

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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Eleventh Annual **LEGEND** OF LAKE FORK Open Bass Tournament



Scott Hodges from Pearland, Texas was 'Bassin' With Bubba' on Lake Fork on 4/10/15 when he caught this hawg weighing 13-lbs. that measured 23.7/8" in length with a girth of 21.25". The bass was weighed three times for accuracy and measured more than a few in hopes it would touch the 24" length to put in the ShareLunker Program, but it wouldn't go. She was caught on a black bladed Chatter Bait with a 3.5" Lake Fork Trophy Tackle watermelon red flake, pearl belly swim minnow as a trailer in 10-feet of water. C.P.R.

By Don Hampton

With Lake Fork sitting close to full pool fishing in the 11th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament to be held on May 15, 16, 17 looks to be awesome.

If Lake Fork being full of water and big bass isn't enticement enough to come fish the tournament, how does \$320,000 in cash and prizes sound. The way this tournament is set up, the largest bass of the tournament to the smallest could be a winner.

There will be eight places paid per hour with the first to be knocked out of seventh

place to receive a \$100 gift certificate from one of the sponsoring businesses. This little enticement has some anglers really playing the game bringing a small bass that may weigh under a pound to the scales at the top of each hour just to be knocked out of the hour first and secure a win. First each hour will be paid \$500, second \$400, third \$300, fourth \$200, fifth \$175, sixth \$150, seventh \$125, and first out of seventh to receive the \$100 gift certificate.

Anglers if you missed the chance to get in on the early entry into the "11th 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 paybacks!

This is not an owner's tournament. The name of the event is based on Lake Fork being a legendary big bass lake. ALL BOATS, MAKES, AND MODELS ARE WELCOME TO COME AND COMPETE!

There is an extra chance for a boat this year thanks to Randy Qualls, owner of Legend Boats. It being the 11th Annual, he is putting up a 211-Alpha to be given to the first angler that weighs in (See 11th Annual....

Continued on Page 5-A)

Toyota Texas Bass Classic Announces Final Field for 2015

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) will feature 35 of the world's best anglers Memorial Day weekend, May 23 - 25, 2015 on Lake Fork.

The 2015 final field is made up of the top anglers in 2014 Angler of the Year points from both the FLW and Bass Elite Series plus four sponsor exemptions and defending champion Keith Combs.

"The TTBC is the tournament I look forward

to above all others each year," said Combs. "As a native Texan, it was a dream come true to win my third TTBC title last year, and I cannot wait to return to the incredible Lake Fork, with the best anglers in the world, to defend my title in May."

"This is one of the strongest and most talented fields we've ever had," said Lenny Francoeur, tournament director. "We shattered records last year and

with yet another star-studded field, we could be looking at rewriting those records this Memorial Day on Lake Fork."

TTBC in 2014 was one for the record books, helping to show the world how amazing a fishery Lake Fork truly is. The previous record for a three-day, tour-level event was 83 pounds, 5 ounces (15 fish). That record

(See Toyota Texas....

Continued on Page 14-A)

"If That's Your Fishing Hole, Where's Your Mailbox?"

By: Don Bubba Hampton

When Bubba speaks of owning something, you can bet it is definitely his stuff. He is also very possessive over his stuff! Everyone knows Bubba needs stuff especially Bubbette and when he gets out of hand getting stuff, she puts him straight again. What Bubba truly cannot understand is people laying claim to something that can't possibly be theirs.

When it comes to fishing in public waters he is under the impression that those waters actually belong to the State of Texas. He also holds dear the belief that anyone that purchases a fishing license and abides by the laws can fish those waters anytime and anywhere they so desire. After all this is Texas and Bubba even has a bumper sticker that reads, "MADE IN TEXAS BY TEXANS". So, what Bubba would really like to know is if there has been a new "Homestead Act" put in effect that he has not heard of that allows anglers to claim portions of water. If so he is going to be out of luck because Bubbette won't let him get anymore stuff!

If there has not been a new "Homestead Act" implemented, why are so many anglers claiming waters? It seems more and more that Bubba is hearing, "That's my fishing hole, you can't go there!" Some anglers will say this in a sportsmanship jest, but then again you hear some say it with meaning and sincerity. Bubba has the tendency to laugh with the sportsmen and laugh at the others.

Bubba had a long extensive conversation with

one of the latter the other day on Lake Fork. Bubba was out fishing one of his favorite spots, (it's even called "Community Hump"), when he was made to feel like he'd eaten someone else's fried chicken at a family reunion. Well, Bubba doesn't stay in a hurt mood for too long at a time and soon put the chicken bones on another plate. He apologized for trespassing and not spotting the individual's mailbox when he pulled in with his boat. Bubba didn't let it stop there though! This man has seen an Enquirer and has an inquiring mind.

The next thing Bubba wanted to know was if he had pulled in the driveway or ran over his lawn because his trolling motor did tear up some lily pads and he didn't want to be held responsible. Well this gave the other boat something to discuss, but they were soon interrupted by Bubba's next question. "What do property and school taxes run a year on a place like this?" Bubba sincerely asked. "I've been thinking of getting a place like this of my own to retire to but don't know if Bubbette and me can quite afford it! And, seeing you are a guide, is this portion of the lake zoned business or residential and just where does your property line end?" Bubba went on to add with all the conviction and sincerity of a Baptist preacher at a hot summer night tent revival. Well the only reply Bubba got referred to his mother, then her not being married when he was born and something about his heritage and then they left. He thought they didn't show very much sports-

manship and they weren't very sociable either because they wouldn't even accept his invitation to join him in his boat or up on shore.

Bubba being the type of person he is didn't wish to trespass on this individual's property anymore, especially knowing how rude neighbors can be. To make sure of this he followed them all day to see if he had any other property on the lake with maybe a mailbox in front of it. Bubba did not locate one at any of the places they went to and fished. He did of course mark the spots on his GPS and gave them to all his friends so they would know these spots did not belong to anyone and they would not be trespassing if they fished there. Bubba is just that kind of guy!

Another drawback on individuals that claim fishing holes as their own is that now you have Bubba thinking! If the fish school there, shouldn't you pay school taxes? If you plant a cedar tree there, isn't that an improvement and property value would increase thus increasing your property taxes?

So, when you are out on the lake, if you are one of those that seriously claims a fishing hole as your own, Bubba just might call the tax assessor on you!

PUBLISHERS NOTE: I wrote this some years ago, but for some reason I've had more than a few requests to run it again! I do not think I have to wonder why! Some anglers really like it. Then there are those that really don't! Fish Friendly!

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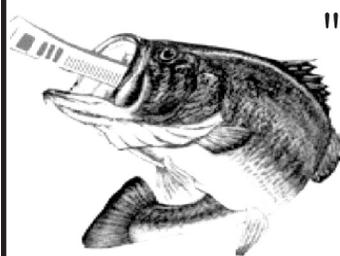
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Texas Game Wardens Commission 10 New K-9s

Ten canines are now official state K-9s after receiving their badges and commissions as Texas game wardens. The K-9s were accompanied by their game warden partners during a graduation ceremony at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Austin headquarters recently.

"In a very short period of time, the K-9 program has become a great asset to Texas game wardens, state and local law enforcement agencies, and the citizens we serve throughout Texas," says Colonel Craig Hunter, Director of TPWD's Law Enforcement Division.

The dogs underwent an extensive eight-week training led by Sgt. Wendell Nope of the Utah Department of Public Safety's Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) program. The new K-9s received training in search and rescue, narcotics detection, and a few are also trained in resource recognition, which includes recovery of wildlife and gunpowder residue detection.

"The K-9 program, which began two years ago, has progressed attributes of our job- especially our search and rescue operations," says game warden Captain Jason Davis, who oversees the K-9 team as part of the Law Enforcement Division's Tactical Operations. "Now, we can go to the last place a person was and find them faster than we would during a full-area search."

Davis says the dogs and their partners have become an asset to not only TPWD, but to other agencies as well.

"The K-9 program has evolved into a stand-alone unit due to the large amount of requests they receive," says Davis. "Handlers and their dogs are dedicated to serving all of Texas, not just specific areas. They are often called to assist other state and local agencies with narcotics searches and search and rescue efforts."

The graduates are:

- "Turbo" partnered with game warden Isaac Ruiz
- "Brooks" partnered with game warden Trent Herchman
- "Blitz" partnered with game warden Sam Shanafelt
- "Justin" partnered with game warden John Thorne
- "Gus" partnered with game warden David Thorne
- "Woodrow" partnered with game warden Derek Nalls
- "Ray" partnered with game warden Scott Kirkpatrick
- "Ruger" partnered with game warden Christy Vales
- "Rusty" partnered with game warden Royce Ilse
- "Cash" partnered with game warden Marcus

Vela

The Utah DPS' POST program is world-renowned, having trained more than 2,500 teams from 50 countries.

The new K-9s are joining the ranks of more than 500 Texas game wardens stationed around the state.



Scott Hodges from Pearland, Texas had a great day fishing Lake Fork while 'Bassin' With Bubba' when he caught this nice 8.2-lb. bass just before catching his 13-pounder. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Bassin' With Bubba Guide Services)



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11th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 1-A)

an 11-pound even bass during the course of the tournament. We will also be giving away two boats for the two heaviest 24" and over, one boat for the heaviest under 16" and one boat for the early entry drawing. Anglers winning these boats will receive a certificate for the boat so they might order the colors or upgrades of their choice to more personalize their 2015 Legend boat.

We will be set up and taking entries at Lake Fork Marina, the tournament headquarters, on Thursday, May 14th 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. for anyone just wishing to fish one day. Anglers 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 15, 16, 17. 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. Anglers have to be off the water by 8 p.m. each day of the tournament and cannot get on the water until 4 a.m. and cannot wet a hook until 6 a.m. The official starting time and hourly updates will be announced on FM 99.9 KMOO Radio Station. So be sure to have a radio in your boat.

Again this year we will be selling commemorative T-shirts at tournament headquarters. If you purchase a shirt and have it on or with you and win 1st place in any hour, you will receive and extra \$100 in cash. Every hour of the tournament is a T-shirt hour.

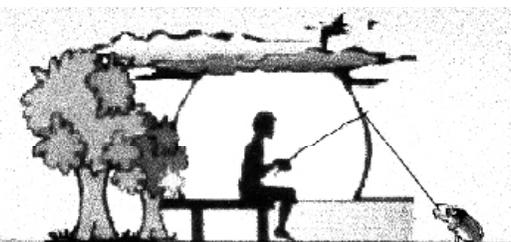
All anglers will also be able to purchase Temple Fork Outfitters rods for only \$50. This offer is while supplies last. As popular as these rods are becoming they seem to go pretty fast, but on another note, we will have a large supply.

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. All anglers are encouraged to read the rules and regulations for the tournament. In the past our greatest problem has been anglers not passing the boat inspection when they win in an hourly. If any rule or regulation has been violated this will result in a disqualification. When you come to the weigh-in you must have a valid Texas fishing license. Your boat cannot exceed the horsepower rating and boat registration must be current. No alcoholic beverages can be in the boat. You must have a functioning kill switch. U.S Coast Guard approved life jackets are required for each person in the boat and life jackets must

be worn at all times while main engine is in use. All boats must have a throw cushion in the boat. This is not only a tournament rule but a Texas State Law. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or adult with written parental permission. Each angler can only have 3 fish in their possession at one time. It can be 2 under 16" and 1 over 24" or 3 unders. All anglers in the boat must be a paid entry and have a means of keeping their fish separated from other anglers in the boat. All State and Federal penal code laws shall apply at all times. All State, Coast Guard, Federal Parks & Wildlife regulations apply at all times. All decisions of the Tournament Director are FINAL. All protests must be registered in writing with the Tournament staff within 15 minutes of the designated weigh-in. The lake is off limits from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. the evenings prior to tournament fishing days.

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, 903-383-7748, or email me: fishnews@lakefork.net



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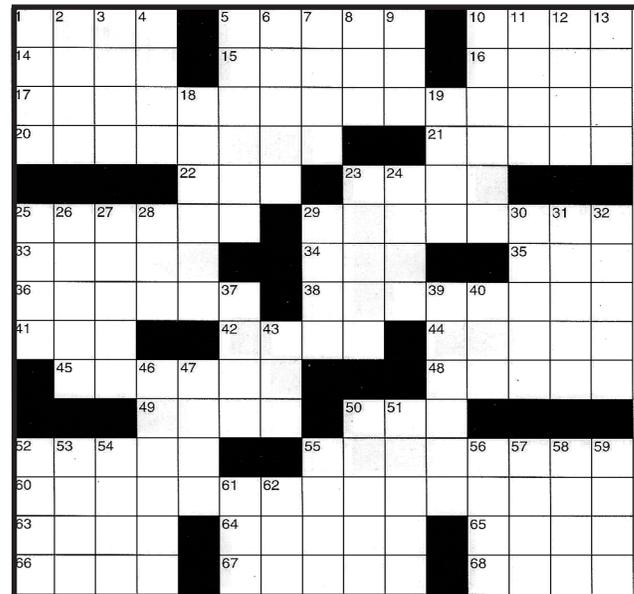
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Summer is just around the corner

By David Ozio

"I can't believe it, summer is right around the corner and the stepping stone to that dream is the month of May. As far as I'm concerned, it can't come soon enough for me. This spring has left many a guide scratching their head in wonderment trying to figure out what the weather and the lake will deal us next. The latest curve ball as of this writing has the lake rising seven plus feet in a very short period of time. This has meant that the fish have more territory to roam and have scattered. Most guide days have been one fish here and maybe a couple of others there. Now that Fork is almost full pool, May will stabilize this awesome pond and the bass will get back to their normal patterns for this time of the year.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Stated firmly, in a way
- 5. Former Turkish silver coin
- 10. Foolish or stupid
- 14. Socks
- 15. Light brown
- 16. Capital of Norway
- 17. Margaret Cho, for one
- 20. Medical practitioners
- 21. Saturates
- 22. Diamond or ruby
- 23. Feel antipathy toward
- 25. Girdles
- 29. Abeyances
- 33. Songs
- 34. Valuable mineral
- 35. Malaysian isthmus
- 36. Distant in space, time or nature
- 38. Process of exposing to air (so as to purify)
- 41. O.J. trial evidence
- 42. Database management system (abbr.)
- 44. Meaning of a word or expression
- 45. _____ Gibson, tennis champ
- 48. Falcon
- 49. Broadway musical in the 1990s
- 50. Monetary unit of Romania
- 52. Monetary unit of Iraq
- 55. Aromatic potherb
- 60. Words said with a sigh
- 63. _____ Frank's diary
- 64. Hippolyte _____, French historian
- 65. Equivalent
- 66. Decagrams
- 67. Lambs (British)
- 68. Thick piece

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Stress disorder (abbr.)
- 2. Immediately past, used of people
- 3. Abba _____, Israeli politician
- 4. Force
- 5. Maltreatments
- 6. Ninth month (abbr.)
- 7. Photographs (slang)
- 8. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 9. Radioactivity unit
- 10. Extinct birds
- 11. Continent
- 12. Intense criticism (informal)
- 13. Mass
- 18. Convert food into absorbable substances
- 19. This (Spanish)
- 23. Not theres
- 24. Shrub genus
- 25. Calcedony
- 26. Where sports events take place
- 27. East Indian silk cotton tree
- 28. Vietnamese monetary unit
- 29. Wander
- 30. Smooth, shiny lizard
- 31. Uneven, as if gnawed away
- 32. More lucid
- 37. Paradise
- 39. Calm down, in a way
- 40. Green or black _____
- 43. Cricket or baseball _____
- 46. Outlines
- 47. Queen of the gods
- 50. R.D. _____, psychologist
- 51. Sea eagles
- 52. Pair
- 53. Private school in New York
- 54. Tai
- 55. Branchlet
- 56. Current units
- 57. Celt
- 58. Evergreen trees and shrubs/ having oily, one-seeded fruits
- 59. Mediation council (abbr.)
- 61. Last in an infinite series
- 62. Religion

Answers on Page 21-A

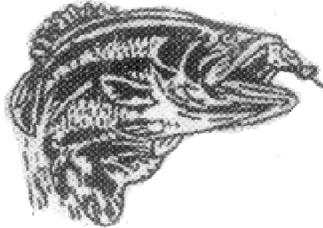
The thing I love most about May is the number of patterns that will come into play dealing with pre and post spawn bass. The first couple of weeks should have some post spawn fish moving back and holding on wood before moving out to their summer haunts. Pitching a baby brush hog under a 5/16oz weight usually gets the job done in a timely manner but the only problem with this scenario this year will be the lake level. Many of the big stumps will now be covered with water and difficult to pitch. The jury is out on how that pattern plays out. The crankbait will be the next "go to" pattern as we search out huge females moving back to deep water and positioning themselves for the long summer ahead. The trusty 10XD will be the bait of choice either cast or long lined on deep sloping humps, ridges and road beds. Any of these patterns offer the angler an opportunity to cash in on a trophy of a lifetime as the bass start to congregate in the 20 to 25ft ranges. I throw these large crankbaits on an 8ft rod which makes the job much easier. Barfish and shad patterns work well and the key is to get the bait dredging the bottom.

Big swimbaits will also play a role in the search for the green giants. Tactics will change as you will need a one ounce head on the large shad



imitations and plan to swim these very close to the bottom in the same areas that you would hurl the crankbaits. It is also a great choice to chunk these large swimbaits at the bank and swim them back out through 10ft. Water temps in the mid to upper 70's will hold a large amount of fish close to the bank feeding on spawning bream. The remaining patterns focus on top water action, frogs and Carolina rigs. Look for main lake points to work a Zara Spook shallow or a C-rig out deep. The backs of creeks will offer the frog action in and around lily pads. As the bream start to spawn, the frog bite will take center stage. Black, white

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



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Colorful Blooms Decorate Texas State Parks

Texas State Parks have gone Technicolor this spring; rolling waves of bright blue, deep red and rich yellow blanket Texas' hills and plains.

Texas is blessed with more than 5,000 species of wildflowers and this spring has seen a proliferation of wildflower populations.

"More and more, visitors are reporting this spring is a much better wildflower season than they've seen in years," said Paul Hendrix, the assistant park superintendent at Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site.

Hendrix said LBJ has seen an abundance of Texas bluebonnets along the park trails,

with a good mix of Indian paintbrush and Engelmann daisy.

More than 90 Texas State Parks present some of the best and safest places to view and photograph nature's bounty of wildflowers and blooming shrubs and trees.

In Central Texas state parks, visitors can expect to see bluebonnets, Engelmann daisies, beeblossoms, Carolina woollywhites, blue-eyed grass, Texas yellowstars, Dakota vervain, Drummond's skullcaps, four-nerved daisies and plateau bladderpods.

From parks in south central Texas to the coast, a multicolored

blanket of wildflower species has erupted. A checklist of colorful blooms on the landscape includes: light blue sandyland bluebonnets, Indian paintbrushes, green milkweed, winecups, longbract wild indigos, Texas vervains, sandhill woollywhites, blue-eyed grass, spider lilies, white prickly-poppies, spiderworts, prairie bluets, showy primroses, puccoons and coralbeans.

In East Texas parks, rampant Texas ground-sels blanket sandy fields and post oak savannahs. Flowering eastern shrubs and

(See Colorful Blooms... Continued on Page 19-A)



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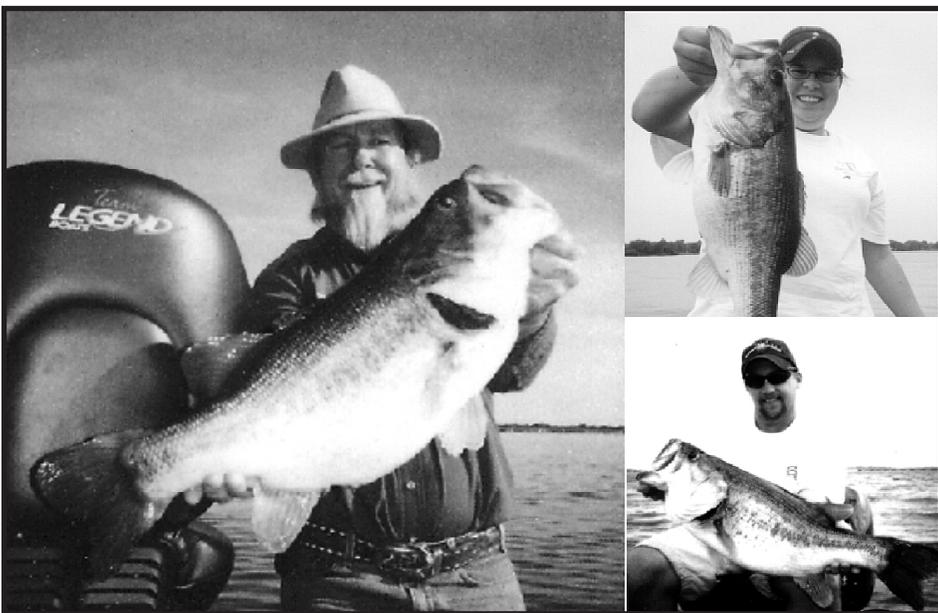


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"The Moon Report"
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By Terri Moon

I must say this year's spawn sure has me scratching my head! It's still going on – you haven't missed it! The females we're catching in 20 ft. are still loaded with eggs. They are just now getting ready to drop them. The males have been in and out of the shallows – but not holding there. They just won't commit!!

They have been dealing with fluctuating water temperatures and rising water levels. Less than two months ago we were at over 7 ft. low and as of today, Fork was .20 ft. low. So these have been major changes for the fish and us to deal with! It's been a long time since we've seen Fork this full. It's a beautiful sight! May and June has always been my favorite time to fish for crappie – so with the spawn running behind, I think we are going to be in for a lot of fun!

The shallow crappie we've been catch-



ing have been in 1 to 2 ft. at the edges of the grass in the backs of the coves. We are using slip bobbers with minnows or Bobby Garland jigs in blue/chartreuse or thread-fin shad. We're also catching some on road runners with Lake Fork Tackle's live baby shad in bluegrass or electric chicken across spawning flats. As the females move in, target 5 to 12 ft. depths.

What I'm most excited about is that the bream are starting to "stage in". We've caught some nice ones on jigs in 16 ft. depths around the timber. We've just needed to have the water temperatures to reach the 70's to get these crappie to move in and finish their spawn. The next full moon should be crazy up shallow. This time of year you never know what you're gonna catch!!!

Please be cautious out there with the new lake levels. There are "Lunker Stumps" just under the surface so when in doubt – idle!!

Happy Mother's Day to you all out there and especially to mine! Also, want to wish my mom a "Happy 85th Birthday" this month and wishing her "all the best" with love!

Many blessings to ALL!!

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Bill Dickert, Lake Fork, with son in law Paul and grandson Walker Paschall, Weatherford, TX.,



Tim, Tammy, Trevor, Taylor, Tobie from Midlothian, TX.,



Rick Buzzard from Dallas, TX.,



Lynn Roller from Fort Worth, TX.,



Kent Pollard from Duncanville, TX.,



Jake Forbes, Midlothian, TX., with Grandpa Bob from MO.,



Richard Aaron, Ft Worth w/dad Dale, Arlington, TX.,



Walter Paschall from Weatherford, TX.,



Tom Larkin from Addison, TX.,



Randy & Valerie Horne from Boyd, TX.,



Bobby & Leann Rice from Fort Worth, TX.,



Bill Dickert from Lake Fork, TX.,



Bobby & leann Rice, Lynn Roller, from Fort Worth, TX.,
Audie Long & Buddy Vick from Dallas, TX.,



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Greg Joseph from Oklahoma was 'Bassin With Bubba' Lake Fork style on April 24th when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R. (Bassin' With Bubba Photo)



Kenny Waters from Spring, Texas was 'Bassin With Bubba' Lake Fork style on April 24th when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R. (Bassin' With Bubba Photo)



Greg Sammons from Spring, Texas was 'Bassin With Bubba' Lake Fork style on April 23rd when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R. (Bassin' With Bubba Photo)

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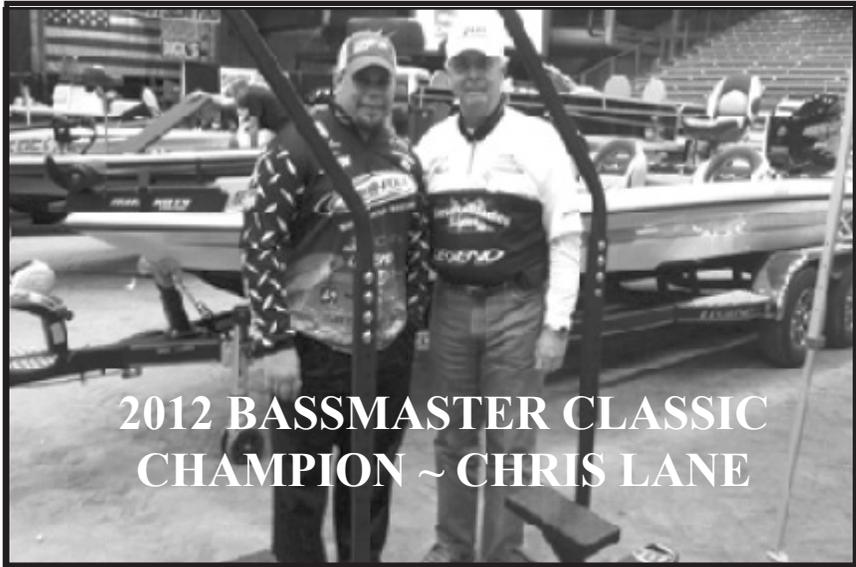
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Deepwater Horizon Trustees Announce Agreement in Principle for Next 10 Early Restoration Projects

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees (Trustees) recently announced another milestone in Gulf of Mexico early restoration.

The Trustees and BP have identified approximately \$134 million in proposed early restoration projects for inclusion in a draft Phase IV Early Restoration Plan. Two of the projects would enhance bird nesting habitat, one project would provide protection to sea turtles and enhance sea turtle nesting, four projects would improve near-shore and reef habitats, two projects would increase recreation opportunities on federal lands, and one project would restore fish. The project names are listed here with additional information provided at the end of this document:

- Osprey Restoration in Coastal Alabama - Baldwin and Mobile Counties, Alabama
- Point aux Pins Living Shoreline - Mobile County, Alabama
- Shell Belt and Coden Belt Roads Living Shoreline - Mobile County, Alabama
- Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement - Alabama
- Seagrass Recovery Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore - Florida District
- Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancements at Davis Bayou, Gulf Islands National Seashore - Mis-

issippi District

- Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries - Coastal Mississippi
- Texas Bird Rookery Islands Project - Galveston Bay and East Matagorda Bay, Texas
- Sea Turtle Early Restoration Project - Gulf of Mexico
- Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction Project - Gulf of Mexico

Early restoration allows the Trustees to jumpstart restoration using up to \$1 billion BP has agreed to make available for projects jointly agreed to by BP and the Trustees. In return, BP's liability is reduced.

The Trustees anticipate including these 10 projects in a draft Phase IV Early Restoration Plan that will be made available for public review and comment. Thus far, the Trustees have approved three phases of early restoration, with a combined total of 54 projects and an estimated cost of \$698 million. If the latest round of identified projects are approved and funded, approximately \$832 million of the \$1 billion will be obligated.

More information about the first three phases of early restoration can be found at www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov.

Notification about a draft plan, the public comment period, and public meeting dates and loca-

tions will also be posted when the information becomes available.

Early restoration is not intended to provide the full extent of restoration needed to satisfy the Trustees' claims against BP. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment and restoration will continue until the public is fully compensated for the natural resources and services that were lost as a result of the spill. The proposed projects are described below:

Osprey Restoration Project in Coastal Alabama - Baldwin and Mobile Counties, Alabama

The proposed Osprey Restoration in Coastal Alabama project would improve osprey nesting success by establishing five osprey nesting platforms, with predator guards on each. The specific locations and design of these nesting platforms would be developed to maximize project success and meet regulatory requirements. Five general areas have been identified for the location of these platforms: the vicinities of Portersville Bay, Dauphin Island, Fort Morgan, the Little Lagoon area in Gulf Shores and in Gulf State Park. The estimated cost for this project is \$45,000.

Point aux Pins Living Shoreline - Mobile County, Alabama

The proposed Point aux Pins Living Shoreline
(See *Deepwater Horizon....Continued on Page 16-A*)

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Toyota Texas Bass Classic Announces Final Field *(Continued from Page 1-A)*

was broken eight times in the final round of the 2014 TTBC.

Keith Combs, the new title holder, reeled in a three-day weight of 110 pounds (15 fish). That broke the existing record by 26 pounds, 11 ounces. Additionally, two of the anglers - Combs and Stetson Blaylock -- entered the Century Club (more than 100 pounds). That had never happened at a three-day tour event.

"We were proud to see the record-setting fish catches at the 2014 event," said TPWD's Dave Terre. "Those

catches were a direct result of our progressive fisheries management practices, including special fishing regulations, fish stocking, and fish-habitat improvements with the Sabine River Authority. This tournament, including its unique catch-weigh-immediate release format, gives us the opportunity to show the world just how good Lake Fork really is. We are thankful for the opportunity to do this again in 2015 and also for all the benefits this event provides to TPWD."

Over the last eight years, the TTBC has donated

more than \$2 million to TPWD, an effort that will continue in 2015.

Along with the coveted title of TTBC Champion, the anglers will be battling it out for two additional awards: the Toyota Tundra Big Bass Award and the LEER Heavy Weight Award. The Toyota Tundra Big Bass Award is new to the 2015 event. The angler who catches the single heaviest fish from any of the three days of the competition will win a 2015 Toyota Tundra. The angler with the heaviest total weight of fish from any of the three days of the tournament will win a LEER truck cap.

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2015 Toyota Texas Bass Classic final field:

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|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Matt Arey | Shelby, North Carolina |
| Casey Ashley | Donalds, South Carolina |
| Jason Christie | Park Hill, Oklahoma |
| Keith Combs | Huntington, Texas |
| John Crews | Salem, Virginia |
| Mark Davis | Mount Ida, Arkansas |
| Brent Ehrler | Redlands, California |
| Todd Faircloth | Jasper, Texas |
| Shinichi Fukae | Palestine, Texas |
| Greg Hackney | Gonzales, Louisiana |
| Matthew Herren | Trussville, Alabama |
| Brett Hite | Phoenix, Arizona |
| Mike Iaconelli | Runnemede, New Jersey |
| Kelly Jordon | Mineola, Texas |
| Chris Lane | Guntersville, Alabama |
| Jared Lintner | Arroyo Grande, California |
| Justin Lucas | Guntersville, Alabama |
| Aaron Martens | Leeds, Alabama |
| Scott Martin | Clewiston, Florida |
| Cody Meyer | Auburn, California |
| Andy Morgan | Dayton, Tennessee |
| Chad Morgenthaler | Coulterville, Illinois |
| Michael Neal | Dayton, Tennessee |
| Brandon Palaniuk | Rathdrum, Idaho |
| Jacob Powroznik | Port Haywood, Virginia |
| Dean Rojas | Lake Havasu, Arizona |
| Mark Rose | West Memphis, Arkansas |
| Shad Scheneck | Waynetown, Indiana |
| Terry Scroggins | Palatka, Florida |
| Wesley Strader | Spring City, Tennessee |
| Gerald Swindle | Warrior, Alabama |
| Randall Tharp | Port Saint Joe, Florida |
| Bryan Thrift | Shelby, North Carolina |
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Charity: Proceeds benefit the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. For more information visit the Texas Parks & Wildlife page. www.tpwd.state.tx.us



Kade Highfill caught this nice Lake Fork crappie that weighed 2.3-lbs. Released to the Grease! (Courtesy Photo)

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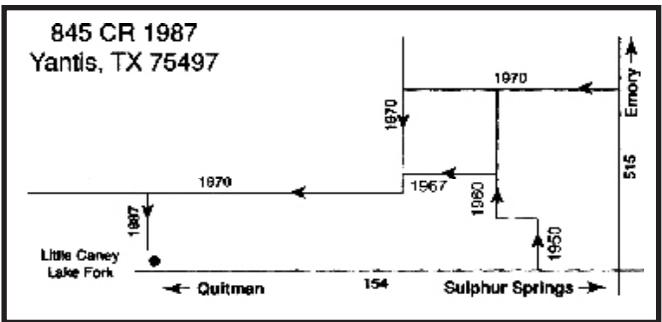
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Deepwater Horizon Trustees Announce Agreement in Principle *(Continued from Page 13-A)*

project would reduce shoreline erosion, promote colonization of marsh vegetation, and create habitat for oysters, shrimp, crabs, fish, and other marine animals in coastal Alabama. The living shoreline would be constructed by placing structures designed to reduce wave energy parallel to the shore near Bayou la Batre, at Point aux Pins. The living shoreline would be located adjacent to an existing living shoreline project implemented by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The estimated cost for this project is \$2,300,000.

Shell Belt and Coden Belt Roads Living Shoreline - Mobile County, Alabama

The proposed Shell Belt and Coden Belt Roads Living Shoreline project would promote colonization of marsh vegetation and create habitat for oysters, shrimp, crabs, fish, and other marine animals in coastal Alabama. The living shoreline would be constructed by placing structures designed to reduce wave energy parallel to shore near Shell Belt and Coden Belt roads in south Mobile County. Marsh grasses would be planted between the constructed breakwaters and the shoreline. The breakwaters, while providing habitat themselves, would also reduce wave energy and support the establishment of the planted grasses. The estimated cost for this project is \$8,050,000.

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement Project - Alabama

The proposed Jeff Friend Trail renovation project at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge would address lost recreational use on Department of Interior lands in Alabama. This trail has been a popular destination with winter visitors and local schools since it was built 10 years ago. The project would rebuild the rapidly-aging boardwalk and gravel trail and improve access from the existing parking area. The trail provides convenient access to mature maritime forest and the shores of Little Lagoon. The estimated cost for this project is \$545,110.

Seagrass Recovery Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore - Florida District

The proposed seagrass recovery project at Gulf Islands National Seashore's Florida District would restore shallow seagrass beds in the Florida panhandle. It would restore .02 acres of propeller scars and/or blow holes, primarily in turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*) habitats. Seagrass communities are essential breeding, rearing, and feeding grounds for many important recreational and commercial fisheries as well as wildlife, including the endangered West Indian manatee and various species of sea turtles. The project would be located on the south side of the Naval Live Oaks Pre-

serve in Santa Rosa Sound, Santa Rosa County. The estimated cost for this project is \$136,700.

Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancements at Davis Bayou, Gulf Islands National Seashore - Mississippi District

This proposed project would address lost recreational use on Department of Interior lands in Mississippi by enhancing visitor recreational experiences at Davis Bayou Unit of the National Park Service's Gulf Island National Seashore in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. This park has been surrounded by residential development for decades, and its interior road system is used daily as a shortcut by neighboring residents. There is limited space along the park's roadway for use by pedestrians, joggers, and bicyclists. The roadway would be enhanced for such use within the park. The estimated cost for this project is \$6,967,000. Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries - Coastal Mississippi

The proposed Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries project would restore intertidal and subtidal reefs and use living shoreline techniques in four bays. Projects are proposed in Grand Bay, Graveline Bay, Back Bay of Biloxi and vicinity, and St. Louis Bay, all located in Jackson, Harrison, and Hancock counties.

(Continued on Next Page)

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The proposed project would provide for the construction of more than four miles of breakwaters, five acres of intertidal reef habitat and 267 acres of subtidal reef habitat at eight locations across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The estimated cost for this project is \$30,000,000.

Texas Bird Rookery Islands Project - Galveston Bay and East Matagorda Bay, Texas

The proposed Texas Rookery Islands project would restore and protect three islands in Galveston Bay and one island in East Matagorda Bay within Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge using coastal engineering techniques to construct protective features like rock breakwaters or armoring, which would increase nesting habitat on the islands. The goal is to enhance nesting of colonial waterbirds by increasing the quantity, quality, and longevity of available nesting habitat. This would benefit brown pelicans, gulls, royal and sandwich terns, and wading birds such as great blue herons, roseate spoonbills, reddish egrets, great egrets, snowy egrets, tricolored herons, and black-crowned night herons. The estimated cost for this project is \$20,603,770.

Sea Turtle Early Restoration Project - Gulf of Mexico

This proposed 10-year project includes: increasing Kemp's ridley sea turtle nest detection and nesting success through additional staff, training, and equipment in Texas and Mexico; adding two cabins and two nesting corrals at the National Park Service's Padre Island National Seashore; enhancing

the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network and developing a formal Emergency Response Program; expanding Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl bycatch reduction efforts by adding observer sea-days to increase monitoring of sea turtle bycatch in commercial shrimp trawls and expanding education and outreach efforts to encourage fisher compliance with existing federal turtle excluder device regulations; and enhancing Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fisheries bycatch enforcement in Texas state waters during the Gulf shrimp season. The total estimated cost for this project is \$45,000,000.

Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction Project - Gulf of Mexico

The goal of the proposed Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction Project is to restore open-ocean (pelagic) fish that were affected by the spill. The Gulf pelagic longline (PLL) fishery primarily targets yellowfin tuna and swordfish, but incidental catches and discards of other fish, including marlin,

sharks, bluefin tuna, and smaller individuals of the target species. The project aims to reduce the number of fish accidentally caught and killed in fishing gear by compensating PLL fishermen who agree to voluntarily refrain from PLL fishing in the Gulf during an annual six-month repose period that coincides with

the bluefin tuna spawning season. The project would also provide participating fishermen with two alternative gear types to allow for the continued harvest of yellowfin tuna and swordfish during the repose period when PLL gear is not used.

The estimated cost for this project is \$20,000,000.



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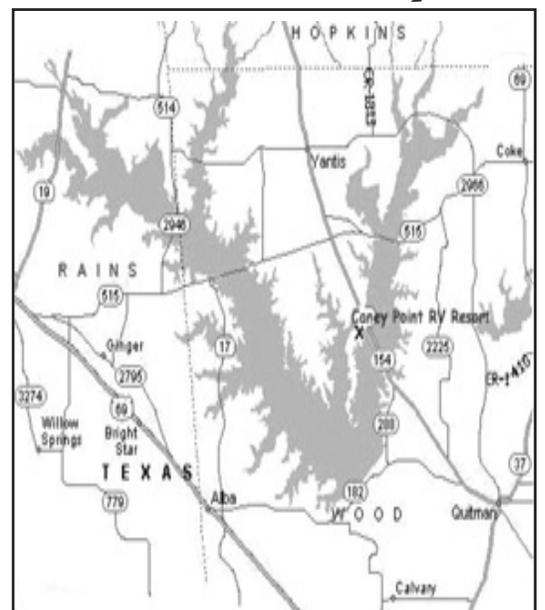
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"Pack of Knowledge" Rising Water Tactics

By Andrew Grills

Over the past month many of our east Texas lakes have received some significant rainfall amounts. Most of the lakes in our area are at full pool, or very close to it for the first time in years. That means there is an abundant supply of flooded vegetation for the bass to hang out in.

While this scenario sounds good, it can be a challenge to figure out the fish after an abrupt change in water level. The fish often spread out,

sometimes into the furthest reaches of the thick cover. Another challenge is the muddy runoff that comes with the heavy rains. Here are some tips that have helped me narrow things down when the lake gets bigger.

The first thing I try to figure out is the location of the bass. If there were a bunch of fish locked onto beds, spawning in an area before the water rose, I probably will scratch that area off my list for a week or so. I believe these fish probably stay with their original beds as long as there is enough sunlight to incubate their eggs. They may or may not move up with the water level. Therefore, I'm going to try to find some more catchable fish.

A great place to look is in an area that was holding prespawn or postspawn fish prior to the change in water level. These fish are more apt to actively feed and take advantage of the added cover. I pick creeks where I had been catching them, and look shallower from there.

Once I am confident that I am around the fish, I like to be prepared for a few techniques. Before the water gets way back into flooded grass or bushes, a moving bait like a spinner bait or chatter bait is a great tool to get a reaction from fish in stained water. If the water rises gradually and is fairly clear, a swim jig is a good bet. Cover-

ing water efficiently is critical with rising water conditions because you have the same amount of fish in more water.

If the water level has reached deep into the flooded cover where it is too thick for moving baits, its time to pull out the flipping stick. Pitching and flipping heavy cover is a favorite technique of many anglers and this is the perfect time to do it. I like to take a pegged Texas rigged plastic and pitch it into the thickest stuff I can find. Using the appropriate weight for the cover you're fishing is important, and that will vary. A good sized weight to start with is a 3/8oz.

When flipping vegetation, I like to fish slow but fast. By that I mean I will make a lot of pitches in a short amount of time, but when my bait is in the water I'm barely moving it. This is a vertical presentation, so once my bait is on the bottom, I'm not dragging it back through the slop. A couple twitches is sufficient. The goal is to drop the bait in front of a fish and get a reaction bite.

The best thing about high water in the spring is that it provides a great source of cover and protection for spawning fish and their fry. With so much flooded cover in our lakes this spring, we should see good fishing in the next few years here in east Texas.



*Andrew Grills
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Colorful Blooms Decorate Texas State Parks *(Continued from Page 7-A)*

trees include rusty blackhaw, redbuds, plums and hawthorns, which flourish in forest and pine savannahs.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department botanist Jason Singhurst attributes much of this increase in the wildflower population across the Texas landscape to ideal growing conditions.

"We've gotten consistent temperatures, ranging from the 50s to the 80s, with none of those spikes we typically see in March, combined with an even moisture regime over the winter that has allowed for broad seed germination," Singhurst said. "It's just a gangbuster year."

In addition to the dominant wildflower species Texans are accustomed to seeing, like bluebonnet and Indian paintbrush, Singhurst said there are still a lot of early successional flowering plants out there that are creating some unique color landscapes in Texas.

"A lot of things are just bolting out," Singhurst said. "It's an unbelievable year for some of those wildflowers we normally see only in small numbers. Hopefully, the monarch butterflies are happy."

For other places to see wildflowers in Texas, check out the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, which as of early April, reported Mexican gold poppy, Texas bluebonnets,

pink evening primrose and gray globemallow, among other species. For up-to-date reports on in-season Texas wildflowers, visit <http://www.wildflower.org/whatsinseason/>. The Texas Department of Transportation also offers maps of wildflower sightings across the state at <http://www.txdot.gov/driver/travel/maps.html>.

In addition, the TPWD Pinterest page is regularly updated with wildflower sightings from several parks across the state, including Big Bend Ranch State Park, Franklin Mountains State Park, Brazos Bend State Park and Inks Lake State Park.

Park visitors can share

their wildflower pictures--and see what's blooming around the state--on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Instagram, Facebook and Twitter accounts: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/socialmedia/>.

Check out the Pinterest board at <https://www.pinterest.com/texasparks/where-to-see-wildflowers/>

Recent sightings reported by TPWD staff in Texas State Parks include:

--Big Bend Ranch State Park - Claret cup cactus and prickly pear blooms have sprung up

all over the park. --Martin Dies, Jr. State Park - Dogwood and wild azaleas are in full bloom.

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Summer is just around the corner (Continued from Page 6-A)

or bream colors will give you the best chance to tag a trophy. Flooded bank grass also offers great cover for the bass and the frog is the ticket for strikes of a lifetime.

The latter part of the month will see the bass start to group up on deep structure, points, ridges and road beds. This is when I love to work the drop shot and the Zoom Trick worm handles the work load. Redbug is my first choice in color then watermelon candy red follows. You can rig it Texas style or wacky if the bottom is clean. My Lowrance electronics reveal the position of these fish and afford me the luxury of placing the casts directly

into the strike zone.

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 and some in June. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LakeForkGuideDavidOzio>. I run a Skeeter FX with a Yamaha 250SHO and would like to thank Skeeter for making my office on the lake the best in the country. I would also like to thank G-Loomis, Shimano and Talon Lures for making my job the blast that it is. A special shout out to Nautical Mile 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."

Help Us To Be The Best... Plan Your Trips To Lake Fork With "The Fisherman's Guide News" News or Photos Send to fishnews@lakefork.net or call: 903-383-7748 or 903-360-6994

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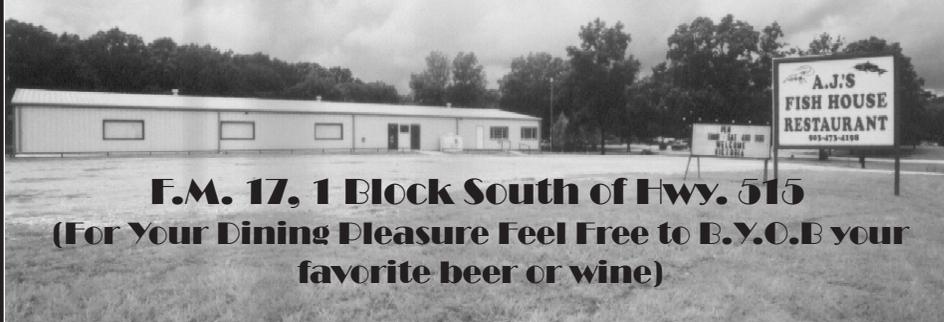
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Brookshires and TPWD Team Up at TTBC

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) has partnered with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) for the past 9 consecutive years to bring the best anglers, biggest country music stars and most exciting family fun to Texas. This Memorial Day Weekend the celebration is taking place on Lake Fork in Quitman, Texas May 23-25, 2015.

TPWD is a national leader in caring for the fish and fisheries under their stewardship, and the catch-weigh-and-immediate release practice of the Toyota Texas Bass Classic tournament exemplifies that. As the official charity partner, the TPWD annually receives a \$250,000 donation from the Tournament; the grand total to date is \$2.25 Million. These donations go to help further the TPWD programs which help conservation education and youth awareness offerings throughout the state of Texas.

Adding to the on-site activities will be the Brookshire's Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Adventures Area. Since Brookshire's opening in 1928 they have been committed to getting involved in local communities. This year at TTBC the Brookshire's Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Ad-

ventures Area will feature, kid-friendly activities that emphasize TPWD's youth fishing programs, including archery, Fish Art, Habitat Puzzles, Habitat Building Program and a host of outdoor themed educational and interactive exhibits.

With great concerts, world class fishing and

awesome activities, TTBC is the place to go for a full weekend of family fun this Memorial Day. TTBC fans can purchase tickets online at ToyotaTexasBassClassic.com or by visiting their local Brookshire's Store, Kim's Convenient Stores, and participating Toyota Dealers.

Just The Right Answers

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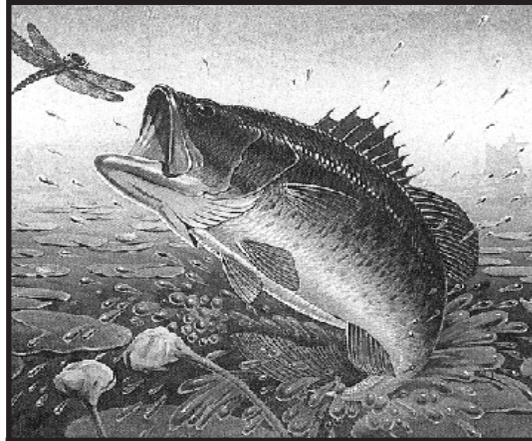
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52	D	I	N	A	R	T	A	R	R	A	G	O	N		
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63	A	N	N	E	T	A	I	N	E	P	E	E	R		
66	D	A	G	S	H	O	G	G	S	S	L	A	B		

Sports Find

The names of 14 pieces of sports equipment are hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| BAT | HOCKEY STICK |
| BIRDIE | ICE SKATE |
| CLEATS | MITT |
| CROSSE | NET |
| FOOTBALL | PUCK |
| GOLF CLUB | RACKET |
| HELMET | TEE |

I R P U K I T S Y E K C
 E M I T T O O F K C A R
 S C K A C K E R E L I O
 E L C B U L C F L O G S
 K C I A T E F O O A L S
 E E T S E T P O C T F E
 I T S C L E A T S R C R
 T O Y E M I T B A S L T
 T I E T E S R A T S U C
 Y E K E H O C L R T S R
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 O G O F L C P U B R I S
 C R H E M E U T B A D E
 K E C L E B C R N L R O
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 Y T A K S C I T T L B E



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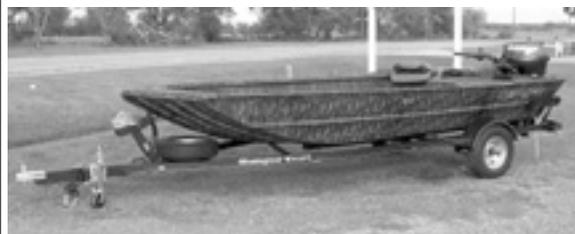
2014
Ranger
Z520C



2014
Triton
20XS



(2) 2014
Triton
18XS



2014
Ranger
MPV 1652



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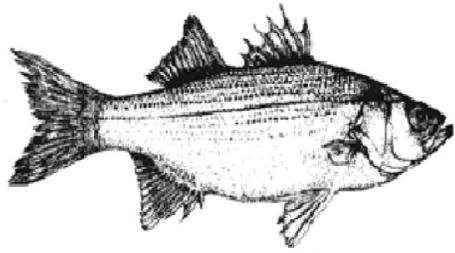
Youth, Beginners, Experts Welcome

"Let's Go Fishing!"

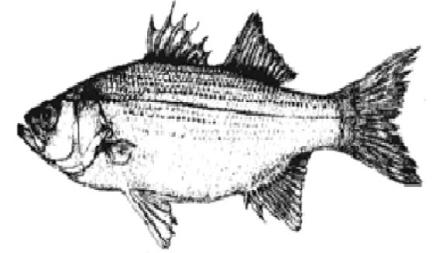
Email: rloomis@peoplescom.net

903-383-3050





Hook N' Cook Sand Bass Tournament



Saturday, August 8, 2015

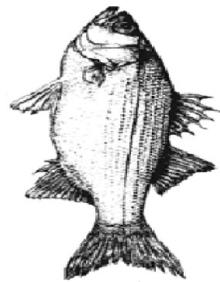
Benefitting "The Wish To Fish Foundation"

Tournament Headquarters: Fisherman's One Stop • Hwy 515 CR 1970

Tournament Committee: Don Bubba Hampton, Scott Fruge

Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries
Drawings will be held after weigh-in for door prizes

1st Place	\$600.00
2nd Place	\$500.00
3rd Place	\$400.00
4th Place	\$300.00
5th Place	\$200.00



There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry
Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)

1st Place	\$500.00
2nd Place	\$300.00
3rd Place	\$200.00



**Entry Includes Free Fish Fry With All The Fixins' Starting at 5 P.M.
Bring The Family & BYOB • Donations Accepted For W.T.F.F.**

Fishing Hours: 6 A.M. to 12 P.M. Weigh-In Between 12 & 1 P.M. Must Be In Line By 1 P.M.

1. Entry fee is \$25.00.
2. Early entries optional (No Discount)
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, 2015.
4. Sign Up: Friday, Aug. 7, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 8, 5 a.m. to 5:30 a.m. at Fisherman's One Stop.
5. Tournament is open to any person with a Valid Texas Fishing License. Minors can compete but must have signed release form.
6. All State and Local Laws Apply.
7. No alcohol or drugs allowed during tournament hours.
8. Trailering is allowed.
9. Iced Fish Will Be Allowed.
10. Trolling with big motor is allowed.
11. Each contestant may weigh-in only 5 fish.
12. 10" Minimum Length. Live bait is allowed.
13. No pooling of fish, all persons in boat must be paid entry.
14. Contestants can only fish with as many rods as they can.
15. Contestants must agree to submit to a polygraph.
16. Tournament Director & Committee Decisions Are Final.
17. Mail in entries must be received by July 31, 2015
18. All fish become property of tournament to be fried.

Entry Application

Entry fee of \$25 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before July 31, 2015 to Wish To Fish Foundation, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$25 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Sandie (optional). Print clearly. No Checks Accepted at Tournament Sign In.

Name _____ Email _____

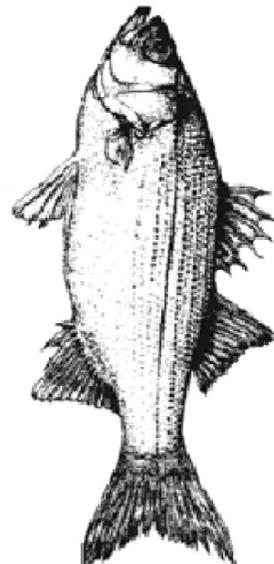
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Having read and understood the tournament rules, by my signature I agree to accept all decisions of the judges as final. By my signature I waive, release and hold harmless all members, officials and sponsors of any and all alleged liabilities to me and/or my equipment.

Contestant Signature _____

Minor's release: Signed by _____ Parent/Guardian



Wish To Fish Use Only

Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Sandie _____

Cash _____ Ck# _____



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 • 5TH - \$175 • 6TH - \$150 • 7TH - \$125 • 1ST OUT OF 7TH \$100 GC**

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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, 2015. "Legend Advantage Members Win Double Hourly Cash Awards"

