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2 Sections

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

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Free

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No. 198



For those of you that have been curious as to just how large a talon on a full grown eagle is, here is the best example I can give you!

Lake Fork "State of the Lake" Public Meeting

Anyone interested in Lake Fork is invited to attend a public meeting on the state of the lake on Tuesday, February 16, 2016.

The Lake Fork Sportsman's Association and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will host the meeting, which will feature presentations by TPWD Inland Fisheries biologists, TPWD law enforcement personnel, and Sabine

River Authority representatives.

Topics will include, but are not limited to, the status of the giant salvinia infestation, law enforcement issues, and an update on the gamefish populations in the reservoir. A large portion of the meeting will be reserved for attendees to ask questions in a "town hall" format.

All local business owners, lake homeowners, fishing

guides, recreational anglers, and anyone else with an interest in the resources at Lake Fork are invited to attend.

This meeting will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Emory City Center, 735 N. Texas Street, Emory TX 75440.

For questions or additional information, please contact TPWD Inland Fisheries management personnel in Tyler at (903) 593-5077.



Texas Parks & Wildlife Annual Eagle Count was held on January 16 and 17 headquartered out of Oak Ridge Marina. Perhaps it was the weather, too cold for the eagles to get out of their nest, or new construction around the lake but only 13 Bald Eagles were counted this year, less than half that was reported in 2015.



Or maybe the eagles were just hiding out because they knew that people were out looking for them! (Lake Fork Eagle Photos by Don Hampton, Fisherman's Guide News)

"Bubba only gets away with things when Bubbette lets him!"

By Don Hampton

Bubba was attending his bass club's monthly meeting and had just told all his fishing buddies he couldn't make the tournament scheduled for the next Saturday because his wife wouldn't let him go because of Valentine's Day.

After listening to the jeers and other remarks from his fellow fisherman friends about his manhood being in question and something about being whipped, Bubba left to go home leaving all his buddies with some choice new names.

When Bubba's friends started arriving at the boat ramp for the tournament, who should be there but Bubba sitting on the deck of his boat, tying on one of his favorite lures.

"How'd you talk your Bubbette into letting you come, Bubba?" asked one of his buds.

"I didn't have to," was Bubba's reply. "When I got home last night I was feeling sad about not being able to fish today so I just slumped down in my chair with a beer to drown my sorrows. Then Bubbette snuck up behind me, covered my eyes, and said, 'Surprise!' "When I peeled her hands back she was standing there in her beautiful flannel pajamas and she said, 'Carry me to the bedroom, lock the door and you can do whatever you want.'"

"So here I am and she's still locked in the bedroom!" replied Bubba with a smiling smirk on his face.

Who knows what happened when he got home! I'm sure he will never tell!

Bubbette thinks faster than most people and Bubba doesn't slide by with much as he likes his buddies to believe and neither do some others engage in a battle of wits with her.

One morning Bubba returned after several hours of fishing and decided to take a nap after lunch before going back on the lake.

While he was napping Bubbette decided to take his boat out and enjoy the cool breezy day. She motored a short distance, anchored and started reading a book.

She hadn't been there long before a Game Warden pulled up along side her in his boat and says, "Good afternoon Bubbette. What are you doing?"

She replied, "Reading a book, isn't that obvious?"

"Well, I need to see your fishing license" he informed her.

"Sorry officer, but I'm not fishing and I don't have a fishing license. I'm reading!" Bubbette replied with a little agitation.

"Yes, but you have all this equipment. For all I know you could start fishing at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up!" the officer stated.

"What, for reading a book?" Bubbette asked.

"No, for fishing without a license" he replied.

"But I'm not fishing, I'm reading" she replied.

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start fishing at any moment." He again replied. "I have to take you in and write you up!"

"If you do that I'll have to charge you with sexual

assault," said Bubbette.

"But I haven't even touched you or even made an attempt to get on Bubba's boat," said the Game Warden.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment." Bubbette stated flatly.

"Have a nice day Ma'am and I really hope you enjoy your book," said the Game Warden as he was leaving.

There it is! Now you know who really has the brains in Bubba's family! When he gets by with something it is only because Bubbette let him!

Have a "Very Happy Valentine's Day" and make it a very special one for another!



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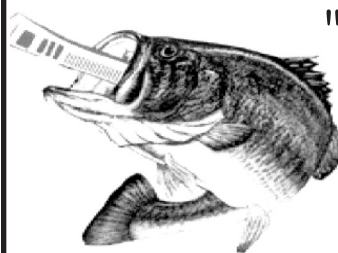
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Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame Picks Three

Two individuals and one organization make up the 2016 class of inductees into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

Slated for induction at a banquet June 4 at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens are Randi Wayland, Ray Sasser and the Texas State Bass Tournament.

Wayland will be honored for a lifetime of activities promoting fishing, water safety and involving young people in the outdoors. A resident of San Antonio, Wayland has been an adjunct professor with the San Antonio Community College for more than 40 years. A past president of the Texas Association of Bass Clubs, she has also served as a board member of Texas Black Bass Unlimited. She is an instructor in Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Becoming an Outdoors Woman program and is an area chief of the department's boater education program.

Sasser has been an outdoor writer for more than 40 years and is currently the outdoor editor for the Dallas Morning News. Largemouth bass fishing is his favorite outdoor activity, but he has written about everything from invasive species to the environment, penning hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles and a dozen books. He has been honored with several awards for his work. Sasser is a native of East Texas

and is known for championing the interests of the average outdoor person. One of his greatest memories is being present at the inception of the ShareLunker program when Mark Stevenson caught Ethel, ShareLunker number 1, from Lake Fork in 1986.

The Texas State Bass Tournament is the world's oldest competitive bass fishing tournament open to anyone. The first tournament was held in 1956 on Lake Whitney, where a Texas Historical Marker records the event. The Texas State Bass Tournament emphasizes family involvement in fishing and awards no monetary prizes to winners. Competitors may enter as family teams, and senior and high school divisions have been added in recent years. Tournaments are completely staffed by volunteers, and all sponsorship money is used to defray tournament costs. Throughout its 60-year history, the tournament has maintained its focus on conservation and sportsmanlike competition among friends and family.

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame honors inductees with videos that may be viewed in the Hall of Fame area at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. Information on visiting can be found at www.tpwd.texas.gov/tffc.

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SEAFWA Recognizes Game Warden for Outstanding Service

At a recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting, the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognized Game Warden Matt Kiel as 2015 Texas Wildlife Officer of the Year for his work in the field. This marks the 46th consecutive year this award has been presented to a Texas Game Warden.

Kiel began his career with TPWD in January 2010 when he entered the 55th Texas Game Warden Training Academy. After graduating from the academy, he was stationed in Brewster County for three years before moving to his current duty assignment in McLennan County.

During the past five years, Kiel has become an expert at navigating the county's public waters, logging nearly 500 hours of boat patrol every year and filing several water safety violations. Kiel has also mastered the use of side scan sonar as he patrols public waters, using the technology to locate drowning victims and stolen submerged vehicles.

In addition, Kiel's knowledge of the Brazos River made him an instrumental part in developing and implementing a water safety plan for Baylor University's new football stadium, which was built on the bank of the river in 2014. As part of the water safety plan, Kiel trained a Marine Safety Enforcement Offi-

cer class of 30 Waco police officers and forged relationships with several local law enforcement agencies, first responders and the Department of Public Safety.

Kiel is also a certified National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Officer Water Survival Instructor, crisscrossing the state to teach law enforcement officers and new game warden cadets about water safety practices.

Finally, in addition to his duties as game warden, Kiel has also been an active member of his community. He organizes boating and fishing programs for inner city youth and serves as the

point of contact for local media. He also volunteers at Baylor School of Law to educate students about game warden duties and presents to the County Commissioners Court about boating while intoxicated enforcement and ze-

bra mussels.

At the Commission meeting, SEAFWA also recognized TPWD Inland Fisheries biologist Brian Van Zee as the 2015 Biologist of the Year. Van Zee, stationed in Waco, was honored for his work in help-

ing TPWD combat the introduction of invasive zebra mussels to Texas waters, one of the greatest threats Texas fisheries resources have faced.

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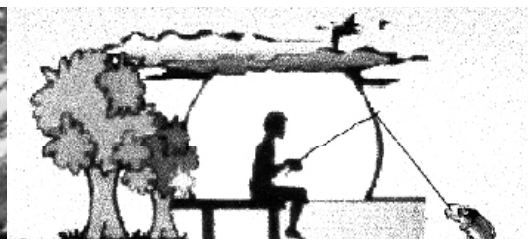
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Winter is Full Throttle on Lake Fork

By David Ozio

"Winter is at full throttle here at Lake Fork and it won't be long before we ease into the "fun fishing" time of the year. February is upon us and the big girls are wanting to stage in areas adjacent to their spawning bays which sets up for some incredible bass catching action. Where to look for these beasts is the first question on everyone's mind, so hopefully, we can point you in the right direction for the catch of a lifetime. You had better take your Advil with you because you will be throwing the A-rig, big jointed swimbaits and jerkbaits. These are a lot of work for the reward you are looking for.

Most everyone has seen bedding fish on Fork

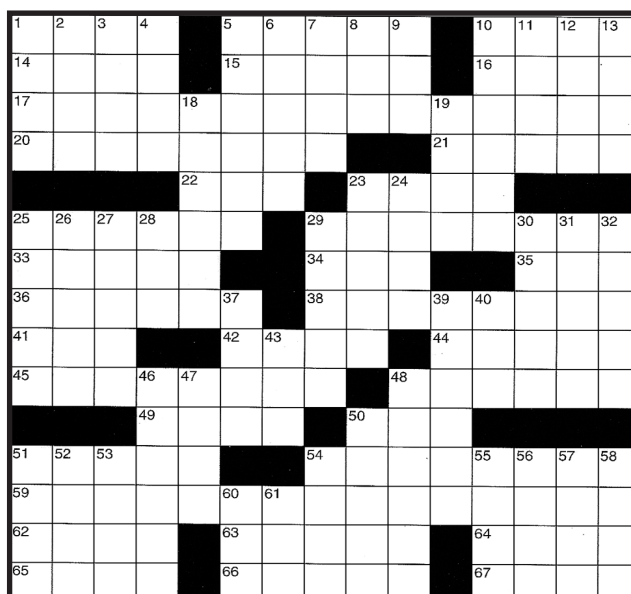
at some point in time so the "where" in this equation lies just outside your aforementioned cove or drain in the open water. The key depth range will focus on 12-15ft. All through February, big bass will stage at key junctures at the mouths of pockets and play a waiting game with the water temps that suit their liking. This is when you bring out the big guns to usher in the trophy bass that has long eluded you. As I mentioned above, the A-rig will be the go to strategy and it's set up is all important to the trophy success. Everyone has their favorite way to rig these umbrella monstrosities but common sense will lead you down the right path based upon the "where" you will be throwing it. Naturally, if you are in open water with no timber, the best rig would be to use a 3/16 ounce swimbait head and cover them with any five inch swimbait. As for colors, start with white and adjust from there. I found last year that dark colored baits worked better on a day to day basis. Arkansas Shiner, Dirty Sanchez and Houdini all performed well when using the Reaction Innovation Skinny Dippers. I will go as far to say that we had some great days using the Little Dippers instead of the five inch versions. It all comes down to what the fish want. Option two is to rig the A-rig with weedless swimbaits using belly weighted hooks. this will keep you out of



trouble when casting into timber. Once rigged, I use 25lb P-line on a 5:1 gear ratio reel all loaded on a 7'11" TFO rod. This is a great launching pad for this heavy rig and it allows you to hurl it quite a ways. Once you make the cast, let it sink to the bottom, then retrieve it slowly back to the boat. A large bass will literally knock the rod out of your hands. It's a must do pattern in February.

Big swimbaits will also play a huge roll this month, especially the expensive jointed baits. Swim or twitch them slowing in shallow water during the afternoons and hold on to your business. Strikes can be vicious. Other options to target bass would include using jigs, black/blue,

(See Winter is full
Continued on Page 20-A)



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Musical instrument | 36. Nome state |
| 5. Baboon genus | 38. Type of delivery |
| 10. In bed | 41. Protects from weather |
| 14. Medicinal plant | 42. School groups |
| 15. Central Florida city | 44. "The Divine Comedy" poet |
| 16. Knockout (slang) | 45. Railway cars |
| 17. NBA teams | 48. Diviner |
| 20. Skeletal muscles | 49. Gulls |
| 21. Circuit | 50. Gentle wind |
| 22. Foot (Latin) | 51. Language of Sulu Archipelago |
| 23. Mend | 54. Type of chord |
| 25. Digressions | 59. NBA teams |
| 29. Capital of Chile | 62. Changes, in a way |
| 33. Country in northwest Africa (French) | 63. Crystal |
| 34. _____ E. Winslow, 1941 Pulitzer Prize winner | 64. Brews |
| 35. Engineering company | 65. Affliction |
| | 66. Way to deal a blow to |
| | 67. Hindu deity |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Physical assistance | 28. Runs PCs |
| 2. Away from wind | 29. Soul and calypso songs |
| 3. Weight unit | 30. Belongs to sun god |
| 4. Persistently annoying person | 31. Annoy |
| 5. Shetland and Welsh | 32. Capitalist |
| 6. Sours | 37. Copycat |
| 7. Political action committees | 39. Admirer |
| 8. Type or kind | 40. Informal, in a way |
| 9. United States, Latin America and Canada belong to this group (abbr.) | 43. Denotes three |
| 10. Graduates | 46. Way to go on |
| 11. Stem | 47. Insect feeler |
| 12. Norse goddess of old age | 48. Antenna |
| 13. Type of remains | 50. Saint |
| 18. Russian monetary unit | 51. Strikebreaker |
| 19. Homer's son | 52. Seaweed, for example |
| 23. Valleys | 53. Manner or carriage |
| 24. Belonging to the American Newspaper Association | 54. _____ Spumante (Italian wine) |
| 25. Maidservants | 55. Growl |
| 26. Bush | 56. Sicilian city |
| 27. Extremely angry | 57. Isolated fact |
| | 58. Mythological mountain |
| | 60. Type of RAM |
| | 61. Radioactivity unit |

Answers on Page 21-A



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TPW Announces Lifetime License Winner

One lucky person will never have to buy another Texas hunting or fishing license for the rest of his life.

Fred Underwood of Dallas won the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's fall Lifetime License drawing for a Lifetime Super Combo License on Dec. 30, 2015. The drawing package also includes a one-year subscription to Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine.

"I never expected to win," Underwood said. "I was just making a donation to TPWD. It was a surprise, but a welcome surprise."

He transferred the license to his son, Frederick Underwood.

"My son is a regular hunter, and he's very excited," Underwood said. "We're both very active in the field and really appreciate what TPWD does."

All proceeds from the Lifetime License Drawing entry fees fund TPWD's on-the-ground conservation efforts that help make Texas one of the most popular places in the country to hunt and fish. The fall drawing raised more than \$60,000 to support Texas' hunting and fishing programs, a

nine percent increase from last year.

Texas residents have another chance to win a lifetime license coming up on June 30. Entries are on sale now through June 27 and can be purchased anywhere fishing and hunting licenses are sold. Each entry costs \$5, and participants may enter as many times as they wish.

Visit the Lifetime License Drawing page for more information, including contest drawing rules and how to purchase entries.

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"The Moon Report" 'Fork's February Crappie'

By Terri Moon

Spring excitement is in the air – it's the first of February and 72 degrees for a few days! (The tough part is the 20-30 mph winds) – But it still gets your "fishing fever" up! The water temperatures are running a little warmer than past years – right now it's high 40's and low 50's. With those temperatures the spring migration isn't far off! I just hope these milder temperatures hang in here for a while!

Our lake levels have finally stabilized to just below pool stage after record high levels. So conditions are lining up to be an awesome spring! We just need this darn wind to ease up on us a bit!

The depths we are targeting right now are anywhere from 20 to 35 ft. around creek channels and bends, between main lake points and secondary points. This is where my Lowrance HDS Systems are priceless! You need to find the baitfish first – and the crappie won't be



far away! These fish are on the move – so some days you just have to look a little harder!

The baits working for us have been Bobby Garland's Electric Chicken or Blue Thunder and Lake Fork Tackles Live Baby Shad in blue and pearl or pink and white. Until the crappie get shallower and more aggressive, we are using a very SLOW presentation – slow motion – to NO motion.

The White Bass and Yellow Bass are biting the same baits in 25 to 35 ft. depths around bridges and road beds. Just bounce the baits off the bottom and hold on!

I hope you all get the chance to check out Lake Fork's spring-time crappie this year.

Wish you all the best!

Love and prayers to my GREAT Aunt Dot wishing you a speedy recovery!

Also, while I was in K.C. I stayed a night with good friends and that night their son's house burned down destroying everything but the clothes on their backs and sadly no insurance. If anyone would like to help these kids get back on their feet, there is a "GoFundMe" account set up at "Jar-eb Salmons & Katie Minear – gofundme.com". I know how any help would be greatly appreciated!

Last but not least – Happy 83rd birthday to my dad Bobby Carleton of Leesville, MO., – "Love and Hugs"!!

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Fly Fish Texas March 12 at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

Learn to tie a fly, cast a fly and catch a fish all in one day during the annual Fly Fish Texas event at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center March 12.

Throughout the day, experienced fly-tiers will be demonstrating and teaching fly-tying in the Anglers Pavilion on a one-on-one basis. In addition, group instruction on rigging for trout and making your own leaders will be offered in the Conservation Center classroom.

Morning and afternoon classes leading to basic fly-fisher certification will be conducted by the Dallas Fly Fishers. Reservations are required for this course; call (903) 676-2277 to register.

Seminars on various topics will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Anheuser-Busch Dive Theater in the Visitor Center and will continue throughout the day. Topics include taking care of fly-fishing equipment, fishing in northern New Mexico,

mobility-impaired fly-fishing and flies for warm-water fly-fishing.

Beginning casting instruction will take place continuously in the Conservation Center parking lot from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Also presented all day will be vendor booths in the Conservation Center Room A.

In the Conservation Center Room B, attend fly-fishing 101 at 10:00 a.m. and learn about essential flies for Texas fresh water at 11:00 a.m. Other sessions will focus on fishing the Llano River, single- and double-hand casting, fly-fishing after flooding events and urban fly-fishing.

Outdoor presentations will take place beside the casting pond beginning at 10:00 a.m. and include identifying aquatic organisms of interest to fly-fishers, fly-fishing kayak style and a demonstration of old and new types of fly rods.

Do-it-yourself fly-fishing for rainbow

trout, sunfish and catfish will be available all day in TFFC's ponds and streams.

Food service will be available onsite, or attendees may bring a picnic. TFFC's regularly scheduled dive shows will take place in the dive theater at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and will be followed by tram tours of the hatchery.

A complete schedule of the day's activities can be found at <http://tpwd.texas.gov/spdest/visitorcenters/tffc/visit/specialevents/flyfishtx/schedule.phtml>. All Fly Fish Texas activities are free with regular paid admission to the center.

Event sponsors include Sabine River Authority, Dallas Fly Fishers, Temple Fork Outfitters, Orvis - Dallas, Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites -- Athens, Friends of TFFC, Danny's Smokehouse Bar-B-Que, First State Bank and Red Hat Rentals.



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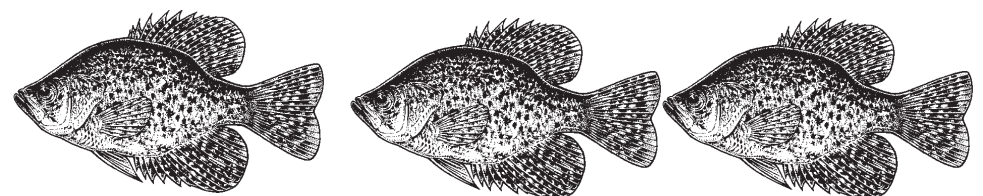
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Texas State-Fish Art Contest Seeks Entries

The Texas State-Fish Art Contest (TFFC), reminds Texas teachers and students that the deadline for entries in the 2016 State-Fish Art Contest is March 31, 2016.

The contest is open

to any student in public, private or home schools in grades K-12. Students must draw or paint any recognized state fish. Complete contest details and entry forms can be found at www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishart.

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) provides funds for scholarships for first-, second- and third-place Texas winners in each of the four grade-level divisions. First place in grades 10-12 wins

\$1,000; second place \$750; third place \$500. Prizes in the K-3, 4-6 and 7-9 grade levels are \$100 for first; \$75 for second; \$50 for third. Student art from the Texas contest is featured on TTBC tickets. The next TTBC will take place on Lake Ray Roberts in May 2016.

Additional support for the Texas contest is provided by the William E. Armentrout Foundation and Friends of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

The Texas State-Fish Art Contest is part of Wildlife Forever's State-Fish Art Contest. The TTBC also provides a travel allowance for Texas first-place winners and their families to attend the national awards ceremony.

Educators who wish to have their students enter the contest can download the free "State-Fish Art Contest Lesson Plan" at www.statefishart.com. The interdisciplinary curriculum includes lessons and activities, a species identification section profiling each state fish, a glossary and student worksheets.

Located in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, Wildlife Forever is a non-profit multi-species conservation organization dedicated to conserving America's wildlife heritage. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to "on-the-ground" efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and enhancement, land acquisition, research and management of fish and wildlife populations.

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Brent & Brittany Johnson
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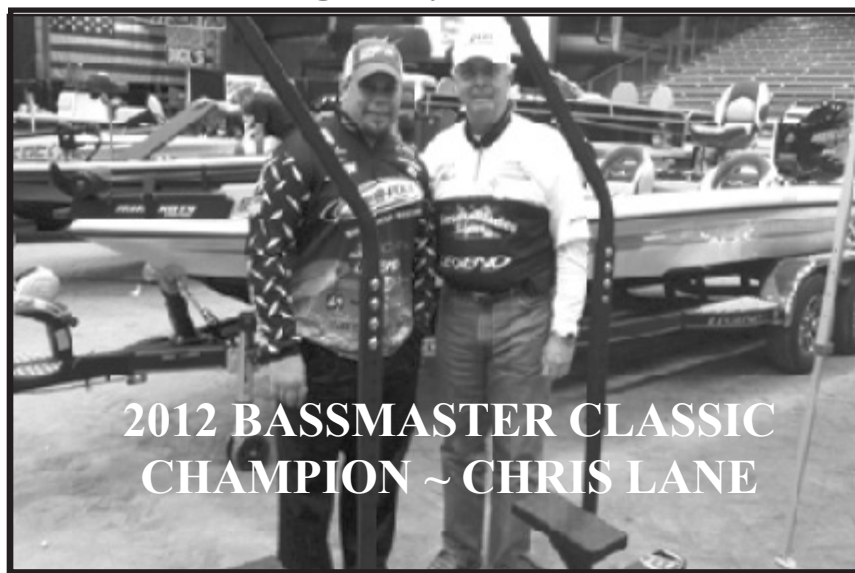
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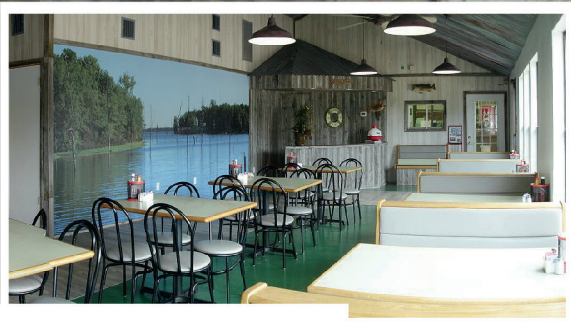
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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Gone and Clearly Forgotten--A Cooke County game warden was checking hunters in a public hunting area when a hunter asked her about a vehicle he had seen in a nearby creek. The warden went to investigate and found a 2015 Ford truck stuck in a creek. It looked like it had been abandoned for a while and had the stereo missing. A computer

check showed the vehicle was reported stolen out of another county. The warden notified the sheriff's office in that county, and they recovered the vehicle. Since the truck seemed to have only been in the creek for about two weeks, further investigation might be conducted to find the suspect.

--"Too Good for the Wardens to Catch"---

A Henderson County game warden received an Operation Game Thief call about a person who had shot a deer at night and tossed it into the woods

near his own residence. The warden contacted the individual who shot the deer, though he said he didn't shoot any deer. His friends were just mad at him and making false claims, he said. The warden searched the area but was not able to find a deer or any evidence of hunting activity. However, the next day, the warden got another call from another person who overheard the suspect say he was "too good for the wardens to catch." The warden requested the help of another warden and his K9, who quickly found a fresh deer carcass near the suspect's house. Once the deer was brought back up to the patrol units, the suspect admitted to killing the deer a few days earlier. He lied because he was afraid he was going to get in trouble, he said.

--Hunting Next to Bait--A Gregg County game warden and a Smith County warden contacted a group of individuals hunting dove along a barbed wire fence where hen scratch was placed for bait. Upon contact, the upset landowner argued that he intentionally fenced off the baited field from the rest of his property. When the game wardens informed him of his violations, he said he should not be cited for hunting over bait, but rather next to bait because his group stayed outside the barbed wire fence. The wardens seized multiple birds and the individuals were charged with hunting migratory birds over (next to) bait.

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

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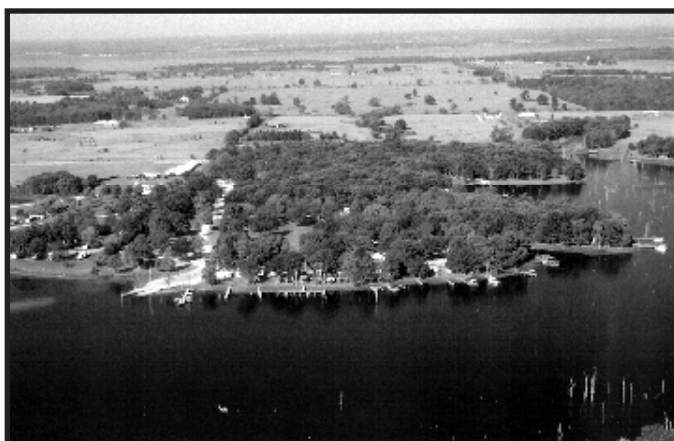
**St. Louis
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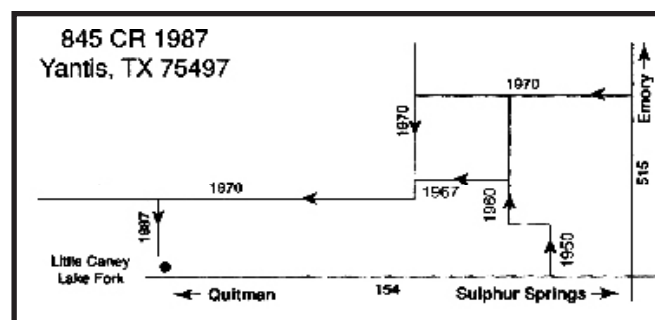
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New Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Council Holds Inaugural Meeting

Armed with \$2 million in legislative appropriations to help bring more of the state's high-value working farm and ranch lands under long term conservation protection, the Texas Farm and

Ranch Lands Conservation Council held its inaugural meeting under the administration of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The goal of the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands

Conservation Program (TFRLCP) is conservation of working lands with high values for water, fish and wildlife, and agricultural production, especially lands at risk of development. The program supports TPWD's mission to encourage stewardship of private working lands for conservation of natural resources. TPWD objectives within this program include generating interest and awareness among land trusts and landowners, attracting significant numbers of qualified applicants, and leveraging the available money to fund as many high quality projects as possible.

Texas HB1925 (companion bill SB1597) transferred the TFRLCP from the Texas General Land Office where it has been since it was established by the legislature in 2005 to TPWD effective January 1, 2016. With guidance from the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Council, TPWD staff has adopted components for the grants process, including grant cycle timelines and selection criteria.

Texas leads the nation in the loss and conversion of working farm and ranch lands. TFRLCP hopes to stem the tide by providing grant funds to purchase long term conservation easements on high value working lands. To date, Texas land trusts, which serve as the brokers for conservation easements, have brought more than 1.6 million acres of working lands into long term protection from development.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) uses funding from the federal Farm Bill to purchase conservation easement rights and received a record 11 grant applications for consideration during the most recent application cycle that ended January 15, 2016. Qualifying projects may be eligible to meet their NRCS match requirement using TFRLCP funding. The Council anticipates considering several projects that meet the requirements of both programs. The first TFRLCP grant application cycle is currently open. The deadline to apply for consideration by the Council at its March 2 meeting is February 19. Potential applicants who are not seeking 2016 NRCS matching funds or may not be able to meet the February 19 deadline are still encouraged to submit their applications to TPWD to demonstrate their interest and the need for continued funding for the Program. More information about the TFRLCP is available online at <http://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/private/farm-and-ranch/> or contact TPWD by email at TexasFarmandRanch@tpwd.texas.gov.

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

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00.
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Mar. 5, 2016.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Saturday, Mar. 12, 2016.
4. 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.
5. To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
6. 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.
7. Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer allowed).
8. Contestants must fish from a boat. No bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
10. 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.
11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
12. 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).
13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
14. 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.
15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
16. No iced or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
18. 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).

19. 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.
20. Contestants may not have served as a compensated guide on Lake Fork 30 days prior to this tournament.
21. Contestants may fished with a guide on Lake Fork prior to the day before fishing this TTB tournament.
22. Use of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES or CONTROLLED DRUGS are prohibited during tournament hours. Prescription drug use should be declared at sign-in.
23. Anyone who has ever been disqualified for cheating or misconduct from any tournament is ineligible to fish.
24. 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.
25. Parent or guardian must accompany contestants under 18 years of age.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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.texastrailsbassmasters.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 # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

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Hunters Reminded to Remove Duck Blinds on Caddo Lake WMA

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reminds hunters that the use of permanent duck blinds on the Caddo Lake Wildlife Management Area is prohibited at the conclusion of this season, which ended Sunday, Jan. 31. No permanent duck blinds will be permitted on the area in the future.

"This will make the entirety of the area more available to all public hunters and will provide waterfowl hunting opportunities consistent with all other WMAs," TPWD Wildlife Division Director Clayton Wolf said. "Moving forward, hunters can still

boat or walk in, but no one hunter or group of hunters will have preferential use of a specific area over others."

Individuals claiming existing duck blinds will have until March 31, 2016 to remove blinds or blind materials. Hunters are urged to take advantage of current lake levels to access those blinds. Individuals who are unsure if a duck blind is within the Caddo Lake WMA boundary, should contact the Region 3 office for assistance (903) 566-1626 ext. 221. GPS coordinates of those structures are preferred for exact location purposes, but not necessary.

All permanent hunting blinds on Caddo Lake WMA that are not removed by March 31, 2016 will be removed by TPWD.

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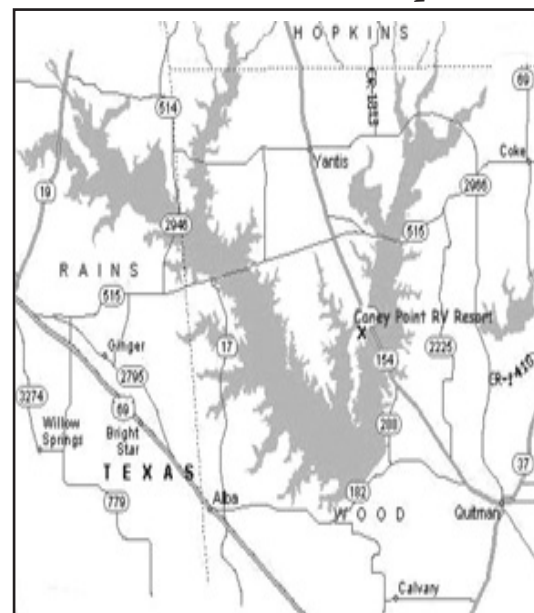
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"Pack of Knowledge" Chatterbaits 101

By Andrew Grills

If you happened to follow the Bassmaster Elite Series tournament results last year, you noticed that one lure dominated the first few events of the season. We had an unusually cold spring across most of the country, and this very effective cold-water lure stepped back into the limelight. I'm talking about bladed swim jigs, or "chatterbaits". A chatterbait can be one of the toughest lures to gain confidence in because you don't get a lot of

bites on it. It's more of a quality over quantity compromise.

The chatterbait became wildly popular for the first few years of its existence. Tournament anglers and guides were clamoring to get their hands on them as huge tournament stringers were coming out of bodies of water like Lake Okeechobee and the California Delta as a result of this bait. Then, it wasn't long until you just didn't hear that much about them anymore. Those of us here on Lake Fork know that the chatterbait never lost its big fish appeal.

One thing about the chatterbait that I cannot fully explain is its ability to trigger strikes from big fish... Really big fish. I have seen quite a few 9 and 10 pound fish caught on this lure. It definitely is not the technique for catching under the slot tournament fish, however. I believe there is something to the vibration of the bait that intimidates small bass, but triggers bigger fish to attack.

I like to throw a chatterbait in colder water, but it can work great during the summer as well. I prefer to fish it in stained or off-colored water because it just seems a little too gaudy in clear water. Wind blown areas where fish should be active, or where surface clarity is broken up are good areas to look for, but I have caught plenty of fish on it when

there was no wind at all. The presence of aquatic vegetation such as hydrilla is always a huge bonus, although fish will still eat them in areas where there isn't any grass at all.

Bladed swim jigs are most commonly thought of as a shallow water presentation, but this year some heavy models have emerged to fish on deeper, off-shore structure. For fishing cold water on Lake Fork, the 3/8 ounce and 1/2 ounce models cover all the bases. A 3/8 ounce chatterbait is perfect for depths down to 4ft, and the 1/2 ounce size is great for fishing down to 8ft or when implementing a faster retrieve.

The most important part of a chatterbait in my opinion, is the type of trailer you add to the lure. The original chatterbaits come with a twin tail trailer that may work fine, but there are some better options out there. I like to use a Swimming Senko, a LFT Swimming Slug, or a LFT Live Magic Shad. I know fishermen who have good results using Super Flukes or Sweet Beavers as well. I have seen many occasions in my guiding experience where the trailer choice made all the difference.

Rod, reel, and line choice are also very important when it comes to this technique. I prefer to use
(See Pack of Knowledge...Continued on Page 21-A)



Andrew Grills
Lake Fork Guide

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 14-A)

--Thanks for the Courtesy Call-- A Gregg County game warden received a "courtesy call" from a landowner who said he and his group would be dove hunting a particular field later that evening. If the wardens received calls or complaints from neighbors about hearing gunshots, they shouldn't worry, the landowner said. However, a few days earlier, the warden had discovered fresh sunflower seeds on the same field the landowner said he would be hunting. The warden contacted the group and charged them with hunting migratory birds over bait and no hunter education and seized 47 doves.

--You Look a Little Nervous-- While in line to buy a beverage at a local convenience store, an Atascosa County game warden noticed the woman in line next to him bought a pipe

commonly used for smoking methamphetamines. As the warden walked out of the store, he saw the woman get into her car, which he noticed had an expired registration. The warden performed a traffic stop a few blocks from the store and discovered that her driver's license was suspended, so he arrested her for driving while license is suspended. The woman did not admit to having methamphetamines in the car or on her person. However, a female jailer found a bag of meth on the woman after searching her.

--Toward the Smoke-- When three game wardens saw faint smoke rising on the horizon in Borden County, they called a nearby landowner to warn him about what they were seeing. The landowner informed the wardens he hadn't scheduled any burns that day, so the

wardens drove toward the smoke. Upon arrival, they discovered a wildfire had started, and the winds were rapidly spreading the fire across a nearby ranch, burning closer and closer to oil well pumps and power lines. The wardens called county emergency officials, who were able to control the burn.

--Scientists Overboard-- Two Terrell County game wardens and some deputy sheriffs responded to a 911 call about a boating accident with injuries on the Rio Grande River. A university research group with several boats was coming down the river when one boat hit a submerged rock. The collision, which threw four of the boat's five occupants overboard, resulted in two injuries. One injured researcher was airlifted to a nearby medical facility while the other injured person was driven to an ambu-

lance waiting nearby. Together with the agency's Forensics Reconstruction and Mapping

Team, the wardens are investigating the accident.

--Not the Best Time

to Take a Drink-- Two Val Verde County game wardens are investigating the accident. (See Game Warden Continued on Page 22-A)

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Winter is Full Throttle on Lake Fork (continued from Page 6-A)

in the creek bends towards the back of most all major creek arms. They are all lined with timber and will harbor toad stature green fish. The final option deals with the shallow water bite. Take time to locate submerged vegetation and this will be the key to success in the late afternoons. As the water warms, dig out a rattletrap and cover some water around this vegetation. Chatterbaits will also work in these same areas and traps need to be red or gold and the chatterbait dressed in white.

February is also a great month to catch numbers 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 February 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."

DAVID OZIO



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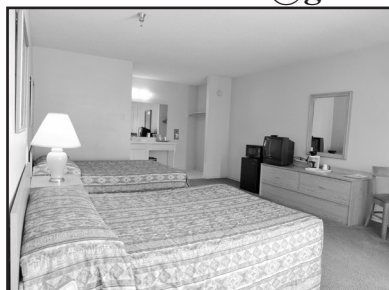


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"Pack of Knowledge" (continued from Page 18-A)

a 7ft medium/heavy rod with a fast tip. Its important not to go too heavy in my opinion because you don't want to take the lure from the fish when they hit. If I use a real stiff rod I feel like I miss a few I should have caught. A 6.4:1 ratio reel is my choice because it has a medium speed retrieve. With high speed reels it can be difficult to slow the bait down enough, and a slow speed reel doesn't take up enough slack on hookset. As for line, 15 pound fluorocarbon is what I prefer because it allows the bait to have more action and will let it fall a little faster. I will step up to 20 pound fluorocarbon in heavy timber. The fluorocarbon is important because it has a much more sensitive feel to it, and you need to feel the blade "chattering", even at super slow retrieves.

Hopefully this information gives you some ideas to try this winter as you fish. There was

a time I had zero confidence in bladed swim jigs. For the longest time I just couldn't seem to get a bite on one. However, because I listened to some wiser fishermen the chatterbait has become one of my favorites.

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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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		
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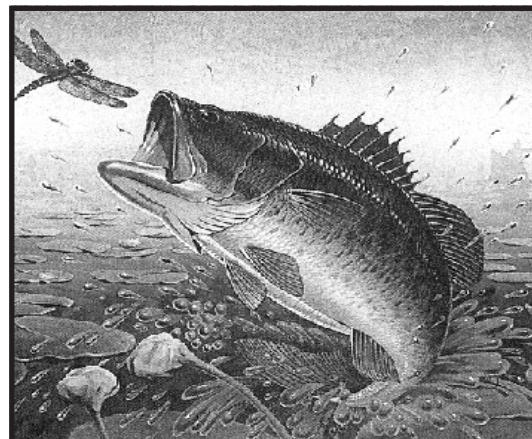
Government Find

The titles of 14 political officials are 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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I C O U N C I L O R P Y
T V I S E T M A Y R E R
A C H A N C E L L O R A
T I R O Y A M S A D O T
N L E M S N I A M A T E
E O M U O C N B S S A R
S R E M R E I M E S L C
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Game Warden Field Notes *(Continued from Page 19-A)*

wardens were on patrol checking dove hunters east of Del Rio. As they sat at an intersection, they saw the driver of a passing vehicle take a drink from a bottle of wine. The wardens initiated a traffic stop and asked the driver about the open bottle of wine they saw in the passenger seat. The man said he was on his way to meet with his priest because he was going to be an altar server that morning. He planned to provide the bottle of wine as a gift, he said, but he wanted to see what flavor the wine was, so he took a drink. The wardens filed a case for having an open container of alcohol.

--Stranded but Not Abandoned-- A Grayson County game warden received a call from the Grayson County Sheriff's Office about a possible stranded boat on the Oklahoma side of Lake Texoma. The caller said a young man flagged her down as she drove by the Denison Dam boat ramp. The young man told the woman his boat had broken down, so he swam for two hours back to the shore to find help. The warden went to the boat ramp and talked to the young man, who said when his boat broke down a few hours earlier, he'd put on a life jacket and tried to swim his small boat

to shore. After about 30 minutes, however, the young man said he had to let go of the boat, on which three passengers were still waiting for rescue. The Grayson County Sheriff's Office had advised the warden that the Oklahoma Highway Patrol would not be able to immediately respond to search for the stranded boaters, so the warden launched his patrol boat and quickly located the stranded boaters, about three miles into the Oklahoma side of the lake. The warden towed the boat back to the nearest boat ramp. The passengers were cold but otherwise all right.

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