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2 Sections

Vol. 17

April, 2016

No. 200



Congratulations to Edwin Evers, 2016 Bassmaster Classic Champion.



By Don Hampton

With Lake Fork sitting close to full pool fishing in the 12th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament to be held on May

13, 14, 15 looks to be awesome.

If Lake Fork being full of water and big bass isn't enticement enough to come fish the tournament, how does \$320,000 in cash

and prizes sound. The way this tournament is set up, the largest bass of the tournament to the smallest could be a winner.

(See 12th Annual....

Continued on Page 5-A)



Gary Brett Green from Glenwood, AR won the overall heavy weight bass of 10.02-lbs. in the 8th Annual Mega Bass Tournament presented on Lake Fork March 20th by BassChamps. (Fisherman's Guide Photo by Don Hampton)

8th Annual Mega Bass Tournament on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

At the 8th Annual Mega Bass Tournament presented by BassChamps, much colder weather with high winds out of the north could not detour 1,900 anglers representing 30 states from coming to Lake Fork to test their fishing skills. With the highest paying one day tournament anglers tried for the \$20,000 cash paid out each hour of the tournament with 1st place each hour winning \$15,000.

All of the anglers were competing for that first place prize but with 15 places paid each hour the competition was in full swing. Mother Nature was definitely in the competition with temperatures in the mid forties and 25 to 30 mph winds with gusts up to 40 mph. Many anglers remarked about the bite being slow or not able to fish the areas they wanted to, but those complaints weren't registered by any of the anglers taking home checks.

With that many hooks hitting the water with the same goals in mind, skill and luck always play a part. Lake Fork being a slot lake of 16" and 24" no bass between those two numbers can be brought to the scales. This opens the field for 2-pound fish to win top dollars in the competition. Luck and the slot definitely was in effect for Jim Holmes from Prosper, Texas. He had a 2.35-pound bass sit-

(See 8th Annual....

Continued on Page 9-A)

"What Bubba Has To Dream About!"

By: Don Hampton

It wouldn't take a dream expert to analyze Bubba's dreams. For those of us that know him it would not be difficult to guess just what he dreams about.

In his younger years he will admit he dreamed about the "Hooter Girls and the Dallas Cheerleaders", but that was before meeting Bubbette the love of his dreams. Now in what he refers to as his "Golden Years", Bubba's dreams consist mainly of drinking Bud Light and fishing anywhere except in Dallas.

Now when I refer to Bubba's dreaming, this doesn't mean he is always asleep. This man's daydreams can put Rip VanWinkle to shame. He can be driving his truck or speeding across the lake to get to one of his honey holes and just have a doosie of a dream.

A couple of times, with the fear factor present, I've had to arouse him. When I've asked him where he was at he would reply, "Oh, I was just having a little daydream!"

Bubba has shared some of his dreams with me and believe me that man has a vivid imagination. The best thing about Bubba's dreams though is that no one ever gets hurt and evidently they bring him a lot of enjoyment.

One of his favorites and he insists it might come true because it is a reoccurring dream

is that he fishes his way to the Bassmasters and wins.

That is not so far fetched. Many anglers dream of that, but Bubba's dreams go in depth far beyond that point. In his dream he beats everyone in the competition by 50 pounds per day and at the end of the tournament all the pros want his autograph and insist he give them tips on his fishing expertise. I told him I didn't think he would ever be able to do that with a Zebco 33. (I can't tell you what he told me on that one.)

My favorite one he has shared with me is him catching the new world record large-mouth bass. He has even seen this one tilt the scales at 25.62 pounds. That is doing some mighty powerful dreaming. In this dream he even picks up sponsors and does television commercials. Can you imagine Bubba doing a Fruit of the Loom commercial? In case this dream does come true I want to be around for this one. Bubba has been practicing the American Express commercial. It doesn't quite sound like any I've ever heard, but who knows we might have to give him credit.

Bubba's version goes like this: "Howdy you all! You and yours probably don't have a clue as to who I are, that's why I carry this here plastic thang! People may not recognize me in my fishing gear at the rib house or at the chicken fried steak place, which's

why I carry this thang. Whether on the pond or on a lake, make no mistake, you present this and you can get a rib or steak! Don't leave your shack without it!"

Now if you saw this, wouldn't it just make you want to go out and extend your credit rating?

With all dreams there comes the scary ones and Bubba has a few of those. His consists of wanting to go fishing and not being able to find his boat, not being able to find the lake, Bubbette selling all his fishing stuff at one of her garage sales, and the "Dallas Cheerleaders" and the "Hooter Girls" all wanting to go fishing with him. (Well okay, maybe not the last one. I just wanted to see what Bubbette would do to him.)

To top all of this off someone made the mistake of sharing with Bubba a superstitious saying. Bubba being a country boy and believing somewhat in superstition isn't taking any chances. This individual told Bubba that if you have a dream and tell it to someone before having breakfast that dream will come true. Now when Bubbette tells him to shut-up and go back to sleep, he gets on the phone to his friends to tell them of fishing the Bassmasters or making an American Express commercial.

So, if you meet Bubba, don't give him your telephone number.

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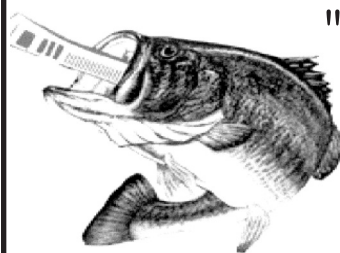
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Texas Game Wardens Deploy New Homeland Security Measures

Texas game wardens, along with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office and the United States Coast Guard, are deploying an impenetrable maritime border to stop the threat of radiological or nuclear material smuggling into U.S. waters.

Game wardens patrolling Texas' coastline will be utilizing newly-acquired advanced detection equipment that, will help keep the state, its maritime ports and international borders, and the nation safe from a potential radiological or nuclear threat.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is the state's primary maritime law enforcement agency responsible for patrolling, protecting and preserving its resources, critical infrastructure and economic vitality throughout its 4 million surface acres of coastal waters and 16 deep water ports. As such, TPWD provides an essential partnership service and critical element of layered security in the port environment by utilizing and employing diverse resources, with mandated port security responsibilities in the areas of protection, prevention, deterrence and response.

TPWD involvement in the radiological and nuclear material detection effort will support the National Maritime Security Strategy and the Department of Homeland Security Small Vessel Security Strategy.

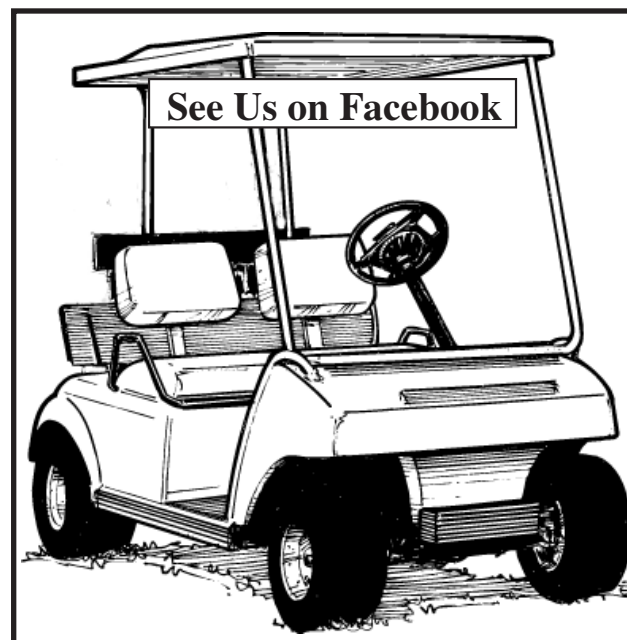
Since January, state game wardens have been conducting land search exercises, waterborne vessel stop exercises, and dock-side searches as part of an intensive training program on radiological and nuclear matter and the use of the equipment to detect and identify these dangerous materials. This training culminated recently with a mock exercise that encompassed both land and maritime law enforcement assets working cooperatively to locate several nuclear and radiological sources. The Department of State Health Services Radiological Health Team provided all the live sources for the training.

"Through our near-shore patrol crafts, off-shore vessels, aviation assets, special operations teams, and robust intelligence contributions, Texas game wardens are on the front lines of the nation's national security framework," explained Texas

Game Warden Assistant Commander Cody Jones, who serves as the state's head boating law administrator. "While we focus on our core mission of conserving and protecting the state's natural resources, enforcing game and fish laws

and conducting water safety, it is imperative that we continue to deploy the tools required to keep our homeland safe from illegal activity and terroristic threats that face our nation."

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

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

Anglers if you miss the chance to get in on the early entry into the "12th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament", you will still have a chance to win one of the Legend boats to be given away and a chance to get in on the hourly pay-backs!

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

We will be giving away two boats for the two heaviest 24" and over, one boat for the heaviest under 16" and one boat for the early entry drawing. Anglers winning these boats will receive a certificate for the boat so they might order the col-

ors or upgrades of their choice to more personalize their 2016 Legend Boat.

We will be set up and taking entries at Lake Fork Marina, the tournament headquarters, on Thursday, May 12th from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m., on Friday from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday the same hours and on Sunday from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. for anyone just wishing to fish one day. Anglers can fish one, two, or all three days and still have a chance for all the prizes. Official fishing days for the tournament are May 13, 14, 15 and fishing hours are from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the first hour weigh-in beginning with the 7 to 8 o'clock hour and ending with the 2 to 3 o'clock hour each day. Anglers have to be off the water by 8 p.m. each day of the tournament and cannot get on the water until 4 a.m. and cannot wet a hook until 6 a.m. The official starting time and hourly updates will be announced on FM 99.9 KMOO Radio Station. So be sure to have a radio in your boat.

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

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

The Chek-It-Stick is the official measurement of the tournament. Bass under the slot coming to the weigh-in cannot touch 16" and bass over can touch or exceed the 24" mark.

This tournament is fun for the entire family. Come out and enter or just bring the family and enjoy the festivities.

For more information see the advertisement on Page 24-A, or call me at 903-360-6994, 903-383-7748, or email me: fishnews@lakefork.net.



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Time of Season We've Been Waiting For

By David Ozio

The time of the year that we have all waited for has finally arrived. Boat ramps are starting to fill every day and the allure of boating a giant bass is on every anglers mind. The only issues that are at hand are delivered by Mother Nature and she has been quite brutal as of lately. For those who will still brave the elements, a trophy of a lifetime is just a cast away.

As of this writing, some excellent bass have made it to the certified scales encircling Lake Fork. Some eleven's and a few twelve's have raised the eyebrows of the locals and encouraged everyone to spend more time on the H2O. Just like the lottery, you can't win unless your entered. April is the time of year when you need a line in the water at all costs

and the more days this month your casting increases the odds of said person snatching the hawg they have long sought after. Let's talk tactics and what it will take to boat the bass of your dreams.

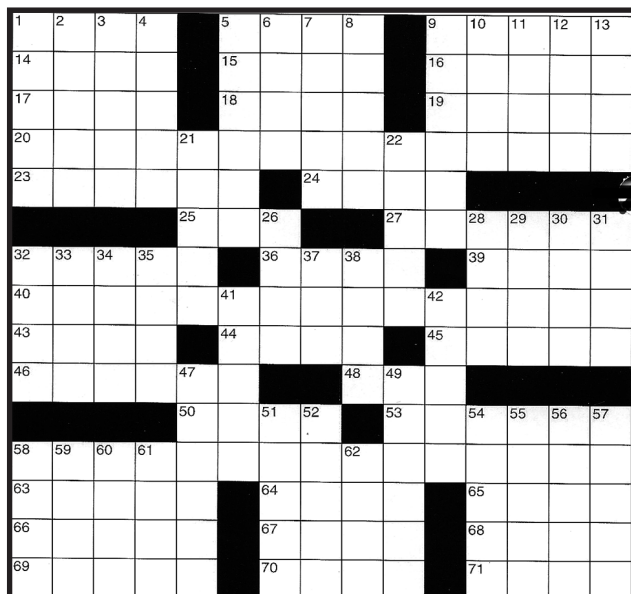
March was a very warm month and the first wave of spawners pulled into the shallows late in the month. The next wave in April will be the biggest by far as the main lake water temps are in the low sixties currently and should warm to the upper sixties by the next full moon. This is when the giants will be caught off beds but the bigger giants will be taken when the shad start to spawn. That will happen once the surface temps reach about seventy degrees and there won't be a swimbait left in sight for purchase. Fork is an excellent lake for swimbaits especially when the lake is on the clear side. Unfortunately the lake has been more on the muddy side due to recent downpours but a lot can change through mid month depending on the amount of precipitation we get as the month progresses. There are several large swimbaits being sold around the lake and you can choose the one that strikes your fancy. Use brighter colors for the off colored water and more translucent baits for the clearer water. The next step is determining which hook to rig. I recommend a 10/0 hook for the full size baits and a 7/0 hook for the minnow size swimmers. From that point you will need to focus on the depth where



the slouches will be hiding and how much weight should be on the hook. Start with no weight and work your way down to a 10/0 weight weighted with 3/4 ounce. This tactic will cover the important levels in the water column and start you on your way. Next is "where"? You can never go wrong with main lake points or secondary points especially if they have a channel swing close by. Use at least twenty pound line and a long rod and keep casting until something gives. It may be your arm but that's why they make Advil.

More than likely the lake will hover around pool for the month so don't rule out the Carolina rig on main lake points especially following the days right

(See Time of Season
Continued on Page 20-A)




CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Pouches | 43. Beige |
| 5. Reverberate | 44. This (Spanish) |
| 9. Long, detailed reports | 45. Farewell |
| 14. Small area of planted ground | 46. Understanding |
| 15. Longest division of geological time (var.) | 48. Way to souse |
| 16. Oil group (acronym) | 50. Toward the mouth |
| 17. Spanish river | 53. Outline or model |
| 18. Swindles (slang) | 58. Irrecoverable past |
| 19. Printer necessity | 63. Ship position |
| 20. He ran in his nightgown | 64. Dogfish or mudfish |
| 23. Imperturbable | 65. Baseless |
| 24. Rouse | 66. Grain grown in dry regions of Asia and northern Africa |
| 25. Fed | 67. Grove (archaic) |
| 27. Rational motive | 68. Fill |
| 32. Viper | 69. Delay |
| 36. Give advice or explain | 70. ____ of Wight or Man |
| 39. Synthetic rubber | 71. Despot |
| 40. 1935 Odets play | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Discharges | 32. Reverences |
| 2. Edward ____, playwright | 33. Freshwater fish |
| 3. Makes apples easier to eat | 34. Desperate |
| 4. Vermont town | 35. Small, ornamental bag |
| 5. Young eagle | 37. Immature newt |
| 6. Overlay with wood | 38. Go-getter |
| 7. Shoshonean tribe members | 41. South American river |
| 8. Beginning | 42. Fastener |
| 9. Sarcasm | 47. Without untoward incident |
| 10. Egyptian god of life (var.) | 49. Extensive landed property |
| 11. Embellish the truth | 51. Mammal genus |
| 12. International education group (abbr.) | 52. Shows |
| 13. Painful | 54. Commit a burglary |
| 21. City in Finland | 55. Icelandic poems |
| 22. One who cables | 56. Mediterranean island |
| 26. Energy units | 57. Former ruler of Afghanistan |
| 28. In bed | 58. Packs |
| 29. Muslim mystic | 59. Border |
| 30. Upon | 60. Trillion (prefix) |
| 31. Negatives | 61. British peer |
| | 62. Rivulet |

Answers on Page 21-A




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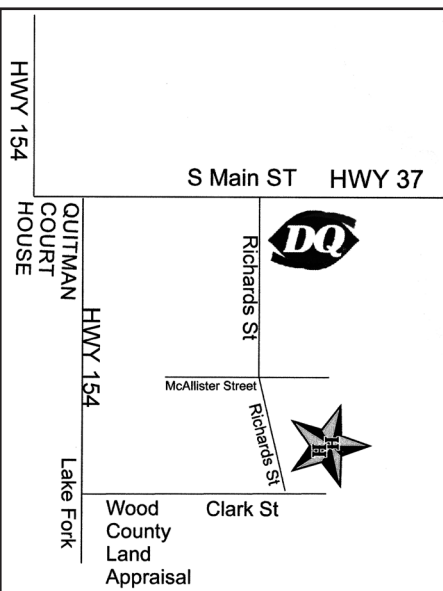
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Texas Game Warden Recognized as National Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year

At a recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Carter Smith recognized Texas Game Warden Ellis Powell as the National Wild Turkey Federation's Texas Wildlife Officer of the Year.

Every year since 2000, the federation has recognized North American game wardens for enforcement activities related to wild turkeys. This marks the 16th year this award has been presented to a Texas game warden.

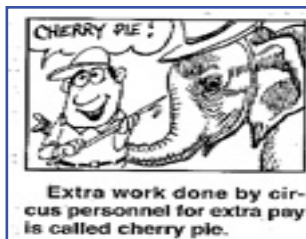
Powell graduated from the 50th Texas Game Warden Training

Academy in June 2004. Upon graduation, he was assigned to Newton County, where he is currently stationed.

In his nearly 12 years in Newton County, which borders Sabine National Forest, Powell has developed strong relationships with the large hunting clubs bordering the forest. Because of Powell's partnerships throughout the area, there have been hardly any game violations in the forest, which has one of the largest populations of Eastern turkey in the state. Additionally, Powell routinely assists these clubs with their management plan for

both turkey and deer.

Powell is also active in his community, especially in activities involving youth participation in outdoor recreation. Powell consistently participates in numerous public programs throughout the year with local schools and civic organizations. He has also introduced many young adults to hunting and fishing through Operation Outdoor events held every year.



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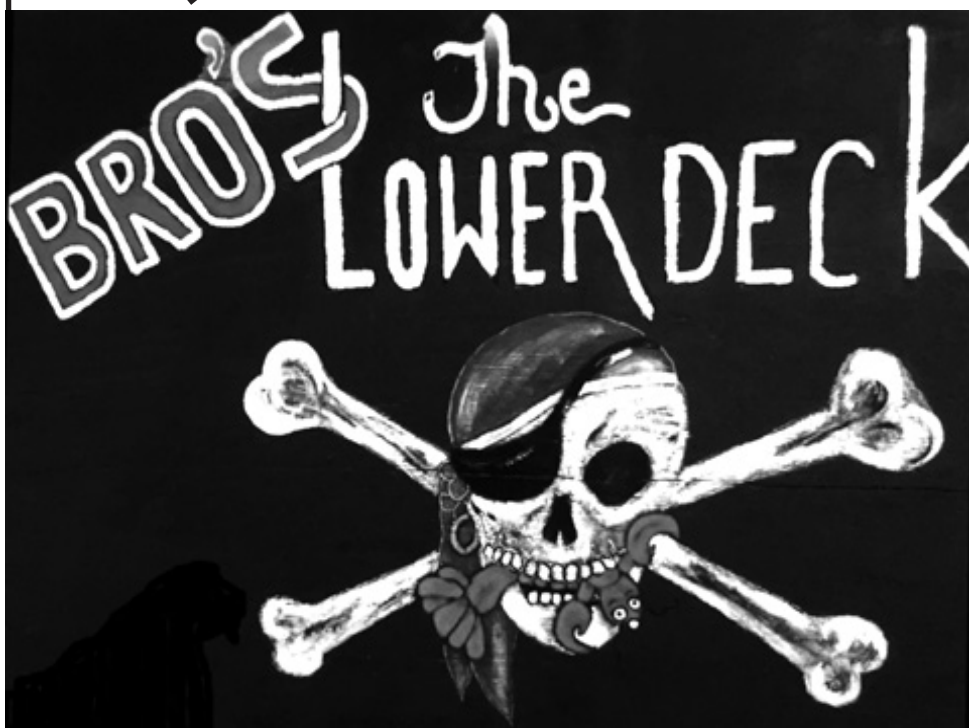
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"The Moon Report" "Crappie Spawn Just Beginning"

By Terri Moon

Well, if you think you've missed it – you haven't! The water temperature is just now getting where it needs to be. These colder mornings have kept the crappie at bay. Just when conditions would get right – here comes another cold front, and back the crappie off. The males are moving up and waiting on the females to move in. So, looks like April is going to be awesome!

The afternoons when the water temps reached mid to upper 60's, we were catching everything shallow – crappie, bass, catfish, white bass, yellow bass and – yes – even bream!! I would think "alright" – it's happening – then the next morning the temperature would drop to the 30's cooling the water to 58 to 60 degrees. It can be very frustrating this time of year! When the crappie are shallow they are more affected by all the weather changes. We just had a 60 degree morning with a storm approaching and caught about 50 – 50 male to female. Their



eggs were very mature and ready to drop.

We are targeting the backs of the coves, around docks, edges of the grass and isolated stick-ups anywhere from 1 to 8 ft. of water. On a cold night they might back off as deep as 20 ft. This time of year it can change daily! They are hitting on minnows and jigs – Lake Fork Tackle's Live Baby Shad in chartreuse and pearl and Bobby Garland's Electric Chicken or Monkey Milk.

Just a warning when fishing shallow – when the lake was down, the farmers had to extend their fences to keep the livestock in and now those fences are under water and not visible. I trolled over one the other day and a T-Post tore a foot long gash

in my hull. A HUGE thanks to Mike at "Mike's Fiberglass" for getting me back on the water! So be careful out there!!

I also want to thank Slade Dougharty for the amazing job he did fine tuning my depth finder. He is "THE" man when it comes to electronics. If you are serious about fishing, he is the best "crash course" you'll ever find! Thanks again Slade!

Now I would like to send special thoughts and prayers to my dad and brother who were both admitted to the hospitals this week and especially to mom who is doing her best to look after both of them. Love to all!

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8th Annual Mega Bass Tournament on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 1-A)

ting in first place, but had no hopes of winning the \$15,000 hourly with 4 bass over the slot waiting to commit for the hour and be weighed in. Each angler holding an over the slot waited to the last second to weigh in for the hour. To Mr. Holmes advantage, the angler that bluffed the other three out, his bass did not touch the 24" required mark. That angler met our game warden and Jim's bass won him \$15,000 for the hour.

During the course of the tournament only eight bass over the slot came to the scales giving anglers with 2-pounders the chance for 2nd place through 15th place. Weigh in hours were from the 8 o'clock hour to the 2 o'clock hour. During the first hour Bob Roberts from Longview, Texas weighed in a 9.35-pound bass winning \$15,000; 2nd hour Jonathon Ham from Rockwall, Texas weighed in a 8.65-pound bass winning \$15,000; 3rd hour was Jim Holmes 2.35-pound; 4th hour was Scott Morton from Nacogdoches, Texas with an 8.26-pound bass winning him \$15,000; 5th hour was Gary Brett Green from Glenwood, Arkansas with a 10.02-pound bass winning him

\$15,000; 6th hour was Jerry Hall from Lewisville, Texas with a 9.71-pound bass winning him \$15,000 and Jerry Archer from Poetry, Texas with an 8.67-pound bass winning him \$1,000; 7th hour was Larry Ladnier from Rockwall, Texas with a 9.55-pound bass winning him \$15,000 and David Sorrells from Linden, Texas with a bass weighing 9.06-pounds winning him \$1,000.

Gary Brett Green's bass of 10.02-pounds held up as the heaviest bass of the tournament not only winning him his \$15,000 for 1st place in the hour but he also took home with him a 2016 Skeeter ZX 200 Yamaha, Lowrance Electronics, Power-Pole, and MinnKota trolling motor.

During the 11 o'clock hour Juan Hernandez from Gilmer, Texas brought an exact weight bass under the slot to the scales weighing 3-pounds even. For his catch he won 2nd place in the hour for \$1,000 plus the \$500 even bonus weight.

"We'd like to congratulate all of the winners and thank everyone for making the journey and for some a really long journey to come fish the Mega Bass event with us, presented by the Sportsman's

Auto Network. It was a great day, and a lot of big fish were weighed in. This annual event just keeps getting bigger and better every year. We hope everyone had a lot of fun and plan on fishing again next year!" said Chad Potts, Bass Champs President.

For more information about BassChamps visit their website; www.basschamps.com Don't forget their 11th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament to be held on Lake Fork, October 15th.

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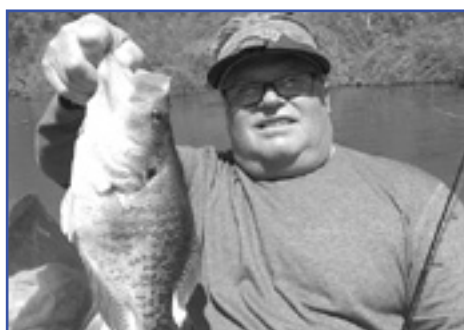
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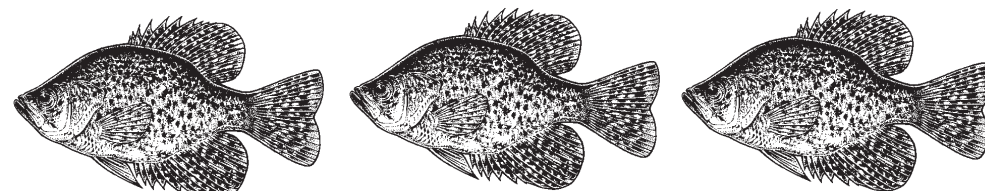
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TPW Commission Adopts Changes to Fishing Regulations

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission today adopted a series of fishing regulation changes affecting bass and catfish in specific

fresh waters, and clarifying saltwater length limits on black drum and amberjack, and rules prohibiting snagging of fish with pole-and-line.

The changes to the 2016-17 Statewide Recreational and Commercial Fishing regulations take effect on September 1, 2016, and include:

--Modifying harvest regulations for large-mouth bass on Lake Naconiche (Nacogdoches County) from an 18-inch minimum length limit to a 16-

inch maximum.

--Modifying harvest regulations for small-mouth bass on Lake Meredith (Hutchinson, Moore, and Potter counties) from a 12- to 15-inch slot and 3 per day bag to a 14-inch minimum length limit and 5 per day bag.

--Modifying harvest regulations for channel and blue catfish bass on Lake Tawakoni (Hunt; Raines, and Van Zandt counties). The new proposal would remove the current 12-inch minimum length limit, but with a modified 25 fish daily bag (blues and channels combined). Within the 25 bag, only seven fish could exceed 20 inches in length and of those seven fish, only two could exceed 30 inches.

--Modifying harvest regulations for large-mouth bass on the Sabine River in Newton and Orange counties, and in Chambers, Galveston, Jefferson, and Orange counties. This proposal would reduce the minimum length limit for largemouth bass to 12 inches. The daily bag limit would remain at five fish in the four counties and at eight fish for the Sabine River (same as limit for waters shared with Louisiana).

--Modifying saugeye harvest regulations to remove the current 18-inch minimum length limit and change the daily bag limit from three to five, only two of which may be greater than 16 inches (same as walleye harvest regulations).

--Clarifying the recreational maximum size limit for black drum is 30 inches, and the recreational minimum total length limit on greater amberjack is 38 inches to align with new federal regulations that utilize a different measurement guideline.

--Clarifying that snagging or foul hooking any fish using pole-and-line in fresh and salt water is prohibited.

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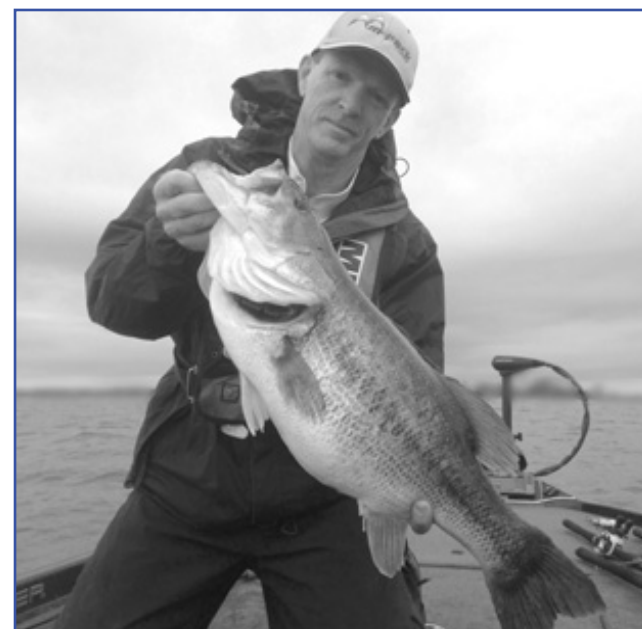




Tracy Redden was fishing with his daughter Stefanie and "Bassin' With Bubba" on Lake Fork when he caught this nice bass. "Stefanie caught more fish though!" C.P.R. (Fisherman's Guide Photo)



"It doesn't have to be a lunker when it is the first bass you've ever caught! Stefanie Copeland caught her first bass while "Bassin With Bubba" and her dad Tracy and still caught more than Dad! LOL... C.P.R. (Fisherman's Guide Photo)



James Peel was fishing on Lake Fork in March with guide Andrew Grills when he caught this nice 9-pound bass. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo by Andrew Grills Guide Service)

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Texas Birding Event Celebrates 20 Years

In April, hundreds of birders will flock to the coast, forests, prairies and mountains of Texas to compete in the nation's biggest, longest and wildest bird watching tournament. The registration deadline for the 20th annual Great Texas Birding Classic, which runs from April 15 to May 15, is April 1.

Since the Classic started 20 years ago, a lot has changed. The competition has expanded statewide to record participation, and it's no longer just for experts since new categories appeal to budding naturalists and avid birders alike.

Competitors can choose from more than 40 tournament categories to test their birding skills, participating for as little as half a day or as long as a week in a statewide tourney. Participants form a team and compete in such categories as the Big Sit!, in which birders must remain within a 17-foot-diameter circle to count their birds. Other categories include a sunrise-to-noon event, youth-only tournaments, a human-powered contest and one tournament held entirely within Texas state parks.

"The Birding Classic is a wonderful opportunity

for bird watching enthusiasts and all nature lovers to gather with family and friends to see how many bird species they can spot in a few hours, a full day, or even a few days in a row," says Shelly Plante, nature tourism manager for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "This is a fun event that anyone, regardless of their age or ability, will enjoy."

Last year, more than 530 competitors competed in the Birding Classic, documenting 413 out of 643 documented avian species in Texas. The 2015 event attracted a record-breaking 100 teams that competed from Far West Texas and the Texas Panhandle to the Golden Triangle in southeast Texas and the Valley down south. The Birding Classic sported family teams, teams of work colleagues, birding buddies having their spring birding get-away together and more.

Registration fees and team sponsorships for the event raise money for birding and habitat conservation, restoration and enhancement grants throughout the state, helping preserve critical bird habitat and support nature tourism. Overall last year, the

tournament raised \$25,000 for conservation grants—a 40 percent increase from the previous year. Since its inception in 1997, the Great Texas Birding Classic has awarded conservation grants totaling \$844,500.

One of last year's participants, teen birder Hannah Franklin of San Antonio, joined a team sponsored by the Texas Ornithological Society that competed in an age group competition in Central Texas.

"It was an amazing day with wonderful friends, fantastic birds and great leaders," Franklin says. "I can't wait for next year!"

To register online and learn more about the tournament, visit www.BirdingClassic.com. This event is made possible by sponsorship and registration fees, donations from event sponsors Toyota and Texas Ornithological Society and the awards ceremony sponsor Audubon Texas.

For more information about the Great Texas Birding Classic, view the video news report.

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The advertisement features three photographs of anglers holding large fish. The first photo on the left shows a young woman in a red shirt and orange visor holding a large white bass. The middle photo shows a man in a black shirt and cap holding a large white bass. The third photo on the right shows a man in a light-colored shirt and cap holding a large white bass.

Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Paraphernalia and Personal Plants-- As two Atascosa County game wardens followed up on a pending investigation at a suspect's property, one of the wardens saw marijuana plants growing through an outbuilding's screen door. The homeowners, who said they were growing the marijuana for personal use, gave the wardens consent to search their

home. The warden noticed drug paraphernalia in the bedroom, for which the warden cited both suspects. The wardens seized the marijuana plants for evidence, and the investigation is ongoing.

--Inspect Carefully-- A Kimble County game warden investigated an accidental shooting at a hunting camp. As two teenagers were getting ready at their camp house for the evening's hunt, one teenager was sitting on his bed inspecting his firearm while the other one got dressed. The teen-

ager looking at his firearm accidentally discharged it and shot his friend in the right thigh. The bullet exited the victim's left leg. The victim was taken to the hospital where he underwent several surgeries. He is expected to make a full recovery.

--Following the Trail of Evidence-- After finishing a youth hunt in Howard County, a game warden received a call about an abandoned vehicle with New Mexico tags near a gut pile in Borden County. When the warden arrived on scene, he found a fresh gut pile about 10 feet behind the abandoned truck. He also saw fresh blood and deer hair in the bed of the truck. After some observation, the warden found a name on an old package in the bed of the truck that did not match the name of the truck's registered owner. The warden then contacted the Eddy County Sheriff's Office in New Mexico, where the truck was registered, and requested they contact the truck's owner. The Sheriff's Office reported back that the owner's son-in-law, whose name matched the name on the package, was driving the truck. The truck's owners advised their son-in-law was most likely in a hunting camp somewhere in Texas. A Borden County game warden provided the warden with locations of several nearby hunting camps known to be used by New Mexico residents. In the second camp the warden searched, he found the very tired and very

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

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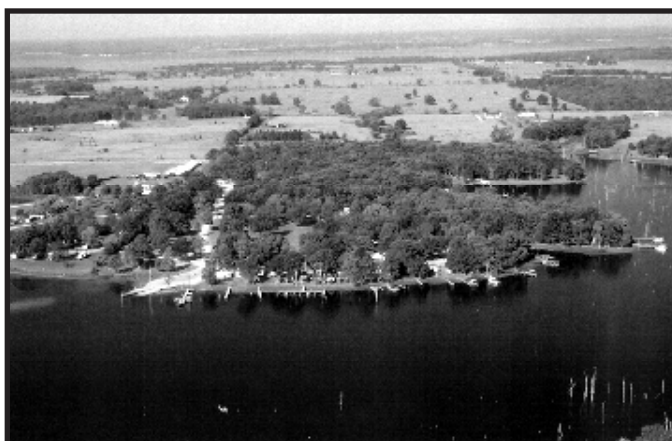
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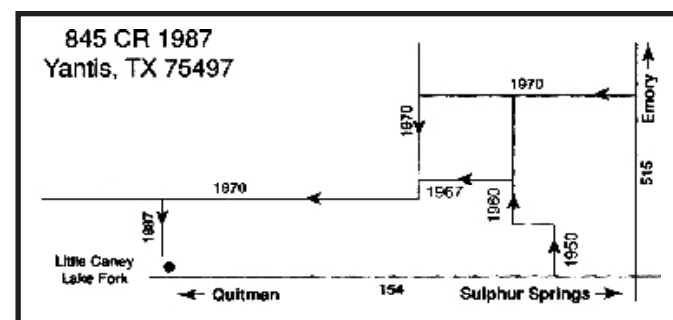
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Commission Approves Changes to Deer Hunting Regulations for 2016-17

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted a suite of changes to this year's deer hunting regulations that includes expanding white-tailed deer hunting into 14 counties across the western Panhandle, and creating additional deer hunting opportunities in East Texas.

The Commission adopted the following changes to the 2016-17 Statewide Hunting Proclamation, the details of which will be incorporated into this year's Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outdoor Annual:

--Elimination of the Antlerless and Spike-buck Control Permit due to lack of demand;

--Define "unbranched antlered deer" to clarify what constitutes a legal buck across seasons and to alleviate confusion among hunters, and replace the "Special Late Antlerless and Spike-buck Season" with a "Special Late Season" to accommodate the inclusion of "unbranched antlered deer" in the bag limit;

--Allow the take of antlerless deer with-

out a permit on certain U.S. Forest Service Lands during youth-only seasons;

--Clarify that white-tailed antlerless deer harvest during the archery-only season does not require a permit and harvest of antlerless deer during youth seasons is restricted to persons 16 years of age and younger including on properties issued Level 1 Managed Lands Deer (MLD) Permits;

--Implement both a general and special archery-only season for white-tailed deer in Andrews, Bailey, Castro, Cochran, Gaines, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Parmer, Terry and Yoakum counties, with a bag limit of three deer (no more than one buck and no more than two antlerless), which is identical to adjoining/nearby counties that currently have a season.

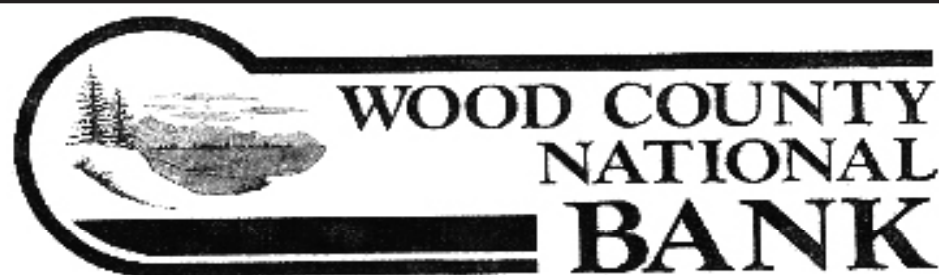
--Implement both a general and special archery-only season for white-tailed deer in Winkler County, with a bag limit of three deer (no more than one buck and no more than two antlerless, with the take of antlerless deer restricted to the archery-only season or properties

issued MLDP antlerless tags). The new season is identical to adjoining/nearby counties that currently have a season.

--Establish four "doe days" (time periods in when antlerless deer may be taken without a permit in parts of the state where antlerless harvest regulations are conservative) in Bell (east of IH35), Burleson, Ellis, Falls, Freestone, Kaufman, Limestone, Milam, Navarro and Williamson (east of IH35) counties;

--Increase the number of doe days to 16 in Anderson, Brazos, Camp, Gregg, Grimes, Henderson, Lamar, Leon, Madison, Morris, Red River, Robertson and Upshur counties; and

--implement a muzzleloader-only late season in Anderson, Bell (East of IH 35), Brazos, Burleson, Comal (East of IH 35), Delta, Ellis, Fannin, Falls, Franklin, Freestone, Grimes, Hays (East of IH 35), Henderson, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Lamar, Leon, Limestone, Madison, Milam, Navarro, Rains, Red River, Robertson, Smith, Titus, Travis (East of IH 35), Van Zandt, Williamson (East of IH 35), and Wood counties.



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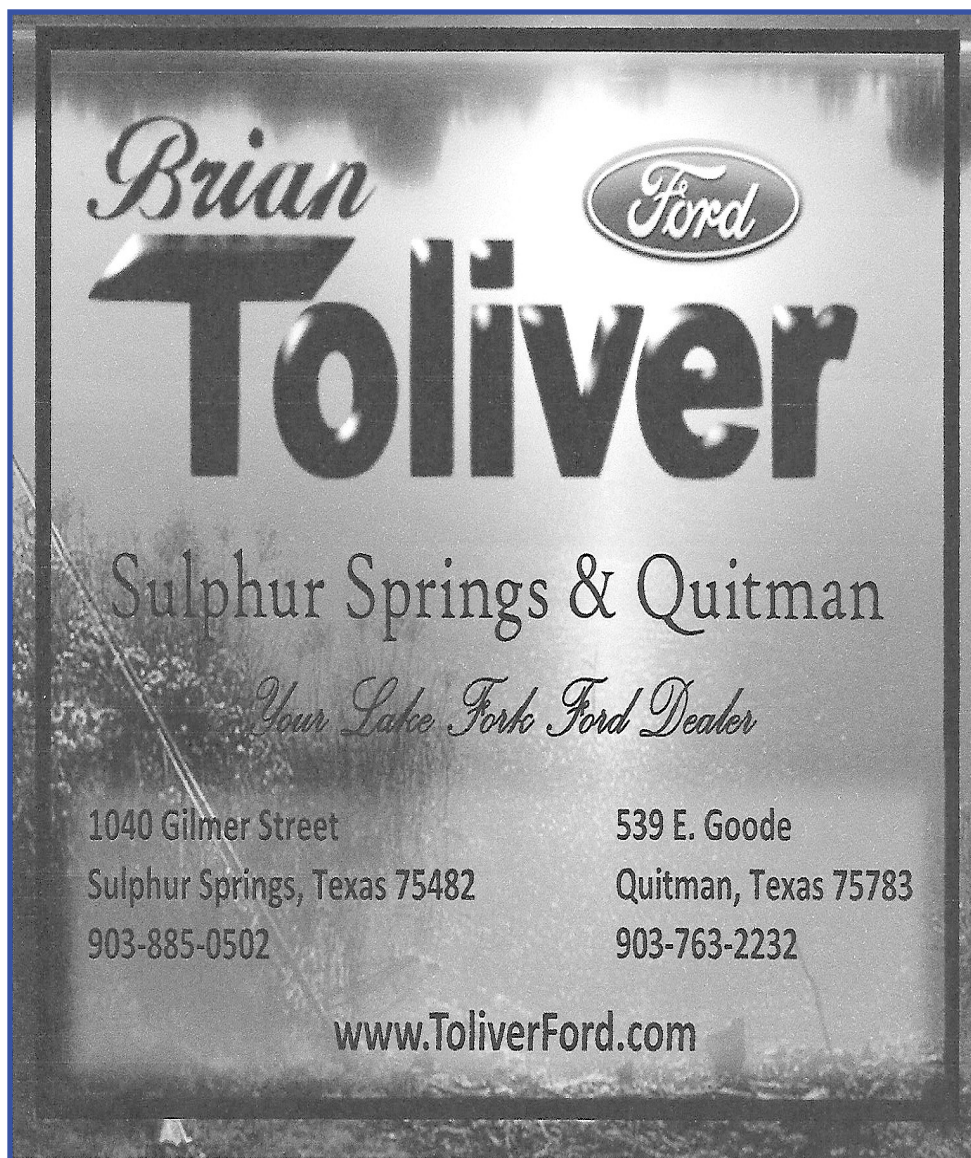
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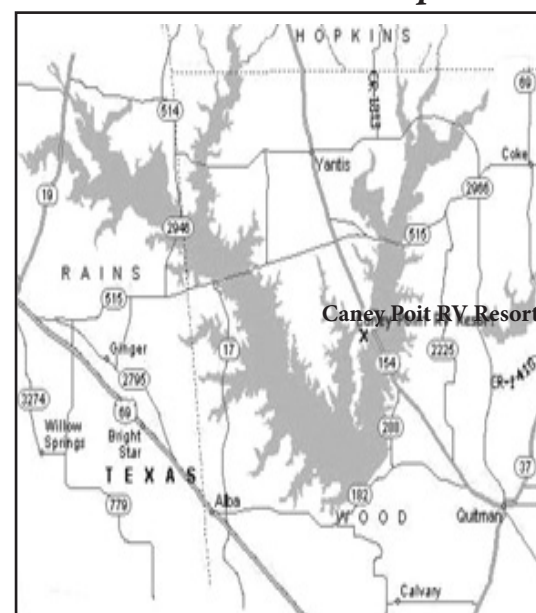
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"Pack of Knowledge" The Finesse Approach for Pressured Fish

By Andrew Grills

Spring is officially here and so are the fishermen! This is the time of year that the bass are most heavily pressured. I wouldn't expect to catch many fish if I were fishing behind several other boats using the same techniques they were using. Out here on Lake Fork in the spring we have no choice but to share water, therefore changing our tactics is often critical for success.

"Finesse fishing" is not one of my favorite terms in the angler's dictionary, however this approach can produce some quality fish when

not much else will. When the fishing gets tough, shaky heads, drop shots, and wacky rigged worms can save the day.

When I downsize on Lake Fork, I'm talking about stepping from heavy tackle to what might be considered medium-heavy tackle. On most lakes, if one were to take a finesse approach, they might use line as light as 8 or 10 pound test. But, here 15 pound test is about as low as I will go. There are just too many obstacles in our lake and too many big fish too take a chance on losing them in heavy cover. 15 pound fluorocarbon covers most finesse applications for me.

In my opinion, the most important thing to keep in mind with a finesse approach is to slow down. As a guide, I have to remind most of my customers to slow down on a regular basis. I believe fishing too fast is the most common mistake we make in most cases. I tell my customers to fish so slow you can count each root at the base of a stump. Working the bait with your rod tip, with occasional pauses, as the worm inches along the bottom is hard for a bass to resist.

Also important, is not to over work the bait. I find the less movement the better with finesse applications. Keep in mind that each pebble, shell, or root that worm touches will give it some movement. I believe this looks much more

natural to a fish than a gyrating piece of plastic. Often, I will find myself letting the bait sit totally motionless for several seconds at a time. Of course there are other methods that might work for other anglers, however fishing slow and giving the bait very little action has worked well for me.

Finesse techniques shine under calm conditions. Usually a day or two after a cold front when the wind lays down means tough fishing. This is a good time to consider finesse. If the wind is blowing it can be difficult to effectively finesse fish, and finesse fishing may not be necessary as fish are often more active when there is some wind.

When opting for a finesse approach you are definitely going to catch some smaller fish than with many other applications, but that doesn't mean you can't catch some quality fish as well. The biggest fish I've ever seen on the end of a customer's line was hooked on a shaky head under very tough conditions.

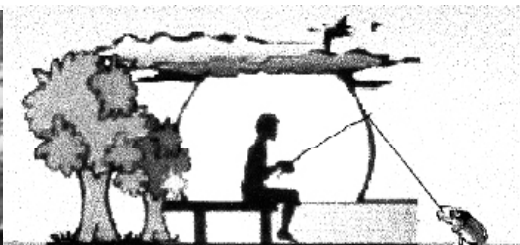
Next time you're out on the water and you see several boats ahead of you throwing big plastics, jigs, and spinnerbaits, consider downsizing, slowing down, and taking a finesse approach. It just might turn a bad day of fishing into a great one.



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

drunk son-in-law. After a brief interview, the warden discovered the son-in-law and a friend had illegally taken four deer, including two bucks, from a public road. Cases and restitution are pending.

--Reckless Run-In-- A game warden assisted the Moore County Sheriff's Office in responding to a call about a reckless driver on a nearby highway. The warden was the second officer on the scene, where he saw a pickup truck crashed into the highway's center median and the driver passed out behind the wheel. After speaking with the driver when she regained consciousness, the warden observed she was heavily intoxicated. After failing the sobriety tests, the sheriff's deputy arrested the driver for driving while intoxicated. A probable cause search of the car revealed drug paraphernalia and several open containers of vodka. The driver later consented to providing a breath sample, which showed she had a 0.153 blood alcohol content. The driver was then booked into the Moore County jail.

--Doing the Right Thing...Sort Of-- A game warden was home celebrating his wife's birthday when two very nervous men knocked on his front door. They said they were pig hunting from a nearby road, and they were worried they had shot a deer by accident. One of the men saw a group of four road hunters being jailed a couple weeks prior, and he didn't want that to happen to him and his friend. The warden contacted a Baylor County game warden for assistance since the road was located in Baylor County. The wardens didn't find any deer, but they filed charges for hunting from a public road on the two hunters.

--"We Just Want to Go Home."-- A Comanche County game warden got a call from a hunter who

said he saw someone spotlighting on the road near his camp. As the warden drove to the scene, the hunter called back and said he had just heard a gunshot. The hunter also said he saw a truck leave the scene, but he could still see two people with flashlights searching the woods. The warden intercepted the truck as it reached the highway and talked to the suspect, who denied hunting or spotlighting, even though he had a freshly fired rifle and a spotlight in the front seat. A deputy arrived on scene and stayed with the suspect as the warden searched for the two other people with flashlights. About five miles down the road, the warden found two teenage girls with flashlights walking on the road. The warden identified himself and asked the girls if they needed help. One of the girls said, "Our daddy

shot a deer, and he made us drag it to the fence. Then he left us here, and we don't know where

he went, and we're lost and scared and just want to go home!" The warden loaded the 10-point

buck into his truck and took the girls back to (See Game Warden Continued on Page 22-A)



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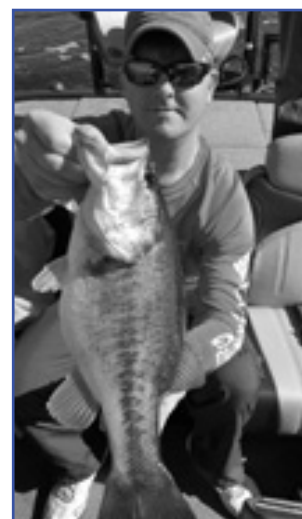
Time of Season.... (continued from Page 6-A)

after a cold front. The big bass have a habit of not chasing baits during high pressure so the C-rig will pick up the slack. Magnum lizards, creature baits and even small swimbaits should do the heavy lifting. Chose dark colors for heavily stained water and translucent colors like watermelon red for clearer water on sunny days. Big jigs will also play a roll on these points with the same colors schemes as the C-rig. Graph the points before you make a cast and check for activity. If something shows up on the radar as my clients call it, drop a waypoint

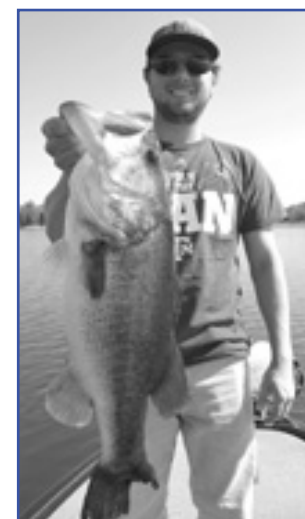
and start casting. Also, with cold fronts in mind, don't give up on the shallow fish entirely. You can back out to the first breakline and throw a Texas rig or a senko. Use the lightest line possible under the high skies to get the bites you are looking for. Once you get the bite, you can figure out how to get the beast in the boat. Play well my friends.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in April 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."

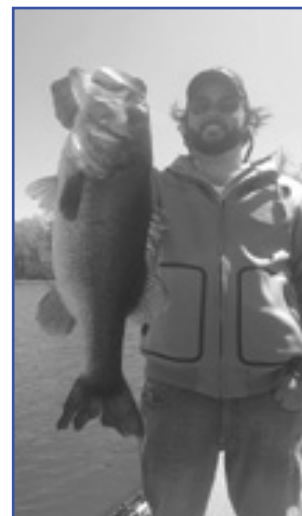
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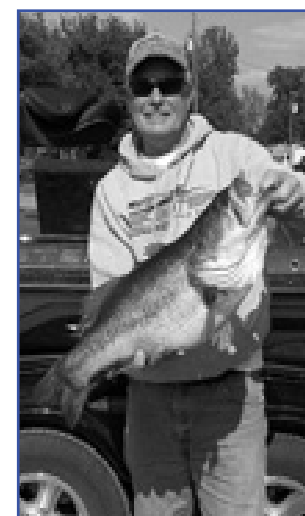
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Landon Woodard with David Ozio



Zach Turner with David Ozio



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The sixth annual Athens Eggfest is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC).

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cooking will end at 3 p.m.

Regular admission to TFFC will be charged; an additional \$5 donation to the Friends of TFFC is required for tasting. Tasting will continue until all the food is gone.

Cooks should pre-register at <http://athenseggfest.wordpress.com/>. There is no fee

to cook.

Demo eggs used at the event will be available for purchase at the end of the day. Click on the link above to reserve a once-used Big Green Egg ceramic cooker prior to the event.

The Athens Eggfest is sponsored by Morrison Supply, Paragon Distributing, Brookshire's Food and Pharmacy, Friends of TFFC and First State Bank--Athens.

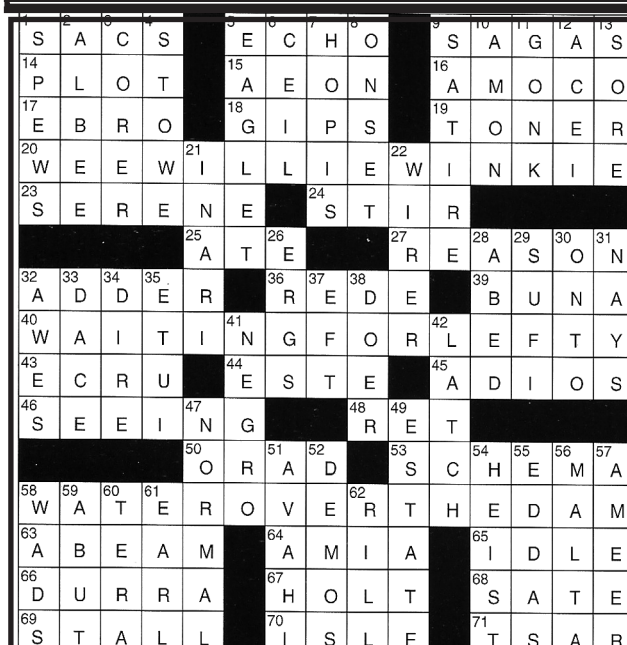
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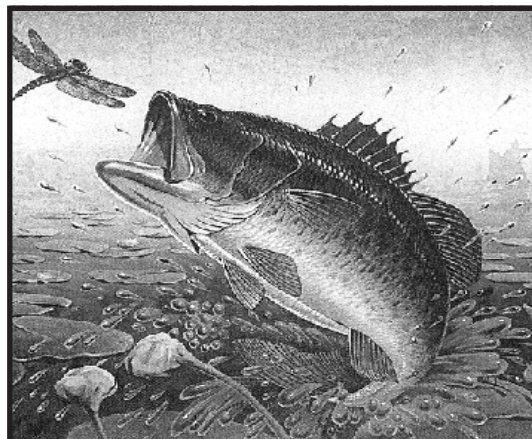
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There are 14 parts of the human body hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

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THROAT
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I A H G E R E U G N O R
F Y E N D I K O N E M T
P E A L V S E B I O L E
E A R B O T L I F A I N
V E T O N E O M D B A D
L I R V E E C E S O N I
I M H E M R A T O M E K
S K T A O R H T E P O F
E S O K D U P G N A T I
N L N I B T E H O C H N
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Game Warden Field Notes *(Continued from Page 19-A)*

their father's location, where the suspect cooperated and was charged with hunting deer at night from a public road. He was also charged with civil restitution for the buck. The girls were released to a family member.

--Too Many to Count-- Two Val Verde County game wardens were checking hunting camps when they discovered a hunting party had taken too many deer. To keep up with the growing list of violations, the game wardens resorted to drawing up a chart on paper. In total, the wardens filed three charges

for untagged deer, four charges for hunting with another individual's license, one charge for hunting without a license, one charge for incorrect deer processing, one charge for being over the limit on antlered deer and one charge for no proof of hunter's education. The wardens also filed 18 warnings for harvest log violations. The wardens seized and donated five deer, and restitution is pending.

--Man Overboard-- A Grayson County game warden got a call about a boat circling Lake Texoma with no opera-

tor. Witnesses reported seeing the boat come out of a cove at a high rate of speed earlier that day. A search of the area and a subsequent investigation revealed the operator, who was not wearing a kill switch or a life vest, had been thrown out of the boat. The TPWD Dive Team and other wardens continued searching for the victim until they found him days later. The dive team recovered the body from 40 feet of water, just north of the original target search area.

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