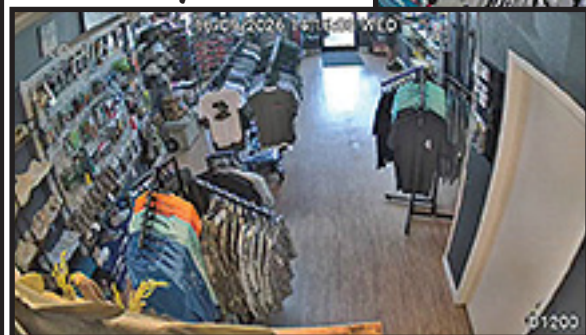
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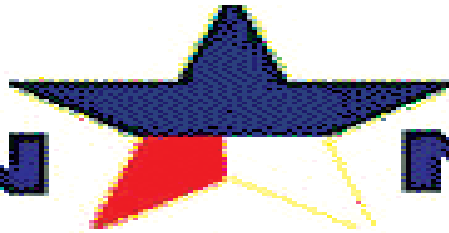


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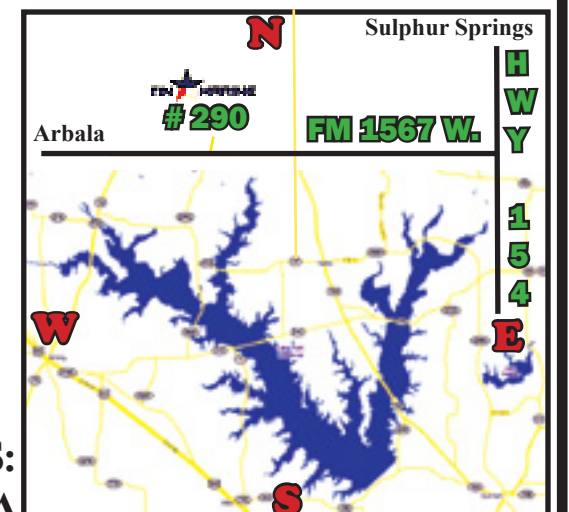
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Texas State Parks Director Rodney Franklin Honored with Distinguished Service Award from America's State Parks

At the closing banquet of the National Association of State Parks Directors (NASPD) conference recently, Texas State Parks Director Rodney Franklin was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from America's State Parks.

Franklin, who just recently earned his 35-year service award from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), has used his time and talents to advance conservation and park management not only in Texas but across the country, stewarding parks for future generations. The award is the highest honor America's State Parks bestows, given to a state park director with a long-term, sustained record of professional accomplishment and leadership. Honorees are selected by a committee of state park directors from across the country.

"The sky is the limit when someone believes in you, rallies behind you and encourages you like Rodney," said Region 5 Director Shannon Blalock, who used to man-

age a park under Franklin's leadership. "His ability to communicate hard things with kindness built a trust that I work hard each day to recreate with my own team. I value him greatly because of his humility and emotional IQ, something I try to emulate in my own interactions."

"He listens without judgment," added Blalock, "offers guidance in a constructive and encouraging way, and treats every interaction, no matter how much noise exists in his world, like it's the most important conversation of the day."

"Rodney truly cares about all of us as human beings, and he leans into that connection first," said Blalock. "He will always show up for people and that's something the world needs more of. He's truly one-of-a-kind, and we are so blessed to have him leading the way for State Parks."

As a teenager in Paris, Texas, he started an entry-level job at a local historic site before moving to a park man-

ager role at a state park. Later, he promoted to a complex superintendent position, then regional director, deputy director of the division, and has now served the Texas State Parks system as director for eight years. In addition to rising in the ranks in the Texas system, he served as the vice chair of NASPD for one year before becoming the chair in September 2024.

As the Director of the Texas State Parks Division for TPWD, Franklin oversees about 1,400 employees, 650,000 acres of protected public land, 91 state parks with more on the way, roughly 10 million annual visitors and helps create \$891 million in economic activity across the state. In 2023, Franklin led the system to a National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, marking it as one of the premier park networks in the United States, all while spearheading the highly successful "100 Years of Texas State Parks" centennial initiative the same year.

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

By Don Hampton
LFSA President

This past month proved to be a very active one for the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association. On September 8th we had our High School Tackle promotion. This year we supplied five high schools with a total of 50 young anglers with rod n' reels and tackle. We feel this is the right step to securing the sport of fishing for the future. Now we begin to collect for our next year's sponsorship

to High School Fishing Programs.

Any of you anglers out there that feel you have too much fishing equipment and lures, feel free to donate to the LFSA. You can call myself at 903-360-6994 or Ken West at 903-752-2016 and we will meet you. You will definitely be making a donation to a great cause.

At the Sealy Big Bass Splash we were set up and greeting the anglers and selling raffle tickets for some really great gifts. Our Live Release Boat captained by Vice

President Jay Simmons did an excellent job in returning all the bass including the 42 over the slots back into our tremendous lake in good health.

We will be set up at the Berkley Tournament. Come by visit and

maybe buy some raffle tickets to help our cause.

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

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For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director
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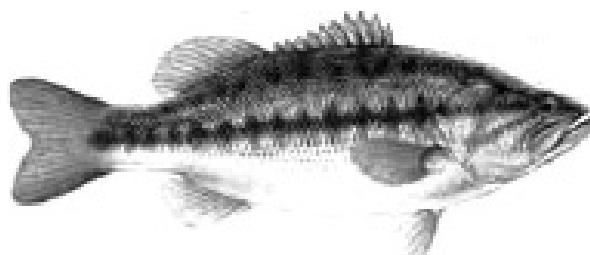


October

Oct 3 ~ JC Outdoors Team
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Oct 10~11 ~ BassChamps Championship
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Oct 17~18 ~ Berkley Big Bass
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Oct 31 ~ JC Outdoors Team
Minnow Bucket

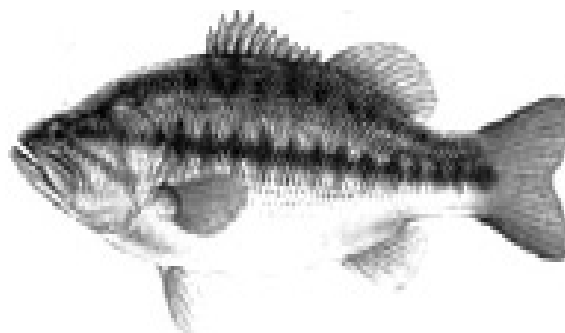
November

NO NOTIFICATIONS AS YET
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IN NOVEMBER



December

Dec. 5 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
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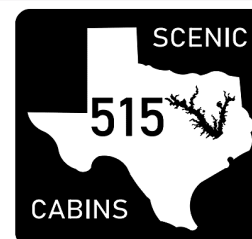
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Caddo Lake State Park is the Next Recipient of the Centennial Time Capsule

Just like a park-loving Texan, the Centennial Time Capsule, is off to its next location as it roams the Lone Star State for 50 years on a quest to visit every park. This time, it is moving to Caddo Lake State Park after its summer stay at Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

One object from every state park and support program is housed in the time capsule, encompassing 100 years of Texas State Parks history. Park staff chose an item that would tell a story about each site, fit in a box the size of a coffee mug, survive 50 years and be strong enough to travel the roads of Texas.

The capsule has now visited five parks, each for six months at a time. On Sept. 26, it will make the Caddo Lake visitor's center in Karnack its home, staying on display in East Texas until it's time to move to its new destination in the spring.

"Caddo Lake State Park is proud of the deep history that is held within its quiet, moss draped landscape and hosting the traveling Texas State Park Time Capsule feels like

we will witness history taking shape," said assistant superintendent Daniel Rios. "This special wooden legacy capsule will bring a sense of excitement and curiosity to the park, which will help to remind people that today's moments will one day become tomorrow's stories."

Park guests will be able to enjoy the time capsule up close in our visitor's center and wonder what treasures are held inside.

"It will be one more enchanting secret in the mysterious swamp of Caddo Lake State Park," added Rios. "Our park rangers will safeguard the time capsule during its stay here to help ensure it reaches its 2074 grand opening."

Guests are invited to view the capsule and make their own memories while it's at Caddo Lake, leaving a piece of their story for the generations who will one day view its opening.

"Since the Texas State Park Time Capsule showed up this spring, life at Palo Duro Canyon has been busy in all the usual ways," said superintendent David Fischer. "Improving facilities, stewarding the canyon, responding to emergencies, and doing the day-to-day

work that keeps this place running for future generations. This season wasn't without its challenges, but even with all that, the park remained a place where people come together."

Palo Duro Canyon celebrated its 92nd birthday, nearly a century of people exploring, learning and making memories there.

"Through it all, the Time Capsule has been a symbol of the legacy of Texas State Parks," added Fischer. "While it's been here, our team has shown exactly what that legacy looks like in practice: daily stewardship, customer service, and a commitment to keep this place thriving for decades to come. When the capsule heads to Caddo Lake this fall, it will leave a season full of hard work, resilience, teamwork and progress behind."

The five-foot-tall wooden time capsule weighs more than 300 pounds and was made from pecan trees harvested at Mother Neff State Park, the site widely accepted as the first Texas State Park opened to the public. It is made from solid wood and bronze and is large enough to hold more than 100 items. Sitting atop the capsule is a sculpture in the shape of Texas with all park locations marked. Additionally, there are 100 name plates recognizing all contributing parks and programs, six regional bas reliefA display, so we wanted it to be a work of art and showcase the excellent craftsmanship of our exhibit team," said Stephen Gar-

rett, Exhibits Manager for Texas State Parks. "This is something totally unique and I don't think anyone's ever made a time capsule quite like this before. I'm proud of the thought, care and work that went into the capsule's creation and hope park visitors enjoy seeing it as much as we did creating it."

A video about the Centennial Time Capsule is available on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's YouTube channel. For more information on Texas State Parks, visit the TPWD webpage.



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Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame (Continued from Page 11)

and a multitude of other groups and organizations.

Following their inductions, videos highlighting the Pierce Brothers and Scherer will be available at TPWD's YouTube Channel on the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame playlist. The video will also air on the Texas Parks and Wildlife PBS television show.

The Texas Freshwater

Fishing Hall of Fame is open to the public at the TFFC. Its mission is to "recognize and honor those who have made a lasting contribution to freshwater fishing in Texas, and to foster a

sense of appreciation, awareness and participation in the sport of fishing."

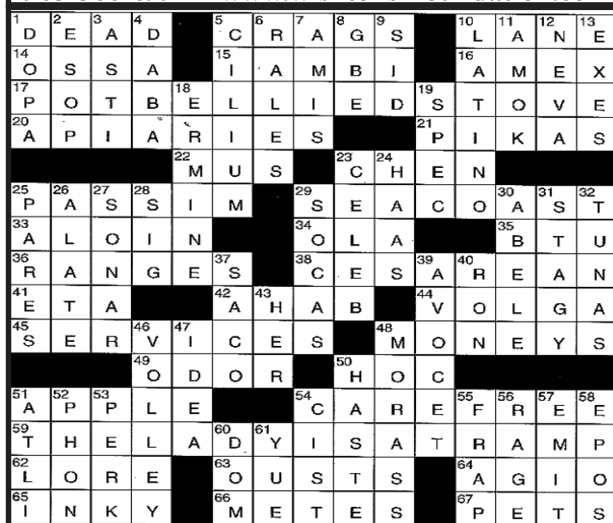
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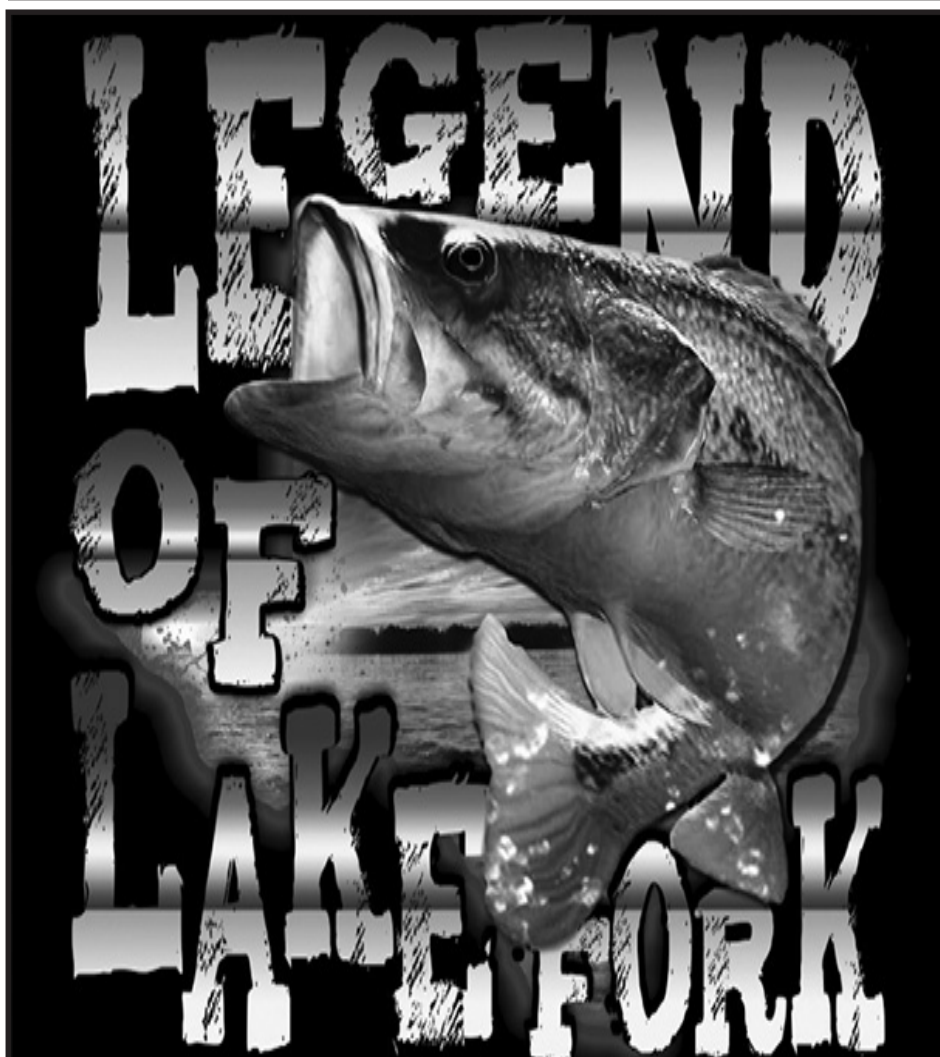
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Working on their Night Moves-- Chambers County game wardens recently completed a year-long investigation of an Operation Game Thief case resulting in the arrest of six subjects. A caller claimed to have heard an oyster boat operating after dark near his waterside home. The wardens responded to the area by boat and as they idled toward the dock, they surveyed the

area with night vision. Two vehicles and a few individuals were seen fleeing the scene. At the dock, they found an oyster boat full of unsacked oysters. The wardens maintained surveillance of the scene well into the morning. At about 9:15 a.m. a vehicle returned to the scene and two men began sacking up the oysters. The wardens made contact with the suspects and began their investigation. Sixteen sacks of oysters were returned to the reef and the three subjects were released. Over the next few months phone records were subpoe-

naed helping to corroborate the details of the case and arrest warrants were obtained for night dredging. Cases pending.

--Rapid Response-- Lubbock area game wardens patrolled the Buffalo Springs Lake area in conjunction with the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration. The annual event brought thousands of concert goers, campers, boaters, and OHV riders to the lake and surrounding area. That afternoon game wardens responded to a reported accident on the Buffalo

(Continued on Page 24)

Lake Fork's October Fun *(Continued from Page 8)*

piles where fish are suspended. Slowing down your presentation pays off in October, especially right after a front when crappie may be less aggressive.

October crappie fishing on Lake Fork is about more than just filling a cooler. It's the combination of steadier action, comfortable weather, and beautiful fall colors across the shoreline.

Whether you are a seasoned angler or planning your

first trip, October is a prime month for crappie fishing. With fish transitioning into more accessible depths, shad migrations drawing them into the creeks, and the fall atmosphere making every trip special, you'll find that October offers a balance of relaxation and excitement that is hard to beat after a long hot Texas summer!

I've had days in October where we've filled the cooler pretty quick, and other

days where we've worked for every bite – but, either way, it's some of the most enjoyable fishing of the year.

If you are thinking of chasing some crappie, you can reach me at 903-335-0941. Also, you can follow my adventures on my Facebook page. I launch out of Lake Fork Marina and they handle all of your fishing needs in their incredible tackle store.

Happy Fall to you all!

Get 'Roasted' With a Tasty Oktoberfest Recipe

By Sue Hampton

When people think of beer they often picture a smoky bar filled with men hooting and cheering for the football game. Or perhaps, a group of teenagers

who think they're enjoying a sip unbeknownst to their parents. Most are not, however, thinking of fine cuisine.

Beer is a social drink, and when enjoyed responsibly, can be a refresh-

ing treat after a long day. What many do not realize is that beer is also a useful cooking ingredient – and not just for beer-battered onion rings. Much like wine, beer brings out the flavor of food and it can be used in many recipes. A large selection of brews gives cooks a wide choice, which means that everything from fish to beef to pork can be matched with beers that complement flavors and intensity.

In celebration of Oktoberfest, a German festival of music and dining, a pot roast with onions and beer would work well among the joyous revelry.

FOUR-ONION POT ROAST WITH BEER (6 servings)

2 tablespoons olive oil
4 to 5-pound chuck roast, boned and tied
Salt and pepper to taste
1 tablespoon dried thyme
1 tablespoon dried sage
2 large onions, peeled and thinly sliced
1 pound leeks, washed and thinly sliced
1 cup pearl onions
1 carrot, peeled and diced
1 celery stalk, diced
2 large potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-1/2 inch cubes
2 shallots, chopped
½ cup chopped fresh parsley

1 tablespoon molasses
1 bay leaf
2 – 12 -ounce bottles of dark beer
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
½ bunch scallions, chopped

In a large roasting pan large enough to hold the roast, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Season the roast with salt, pepper, thyme and sage. Place the roast in the pan and sear on all sides.

Remove the roast, add all the vegetables and saute for about 2 minutes. Add the molasses and continue to cook for about 5 min-

utes, stirring continuously to prevent burning.

Place the roast back in the pan and add the bay leaf and beer. Cover and cook for about 1-1/2 to 2 hours over low heat, until the meat is tender. Remove the meat and keep it warm.

Degrease the liquid in the pan and stir in the mustard and vinegar. Reduce the liquid until it is thick enough to coat the back of a spoon. Adjust the seasoning and add the scallions. Slice the roast and serve it with the sauce and vegetables.



Surprise guests by showing them that beer can be enjoyed through food as well as in a frosty mug!



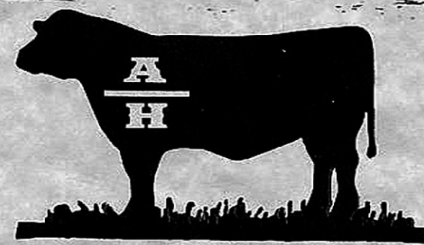
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 22)

OHV trails area where a Jeep had rolled down a steep embankment into a ravine and a passenger had sustained serious injuries. One of the wardens, a certified EMT, treated the victim and coordinated getting her out of the deep ravine and up to an awaiting ambulance. Another warden led the investigation into the driver's possible intoxication, having noticed the strong smell of alcohol on his breath and a large pile of alcoholic beverage containers that had fallen from the Jeep as it rolled. Medical staff later noted that the woman's life had been saved due to the quick response, treatment, extrication, and transport. The driver was arrested and booked into the Lubbock County Jail on a charge of Intoxication Assault, pending the results of a blood draw and the passenger's medical outcome.

—Mud Holds Hog Poachers at Bay— A game warden responded to an early morning call from the Cochran County Sheriff's Office in reference

to a hunt without landowner consent complaint. Upon arrival at the scene, the warden discovered four subjects from Clovis, New Mexico stuck in the mud on the ranch. The subjects had been hunting feral hogs on the ranch with the aid of several hog dogs and had failed to obtain consent from the landowner. The warden arrested all four subjects for hunting without the landowner's consent, no valid Texas hunting license and no proof of hunter education. Cases pending.

—Party Boat Overboard— A Travis County game warden was notified that a large party boat was docked at Mansfield Dam Park on Lake Travis and taking aboard passengers. A Travis County park police officer had made contact with the vessel operators earlier in the day and at that time they could not produce any required documentation of being compliant as a registered party boat. The warden arrived prior to the vessel's departure and interviewed several carloads of passengers, who

disclosed that they had paid to board the vessel for a party, rather than being "friends" as boasted by the vessel operator earlier. The vessel operator was cited multiple times and arrested on outstanding warrants. The rowdy crowd that had amassed for boarding were told to disband and leave the park due to the vessel not being compliant, for minors in possession and consumption of alcohol.

—Arrest Now, Ticket Later— A Travis County game warden was checking bank fishermen on Lake Austin when one fisherman attempted to leave prior to being checked. Despite his insistence that he had a fishing license, none could be located through dispatch. When notified that a license could not be found, he requested that a citation be issued so that he could leave. Despite limited information, TPWD dispatch located an outstanding arrest warrant and the subject was transported to Travis County Central Booking. During booking,

(Continued on Next Page)



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the subject's request for a citation was honored and entered into his property.

--Caught in the Act-- Cameron County game wardens decided to head out to a spot just after sunset where a person had been setting a gill net in the Arroyo Colorado in recent weeks. The wardens had just missed catching the gill netter previously, but this time wardens showed up just as the subject was bringing his gill net and other gear out of the water. One warden was waiting near the subject's pickup when the subject and 11 members of his family approached and loaded their gear into the bed. The warden made contact with the subjects and found a gill net and an untagged oversize red drum in the bed of the pickup. The subject was then taken into custody and placed under arrest for possession of an illegal fishing device in coastal waters. Cases and restitution pending. The 12 subjects were also warned on criminal trespass.

--Trying to Reach the Other Side?--An Aransas County game warden responded to a call from

the Aransas County Sheriff's Department about a man who swam out into Copano Bay and became exhausted and disoriented. A caller had reported hearing cries for help just after sunset. The warden launched a patrol boat and found the subject laying down on a spoil island too tired to move and brought him back to shore for EMS personnel to examine. The subject was very appreciative and advised he did not think he would survive.

--Uh, You Can't Do That Here--Game wardens received a complaint about six men setting out a gill net on Sunset Lake in Portland, which seemed odd that a gill net would be used during the middle of the day in a heavily populated area. The wardens followed up anyway and upon arrival did indeed find a group of men working a gill net! Four of the men were in the water actively fishing with the net and two were on land watching. There was also another brand new gill net on the shoreline. The wardens instructed the men in the water to bring in the net. They had caught several different kinds of

fish, still alive and released back into the water by the wardens. It turns out brazen netters were from Malaysia and claimed they had no idea it was illegal in Texas. The nets were seized and several citations issued.

--Chicken Coop is Probable Cause--A Houston County game warden received a call from a local vet clinic about a hawk type bird that had been brought in with an injury. The bird had been shot with a pellet gun. The warden identified the bird as a Mississippi kite. The bird had been found in a backyard in Crockett. The warden talked to the family that had found the bird and noticed a chicken coop in their neighbor's backyard. Without any more info than just the bird being found, the warden did a "knock and talk" with the neighbor and got a confession to shooting the kite. While the Mississippi kite is not an endangered species, it is federally-protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Cases pending.

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