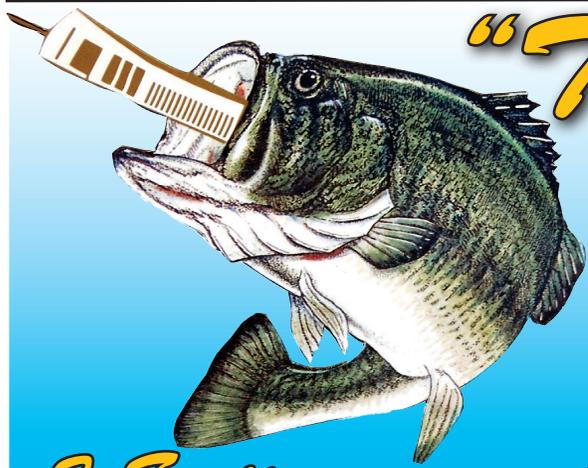


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2 Sections

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Vol. 15

April, 2014

No. 176

10th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament May 16, 17, 18

By Don Hampton

There is going to be one lucky angler to take home a new 2014 Legend bass boat simply because their entry to the 10th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament was postmarked or received before April 30th.

Anglers should not be discouraged if they did not get their entries in early. There are still 3 more Legend bass boats to be given away and 7 places paid each hour of this three day tournament. First place each hour with heavy bass will receive

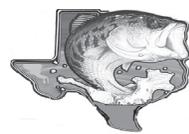
\$500, second place \$400, third place \$300, fourth place \$200, fifth place \$175, sixth place \$150 and the first one knocked out of sixth place will receive a \$100 gift card or certificate from our sponsors. For the first angler that catches an exact 10-pound bass, that angler will take home a Kubota RTV-X1120, from our sponsors at Alba & Pittsburg Tractor, valued at \$17,178.

Anglers do not have to have a Legend boat to participate in the tournament. There will be boats of all makes and models competing in the tournament. For the anglers that miss the early entry you can enter the tournament at tournament headquarters beginning on May 15, 2014. No checks will be accepted at that time. To enter at the tournament headquarters, hours will be Thursday, May 15th from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m., Friday, May 16th from 5 a.m. until 6 a.m. and 4 p.m.

(See 10th Annual.....
Continued on Page 4-A)



Marty Snyder and Jackie Albin from Tightwad, Missouri won the Crappie Masters National Qualifier, One Day, One Pole Ultimate Challenge Tournament held on Lake Fork, March 15, with a total 7-fish stringer weight of 15.83-lbs. and winning them 1st Place prize money of \$3,200. This was their first time to fish on Lake Fork. Jackie is the inventor of the "Stump Jumper".



TEXASTRAILSBASSMASTERSOFLAKE FORK OPEN TOURNAMENT APRIL 12

By Don Hampton

The Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork bass club will be holding their 28th Semi-Annual Open Bass Tournament on April 12th, hosted by Oak Ridge Marina on Hwy. 154.

This progressive bass club is active in the Wish to Fish Foundation and Wood County

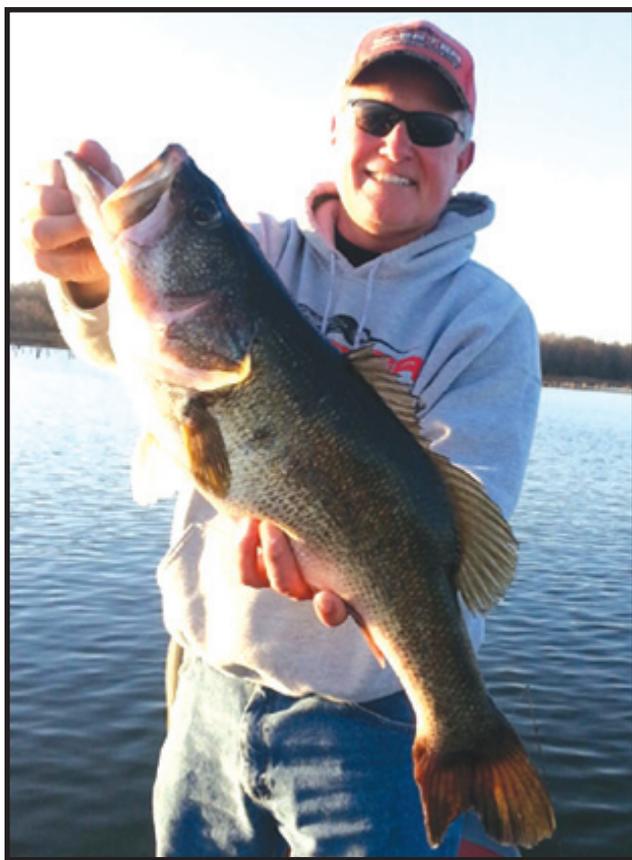
Kid Fish each year, and would like to invite everyone to come out and fish with them.

This is a fund raiser tournament for the club that assists them in their youth, conservation, social and club functions. This is one club that truly supports, promotes, and protects Lake Fork. All of the directors on the board of "The Wish to

Fish Foundation" are members of this club.

You will help with your support by coming out on April 12th and fishing their open tournament. Fishing Hours will be from 6 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. All contestants must be in line by 3:30 official time. It is an individual heavy stringer tournament.

(See Texas Trails.....
Continued on Page 7-A)



"The Fisherman's Guide News" would like to welcome our newest writer, David Ozio to our staff. With David's expertise and experience of bass fishing we are sure he will bring new insights on catching that Lake Fork lunker of a lifetime.

What does Bubba dream about?

By: Don Hampton

It wouldn't take a dream expert to analyze Bubba's dreams. For those of us that know him it would not be difficult to guess just what he dreams about.

In his younger years he will admit he dreamed about the "Budweiser Girls and the "Dallas Cheerleaders", but that was before meeting Bubbette the love of his dreams. Now in what he refers to as his "Golden Years", Bubba's dreams consist mainly of drinking Budweiser and fishing 79 miles this side of Dallas.

Now when I refer to Bubba's dreaming, this doesn't mean he is always asleep. This man's daydreams can put Rip VanWinkle to shame. He can be driving his truck or speeding across the lake to get to one of his honey holes and just have a doosie of a dream.

A couple of times, with the fear factor present, I've had to arouse him. When I've asked him where he was at he would reply, "Oh, I was just having a little daydream!"

Bubba has shared some of his dreams with me and believe me that man has a vivid imagination. The best thing about Bubba's dreams though is that no one ever gets hurt and evidently they bring him a lot of enjoyment.

One of his favorites and he insists it might come true because it is a reoccurring dream is that he fishes his way to the Bassmasters and wins.

That is not so far fetched. Many anglers dream of that, but Bubba's dreams go in depth far be-

yond that point. In his dream he beats everyone in the competition by 20 pounds per day and at the end of the tournament all the pros want his autograph and insist he give them tips on his fishing expertise. I told him I didn't think he would ever be able to do that with a Zebco 33. (I can't tell you what he told me on that one.)

My favorite one he has shared with me is him catching the new world record largemouth bass. He has even seen this one tilt the scales at 28.62 pounds. That is doing some mighty powerful dreaming. In this dream he even picks up sponsors and does television commercials. Can you imagine Bubba doing a Fruit of the Loom commercial? In case this dream does come true I want to be around for this one. Bubba has been practicing the American Express commercial. It doesn't quite sound like any I've ever heard, but who knows we might have to give him credit.

Bubba's version goes like this: "Howdy you all! You and yours probably don't have a clue as to who I are, that's why I carry this here plastic thang! People may not recognize me in my fishing gear at the rib house or at the chicken fried steak place, which's why I carry this thang. Whether on the pond or on a lake, make no mistake, you present this and you can get a rib or steak! Don't leave your shack without it!"

Now if you saw this, wouldn't it just make you want to go out and extend your credit rating.

With all dreams there comes the scary ones and Bubba has a few of those. His consists of want-

ing to go fishing and not being able to find his boat, not being able to find the lake, Bubbette selling all his fishing stuff at one of her garage sales, and the "Dallas Cheerleaders" and the "Budweiser Girls" all wanting to go fishing with him. (Well okay, maybe not the last one. I just wanted to see what Bubbette would do to him.)

To top all of this off someone made the mistake of sharing with Bubba a superstitious saying. Bubba being a country boy and believing somewhat in superstition isn't taking any chances. This individual told Bubba that if you have a dream and tell it to someone before having breakfast that dream will come true. Now when Bubbette tells him to shut-up and go back to sleep, he gets on the phone to his friends to tell them of fishing the Bassmasters or making an American Express commercial. So, if you meet Bubba, don't give him your telephone number. You just might get a before breakfast call!



Johnny Appleseed (whose real name was Jonathan Chapman) was an American pioneer who planted large numbers of apple trees along the frontier in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.



The words "alumnus" and "alumna" are the Latin words for "foster son" and "foster daughter." Though used in Great Britain to mean "pupil," in America they describe only graduates of a school or college.

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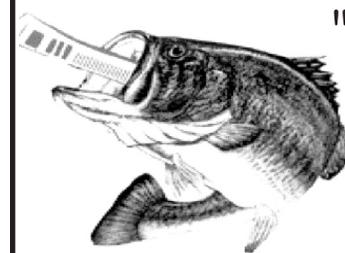
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10th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 1-A)

to 9 p.m., Saturday, May 17th from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., and on Sunday, May 18th, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. All mail-in entries should check in at tournament headquarters at the specified times listed above to receive weight bags and promotional gifts. Also on hand will be assorted sizes of TFO Rods anglers can purchase for \$50 each with no limit while supplies last.

The tournament will be held on May 16, 17, and 18th hosted by Lake Fork Marina on Highway 17N, 903-765-2764.

Fishing hours for the tournament are from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day of the tournament with the first weigh-in hour being 7 to 8. Trailering is allowed and hourly updates can be heard three times per hour on KMOO 99.9 FM on your radio. The number of anglers per boat is only limited to the weight capacity of the boat. Each person in the boat must

be a paid entry. Only three (3) bass can be in the possession of each angler at a time and they must have a means of separating their catch from other angler or anglers in the boat. The official measuring board will be the Chek-It-Stick and bass under the slot cannot touch 16" and fish over the slot must at least touch the 24" mark. Polygraph tests will be given each hour. Once the angler has entered the weigh-in line he or she has committed for that hourly weigh-in and as long as an angler is in a paid hourly position their boat and partners must remain at tournament headquarters until the hour is completed. All anglers must have a current Texas Fishing License in their possession when they come to the weigh-in line. No dead fish will be weighed in. Each boat must be equipped with a throw cushion, working live-well, kill-switch, lights, horn, and current registration. All anglers

must wear their Coast Guard approved life vest at all times the large motor is in operation. All protests must be turned in, in writing to tournament staff 15 minutes after the hour in which the infraction occurred. During the tournament all state and local laws apply. All of the day's catches must be released back into the lake by 3:00 p.m. of each day and anglers must be off the water by 8:00 p.m. each day during the course of the tournament.

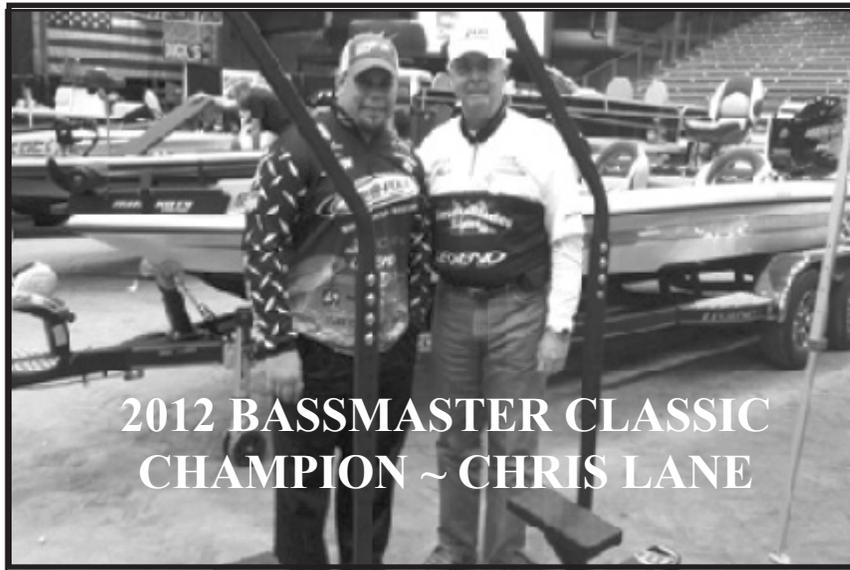
Anyone wishing to fish the tournament can pick up an entry form at most local businesses around the lake or go to www.legendoflakefork.com and download an entry form and rules. If in the rules and regulations you find you have another question, feel free to call "The Fisherman's Guide News" at 903-383-7748 or mobile 903-360-6994 and ask for Don or Sue.



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Tracy Cobb from White House, Tennessee was fishing Lake Fork on March 24 when he caught this nice hawg weighing 12.5-lbs. on a Yum 5 Wire Flash Mob. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Fisherman's One Stop)

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New Rules Give Landowners Flexibility for Nuisance Alligator Control

Landowners are now able to contract directly with nuisance alligator hunters under new rules adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

The new protocol will authorize a permitted control hunter to contract directly with a landowner or landowner's agent (including a political subdivision, governmental entity, or property owner's association) for a fee or other compensation for the removal of nuisance alligators.

By allowing control hunters to contract directly with landowners, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department hopes to simplify the process and allow permittees to retain cap-

tured alligators and process or sell them. The new protocol would allow alligators to be released in suitable habitat with the approval of the department and the landowner of the property where the release would take place.

During the past 20 years, once imperiled alligator populations in Texas have rebounded spectacularly. Increased suburban, exurban, and industrial development in an adjacent to coastal counties, particularly along the mid- and upper coast, has resulted in increasing number of nuisance alligator complaints, especially in areas biologically characterized by diminishing or little to no habitat.

Each nuisance alliga-

tor control hunter must complete a certification process that includes (1) an application to TPWD, (2) a department administered nuisance alligator control course, (3) a written exam on nuisance alligator control, and (4) a live alligator handling exam. Additionally, an annual permit fee of \$252 is required. No one in Texas is excluded from having a valid nuisance control permit issued by TPWD Alligator Program for the capture and release of American alligators, including local animal control officers.

Persons interested in the nuisance alligator control hunter program

(See New Rules.....
Continued on Page 21-A)

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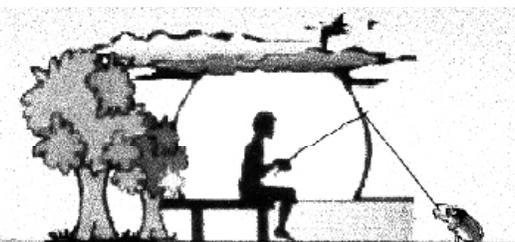
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April is heating up on Lake Fork

By David Ozio

What an interesting year for Lake Fork to date. One cold front after another, high pressure, high winds, one would think there is no end in sight. The optimist in me says be patient and look forward to an outstanding April. As of this week, big fish have started to show up in the shallows and beds are being built in some of the warmest pockets as we speak. Water clarity has been an issue for scouting but the trusty shakey head has shown my clients and I that they are there and ready to do their business. Several protected pockets are holding hundreds of nice slot fish and even a few double digit momma's. The large trophy's are harder to see as they hold off to the side of the bed but if you stare long enough, you will see the tail move

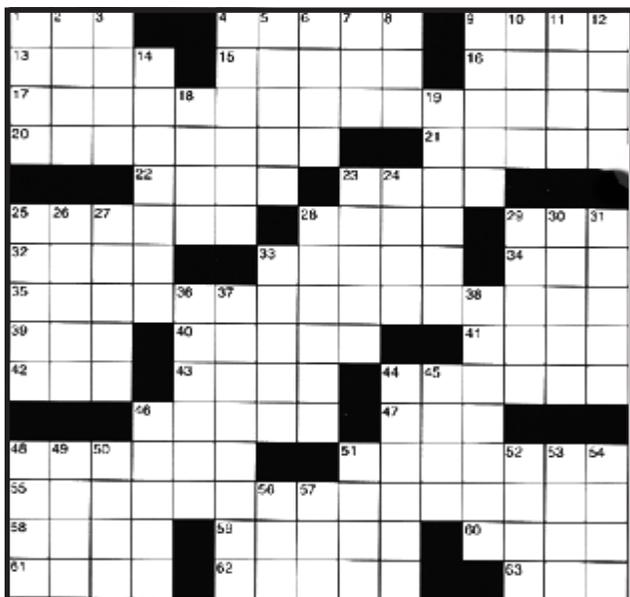
giving away the position of the fish of a lifetime.

The trick to locating these groups of spawning fish is water temp. If you can locate some 60 degree water that has maintained that temp for several days, odds are the fish are there. We were down south recently scouring through a north bank pocket and saw a huge slot that was locked onto the bed. Searching the rest of the area turned up nothing. It won't be long and that area will be busting at the seams with fish wanting to "get 'er done". They always bed last on the south end of the lake but they are much easier to see due to significantly clearer water conditions. It is also very time consuming to search out groups of spawning fish but the time spent will allow you to have these fish to yourself once they show themselves. Also, pay attention to big stumps in the shallow areas. I have seen many a giant bedding right next to these stumps or up against laydowns.

The April full moon should usher in the largest wave of spawning females as they missed their window in March due to cold water temps. Mid lake pockets should start to light up with the sandy light spots near the shorelines. The trick now will be to catch them. I have heard of a zillion ways to bag these critters but the fish has to be somewhat willing to participate if you plan to boat a personal best off the beds. Simplicity is sometimes



far better. First of all, you need to be able to see the bait in the water as the fish studies the offering or potential threat to his nest. Bright colors work exceptionally well like white Texas rigged lizards, merthiolate trick worms rigged wacky style, or a white craw worm with red pinchers rigged on a shakey head. You can get as elaborate as you like based upon your definition of fun. I have heard of anglers using jointed hard bodied swimbaits to lure these giants into biting. They would work them slowly until it reached the bed and then let it fall into the sandy spot. Hmmm! I've never tried that. Sounds interesting. Personally, I think a drop shot works incredibly well us-



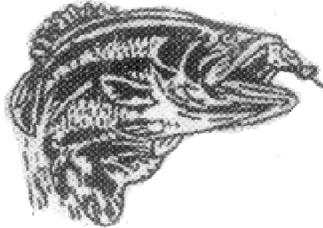
CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Hooligan | 39. Skeletal muscle |
| 4. Gadoids | 40. Forced |
| 9. Resorts | 41. Heightened |
| 13. Armadillo | 42. Before |
| 15. Mentally quick and resourceful | 43. After a prayer |
| 16. Switch | 44. Conks |
| 17. Handel offering | 46. Lures |
| 20. Living substance | 47. Join |
| 21. Lent | 48. Wrench |
| 22. Day | 51. Treat |
| 23. Singing voice | 55. Heavy April shower |
| 25. Red wine | 58. Birthplace of Constantine |
| 28. Fit out | 59. Threadbare |
| 29. Overgarment | 60. Czech River |
| 32. A university in Connecticut | 61. Dinker (slang) |
| 33. Kinswoman | 62. Judges' journeys |
| 34. Dandy | 63. Medical man |
| 35. "I'm always ____." quest | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Bark | 29. On foot |
| 2. Opaque gem | 30. Haul with a tackle |
| 3. Biu-Mandara | 31. Niches |
| 4. Settlement smaller than a town | 33. Monetary unit of Zambia |
| 5. Accents | 36. Font |
| 6. Chest (Scandinavian) | 37. Make a choice |
| 7. ____ Lilly, drug company | 38. Army unit |
| 8. Time unit | 44. Aspects |
| 9. Italian coin | 45. Shape |
| 10. Settled | 46. Vision |
| 11. Play | 48. Soluble ribonucleic acid |
| 12. Participant | 49. Container |
| 14. Discontinues | 50. Venture |
| 18. Give advice, explain | 51. Narrow |
| 19. Material | 52. Mouthed |
| 23. Up | 53. Southeast Nigeria people |
| 24. Scenes | 54. I |
| 25. Ride | 56. Fling |
| 26. Volcanic landslide | 57. Title of respect |
| 27. Alar | |
| 28. Signals | |

Answers on Page 21-A



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(See April is heating up... Continued on Page 20-A)

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—Iris Murdoch

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TEXAS TRAILS BASSMASTERS (Continued from Page 1-A)

ment. Entry fee is \$45 and \$10 for big bass pot which is optional. This is one club that holds tournaments on this great reservoir that pays back to the anglers 80% of entry fees and 100% of big bass entries. There will be 10 places paid for heavy stringer, and 3 places for big bass.

Raffle tickets will be sold for prizes at registration and weigh-in. Ticket cost is \$1 each, 6 for \$5, or 12 for \$10. If you are not able to fish the tournament, come out and get in on the drawing, show your support and if you're one of the lucky ones, you will take home a nice prize. Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork have some really great sponsors and will have some great prizes to be given away.

Registration for the tournament will be on Friday,

April 11th from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. and Saturday, April 12th from 4 a.m. until 6 a.m. All contestants must register.

If you have been thinking of joining a bass club, you could not find a better one to be a part of. Individual, husband and wife, or family memberships are welcome. If you wish to improve your fishing skills and learn new techniques, this is where you belong. This is one bass club that is known for no arguing or disputes. The top 3 winners of each tournament share their techniques, the bait they caught their winning stringer on and the depth and type of water their fish were caught in. As an added bonus, everyone can use good friends and in this club you will definitely meet some new fishing buddies.

Membership to join the

club is \$30 per person yearly. The club has one tournament per month with a two-day championship at the end of the year. Cost per person each tournament is \$25 entry, \$5 Big Bass (optional), with a \$5 progressive pot for a 7-pound or over big bass (also optional). Membership applications will be available at the tournament or you can go to their website to learn more about the club at: www.texastrailsbassmasters.com.

We hope to see all of you at the tournament. We will also be taking early entries for the "10th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament" at the tournament sight.

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April Crappie Fun on Fork!

By Terri Moon

Darn the cold fronts!!! Just as things are getting good – here comes another one! It's amazing how critical water temperatures are this time of year. Just the difference between 58 and 61 degrees can make or break your catch. But, once those temps stabilize back up to the 60's – it will be "GAME ON!" It looks like April is going to be "the month" this year!

The frequent fronts in March has kept water temps about 10 degrees below where they normally run. They've been holding in the mid to upper 50's. On a good day with no wind, the backs of the coves might reach the low to mid 60's so look for the warmest water you can find and target it.

The crappie have been showing up anywhere between 8 and 15 ft. But, early morning and early evening they could move in as shallow as 1 to 5 ft. In the deeper water I'm tight lining a single 1/16 oz. jig one to three cranks off the bottom. In shallow water, I'm going



to a slip-bobber set one to six feet and targeting around stumps and at the edges of the grass – jigs or minnows or both – depends on what they want that day because this time of year, the patterns tend to change daily!

We're also throwing road-runners with Bobby Garland's "blue ice" or "electric chicken" and also Lake Fork Tackle's "blue and pearl" live baby shad and "golden shiner." Cast these shallow and reel just fast enough to keep it off the bottom. Or, for those of you who enjoy a "jigging rod" – please look up ProAnglerTackle.com and check out their 6-1/2 to 14 ft. crappie rods. These are perfect for working those stumps when the crappie are holding tight to cover. These are very light sensitive rods with

enough backbone for our Lake Fork slabs!!

Want to send thanks to all the parents and grandparents who took the time to bring the kids out for a day of fishing. I still appreciate the fishing trips I had with my grandparents. They are memories of a lifetime!

Once again, I hope you all will consider releasing those "Monster Crappie" 16" and over so they can keep growing. It would be

(See April Crappie...
Continued on Page 16-A)



The chihuahua, which weighs between 2 and 6 pounds and stands 6 to 8 inches high at the shoulder, is considered by many to be the smallest breed of dog.

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Toyota Texas Bass Classic Brings Texas Sized Entertainment to Lake Fork May 9-11, 2014

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) is returning to Lake Fork in a big way. The Sabine River Authority in Quitman will again host this world-class bass fishing tournament and outdoor country music festival. We are proud to announce our exceptional entertainment this year, featuring country super stars, Pat Green, Little Big Town, and Justin Moore.

"The anticipation and excitement for the Toyota Texas Bass Classic is off the charts this year. TTBC will be bringing premiere country music artists, as well as the world's best anglers to Lake Fork. We hope to break records on and off the water" said Tournament Director Lenny Francoeur. "Not only do we have family friendly ticket prices, but the sale of tickets will help us in our ongoing effort to support the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department."

Single day, general admission tickets are available for \$15 in advance (or \$25 at the gate). That ticket includes parking and

kids 17 and under get in free with a ticketed adult. Pat Green will be kicking off Friday's country music concert and Little Big Town will take the stage on Saturday, May 10. Rounding out the event's entertainment will be Justin Moore, Sunday, May 11. In addition to the headlining entertainment artists, the TTBC will also feature a variety of regional bands including Tyler and the Tribe, Southern Slang, Backroad Anthem, and Sister C. Tickets are available now at www.ToyotaTexasBassClassic.com, your local Toyota dealerships, Academy Sports + Outdoors, and Brookshire's.

A three-time Grammy nominee, Pat Green has become a cultural force across the country selling out venues from Nokia Theater in Times Square to the Houston Astrodome in Texas. Green's explosive live shows have made him a fan favorite and a hot ticket, landing tours with the likes of Willie Nelson and Dave Matthews Band. Named "the Springsteen of the South West" in People

Magazine, Green has sold over 2 million albums, released a collection of hits at country radio and has been praised in Esquire, Blender, Billboard and USA Today.

Critically acclaimed country group, Little Big Town--consisting of members Karen Fairchild, Phillip Sweet, Kimberly Schlapman and Jimi Westbrook--first entered the music scene over 13 years ago with hits such as "Boondocks," "Bring It On Home," "Good As Gone" and Grammy-nominated

(See Toyota Texas...Continued on Page 10-A)

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Tim Tobey, Midlothian, TX., with sons Trevor & Taylor on their get out of school for good grades trip!

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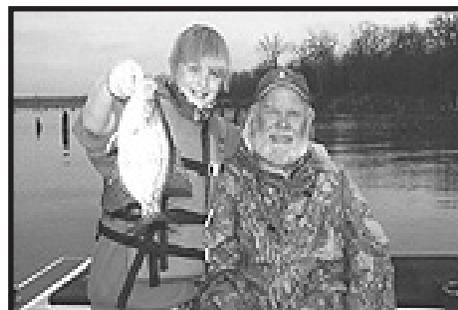
Brandon Block, Yantis, TX., with his grandkids Carson, Chandler, and Audrey



Bill Whalen, Austin, TX., daughter Dawn Theiss, & sister Patty Shaw



Patty Shaw Weatherford, TX.,



"Pappa" Wayne Blankenship, with grandson Jacob, Wichita Falls, TX.,



John Kotara, Whitedeer, TX., Leroy Hill, Pampa, TX.,



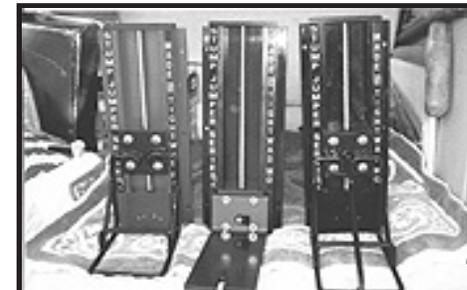
Tony & Maryann, Rispoli Grapevine, TX.,



Marlene Fonderick Minnesota



Jimmy Marshall with his fishing buddy Ed, Allen, TX.,



Jackie Albins "Stump Jumper" made in Tightwad, MO., Don't break off another transducer!

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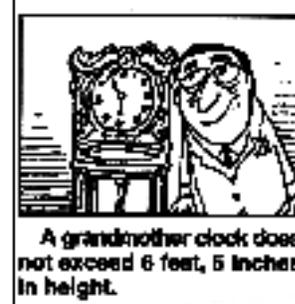
Toyota Texas Bass Classic *(Continued from Page 9-A)*

single "Little White Church." The quartet's fifth studio album Tornado was released on September 11, 2012 and debuted at the top of the Billboard Country Chart where it stayed in the #1 position for five consecutive weeks. The album recently received platinum certification with sales of over 1 million copies. Tornado, produced by Jay Joyce, includes 2x platinum-selling #1 hit single "Pontoon" and follow-up single and title-track "Tornado" which also peaked in the #1 position. The Grammy-nominated track, "Your Side of the Bed" and current single "Sober" are also featured on the album. Collectively, the group has earned over 25 award show nominations and has taken home the award for ACM Top New Vocal Group, CMA Single of the Year ("Pontoon"), CMA Vocal Group of the Year (2012 and 2013), ACM Vocal Group of the Year, ACM Video of the Year ("Tornado"), a Grammy Award for Best Country Group/Duo Performance ("Pontoon") and an Emmy award (Outstanding Original Song-"Good Afternoon"). The foursome recently wrapped up their sold-out headlining tour and also a tour with Keith Urban. Little Big Town is currently working on

a new album, which is expected for release later this year. The first single off of the new record entitled "Day Drinking" should hit country radio in late spring. For a second consecutive time, Justin Moore debuted at #1 on the Billboard Country Albums Chart and #2 on the all-genre chart with OFF THE BEATEN PATH. The project has already produced Justin's fourth #1, "Point At You," and current Top 25-and-rising single "Lettin' The Night Roll," which has sold over 120,000 downloads. Combined with his previous GOLD-certified albums – JUSTIN MOORE and OUTLAWS LIKE ME – Justin has sold over 5.3 million digital downloads. While his music has been featured on the ABC hit drama "NASHVILLE," Hannity & Colmes and NFL Rewind, he has been profiled by publications such as The Washington Post, People Country, Billboard and USA Today. Justin is currently headlining the OFF THE BEATEN PATH TOUR with special guests Randy Houser and Josh Thompson. Beginning March 24, fans can vote daily at www.voteacm.com to help Justin bring home the ACM New Artist of the Year trophy during April 2 awards show, airing on CBS. Visit [\[justinmusic.com\]\(http://justinmusic.com\) for tour dates and more.](http://www.moore-</p>
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The 2014 Toyota Texas Bass Classic will host a stellar 50-angler field, assembled from the top professional leagues, including the PAA Tournament Series, Bassmaster Elite Series and the Walmart FLW Tour, creating a true bass fishing world championship. The TTBC is an outdoor festival that includes exceptional entertainment and a variety of family and industry activities.

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Migrate to a Texas State Park This April and Go Birding

Grab your family and friends this April and go birding as spring migration begins throughout your favorite Texas State Parks.

From the beaches of the Gulf Coast to the mountains of Big Bend, each region of the state offers a unique birding experience with more than 630 bird species statewide. More than a dozen Texas State Parks have been designated as having the "best birding blinds" that offer prime perches for viewing and photographing our feathered friends. Some parks that made the list include Abilene, Blanco, Brazos, Devils Sinkhole, Falcon, Fort Parker, Franklin Mountains, Goliad, Lake Mineral Wells, Palo Duro Canyon, Pedernales Falls and San Angelo.

Birding is easy for families and friends of all ages and levels of expertise. A one-of-a-kind birding experience for beginning and advanced birders alike awaits at the World Birding Center (WBC) headquarters at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park in Mission. Bentsen is one of three Rio Grande Valley state parks that double as WBC sites. At Bentsen, visitors can hike or ride bicycles to see a

dazzling variety of birds, many of which visit from Mexico and points further south. Bird feeding and watering stations and photo blinds throughout the park, as well as a two-story hawk watch tower, provide excellent birding opportunities.

Beginning birders can download an Introduction to Birding (PDF) to learn what to look and listen for in their favorite state park. Even people who are new to birding can have fun spotting easily identifiable species, like northern cardinals, green jays, great kiskadees, painted buntings, roseate spoonbills and brown pelicans.

This year marks the 18th annual Great Texas Birding Classic being held from April 15 to May 15. The Birding classic follows the Great Texas Wildlife Trail, a set of driving maps to wildlife viewing sites throughout the state, and these maps include the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, the nation's first trail of its kind.

To learn more about birding opportunities and birding facilities, visit: <http://www.texasstateparks.org/birding>.

For a list of upcoming birding events at a Texas State Park in your area, visit: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/birding>.

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/birding.

Watch "Basics of Birding" to learn what to bring on your April birding adventure: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ygh5d2qNjnk&list=PLE8D618F1022E782C&index=20&feature=plpp_video.

View the Great Texas Birding Classic at Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1z7HDDzpqa&feature=share&list=PL97C99D8AB6E729E5>.

To see a new YouTube video, titled "The Big Sit," go to: <http://youtu.be/x6bSYNzP1wQ>

Access news images, videos, regional content, social media posts, radio episodes, public service announcements and an Outdoor Activity of the Month topic calendar at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fm5y0np5tirx5rd/3jRKAXP8po>



The jackrabbit may be named for the jackass, because its ears resemble that of a donkey.

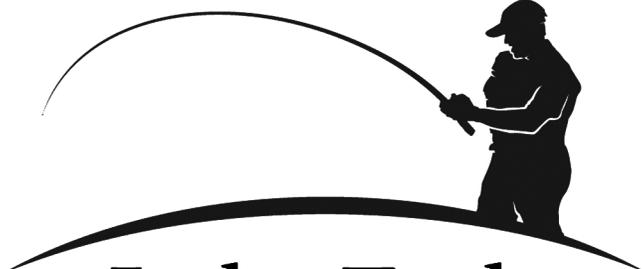


Domestic cats can purr while they're inhaling and exhaling. Wildcats only purr while exhaling.



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Lake Fork Carp & Buffalo Challenge

The Third Annual Lake Fork Carp & Buffalo Challenge sponsored by the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association and Wild Carp Companies of Baldwinsville, New York was held February 27, 28 and March 1 and 2. Thirty Four teams took to the banks of Lake Fork for a 70 hour fishing marathon. The weather had its extremes with temperatures ranging from the 20's to the 70's.

Lake Fork is home to Common and Mirror Carp that have been known to grow in excess of 40 pounds and Smallmouth Buffalo that are known to grow in excess of 80 pounds. Due to fallen tim-

ber and standing trees, the Lake Fork Carp & Buffalo Challenge is a real test to its competitors. The venue proved to be an exciting challenge to all competitors as they strived to capture champion Carp and Smallmouth Buffalo.

The Lake Fork Carp & Buffalo Challenge is an international event. Teams came to Rains and Wood County from Europe, The United Kingdom and all over the US. These teams spent from 8 days to more than 2 weeks in our area. They stayed in motels, ate in restaurants and shopped in retail businesses. The economic impact for this tournament will be in the

thousands of dollars. The Romanian team of Mihai Aciu and Bogdan Bucur reported the first catch of the tournament with a 47 pound 1 ounce small mouth buffalo. From that point on the catches came from all areas around the lake.

On Saturday Mario Damian, from southern California, set a new lake record for Small Mouth Buffalo with a 68 pound 7 ounce catch. This was Mario's second Lake Fork record having caught a 50 plus pound buffalo in 2012. The anglers were competing for a guaranteed \$25,000 in prizes and money.

The Big Winners were the following: **Big Carp/Big Buffalo**

1st Place 88 pound 8 ounces Mario Damian & Miguel Ruiz \$4,000
 2nd Place 78 pound 11 ounces Mihai Acui & Bogdan Bucur \$2,000
 3rd Place 76. Pounds 7 ounces Steve Bond & Kurt Bond \$1,000
Big Four Carp
 1st Place 82 pounds 10 ounces Steve Bond

& Kurt Bond \$4,000
 2nd Place 78 pounds 10 ounces Brid Cavney & Kenny Keaton \$2,000
 3rd Place 69 pounds 9 ounces Mario Damian & Miguel Ruiz \$1,000
Big Four Buffalo
 1st Place 209 pounds Mihai Acui & Bogdan Bucur \$4,000
 2nd Place 178 pounds 10 ounces Steve Bond & Kurt Bond \$2,000
 3rd Place 168 pounds 10 ounces Steve Bond & Kurt Bond \$1,000
(See Lake Fork Carp... Continued on Page 14-A)



Mario Damian set a new Lake Fork record for Small Mouth Buffalo weighing 68-lb. 7-oz.



Steve Bond from England caught this monster Common Carp weighing 33-lb. 5-oz.

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Lake Fork Carp & Buffalo Challenge (Continued from Page 13-A)

dan Bucur \$4,000 68 pounds 7 ounces
 2nd Place 188 pounds Mario Damian \$1,500
 Mario Damian & The Lake Fork Sports-
 Miguel Ruiz \$2,000 man's Association
 3rd Place 126 pounds would like to thank
 Austin Anderson the many volunteers
 Shane Hine \$1,000 who endured extreme
Lake/State Re- weather conditions to
cord Prizes insure that fish were
 Lake Record Buffalo properly weighed and

recorded. We also want
 to thank the landowners
 who allowed anglers to
 fish from their property.
 To the Wood County
 Industrial Commission,
 and the Emory EDC we
 appreciate their support
 in making this event
 a success. Oak Ridge

Marina, tournament
 host, provided anglers
 with the type of service
 that makes them want
 to come back to East
 Texas, thanks Barry
 and Tracy for a job well
 done. Lastly, we want
 to thank our social com-
 mittee and East Fork

for hosting the pretour-
 nament social. A dinner
 of the finest Tex
 Mex was served to an-
 glers, volunteers, spon-
 sors and landowners.



British actor Boris Karloff's real name was William Henry Pratt.

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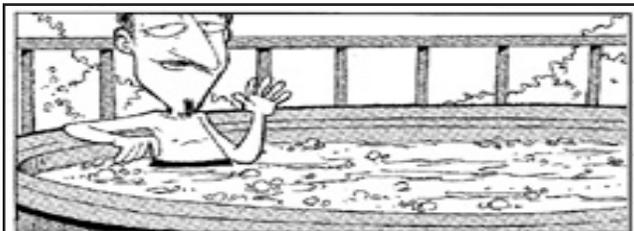
Ryan Davis caught this nice 12.4-pound bass fishing with guide Dean Stroman in March, C.P.R. (Courtesy photo Dean Stroman Guide Service)



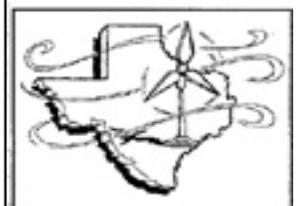
Richard Altman caught this nice Lake Fork hawg while fishing with guide David Ozio in March, C.P.R. (Courtesy photo David Ozio Guide Service)



Tim Quigley caught this nice 8-pound Lake Fork bass fishing with guide Dean Stroman in March, C.P.R. (Courtesy photo Dean Stroman Guide Service)



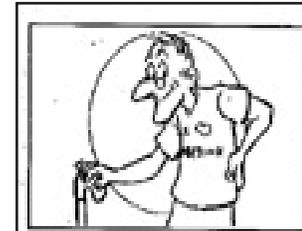
Roy Jacuzzi, who is credited with inventing and marketing the first integrated whirlpool bath in 1968, came from a family of inventors who are credited with inventions in both aviation and agriculture, including an agricultural pump.



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



Jockey Albert Adams won nine consecutive races over a three-day period at a Maryland track in 1930.

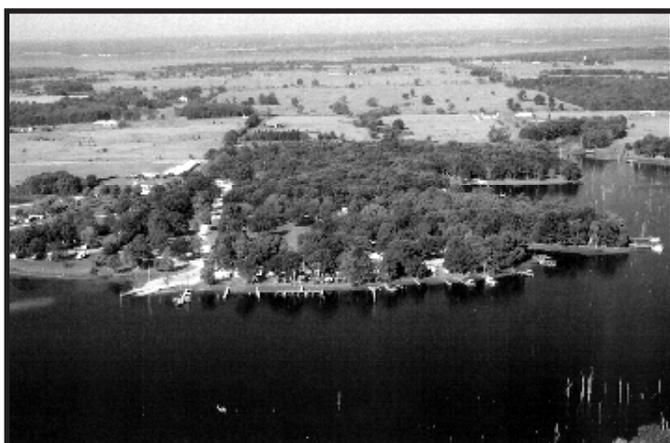


Cornelius Van de Steeg of Perry, Iowa was a practicing lawyer until the age of 101.

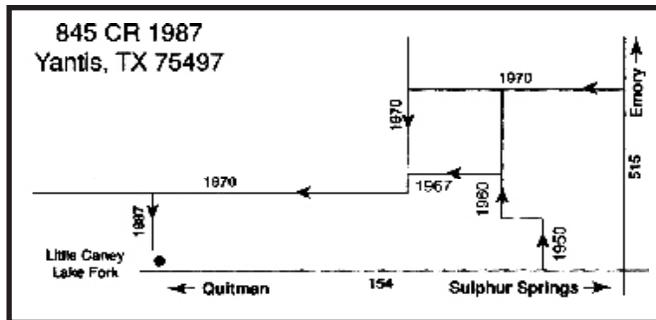


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April Crappie Fun on Fork! *(Continued from Page 8-A)*

great to catch a new lake record – even better to keep her alive! Before I close I want to once again congratulate Jackie Albin and Marty Snyder of Tightwad, MO for taking 1st place in the Crappie Masters One Day One Pole Challenge. Great job guys!! I guess you've found a NEW FAVORITE

LAKE!! (7 FISH – 15.83 LBS!) WOWZA! Also a huge thank you to Thomas at "Bulldog Computers" in Quitman cause on top of me losing all my phone contacts, my computer crashed! But, I was lucky enough to find Thomas and he saved the day! He fixed me up with the perfect laptop and was able to save all

my info and photos – "PRICELESS" – sure appreciate all his help! My best to you all and hope you get to enjoy the April excitement on Fork! Be sure and stop in Lake Fork Marina – new shipments are arriving daily!

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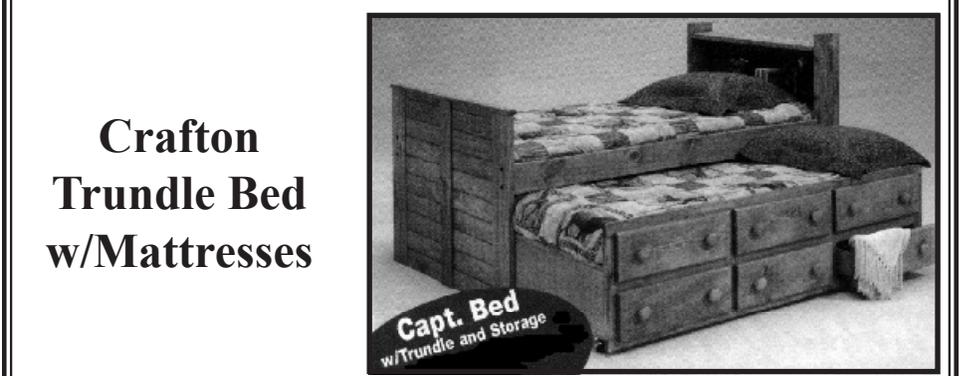
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Debbie Garrett from Dallas, TX., was fishing Lake Fork with her husband celebrating their anniversary when she caught this nice 8.6-lb. bass on her very first cast. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Fisherman's Cove Marina)



Chris Gilroy was fishing Lake Fork in March with guide Dean Stroman when he caught this nice 10.4-lb. bass on a Gene Larew Biffle Lizard. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Dean Stroman Guide Service)



Dale Skoff caught this nice bass on Sunday March 23rd while fishing Lake Fork and was curious as to why the eyes were golden color. I've seen more than a few with gold colored eyes but I didn't have an answer for him. If any of my readers know, give me a call. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo)



The sparrow-sized elf owl is only 5 to 6 inches long. Found in America's southwestern deserts, it is the smallest owl in the world.

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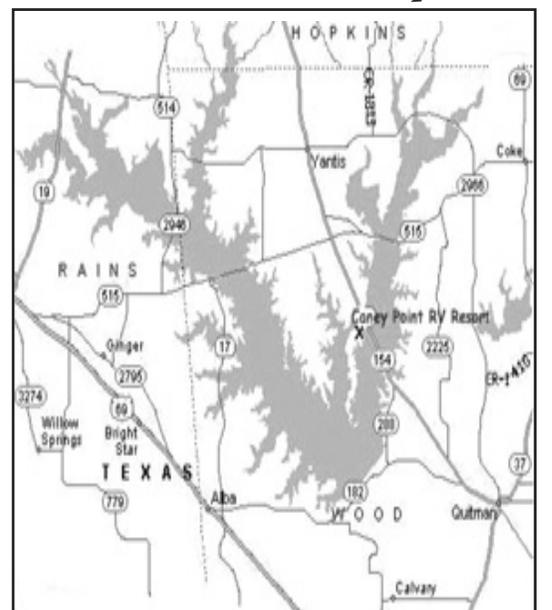
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"Pack of Knowledge" Spawn Fishing for the Non-Sight Fisherman

By Tom Redington

With such a cold winter and spring, a very large number of the bass on Lake Fork will spawn this April. Sight fishing is sometimes the most effective way to catch numbers of big bass, especially when the winds are light and a big wave of females move onto beds. However, I'm often asked if good bass can still be caught by techniques other than sight fishing in the spring. For those of you who don't care for sight fish-

ing, have trouble seeing bass on beds, or face windy and cloudy conditions, take heart. Following are three patterns for catching springtime bass without sight fishing—muddy water, deeper water, and windy flats—and these techniques produce some of Fork's largest bass each year.

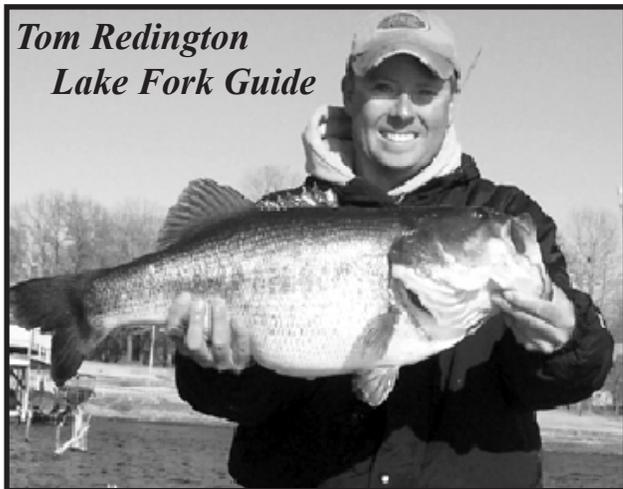
If water temps are in the 60s or warmer, stained to muddy water is typically the first area I will try, especially if it is sunny and calm. Bass will be spawning in these areas but are often overlooked because sight fishermen cannot see them. Perpetually muddy areas, typically the upper ends of the lake and the very back ends of the largest creeks, have the muddiest water. In addition, banks that receive the brunt of strong winds for several days or the backs of creeks after big rains are two locations in normally clearer areas that can also contain muddy water. Catching spring bass in muddy water is usually pretty simple. Bass will be holding shallow, especially around hard cover like stumps, laydowns, and docks. Shallow submerged and emergent vegetation will also hold them, with holes in the grass being the key areas. Even the tiniest of sticks often holds a big fish and bass typically won't move far to chase a bait, so fish thoroughly by making repeated casts to every piece of cover near the bank. I pitch black neon or blue bruiser colored Lake Fork Flip-pers, Hyper Sticks, and Craw Tubes with a ¼ oz

sinker, Texas rigged. Normally, you'll only feel a little pressure or see your line move off on bigger fish. If your bait feels any lighter or heavier than ¼ oz, let her have it! The Dobyns Champion Extreme DX745C pitching rod is great for this set up because it is ultra-sensitive to feel the light bites, yet it is very well balanced so I can pitch this powerful rod all day and not get worn out. If the fish are active, the thump and tail action of a bladed jig with a Live Magic Shad trailer will catch lots of big ones, as has been proven repeatedly on the FLW and BASS tours this year.

While fishing very shallow works well in muddy water, fishing slightly deeper works better for lunkers in clearer water. In most areas of Fork, it's hard to see bass on beds in water deeper than 4' to 6'. Fishing slightly deeper in the 6' to 12' zone (approximately 2 casts off the shoreline in most areas) will give you access to big, unpressured bass. Many females stage in slightly deeper water before spawning in 2' to 4' and I've seen bass on beds as deep as 10' on Fork; therefore, 6' to 12' is the magic depth in most areas. Premier structures in the 6' to 12' depth range include creek channels running through spawning flats, ledges along the edge of flats, and points near the mouth of spawning flats. In addition to catching

(See Pack of Knowledge....Continued on Page 22-A)

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Lake Fork Guide



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Athens Eggfest 2014 Set for April 12 at TFFC

The fourth annual Athens Eggfest is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC).

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cooking will end at 3 p.m. Tasting will continue until all the food is gone.

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/>. There is no fee to cook.

This year's Eggfest will feature guest cook Tyron Smith, known to Dallas Cowboys fans as Number

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

The theme for this year's Athens Eggfest is "Grillin' and Chillin'." 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 ceramic cooker yourself.

"The basic idea behind the Eggfest is to get people out-

doors, and what better way to do that than by offering them delicious food," said Allen Forshage, TFFC director. "And while they are here, we hope they will take time to fish in our ponds, walk our Wetlands Trail and learn about the role TFFC and TPWD play in keeping fishing great in Texas."

Demo eggs used at this event will be available for purchase at the end of the day. Click on the link above to reserve a once-used ceramic cooker prior to the event.

The Athens Eggfest is sponsored by Morrison Supply, Paragon Distributing, Brookshire's Food and Pharmacy, Friends of TFFC and First State Bank-Athens.

For more information on visiting TFFC, visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/tffc or call (903) 676-2277.



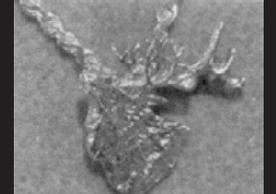
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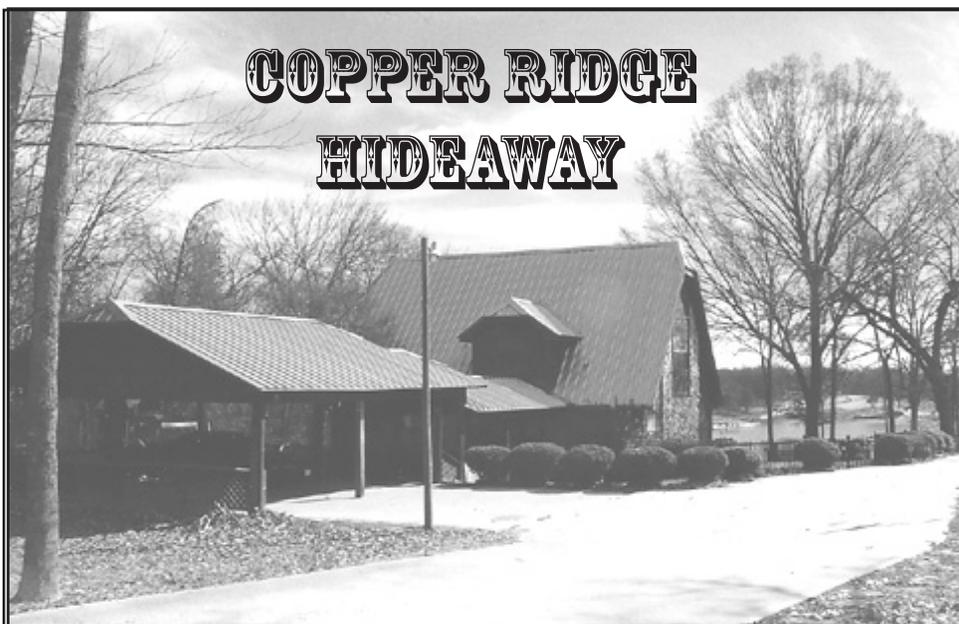
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April is heating up on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

ing a Zoom fluke to drive the bass to her wits end. All this being said, maybe you're not a good sight fisherman so let's target these pre and post spawning goliaths with a swimbait, spinnerbait or a light chatterbait. Perch imitations always work well and are usually the pegs that are empty at all the tackle stores this time of year. Tackle warehouse will always have everything you need and plenty in stock. This is also my favorite time to use weightless flukes and senko's in watermelon candy red. I witnessed a guy catch a 9.25 recently on this very bait midway back in a small pocket. If none of the

above is your wheelhouse, back out to a secondary point or even a main lake point and chunk a Carolina rig or Texas Rig. There are multiple baits that you can use starting with the lizard. That is a never fail lure. Baby brush hogs, flukes and Zoom centipedes will also cause the rod to load up if all are fished from 3 to 8 ft. It's always good if wood is present and don't be afraid to run these offerings right next to anything that looks fishy. The cold water temps have caused a many of people to be disappointed with March but I think April will redeem all prior failures. Be persistent and this will increase your chances of a glorious wall hanger.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in April searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in April and some in May. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LakeForkGuideDavidOzio>. I run a Skeeter FX with a Yamaha 250SHO and would like to thank Skeeter for making my office on the lake the best in the country. I would also like to thank G-Loomis, Shimano and Lowrance for making my job the blast that it is. A special shout out to H&W Marine in Tyler for all their help in keeping me

on the water seven days a week, no issues. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". I wish all of you a blessed day."



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Mark Spaeth caught this nice Lake Fork lunker while fishing with guide David Ozio. Just like us bass have to eat when it is cold too! C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo David Ozio Guide Service)




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New Rules Give Landowners Flexibility for Nuisance Alligator Control (Continued from Page 5-A)

can request information by email at amos.cooper@tpwd.state.tx.us. Prospective permittees can also contact Amos Cooper at (409) 726-3625 (office) or (409) 293-2836 (cell) to receive an application in the mail. All applications must be returned by June 30 to the Alligator Program, 10 Parks and Wildlife Drive, Port

Arthur, Texas 77640. The next scheduled classes are set for August 15-16 depending on the number of applicants. For information on the rules and regulations governing alligator go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/regulations/ click on Alligators In

Texas and a 32 page booklet will appear. For information on Alligator Farming and all PWD form associated with the Alligator Program go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/permits/ click on Alligator Permits and all forms will be displayed.



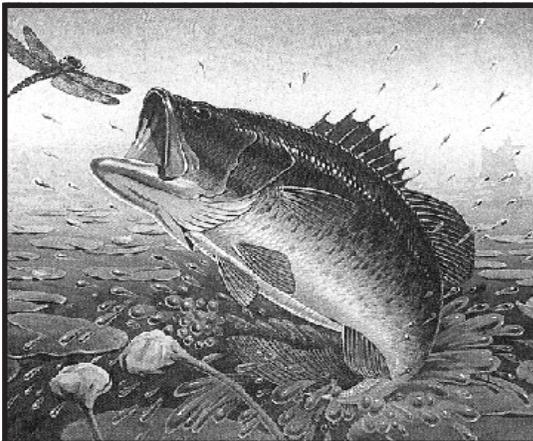
The Greater Roadrunner, a member of the cuckoo family, can run at speeds of up to 15 miles per hour.



The female condor lays a single egg once every two years.

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Pack of Knowledge (Continued from Page 18-A)

staging fish, you can also catch deep bedding fish that others can't see, so deeper sections of spawning flats are a key location too. A lightweight Carolina rig, with an 18" leader and a 1/4 oz weight on 20 lb fluorocarbon line is the perfect option for these bass. Tip your Carolina rig with a green pumpkin or watermelon colored Hyper Stick, or Magic Shad and you'll be set. The light weight keeps you in contact with your bait, yet you still get the awesome dying fall of your favorite soft plas-

tic lures that is so successful in the spring. Make long casts because spring bass are wary, especially the big ones. The 7'8" Dobyns Extreme DX784C works very well with this rig because it'll make long casts with the small sinker and still has plenty of feel and power for long distance work. For areas with lots of grass or heavy timber, pitching a 3/8 oz MPack jig in green pumpkin/black or watermelon with a matching Fork Craw into the thickest cover will produce some real toads.

tively before and after spawning on the nastiest of days. Big shallow flats with lots of grass are my favorite areas. For late prespawn and spawning fish, soft plastic jerkbaits are my top option. Magic Shads, Live Magic Shads and Hyper Sticks rigged weightless Texas style and dead-sticked are deadly. If the bass are shy of these bigger baits, a wacky rigged Hyper Finesse Worm will produce when nothing else works. Again, long casts help catch more of these spooky fish so I rig these up on the 7'3" Dobyns Champion 733C rod and it loads up perfectly with weightless soft plastics.

Finally, shallow spawning flats in clear water can produce fantastic fishing on windy and over-cast days. Big bass that are shy of boats in shallow water will often hold tight to their beds while spawning or feed ac-

If sight fishing isn't your strength, give muddy water, deeper water, or windy flats a try and you'll catch lots of big bass this spring. For more fish catching tips, check out my website www.LakeForkGuideTrips.com, or follow me at www.facebook.com/tomredingtonfishing and www.twitter.com/Tom_Redington.

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, & Power Poles.



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