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"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" "Lines To Get Hooked On"

2 Sections

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Donna Woodridge of Yantis, Texas set a new Lake Fork record for white crappie when she caught this 3.34-pounds white crappie off of a pier in Sun Eagle bay in 5 foot of water on December 12, 2015. Donna's white crappie topped the existing record of 3.19-pounds set in 1993.

Texas Ramping Up Fight against Aquatic Invasive Species

Texas is ramping up its efforts in the Piney-woods ecoregion of East Texas to fight the invasion of aquatic species that pose significant threats to the state's environment and its economy.

Aquatic invasive species are costing Texas billions of dollars annually in lost property

values, lost water, lost potential for power generation, degradation of the state's natural resources, and management costs. The potential economic loss in property values alone as a result of continued aquatic invasive infestation in Texas has been estimated at upwards of \$17.5 billion.

Additionally, when left untreated, these plants can significantly impair outdoor recreational activities like boating, fishing and waterfowl hunting.

Efforts to combat these impacts got a much-needed boost this year, thanks to \$6.5 million (See Texas Ramping...

Continued on Page 4-A)



Ronny Norenberg from Yantis, Texas not only set a new lake record on Lake Fork but also a state record with this 37.54-pound channel cat he caught on December 9, 2015. Ronny's channel cat beat the existing lake record of 17.73 pounds set in 2003 and the state record of 36.5-pounds set in 1965.



Everyone that prayed for rain a while back had all of their prayers answered on December 27th on Lake Fork when it covered docks and had hyacinth floating out of the back of coves and creeks

Bubba's New Year Resolution Includes His Nice or Naughty List for Christmas 2016

By Don Hampton

Twas the season, and as far as Bubba is concerned it's "Tis the season," still. While everyone else is making a list of New Year's resolutions, Bubba is making out his Christmas shopping list for December, 2016. While a resolution for the New Year is made to improve one's character or habits, Bubba's list is going to make better shoppers next year out of his family and friends.

Just like Santa, he has a list and he is checking it twice to see exactly who shopped naughty or nice for him. For those that bought Bubba "Fishing Stuff", their names are going on the nice list. This will be very beneficial for these individuals because he'll shop for them very meticulously and with much thought and care. I would believe his motives for this are truly self-serving.

His two favorites and on the top of his 2016 nice list are Bubbette and Bubba, Jr. They know him real well and know about the list he makes after Christmas each year. They always know just the right items to buy him. It also makes shopping for him real easy. Each year they buy him gift certificates so he can go buy his own "Fishing Stuff". Bubba keeps their names on the top of his list.

For those individuals that gave Bubba a present that didn't include "Fishing Stuff" and bought him items that just cannot or will not fit into his way of life or thinking, well, they will find their name on his naughty list.

I quoted the old cliché to Bubba, "It's not the gift

that counts but the thought!" Of course he quoted me back one of his own, "Well, they should have put a little more thought into theses," he said holding up a paisley tie and a potted plant. On those two presents I had to agree with him.

I've known him longer than anyone and I haven't seen him in a tie for at least 30 years. I've gone to weddings, graduations, funerals, baptisms, and even a couple of bar mitzvahs with him and he has never worn a tie. He cleans up pretty nicely but you can't force him to wear a tie. He has even informed me that when the good Lord takes him he will not be wearing a tie. I'd say he feels pretty strongly about a tie.

Bubba is the type that wouldn't say anything to the person that gave a present to him and he wouldn't even try to take something back to a store but he always seems to find a good use for everything. So don't be surprised or laugh when you see his boat tied up to a stump on Lake Fork with a paisley tie, unless you're the one on his naughty list.

When it came to the potted plant, this really spurred my curiosity. Whoever gave Bubba this surely didn't know about his naughty list. I even had the pleasure of watching him open this one. What really surprised me at first was how many times he checked the name card. I asked him later why he kept checking the name card and he explained, "The first three times I was just making sure it wasn't meant for Bubbette and the fourth time I wanted to make sure I remembered who

sent that to me!" I'm going shopping with Bubba next year just to see what that individual is going to get. Knowing Bubba the way I do it will probably be purchased at a gas station.

I did ask Bubba what his plans were for the potted plant just because I have one of those inquiring minds and you know how that goes. He had two options he was going to go with. First he was going to see if Bubbette wanted it, but since she doesn't really have a green thumb either, I expect it will go to Bubba's second option. He's going to put some earthworms in it, keep the soil moist, put some coffee grounds in it occasionally so the worms will reproduce. That way he'll have plenty of bait for bream fishing in the summer.

If he does do the latter though, wouldn't that mean that person should be transferred to the nice list because technically it is now "Fishing Stuff". If that is the case and he uses the tie the way he plans to, shouldn't that person's name be transferred to the nice list. Oh well, I guess it really is the thought that counts!



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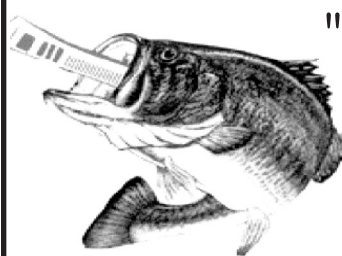
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Texas Ramping Up Fight against Aquatic Invasive Species (Continued from Page 1-A)

in legislative appropriations during the last session that state officials believe will be crucial to address the problem over this two-year biennium.

"Without adequate management efforts, the problem will only continue to worsen," said Rep. Chris Paddie. "Combatting the spread of invasive species is one of the most pressing issues for our lakes, businesses and sportsman. The increased funding shows the legislature's commitment to combating the spread of invasive species and I look forward to working with the Parks and Wildlife Department to combat these species."

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in partnership with other agencies and stakeholders, has been battling against the spread of aquatic invasive plants such as giant salvinia, water hyacinth, and hydrilla for decades with limited success. Research into various management options has shown promise toward controlling the spread of these plants, but come with a price tag that until now has been out of reach.

As a result of the new funding, additional resources being directed at aquatic invasive management include \$1.4 million for herbicidal vegetation control treatment, biological treatment, and new TPWD staff positions in East Texas dedicated to aquatic invasive management, including capabilities for small infestation rapid response.

Other funded projects include \$400,000 for a ze-

bra mussel and giant salvinia outreach and public awareness marketing campaign, development of a new giant salvinia herbicide, exotic fish research, and native plant restoration.

Some of the work has already begun. For example: --Out of the 20-plus public water bodies containing giant salvinia in Texas, Caddo Lake's and Toledo Bend Reservoir's giant salvinia infestations have required the most effort in the battle against invasive species in northeast Texas. Contractors sprayed over 2,700 and 3,300 acres of giant salvinia at Caddo Lake and Toledo Bend Reservoir, respectively, between April and August 2015. Additional spraying at both water bodies has been conducted in October and November.

--TPWD released 132,000 and 53,000 adult giant salvinia weevils in Caddo Lake and Toledo Bend Reservoir, respectively, during 2015. These weevils were either raised at TPWD greenhouse facilities in Jasper or collected from the existing weevil population at B. A. Steinhagen Reservoir.

--Lake Murvaul has small infestations of giant salvinia and water hyacinth. TPWD has been working closely with the controlling authority, Panola County Fresh Water Supply to manage these invasive species. Herbicide spraying has been conducted several times in 2015 to keep the coverage of these plants as low as possible.

--The partnerships developed among entities with-

in the region have helped to minimize the impact invasive species are having at other area reservoirs. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lake O' the Pines conducts inspections of boat ramps and boat trailers to identify any giant salvinia, or other invasives that may have been transported from another lake. TPWD has worked closely with the Corps and the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District to conduct surveys of other invasive species on Lake O' the Pines and develop management strategies to reduce their impact to the environment and folks that use the lake. The Corps and the water district funded herbicide treatment of water hyacinth and alligatorweed during 2015. --TPWD successfully identified new giant salvinia infestations at Brandy Branch, Gilmer, and Lake Fork reservoirs. During routine invasive species inspections of boat ramps, biologists found that giant salvinia had been recently introduced by boaters. TPWD used floating containment booms to isolate plants to the boat ramp area and individual plants were physically removed and the area was sprayed with herbicide. Infestations were eliminated at Brandy Branch and Gilmer reservoirs. Containment booms were removed at Brandy Branch and Gilmer, but deployment continues at Lake Fork while the need for follow-up treatments persist.



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Big Game Awards Program Celebrates 25 Years of Texas Hunting Heritage

Hunters can show their Texas pride by entering their big game harvest in this year's Texas Big Game Awards program. The program is accepting entries now through March 1, 2016.

Celebrating its 25th year, the Texas Big Game Awards is a partnership of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Wildlife Association recognizing the contributions landowners, land managers and responsible hunters make to managing and conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat on Texas' private lands.

Texas Big Game Awards promote awareness about wildlife management and the role that hunting plays in habitat conservation,

and to foster cooperation among stakeholders who ensure that our state's wildlife habitat is conserved forever.

Hunters who harvest a white-tailed deer, mule deer, javelina, or pronghorn antelope this season meeting the minimum net score requirements set for their respective region may be eligible to receive recognition in the "Scored Entry" category. Scoring is done by local certified TBGA scorers using the Boone & Crockett Club Scoring System and entry is free. The landowner where the entry was taken is also eligible to be recognized. Also, hunters that harvest a bighorn sheep during the current season are eligible for recognition

through the program.

Hunters of any age who harvest their first big game animal in Texas are eligible for the "First Big Game Harvest" category. Hunters who harvest a white-tailed deer, mule deer, javelina, pronghorn antelope, or bighorn sheep are eligible, regardless of sex or score of the animal in this category.

All youth hunters (hunting under a valid youth hunting license) who harvest a white-tailed deer, mule deer, javelina, pronghorn antelope, or bighorn sheep are eligible for the "Youth Division," regardless of sex or score of the animal.

For more information on the Texas Big Game Awards, entry informa-

tion, or for a local certified TBGA scorer, visit www.TexasBigGameAwards.org or call 210-236-9761.

All awards for each category will be presented only at the Regional Celebration for the region of harvest. Participants are invited to attend their regional

banquet, but may attend any of the celebrations. A Statewide Celebration will be coordinated by TWA in conjunction with the TWA Annual Convention held July 15 in San Antonio. The top three animals statewide in each category will be recognized and receive a special award

at the statewide ceremony.

Texas Big Game Awards 2016 Regional Banquet Schedule

--Region 5, 6, 7 -- May 14, Lufkin

--Region 1, 2, 3 -- June 4, San Angelo

--Region 4, 8 -- June 11, Uvalde



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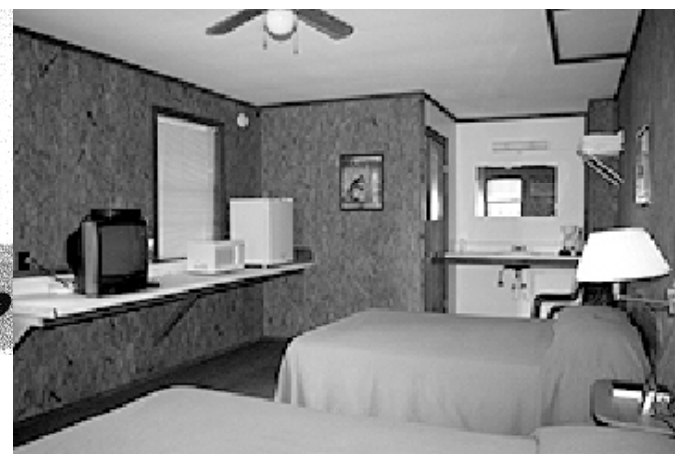
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January is a great time to fish Lake Fork

By David Ozio

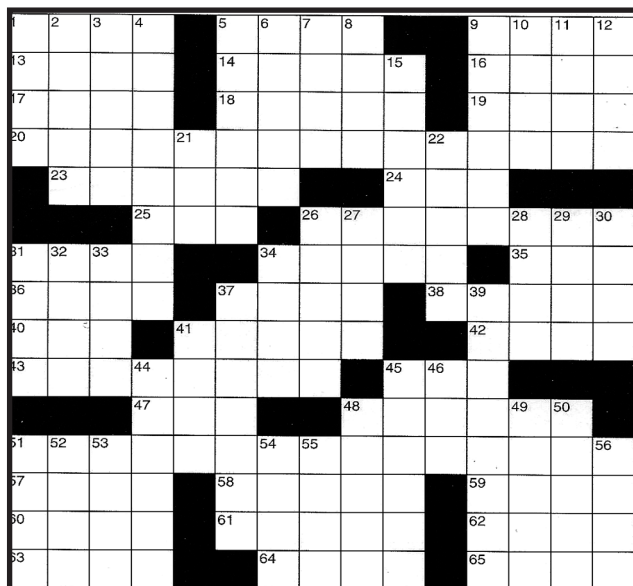
"After cruising through the holidays, most of you have stored your boats for the winter and are relaxing in front of a cozy fire reminiscing about the 2015 bass season on Lake Fork and what 2016 will have in store. Most don't focus on the fact that January in past years has produced some of the best ShareLunkers of the season. If your a diehard like me, bass fishing is a 365 day a year passion and I want to be positioned to attack when the conditions are somewhat playable. If the cold is something that you just can't deal with, here are some tips to help you on the warm days prior to the next cold front.

Currently, the lake is just above full pool and the water temps are hovering around the low 50's which points to the fact that most bass have set up on their winter haunts out in deep water. Their feeding habits are slowed down due to the cold water and one good meal could last them a while. The key is to target schools of shad and barfish in the 20-30 foot range. Good electronics are the key and pay strict attention to the hooks that surround the school. The A-rig will be the go to setup to target these monster bass and rig it with any five inch swimbait on a 3/16 oz head. A flutter spoon will also do the trick and my color choice will be gold. Focus your search on humps, roadbeds, long points and pond dams. If you notice the big arches laying on the bottom, switch to the Carolina rig or football jig in black/blue to attract the larger bites. Use a long leader on your C-rig with a 3/0 or 4/0 hook. Creature baits, large worms or giants lizards will be the baits of choice. I use blue fleck and chartreuse pepper on cloudy days and watermelon red or watermelon candy colors when the suns beaming down in full force. January is the time of the year when the ultra giants are moving around and it offers the extreme possibility to



boat the trophy of your dreams.

An alternate pattern targets the skinny water. Fishing shallow on the bright sunny days is the place to be, especially between 2:00 and 5:00pm. It is the warmest part of the day and the top layer of water offers comfort to the sluggish bass. Vegetation is the attraction for these bass and I would throw a rattletrap or chatterbait to draw a strike. Depending upon the water temp, a suspending jerkbait would be the ticket if the temps are lagging into the mid 40's. Red colors are the main choice for the moving baits and I would have a chrome



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Drops down, in a way | 40. Ugly, evil-looking, old woman |
| 5. Maintained | 41. Blanches |
| 9. Adhesive | 42. Ogden _____, U.S. humorist |
| 13. Right | 43. Expunctions |
| 14. Bitter chemical | 45. CIA predecessor |
| 16. Plant part | 47. Constellation |
| 17. Type of acid | 48. Fractures |
| 18. Polish river | 51. Sarah Jessica Parker's husband (var. of first name) |
| 19. Old or overworked horse | 57. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (abbr.) |
| 20. Make up a count | 58. Got up |
| 23. Lacking intelligence | 59. Asian country |
| 24. Protection from weather | 60. Christian _____, designer |
| 25. Thai | 61. Soviet seaport |
| 26. Serenely joyful | 62. Weapon |
| 31. Land unit | 63. Female name |
| 34. Chili con _____ | 64. River duck |
| 35. One of the Gershwins | 65. At all times |
| 36. African country | |
| 37. Symposiums | |
| 38. Demented people (slang) | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Receipt of sorts | 31. Sustained, dull, painful emotion |
| 2. Hanging | 32. Any of several small-scaled trout |
| 3. Remorse | 33. Indian music |
| 4. Cloistered | 34. Cabbage |
| 5. American state | 37. Remote in space, literally and figuratively |
| 6. African antelope | 39. Engrave a pen, for example |
| 7. Dominate | 41. Refined |
| 8. Radiotelegraphic signals | 44. Vast desert in northern Africa |
| 9. South Pacific island | 45. Painful experience |
| 10. Liquor fermented from molasses | 46. Campus fraternity (abbr.) |
| 11. Old Indian coin | 48. Riblike part of a plant or animal |
| 12. Deer | 49. Russian ballet |
| 15. _____ Hale, American Revolutionary | 50. Graduated table |
| 21. Fashionable hotel | 51. Changes (computers) |
| 22. Velocities | 52. Continent |
| 26. Publicizes, in a way | 53. Norse god of thunder |
| 27. Geological times | 54. Rascal |
| 28. Tax | 55. Normal or customary activity |
| 29. Galls | 56. Knot in a tree |
| 30. Ready money | |

Answers on Page 21-A



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(See January

Continued on Page 20-A)

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Texas Master Naturalist Program Seeks Applicants

Twenty chapters of the Texas Master Naturalist program are conducting training classes in the spring of 2016 for volunteers wanting to learn about natural resource and conservation management.

The Texas Master Naturalist program consists of 46 chapters across the state and aims to develop a corps of well-informed citizen volunteers to educate their communities about the management of natural resources.

The main qualification needed to become a certified Texas Master Naturalist is an interest in learning and playing an active part in conservation. Volunteers will receive a minimum of 40 hours of basic

training from educators and specialists from places such as universities, natural resource agencies, nature centers and museums.

Training topics include interpretation and management of natural resources, ecological concepts, ecoregions in Texas and natural systems management. Volunteers are then asked to provide 40 hours of service a year in community education, demonstration and habitat enhancement projects in order to maintain certification as a Texas Master Naturalist. They are also expected to pursue a minimum of eight hours of advance training in areas of personal interest. However, many of the volunteers will go above and beyond their basic re-

quirements once involved, and are encouraged to develop personal projects connecting to the mission of the chapter and statewide program.

To get even more information about reasons to join the Texas Master Naturalist program, we encourage you to watch the winning submission for the 2015 Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting's Video Contest. The video was submitted by the North Texas Chapter, located in Dallas. <https://youtu.be/bPksINno0Iw>

For more information about the Texas Master Naturalist program and to find training opportunities nearby, visit <http://txmn.org/>.

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"The Moon Report" Lake Fork Crappie 2016

By Terri Moon

Well the "new year" sounds like it's going to be an interesting one! I've taken some time to spend with family and friends in Missouri for the holidays and have enjoyed some awesome weather for December. But the day after Christmas – "the rains came" and the temperatures cratered – then came the ice and snow! Oh Boy! But even worse came the news of the tragedies in Texas – tornadoes, flooding and destruction and deaths. My thoughts and prayers are going out to all affected by these acts of nature.

All of this is so close to home. Record levels on Lake Fork are producing photos on facebook that are astounding! So fishing might be a little tough till they get levels back to pool stage and close the gates. There's a lot of water headed south cause the Ozarks probably got the worst of the rains and they are releasing it as fast as they can. Its reported there are over 400 roads in Missouri closed due to flooding. It's a pretty scary situation everywhere!

Hope things settle down fast because I'm ready to get back to fishing! I have a feeling that with all the gates open on Fork there is going to be a lot of brush piles relocated due to the strong current. This happened to me years ago when I was only using 40



lbs. of weight. My lesson was learned so I increased it to 80 lbs. from then on. It will be interesting to see if they held! Sure hope so!

Through the holidays the big crappie were hitting in 30 to 45 ft. of water down towards the dam. I even got word of a new white crappie lake record. I think it was 3.34 lbs. – now that's exciting!

While things are settling down it's a good time to hit your local tackle shows and check out all the latest equipment and "must haves" for the upcoming year. Be sure and check out the latest Lowrance HDS Units and especially the Minnkota Ulterra! With the new lake levels, the combination of these two are "priceless"! Also you might want to check out "Bobby Garlands" new 3" slab slayer available at Crappie. Town.com. These are catching some really nice crappie! Sometimes you just need a bigger bait!

I did get my "fishing fix" in while I was up here – a big thanks to my niece Stacey and her beau Kevin at the "Roadhouse" in War-

saw for the great food and great fishing off their dock at the headwaters of the Ozarks. If you get up that way, they are located at 65 Hwy and 83 White Branch exit.

Also a big thanks to my mom and dad for always making the holidays special! I'm sure looking forward to the upcoming year of some great fishing on Fork!

My apologies to all who tried to reach me while I was gone – but I have ZERO cell service while up here. Verizon sure needs a few more towers in this area! My best to you all!

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Rainbow Trout Coming to Tyler's Nature Center

The East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation (ETWWF) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will host two special fishing events in January 2016. Two thousand rainbow trout will be stocked into The Nature Center pond to provide a free fishing opportunity for area youth and their adult fishing mentors. Event dates are January 2 and 9, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine.

Adult mentors should bring all equipment and bait necessary for fishing (see recommended equipment below). A limited amount of fishing equipment (and bait) will be on hand for those who cannot bring their own on a first-come--first-served basis. Adult mentors do not need to be experienced anglers. TPWD staff will be on hand to assist.

"Anglers will have the choice of releasing their catch or keeping up to a limit of five fish per person to take home," said Spencer Dumont, East Texas regional fisheries director. "We also have fish-cleaning facilities and ice available courtesy of the East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation."

If you are a mom, dad, neighbor, grandparent, big brother, big sister, etc., and know children who want to go fishing, this is a chance to make some great memories and introduce a youngster to the wonderful sport of fishing. Adults who attend these events must bring at least one child and mentor them while fishing. So round up your little fishing buddy and bring them out to The Nature Center for a great time!

Recommended Equipment: A light-action rod and reel combination (one per child) with small fishing hooks, light line 12 lb. test or less, small bobbers (optional), and small split shot. For bait, bring salmon eggs, whole kernel corn, marshmallows, small worms, or prepared trout bait (Berkley PowerBait Hatchery Formula Chews or similar). Small rooster-tail spinners work well. If you intend to keep trout, please bring a stringer or small cooler.

Special Rules: Fishing will be allowed only on Saturday, January 2, and Saturday, January 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Youth must be supervised at all times by their adult mentors. Parking will

be allowed in designated areas only. Only rainbow trout (five per day) and channel catfish (one per day) may be kept. No fishing license is required for youth or their adult mentors, and the event is free to all participants. Pre-registration is not required.

Sponsorship: These special events are made possible by the members of the East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation and staff of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Other Activities: The Nature Center in Tyler has a series of outdoor hiking trails that may also be of interest to visitors. We invite you to explore these trails and also enjoy a day of fishing!

How to Get Here: From ESE Loop 323 in Tyler, go southeast on University Blvd. (Spur 248). Take a right turn on F.M. 848 (Bascom Rd.). Go 0.2 mile and turn right at The Nature Center gate. Please park in main parking area and walk to the pond using the concrete trail near the kiosk.

Got Questions? Contact Spencer Dumont, East Texas regional fisheries director, (903) 566-1615, ext. 202, or Dr. Richard Ott, fisheries biologist, (903) 566-2161.



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Prosper, TX.,



Tyler Levings
Prosper, TX.,



Stan Rubbel
Oklahoma



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spent the day with his dad!



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Family Fishing Opportunities Expand at Travis County Park East of Austin

One of Travis County's newest parks now offers a new Neighborhood Fishin' lake that will increase fishing access for youth and families living in the Austin metropolitan area.

Kingfisher Lake, a 2-acre pond located in Travis County East Metropolitan Park, is the latest addition to the Neighborhood Fishin' program of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Another very popular lake in the park, Bullfrog Pond, has been in the program since 2008. Both lakes provide excellent shoreline access and a fishing pier. The addition of Kingfisher Lake triples the amount of shoreline access in the park.

TPWD's Neighborhood Fishin' program is currently operating at 18 lakes in 11 major cities in Texas, thanks in part to generous government and private partners. These lakes are a great place

to introduce a youngster or adult to fishing. They provide a quality fishing experience for families who are looking for a fun outdoor experience close to where they live. Fishing success is enhanced through regular fish stocking activities by TPWD. Lakes in this program are stocked with channel catfish and rainbow trout about every two weeks throughout the year. Rainbow trout stockings began over Thanksgiving weekend and continued at Bullfrog Pond and Kingfisher Lake through Saturday, December 12.

A fishing license is required for anyone 17 years of age or older, unless exempt. Fishing at the park may be done with pole and line only. There is no minimum length limit for either catfish or trout, and anglers may keep up to five fish per day of each species.

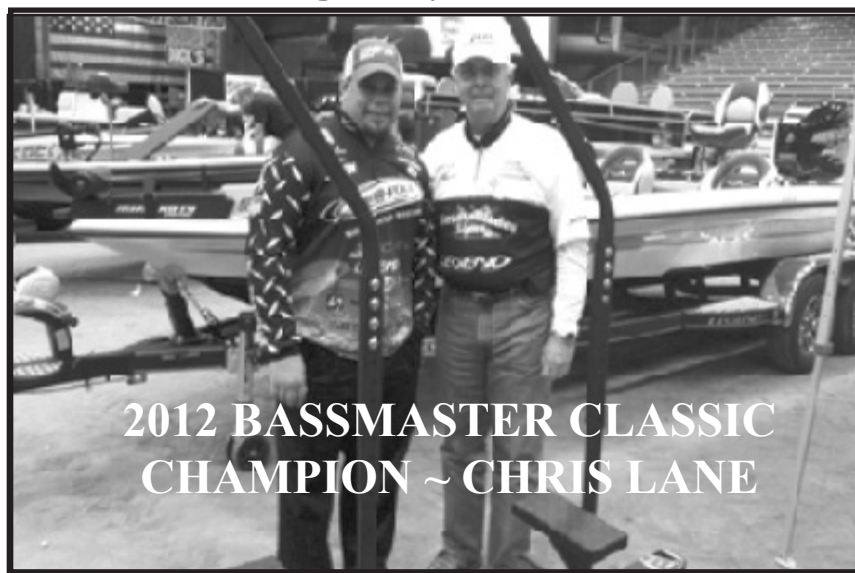
The Neighborhood Fishin' program is made possible by Gulf States Toyota through its sponsorship of the Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC). The TTBC, the world championship of bass fishing, has donated \$2.25 million over the past nine years to TPWD programs designed to increase participation in fishing. For more information visit www.neighborhoodfishin.org.

Local support for Neighborhood Fishin' in the Austin area is provided by the Travis County Parks Division and Bass Pro Shops.

Travis County East Metropolitan Park is a multiple-use facility that also offers baseball and soccer fields, playscapes, a swimming pool, sport court, disc golf course, rock-climbing wall, paved trail, picnic areas and a community pavilion. The 273-acre park is located south of Manor at 18706 Blake Manor Road and is open from 8 a.m. to dark for day use. For more information visit <https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/east-metro>.



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www.legendoflakefork.com

**or call: 903-383-7748 to be put on
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Arts in the Parks Calendar Winners Announced

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Arts in the Parks program announced the 24 winners of the Texas State Parks Youth Arts Contest, which ran from May 1 to Nov. 1. The winning art pieces are featured in a 2016 calendar.

The contest is part of a larger national competition organized by the "Get to Know" organization, which encourages kids to get outside and share their outdoor experiences through art. Prizes include digital and underwater cameras, camcorders, art supplies, binoculars, fishing rods, writing supplies and more. Winners selected from the Texas State Park entries will receive Junior Ranger daypacks, caps and water bottles.

The Arts in the Parks program, which started in 2013, provides a creative outlet for kids to showcase the beauty of Texas state parks through art, photography, writing, videography and music.

The program has grown steadily over the last three years. This year, the calendar contest received over 200 entries, a threefold increase from 2013. More and more parks statewide are hosting art workshops throughout the year, including classes taught by professional artists.

"We are really excited to see our park staff embracing arts in our parks," said Chris Holmes, director of Interpretive Services for the State Parks Division. "The natural and cultural setting of state parks affords us all a way to express our creativity. We saw some incredible and touching work by children inspired by certain parks this year and can't wait to see more next year."

Several of this year's 200 entries came from a high school art class in Presidio. The students' teacher, Laurie Holman, organized a workshop in the Big Bend Ranch State Park area, where the students painted landscapes and animal portraits and took pictures of the surrounding scenery.

"The one thing I try to make the students see is that they live in one of the most beautiful places in Texas," Holman said. "Many of these kids have never lived anywhere else and do not travel much, so they maybe do not realize how lucky they are to get to see and experience their everyday surroundings. We are all very lucky here."

Three of the more than 20 submissions from these students were chosen to be featured in the 2016 calendar.

For a PDF copy of this year's calendar, visit the Arts in the Parks page. Learn how to enter next year's contest on this page, too.

To see this year's entries, visit the Texas State

Parks gallery.

To find an art workshop near you, visit the arts & crafts and photography event pages on our calendar.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

33rd Semi-Annual Open Tournament

Mar. 12, 2016 * Lake Fork, Texas

Oak Ridge Marina * 2919 W. St. Hwy. 154



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

903-878-2529



1st Place \$1,040.00
2nd Place \$780.00
3rd Place \$520.00
4th Place \$260.00
5th thru 10th Place \$100.00



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 fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00.
- Early entries must be postmarked by Mar. 5, 2016.
- All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Saturday, Mar. 12, 2016.
- Check in time: Friday, Oct. 23, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 24, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at Oakridge Marina.
- To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
- Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station). NO FISHING from midnight till start time.
- Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer allowed).
- Contestants must fish from a boat. No bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
- Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
- All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
- No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
- Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (or state law limits at the time of the tournament).
- All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
- Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.
- All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
- No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
- Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
- Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of Texas Trails Bassmasters and will be released (with the exception of trophy or dead fish).

- In the event of a tie for any position, prize money for that position and the following position will be combined and evenly divided between the tying contestants.
- Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to this tournament.
- Contestants may fished with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.
- Use of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES or CONTROLLED DRUGS are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.
- Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.
- Any contestant who violates any rule may be disqualified. Any act of a competitor, verbal or physical, that reflects unfavorably upon Texas Trails Bassmasters effort to promote fishing, conservation, clean waters, courtesy or safety shall be reason for disqualification from this and all future Texas Trails Bassmasters tournaments.
- Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.
- All protests must be registered in writing with the tournament judges within 15 minutes after designated weigh-in time. All decisions of the tournament judges will be final in all matters. Anyone protesting the outcome of an Open tournament will have to pay for any additional polygraph test given.
- All boats must be 8 feet in length or longer. An aerated live well is recommended to aid in fish survival for live release. Anglers cannot leave boat to land a fish.
- All contestants are responsible to have read these rules and must agree to abide by them (by signing the entry form) while competing in this Texas Trails Bassmasters event.
- Contestants will be subject to polygraph test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification.

Additional Information

For more information or for information on joining Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork visit our website

www.texas trails bassmasters.com



Remove entry form below this line. Retain above portion for your records



Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Mar. 5, 2016 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (optional). Print clearly.

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

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Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Ck# _____

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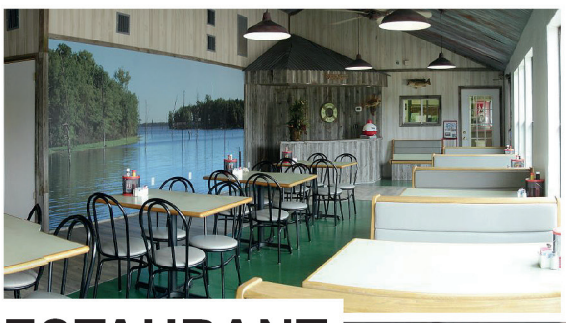
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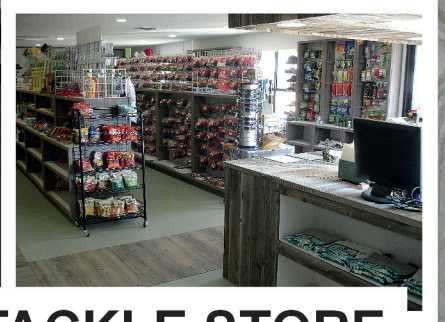
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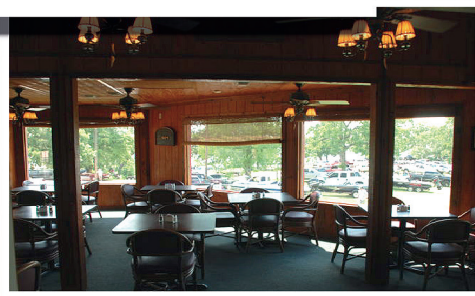
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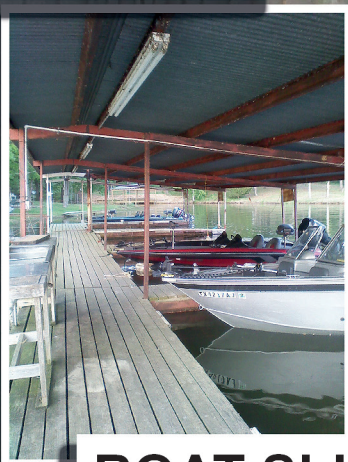
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Zebra Mussels Found in Sherman's Lake Dean Gilbert

Zebra mussels have been found in Lake Dean Gilbert in the city of Sherman's Pecan Grove Park.

Lake Dean Gilbert is a small, 45-acre lake and its fishery is managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Inland Fisheries Division as a Community Fishing Lake. There is no boat ramp at the lake, but small boats, kayaks and canoes can be

launched from shore. The lake is not used as a water supply, and water from it eventually flows back into the Red River, which also has zebra mussels.

"We want to remind people using Lake Dean Gilbert to take precautions so that zebra mussels don't spread to any other water bodies," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries regional director. "If you're fishing on the

lake, drain all water from your bait buckets before leaving. If you keep fish caught from the lake, put them on ice. If you're kayaking or canoeing on the lake, drain all the water from your boat and let it dry completely before taking it to another lake."

Adult zebra mussels and their microscopic larvae, called veligers, are both present in the lake. It is illegal to possess or transport them or any other prohibited aquatic invasive species.

A North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) pipeline running beneath the lake carries raw water from Lake Texoma, which was the first public water body in Texas to become infested with zebra mussels, to the NTMWD water treatment plant at Wylie. A leak was recently detected in the pipeline and the NTMWD will soon begin efforts to repair the pipe, requiring a partial drawdown of the lake which may help manage the infestation.

"We will be monitoring the zebra mussel population in the lake," said Van Zee. "We are working with the NTMWD and the City of Sherman to explore possible treatment options."

For more information on zebra mussels, visit www.texasinvasives.org

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Public Fishing Access Areas Open Again on the Guadalupe River

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has signed temporary leased access agreements with four Guadalupe River property owners to expand public fishing access to the trout fishery downstream of Canyon Lake.

Public fishing access is available at Mountain Breeze Campground, Rio Guadalupe Resort (formerly Rio Raft and Resort), and Whitewater Sports through May 4, 2016. This provided two additional months of access from previous years at these sites. Public fishing access is also available at Camp Huaco Springs through March 12, 2016.

Recognized as one of the top 100 trout streams in America and the southernmost trout stream in the United States, this segment of the Guadalupe River is managed through special fishing regulations (<http://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/guadalupe.phtml>) and is stocked in the winter months by the TPWD (http://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/trout_stocking.phtml) and the Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

The leases provide anglers with free access to the Guadalupe River at the four properties from 30

minutes before daylight until 30 minutes after dusk. Anglers will be able to use the properties for bank fishing and to launch non-motorized watercraft such as rafts, kayaks and canoes for the purpose of fishing. The leases were made possible with funding provided by the US Department of Agriculture Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program.

For additional information or directions to the leased fishing access areas, call or visit the following websites.

--Mountain Breeze Campground (<http://mountainbreezecamp.com/>) 9250 River Road, New Braunfels,

TX 78132, (830) 964-2484

--Rio Guadalupe Resort (10 vehicle limit) (<http://rioguadalupe-resort.com/>) 14130 River Road, New Braunfels, TX 78132, (830) 964-3613

--Whitewater Sports (<http://www.floatattheguadalupe.com/>) 11860 Farm

to Market 306, New Braunfels, TX 78132, (830) 964-3800

--Camp Huaco Springs (<http://www.camhuacosprings.com/>) 4150 River Road, New Braunfels, TX 78132, (830) 625-5430

For information on river fishing access

areas throughout the state, including site specific restrictions, visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/recreational/rivers/>.

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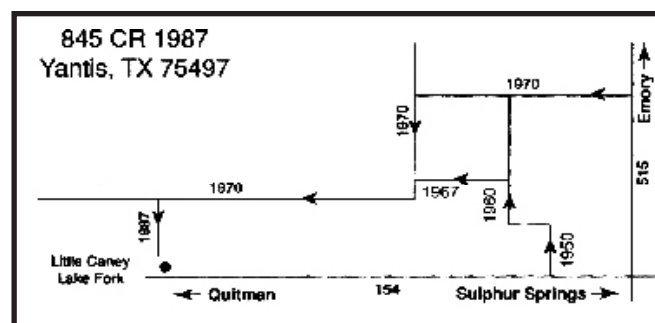
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Game Warden Field Notes

The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports.

--Smoke on the Water--While helping an overturned kayaker back onto his vessel at a concert on Lake Ray Hubbard, a Dallas County game warden heard a loud pop from behind. The warden

turned to find a boat engulfed in fire, its passengers in the water. After the warden helped the passengers out of the water, he noticed the boat drifting toward the main harbor, where several boats were parked for the concert. The warden used his patrol boat to maneuver the burning boat away from the harbor until

the Rockwall Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire.

--Working on His Way Home--As a Tyler County game warden returned to his house after patrol, he noticed a vehicle parked along the road. Approaching the vehicle, the warden noticed the driver was passed out, though the

vehicle was still running. The driver woke up after the warden knocked on his window for several minutes. After questioning the driver, the warden determined he was intoxicated and administered standardized field sobriety tests. The subject provided a consensual breath sample of 0.236, and the warden arrested him for driving while intoxicated.

--Unwillingly Abandoned--A Brazoria County game warden responded to a call about an unoccupied boat going in circles in the Brazos River, bringing the boat under control and inspecting it with US Coast Guard officials. After determining at least two people had

been on the boat earlier that morning, they launched a rescue and recovery operation with the Coast Guard, Brazoria County Gulf Coast Rescue Squad, US Fish and Wildlife and several game wardens. Everyone searched the area until dark, with no success. The following morning, after resuming recovery efforts, they found the bodies of a father and son who they believed to be the operators of the abandoned boat.

--I Thought I Shut You Down...--A Fort Bend County game warden noticed activity at a fish farm that had been shut down for some time. Several years ago, the warden discovered the fish farm violated permit require-

ments by raising tilapia in large tanks without a permit. This time, the warden found the owner was raising tilapia again, though now he had a permit to do so. However, while inspecting the farm, the warden found a drainage pipe that led from the tanks to outside the building had none of the required screens in place. The warden issued the owner a citation for violation of exotic species permit requirements and is helping install the proper screens.

--And You Thought No One Would See it out the Window--As an Atascosa County game warden patrolled some back roads, he noticed the driver of a parked car was holding a marijuana

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(See Game Warden...
Continued on Page 19-A)



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Sat. ~ 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed Monday

Despite Warmer Weather, Texas State Parks Still Put on Great Fall Show

Warmer weather may have delayed a colorful fall, but recent falling temperatures are finally causing leaves all over the state to turn brilliant shades of orange, red and yellow.

In the Panhandle and West Texas, towering cottonwood trees glow golden, brightening the canyons and creekbeds of such scenic places as Palo Duro Canyon and Davis Mountains state parks.

In deep East Texas state parks, like Tyler and Daingerfield, hardwood forests sport crisp golden and burnt orange leaves in weather that is finally cooling down. At Caddo Lake State Park, majestic bald cypress trees light up the water

with reflections of their rust-colored needles.

While Central Texas parks haven't gotten enough cool, dry weather to really put on a fall show for park visitors, there is still some orange, yellow and red coloring to be found among the green live oaks and cedar trees. The stunning contrast is especially apparent at Inks Lake State Park, with burnt orange and crimson red trees dotting the usually green lake shoreline.

Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area, just northwest of Austin, also saw some color. The oak trees that cover the steep canyons and granite outcrops showed their best fall colors, blanket-ing the area in warm reds,

oranges and yellows.

Though Lost Maples State Natural Area usually sports dazzling displays of fine fall color, the warmer weather conspired to keep the trees unusually green. However, there are hints of fall color here and there, especially in the park's day use area, among the trees that still have leaves. Visit the Lost Maples website to view this season's foliage reports from the park, updated by Richard Treece, the park's lead interpretive ranger.

As fall quickly turns to winter, visit a park soon to catch this season's great fall color. Look for fall foliage photos at your favorite state parks on their Facebook pages.

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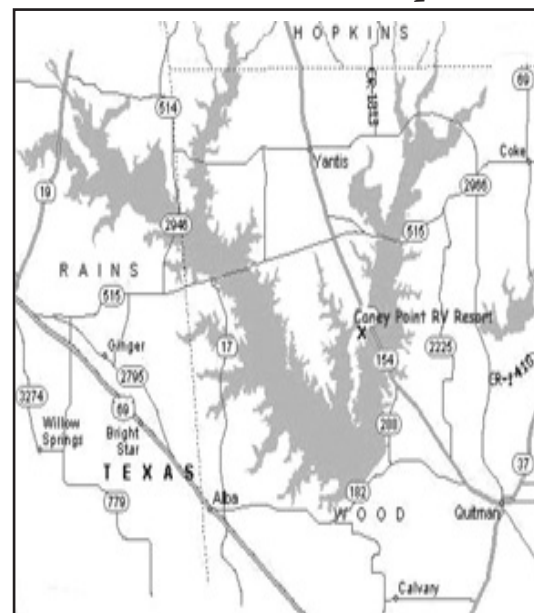
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"Pack of Knowledge" Lipless Crankbait Secrets Part 2

By Andrew Grills

Last month we discussed lipless crankbaits in detail. We covered color, size, and brand choices as well as modifications like replacing stock hooks. In this article I would like to cover the importance of equipment, technique, and areas to fish when it comes to lipless crankbaits.

These lures are primarily effective in the winter and prespawn periods. The bigger female bass are already staging in areas on or near

spawning flats. As soon as the days begin getting longer, I believe many bass on the upper ends of the lake get into position near areas they will spawn.

I try to focus on the northern shorelines in creeks and bays first. These areas are generally protected from the cold north winds and warm quicker on sunny days. Add a good strong south wind to the mix and you have the perfect scenario for a lipless bait. Any shoreline or shallow flat should be considered as long as there is some wind blowing on it. The wind can make casting and boat positioning more of a challenge, but it also stimulates fish activity.

This year, Lake Fork doesn't have very much aquatic vegetation compared to years past. However, there is still some. A tell tale sign of areas where grass may be is the presence of coots. These little black ducks will find the grass, and anywhere you see a flock is highly likely to have some vegetation present.

My best success with lipless baits has been around hydrilla, coontail, or milfoil. I try to find the deepest grass available and slow roll the lure until it is ticking the top of the vegetation. Grass growing in 6-8' of water, with the top of it 3-4' off the bottom is ideal. Often

these key areas are difficult to find and take some time and patience. However, once located you can do some serious damage!

When deeper grass just isn't available, any grass will do. If there is no vegetation at all, wind blown flats and shorelines are the next best option.

Equipment choice is critical. If you go out there with a jig rod and heavy line you're probably going to miss a lot of fish. Because lipless crankbaits generate a reaction strike from fish in cold water, they usually don't inhale the bait. Often they just turn on, or slap at it. I like a medium action rod if I'm fishing open water, and a medium heavy rod if I'm ripping through grass. A rod with a little give and a softer tip will allow the fish to get the bait before you pull it away from them.

As for line, I always use 15lb test fluorocarbon. The fluorocarbon allows me to feel the bait vibrate better. This will help me to realize when the bait is fouled in weeds or even detect of a soft strike. The fluorocarbon also lets the bait sink more easily and stay down in the deeper vegetation because fluorocarbon doesn't float like monofilament line. I never use braid. For one, braid has no stretch and you

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



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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 16-A)

bong out of the car's window. The warden contacted the individual and seized several items of drug paraphernalia, along with marijuana that was concealed in a "urine drug test receptacle." The warden arrested the individual for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana.

--It's Only a Minor Problem--As game wardens patrolled Lake Meredith for water safety violations, they contacted a boat with several minors drinking alcohol onboard. The wardens spoke with the boat's driver, whose speech was slurred and eyes glassy. After conducting seated standardized field sobriety tests, the wardens arrested the driver for boating while intoxicated and minor in consumption of alcohol. The wardens also issued a citation for minor in consumption of alcohol to one other minor

aboard the boat.

--Squatting High--Two Travis County game wardens responded to a call about squatters in a housing development. With their K-9 partner, they made contact with several individuals and told them to clean up and vacate the property. While one warden spoke with a female squatter, his K-9 alerted to and indicated on her luggage cart and its contents. The wardens searched the luggage and discovered a needle, a pipe with marijuana residue, a marijuana cigarette and more than a gram of methamphetamine. The wardens also found four dogs the squatters had tied to trees with no food or water. An Austin police officer called animal control to relocate the dogs, and the woman was charged with possession of a criminal substance, possession of marijuana and possession of drug parapher-

nal.

--Ten Trout Too Many--As two Willacy County game wardens patrolled the Port Mansfield area to enforce fishing regulations, they noticed several individuals fishing off a private pier. After making contact, the wardens discovered the individuals had an ice chest with 17 speckled trout, 10 of which were undersized. The wardens issued one citation for possession of undersized spotted sea trout and one for fishing over the daily bag limit. The wardens seized the fish, and restitution is pending.

--You Missed a Spot--

Two San Augustine County game wardens apprehended two men for road hunting with a spotlight near Sam Rayburn Lake. When the wardens inspected the men's truck, they saw the truck bed had been power washed clean, but the men missed a tiny spot of blood and hair. When

the wardens pointed out this evidence, the men confessed they'd killed a deer a few days earlier. Both men face charges of hunting from a public road, possession of deer in closed season and unlawful carry of a handgun.



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January is a great time to fish Lake Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

version tied on as a backup. Gold has worked well on partly cloudy days and I always keep one handy on whatever lure I present. Don't be afraid to hurl them into the thick grass and rip it out as bass will hit it once it clears the outer edge. Experiment to see where the green fish might be positioned. Make some casts out to the deep edge of the grass and slow roll the bait back to the boat. You might be surprised at the results.

January is also a great month to catch num-

bers on the power plant lakes. If cabin fever has set in, give me a call and we can wear them out where the water temps are summer like. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in January searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. 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 FX21 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 Custom 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."

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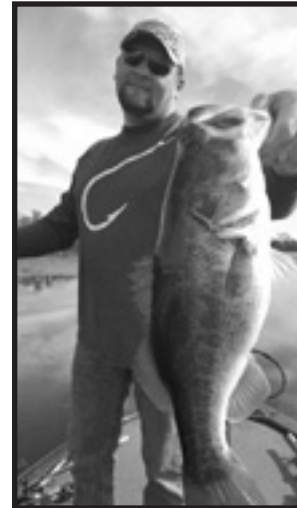
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"Pack of Knowledge" (continued from Page 18-A)

can accidentally pull the bait away from a fish after feeling a bite. Secondly, braid makes some noise as it cuts through the water and I have seen times where it seemed to decrease the number of bites a customer was getting.

Hopefully you'll find this information

useful as you target bass this winter. If you would like to book a trip with me, you can call me at (903) 638-1170 or you can email me through my website www.LakeFork-GuideAndrewGrills.com.

Andrew is a professional guide on Lake

Fork and is sponsored by Skeeter Boats, Nautical Mile Marine in Tyler, Costa Sunglasses, Under Armour, M-Pack Lures, and Picasso Lures.

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The horned toad is actually a lizard.



Playwright Alfred Uhry is the only writer to have won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, an Academy Award (both for "Driving Miss Daisy") and a Tony ("The Last Night of Ballyhoo").



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

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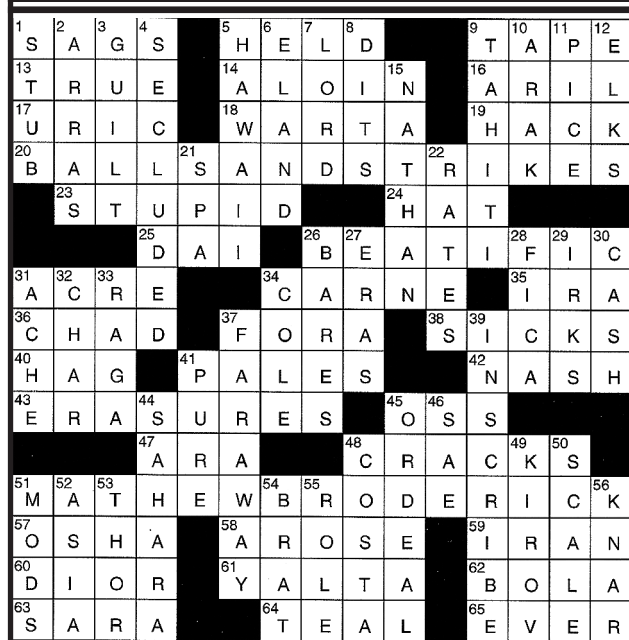
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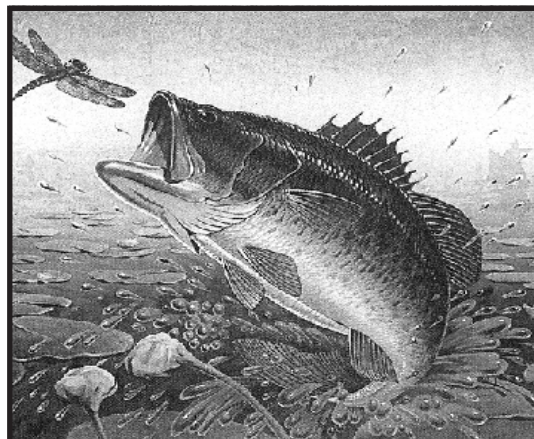
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There are 14 things found at a New Year's Eve party hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

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CONFETTI
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GAMES
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GUESTS
MUSIC

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SODA
STREAMERS

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