

# 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. 182



Lesslye Grantham from Tulia, Texas won 1st Place in the 28th Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork with this 11.75-pound lunger. (See Story on Page 4-A)



Kacey Moreland from Porter, Texas won 2nd Place in the 28th Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork with this 11.50-pound lunger.



### 9th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

For you anglers that are not only big fans of fishing Lake Fork but also love doing it with Berkley and Sebile baits, here is the time you have been waiting for. The 9th Annual Berkley Big

Bass Tournament on Lake Fork hosted by Bass Champs October 18th and 19th will be at Lake Fork Marina just off Highway 17N. Registration times will be Friday October 17th from 12 to 8 P.M. and on October 18th and 19th from 4:30 A.M. to

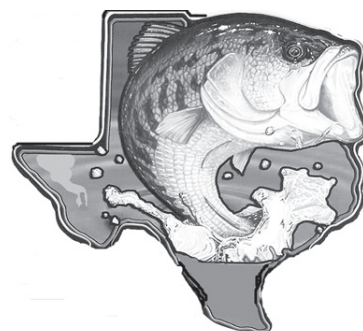
7 A.M. at tournament headquarters. Entry fee for one day is \$120 or \$170 for both days.

**OFFICIAL 2014  
BERKLEY BIG  
BASS TOURNAMENT  
RULES**

The following rules  
(See 9th Annual Berkley...  
Continued on Page 5-A)



Richard Phillips from Evans, Louisiana won 3rd Place in the 28th Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork with this 10.01-pound bass.



*Texas Trails Bassmasters  
of Lake Fork*

**Open Bass Tournament Oct.  
25th. Tournament Site Oak  
Ridge Marina Hwy 154. See ad  
and details on Page 9-B**



# "Bubba Practices For Halloween All Year Long!"

By: Don Hampton

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

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

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

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

someone is one of the funniest things in life. He really must have had a missed childhood or else he just doesn't wish to grow out of it!

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

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

One of the reasons Bubba can't keep a partner on the "Team Tournament Trail" he fishes isn't because of the number of fish caught. It is be-

cause their heart can't take it! Bubba watches his partners closely to make sure they are on their toes during a tournament. If they seem to be day dreaming when the action slows down, he has a rude awakening for them too! He will catch them in one of their relaxed moods and then set his plan in motion. He will intentionally get his lure hung up while they are not watching. Once he has it securely stuck he'll jump up excitedly and holler, "It's a big one get the net!" At this time he has his rod bent going from side to side acting like he has a real hog on the end of the line. This gets his partner throwing his rod down, scrambling all over the boat to get the net and ready to do his job. When his partner finally gets the net ready Bubba will roll with laughter and say, "Just kidding I'm hung up and wanted to see if you were still with me!" I think Bubba has probably been bit, scratched, and clobbered by some of his fishing partners too! He has had five different fishing partners in the past four seasons and not even that will stop Bubba's sense of humor or his enjoyment of a good laugh.

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

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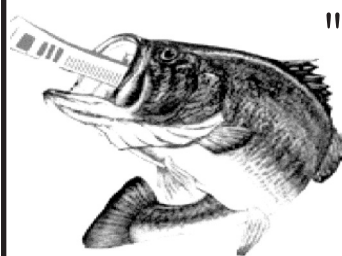
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# 28th Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

The Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash was held on Lake Fork September 19th through the 21st. Cooler weather and a chance to win big a part of the \$500,000 guaranteed money and prizes had 2,470 anglers representing 28 states and 2 foreign countries wetting their hooks on 'The Big Bass Capital of Texas'.

Lake Fork definitely showed why it is known as a premier bass fishing lake in Texas as was proven with the weights brought to the scales. On day one of the tournament 367 bass were brought to the scales for a total weight of 729.94-pounds. On day two 271 bass with a total weight of 596.01-pounds and on day three 258 bass were brought to the scales for a total weight of 502.39-pounds. This brought the total to 896 bass brought to the scales during the course of the tournament for a total weight of 1,828.34-pounds. Though some anglers expressed their disappointment that their catches went over the 16-inch lower mark of the slot or didn't quite touch to top of the slot limit being 24-inches, this didn't cause their determination to falter. During the course of the tournament a record number for a Sealy Outdoor event on Lake Fork was set with 33 bass 24-inches or more

in length were brought to the scales ranging in weights from 6.53-pounds to 11.75-pounds.

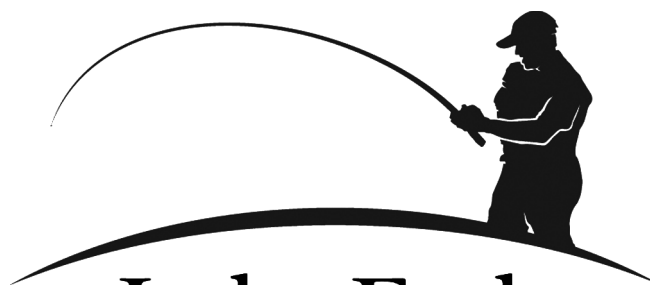
Michael Stephenson from Dubach, Louisiana brought the only 2.50-pound bass to the scales on Sunday that netted him a check for \$2,500, but his bass also held out to be the heaviest under the slot during the tournament that won him another check for \$5,000. As in all of Sealy Outdoors Tournaments all cash and prizes are guaranteed. Since no anglers brought a 2.50-pound bass to the scales on Friday and Saturday, the \$5,000 promised for those catches were given away at the presentation on Sunday afternoon at the tournaments conclusion. The lucky anglers taken home that surprise money were Doyle Olive from Asher, Oklahoma and John Forsythe from North Richland Hills, Texas. In the elimination drawing Kathy Morrison from Weatherford, Texas won a 2014 Triton 18XS powered by Mercury and in the open drawing Clinton Patton from Bismark, Arkansas took home a check for \$2,500.

The 2 to 3 o'clock hour on Saturday proved to be the most exciting with the two heaviest bass of the tournament being weighed in the same hour. Lesslye Graham from Tulia, Texas weighed in a healthy 11.75-pound bass securing 1st Place overall in the tournament. For his

efforts and great catch he won \$1,000 in hourly cash plus a 2014 Triton 20XS powered by Mercury, a Dodge Ram Truck, plus an additional \$7,000 in cash. Kacey Moreland from Porter, Oklahoma weighed in an 11.50-pound bass winning a 2nd place check for \$900 and 2nd place overall in the tournament to take home a 2014 Triton 19XS powered by Mercury, a Dodge Ram Truck, and an additional \$2,000. Winning 3rd place overall in the tournament was Richard Phillips from Evans, Louisiana with a 10.01-pound bass that won him \$1,000 hourly money, a 2014 Triton 18XS powered by Mercury, plus an additional \$1,000. Paul Lowke from Arlington, Texas with his catch of a bass weighing 9.72-pounds won 4th overall and took home a nice check for \$8,000. Fifth place overall and a check for \$6,000 was David Wilson from Tyler, Texas with a catch weighing 9.67-pounds.

Anglers can now mark their calendars for the 29th Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash to be held on Lake Fork September 18, 19, 20, 2015. The first pay hour will be the 7 to 8 o'clock hour of each day and the last will be the 1 to 2 o'clock hour but as Bob announced he will be paying 15 places per hour. Good luck and hope to see you on Lake Fork 'The Big Bass

(See Big Bass Splash...Continued on Page 21-A)



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## 9th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 1-A)

are for the 2014 Berkley Big Bass Tournament on Lake Fork. October 18th & 19th, 2014. Special

- Rules:
- All contestants must use Berkley and/or Sebile baits EXCLUSIVELY during this event. Sebile hard baits are part of the program for 2014.
  - Spinner bait frames, jig heads, buzz bait frames, etc. may be used only when broken down to terminal tackle where ALL skirts and plastics have been removed and replaced with ONLY BERKLEY PRODUCTS.
  - All terminal tackle must include a "functional" full length Berkley skirt and/or Berkley soft plastic.
  - Non-Berkley skirts and soft plastic trailers are NOT permitted.

To protect the integrity of Bass Champs and our anglers, all winners will be subject to a polygraph exam before the prizes are distributed at the event. Contestants must pass the polygraph exam at the tournament site to receive prize money and awards for the event. The tournament Director reserves the right to waive any violation of these rules that are disclosed to him before the polygraph exam, in his sole and absolute discretion.

1. Rules: Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and are not subject to appeal. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director in his sole and absolute discretion. Each competitor agrees to report any

rule violation to the Tournament Director immediately upon discovery of the violation. The violation of a tournament rule may result in weight loss, the loss of weight up to a specific time during the tournament day, total loss of weight for that particular day, the ineligibility to participate in future Bass Champs events, or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director in his sole discretion. Protests must be made in writing within 10 minutes of the official closing of the scales at each tournament day.

### 2. Participation and Eligibility:

Any person entering a Bass Champs Tournament under the age of 18 years must also have the signature of their parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the official entry form.

Bass Champs Tournaments are open to all anglers except professional anglers. A professional angler is defined as:

Any angler that has entered more than one bass tournament that required an entry fee greater than \$2,500 in the immediately preceding six months prior to the date of the Bass Champs Tournament being entered. Any angler that has guided for Bass (as defined in Rule 14 below) on tournament waters within 30 days of the official event for any method of compensation.

All Contestants must have a valid Texas fishing license.

3. Off-Limit Period: Contestants may not be on Lake Fork Reservoir for the purpose of fishing between: 8:00pm Friday, October 17th, 2014 thru 6:30am Saturday, October 18th, 2014. 8:00pm Saturday, October 18th, 2014 thru 6:30am Sunday, October 19th, 2014. Fishing Times: Competitors may launch from any ramp on Lake Fork. Fishing will begin at 6:30am on competition days. The official start time will be broadcast by KMOO 99.9 radio. The scales will open the top ½ of every hour beginning at 8:00am. Scales are closed the bottom ½ of each hour. The final weigh-in will begin at 2:00pm and end at 2:30pm each competition day. 5. Registration Times: Each contestant must register in person at Lake Fork Marina during the official registration hours: 12:00pm-8:00pm Friday October 17th or each tournament morning beginning at 4:30am. A completed and signed entry form must be received before the start of competition. 6. Safety: Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened (fully zipped and/or all clips fastened), U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation during official tournament hours. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device, which must be securely attached to

(See 9th Annual Berkley... Continued on Page 7-A)



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# October on the Fork! Cooler Weather Shallow Bass

By David Ozio

'It's time to ditch the shorts and bring out the sweatshirt; fall is rapidly sneaking up on Lake Fork. With this comes cooler water temps and the urge for fish to move shallow especially toward the backs of the creeks and pockets. Now add the fact that there will be lessened fishing pressure due to hunting season and this formula could mean hawgs for those who venture out in search of the trophy of a lifetime. The following tips will help you no matter whether you are simply fun fishing or practicing for the Berkley Tournament.

As of last week, I started catching numbers in the very backs of creeks with an occasional toad to boot. This pattern will get better and better as the water temps continue to fall. Buzzbaits, Yel-

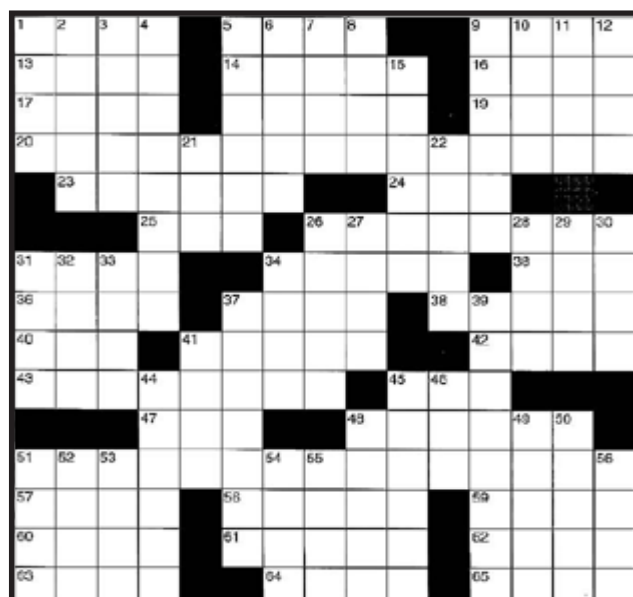
low Magic's and trick worms were the main weapons of mass destruction and I think we could have caught them on flukes had I have tied one on. We were having such a great time on the aforementioned baits and my thought was, if it's not broke don't fix it. A lot of pockets have some shallow vegetation toward the back and these fish are chasing shad and bluegill to start fattening up for the winter. On one occasion we were in the very back of a creek at 2:00pm under bright sun and I could see the shad cruising around and plenty of bass hanging right with them. BTW, at that time we were throwing the trick worm, weightless, with a 2/0 hook and it was game on. A standard Texas rig worm or shaky head didn't work so well as it would hang up in the vegetation forcing us to reel in and clean the weeds off the bait. Naturally, we used lighter fluorocarbon line to gain as many bites as possible. Hydrilla should play a key roll this fall as it is making its presence known throughout the lake. We have been doing well lately on the Texas rig worm either fished right on the matted edge or out in the scattered grass edge. June bug red and red bug have done the trick for fooling the big fish into the net.

I can really see over the next few weeks the swim-bait and swim jig coming into play. If you aren't getting enough bites on the larger versions don't



be afraid to scale down to the three inch offerings to garner more bites. Also, this may closer match the size of the shad that have mi-grated to the backs of these pockets. Pearl, gizzard shad, Ayu or even solid white will produce the action you so desire. With this being said, let's not give up on the deep bite also. Recently, I have been using a 1/2 oz Hopkins spoon and catching a ton of bar fish and small sand bass. This is a great sign as the Godzilla size bass are in the immediate area feeding on these bite size morsels. A football jig is the next weapon of choice and should deliver great results when fished among these feeder fish. You don't need to get too crazy with colors as black/

(See October on ...  
Continued on Page 20-A)



## CLUES ACROSS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Nasty character                           | 38. Expressed pleasure                         |
| 5. Worthless people                          | 40. Mongrel                                    |
| 9. Whale ship captain                        | 41. Supernatural beings                        |
| 13. Sword                                    | 42. Befools                                    |
| 14. Alders                                   | 43. Flour                                      |
| 16. Captain of Yemen                         | 45. School organization                        |
| 17. Throw                                    | 47. Annoy                                      |
| 18. Midriff                                  | 48. In a way, decays                           |
| 19. Adam and Eve's third son                 | 51. Bassoon, et al.                            |
| 20. Anything goes                            | 57. The content of cognition                   |
| 23. Gazes                                    | 58. Coal tar product                           |
| 24. French river                             | 59. Harelike rodent of the pampas of Argentina |
| 25. Needlefish                               | 60. A spore-producing structure                |
| 26. Most scrabbly                            | 61. Adult male of a wild or domestic duck      |
| 31. Free from danger                         | 62. An individual unit                         |
| 34. Athapaskan language                      | 63. ___gate, lengthen                          |
| 35. After B                                  | 64. Fastener                                   |
| 36. Turkish leader title                     | 65. King bolete, mushroom                      |
| 37. Having a cheerless aspect or disposition |  |

## CLUES DOWN

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Cried  | 31. Pouches                                 |
| 2. Moonfish                                       | 32. Chills and fever                        |
| 3. Put back to zero                               | 33. Raise                                   |
| 4. Communities                                    | 34. Momentarily                             |
| 5. Twain character                                | 37. Condescended                            |
| 6. Caste  | 39. Withouth practical purpose or intention |
| 7. One  | 41. Jai___, sport                           |
| 8. Hasty pudding                                  | 44. Established by law                      |
| 9. St. Francis of ___                             | 45. Cropped                                 |
| 10. A complex red organic pigment containing iron | 46. Male cat                                |
| 11. Opposed to a policy                           | 48. ___Jong, writer                         |
| 12. Thailand                                      | 49. Related on the mother's side            |
| 15. Vascular tissues                              | 50. Type of bacteria                        |
| 21. Malaysian Isthmus                             | 51. Become aware                            |
| 22. Ancient kingdom                               | 52. Graven image                            |
| 26. A Finnish steam bath                          | 53. He fiddled                              |
| 27. Strays  | 54. Small acid gritty-textured fruit        |
| 28. Resound                                       | 55. Czar                                    |
| 29. Shed  | 56. Identical                               |
| 30. Turner and Williams                           |   |

Answers on Page 21-A



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## 9th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 5-A)

the driver's body any time the combustion engine is in operation. The driver must be seated in the driver's seat anytime the combustion engine is engaged in gear. Tournament day may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors at the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek shelter in bad weather, at which time no fishing may occur.

7. Permitted Fishing Methods: Only artificial lures may be used. Only one fishing rod per angler may be used at any one time. Additional rods may be in the boat and ready for use; however, each cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is attempted or rod is used. Trolling with the combustion engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. All bass must be caught alive, in a conventional, sporting manner. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish, or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Bank fishing is not permissible.

8. Sportsmanship and Conduct: All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Examples of conduct not complying with those stan-

dards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any mind-altering substance during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure;
- Any previous conviction, charge, arrest, or investigation for a felony, a crime involving moral turpitude, or a crime related to, arising out of, or involving any fishing tournament or event, except with full, prior written disclosure to the Tournament Director under oath and by affidavit of all facts and circumstances surrounding such conviction, charge, arrest, or investigation at least ten (10) days before the Bass Champs event being entered, and thereafter subject to the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion that such conviction, charge, arrest, or investigation does not result in the Contestant's honesty, integrity, character or qualifications to enter the event being unreasonably questionable.

Actions or words which reflect unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, and fair competition;

Chemical substance abuse or addiction.

Disqualification from Bass Champs tournaments or other fishing organizations that re-

sulted from unexplained rule violations that result in a contestant's honesty, integrity, character, and qualifications for entry into a Bass Champs event being questionable in the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion. Upon review of the circumstances by tournament director, Bass Champs, Inc., and the Tournament Director shall have the right to refuse any application, or to deny a confirmed application, by returning the entry fee of a previously accepted application, or disqualifying a contestant. Bass Champs reserves the right to place an official observer in a contestant's boat at any time during competition hours.

9. Assistance: During hours of competition, contestants may not receive fishing information from non-competitors or participate in the practice of "hole sitting." The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. In the event of an emergency call "911" first and then contact tournament officials at 817-439-3274.

10. Boat and Horsepower Regulation: Each boat

*(See 9th Annual Berkley... Continued on Page 11-A)*

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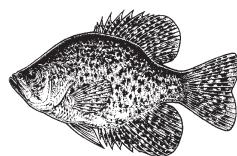


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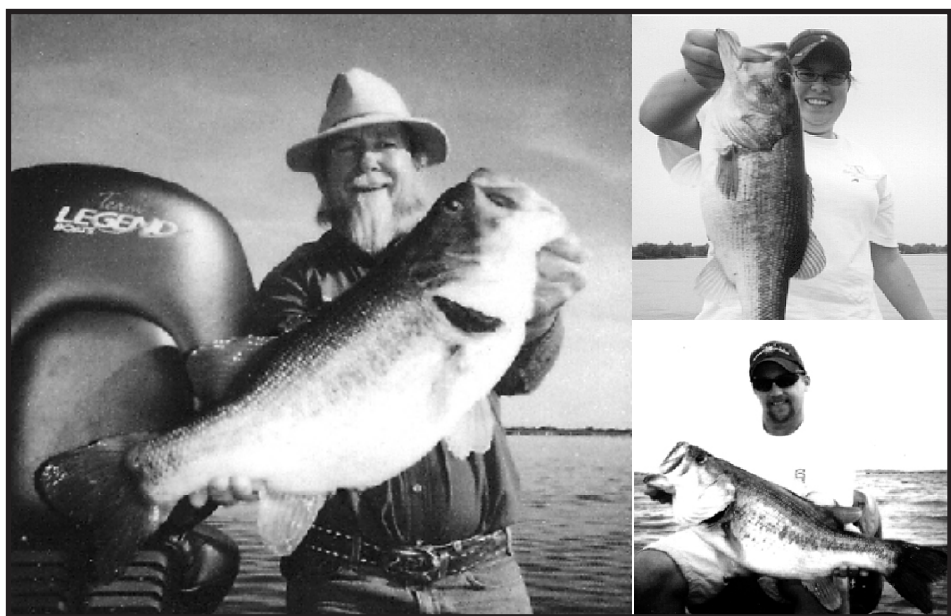
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# "The Moon Report" Falls Primetime Crappie Fishing

By Terri Moon

After a long hot summer, it's finally here – It's time to enjoy Lake Fork's October and November "prime fishing" months! (My very favorite time to fish!)

With the cooler weather, the crappie are showing up on the points of mouths of the creek arms, and on the channels and secondary creeks. They have been as shallow as 6 ft. and as deep as 18 ft. around the bridges and brush piles. We're also finding them in the mouths of the coves in 20 to 28 ft. of water – one to three cranks off the bottom. These fish haven't bunched up yet so you will have to keep moving around for a productive day.

Also, water clarity and light conditions will make a difference on what color will produce a strike. So don't be afraid to change up colors to see what will work for that time of day. Whether you're using "Gene Larew", "Lake



Fork Tackle" or "Crazy Angler" baits, the colors producing for us have been black shad, green tomato, natural cricket or chartreuse and pearl. All of these colors have worked for us throughout the day.

You can rig these on either a 1/16th oz. jig head or 1/8 oz. on windier days. In open water I'm double rigging 2 jigs a foot apart. But, when fishing timber and brush, a single jig is best. Also don't be afraid to change up your presentation. Some days they want the bait dead still – other days they want the bait moving. (I just love it when they hit on "the fall"!)

By the way, if you want to catch some bream, get you a jar of Berkley's Gulp 1"

minnows in shad color or chartreuse and white. If you don't want to fool with live bait, this is the bait for you! They not only catch bream, but the crappie love them too! (What a bonus!)

Another reminder – our lake level is reaching 6 ft. low and falling— so, **PLEASE** exercise extreme caution while on Lake Fork.

I also want to send a big congratulation to Noah Jarrett of Hallsville, Texas for winning all three days of the crappie division in the Jr. Anglers of the McDonalds Big Bass Tournament! Way to go you little "fishing phenomenon!"

My best to you all! Hope you can get out and enjoy the fall fun!

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Congratulations to Noah Jarrett, Hallsville, TX., for sweeping the crappie division in the McDonald's tournament.



Rick Buzzard  
Dallas, TX.,



Tracy Lightweaver, San Antonio, TX., with best friend Trisha



Dan Ingram, St Louis, MO.



Tracy Lightweaver with her first ever crappie! San Antonio, TX.,



Tracy Lightweaver with her first Lake Fork bass while fishing with guide Mike McFarland



Gary & Glenn Baldwin  
Texas



Ed Walker, Allen, TX.



Michelle Wood, Longview, TX.,  
Her first ever crappie!



Albert & Angela Lewis  
Bridgeport, TX.,

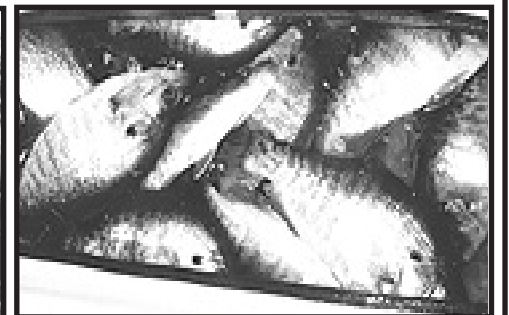


Mike Wood, Tyler, TX., with daughter Michelle

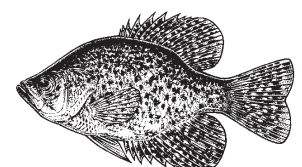


Big Thanks Clyde McAfee and the Lowrance crew for all their

help!



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## Game Wardens Working More Marijuana Cultivation Cases

Texas game wardens have recently been involved with four separate illegal marijuana cultivation cases in rural areas.

"During the last two months, we have been involved in four large-scale marijuana 'grows' -- two in Fort Bend County, and two in Polk County," says Col. Craig Hunter, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Director of Law Enforcement. "The last thing we want is for an unsuspecting landowner or group of lease hunters to approach an illicit grow site or camp. If you see something, get out of the area and report it."

Hunter said in three out of four recent cases, game wardens were notified by land owners or lease hunters that someone was growing marijuana on property they owned or had access to.

"We have well-established relationships with landowners and hunting clubs so we are often the first law enforcement agency to be notified," says Houston-based Maj. William Skeen, whose area of responsibility covers much of Southeast Texas. "On some occasions our game wardens have located the grow sites during their normal patrols."

The problem is not unique to the Lone Star State. In other states, including Washing-

ton, California, and Arkansas, game wardens are involved with combating illegal grow sites. These operations break a lot of laws, including trespassing, destruction of natural habitat, violation of pollution statutes and illegal dumping. Additionally, grow sites utilize a large amount of water illegally pumped from nearby streams and lakes to supply often complex irrigation systems.

"We are not talking about small operations; several recently found grow sites in Polk County had over 100,000 plants," says Major James Ranft, who supervises game wardens over much of East Texas. "Make no mistake about it, these growers have no respect for the land and are in it to make a lot of money." "The take-downs are risky and the grow operators have evaded arrest every time," says Major Chris Davis, who supervises the TPWD SCOUT Team. "During a recent take-down, we located a camp within the grow site that had a chair with a hidden pistol that was loaded. When the take-down started, one of the suspects was sitting in the chair. In 2005, a California game warden was shot and injured during a marijuana grow site take-down."

One recent enforcement effort in Fort Bend

County was a joint operation carried out by TPWD game wardens and the Fort Bend County Drug Task Force. That task force is made up of officers from the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and several area police departments. Each offers their own expertise and assets during different stages of the operation. "Game wardens first discovered the sites, and then worked with officers attached to the task force to set up the take-down plan," says Capt. Nick Harmon, Brazoria County.

He said TPWD used local game wardens as well as game wardens assigned to the Law Enforcement Division's Environmental Crimes Unit, K9 Team, and Scout Team.

"Like anything else we do, these operations are a team effort," he says. "We always work closely with the DPS, county and city law enforcement and in several recent cases, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and Drug Enforcement Agency."

Anyone spotting what appears to be a clandestine marijuana cultivation site is urged to call the TPWD Operation Game Thief hotline at 1-800-792-4263 or their local 911.

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## 9th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 7-A)

must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition may not exceed the horsepower limitations as set by the U. S. Coast Guard in such vessel. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating plate to conceal such limitations will be cause for disqualification from the tournament.

11. Permitted Fishing Locations: Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a competitor's boat which was first anchored (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight with the trolling motor in the up position), or within 25 yards of a non-anchored competitor's boat unless otherwise agreed upon by the other tournament angler. The act of moving bass from one area of the lake to another confined area of the same lake at any time, whether or not during official prac-

tice days or competition days, is not permitted.

12. # Of contestants in boat: Boats may have up to 3 paid entrants aboard. Non-contestants are not allowed in any competitor's boat.

13. Trailering is allowed: Trailering is allowed throughout the competition days. Anglers may launch and leave from any available location on Lake Fork.

14. Scoring: Only Largemouth, Spotted, or Smallmouth Bass are accepted species. One bass only is allowed to be weighed in during any Tournament hour per contestant. Bass entered in the Big Bass of the Hour contest do not carry forward from hour to hour. Your biggest bass is registered into the final overall standings. No contestant may possess more than 3 bass at any time during the tournament. Any contestant who possesses more than the tournament limit at any time will have their catch for that day disqualified. Switching or sharing fish with other contestants is a violation of these rules and will result in immediate disqualification. Any artificially weighed, preserved, or altered bass will be disqualified and that contestant will be subject to prosecution under federal laws.

15. Live Fish: Only live bass will be weighed-

in during the event. Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. The use of chemical live well additives made by Sure-Life which promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat are recommended. No dead bass will be weighed.

16. Slot lake limits: Lake Fork is a slot lake. No bass over 16 inches or under 24 inches in length may be presented to the scales. Bass will be measured with mouth closed, tail compressed and swiped to achieve overall greatest length. The Pro-Rule is the official measuring board of Bass Champs. Any contestant who receives a citation from TPWD for presenting a "slot" fish to the scales will be disqualified from violation point forward each tournament day.

17. Ties: A tie for the overall biggest bass over or under the slot will be determined by the contestant's second largest bass weighed-in during tournament hours. In the event that a winner may not be determined by the above stated method, the winner will be determined by which angler weighed-in the winning fish first. All other ties will be resolved by splitting equally all money involved in the tie.



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## Toyota ShareLunker Season Began October 1

The 29th season of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Toyota ShareLunker program begins October 1.

Anyone legally catching a 13-pound or bigger large-mouth bass from Texas waters, public or private, between October 1 and April 30 may submit the fish to the Toyota ShareLunker program. Fish will be picked up by TPWD personnel within 12 hours.

ShareLunker entries that genetic testing shows are pure Florida largemouth bass are used in a selective breeding program at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens. Offspring from ShareLunkers that spawn are stocked into each waterbody that produces and entry during the season. Some offspring may be used for research, while others may be retained by the hatchery system for use as future brooders. The angler catching each fish decides what will happen to it following its use by TPWD. Most anglers choose to return the fish to the waterbody where it was caught. Some donate the fish to TPWD for display at TFFC.

Fish that are intergrades, or hybrids of Florida and northern largemouth bass, are not used for spawning and are returned to the waterbody where caught as soon as possible. Genetic testing of ShareLunker entries shows that pure Florida largemouth bass have as much as 18 times greater chance of producing a 13-pound offspring as intergrades do. Limited capacity at TPWD hatcheries requires using all available pond space for the offspring of pure Florida fish.

Anglers entering fish into the Toyota ShareLunker program receive a free replica of their fish, a certificate and ShareLunker clothing and are recognized at a banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. The person who catches the season's largest entry will be named Angler of the Year and will receive a G. Loomis rod, Shimano reel and PowerPro line combination. If the Angler of the Year is a Texas resident, that person also receives a lifetime Texas fishing license.

Prizes and funding for the banquet are provided by Toyota, which also provides a Tundra pickup truck for use in picking up and returning the majority of lunkers and their offspring.

ShareLunker catches can be reported 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the season, by calling (903) 681-0550. If poor cellphone service prevents use of the voice number, anglers can leave a phone number (including area code) at (888) 784-0600. That number is also monitored 24/7 during the season.

Most anglers who catch ShareLunkers are unprepared to catch and care for large fish. Yet catching a 13-pound bass is possible almost anywhere you fish in Texas. Taking a few simple steps can help ensure the survival of ShareLunkers. First, carry a landing net, preferably a rubber one or a net with unknotted mesh, to avoid damaging the fish's slime coat. Fill your livewell before you begin fishing. Program the ShareLunker numbers into your phone before the season begins. Carry a scale and check its accuracy before the season begins. Locate a place near where you will be fishing that has a certified scale

and will weigh fish, such as a feed store, grocery store or bait shop. Official ShareLunker weigh and holding stations have been established at a number of reservoirs; a list is at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/visitorcenters/tffc/sharelunker/holding/>.

For complete information and rules of the ShareLunker program, tips on caring for big bass and a recap of last year's season, see [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/sharelunker/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/sharelunker/). The site also includes a searchable database of all fish entered into the

program along with pictures where available.

Information on current catches, including short videos of interviews with anglers when available, will be posted on [www.facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram](http://www.facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram). "Like" this page and you can receive notification and photos of catches as soon as they become available.

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

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## Boo Alert: Halloween at the Hatchery Needs You

Halloween at the Hatchery will be involved is to give away candy to the children who will attend. If you are really into the Halloween spirit, consider taking on responsibility for decorating an area at TFFC for the event. Areas will be judged during the event and prizes awarded. The event will run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 30. Organizations giving away candy are expected to provide enough candy for 2,500

TFFC offers three ways to take part in this annual event that benefits local charitable organizations. A business or organization may sponsor the event by making a cash contribution to defray the costs of decorations and publicity. Another way to

children. Participating businesses are welcome to hand out their own promotional materials along with the candy.

Halloween at the Hatchery is a Friends of TFFC event. There is no charge for booths.

Anyone interested in participating in the event or becoming a sponsor should contact Jim Booker by October 15 at (903) 670-2266 to reserve a space.

*Boo Friendly*

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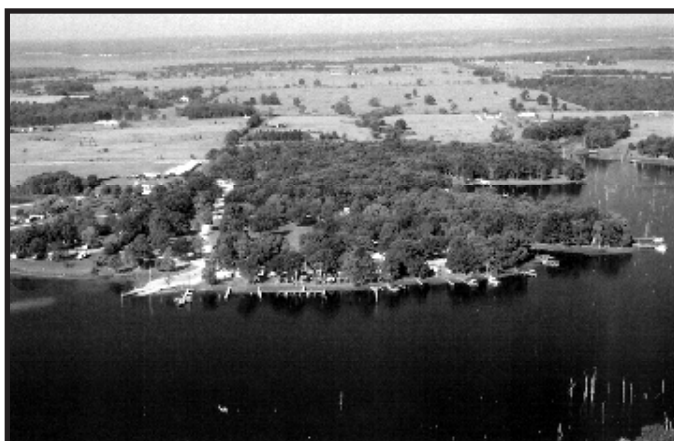
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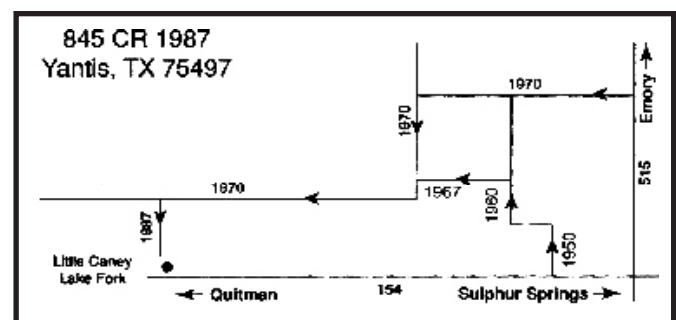
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Game Warden Named "State Officer of the Year" by NASBLA

Texas Game Warden John Thorne has been selected as the "State Officer of the Year" and the "Southern States Officer of the Year" by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA).

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Carter Smith presented the award to Thorne at a Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting recently in Houston.

Thorne holds a Master Peace Officers Certificate, issued through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. He also received his masters' degree in fisheries and wildlife science from TexasA&M University-College Station in 1999.

Stationed in Freestone County, Thorne's area includes a portion of the Richland-Chambers Reservoir, covering about 41,000 acres. He is also responsible for enforcement activities along 50 miles of the Trinity River.

As a state game warden, Thorne has encountered a variety of law enforcement scenarios since graduating from the department's training academy in 2002.

He has been involved in about 80 boating while intoxicated and boating under the influence arrests in his 12-year career. Two years into his career, Thorne filed 11 BWI's in one summer. This past summer, he and a less-tenured warden filed five BWI's in one day.

He has also worked with local prosecu-

tors to streamline a protocol for the issuance of search warrants to draw blood from those who refuse to provide a specimen.

Thorne is one of the few trained drug recognition experts in the department. He is also a member of the newly formed TPWD K-9 team, where he has assumed a team lead role.

He has attended boat accident investigation training, which has helped him handle more than 15 boat accidents, two of which involved fatalities with alcohol as a factor and several other non-fatalities that involved drugs and alcohol.

Thorne became a member of the TPWD Law Enforcement Division's Critical Incident Team in 2004 and has used his training numerous times during drowning incidents, boat accidents, officer-involved shootings and most recently to aid first responders following the fertilizer plant explosion in West.

An active member of his community, Thorne continually looks for ways to educate the public about water safety as well as other educational programs offered by TPWD. He routinely takes kids boating, hunting, and fishing in an effort to promote safety and expose them to the outdoors. Thorne is a district leader in offering educational programs at schools, civic clubs, and outdoor oriented organizations.

He was instrumental in coordinating the rescue of two men, a woman and a small child on

Cedar Creek Lake when their boat capsized in a storm. In wind blowing more than 40 miles per hour, Thorne positioned the patrol boat so that two other wardens could get to those in need.

On another occasion, he helped save the life of a father of a Texas state trooper. The man and a friend became stranded on Lake Palestine after their boat capsized in a storm. The trooper's father tied himself to a stump where he remained for 12 hours. Sadly, his fishing companion had perished before help could come, but one life was saved due to the response of Thorne and the other present game wardens.

Most recently, Thorne and his partner launched a boat into a rain-swollen creek and rescued an elderly couple whose pickup had been washed from the roadway as they were trying to make an early morning doctor's appointment. Due to their age and surroundings, neither could help themselves as the water continued to rise so they sat in the truck seats in chest high water. The two wardens risked life and limb to fight the current and rescue the couple.

Thorne will be competing against two other officers for the "National Officer of the Year" award that will be announced in Bar Harbor, Maine at the October NASBLA Conference.

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## TPWD Employee Named State Boating Educator of the Year

Tim Spice, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Boater Education Coordinator, has been selected as the "State Educator of the Year" as well as the "Southern States' Educator of the Year." TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith presented the award to Spice at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting recently in Houston.

During the 82nd Legislative session in 2011, House Bill 673 by Rep. Tan Parker required TPWD to produce a video on water safety targeting high school age students. This bill required the video to be placed into the Texas Driver's Education curriculum to be seen by all who take the course.

There was concern from the driver's education community because they felt that their courses were going to become overloaded with the addition of the water safety materials, which they claimed were outside the scope of their courses intent.

"Spice took the helm and was able to navigate through treacherous waters and come to a resolution with the education community by inviting their input while recognizing their desires to keep a concise message and avoid a burdensome product," Smith said. The second issue Spice had to address was the unfunded mandate created by this bill.

Through an extensive network of partners, he rallied the water safety community to back this important initiative and provide the necessary funding to make the project a reality.

In the end, he was able to raise all necessary funds from several non-profit water safety organizations and by June 2013, all participants were gathered at Lake Ray Hubbard for a two-day video shoot where teens and adults told their stories of tragedy, loss, and the vital message of water safety.

"It was important to Spice that the message was effective, that it not be limited to a specific location and that it can be used across the nation," Smith said. "He wanted the message to be global in nature and the title of the project, "Never Happens," hit home in a true sense for the teens who over and over said, "I never thought this would happen to me" while telling their stories."

In August 2013, Spice received notification from NASBLA that the video had been given the "Seal of Safe Boating," which indicates it adheres to the highest standards of boating safety information.

"His leadership in the water safety community is unprecedented," Smith said. "His influence, community spirit, and ability to bring everyone

together to make boating safer and safe lives make him an invaluable educator and innovator."

Spice will be competing against two others for the "National Educator of the Year" award, which will be announced in Bar Harbor, Maine at the October NASBLA conference.

### J & M Guide Service Lake Fork, TX

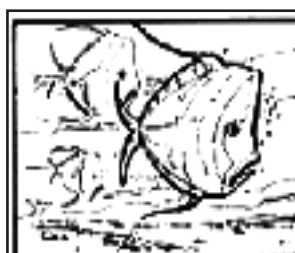
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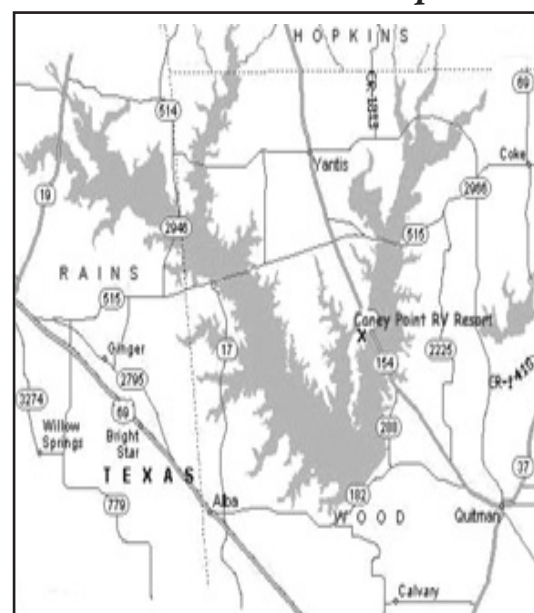
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## "Pack of Knowledge" Extra-Large Topwaters for Big Bass

By Andrew Grills

There's nothing like being in your favorite cove as the sun rises, while you're throwing your favorite topwater lure. It's a crisp morning, and fog is hovering above the calm water. It gets even better when a big bass explodes on your bait! This scenario gets anglers of all skill levels excited, and now is the time to do it on Lake Fork.

October is a good month for many different techniques; however, none are

quite as exciting and productive as topwater fishing. In the early fall the shad migrate into the creeks. Bass follow this abundant food source, and this makes for a good shallow water bite.

I always watch for signs of baitfish activity when I'm looking for bass in shallow water this time of year. The presence of herons and disturbances on the surface are the main things I'm watching for. I also prefer the baitfish to be big gizzard shad, instead of smaller threadfin. It's a safe bet, that when you see big shad, giant bass are nearby. Add shallow water cover, like aquatic vegetation or timber, and structure, such as a secondary point or hump, and you have all the ingredients for a great topwater bite.

I recently spoke with my friend Mickey Ellis, founder of 3:16 Lure Company.

Mickey is a renowned swimbait maker from California, and has three fish over 16 pounds from his home state to his credit. He has since moved here to Texas and is constantly working on new designs and prototypes that will work here on Lake Fork. October is Mickey's favorite topwater month as well.

"A bass is naturally an upwardly feeding predator. The placement of the eyes, the protruding lower jaw... these fish are made to attack prey above them. A bass knows that the surface

acts as a wall where the baitfish can go no further. That is why topwater lures are so effective on big bass", Ellis commented. Mickey noted that as long as an area had adequate cover and

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



Andrew Grills  
Lake Fork Guide

903-638-1170

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This Lady Angler had a great day fishing Lake Fork with guide Andrew Grills when she caught this nice 10.25-lb. hawg. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Andrew Grills Guide Service)

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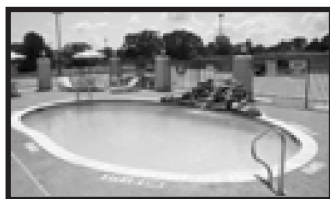
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## Free Mobile App Available for Texas Hunting and Fishing Regulations

The official Outdoor Annual -- Texas Hunting and Fishing Regulations app is now available for free download on iOS and Android platforms, providing sportsmen with mobile access to information they can use in the field and on the water.

Once installed, the app enables access to the summary of the Texas 2014-2015 hunting and fishing regulations without having to be connected to the Internet. It can also utilize a device's GPS capabilities to access location-specific regulations, such as exceptions to fish size and bag limits and county-specific

hunting regulations.

"We wanted to make it easier and more convenient for hunters and anglers to find out what they need to know about the season dates, bag and length limits and other important information when they are enjoying the outdoors in Texas," said Carter Smith, TPWD Executive Director. "We felt it was a priority to use this new technology to provide an added value to the sportsmen whose license dollars help conserve fish and wildlife for all Texans."

The content is mostly the same as in the printed Outdoor Annual, just in a different layout and with

added interactivity. The screens are easy to use and have an easy to navigate layout. It includes things like county listings, species listings, definitions, and even details about species. The app will be updated to include waterfowl regulations in September.

The new app will include links to additional information such as Hunter Education Courses and the Weekly Fishing Reports; as well as, an ability to contact your local game warden office. Links to purchase a license online and apply for Drawn Hunts will also be available through the mobile app, though

Internet connectivity is needed to access these outside links.

Like the print version of the Outdoor Annual, the mobile app is free, fully funded with sponsor and advertising dollars.

To download the new app, visit <http://www.txoutdoorannual.com/app> or search the iTunes App Store, Amazon AppStore or Google Play for Outdoor Annual - Texas Hunting and Fishing Regulations. The new app was developed by Texas Monthly Custom Publishing

in partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is compatible with iPhones, iPads, Android smartphones and tablets.

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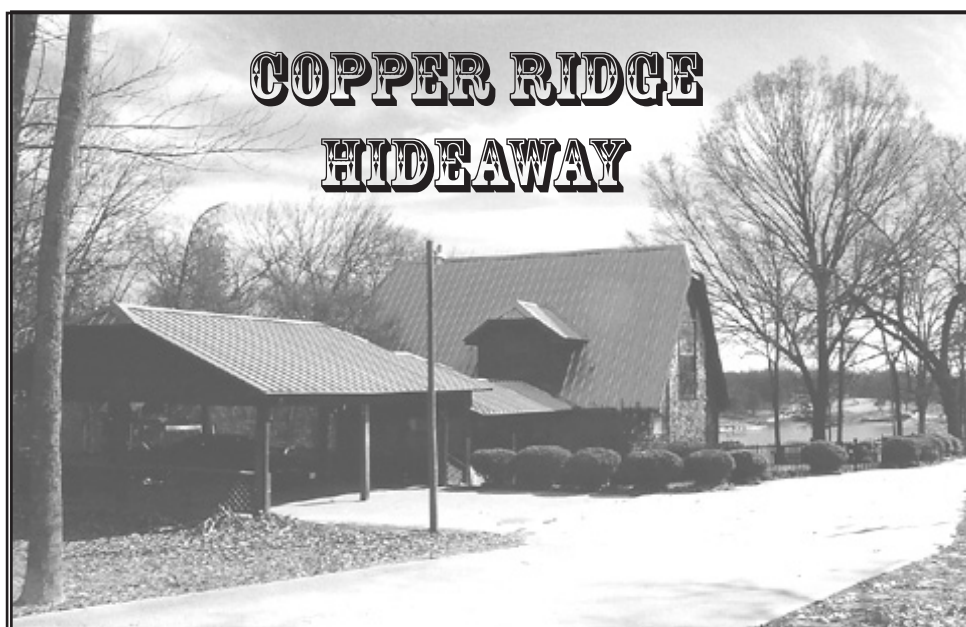
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## October on the Fork! Cooler Weather Shallow Bass (Continued from Page 6-A)

blue will work fine. The Carolina rig with a 4-5ft leader should be the next choice and any one of many baits will work. Brush hogs, ten inch worms and even french fry baits will all do the job. Red bug, green pumpkin, camo or watermelon candy red will be the colors of confidence and prepare to cover a lot of water. Pond dams, ridges, road beds and humps will be the target areas. Check all sides including the tops of these structures as the bass could be positioned anywhere. If you find them suspended on your electronics, throw a weightless fluke into the mix and count

it down. Most of these baits fall about a foot per second depending on the size of the hook you are using. Have patience and work it slowly.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in October 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 October. The Berkley Big Bass Tournament is right around the corner and I would love to put you on some great fish for that event. 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 post my daily trip results on this page. 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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David Ozio's client had a good day fishing Lake Fork when he caught this nice bass. Name not provided. C.P.R.




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## Big Bass Splash (Continued from Page 4-A)

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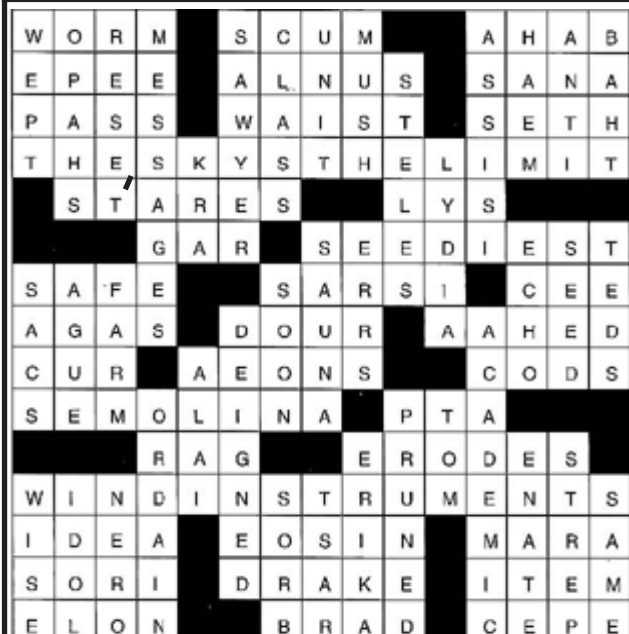
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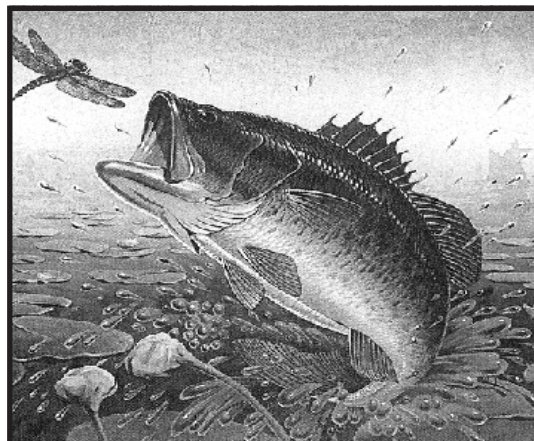
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## "Pack of Knowledge" (Continued from Page 18-A)

forage, he is never surprised to find big bass that are willing to strike a surface lure.

I always have a few 3:16 baits in my arsenal and they are a couple of very good topwater choices. Keep in mind, these are big lures are designed to catch big bass. When fish are keyed in on big gizzard shad, I have no problem throwing lures up to ten inches long, however six to eight inch baits are more conventional and draw strikes from mid-sized bass and up. My two favorite topwater lures for giant bass are the 3:16 Freestyle Shad and the Wake Jr.

The Freestyle Shad is a triple jointed, hard bodied swim-bait. The floating version is perfect for scenarios when bass are actively chasing shad on the surface and schooling. This bait can be retrieved erratically with fast twitches and short pauses. It represents the move-

ment and profile that perfectly mimics a frantic gizzard shad, and feeding bass have a hard time resisting. It is more of a reaction bait and fools fish in the heat of the moment. The Freestyle isn't extremely heavy, weighing in at 2oz., and can be fished on a typical heavy action rod. I like to use 65lb braided line along with a high-speed reel for this application.

My other topwater choice is the Wake Jr. At nearly eight inches, this bait weighs 3.5 ounces and will require the use of an extra heavy rod. "There are so many subtle movements you can make with this bait without moving it a great distance," Ellis explained. "I designed this lure for when I'm fishing a spot where I know big bass are present, but not actively crushing bait on the surface." I like to work the Wake Jr. with a twitch, twitch, pause retrieve. I work it

slowly and methodically, expecting a giant to explode on it at any moment.

I hope this information gets you as excited as I am about catching some big bass on topwater lures this month. If you are interested in trying some of these big bait techniques, give me a call. I will be glad to help in any way I can. I have an ample supply of 3:16 baits in my boat at all times. Big topwater lures aren't for everybody, but if you're serious about targeting giant fish you're missing out if you don't give them a try.

If you would like to book a trip with me you can reach me at 903-638-1170 or email me [andrew@lakeforkguideandrewgrills.com](mailto:andrew@lakeforkguideandrewgrills.com) or visit my web: [www.LakeForkGuide-AndrewGrills.com](http://www.LakeForkGuide-AndrewGrills.com).

Andrew is a professional guide on Lake Fork and is sponsored by Skeeter Boats, M-Pack Lures, and Reel Time Rods.







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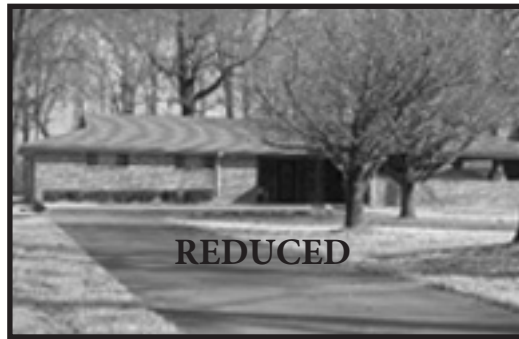
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**COUNTRY LIVING ON 1.422 ACRES** just east of Lake Lydia. Pretty setting with circle asphalt drive, lots of trees, storm shelter, well for irrigation and Fouke Community water. Showcase ready and tastefully decorated. Spacious living area with w/b stove. Redone with lots of cabinets and eating bar. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, utility room, Separate office can be 3rd bedroom with extra large closet adjacent. Dining is refreshing with great views, opens to back patio and covered patio. Property has beautiful shade trees, a garden, small workshop. Must see this one, you'll be pleasantly surprised. \$88,000



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**AFFORDABLE WATERFRONT ON LAKE FORK.** Plenty of space to roam around. Beautifully finished log siding home with covered back deck. Inside is tasteful with wood walls and ceilings, rock fireplace. With 1510 sf living area it's a really great place for permanent or weekend living. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, living/dining, kitchen, carport, storage building. Situated on one of the great fishing areas of Lake Fork, this one is ready for you. Some furniture available for purchase. You need to take a look at this one! \$149,900



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