

# 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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No. 177



Dewayne Thomas from Ferris, Texas topped 1,623 anglers when he brought this 9.94-lb. bass to the weigh-in during the 6th Annual Mega Bass Tournament held on Lake Fork on April 6th winning him a 2014 Ford truck, a Skeeter ZX200 powered by a Yamaha 200 SHO, MinnKota trolling motor and Humminbird electronics.

## BassChamps 6th Annual Mega Bass

By Don Hampton

With the largest pay-out for a one-day big bass tournament, BassChamps hosted the 6th Annual Ford Mega Bass Tournament on Lake Fork April 6, 2014. 1,643 anglers, representing thirteen states, competed for seven new Ford F-150 trucks given away and the hourly cash pay-outs.

Anglers competed for

eight hours on Lake Fork with seven of those hours being big pay-out hours with the top fifteen bass each hour being rewarded cash and prizes. The biggest bass each hour took home a new 2014 Ford F-150 truck! Lake Fork being a slot lake, only bass 16" or less or 24" or more are legal to be brought to the scales. All bass between 16" and 24" must be im-

mediately released back into the lake! This broke more than a few anglers hearts when an 8 or 9-pound bass didn't quite reach the 24" mark. A few that measured wrong and thought they had the winning fish for a new truck just got to set in a truck with a TPWD Game Warden.

Chris Sinkey of Lew-

(See BassChamps...

Continued on Page 4-A)

### Tenth Annual **LEGEND** OF LAKE FORK Open Bass Tournament

All Boats, Makes, Models Welcome  
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By Don Hampton

Anglers if you missed the chance to get in on the early entry into the "10th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament", you still have a chance to win one of the Legend boats

to be given away and a chance to get in on the hourly pay-backs!

Once again this is "The Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament", named for Lake Fork being such a legendary big bass lake. It is not an own-

ers' tournament. All boats, makes, and models are welcome to come and compete.

We will be set up and taking entries at Lake Fork Marina, the tournament headquarters, (See 10th Annual...

Continued on Page 5-A)

## Toyota Texas Bass Classic Qualifiers Announced for 2014 (Fifty of the World's Best Anglers are Coming to Lake Fork)

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC), the World Championship of Professional Bass Fishing, brings the best set of qualified anglers to Lake Fork, May 9-11. The three-day tournament combines the Top 15 in Angler of the Year (AOY) points

from all three major tournaments including the Walmart FLW Tour, Bassmaster Elite Series and the PAA Tournament Series. Daily tournament weigh-ins, outdoor expos and country music concerts will add to the daily excitement of this event.

"We're extremely excited to have the most outstanding anglers in the world competing in the 2014 Toyota Texas Bass Classic. This tournament can truly say that we have the best of the best competing (See Toyota Texas...

Continued on Page 7-A)

## Since Bubba Started Bass Fishing, Bubbette Thinks He Has A New Air About him!

By: Don Hampton

Bubbette isn't exactly sure when Bubba went from a catfish, crappie, and bream fisherman to a devoted full-time bass fisherman, but she can tell you Bubba stinks at both!

This doesn't mean that he is bad at the sport or that he doesn't bathe before fishing, it just means he smells like he's been fishing. Just like the saying you are what you eat, Bubbette believes he smells for what he fishes!

When Bubba fished for catfish, crappie, and bream that wasn't so bad. At least then all he smelled like when he came in the house was fish. Bubbette didn't mind this because then she had plenty of fish in the freezer for her fish fries she loves so much. After he had cleaned the fish, put them in the freezer, bathed and the clothes were in the washer the smell of his excursion was gone. One of Bubba's bass fishing trips brings back an odor that is indescribable, has a tendency to linger and is even harder to wash out.

Bubba read an article, (most likely written by one of the companies that makes one of his many scents, sprays, oils, and dyes he applies to his plastics), that said there is an enzyme created in the human body that is secreted through the pores that repels bass. Knowing Bubba as I do, I'm quite sure he had to study that story and look up some of the words in the dictionary before he grasped the true meaning. Once he did understand it he accepted it as "The

*Gospel According to Bass Angling!*" Now no piece of plastic he throws, whether weightless, wacky, Carolina, Texas, or Florida rigged, hits the water without being sprayed, dyed, oiled, or slicked with something really smelly.

Knowing how Bubba has to have stuff, he has them all! He has enough dyes in his boat he could create a rainbow on a piece of plastic. He could make a piece of driftwood smell like a crawfish. He can even make a crawfish smell like a shad and on top of all of this, every one of his rods smells like garlic bread served in an Italian restaurant.

When Bubba walks through the door after one of his bass fishing trips or especially after a tournament, Bubbette swears he wears what he fishes! She pretty much has it pinpointed what he smells like when he walks in. She says, "He smells like an Italian crawfish boil in a Chinese fish market!" I've never smelled that, but I have had a whiff or two of Bubba after his fishing trips and I would have to agree with Bubbette's description.

"Not only has his smell changed," said Bubbette, "but he has changed. When he is fishing for the freezer he'll wear whatever he finds first, like an old T-shirt, old shorts, cut-offs, or jeans, but when he bass fishes, he has special attire!" She went on to add, "His shirts have all got embroidery on them and he has to have all his patches reflecting his conquests sewed on them and he leaves that part to me. If I don't have his

newest one sewed on before a tournament he says I jinxed him. There was a time when he wouldn't go in public wearing anything that had a patch on it! Now I can't get him out of them! *Literally!* Bubba even has to have cargo shorts and pants that match his shirts. Can the bass see all of this and does it make them want to be caught by a well dressed smelly fisherman?"

Well Bubbette, the answer to your question is probably "Blowing in the Wind", and that is the best place for Bubba's attire to air out! Don't be too hard on Bubba there are a lot of bass anglers out there that are the same way.

Bubba isn't that unique or different and he'll probably never be a "Legend", but I will bet he owns one and has clothes and stuff that match his UT colors! Because everyone knows that, "Bubba Needs Stuff!"



Reuters, one of the first news services to provide political, economic and general interest news to European newspapers, began its service using pigeons to carry messages between the terminals of telegraph lines.



The only two angels identified by name in the Bible are Michael and Gabriel, who appear in the Book of Daniel.

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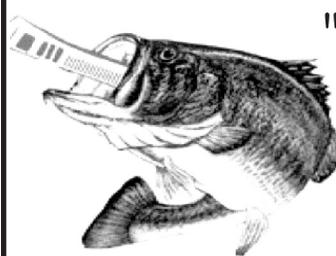
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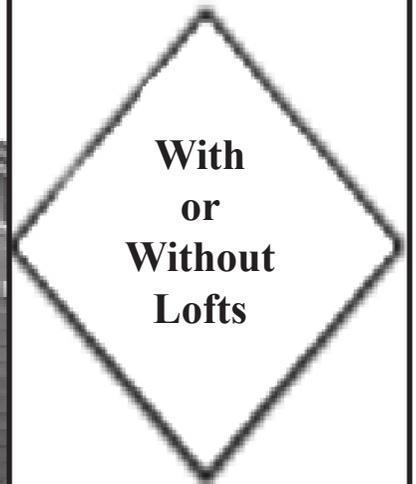


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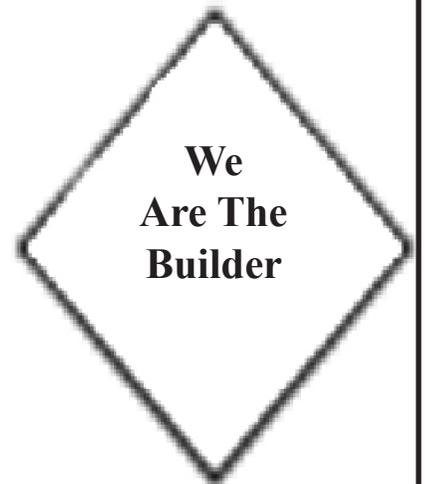
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## BassChamps 6th Annual Mega Bass (Continued from Page 1-A)

isville, Texas won the first truck of the day with a 2.77-pound catch. It was the very next hour that the first fish over the slot – and the biggest bass of the tournament was weighed in. DeWayne Thomas of Ferris, TX caught the largest bass of the day and also netted him a 2014 Skeeter ZX200 bass boat!

"My cousin's husband had asked me to fish this tournament with him," Thomas said. "Neither of us had ever fished a Ford Mega Bass tournament before, and he had never been on Lake Fork. We fished out of my boat and I was a little familiar with the lake. We wanted to fish a point I had caught some fish on before but when we got there, someone else was already on it. We fished down the shoreline going into the cove, and it wasn't long before the guys that were fishing the point started fishing the shoreline behind us. When I saw they were completely off the point I circled

around them and came back to that point. Until that time neither of us had gotten a single bite."

Dewayne caught his hawg using a Zoom Ol' Monster red shad colored worm Texas rigged, his third cast on the point at 8:30 a.m. is when he got the bite. "I knew it was a good one right away. She came straight out of the water shaking her head. We got her to the boat lipped her and measured her then headed straight to the scales to weigh her in." She tipped the scales at 9.94-pounds, winning the 9 o'clock hour and the second Ford truck to be given away. Deciding not to go back out mostly because of the weather, it became a long wait for them as many anglers continued fishing and weighing in their catch to see if it would hold up as the heaviest bass to the tournament. Three more bass over the 24" mark were brought in, but none of them were able to beat their weight. At the end

of the day, DeWayne was awarded not only the Ford F-150, but also a Skeeter ZX200 powered by a Yamaha 200 SHO, fitted with the Minn Kota / Humminbird package valued at nearly \$70,000. "I'm really glad we decided to fish this tournament! We'll be back to do it again next year!"

Seven trucks were awarded during the course of the tournament. The other six anglers to take home a new truck in order of weights were Archie Hayley from Mount Vernon, Texas with a 9.51-pound bass, Richard Carroll from Magnolia, Arkansas with a 9.05-pound bass, Gary Jackson from Flower Mound, Texas with an 8.38-pound bass, Chris Sinkey from Lewisville, Texas with a 2.77-pound bass, Robert Cooksey from Amity, Arkansas with a 2.62-pound bass, and James Burrow from Conway, Arkansas with a 2.57-pound bass.

"This just keeps getting bigger and more exciting every year," stated Bass Champs President Chad Potts. "There is no other one day tournament in the world that has this kind of payback. We'd like to thank everyone who came and fished with us, and congratulate all of our winners. We have several more opportunities for everyone to compete in this year and win big!"

BassChamps hosts team events in four regions all over the state. The 21st Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament will be held June 14-15, and October 18-19, 2014 they will host the 9th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament. Both of these tournaments will be held on Lake Fork and hosted at Lake Fork Marina off Hwy. 17 North.

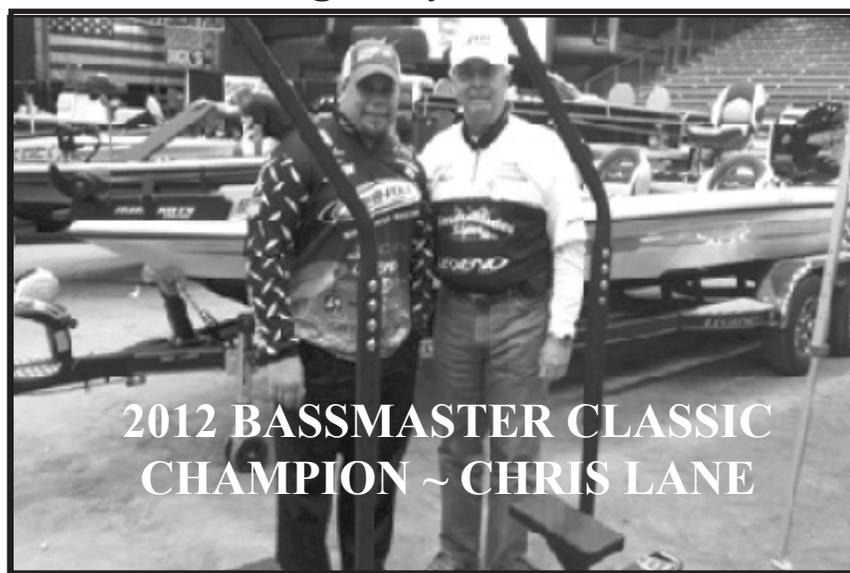


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**10th Annual Legend of Lake Fork** *(Continued from Page 1-A)*

on Thursday, May 15th from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m., on Friday from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday the same hours and on Sunday from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. You can fish one, two, or all three days and still have a chance for all the prizes. Official fishing days for the tournament are May 16, 17, and 18, fishing hours are from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the first hour weigh-in beginning with the 7 to 8 o'clock hour and ending with the 2 to 3 o'clock hour each day.

This year we will be selling T-shirts at tournament headquarters. If you purchase a shirt and have it on or with you when you win 1st place in any hour, you will receive an extra

\$100 in cash. Every hour of the tournament is a T-shirt hour.

New this year in celebration of our 10th Annual, for the first angler that brings a 10-pound even weight bass to the scales they will win a Kubota RTV-X1120 valued at \$17,178 from our good friends at Alba Tractor and Pittsburg Tractor.

All anglers will also be able to purchase Temple Fork Outfitters rods for only \$50. This offer is while supplies last. As popular as these rods are becoming they seem to go pretty fast, but on another note we will have a large supply.

The Chek-It-Stick is the official measurement of the tournament. Bass under the

slot coming to the weigh-in cannot touch 16" and bass over can touch or exceed the 24" mark. We will be giving away 2 Legend boats for the heaviest over the 24" slot and one for the heaviest under 16" and one for the early entry draw boat.

This tournament is fun for the entire family. Come out and enter or just bring the family and enjoy the festivities.

For more information see the advertisement on Page 24-A, or call me at 903-360-6994 or email me; fish-news@lakefork.net.

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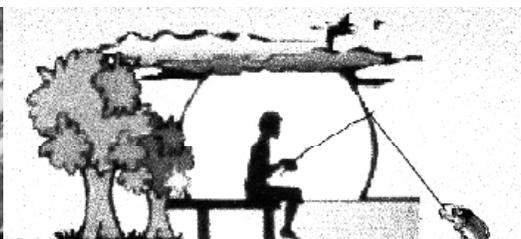


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# May has multiple patterns

By David Ozio

"May is finally approaching and it can't come too soon for me. All of us have had more than enough of this horrendous winter and are ready to break out the shorts and sun screen. Bass fishing on Fork should really start to ramp up as May is my favorite month of the year. Multiple patterns will evolve from the start of the month to the very last day. Being as the lake is still experiencing the residual effects of this drawn out winter, spawning bass will still be on tap for the first two weeks of the month. It has been a running joke at the marina that we will all still be bed fishing in early June this year.

The shad spawn will be in full swing by the first week and the crankbait will be the call of the day.

The squarebill will be my choice in shad patterns and I will be fishing it on all main lake points as well as the closest secondary points to the main lake. You may need to experiment with bill sizes to find out what depth the fish are holding at on any given day. Cloud cover will affect their position on shallow structure as well as sunshine. As the water is warming, you might start with a shallow running bait early in the morning and switch to something that runs slightly deeper later that morning or into the afternoon. Don't forget that early May should produce some early morning top water action as the shad will be in the shallows across the lake. A buzzbait can deliver some heart stopping strikes during this time of the year. You can't go wrong with the trusty Zara Spook. It may be your "go to" bait on a daily basis for the rest of the month. I have been using a prototype swimbait by M-Pack Lures for the past week and it has been delivering some awesome days. As long as the shad are still shallow, this big fish goliath will continue to haul in the toads. Look for this bait to be out in early summer.

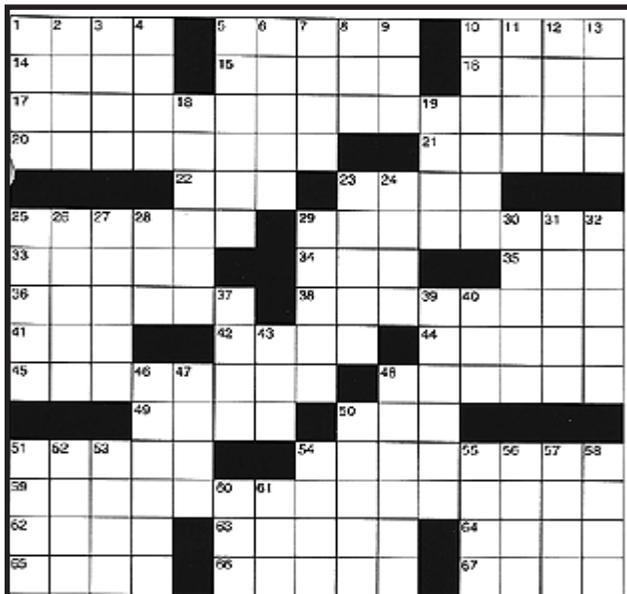
As we head into the middle of the month, the bass will transition out from the spawning areas to take up residence on the nearest wood for a few weeks. They will be near the bottom and can be



caught on jigs, drop shots, Texas rig worms and crankbaits. I will pitch an M-pack jig to the cedar trees and any thick wood on main lake points and at the mouth of pockets off the main lake. The northwest side of the lake will set up for this first while the southwest side of the lake will follow suit later in the month. It's all about water temps as the trophy monsters make their way back to the main lake and set up for their summer haunts.

The latter part of the month will see post spawn bass start to gang up on deep points, humps and ridges. Huge schools are easy to find on my Low-range electronics and now the trick is to get them

(See May has multiple... Continued on Page 20-A)



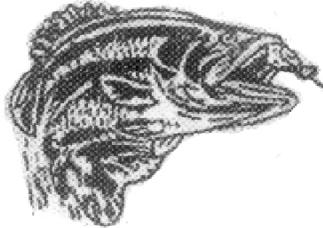
**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Flew off!
- 5. Organic structures
- 10. Asian nation
- 14. Wings
- 15. Voyant
- 16. Gait
- 17. 1924 Gershwin tune
- 20. Book
- 21. Longed
- 22. Understand
- 23. A short syllable (poetry)
- 25. Platforms
- 29. Politico
- 33. Booklets
- 34. Businesswoman
- 35. Town in Cambridgeshire
- 36. Dissolved substance
- 38. Neural
- 41. East southeast
- 42. Anthropoids
- 44. Extremely angry
- 45. Makes better
- 48. Part of a famous movie studio
- 49. Thou \_\_\_\_ sinned
- 50. Metric capacity unit
- 51. Zip and binary
- 54. Secured
- 59. "Arrangement in Gray and Black No.1"
- 62. Linear unit
- 63. Composition for nine
- 64. Dillenioid dicot genus
- 65. Deities
- 66. Grate
- 67. Command

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Succeed
- 2. Material
- 3. Renown
- 4. 13-19
- 5. Makes a notch
- 6. But goodie
- 7. Famous medical clinic
- 8. Give trouble to
- 9. No seats available
- 10. Induces vomiting
- 11. Foolhardy
- 12. Peak
- 13. Be in want of
- 18. Worst
- 19. \_\_\_\_ Remedios, Spanish surrealist
- 23. Ponds
- 24. Pokeweed
- 25. Gives medicine
- 26. Resisted
- 27. Twiddles one's thumbs
- 28. Small coin (French)
- 29. Citizens
- 30. Ernest \_\_\_\_, French historian
- 31. Winged
- 32. Anne \_\_\_\_, US novelist
- 37. Sensory receptors
- 39. Island in Venice
- 40. Bobby \_\_\_\_, NHL champ
- 43. A domesticated animal kept for companionship or amusement
- 46. Stated propositions
- 47. Kiln
- 48. Warmheartedness
- 50. Medicines
- 51. Basins
- 52. A tributary of the Mississippi River
- 53. Herb
- 54. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 55. Hurt
- 56. Clothe
- 57. Malacopterygians
- 58. Expression of annoyance
- 60. Liquefied natural gas
- 61. Spiritual being

Answers on Page 21-A



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**Toyota Texas Bass Classic Qualifiers** *(Continued from Page 1-A)*

on the most historical bass fishing lake in Texas. From legendary anglers to Lake Fork rookies, the competition will be fierce, the bass will be enormous and I can't wait to see who will take home the trophy and title of World Champion," said Tournament Director Lenny Francoeur.

TTBC's record for partnering with anglers, the fishing industry and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in support of fishing, education and conservation is unmatched. --Since its inception, the TTBC has raised \$1.75 million to support fishing and outdoor education programs of TPWD.

--Through its support of TPWD's Neighborhood Fishin' Program, the TTBC has made 300,000 catfish available in metropolitan areas throughout Texas, enabling more than 80,000 people annually to fish close to where they live. About half those people are first-time anglers.

--TTBC funds have provided a Take-Me-Fishing trailer and nine "how-to-fish" videos that have been featured at 74 events and reached more than 40,000 people. The videos have been viewed online by more than 200,000 people. --Funds from the TTBC support the Texas division of the Wildlife

Forever State-Fish Art Contest, making the Texas contest one of the largest in the country. Some 5,000 young Texas artists have entered the contest, which uses science, art and fishing to interest youth in the outdoors.

--A top concern among bass anglers is survival of the fish they catch. The TTBC pioneered and each year showcases a tournament format that ensures a near-100 percent survival of fish caught in the tournament. TPWD hopes the TTBC tournament format will become the model for bass tournaments across the country.

*(See Toyota Texas... Continued on Page 19-A)*

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# "The Moon Report"

## May Means Big Crappie & Morels!

By Terri Moon

What a dilemma! It's one that I face every year at this time. The big crappie finally move in and are going gangbusters – then I get the call from Missouri that the morel mushrooms are up and guess what? – Yep – the morels win out every year! There is only a short window of time to pick the morels in the spring (and frankly you can catch the crappie year round!). So, here I am at Truman Lake in Missouri chasing mushrooms again with family and friends!

But, before I left to come up here, the crappie went crazy. We had a couple of really tough days dealing with the weather – then – WOWZA – in 4 ft. of water on jigs under bobbers, they turned on. As fast as you could throw out, they were on! It was awesome! Even the bass wanted to play! We were catching them on Bobby Garland's 'monkey milk' and thread fin shad colors and putting them on a 1/16 oz. road runner jig head. There are still crappie trying to spawn



in 1 to 4 ft. of water and also some post spawn females showing up at the bridges and brush piles. We're catching them at 16 to 18 ft. in 20 to 25 ft. of water. So, if you're not having any luck up shallow – back off and check some deeper spots.

It won't be long till the bream start staging up and I can't wait for that to start! Start looking for them around the next full moon. Crickets or nightcrawlers always work. You can tightline or slip-bobber for them. It's probably the most fun you can have catching a bunch of bream!

I want to send a big 'Thank You' to Chuck, Perry & Dropshot at Service Marine for looking after my boat while I'm gone. It's the perfect time to have all the annual mainte-

nance and repairs done and be ready to go when I get back. I really appreciate all their help! They are in Emory and you can reach them at 903-473-3909 if you're in need of repairs.

I wish you all the best out there crappie fishing! But, right now I'm heading to the woods to find me a limit of MORELS!!

Happy Mother's Day to all and especially to mine! Also 'Happy 84th birthday to my mom – she's still a trouper spotting mushrooms!

For those of you that want to get in on the post spawn action in June, give me a call. It ought to be awesome! You can reach me after mother's day.

Be safe out on the water and see you soon!

**TERRI MOON**

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## It's Fishin' Time in Texas

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has begun stocking channel catfish into Neighborhood Fishin' Program lakes in urban areas across Texas. Stockings will take place every two weeks through the summer and fall except during August, when high water temperatures may limit fish survival.

New to the Neighborhood Fishin' program this year is Woldert Park Pond in Tyler. The park is located at 501 West 32nd street; the pond is downhill from the Glass Recreation Center.

Neighborhood Fishin' is a program of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). "Neighborhood Fishin' aims to give Texas families a good place to fish close to where they live," said Dave Terre, TPWD's director of research and management for Inland Fisheries. "We estimate that more than 80,000 people a year participate in the program, and about half of those are children or adults who are new to fishing. Connecting kids to the outdoors through fishing makes them hap-

pier and healthier, and they do better in school. Outdoor lifestyles also strengthen families."

Local sponsors play a key role in the Neighborhood Fishin' program by providing funds to purchase additional fish beyond those made possible by statewide support from the Texas Bass Classic Foundation and the federal Sport Fish Restoration Program. Cities and counties where Neighborhood Fishin' lakes are located purchase some fish in addition to providing facilities at the sites.

In Tarrant County, the Neighborhood Fishin' lakes in Hurst's Chisholm Park and Fort Worth's Greenbriar Park benefit from the financial support of the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth and the Nell V. Bailey Charitable Trust. Valero sponsors Miller's Pond in San Antonio. Woldert Park Pond is sponsored by the East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation of Tyler.

"Having local partners such as these makes the program stronger and larger and allows us to bring more people into fishing," Terre said.

"We target metropolitan areas with populations of 100,000 or more, and we would welcome additional partners in any such area."

Any organization interested in partnering with TPWD on the Neighborhood Fishin' Program should contact Terre at (512) 389-4855.

Stocking is a key component of Neighborhood Fishin', since it provides a constant supply of catchable, eating-size fish. "Our goal is to encourage families to bring their kids for a fun, outdoor fish-catching experience where they can harvest a few fish and take them home to eat," said Terre. Channel catfish are stocked from April through October, and rainbow trout are stocked in winter months.

For more information on the Neighborhood Fishin' program, including locations and directions, tackle loaner programs where available, instructional fishing videos, fishing regulations and program partners, visit [www.neighborhoodfishin.org](http://www.neighborhoodfishin.org).



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# Outdoor Adventures Area, Kid-friendly Activities and Off-road Test Tracks Highlight Toyota Texas Bass Classic at Lake Fork

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC), the world championship of professional bass fishing, is bringing the best anglers along with some of the biggest bands in country music to Lake Fork. In addition, there will be a full lineup of family-friendly activities taking place on the grounds of the Sabine River Authority (SRA) just east of the Lake Fork Dam.

"We have great country music and a stellar field of anglers coming to Lake Fork. With all of the activities we have planned for fans and families, it's shaping up to be a great weekend at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic," said Tournament Director Lenny Francoeur. "We encourage everyone to get their tickets early. This event is really about supporting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and it's a great way for the community to enjoy world-class entertainment and support a worthy cause." Daily tickets are valid for admission to the festival grounds for angler weigh-ins, daily concerts, Bass Pro Shops Kids Zone and the outdoor adventure area and expo, among other activities. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$25 at the gate. To purchase tickets, visit [www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com](http://www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com). Limited tickets are also available at local Toyota dealers, Academy Sports + Outdoors and Brookshire's.

Following are the highlights of the three-day event. **Take-Off:** Come out to the SRA to see the top 50 pro anglers in the world each morning. Get angler autographs, see the latest gear and equipment, listen to angler inter-

views and cheer on your favorites as they take off to do battle with Lake Fork's giant bass (Take-Off parking and admission are free. Take-Off gates open at 6:00am). **Outdoor Adventures Area:** The Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Adventures Area features kid-friendly activities that highlight TPWD's youth fishing programs. Activities include archery, Operation Game Thief Wall of Shame, kids casting challenge and a host of other outdoor-themed educational and interactive exhibits. **Toyota Drive Center:** Fans can try out brand new Toyota vehicles on an off-road test track. Enjoy hands-on driving experiences in the latest Toyota makes and models including the 2014 Tundra, Tacoma, Sequoia, 4Runner and FJ Cruiser. **Yamaha Test Track:** Fans can test various Yamaha ATVs and side-by-sides on the 25,000 square foot test track that includes bumps, twists, log-filled roads and obstacles. **Outdoor Expo:** Come early to visit the 80,000 square foot expo center featuring the latest in outdoor gear & products from Bass Pro Shops & Nitro Boats. Take in a seminar at the Berkley tank or see the latest line of Toyota vehicles. There is plenty to see and do in the Outdoor Expo! **Bass Pro Shops Kids Zone:** The Outdoor Kids Zone will feature entertainment for all ages. Families can enjoy several activities including an inflatable obstacle course and Velcro wall, BB gun shooting range, kayak pool and mechanical bull riding.

**Good Eats:** Johnsonville Big Taste Grill, The world's largest touring grill, will be on site grilling up more than 750 brats at a time. Not your average backyard barbecue, the grill weighs more than 53,000 pounds and measures 65 feet long. An array of food trucks will be on hand to cater to all fan's savory needs. From Cajun meat pies to snow cones, ice cream and gourmet treats, TTBC has it covered! **Live Concerts with Pat Green, Little Big Town, Justin Moore and more:** TTBC will bring a star-studded music lineup to Lake Fork each day following the tournament weigh-ins. Pat Green will kick off the weekend's concerts on Friday, May 9, followed by Little Big Town on Saturday, May 10. Closing the event Sunday, May 11, will be Justin Moore.

The TTBC tournament functions are operated by the Professional Anglers Association with technical assistance and support from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries Division. Toyota is the title sponsor for the event. Official sponsors of TTBC are ATX Wheels, Bass Pro Shops, Nitro Boats, Geico, Leer Truck Caps, Republic Services, HOLT CAT, Shakespeare Ugly Stik, Tellespen, Yamaha, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Brookshire's, TLC Radio, KYKX 105.7, 104.1 The Ranch, KMOO 99.9 and the Coca-Cola Company. Tickets are currently on sale. For more information visit [www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com](http://www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com) or call 1-866-907-0143.



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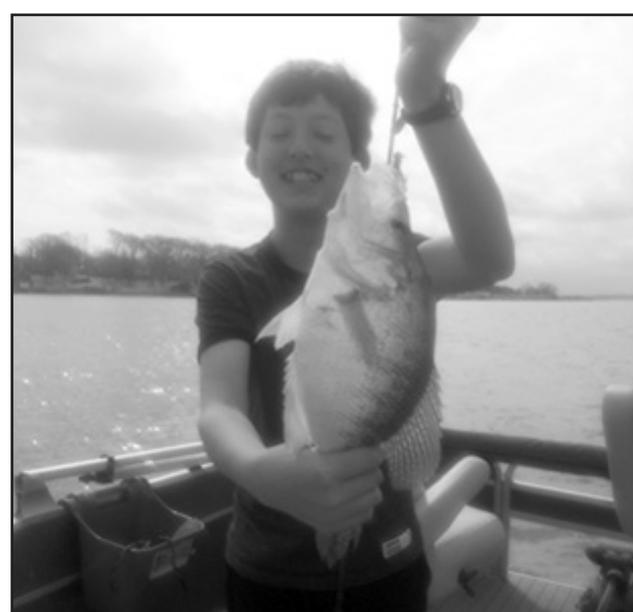
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Chris Sinkey from Lewisville, TX., won a 2014 Ford truck with this nice 2.77-lb. bass during the Ford Mega Bass tournament that was held on Lake Fork on April 6th. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Sue Hampton)



Lake Fork guide Mark Pack really got his line stretched when he hooked this beautiful hawg while fishing the Fork in April. Wonder if he caught it on an M-Pack Jig. Weight not provided. C.P.R.



Joseph Lamm, 10 years old from Perth, Australia was fishing with Uncle Mike Treece on the Texas Tiger. He caught this nice 2 lb. Crappie. This was his first fish caught in the USA.

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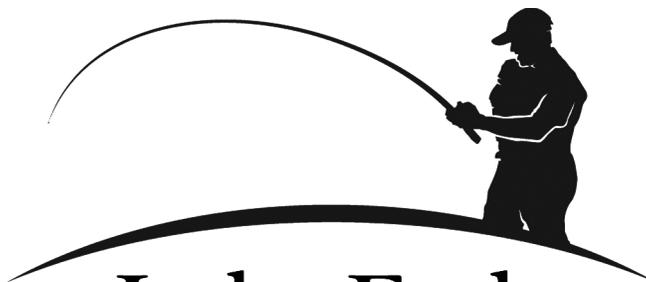
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# Cinco de Mayo Celebration May 3 at TFFC

The Athens community will celebrate the joint heritage of Texas and Mexico with a day of dance, food and fishing at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center on Saturday, May 3.

The event will feature performances of traditional Mexican dances in the Hart-Morris Conservation Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center will present a hawks and owls show at 1:00 p.m. Athens area restaurants will compete in a salsa contest, which will be judged at 2:30 p.m. See a complete schedule below.

All Cinco de Mayo activities are included with regular admission to TFFC.

Highlights of the dance performances include appearances by Tyler Ballet Folklorico, Athens area elementary students and Las Tapatias, Athens' own folkloric dance group.

The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center will do walk-around displays of birds including owls and hawks throughout the day. Visitors will be able to see the birds at close range and learn about their abilities and habits.

El San Luis Restaurant will serve food in the Hart-Morris Conservation Center.

Athens High School Key Club and Nation-

al Honors Society students will be decorating the facility and volunteering during the event.

Sponsors of the event include Red Hat Rentals, Schneider Electric, FutureMatrix, Inc., First State Bank, Citizens National Bank, Aaron's Sales and Lease and Friends of TFFC.

### Schedule of Events

- 11:30am Tyler Ballet Folklorico adult dance performance
- 12:00pm Dance performances by Athens ISD students and Las Tapatias
- 12:30pm Tyler Ballet Folklorico children's dance performance
- 1:00pm Blackland Raptor Center Hawks and Owls presentation
- 1:30pm Athens ISD students dance performance
- 2:00pm Tyler Ballet Folklorico regional dances performance
- 2:30pm Salsa contest judging and Las Tapatias dance performance

For more information on the event contact James Booker at (903) 670-2266, james.booker@tpwd.texas.gov. Se habla español.



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## Toyota Texas Bass Classic Brings Big Benefits to TPWD, Local Economy, Lake Fork Fishery

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) world championship bass tournament will return to Lake Fork May 9--11, 2014. Designed to showcase one of the best trophy bass lakes in the world and the fisheries management that developed it, the TTBC has raised over \$1.75 million for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) fisheries programs. This year's tournament is expected to bring in an additional \$250,000 in

funding for the department's youth fishing and outreach programs.

The TTBC was conceived on Lake Fork during a fishing trip involving professional angler Kelly Jordan and then TPWD commissioners T. Dan Fried-

kin and Donato Ramos. The first two TTBC tournaments were held on Lake Fork in 2007 and 2008 before moving to Lake Conroe. The TTBC is much more than just a fishing tournament. The partnership between

TPWD and Toyota and the Toyota Texas Bass Classic is designed to support programs that encourage people, especially youth, to get outdoors and fish. An Outdoor Adventures Area will feature displays and outdoor ac-

tivities that give attendees opportunities to experience fishing for catfish, archery, kayaking and more. Sampling is encouraged at the barbecue cook-off, and visitors can test-drive  
*(See Toyota Texas... Continued on Page 16A)*



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Happy 84th Birthday and Mother's Day to my Mom, Nova Carleton of Leesville Missouri. Love You! Your daughter Terri Moon and all the staff at "The Fisherman's Guide News".



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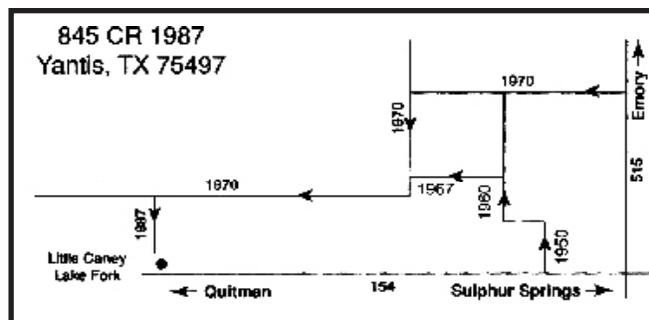
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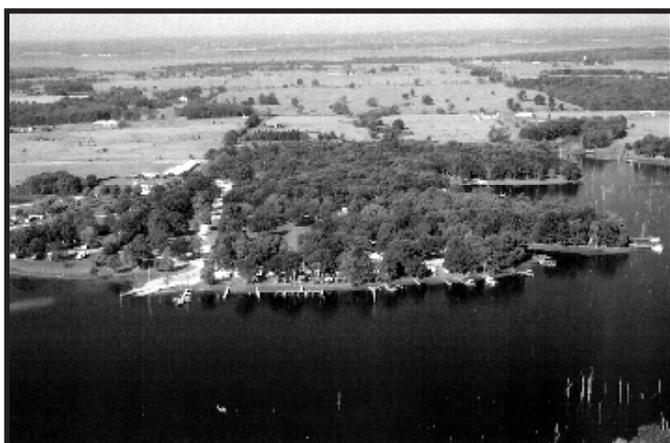
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**Toyota Texas Bass Classic Benefits TPWD, Local Economy, Lake Fork Fishery** *Continued from Page 14-A*

the latest ATVs and Toyota trucks. Country music concerts by top entertainers cap each day's events.

The TTBC also gives financial support to TPWD's Neighborhood Fishin' Program, which regularly stocks fish into 16 urban-area lakes that allow people to fish close to home. The newest Neighborhood Fishin' Lake is Woldert Pond in Tyler, just down the road from Lake Fork. Some 85,000 people a year fish in Neighborhood Fishin' ponds, and about half those are youth or people new to fishing.

Another program supported by the Toyota Texas

Bass Classic is the Texas division of the State-Fish Art Contest. Students in grades K-12 submit drawings of fish and compete for scholarships. Artwork from that contest appears on Toyota Texas Bass Classic tickets. Research shows that students who take part in this contest are more likely to become interested in fishing. More than 1,100 youths entered the Texas division of the State-Fish Art Contest just ended, more than any other state.

The partnership between TTBC and TPWD exemplify TPWD's core messages. Everything is

connected. Everyone does play a part. But when you have a big bass on the end of your line, life isn't just better outside, it's AWESOME! Nowhere in Texas is that more likely to happen than on Lake Fork, and the reasons are the partnership between TPWD and the Sabine River Authority (SRA), geography, and TPWD's management of the lake. Lake Fork's outstanding bass fishery was made possible by a number of factors. Fork is located in a watershed that provides important nutri-

*See Toyota Texas....Continued on Page 17-A*

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**Toyota Texas Bass Classic Benefits TPWD, Local Economy, Lake Fork Fishery** *Continued from Page 16-A*

ents to the lake, and TPWD and the SRA cooperated to build on that base. Much of the timber was left standing in the lake, and Florida largemouth bass were stocked into farm ponds in the reservoir basin prior to impoundment. Progressively restrictive harvest regulations have protected fish of breeding size. In recent years, TPWD has partnered with SRA and the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association to enhance fish habitat. Lake Fork has produced 256 of the 557 entries into the Toyota ShareLunker program, an angler recognition and selective breeding program that uses angler-donated 13-pound or bigger largemouth bass to produce fingerlings for stocking into Texas public waters. Fork produced 33

of the 50 biggest bass ever caught in Texas, including the current state record of 18.18 pounds.

Conservation is at the heart of TPWD fisheries management, and the TTBC tournament format furthers that effort. Fish 16 to 24 inches long are weighed on the water and immediately released; anglers are allowed to bring one fish over 24 inches to the weigh-in. Fish brought to the weigh-in are cared for by TPWD biologists and returned to the lake.

The payoff for these efforts can be seen in the local economy. Lake Fork's economic impact on Wood County is estimated at more than \$23 million annually, and the 2008 TTBC brought 30,000 people to the area and generated nearly \$2 million for the local economy.

"None of this can happen without public support," said Dave Terre, TPWD's Inland Fisheries Chief of Management and Research. "By attending the Toyota Texas Bass Classic, you are also supporting TPWD programs such as Neighborhood Fishin' and the State-Fish Art Contest. In addition to helping make possible these programs that benefit your own family today, you will play a part in passing on the traditions of fishing and good management of our natural resources to future generations. They and we thank you."

Information on the 2014 TTBC is posted at [www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com](http://www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com) as it becomes available. Videos of previous tournaments can be viewed on YouTube.

**Treat Mom to a Picnic this Mother's Day at a Texas State Park**

Plan a picnic and let mom relax at your favorite state park this Mother's Day, May 11. Picnics offer a unique twist on traditional Mother's Day gifts, as well as quality time to bond through other park activities such as hiking, biking and birding.

State park picnic options range from outdoor tables and charcoal grills to full kitchens and group pavilions available by reservation. Some picnickers bring their own cookware such as Dutch ovens and gas stoves. Choose from a variety of scenic, and often well-shaded, areas near rivers, lakes and beaches. For help planning the best picnic for your

mom, visit <http://www.texasstateparks.org/picnic>.

Texas State Parks, Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas Beef Council and a community of food bloggers have shared 28 easy-to-make picnic recipes to help plan your picnic. The list includes recipes such as mango chicken salad lettuce wraps, mojo beef kabobs and creamy chicken chow mein salad.

For more inspiration, view the Texas Parks and Wildlife "Picnics and Outdoor Cooking" Pinterest board, featuring "Dutch Oven Green Chile and Chicken Enchiladas," which won the 2013 TPWD Outdoor Cooking Contest.

See this video on how one Houston area fam-

ily celebrated Mother's Day by heading outdoors.

To book a Texas-sized picnic for the whole family in a larger group pavilion, call (512) 389-8900 book online at [http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/business/park\\_reservations/](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/business/park_reservations/), or get more information at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/parkinfo/facilities>.

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/fk0iritqskftm4p/IUDnbU2S5Y?m>

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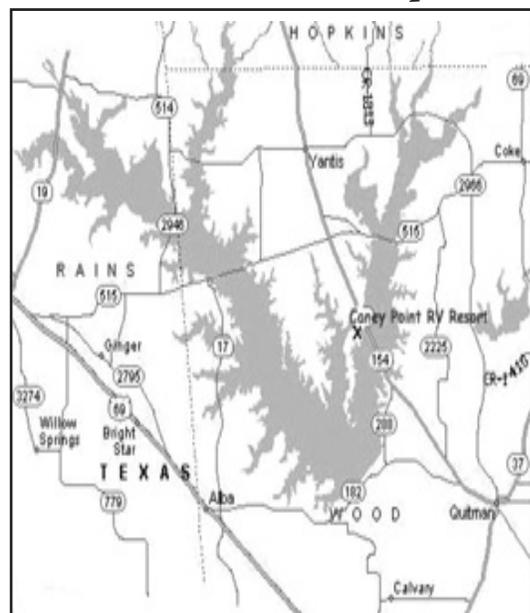
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## "Pack of Knowledge" Lots of Spawning Yet to Come on Fork

By Tom Redington

For much of the springtime, bass are preoccupied with reproduction and less concerned about eating. By late spring and early summer though, the mating rituals have wrapped up and bass go on a feeding binge to make up for lost time. This eating spree happens at just the right time because it coincides with a tremendous amount of prey moving into the shallows to spawn. From mid-April through much of June on Lake Fork and similar

Southern lakes, bass relate to spawning shad and sunfish (bluegill, red ears, etc.). For an angler looking to catch a lot of big bass quickly, following the shad and sunfish spawns is a great place to start.

The shad spawn across Lake Fork at different times, normally starting sometime in April in the upper ends of the lake and continuing through much of May on the south end. Shad typically spawn on the clay banks and grassy shores on Fork and you'll be able to find these areas with a little scouting. Look for spawning shad during the first couple of hours in the morning. If they are there, you'll normally see thousands of shad flicking on the surface. In addition, many fish eating birds will also be in the area, such as egrets and blue herons, feasting on the shad.

Once you've located spawning shad, the bass are pretty easy to catch until the sun comes up and the shad move out. Baitfish imitating lures with silver or white color schemes are best, and I try to match the size of the shad—typically 2 to 5 inch threadfin shad on Lake Fork. Double willow spinnerbaits and bladed jigs with 3.5" Live Magic Shad trailers are great for both numbers of fish and some big ones as well. Topwater lures like poppers and walking baits like Lucky Craft Sammys or the new Lake Fork Magic Popper also produce lots of fish, as do shallow running crankbaits like Lucky Craft

BDS 3 and LC 1.5 baits. As the sun starts to rise and the action slows a bit, soft plastic jerkbaits will produce a few more fish by fishing slightly deeper. Swimming 3.5" and 4.5" Live Magic Shads or 4" and 5" Hyper Worms will catch active fish. If a swimming retrieve won't work, use a stop and go action and let these plastics slowly fall to the bottom. The look of a dying shad is often too much for a hungry lunker to pass up. For the soft plastics, Albino Shad or Magic Shad are both killer colors. Long casts work better for this technique as well, so the softer tip of a 7'3" Dobyns 733C does a great job casting these light plastics.

Sunfish spawn for a longer period of time (several months), and even better, bass chase their finny little nemesis all day long, regardless of the weather conditions. Sunfish beds look like smaller versions of bass beds and are normally built in large clusters resembling honeycombs. Look for these beds in hard bottom areas around small timber, weeds, and lily pads—often near the same areas where bass spawn. If you find an area with bedding sunfish, you can be certain that bass are nearby. While the little panfish are distracted by spawning rituals, bass lurk around these areas and pick off easy meals with regularity.

Unlike the early morning spawning shad pattern,

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

Tom Redington  
Lake Fork Guide



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**Toyota Texas Bass Classic Qualifiers** *(Continued from Page 7-A)*

Final field qualification for both last year and this year's TTBC events are based on 2013-2014 Angler of the Year points races. The 2014 TTBC field is one of the strongest to date; field accomplishments include a combined \$64 million in career earnings, 234 tournament victories, 21 AOY titles and 18 major championship wins.

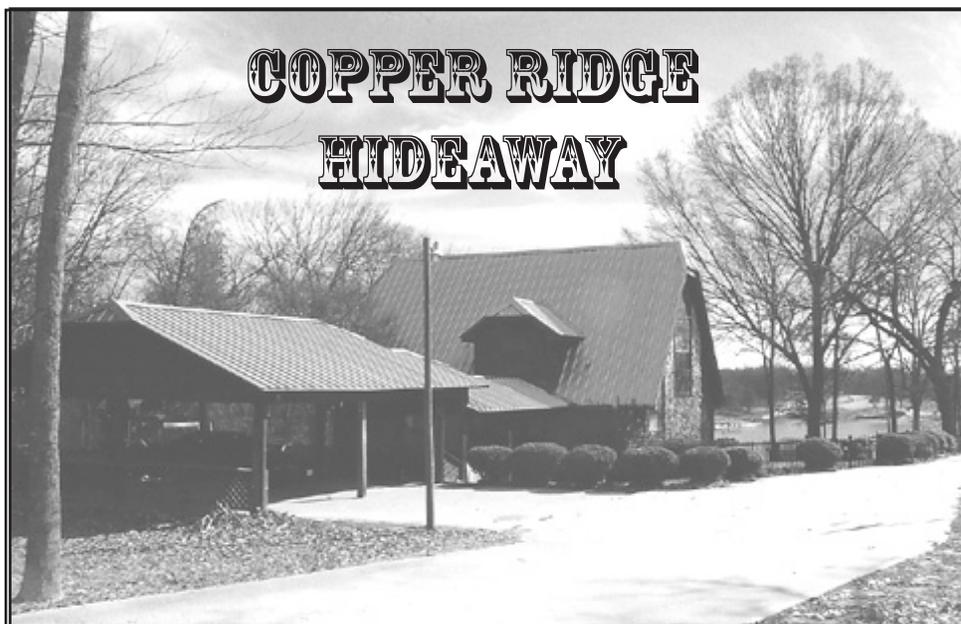
Keith Combs, the only two-time champion in the history of TTBC (2011, 2013), will defend his title in his home state of Texas. Former champions Brian Thrift (2012), Brian Snowden (2010), Kelly Jordon (2008) and Terry Scroggins (2007) will also compete. Both Jordon and Scroggins qualified as

sponsor exemptions in addition to fan favorites Mike Iaconelli and Gerald Swindle.

"TTBC is my favorite event of the season! Considering how an angler has to qualify for this event it is the strongest field that we compete against all year," Combs said. "I spent some time this past winter familiarizing myself with Lake Fork. It will be a late spring/early summer tournament which means a lot of movement, and it will take big weights to win." Due to the 16-inch to 24-inch slot limit on Lake Fork, there are no professional competitions held there, so this will be the first time, since the 2008 TTBC, that professional an-

glers will take to the water for a pro competition. They will compete on Lake Fork for three days, May 9-11, 2014, with the field being reduced to the top 10 for the final round on Sunday, May 11. The tournament will remain a non-entry fee event and all 50 competing anglers will receive guaranteed prize money. Through a continued partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), TTBC will continue its focus on conservation efforts and adhere to a strict catch, weigh and immediate release format.

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic will be located on the grounds *(See Toyota Texas... Continued on Page 21-A)*



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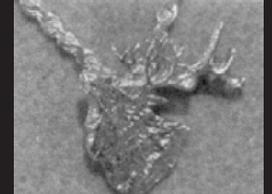
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## May has multiple patterns (Continued from Page 6-A)

to bite. Post spawn green fish can be mighty finicky but not impossible to catch. For the trophy of a lifetime, start with an M-Pack football jig outfitted with a Berkley Chigger Craw trailer and probe all the off shore humps that you can find. This totally weedless jig will allow you to work areas that standard jigs can't access. A Carolina rig will also deliver award winning results with most any plastic you desire to chunk. Brush hogs, flukes, rattle snakes, ring fries, take your pick. Don't get too caught up in colors and use darker

hues on cloudy days and more translucent baits on sunny days. An unwilling school of large-mouth may require a smaller offering this time of the year so don't rule out the baby versions of the aforementioned baits. I favor the drop shot and experiment with the length of the worm to find out what they are really wanting at the time.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in May 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 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/LakeFork-GuideDavidOzio>. 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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Lake Fork guide David Ozio had a good day on Lake Fork when he caught this nice 11-pounder in April. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo David Ozio Lake Fork Guide Service)



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**Toyota Texas Bass Classic Qualifiers** *(Continued from Page 19-A)*

of the Sabine River Authority (SRA) just east of the Lake Fork dam. The Outdoor Expo, TPWD Adventures Area, Bass Pro Shops Kid Zone, and the live concerts will all take place at SRA.

The TTBC tournament functions are operated by the Professional Anglers Association with technical assistance and support from the

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries Division. Toyota is the title sponsor for the event. Official sponsors of TTBC are ATX Wheels, Bass Pro Shops, Nitro Boats, Geico, Leer Truck Caps, Republic Services, HOLT CAT, Shakespeare Ugly Stik, Tellespen, Yamaha, Academy Sports

+ Outdoors, Brookshire's, TLC Radio, KYKX 105.7, 104.1 The Ranch, KMOO 99.9 and the Coca-Cola Company. Tickets are currently on sale. For more information visit [www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com](http://www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com) or call 1-866-907-0143.

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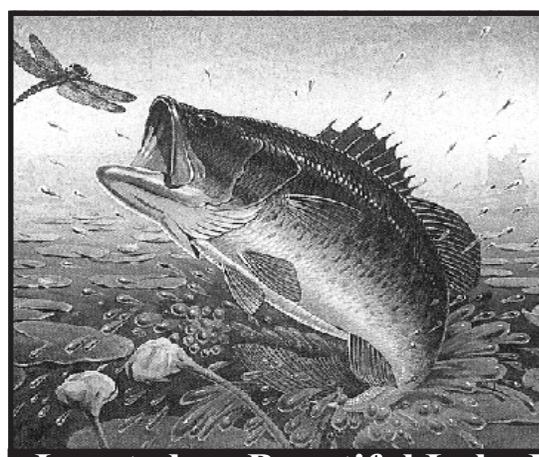
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17	S	O	M	E	B	O	D	Y	L	O	V	E
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51	C	O	D	E	S	M	O	R	T	I	S	E
59	W	H	I	S	T	L	E	R	S	M	O	T
62	M	I	L	E	N	O	N	E	T	C	O	L
65	S	O	L	S	G	N	A	S	H	H	E	S

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

match the hatch with sunfish imitating baits and you can catch bass all day from their spawning areas. Bulkier baits that match sunfish's squatty shape are normally best. Spruce these lures up with bright bluegill colors like orange, chartreuse, and purple and you'll have a great panfish imposter. 3/8 oz MPack jigs in pumpkin pepper/green or black/brown/amber colors with Hyper Freak trailers in Bama bug or watermel-

on candy/red work great. Just add a little chartreuse and orange highlight with a dye marker and you'll be in business if you pitch these to grass and wood cover around sunfish beds. Try both hopping and swimming retrieves and let the bass tell you what they like best. If the wind blows or if it is overcast, I'll cover a lot of water in these areas with fat bodied shallow running crankbaits with wide wobbles. Again, the BDS and LC

exceptionally lightweight for a fiberglass pole, yet it still has a slow action that allows bass to fully engulf your crankbait and stay hooked up during the fight. In addition, the finesse spit of topwaters like the Magic Popper in bluegill colors attract big bass around the beds, even on sunny and calm days. If you're around bream beds, you can fish topwaters all day and catch lots of big bass doing it, a favorite of many Fork anglers.

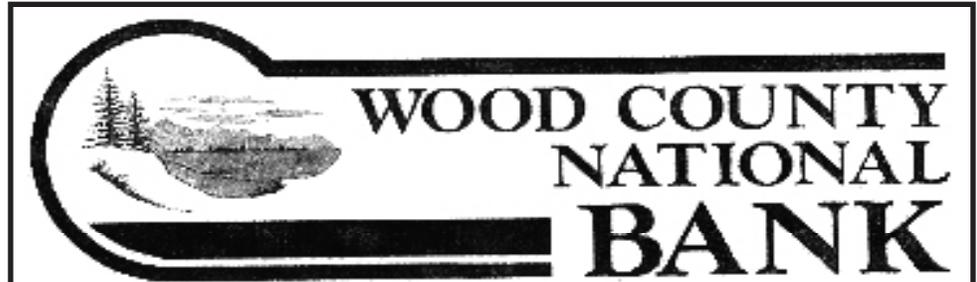
Late spring and early summer is the bass' equivalent to an all you can eat seafood buffet and they're starving hungry. Bring some yummy bluegill and shad looking baits and you'll likely find a lot of hungry patrons. For more fish catching tips, check out my website [www.LakeForkGuideTrips.com](http://www.LakeForkGuideTrips.com), or follow me at [www.facebook.com/tomredingtonfishing](http://www.facebook.com/tomredingtonfishing) and [www.twitter.com/Tom\\_Redington](http://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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**EXTRA NICE LAKE FORK WATERFRONT** home in small subdivision of approx. 21 houses. Home has large entry, living area, formal dining, heated & cooled sun room. Nice kitchen, breakfast bar, utility room with pantry. Master bedroom has large walk-in closet. This home is still like new, very well maintained. There is a workshop area just off the carport. Detached workshop in back yard. Irrigation/sprinkler system is from the lake. Boathouse has lift and small storage area.. Subdivision has its own boat ramp that is fully useable. Pretty area of Lake Fork, lots of trees, dogwoods. \$259,000

**BEAUTIFUL SETTING** on 2.72 acres, This 3BR 2BA, with 2360 sf of living space has 2 living areas, separate office, large utility room, open kitchen, dining and living area, wood burning fireplace, plus a large sunroom to take advantage of the gorgeous treed property. Also there is a shop/storage building. Near Lake Fork, this property gives you the opportunity to live within 2 miles of a public boat ramp and fishing, but not have to pay the waterfront price. \$139,000.



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**Lake Fork Waterfront Acreage. Over 50 acres, 25.9 deeded and approximately 25 acres leaseback. This is really good waterfront property with lots of shoreline. Rare find on Lake Fork. Perfect for RV park, private get-away, subdivision, development. Priced at \$450,000**

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY** to own a Marina on Lake Fork. This property has it all: 27-room recently refurbished motel, convenience store, cafe, tackle store, boat ramp, boat slips, swimming pool, 50+ site RV park with full hoop ups. Property has its own sewage treatment plant. There is 2 acres deeded with lots of leaseback, plenty of parking and room for expansion. Great area to hold tournaments, plus it's the first full service marina coming in from the Dallas metroplex. Reduced to \$525,000



**PRETTY WATERFRONT SETTING** on Lake Holbrook. Extremely nice, clean 3 bedroom, 2 bath waterfront home. Large living/dining and kitchen area with kitchen bar. Beautiful trees, screened porch, deck overlooking the lake, storage building and fishing pier. This home is a great place to come, relax for the weekend or perfect for a permanent home. Come take a look at this great place on the water. Everything is ready for you to move right in and start enjoying. Priced at \$154,900.

**RESTAURANT, SMOKEHOUSE ON LAKE FORK.** Seats approximately 84 with plenty of parking. The property sits on 2.7 acres with leaseback and old boat ramp to Lake Fork. This location has lots of potential. Nicely decorated in rustic décor. Fully equipped, clean kitchen, walk-in coolers, freezers, 2-smokers. Commercial septic, fully approved. Great location on Hwy 154, approximately 3500 cars per day travel this road. Located right on Lake Fork where there are many tournaments, weekend and holiday fishermen. Area has a large retirement community. This is a great opportunity. just walk-in and start serving. \$135,000

**LAKE LYDIA WITH EXCELLENT BOAT HOUSE AND SHOP.** Home is 1800 sf with 3 BR 2 Bath, concrete drive, 2-car garage, carport and a 30x30 insulated metal shop with overhead door and half bath. Recently redone with oak cabinets, solid surface counters, stainless appliances, marble back splash and new flooring throughout. Lake Lydia is one of Wood Counties best kept secrets, approx. 80 acre private lake with a lake manager onsite. Enjoy your own boathouse with fishing decks. \$179,000.

**We have too many properties for sale to show here. To view these and ALL MLS PROPERTY LISTINGS, go to: [www.century21lakecountryrealty.com](http://www.century21lakecountryrealty.com)**



# Tenth Annual LEGEND

## OF LAKE FORK

### Open Bass Tournament

All Boats, Makes, Models Welcome

May 16, 17 & 18, 2014

**\$300,000** Guaranteed in Cash & Prizes

Benefiting "The Wish to Fish Foundation"

Tournament Host: Lake Fork Marina, Hwy. 17, 903-765-2764

#### GRAND PRIZES INCLUDE:

Four (4) Legend Bass Boats, Powered by Mercury, MotorGuide, Lowrance Electronics. To Be Awarded For: 2 for the 2 Heaviest Bass Over The Slot, 1 for Heaviest Bass Under The Slot, 1 for Draw Boat (Early Entries ONLY and must be present to win.)  
3 Prize Boats Include Easy Step System

7 PLACES PAID HOURLY 1ST - \$500 • 2ND - \$400 • 3RD - \$300 • 4TH - \$200  
• 5TH - \$175 • 6TH - \$150 • 1ST OUT OF 6TH \$100 GC

1st 10-Pound Even Weight • Wins Kubota RTV-X1120 • \$17,178 Prize

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 888-657-5051 OR 903-383-7748 EMAIL: TEAMLEGEND@LEGENDMARINE.COM OR FISHNEWS@LAKEFORK.NET

All Tournament Contestants can Purchase Temple Fork Outfitters Rods \$178 Retail ~ \$50 Each (Assortment of Sizes)

Early Entry Incentive: Only Early Entries Qualify for Drawing To Win LE-186 SCX, Powered by Mercury, MotorGuide, & Lowrance Electronics. To Qualify for Drawing, Entries must be received on or before April 30, 2014. "Legend Advantage Members Win Double Hourly Cash Awards"