

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" "Lines To Get Hooked On"

2 Sections

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Free

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March, 2013

No. 163



Richard Scibek caught this ShareLunker weighing 16.04-pounds, measuring 25.75" in length with a girth of 23" fishing Lake Fork on February 2nd. (Fisherman's Guide Photo)



Mark Hall of Winnsboro showed he knows when it is time to put the crappie rig down and pick up a swim bait when he caught this lunker weighing 13.11-pounds, measuring 25.75" in length with a girth of 21" while fishing Lake Fork on February 19th.

"The Premier Big Bass Capital of Texas"

By Don Hampton

Anglers saw the true potential of monster big bass on Lake Fork in February and why it is known as "The Premier Big Bass Capital of Texas". Double digits were truly the showing for the month. This great reservoir produced three bass over 13-pounds, but because of a legal infraction,

(See The Premier...
Continued on Page 4-A)



Kay Scibek loves to fish also and named her husband's ShareLunker "Lady Katy".



The team of Darrell Dodd and Danny Dulude won the first Bass-N-Bucks tournament trail on Lake Fork with a 3-fish stringer. The kicker that won them not only heavy stringer but also big bass of the tournament tilted the scale at 9.09-pounds. Bass-N-Bucks has five tournaments scheduled on Lake Fork along with a Championship and is open to all anglers including guides and pros.

If You Are A Bubba or Bubbette, This is the Promise Land

By Don J. Hampton

To begin, I must apologize. It has been brought to my attention that I have been very biased and prejudice in my writing. For this I offer my sincere apologies to all the other Bubba and Bubbettes out there on Lake Fork and all the other lakes for not mentioning you and your part in making us what we are.

If there is a Bubba in your life, be not ashamed to be a Bubbette. Everyone needs someone to sop gravy with while watching Good Morning America or if you choose to sleep late, sopping your biscuits in gravy while you're watching fishing and hunting programs on the tube.

What really tickles me though is the area is growing so very fast. Bubba & Bubbette Land will not be a memory of the past. I just believe our ranks are growing.

For all of those who have moved here recently, welcome to Bubba & Bubbette Land. We are a proud lot. And now, you have joined our ranks.

For instance...even if you moved here from Indiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee or Louisiana, you are now a native.

If you have been asked where you're from and you answered Lake Fork or East Texas, you are a native of the land.

There are a lot of warning signs to show if you are becoming a native of Bubba & Bubbette Land.

If you are standing in the middle of downtown, and you can count every store in town and still see

the city limit sign, you are here.

If your local newspaper reports the news in a quarter of page space and has 6 pages of high school sports, and two pages of the Police Report you are here.

If you can write a check at Dairy Queen for 2 Hunger-Busters, fries, and milk shakes you are here.

If you have taken your kids trick or treating when it is 90 degrees outside, or put up Christmas lights when it was 80 degrees outside, you are here.

If it is better driving after it has rained because the potholes are filled with mud and you don't have to take those back roads to go "mudding", you are here.

If the mosquitoes have landing lights, you are here.

If the most effective mosquito repellent is a shotgun, you are here.

Then once you have arrived and see how happy Bubbas and Bubbettes are, your whole thought process will change...

Deer season will become a National Holiday.

You will learn how to sop gravy, enjoy it and not care who is watching. Us real Bubbas' may even use our shirt sleeve for a napkin. Just kidding, Bubbettes really don't like it when they have to pre-soak our fishing shirts. It is hard enough for them to get that garlic and anise shad smell out of them so we can wear them anywhere but fishing.

Twice a year your kitchen will double for a meat processing plant and at least twice a week when

Bubbette isn't around it will become a fish cleaning station.

You will have 10 favorite recipes for deer meat and your own special recipe for batter for deep frying those crappie fillets.

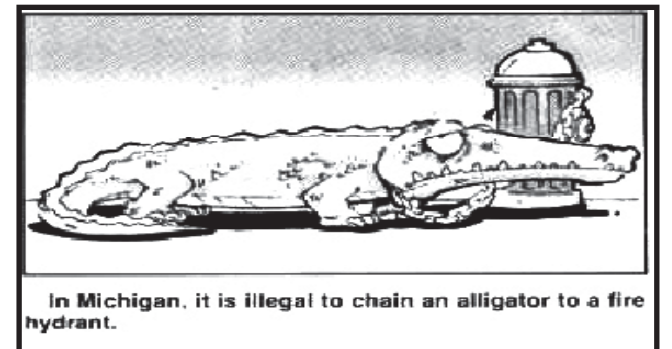
You will only know five spices – salt, pepper, Ranch Dressing, BBQ sauce and hot sauce. Ketchup will become a permanent fixture on the dinner table. Here we call it supper!

You will design your Halloween costume to fit over Wranglers and cowboy boots.

You will know 4 seasons – almost summer, summer, still summer, and spawning season!

Seriously though, you are now in heaven. Bubba and Bubbette were made in Texas by Texans and having been raised here but then living in other places such as Lake Geneva Wisconsin, California, Louisiana and other such places, I can truthfully say this is where my heart is and you just can't do any better.

The people in this area are the friendliest and names like Bubba & Bubbette are just terms of endearment.



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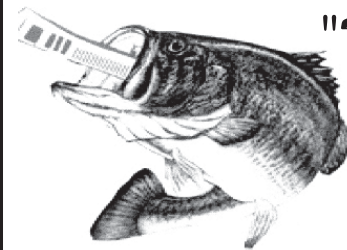
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"The Premier Big Bass Capital of Texas" *This is Lake Fork!* (Continued from Page 1-A)

(no fishing license at age 17) a bass weighing 13.40-pounds had to be released back into the lake. We all make mistakes... we just pray it isn't on a fish of a lifetime.

The action all started on February 2nd when Richard Scibek from Granbury caught a lunker weighing 16.04-pounds.

"I hadn't been able to fish for the past 18 months because I've been attending and caring for my wife Kay after she was diagnosed with lung cancer," said Richard. "She has just finished treatments and she insisted I take a break and go fishing! So, I called my fishing buddy James Quisenberry and the rest is history. I do believe it was the best medicine for her. She loves to fish and we've fished tournaments here on Lake Fork, and I think she was more excited about me catching this lunker than I was! She named the fish "Lady Katy".

Richard was using a black salty (type of gold-fish) when he caught his 16.04-pound lunker that measured 25.75-inches in length with a girth of 23-inches. His bass is the largest to come from Lake Fork since 2002 when on March 22nd this reservoir produced two lunkers weighing 16.12-pounds and 15.65-pounds.

Richard's bass has put him in the lead for Angler of the Year honors. The angler that catches the largest ShareLunker of the season receives a prize package from G. Loomis and, if the person is a Texas resident, a lifetime fishing license.

Lake Fork has now produced 16 bass weighing 16 pounds or more. This great fishery also holds 33 spots on the list of the 50 biggest bass ever caught in Texas with the top 6 including the State Record being caught here.

Scibek was fishing in 54-degree water when the fish hit. "The fish never jumped," he said. "When



This ShareLunker caught on 2/15/13 weighing 13.40-lbs. by a 17 year old angler although not allowed in program is still a credit to his fishing abilities and Lake Fork.

we got it in the boat, my fishing partner, James Quisenberry, thought it was a new lake record." Quisenberry caught a 15.61-pounder from Lake Fork in 2010 that ties for number 37 on the Top 50 list. The fish was held for pickup at The Minnow Bucket, an official Toyota ShareLunker Weigh and Holding Station. An electronic scan of the fish revealed no tag, so it was transported to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens to await the results of DNA testing to determine if it is pure Florida largemouth bass. Pure Floridas are held for spawning, while intergrades are returned to the lake as quickly as possible.

On February 15 a 17 year old angler was crappie fishing with his father under the Hwy 154 bridge. When the crappie quit biting he decided to try his luck at bass fishing. He tied on a Berkley black lizard and made a few casts in approximately 28-feet of water. His first thought was that he was hung up until the fish started to fight. After a short struggle the fish came to the top and rolled over. His catch weighed 13.40-pounds, but because he did not have a fishing license, the bass was released back into the lake by ShareLunker officials.

On February 19 Mark Hall of Winnsboro pulled a 13.11-pounder, Toyota ShareLunker 543, from Lake Fork. Hall was fishing for crappie when they stopped biting. "I know from experience that when the crappie stop biting, it's because bass

(Continued on Next Page)



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have moved in and started feeding on them," he said. Hall quickly switched to a swimbait, and the big bass smashed it right at the surface on the retrieve. Hall's fish is the eighth to be entered into the ShareLunker program during the current season and is Lake Fork's third entry.

Anyone legally catching a 13-pound or bigger largemouth bass from Texas waters, public or private, between October 1 and April 30 may submit the fish to the Toyota ShareLunker program by calling the ShareLunker hot-line at (903) 681-0550 or paging (888) 784-0600 and leaving a phone number including area code. Fish will be picked up by TPWD personnel within 12 hours.

Anglers entering fish into the Toyota ShareLunker program receive a free replica of their fish, a certificate and ShareLunker clothing and are recognized at a banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.

For complete information and rules of the ShareLunker program, tips on caring for big bass, a list of official Toyota ShareLunker weigh and holding stations and a recap of last year's season, see www.tpwd.state.tx.us/sharelunker. The site also includes a searchable database of all fish entered into the program along with pictures where available.

Information on current catches, including short videos of interviews with anglers when available, is posted on www.facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible by a grant to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation from Gulf States Toyota. Toyota is a long-time supporter of the Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of education, fish, parks and wildlife projects.



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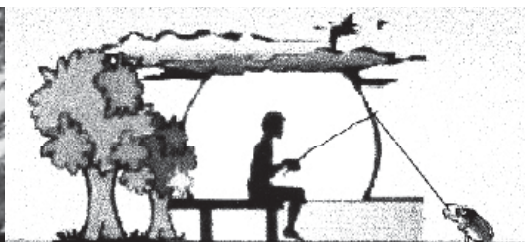
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March Bassin on the Fork... the Big Bass Factory

By John Tanner

Hello from the big bass capital. Well it's March and the pre-spawn patterns are kicking in and be looking for fish to start spawning as the month rolls along. Is that exciting or what? I can't believe it is already March and these words are coming out of my mouth. Seems like it was Christmas just last week and we were celebrating Jesus' birthday. Time flies you know.

The bigger fish are starting to show up in some of the staging areas and the typical early spring patterns are holding true. There has been some big fish being caught and yet another ShareLunker was landed last month here at Lake Fork. The press release from TPW showed it to weigh 13.11. There was a 16.04 weighed in a couple of weeks

before that one as well, so in other words, it's time to get busy.

The water temps have been running from 52 to 56 degrees depending where you are on the lake at the beginning of the month. We have been catching fish out of the shallow grass and around the shallow wood with a little deeper water close by. Deeper banks or shallow flats with creek channels running through it have been key areas. With the lake still being low, the grass with the deeper water nearby has been a solid pattern now for a few weeks.

Good baits have been lipless crankbaits like the Sebille Flatt Shad in crawfish colors, Stanley Wedge Spinner baits in golden shiner color, and Chatter baits with a Berkley Power Bait Chigger Craw for a trailer. Always keep a ½ ounce black and blue Stanley Jig handy as well as a Texas rigged Chigger Craw or one of the new Berkley Havoc Craw Fatty's. I have been fishing everything on 20 pound Big Game or Berkley 100% Fluoro. I must say that I am enjoying the new Fenwick Aetos Rods. These rods are super light and sensitive. You can feel the quality as soon as you pick one up. Give 'em a try!

It is big fish time. Now is not so much a numbers deal but the quality is good. The numbers should pick up the later in the month we get. The 3 and 4



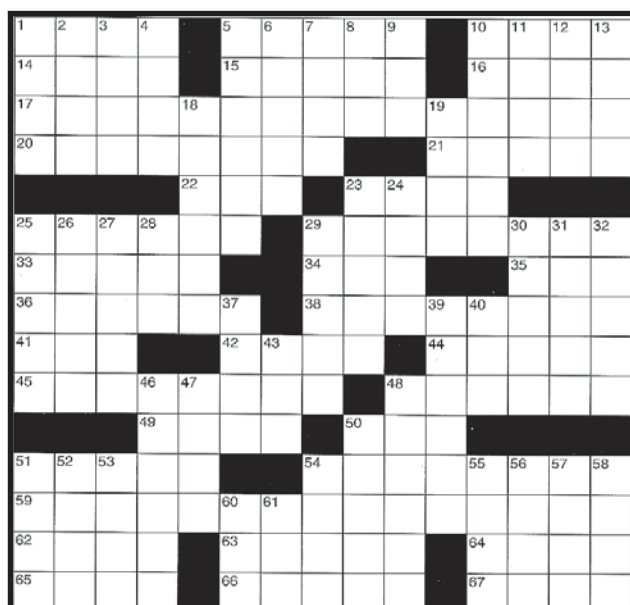
pounders we were catching are now being invaded with some 7 and 8-pound fish. This is a good sign as the females are starting to show themselves pretty regular. We are doing the most damage way up the lake in the creeks as these are the first areas that shows spawning activity every year. They are usually not spawning yet at the first of the month but they are moving up and getting ready for what is to come in a few weeks.

Bring it on to Lake Fork and get after those big uns, its time!

Thank you for reading this report and I hope it helps you catch more and bigger bass this month. If you would like to book a guide trip with us here on Lake Fork, give me a ring 903-569-7451 or drop me an email at jtanner811@gmail.

(See March Bassin'...

Continued on Page 20-A)



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Musical instrument | 36. Nome state |
| 5. Baboon genus | 38. Type of delivery |
| 10. In bed | 41. Protects from weather |
| 14. Medicinal plant | 42. School groups |
| 15. Central Florida city | 44. "The Divine Comedy" poet |
| 16. Knockout (slang) | 45. Railway cars |
| 17. NBA teams | 48. Diviner |
| 20. Skeletal muscles | 49. Gulls |
| 21. Circuit | 50. Gentle wind |
| 22. Foot (Latin) | 51. Language of Sulu Archipelago |
| 23. Mend | 54. Type of chord |
| 25. Digressions | 59. NBA teams |
| 29. Capital of Chile | 62. Changes, in a way |
| 33. Country in northwest Africa (French) | 63. Crystal |
| 34. _____ E. Winslow, 1941 Pulitzer Prize winner | 64. Brews |
| 35. Engineering company | 65. Affliction |
| | 66. Way to deal a blow to |
| | 67. Hindu deity |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Physical assistance | 28. Runs PCs |
| 2. Away from wind | 29. Soul and calypso songs |
| 3. Weight unit | 30. Belongs to sun god |
| 4. Persistently annoying person | 31. Annoy |
| 5. Shetland and Welsh | 32. Capitalist |
| 6. Sours | 37. Copycat |
| 7. Political action committees | 39. Admirer |
| 8. Type or kind | 40. Informal, in a way |
| 9. United States, Latin America and Canada belong to this group (abbr.) | 43. Denotes three |
| 10. Graduates | 46. Way to go on |
| 11. Stem | 47. Insect feeler |
| 12. Norse goddess of old age | 48. Antenna |
| 13. Type of remains | 50. Saint |
| 18. Russian monetary unit | 51. Strikebreaker |
| 19. Homer's son | 52. Seaweed, for example |
| 23. Valleys | 53. Manner or carriage |
| 24. Belonging to the American Newspaper Association | 54. _____ Spumante (Italian wine) |
| 25. Maidservants | 55. Growl |
| 26. Bush | 56. Sicilian city |
| 27. Extremely angry | 57. Isolated fact |
| | 58. Mythological mountain |
| | 60. Type of RAM |
| | 61. Radioactivity unit |

Answers on Page 21-A



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Giant Salvinia on the Move in East Texas

Giant salvinia, a non-native invasive aquatic plant, has been found at several lakes around East Texas over the past few months, leading to concerns over how quickly the destructive plant is spreading.

Since October 2012, giant salvinia has been found at boat ramps on Lake O' the Pines, Lake Wright Patman, Lake Gilmer, and Lake Murval. This has led to increased efforts by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries District 3A staff to inspect boat ramps for invasive plants and remove them before they can become established.

Giant salvinia is usually spread unknowingly by boaters when the plants

cling to their boats and trailers. A probable source of giant salvinia in East Texas is Caddo Lake, where the giant salvinia coverage is particularly high this winter. Most ramps on Caddo are currently covered in giant salvinia, and it is almost impossible to launch a boat without covering the trailer with the invasive plant. A single plant transported on a boat trailer from one lake to another can lead to a new infestation.

Giant salvinia can severely limit fishing and boating access as well as displace native beneficial plants that are used as habitat by fish. Once it becomes established in a lake, it is nearly impossible to completely

remove. TPWD crews have been successful in eradicating giant salvinia in some lakes when it was spotted early and confined to the area immediately around a boat ramp, but the best way to prevent it from infesting a lake is not to introduce it at all.

All boaters should learn to identify giant salvinia as well as other invasive species that occurs in Texas waters. Most importantly, boaters should remember to clean their boats and trailers before leaving the boat ramp. Transporting giant salvinia, along with other invasive species, is prohibited by law and punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per violation.

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"The Crappie Moon on the Report" Move

By Terri Moon

WOW – March got here in the "blink of an eye!" But, the 30 and 40 mile an hour winds have been brutal! I'm ready for some "light and variable" winds. Pre-spawn crappie can be tough to figure out – but, it all comes down to water temperature that triggers spawning activity.

We've had some mild temperatures and main lake temperatures reached the mid 50's. The crappie started their transition up the creeks. Then front after front came through and knocked water temps to low 50's and then the crappie would back off to deeper water. Then we got very cold rain that dropped the cove temperatures 4-5 degrees colder than the main lake temps. So needless to say these crappie have been on the move.

We've caught them in 30 ft. – 16 ft. – and as shallow as 10 ft. We are checking around the main creeks and secondary points. When the water reaches 55 to 60 degrees, you should find the males in shall-



low and the females will stage around the nearest deeper water structure. But, once again, we're at the mercy of the weather. Just when things get right – here comes another northern! This can set the movement back a few days or a couple of weeks so you might have to do a lot of searching. Don't just hang around in a spot hoping they'll show up. Don't give up on the deep water crappie. There are still a bunch down the lake and they are less effected by the cold fronts.

I don't know about you but I can't wait to have some fun with a "slip bobber!" Also remember, in the early stages of pre-spawn, the crappie aren't aggressive – so, "no motion" with your bait is more effective. It will be a very light bite so really pay attention to your line. It might just go slack. But, if you feel anything at all – JERK! You'll find the shallower they are – the harder they'll hit!

The baits working for us have been Lake Fork Tackle's "Live Baby Shad" in sun perch and watermelon red pearl. If the water is murky, go to a darker color like black pearl. We're also catching them on Pro Angler Tackle's tube baits in chartreuse and pearl.

I have to say once again, thank you to ALL who contributed to helping me get through such a tough time the past couple of months. Your generosity and compassion has been overwhelming!

I wish as many blessings to you all. It's so great to be back on the water. It wouldn't have happened without each and every one of you!
God Bless you ALL!

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Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Restoration Effort Continues

The continuation of the Trans-Pecos pronghorn restoration project took another step forward with the successful relocation of 130 pronghorn recently.

The animals were captured from healthy populations around Dalhart and moved to an area near Marathon to supplement severely declining populations.

The relocation process was coordinated by the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University, Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Working Group, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and USDA-Wildlife Services.

The objective of the Trans-Pecos pronghorn restoration project is to restore Trans-Pecos pronghorn populations that have reached historic lows through translocations from burgeoning herds in the Panhandle. Pronghorn numbers and population trends are assessed through aerial surveys conducted each summer.

During the initial phase of the restoration project in 2011, about 200 pronghorn were captured and released on ranches near Marfa. TPWD estimates about 15-20 percent of the transplanted pronghorn remain.

"The historic drought that occurred in the Trans-Pecos

shortly after transplanting the pronghorn was the primary reason for the high mortality rate," said Shawn Gray, TPWD Mule Deer and Pronghorn Program Leader. "However, in the area where the transplanted pronghorn were released they, and their offspring, currently compose a bulk of the local pronghorn population."

The 2013 relocation/ release near Marathon occurred under significantly improved range conditions.

"The release area had favorable precipitation during the summer, as well as good winter moisture," said Gray. "We also spent six months working to prepare the release site, including fence modifications and predator management, all with landowner cooperation. Trans-Pecos field staff, headed by the local District Wildlife Biologist Mike Janis was instrumental in this effort."

Joachim Treptow, TPWD District Wildlife Biologist stationed in Dalhart spent endless hours coordinating with local landowners in the Dalhart area to obtain trapping permission and working on trap site logistics.

"Without his hard work and local landowner support this project would not have happened" said Gray.

At the capture site, workers took each animal's tempera-

ture to monitor stress, along with blood and fecal samples for disease surveillance. The pronghorn also received a mild sedative and other injections to minimize stress related to capture and transport. Ear tags were attached for identification, and 59 of the captured pronghorn were fitted with GPS radio collars to monitor movements. The collars will provide one GPS location per hour.

After processing, the pronghorn were transported by trailer to the Marathon release site. Dr. Louis Harveson, BRI director and Sul Ross professor of Natural Resource Management, said that "The pronghorn were in excellent shape and traveled really well."

During the next year, the BRI and TPWD will monitor the translocated pronghorn to determine survival, reproductive productivity, fawn survival, habitat utilization, and movements.

"We sincerely appreciate all the cooperation and support from the Dalhart and Trans-Pecos communities, because of their continued teamwork our state's pronghorn resource and all Texans are greatly benefited," said Gray. Without the many partnerships involved, this monumental project would have not occurred."



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Texas Birding Classic Spreading Its Wings, Its Reach This Spring

Grab your binoculars and birding guides and get ready for fun at the 17th annual Great Texas Birding Classic. This year's event will feature a number of firsts that will make it the biggest, longest and wildest bird-watching tournament in the nation.

The Texas birding tournament, which has been a week-long event for 16 years along the Texas Gulf Coast, is going statewide and will last an entire month - from April 15 to May 15. The new format will allow participants to compete in more than one of the 42 categories and choose what days they wish to participate based on weather and personal schedules.

In addition to the traditional competitions, such as the Big Sit!, this year there will be nine regional Big Day tournaments, a Texas State Park tourney and Sunrise to Noon contest. Team fees have been lowered from previous years, as well, making participation easier and more economical than ever before.

"You'll now be able to participate from anywhere in Texas, including your own backyard," says Shelly Plan-

te, tournament director. "Any bird-watcher from the backyard birder to those who may be more competitive is welcome to join the event. There's a tournament category for everyone."

Plante manages the nature tourism program for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which has grabbed the reigns of this friendly annual birding competition that raises funds for Texas conservation projects. Since the inception of the Great Texas Birding Classic in 1997, adult teams that recorded the most bird species in various categories have contributed more than \$789,500 for avian habitat conservation.

Habitat conservation grants, which this year will be awarded to projects anywhere in Texas, are funded through event sponsorship and registration fees. This year's event sponsors include Toyota and H.E.B. The registration deadline for the Great Texas Birding Classic is April 1. To learn more about the tournament, visit: <http://www.birdingclassic.org>, or call (512) 389-4500.



Here is a nice hawg caught by an angler while fishing Lake Fork with guide John Tanner. Weight Unavailable. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo)



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Why Spawn Only Pure Florida Largemouth Bass?

By Dijar Lutz-Carrillo,
TPWD Geneticist

Given recent events I thought it would be a good idea to reiterate why the ShareLunker and Operation World Record programs are operated in their current fashion, specifically, why hybrid ShareLunkers are not included in hatchery spawning events.

We should start by noting that hybrids are included in ShareLunker spawning events when non-introgressed Florida largemouth bass ShareLunkers are not available. This has been done in the past and will continue in the future. No one is of the opinion that hybrid largemouth bass cannot reach a large size, even a state or world record size. Nor does anyone think there isn't something special about the genotype of a hybrid largemouth bass that reaches a trophy size. However, one purpose of the ShareLunker and Operation World Record programs is to produce offspring that will reach large size. The use of non-introgressed Florida largemouth bass in the breeding programs enhances this probability.

The reasons for this are both theoretical and tangible. Size, not just in largemouth bass but in humans, mice, and everything else, is a quantitative trait that results from interactions between the genotype and the environment. The phenotype of size is the result of actions and interactions at and among hundreds to thousands of loci, each accounting for a fraction of a percent of the overall variance. The genetic contribution to this variance can be partitioned into three types—additive, dominance, and epistatic. While both a hybrid largemouth bass and a Florida largemouth bass will pass on the additive genetic components (or a portion of them) to their offspring, the epistatic and dominance configurations (or similar configurations) are more likely to be realized in the offspring of a non-hybrid cross.

The tangible evidence can be seen in our reservoirs. If you could roll all of our reservoirs into one big water body to create a "typical" Texas reservoir, 5 percent of the fish would be Florida largemouth bass and 90 percent of the fish would be hybrids. However, among

all ShareLunker entries, 50 percent of these fish are Florida largemouth and 50 percent are hybrids. That means that 5 percent of the population (Florida largemouth bass) is responsible for 50 percent of the ShareLunkers, and 90% of the population (hybrids) is responsible for the other 50 percent. Given two fish, one a Florida largemouth bass and one a hybrid, the Florida largemouth bass is about 10 times more likely to reach a size of 13 pounds or greater.

Spawning a hybrid donated to the ShareLunker program and stocking out its offspring does not, by itself, hurt anything. However, TPWD has limited staff, time, spawning capacity, and pond rearing space for dealing with "special" fish, and those resources are best used by incorporating non-introgressed ShareLunkers into the spawning program. This increases the frequency of non-introgressed Florida largemouth bass in the population as well as the probability of producing offspring that will themselves reach trophy size. There will always be plenty of hybrids even if we never cross them.



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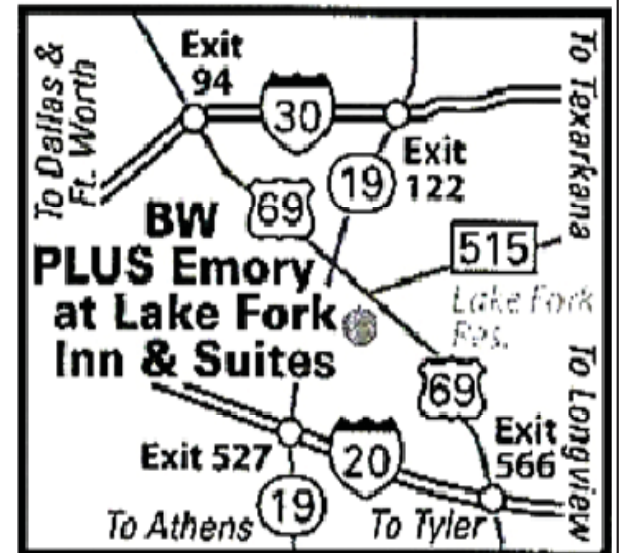
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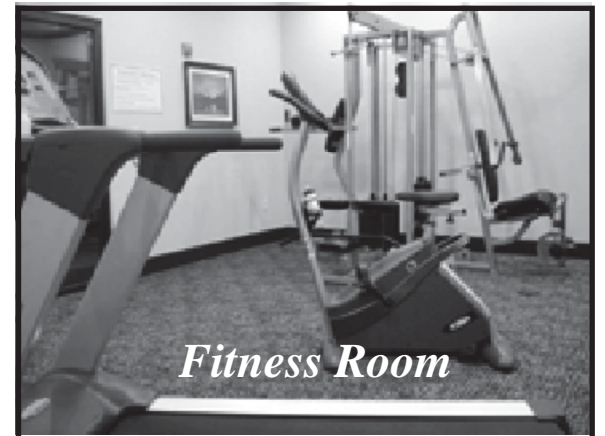
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Athens Eggfest 2013 Set for April 13 at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

The third annual Athens Eggfest is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC).

An Eggfest can be thought of as the ultimate tailgate cookout: Dozens of Eggheads will fire up Big Green Eggs and bake, smoke, grill and serve everything from breakfast casseroles to pork ribs to blueberry muffins to pig candy. It will all be cooked on the iconic ceramic cookers, and samples will be available for tasting.

Regular admission to TFFC will be charged. Those who preregister will be allowed to taste for a \$5 donation to the Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

Persons who do not preregister can still taste by making a \$10 donation to the Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center at the event entrance.

Both cooks and tasters may preregister at <http://athenseggfest.wordpress.com/>.

This year's theme for the Athens Eggfest is "Food's Better Outside." An Eggfest is not a cooking competition, it's a tasting frenzy accompanied by cooking instruction. Food will be coming off the Eggs all day long, starting with breakfast-type items in the morning and progressing to

heartier foods as the day goes on. While tasting, you can learn how to cook on a Big Green Egg yourself.

At the end of the day, the once-used Eggs will be available for purchase at a substantial discount. You may reserve an Egg for purchase at the web site above. The entire line of Big Green Egg accessories will also be available for purchase.

Event staff will cool the Eggs, remove the ashes and help you load them into your pickup truck or large SUV. Eggs weigh about 150 pounds.

Founded in 1974, Big Green Egg has come to symbolize outdoor cooking. The Egg is modeled on a traditional Asian ceramic cooking concept that has become one of the fastest-growing segments of the U.S. barbecue industry. Originally constructed with clay, the Egg is now manufactured with space-age ceramics that make the cooker virtually indestructible under normal cooking circumstances. Headquartered in a suburb of Atlanta, The Big Green Egg is available in more than 20 countries worldwide.

The Athens Eggfest is sponsored by Morrison Supply, Paragon Distributing, Brookshires Grocery and TFFC.

For information on visiting the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, go to <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc> or call (903) 676-2277.



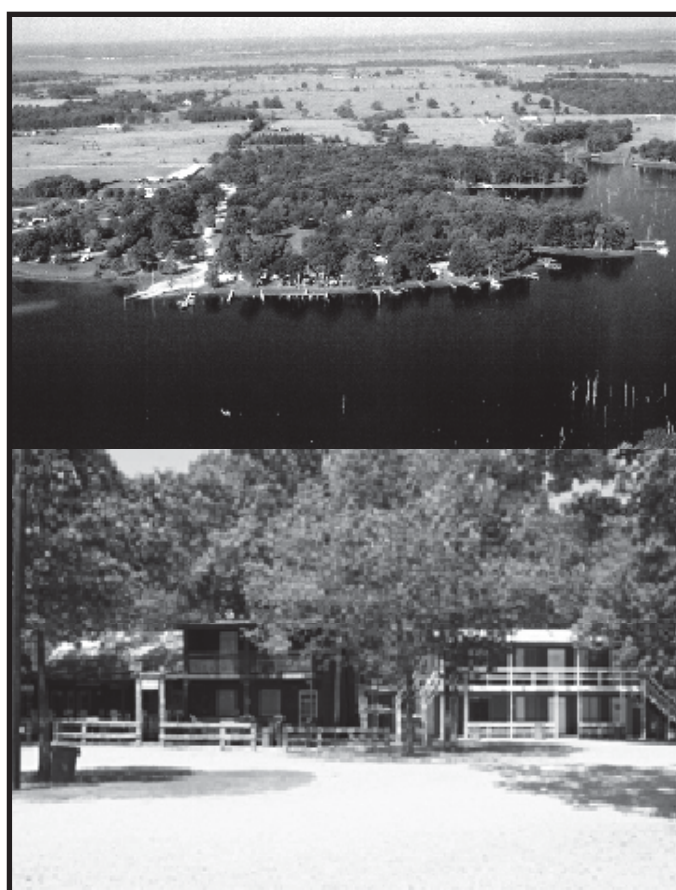
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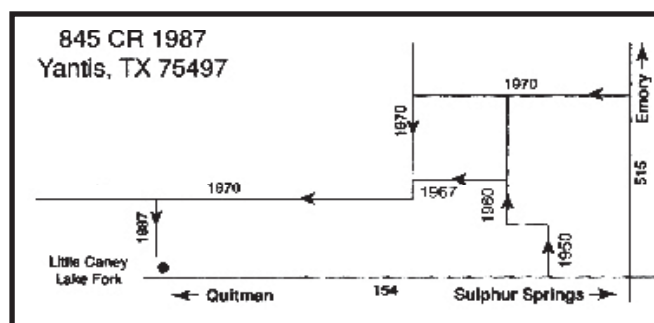
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Jim Mohler from Longview caught this hawg weighing 12.25 fishing Lake Fork on 2/10/13.



Guy Turner from Wasilla, Alaska caught this nice bass while crappie fishing with Terri Moon.



Al Kahout and buddy Dennis caught this nice bass crappie fishing with guide Terri Moon.

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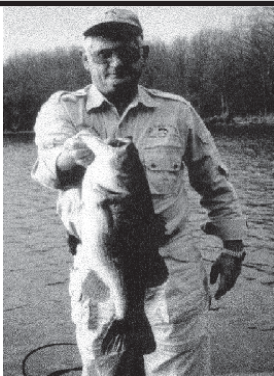
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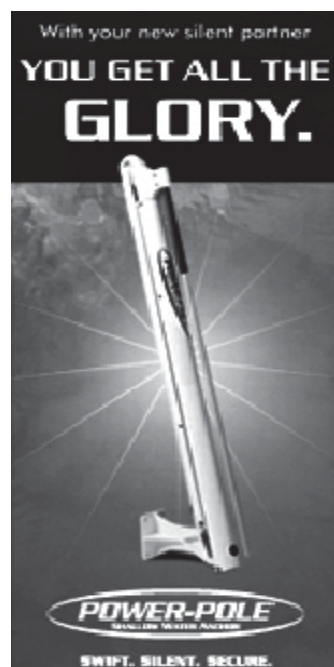
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Get Hooked on Fly Fishing March 9 at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

Fly Fish Texas returns to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center March 9 with the goal of teaching visitors to tie a fly, cast a fly and catch a fish with it all in one day.

Show hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All Fly Fish Texas activities are free with regular paid admission to the center.

Fly Fish Texas emphasizes hands-on learning and immediate application of newly acquired skills. Visitors can collect aquatic insects from the center's streams, tie a fly to imitate one of those insects under the supervision of a skilled tier, learn to cast it from a casting instructor certified by the Federation of Fly Fishers, then use it to catch a rainbow trout, catfish or sunfish from one of TFFC's stocked ponds or streams.

Throughout the day, experienced fly-tiers will be demonstrating and teaching fly-tying in the Anglers Pavilion on a one-on-one basis. In addition, group instruction in beginning fly-tying will be offered in the Hart-Morris Conservation Center. Both are offered on a walk-up basis.

Beginning casting instruction will take place all day in the Conservation Center parking lot, again on a walk-up basis. Other sessions will teach single-hand and Spey

rod casting at scheduled times.

Vendors will be displaying and selling fly-fishing gear, and seminars will brief visitors on where and how to fly-fish in Texas fresh and salt waters for a variety of species.

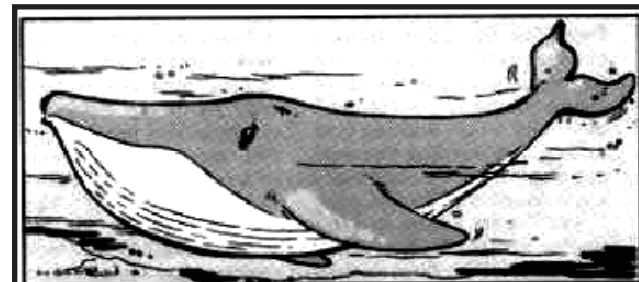
Featured presentations include fly-fishing the Llano River in Texas, trout fishing in Colorado, fly-fishing urban creeks in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, fly-fishing for carp, flies and tactics for spring bass and fly-fishing Texas bays for red drum and speckled seatrout.

While most activities at Fly Fish Texas are offered on a walk-up basis, others are scheduled. For a complete schedule of activities and seminars plus a video of the event, visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/>

tffc and click on the Fly Fish Texas link.

Food service will be available onsite, or attendees may bring a picnic.

Event sponsors include Sabine River Authority, Best Western-Royal Mountain Inn, Holiday Inn Express-Athens, Super 8-Athens, Temple Fork Outfitters, Orvis-Dallas, Cripple Creek Bar-B-Que, First State Bank, Red Hat Rentals, Wulf Outdoor Sports and Friends of TFFC.



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"Pack of Knowledge" Jigs for Springtime Lunkers—Part II

By Tom Redington

Last month I wrote about getting your gear set up for jig fishing in the spring. Now that you're all rigged up, here's how you use it to catch some of the biggest bass that swim in your lake.

Start your jig fishing by choosing a likely location. Remember that big female bass are working their way to shallow spawning flats early in the spring and then back out to deep water after they finish. Intercept the bass as they travel along these

routes by concentrating on areas with thick cover or with quick drops to deeper water, preferably both. Especially after cold fronts, bass hunker down by the thickest available cover or fall back to the first deeper water. While they won't be as active, the bass often group up in small areas and the fishing can be fantastic once the honey holes are located. Therefore, key on grass, rock, wood, docks, or any other cover along creek channels and on points adjacent to spawning areas. In addition, I catch a lot of bass on Lake Fork Trophy Lures' MPack jigs on banks where bass are actively chasing spinnerbaits and lipless crankbaits. Fish your jig on the edge of the grass or near stumps in these areas and you'll likely nab lunker bass that are reluctant to run down faster baits.

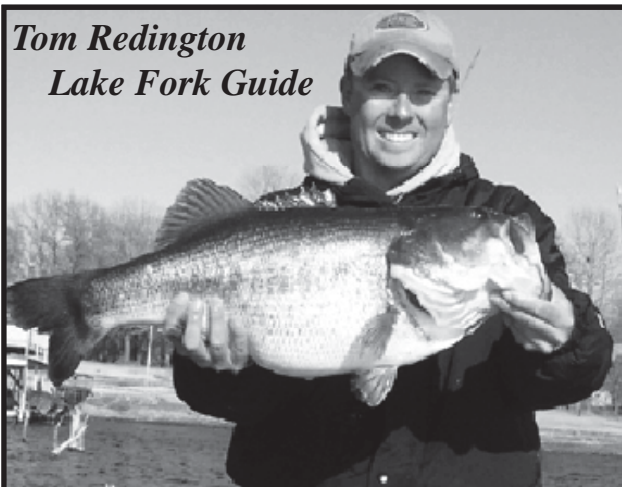
Once you're in a good jig area, boat position and casting accuracy play a big part in your success. Working into the wind will allow you to control your boat better and keeps you from drifting up onto key targets. As a general rule, the clearer the water and the thinner the cover, the greater the distance you need to keep between the target and your boat. If I'm fishing heavy wood or grass cover in muddy water, I'll get very close and flip or make short pitches with my jig. Conversely, long pitches or roll casts are required in thin cover in clear water. Learning to roll or loop cast your

jig allows pinpoint accuracy and a quiet entry into the water from great distances, and this method also allows for rapid fire casts. Kevin VanDam and Jimmy Houston are two masters of this technique, so if you're not familiar with the roll cast, pay close attention the next time you see them on TV. Ultra stiff rods are tougher to make rolls casts with, so go for a strong rod with a bit of tip, like the Dobyns Extreme DX745C model I wrote about in part one. Learning to place your lure close to the target and quietly is a key to success; as a result, improving your casting accuracy is an easy way to become a better jig angler. Finally, make repeated casts to likely targets. Remember that you're often fishing for wary lunkers that are inactive after a front. Power Poles really shine for shallow jig fishing, allowing me to hold still and keep quiet as I repeatedly probe key targets. Place an easy meal right in front of their face by pitching every nook and cranny of their lair and you can often trigger a bite.

Speaking of triggering a bass to bite, it is often a function of working your jig with the correct action and rate of fall. Since the preferred action changes daily, you'll need to experiment with your presentation and jig set up until you find what works best. Normally, the majority of your

(See Pack of Knowledge...Continued on Page 21-A)

Tom Redington
Lake Fork Guide



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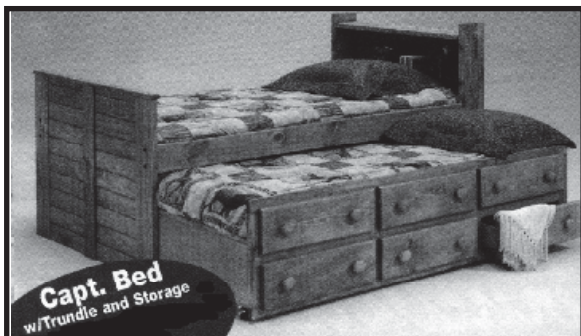
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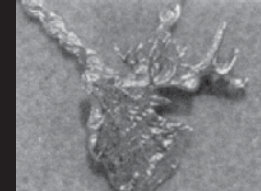
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March Bassin on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

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Please pray for our country and our service men and women. Also pray for the sick and the lost. Got Jesus? Read John 3:16 Good fishing and God Bless!

John Tanner is a professional resident fishing guide on Lake Fork. He has been fishing Lake Fork since 1982. John is professionally sponsored by Ranger Boats, Ranger Trail Trailers, Mercury, International Precious Metals, Minn Kota Trolling Motors, Lowrance Electronics, Navionics, Berkley, ABU Garcia, All Star Rods, Tru Tungsten, Hambys Beach Bumpers, Mustad Hooks, Talon Lures, BTS Line and Lure, Diamond Sports Marine and Oakley Sunglasses.



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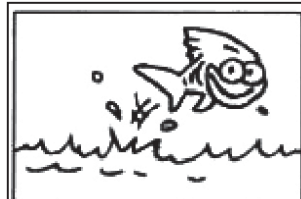
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Like a chameleon, the grouper can change its color to blend with its surroundings.



The world's best fishing grounds lie along the edge of the Arctic, particularly off the coasts of Greenland and Iceland.



Ken Myers from Tennessee was doing some February bass fishing with guide John Tanner when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo John Tanner Guide Service)

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"Pack of Knowledge" (Continued from Page 18-A)

bites will come on the initial fall of your jig as it drops to the bottom for the first time. Some days a rapid fall triggers a reaction bite, while other days you'll need a very slow fall to keep the jig in the strike zone for as long as possible. For a faster fall, use heavy jigs, light line, thin skirts, and/or small streamlined trailers like Fork Craws. For a slower drop, go with lighter jigs, heavy line, and/or large and bulky skirts and action trailers like Hyper Freaks and Fork Creatures. When bass aren't hitting the bait on the drop, frequently the case in early spring, you'll need to figure out how to work it back to the boat. You can drag it, give it small or large hops, shake it in place, or just let it sit. All of these work at different times, and determining how much or how long to let hop or rest a jig is a piece of the puzzle you need to decipher each trip.

Assuming that you've done everything correctly so far, sooner or later a fish is going to bite. Unlike a plastic worm that a bass will usually swallow before letting go, it'll spit out a jig with just a little too much pressure on the line as the bristly weed guard or sharp hook starts to press against the fish's mouth. There-

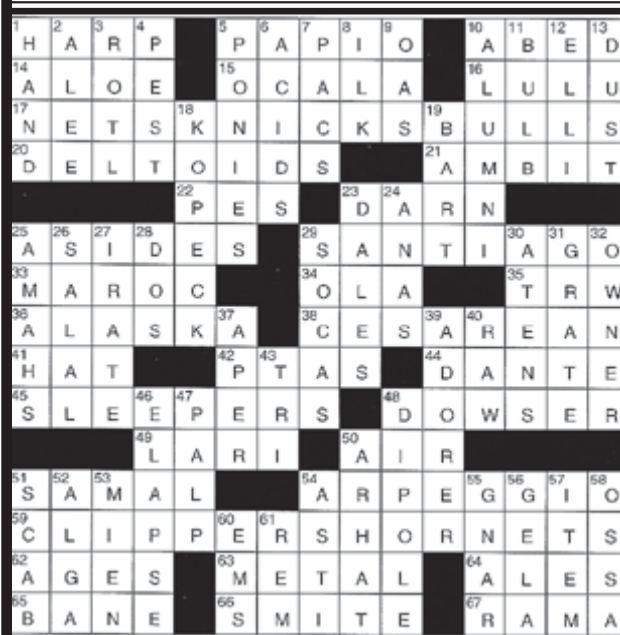
fore, take up your slack and lift up gently each time before moving your jig forward. Over time, you'll develop a feel for the resistance of your jig and trailer coming through open water, weeds, or wood. Anytime the resistance on your jigs feels a bit heavier or lighter than (See Pack of Knowledge... Continued on Page 22-A)

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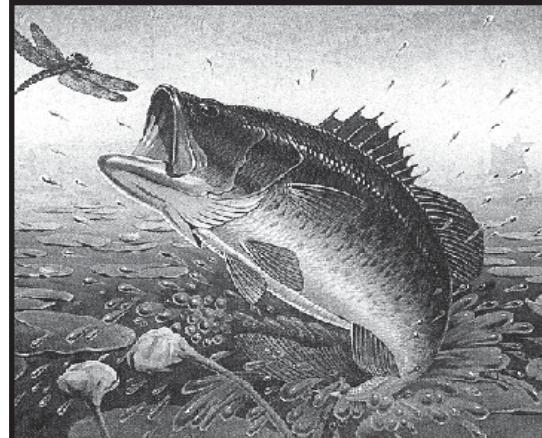
Garden Search

There are 14 plants commonly grown in gardens hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

BEET
BROCCOLI
CABBAGE
CARROT
CORN
DAFFODIL
GERANIUM

LILY
MARIGOLD
PANSY
PEPPER
ROSE
TOMATO
TULIP

S E G R N I U M A T O E
N R O C A R R A T U L I
A E M U I N A R E G A C
P P E P R O C I L L O A
A P I L U T E G C O R B
S E Y N A P R O T E E B
P P I L U S D L O I R A
A N S Y E L R D M A R G
N R C O S I A U T M A E
S O G L O D G L A L Y G
Y S A B R O C C O L I B
L S L E O F P A S N R B
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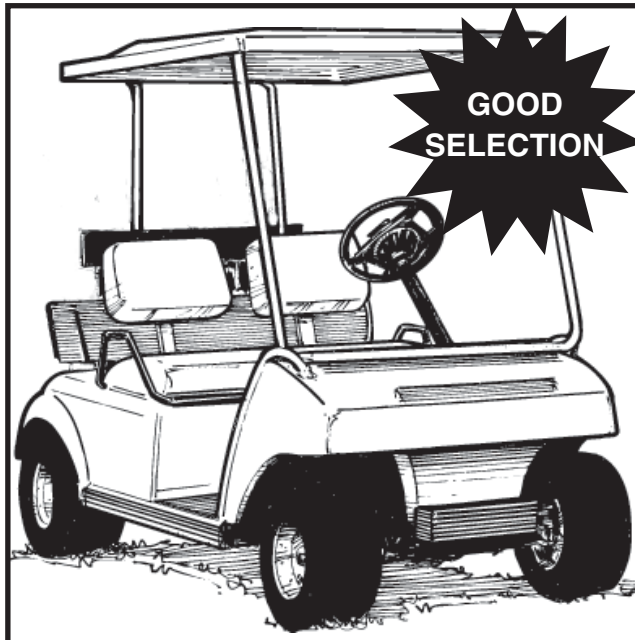
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"Pack of Knowledge" (Continued from Page 21-A)

normal, it is time to set the hook. Every good jig fisherman I've fished with has set the hook a number of times on weeds, limbs, or just a hunch. Basically, if you're not setting the hook and coming up empty on occasion, you're probably missing some fish that are gently picking up and dropping your bait.



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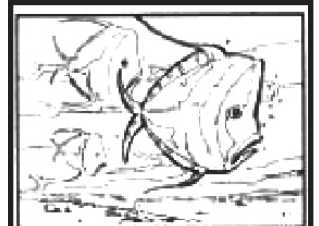
Of course, sometimes you'll feel a large thump or you'll about have the rod jerked out of your hands, but normally it is a much subtler clue, especially for the big fish. In addition, pay close attention to your line and watch it where it enters the water. Any time your line jumps, starts moving to the side, or stops falling in less time than is required to reach the bottom, set the hook without delay.

So there you have it, my theories on jig fishing. Lots of variables to consider, but control the ones you can by using quality gear—like Dobyns Rods and Lake Fork Trophy Lures' baits—plus your casting accuracy and boat positioning, and you'll have a good head start on catching a lunker. If I can be of assistance, drop me a line at tom@lakeforkguidetrips.com or check out my website www.LakeForkGuideTrips.com for more info.

Tom Redington is a FLW Tour pro, host of TV's "Big Bass Battle" & a bass guide on Lake Fork. To make the most of your experience in the outdoors, he recommends the Boy Scouts of America, Lake Fork Trophy Lures, Dobyns Rods, Ranger Boats, Mercury Outboards, Diamond Sports Marine, Lucky Craft, Costa Sunglasses, Lowrance, Navionics, & Power Pole.



Many fishermen throw back the first fish they catch so as to appease unseen spirits



The X-ray fish is a small carnivorous fish that lives in the lower reaches of the Amazon River. It gets its name from its almost transparent body.



The lantern fish creates its own light as it swims about the dark depths of the ocean.

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REDUCED

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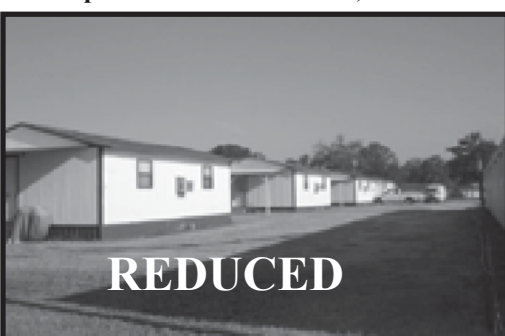
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