LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



"In Loving Memory" He Will Be Missed



Keith Blair, Owner/Founder of Lake Fork Marina passed away on Monday, October 12, 2015 from heart failure.

Keith Blair was born in Clovis, New Mexico in 1939. He lived all of his young life in Clovis and graduated from Clovis High School in 1957. He married Darla Baker in June of 1960 and graduated from West Texas State University in 1961, where he played basketball for four years.

He served in the U.S. Army on active duty for two years and in the reserves for four years. His first coaching job was in Stratford, TX. He then moved to Montrose, CO, where he coached for several years. He also coached and taught at Ridgeway, CO. While there he got involved in farming and ranching. He later moved his family to Las Vegas, NM and then to Dalhart, TX where he farmed and ranched for several years before returning to Clovis, NM where he continued farming operations.

In 1982 he began looking for property at Lake Fork and purchased land in 1983. In March of 1986 he opened Lake Fork Marina & Motel and built a successful business that is still in operation.

Keith was a personable man who loved visiting and discussing fishing with everyone who came in the door of Lake Fork Marina. Some of his fishing stories may have been a little exaggerated, but for the most part he was very knowledgeable and was willing to help anyone needing information. He was also actively involved in his church, First Baptist Church of Alba.

Keith was an avid antique lure collector and thoroughly enjoyed sharing his expertise with others. He thought the best part of owning the marina was making good friends and visiting with everyone.

Keith retired in January of 2007, and thoroughly enjoyed his retirement.





Houston angler, Norman McGillen won over 1,136 anglers at the 10th Annual Berkley Big Bass event on Lake Fork with his heavy bass weighing 9.56-pounds to take home a new Skeeter ZX-200 - Yamaha Rig and \$1,100 in hourly cash.

10th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

The 10th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament presented by Bass Champs, Inc. was held on Lake Fork at Lake Fork Marina on October 17th and 18th. Twenty places per hour for the two days of the tournament were paid for the heaviest bass weighed in during each hour in celebration of their 10th Annual Tournament on Lake Fork. For the angler catching the heaviest bass over the 24" inch slot, that angler was guaranteed to be taking home the grand prize of a 2015 Skeeter ZX 200 powered by a Yamaha 200 SHO, equipped with Humminbird Electronics and Minn-Kota trolling motor. For the heaviest bass under the 16" slot the winner would be acquiring a

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

Bubba Thinks Everyday Should Be Thanksgiving

By Don Hampton

The four most important things in Bubba's life are God, family, country and of course, fishing. Imagine the last one!! I know this to be true because I have seen a sign in his house that reads "Fishing isn't a matter of life or death, it is much more important than that!" Bubba doesn't fish to live, he lives to fish! According to Bubba that is the order of importance in his life. The way he feels, if he loves the first three with all his heart and unwavering dedication, fishing is allowed. Always, no matter how strong the desire to be on the lake, the first three always come first.

In most everyday situations, if you asked Bubba what he would do, unless extremely serious, he would say, "Have a BBQ sandwich, drink a few beers and just celebrate life." If it were a semi-serious situation he would counsel you...saying something like, "Go fishing, relax, give it some thought and the answer will come to you!" In matters of extreme importance he has only one answer, "Trust in God and country, for the Lord helps those who help themselves!" This is probably the best answer anyone could apply to any given situation.

Bubbette has told Bubba many times that he does have a way at times of being painfully honest. Just recently in a conversation he was having with another fellow fisherman he remarked, "I love all bodies of water except those darn pity-puddles. A lot of people swim in them but nothing can survive and prosper in them. They are always filled with selfremorse and pity. People sink into them and expect others to pull them out. At that time they quit helping themselves and just become dependent." To my way of thinking this was the most profound statement I had ever heard from Bubba.

Bubba has a way of comparing life and situations with fishing. He proved this to me by adding, "The only thing you can catch from a pity puddle is blame. People that swim in them want to blame everyone and everything in life for their problems. What people in these puddles need to do is take swimming lessons or grab their ears and pull themselves out." (Well, that is not quite how Bubba said it... he said something about their head being placed in the wrong part of their body, but you get my drift!) Bubba opened my eyes that day and gave me some food for thought that nourished my spirit.

I believe in Bubba's way of thinking. If more people did, the enjoyment of living would be ever present. This shines in Bubba everyday. Whenever you see him he has a smile and happiness to share. As a matter of fact, sometimes he smiles so much people wonder what he's up to!

To Bubba life is not a mystery that he has to go in search for the answer, it is a gift. Every morning when he opens his eyes for another day, it is Thanksgiving and he is thankful for the gift of life.

Maybe we all should make "Thanksgiving" an everyday ritual. "That's what Bubba does!"







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Dage 3-A



"The Fisherman's Guide. News You Can Use"

November

10th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament (Continued from Page 1-A)

equipped with Humminbird Electronics and Minn-Kota trolling motor. The tournament drew

over 1,136 anglers to Lake Fork to compete representing 21 states.

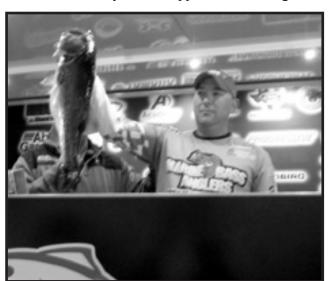
Chad Potts, President of Bass Champs, Inc. stated, "I'm excited to see this event continuing to grow each year. Anglers could not have asked for better weather. It was cool in the early morning hours but turned out to be beautiful days in the upper 70's. I was glad to

2015 Skeeter TZX 190 powered by a Yamaha 150, see we avoided any bad storms, and once again had a great turnout again." Potts continued, "I would like to thank Berkley for their continued support of this event and grass roots tournament anglers. They are a great partner."

> Berkley baits made a great showing on Lake Fork especially with the introduction of their new line of hard baits. Mother Nature was kind enough to keep the rain away during the course of the event but she did hit with windy conditions and cool temperatures.

With these conditions plus the bass recovering from the lake turning over this became quite evident when the larger bass this reservoir is known for did not show up at the scales. On the first day only two bass over the 24" slot came to the scales, but there were a lot of 1 and 2-pounders. Anglers were able to fish the main points and deep structure of the open lake without being tossed but the large bass remained illusive. Only four bass over the Lake Fork 24" slot were weighed in

(See Berkley Big Bass...... Continued on Next Page)



first over the slot bass to the scales the first hour of the tournament weighing 8.78-lbs.



Rob Richards from Spring, TX brought the Rene Leal from Balch Springs, TX brought the second over the slot bass to the scales during the tournament weighing 8.77-lbs.



Richard Turner from Carthage, TX came close to winning heaviest bass over the slot when he brought this 9.46-lb. bass to the scales.





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Page 5-A

during the course of the tournament. More than a few anglers reported their hearts being broken by bass that didn't quite reach the 24-inch mark or exceeded the 16-inch mark.

The winning bass under the slot was weighed in on the first day of the tournament. Kent Skoglund from Tioga, Texas brought his catch weighing 2.86-pounds to the scale in hopes that it would hold up for the grand prize for the heaviest bass under 16-inches. He weighed his winning fish in on Saturday during the



Kent Skoglund from Tioga, TX weighed in the prize winning bass under the slot of 2.86-lbs. during the 12 o'clock hour on Saturday.

12 o'clock weigh-in hour. "I think the last few hours of the tournament hoping my fish would hold up as the heaviest under the slot, was the longest hours of my life," said Kent. His fish held up as the heaviest bass under the slot winning him not only the 1st Place check of \$1,000 for the hour but also a Skeeter 2015 TZX 190 powered by a Yamaha 150, Humminbird Electronics and Minn-Kota trolling motor.

The heaviest bass over the slot was caught by Norman McGillan from Houston, Texas weighing 9.56-pounds. "This is the first bass tournament I've ever fished. My buddy talked me into coming and fishing with him and now I'm glad I did. I'll be fishing more in the future!" said McGillan. His catch won him \$1,000 in the hour, \$100 for the BioBor and the grand prize of a 2015 Skeeter ZX 200 powered by a Yamaha 200 SHO, and equipped with Humminbird Electronics and MinnKota trolling motor. Andrew Marks of Berkley addressed the crowd before the presentation of the checks and prizes, and thanked everyone for their continued support of this event and for choosing Berkley/Sebile products for their fishing needs. Marks stated," This event is always a learning experience for us. The feedback we receive helps us with product development, research and marketing. It also gives us a clearer idea of what our customers want from Berkley in the future. We look forward to seeing everyone next year."

Highlights of the tournament will be recapped on the WFN Network. For show times, follow the WFN link on www.Bass-Champs.com



The Grand Saline High School Fishing Team did an excellent job of transporting the bass from the weigh-in to the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association Live Release Boat keeping them alive and healthy to be released back into the lake.



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Time To Sack Some Lake Fork Giants

By David Ozio

CLUES ACROSS

19. Fern seed, for one

23. Places to stay

Ancient Gree
Italian Island

27. Torment

23. Flaces to stay24. Sped25. Nucleotide, abbr.

32. Cyprinids36. Ancient Greek City

CLUES DOWN

1. Kind of church 2. Field (Spanish)

10. Vipers 11. Cabbage, for one

. author

12. A wading bird 13. They ____ 21. Station 22. Russell __, aut

3. Inclined

14. Straiten 15. Strain

"Here we go fishing fans, November is here and it's time to sack some giants. Cooler weather is upon us here at Lake Fork and this means water temps are falling sending bass into a feeding frenzy. The lake turnover is now complete and bass know winter is just around the corner and putting on some weight is the first order of business before their metabolism plays hide and seek with them until spring. Now that you understand what's about to transpire, let's address the best strategy to bagging a trophy of a lifetime.

the recent rains. Water clarity ranges from somewhat clear down south to very stained in the backs of the main creeks that feed the lake. How you

approach the bass will depend upon where you prefer to fish and how far down in the water you can see your lure before it disappears. With this in mind, the shallow bite is ramping up and big bass can be caught in all parts of the lake. Let's start the morning searching for top water fish. Shallow vegetation is key to your success and now that the water is back up, bank grass, milfoil, alligator grass and hydrilla will dominate the skinny water. In extreme off color water, use a noisy bait that stirs up the water. Prop baits are excellent choices in this case. If the water is only slightly stained in the backs of the creeks and pockets, tie on a The lake is in excellent condition especially with Zara Spook, Yellow Magic or a Sammy and start covering water. Shad are also moving to the backs of these areas and big bass are right on their tail. Focus on using shad colors on most any lure you throw and hang on for some jolting strikes. Pick out secondary points or small points of vegetation. All should hold fish. Also, don't be afraid to chunk a Spro frog around any vegetation you encounter. Huge bass can't resist the way they move through the water.

> As the sun eases it's way higher into the sky, switch your strategy to baits that descend into the water column. If the water is heavily stained, throw the chatterbait, spinnerbait or squarebill in the same areas. If the water is slightly stained, use



a five inch swimbait, swimjig or chatterbait. Hydrilla or milfoil will change the game slightly, use a lipless crankbait and key on the outer edges of the grass. As the water temps degrades throughout the month, switch your lipless colors to gold or red. Now that you have photo's of several great fish during the morning, migrate your way out to deep water and graph the usual haunts, humps, ridges, roadbeds and structure. Fall on Fork has always been great fishing for these patterns during the afternoon hours. Flutter spoons, jigging spoons, Carolina rigs, drop shots and football jigs will be the "go to" baits when you locate bass stacked up on any of these features. Pitch out a



Dage 7-A

Texas Game Wardens, Leon County Sheriff's Office Put Stop to Mass Poaching Rampage

outlaw road hunt- have been charged ing rampage in Leon in the illegal killing County this summer that state game wardens are categorizing as one of the most egregious poaching cases on record in Texas has come to an tion of public and priend.

Four adults and two juveniles are facing to have used various jail felony and Class A misdemeanor wildming from a surreal on a public roadway chain of poaching events between June 4 and August 29. While owner consent. Game investigators suspect wardens confiscated the toll on wildlife nine firearms rangand property is likely ing from .17 HMR

A three-month-long greater, the suspects of at least 68 whitetailed deer, numerous other wildlife species and livestock, and the indiscriminate and widespread destrucvate property.

The group is alleged more than 175 state firearms at night to shoot wildlife, livestock and property life violations stem- from a motor vehicle and on private property without land-

to .270, including a .22 rimfire rifle fitted with a homemade suppressor.

The majority of the deer shot illegally were scattered from Jewett, in northwestern Leon County, to Leona, located in southeastern Leon County. Centerville was a midpoint between the two outlying communities and was nearest the majority of the wildlife violations, with more than a dozen deer shot from the feeder road along I-45 alone.

While some of the

Trips

(See Mass Poaching.... Continued on Page 11-A)



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"The Moon Report" November Lake Fork on

By Terri Moon

I first want to send my heartfelt "thoughts and prayers" to all the Blair family for the shocking sudden loss of a dear friend. Keith Blair - the Patriarch and founder of the nicest facility on Lake Fork – "Lake Fork Marina." Keith and my husband Jerry sparked an instant friendship when we moved here in 1991. The friendship evolved to more like family as the years passed. Keith was always there for us for every setback Jerry had with his health. after Then Jerrv passed, Keith would always call and check on me to make sure I was doing ok. The Blairs have meant so much to us over the years. He will be truly missed by so many!

I also want to send thoughts & prayers to the Donahue family. Ken lost his mother Martha the next day after losing Keith. So, its been a really tough month for Lake Fork Marina. I hope you will keep them all in



November

your prayers! I wish them many blessings in the days ahead.

Well I must say there has been a bright spot to this month and that Live Baby Shad in is the crappie have finally started into their fall pattern which has been very exciting! They are starting to bunch up and they are hungry! We've been catching them 16 to 24 ft. in 20 to 30 ft. of water. Just keep an eye on that depth finder because their depth will change throughout the day. The falling water temperatures have really got them going! There are still some areas of the lake that you'll notice a lot of brown bubbles and that's the lake turning over. So, you might want to check other areas of the lake where oxygen levels are better

The baits that have been working for us have been Bobby Garland's Black Gum, Lake Fork Tackle's blue and pearl and for those of you that like the feather jigs, Bubba's Baits in grey with blue tail have been producing.

So for those of you needing to do some holiday shopping, November is the month to head to Lake Fork Marina. Its customer appreciation month - 25% off all tackle, gifts and apparel plus \$50 room rates! So, it's a great time to stock up on all your fishing needs!

Wishing you all the best!

Practice C.P.R. Help Keep Our Lake Clean



Outlook Promising for Texas Deer Season

Hunters should expect the 2015-16 Texas whitetailed deer season to be one of the best in years as timely rainfall and mild weather have certainly set the table, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The general season opens Saturday, Nov. 7 and runs through Jan. 3, 2016 in the 209 counties that comprise the North Zone and through Jan. 17, 2016 in the 30 counties of the South Zone. For county specific regulations, check the 2015-16 Outdoor Annual -- Texas Hunting and Fishing Regulations available at hunting license sales outlets, online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us and as a free mobile app download on iOS and Android platforms at www.txoutdoorannual.com/app.

"We saw a diverse buffet of deer foods this spring where vegetation growth was measured in feet rather than inches this year," said Alan Cain, TPWD whitetailed deer program leader. "Meeting nutritional demands of antler growth, rearing fawns and building up body reserves for the rigors of rut as well as the winter should be an easy venture for most big game animals this year."

Unlike in recent years, deer didn't have to search far

to find a highly nutritious diet of native weeds and browse plants. As a selective forager, deer prefer native forages high in protein and energy that are easily digestible. The forbs, a biologist term for weeds, fit that bill, and there were plenty of them this year.

Although dry conditions returned in July and continued through late October the recent deluge of rain across the state may set the stage for an early winter weed crop and toward the mid to later periods of the hunting season deer may not be attracted to feeders so hunters might have to change up their hunting strategies.

Antler growth should be well above average, predicts Cain. Exceptions to this overall excellent outlook may be in areas of East Texas where unusually wet years can result in lower-than-normal fawn recruitment.

"I have no reservations suggesting antler quality will be above average this year, and with a good number of bucks in the 5-year-old age class I expect a number of hunters to harvest some exceptional bucks this year," Cain said. "The habitat conditions statewide are much better than we've seen in years, and the abundance of native forage will help bucks maximize antler growth this year."

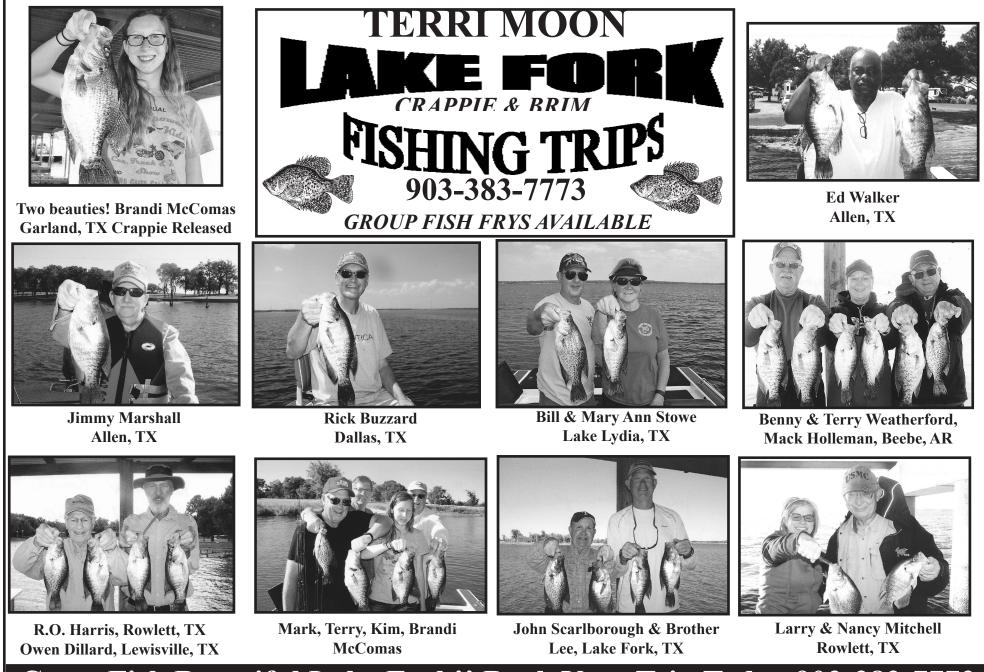
So what can hunters expect with regards to deer numbers and quality. For starters the 2014 statewide deer population estimate was 3.95 million deer, the highest estimated population since 2005. Statewide population trends indicate a slow but steady growth in the deer population during the last 10 years.

"Although these numbers are from 2014, I would predict the deer population to be about the same if not break the 4 million deer mark for 2015, so hunters should experience a quarry-rich hunting environment this year," Cain predicted, citing above average fawn production.

He also suggests hunters take advantage of opportunities to harvest antlerless deer this season, too, in order to offset high fawn production. "Folks need to keep deer numbers at a level the habitat can sustain during lean years," said Cain.

Texas deer hunters wishing to assist with the statewide chronic wasting disease (CWD) monitoring effort this fall can do so by voluntarily taking their har-

(See Texas Deer Seaspm...Continued on Page 23-A)



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Mrs. Laura Bush and nonprofit Texan by Nature Partners with State, Federal Agencies to Restore the Monarch Butterfly Population

Conservation efforts for the Texas monarch and other native pollinators took center stage at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas recently when Former First Lady and Founder of Texan By Nature Laura Bush, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Executive Director Carter Smith, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Dan Ashe, and President and CEO Collin O'Mara of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) unveiled a conservation plan to help sustain native pollinators and their survival in Texas.

"In order for Texas to remain a thriving central flyway for the Monarch butterfly, we must join together to conserve and create essential monarch habitat," said Mrs. Laura Bush. "Conservation truly begins at home, and with more Texans lending their time, expertise, land, and resources, we can ensure that the Monarch butterfly - the state insect of Texas - is here to stay."

The Texas Monarch/Native Pollinator Conservation Plan will be implemented by a task force of stakeholders and will focus on preserving the North American monarch migration. The plan outlines actions that will contribute to monarch and overall native pollinator conservation in Texas by highlighting four broad categories of: habitat conservation, education and outreach, research

and monitoring, and partnerships.

This interagency working group consists of the collaborative efforts of TPWD, USFWS, NWF, Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Lower Colorado River Authority, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the University of Texas at San Antonio, just to name a few.

The working group has been tasked with identifying U.S. priorities and actions for monarch conservation for the state.

Due to their dependence on habitat containing floral resources and host plants, monarchs, along with 30 other species of native pollinator and flower-visiting species like bees, butterflies, and moths, have been identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in TPWD's Texas Conservation Action Plan.

The staggering decline in the population of eastern North American migrating monarchs has raised concern from the governments of Canada, the United States and Mexico, and given its strategic position along the species migratory pathway, Texas plays a critical role in the conservation efforts for these native pollinators.

Participating partners of the state conservation

plan have determined the most successful pollinator management practices to incorporate into their existing programs. These efforts are focused on contributing to the overall health of the monarch and native pollinator population.

Texan by Nature's new Monarch Wrangler program provides Texas employers, organizations, and individuals with results-oriented and meaningful ways to create habitat essential to the monarch butterfly on corporate campuses, at places of worship, and in their own backyards. As one of the first Monarch Wrangler corporate projects, BAE Systems, a military defense, electronics, and aerospace company, will be planting and conserving Monarch habitat on their Austin campus at the center of the Monarch's route through Texas. For more information on Texan by Nature's Monarch Wrangler program, visit www.texanbynature.org. TPWD currently has a number of habitat conservation and management activities being conducted on state wildlife management areas, state parks and state natural areas, and will be revising some of their current management practices to enhance native pollinator resources on state owned lands.

"It is one of nature's most astonishing sights to witness as millions of monarch butterflies descend upon the Texas landscape each spring and fall.

(See Monarth Butterfly...Continued on Page 14-A)



Mass Poaching Rampage (Continued from Page 7-A)

tions of the carcasses the shooting of a plate retained by the suspects for consumption - loins and hindquarters - most were simply left to rot in the field. In addition merous road signs and to deer, the suspects purportedly shot numerous other animals from a motor vehicle ally, they are being on a public road, including: vultures, squirrels, foxes, feral hogs, doves, ducks, cormorants, blue herons, alligators, white egrets, armadillos and and senseless killing raccoons.

"This represents one of, if hunting, and I know not the most egregious poaching cases I am aware of in my 41 years in law en- palled to learn of this forcement," said Col. thoughtless Craig Hunter, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement Director. "I am extremely proud of the strong relationship between our game wardens, the County Sher-Leon riff's Office, and local landowners. Simply put, open communication is the cornerstone of solid police work and without great interagency cooperation this investigation would not have been a success."

In addition to poaching wildlife, the violators also allegedly were involved in more than a dozen burglaries, mostly hunting cabins, according to Sgt. Brian Stafford with the Leon County Sheriff's Office, which is also investigating numerous other illegal activities believed to be related.

deer killed had por- Those acts include ecutive Director. "It glass window at a service station, repeated shooting of a pickup parked at a residence, target shooting nuresidential mailboxes, along with several house cats. Additioncharged with shooting and killing five cows and hacking to death a sixth cow with a machete.

> "This reprehensible spree has absolutely investigation no resemblance to sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts everywhere will be apwaste of life," said Carter Smith, TPWD Ex-

is fitting to see these violators brought to justice, thanks to an observant landowner who provided the initial tip and the diligent work of our Texas Game Wardens working with the sheriff's office."

Despite the atrocities committed over the course of the summer, investigators are baffled at how little attention the suspects' actions drew. Had it not been for a phone call on September 1 from a concerned citizen who reported a deer had been poached, the investigation might not ever have gotten off the ground.

(See Mass Poaching.... Continued on Page 15-A)



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Monarch Butterfly Population (Continued from Page 10-A)

Due to the sharp decline witnessed over the last decade in the monarch population, conservationists and philanthropists are coming together in an unprecedented partnership to preserve this majestic creature," said Carter Smith, Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "Together, state, federal and non-governmental organizations are partnering to adopt conservation practices that all Texans can utilize that will en-

hance native landscapes for the monarch butterfly and ensure their migrations will be around for future generations to enjoy."

The TPWD Wildlife Division is also developing native pollinator management guidelines to assist private landowners in creating a wildlife management plan.

Some current management practices for other



web: www.minnowbucketmarina.com

species, such as grassland birds, have the potential to indirectly benefit native pollinators, according to TPWD experts, but they do not always accommodate the full life-history needs of a diverse assemblage of native pollinator species. For that reason, development and dissemination of protocols geared directly at the management of native pollinators are needed to fully address issues regarding monarch and overall native pollinator conservation on private lands.

Other projects to be implemented by TPWD include, but are not limited to, re-vegetation efforts and a joint-collaboration with TXDoT's maintenance division regarding the incorporation of native plant species and native pollinator-friendly management practices into their existing wildflower program.

TXDoT is also planning to partner with the US-FWS and the Native Plant Society of Texas to establish and maintain monarch gardens at safety rest areas. These gardens will provide important habitat components for the monarch migration, including native nectar-and-host plants.

NWF will be working in urban areas throughout the Monarch Central Flyway to engage and support local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and citizens taking effective action toward monarch recovery.

"Recovering monarch butterflies and other pollinator populations across our nation requires collaborative efforts exactly like the partnership in Texas where local, state and federal leaders have come together to create habitat at-scale. Texas is already a national leader in pollinator protection, with mayors across the state taking action as part of NWF's Mayors' Monarch Pledge," said Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, "and the launch of this statewide action plan is the key next step. Whether you live in Minnesota or Maine, your monarchs migrate through Texas, and this partnership has the power to help monarchs across America by strengthening a critical link in the chain of monarch migration."

As part of its urban outreach effort in selected major cities within the Monarch Central Flyway, NWF is recruiting and mobilizing a local Monarch Network, representing key city staff and ap-

(See Monarth Butterfly...Continued on Page 16-A)

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Dage 15-A

Mass Poaching Rampage (Continued from Page 11-A)

"It amazes me that or from a vehicle on a over a three-month period these young men likely fired hundreds of rounds of ammo, most of which were at night and in various locations, and no one reported gunshots or suspicious activity until September," said supervising game warden Capt. Mike Hanson. "Not a single call."

Some landowners interviewed during the investigation told game wardens they recalled hearing gunshots at night, but dismissed them as feral hog hunters. Hog hunting at night is legal year-round in Texas, with landowner consent and a valid Texas hunting license.

public roadway is not legal at any time.

Shooting up road signs, storefront windows, pickup trucks mailboxes, and among other things, is also not legal. State game wardens worked closely in the investigation with the Leon County Sheriff's Office, which was also putting together penal code violations against the suspects, to piece together what was happening along the roadways at the hands of these individuals.

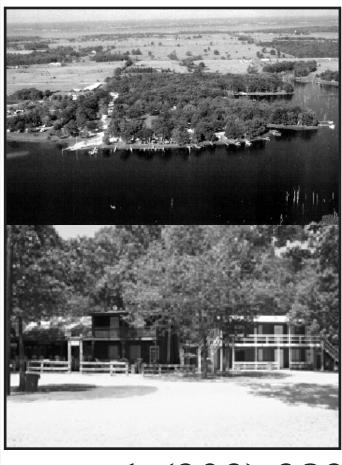
"The danger that the violators placed the public in, the sheer number of violations committed and the fact that they had lit-Deer hunting at night the or no fear of being caught really stands out in my mind," said Hanson. "From a wildlife enforcement point of view, I hope this case raises public awareness and convinces people to work with and inform their local law enforcement to prevent situations like this from happening in the future."

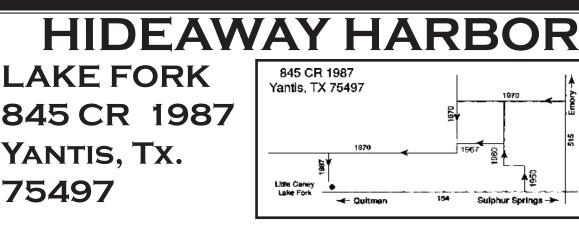
Hanson noted ironically a sign on Highway 7 in downtown Centerville reads "REPORT POACH-ING-CALL GAME WARDEN." Surprisingly, this group did not shoot that sign... one of the few things they did not shoot.

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Monarch Butterfly Population (Continued from Page 14-A)

propriate local NGO's, corporate citizens and others willing to help on the ground, to develop and implement a local monarch recovery plan.

In September, NWF developed and launched a Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Through the pledge, participating mayors will commit to supporting monarch recovery through specific actions, including: launching a public communication effort to encourage citizen monarch gardens; planting a major demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent location, creating monarch habitat in public parks and on other local property, modifying management of city parks and other public lands to better support monarchs, modifying local ordinances to remove any obstacles to planting milkweed, supporting milkweed seed collection and propagation effort, and many other actions that will increase monarch habitat in the city.

Other projects in the works by NWF include the mobilization of NWF's existing network of Backyard Wildlife Habitats and Community Wildlife Habitats to create new monarch habitat in the central flyway.

The USFWS's Southwest region is deeply invested in the conservation of pollinators and has recognized Texas as the core of the migratory flyway for the Eastern monarch population and as the state with the highest diversity of milkweed species in the U.S. with 37 known species.

"Restoring breeding and migration habitat across Texas is crucial to reversing the monarch butterfly's alarming decline. But we can't ensure the habitat that monarchs need without the help of landowners across the Lone Star State," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe. "That's why we're excited to partner with Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texan By Nature to engage and inspire people around the state to plant native milkweed and make their land more friendly to monarchs and other pollinators."

In June 2014, President Obama issued a memorandum acknowledging the importance of pollinators setting the national direction for pollinator issues and called for a strategy to address four themes: research, education, habitat and partnerships.

In response the memorandum, Ashe challenged the USFWS regions to incorporate monarch and pollinator conservation into ongoing activities and highlight new opportunities, particularly in geographic areas within the migratory flyway.

In August, Ashe announced his commitment to spending \$4 million, starting in October, to support partnership-driven, landscape-scale monarch conservation projects. The USFWS is committed to continuing their efforts to support monarch butterflies and other pollinators in Texas and throughout the southwest.

More information about monarchs and other native pollinators can be found at http://tpwd.texas. gov/monarch

For high definition broadcast video, download from http://tpwd.texas.gov/files/video/





"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

Page 17-A The Best.... Pla



The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association Annual Christmas Sharing Project has started. This project provides a complete Christmas meal, additional food items and toys to less fortunate families in the Lake Fork area. Look for LFSA collection box signs and money jars (both shown above) at area businesses. You can contribute at the following locations. Alba: Lake Fork Resort Tackle Shop, Mama B's, Pope's Landing Tackle Shop, Tiffany's, Twisted Sisters Cafe and Verona's. Emory: Affiliated Groceries, Brookshire's, El Manna Restaurant, Hooten's Hardware, House of Prayer, Lake Country Cleaners, Lake Country Physical Therapy, Max a Mart #6 (North Hwy 19), Maya's Restaurant, Pizza Hut, Sidekick's Restaurant, StarMart and Ya'll Come Back Cafe. Quitman: Minnow Bucket Store and Oak Ridge Restaurant. Yantis: Fisherman's One Stop, Four Corners Gas Station, J & J Meat Market, Lake Country Archery, Lip Smackers Restaurant, Tackle Right Rod & Reel Repair and Yantis Cafe. Thank you for your contributions and may you have a blessed Christmas 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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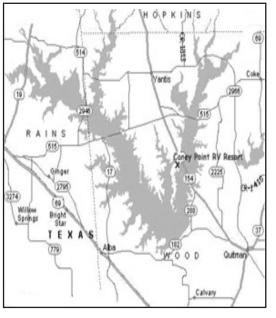
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"Pack of Knowledge" Swimming in November-

By Andrew Grills

November can offer some of the best fishing of the year. I love fishing in the colder months because the colder it gets, the bigger our catches usually get. One technique that comes to mind when thinking about fishing in November is swimming a jig.

This technique is one of the most underrated of all, and for me, was one of the most difficult to master. Although we have seen several televised



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tournaments won over the past few years using this technique, it is still a presentation the bass don't see very often. Because most of the bites we get on a swim jig are out of reaction, this lure has big fish potential even though it has a relatively small profile.

First, lets discuss the jig and trailer itself. There are a host of options when choosing a brand of swim jig. My personal favorite has been the Picasso swim jig for a long time. The "smart mouth" head design causes the jig to wobble subtly on the retrieve. I believe this movement adds to the realism of the lure. I'm also a fan of the 5/0 Mustad hook Picasso uses, because most swim jigs on the market have light wire hooks that a big fish can straighten easily.

When swimming a jig, I'm typically fishing no deeper than 5 or 6 feet. Therefore, I like to use a jig weighing 1/4 to 3/8 of an ounce. As for colors, I like to keep it simple and only use three basic patterns. Shad, bream, or crawfish are what I'm trying to emulate. For the shad or bream colors, I like to add a small paddle tail swimbait trailer in a matching color. For the crawfish pattern a Zoom Ultra-vibe Speedcraw in green pumpkin is hard to beat. Also, I usually trim the jig skirt a bit to give the lure a compact profile.

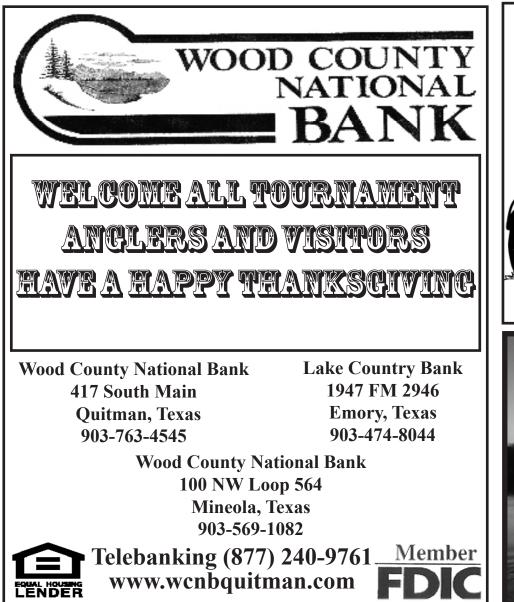
Choosing the right equipment is very impor-

tant with this technique. I like to use a rod like the Dobyns 734c because it has the perfect action to cast the jig a good distance, the backbone to get a good hookset at the end of a long cast or with slack in the line, and the right tip to feel the jig as it ticks cover or gets inhaled by a bass. If the rod is too stiff, you'll likely lose the sensitivity needed to feel what the jig is doing, and sometimes you can pull the jig away from the fish with the hookset. I always use 15lb test fluorocarbon line when swimming a jig. The fluorocarbon has better sensitivity than monofilament and less stretch. This makes it easier to feel the jig, and is also more efficient when working the jig through vegetation.

The tricky part of swimming a jig is the retrieve. I like to keep the rod at the 10 or 11 o'clock position throughout my retrieve. This is especially helpful when fishing the jig over submerged weeds. Keeping the jig head up will cause the jig to tick the top of the grass instead of bulldoze through it. This is also helpful because it gives the fish a chance to take the bait as you lower your rod to set the hook.

I always try to retrieve the jig as slow as possible at first. When I begin making contact with cover I speed the retrieve up just enough to keep the lure in contact with whatever cover I'm fishing. I rarely

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





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Page 19-A

Prospects Bright for Quail Season.

Thanks to timely rainfall and cooler temperatures this year, Texas quail hunters can anticipate hearing more bobwhites during the upcoming season, which got underway statewide Saturday, Oct. 31.

Bobwhite quail could provide the best indicator of how timely rainfall has benefited wildlife in Texas this year. The combination of spring and summer rainfall and lower-than-average temperatures across most of the summer has resulted in a flush of vegetation and insects and an extended window of opportunity for nesting, a combination for success that quail have not enjoyed for many years.

Reports from South Texas sound the most dramatic, according to Robert Perez, TPWD's quail authority, with broods being observed all summer long, multiple age classes and large brood size (good chick survival).

"Some are predicting a real boom year in some parts of South Texas," Perez noted. "The Rolling Plains have been hit hardest over the last several years with periods of extended drought, but the needle is definitely moving in the right direction. Survey results showed some improvement last year but quail appear to have made a striking recovery in the region this past summer. The quail roadside index recorded an amazing five-fold increase. Lots of large broods have been observed there as well, and we expect to see a good bump in numbers in the region."

Quail season runs through Feb. 28, 2016. The daily bag limit for quail is 15, with 45 in possession. Legal shooting hours for all nonmigratory game birds are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. The bag limit is the maximum number that may be killed during the legal shooting hours in one day.

Perez notes the Gulf Coast is not as tied to rainfall as the arid rangelands, so production can actually be hampered by excessive rains. Early reports of good production and above average survey results in the remnant prairies of the Gulf Coast are a good indication that numbers will likely remain high, as they have been the past couple of years.

Quail are notorious for trending with weather, going through years of exceptional production when conditions are favorable, followed by down turns when the weather doesn't align properly. Biologists refer to it as "boom and bust" cycles. Last season marked the end of three consecutive years of drought conditions in both South Texas and the Rolling Plains where quail populations began to show signs of recovery. Good hunts were reported in several areas of South Texas and a few areas

of the Rolling Plains. Good to excellent hunts were also reported in the central Gulf Coastal Prairies where an all-time high was recorded by the TPWD 2014 survey.

Heading into 2015, excellent late winter conditions produced a flush of winter greens providing nutrition for hens prior to the nesting season. The core Texas quail hunting regions received frequent rainfall events from spring through midsummer which produced excellent nesting cover, abundant forbs and countless insects. Improved habitat combined with summer temperatures that remained below the 100 degree mark through the second week of July allowed quail to enjoy an extended window of breeding and nesting opportunity throughout the Rolling Plains. South Texas and the Trans Pecos.

Consequently, according to Perez, the forecast for quail hunting in many areas of Texas is good to excellent this year. Looking forward, climatologists are predicting an El Nino year which may bring another mild wet winter and excellent breeding conditions heading into the 2016 season. A regional breakdown of this year's TPWD quail index survey, including highlights and prospects, is available online at http://

tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/ hunt/planning/quail_forecast/forecast/.





Page 20-A

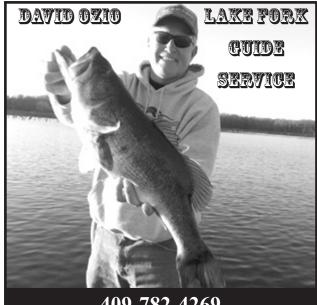
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November

Time To Sack Some Lake Fork Giants (Continued from Page 6-A)

marker buoy and go to work. Gold is a great color for the spoons and a ten inch worm will get the job done on the C-rig. Blue fleck, redbug, green pumpkin and bamabug are all great colors to start with. The same colors apply to the football jig and I favor the Talon Carolina Worm in redbug for my drop shot. Barfish are the key to these deep spots. Find those on your graph and the bass will be mixed in with them.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in No-



409-782-4269

time, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in November and some in December. 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, Talon Lures and Shimano 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."

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Dage 21-A

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

ticking grass, bouncing off of wood, or scooting along the bottom. I try to occasionally twitch my wrist as I retrieve as if I'm shaking weeds off of the jig. This adds some variance to the retrieve and also helps me stay in contact with the lure. Because swimming a jig doesn't produce much resistance it can be hard to feel what the lure is doing. Staying on contact with the jig will help you as the jig touches cover or gets bit.

You can catch fish of all sizes with a swim jig. However, this technique is a proven producer for quality sized bass. Hopefully

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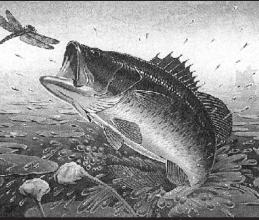
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get bit if the jig isn't you'll find this information useful as you try ticking grass, bouncing off of wood, or you're just reminded of it's effectiveness. If you would like to book a trip with me, you can reach me at (903) 638-1170 or email me andrew@lakeforkguideandrewgrills.com or visit my website: www.LakeForkGuideAnif I'm shaking weeds

> Andrew is a professional guide on Lake Fork and is sponsored by Skeeter Boats, Nautical Mile Marine in Tyler, Costa Sunglasses, Under Armour, and M-Pack Lures.

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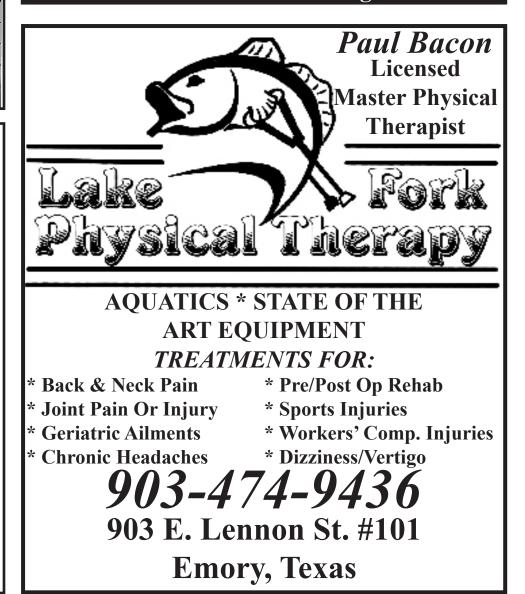
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Page 22-A

"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use"

area



Hunters Asked to Submit Samples for CWD Testing

With the recent discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in two captive deer breeding facilities in south-central Texas, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will be stepping up efforts to strategically sample hunter harvested deer at a greater level during the 2015-16 hunting season.

Hunters are encouraged to assist with this statewide monitoring effort by voluntarily submitting samples this fall. TPWD biologists will collect and submit samples to the Texas A&M Veterinary Diagnostic Lab at no cost to the hunter. Tissue samples from the heads of harvested deer must be collected within 24 hours of harvest, up to 48 hours if kept chilled. It is very important that the deer head not be fro-

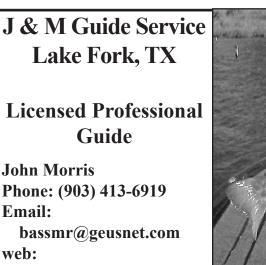
Since 2003, TPWD biologists have been monitoring the state's freeranging deer population for CWD. Using statistical sampling tables commonly used by animal disease experts, biologists set a sampling goal that would detect the disease with 95 percent confidence if at least one out of every 100 deer was infected. Thus far, biologists have collected nearly 30,000 samples from hunter-harvested deer across Texas' eight ecological regions, in most cases surpassing 95 percent confidence standards. To date, CWD has not been found in Texas free-ranging white-tailed deer.

The sampling strategy for the 2015-16 hunting season is being refined to target disease risk levels within the state's 33 unique Resource Management Units (RMU); wildlife conservation areas that TPWD uses for all other deer management decisions. Criteria for establishing risk levels include factors such as deer density, susceptible species importation history, proximity to a CWD-positive site, etc. Sampling goals will rely upon hunter harvest submissions ranging from 60 to 433 (lowest to highest risk) deer for each RMU, and if biologists can achieve these goals, will result in excess of 7,000 samples. TPWD will also specifically target sampling efforts within a 5-mile radius around the CWD index facility in Medina County to determine the prevalence and geographic extent of the disease in that specific "In the wake of our increased concern about CWD we are ramping up our sampling effort state wide," said Mitch Lockwood, TPWD Big Game Program Director. "We will be collecting samples from deer and elk, and other cervid species, in every county where deer hunting occurs."

Hunters wishing to submit samples can go online to find their local TPWD biologist, listed by county at http://tpwd. texas.gov/landwater/ land/technical guidance/ biologists/. The biologist will provide a sample receipt hunters can use to track test results online. TPWD anticipates test results could take 3-4 weeks to process. In some cases, biologists may request to retain the entire deer head for later sample collection; a resource document will be given to the hunter as proof of sex in those instances.

More information about CWD, including safe carcass handling tips and precautions, can be found online at http:// tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd/.

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Texas Deer Season (Continued from Page 9-A)

vested deer (or the head of the harvested deer) to a location where TPWD wildlife biologists will be collecting tissue samples for testing.

A list of collection sites and times is available online at www.tpwd.texas. gov/cwd . In addition to those established collection locations, biologists will also be conducting localized sampling at various sites throughout the season to meet sampling objectives. For additional information regarding localized CWD sampling efforts during this deer season, please contact your local wildlife biologist (http:// tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/technical guidance/biologists/).

Hunters are also urged to check out the "My Texas Hunt Harvest" app that provides a means to voluntarily report and track harvested game from a smartphone or tablet. Hunters can log harvest for all resident game species, including white-tailed deer. The information collected will help TPWD wildlife biologists assess annual harvest and manage healthy game populations across Texas. Hunters should note that electronic reporting using the app does not fulfill tagging requirements for any game required to be tagged, or requirements for the completion of the harvest log on the back of the hunting license as it applies to white-tailed deer. The app is available for FREE download at the App Store for IOS devices and Google Play for Android devices. You

can also report your harvest at https://apps.tpwd. state.tx.us/whs/.

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