

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



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

2 Sections

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No. 202



Landon Markum from Paradise, Texas won the 12th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament for the heaviest bass over the slot with this nice bass weighing 10.55-lbs. He was presented his certificate for his 2016 Legend 211-Alpha, powered by Mercury, Motorguide, and Lowrance Electronics by Randy Qualls, Legend Boats and Don Hampton, Tournament Director/Co-Owner.



Greg Cano from Dallas, Texas won the 12th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament for the 2nd heaviest bass over the slot with his catch of a 9.37-lb. largemouth. He was presented his certificate for his 2016 Legend 199-Alpha, powered by Mercury, Motorguide, and Lowrance Electronics by Randy Qualls, Legend Boats and Don Hampton, Tournament Director/Co-Owner.



Mark Williams from Frankston, Texas bested 1,227 other anglers for the heaviest bass under 16" when he brought a 3.08-lb. bass to the scales. His bass won him a 2016 Legend 191, powered by Mercury, Motorguide, and Lowrance Electronics by Randy Qualls, Legend Boats and Don Hampton, Tournament Director/Co-Owner.



Ricky D. Tompkins from Nocona, Texas turned out to be one of the luckiest anglers in the tournament when his name was drawn from the number of early entries as the winner for the draw boat. He took home a 2016 Legend 195 fully outfitted bass boat just for getting his entry in before the deadline April 30th. (See Full Story on Page 4-A)

"Bubba just can't and won't shut-up!"

By: Don Hampton

If you have ever seen Bubba speechless, behold you've witnessed a miracle. The only time you may hear a moment of silence from him is when he is eating. You may even hear that same moment of peacefulness when he misses a hook set, his line breaks, or he misses a productive fishing trip. That time will only be momentarily. Then cover the women and children's ears because he may break that moment of silence in a typical outburst.

Bubette has mentioned on more than one occasion that Bubba talks more than two gossips on a fence line. She has even let it be known that he even talks in his sleep and guess what 90% of his conversations are about? If you answered fishing you get an A+ on this exam.

Bubba is not one of these fishermen that believe quiet and stealth is the key to catching fish. He believes in talking to the fish, singing to them, praying for them, cussing them, and praising them. Whatever emotion he is experiencing he vocalizes it either in word, song, or exclamation!

If you have ever fished with Bubba you'll either think; "There is never a dull moment!" or "Will this guy ever shut-up?" You may even think both!

On the trip to the water Bubba listens to fish tunes. This is a CD he attained over the Internet that is composed of ten original songs in which the words have been changed to a fishing theme. These songs range from Willie Nelson singing "On The Boat Again!" to Dobie Gray singing,

"Give Me Some Bait Boy and Free My Pole, I Want To Go Down To The Fishing Hole and Drift Away!" and of course, "Don't Worry Catch Crappie!" It is a really good CD, but fishing with Bubba you tend to hear them all the time! He explains this as his mood music. (As if he needed to get in the mood for fishing.) It really wouldn't be that bad except he knows all the words and lyrics and once the boat is in the water and the radio is off, he's like the Energizer Bunny and keeps going and going and going!

Bubba, when it comes to singing these songs to the fish, truly is a legend in his own mind. He either thinks he is a really good singer or else the inspiration helps him catch more fish. He has now started changing every word to every song he knows to reflect fishing. Remember that beautiful song, "Bring Back That Loving Feeling"? Bubba's goes something like this, "Bring Back that Tuggin' Feelin' Oh, Oh That Tugging Feelin'. Fishey, Fishey, I tied my hook on just for yooooou! If you'd only bite it, bite it, tha' way you're supposed to dooooo!" You get the picture? Sing those words to the lyrics of the song and then picture Bubba on the front of a bass boat with rod n' reel in hand singing that to the fish on Lake Fork!

Bubba doesn't stop with the songs, he has made up slogans you will hear on every trip with him. You've heard the one and maybe even used it a time or two that goes; "Here Fishy, Fishy, Fishy!" Well his goes far beyond that for coaxing the bass

to lure. You'll hear him say, "Here Fishy, I got you some artificial sushi, low calorie, sure enough to get hooked on!" Bubba has to watch himself when he is fishing in mixed company with some of his speeches to the fish. One example is many anglers, myself included, refer to big bass as hawgs. Bubba doesn't do this! He refers to them as "Fat Girls" and his favorite saying is, "I'm looking for a fat girl to do the line dance with me!" To my surprise I do believe this one works for him. I have seen him hook a few after this little chant of enticement.

If you ever wish to hear any of Bubba's songs or lyrics, don't expect them on the radio or television, just pull up beside his boat on the lake. You will be sure to hear some then, because, **"Bubba just won't and can't shut up when it comes to fishing!"**



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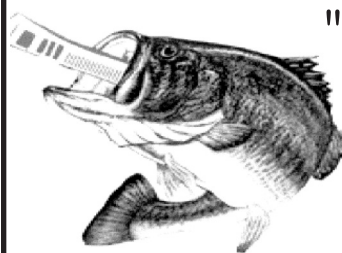
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12th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

The 12th Annual Legend of Lake Fork was held on May 13th, 14th, and 15th hosted out of Lake Fork Marina. With the hope of winning a portion of the \$320,000 guaranteed in cash and prizes, 1,227 anglers representing 19 states came with hopes of winning.

Registration and check-in began on Thursday, May

12th from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. but with the lines forming the registration began earlier. With TFO rods going to participants for \$50, anglers came early to take advantage while the supply lasted. Word must have gotten out just how good the rods are because even with the limit set on the number an angler could purchase, all the rods were gone by 4 p.m. Dallas Baptist College students are to be commended for their help in volunteering to keep all in order.

On Friday morning the tournament started out looking like it was going to be a big bass showdown when the first over the slot bass was brought to the scales. Terry Kemp started it all off with a bass weighing 8.21-pounds during the first hour. With 8 places per hour being paid some upper 1-pound bass made a check but most under the slot were over 2-pounds. Only eight bass 24" and over came to the scales over the course of the tournament. There were 27 over the

slot at the 2015 tournament proving most of the big bass Lake Fork is known for were suspended with lock jaw.

During the 9 to 10 o'clock hour Alejandro Trevino brought an 8.11-pound bass to the scales. On the second day Kyle Kirkes brought an 8.77-pound bass to the scales. In the 10 to 11 o'clock hour Greg Cano brought a 9.37-pound bass in and during the 11 to 12 o'clock hour Mark Reeves brought

an 8.06-pound bass in. On the third day an over didn't come in until the 11 to 12 o'clock hour. This hawg was caught by (See 12th Annual....

Continued on Page 9-A)



Bubba chose well when he got the assistance of 12 year old Kolbi Redden from Burleson, TX., to assist him in drawing names from the entries for prizes and a new Legend bass boat for the anglers.



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12th ANNUAL LEGEND OF LAKE FORK OPEN BIG BASS TOURNAMENT FINALS

DAY 1				DAY 2				DAY 3			
7 - 8 Hour		11 - 12 Hour		7 - 8 Hour		11 - 12 Hour		7 - 8 Hour		11 - 12 Hour	
Terry Kemp	8.21	Minor Peace	2.16	Kyle Kirkes	8.77	Mark Reeves	8.06	Steve Wells	2.12	Caleb Noble	8.03
George Strock	2.51	Bubba Sadler	2.14	Brian Mobley	2.25	Mark Williams	3.08	Jerry Archer	2.08	William Coggins	2.45
William Yokas	2.22	Bobby Denison	2.06	Monte Martin	2.15	Ronald Brunner	2.53	Shawn McDonald	2.05	Chase Burns	2.31
Marlon Meiers	2.09	Michael Dodson	2.04	Jarrold Wiggins	2.06	Travis Stovall	2.43	James Chapman	2.05	Phillip Huff	2.08
Jason Smith	2.05	Gerald Counts	2.03	Robert Derr	2.04	Alfred Jordan	2.34	Jeffrey Wallace	2.03	Michael McNamara	2.00
Bruce Woodall	2.03	Thomas King	2.02	Donna Biondi	2.03	Jim Brundidge	2.29	Kyle Kirkes	1.87	Jeffery Rachall	1.95
James Snell	1.87	Tim Weaver	1.84	Jason Smith	2.00	Ricky Belvin	2.21	Chris Large	1.82	Shane Smith	1.94
8 - 9 Hour		12 - 1 Hour		8 - 9 Hour		12 - 1 Hour		8 - 9 Hour		12 - 1 Hour	
Rodney Hesser	2.29	Shep Shepard	2.69	Forrest Carvajal	2.67	Justyn Brugmann	2.27	Mike Crossland	2.36	Mark Ryer	2.36
Tim Gold	2.20	Wesley Robinson	2.22	Kelly Bielamowitz	2.57	Alan Brookshire	2.22	Terry Ramey	2.34	Dale Sandvall	2.25
Brandon Brossett	2.13	Tracy Pearson	2.21	Steven Grisby	2.35	Ryan Wasser	2.11	Ed Dennis	2.21	Ryan Wasser	2.23
James Snell	2.11	Arthur Seals	2.13	Jarren Andrews	2.29	Randy Morrison	2.11	Stephen Jones	2.19	Melton Homer	2.17
William Marra	2.05	Charles Keebler	2.11	Clay Andrews	2.28	Justin Long	2.05	John Goss	2.09	Jarrett Guidry	2.15
Terry Porier	2.00	Jarrold Wiggins	2.09	Justin Long	2.11	Brandon Autry	2.04	Willard Little	2.05	Jason Flenniken	2.12
Kasey Tilley	1.94	Stanley Fadrowski	1.90	Rodric Baker	2.10	Jay Fletchall	2.04	Mark Ryer	2.02	Wesley Weaver	2.07
9 - 10 Hour		1 - 2 Hour		9 - 10 Hour		1 - 2 Hour		9 - 10 Hour		1 - 2 Hour	
Alejandro Trevino	8.11	Jackie Wassman	2.67	Dallas Scott	2.44	Harry Vissering	2.52	Travis Ledford	2.25	Spencer Barnett	7.12
Michael Klzer	2.25	Will Hale	2.22	Johnny Hullett	2.41	Mark Cure	2.32	Donald Thomas	2.21	Brandon Autrey	2.57
Ricky Branton	2.22	Ray Lafon	2.18	Ray Lafon	2.38	Joe Carathers	2.25	William Davis	2.20	Jay Helland	2.46
Marlin Hicks	2.02	Curt Culbertson	2.10	Tim Weaver	2.36	Robert Dewitt Jr.	2.24	John Wurst	2.14	Mark Reeves	2.24
David Gray	2.01	Danny Weems	2.10	Robert King	2.18	Thomas Crawford	2.19	David Johnson	2.14	Chris Large	2.16
David Roork	2.01	Kasey Hunter	2.09	Cliff King	2.17	Curtis Summers	2.16	Steven Davis	2.11	Greg Winer	2.13
Mike Williams	1.99	John Vest	2.07	Manuel Varvaris	2.06	Tim Weaver	2.08	Bradley Cooper	2.05	Jeffery Graddy	2.08
10 - 11 Hour		2 - 3 Hour		10 - 11 Hour		2 - 3 Hour		10 - 11 Hour		2 - 3 Hour	
Jason Duncan	2.23	Robert Meeks	2.39	Greg Cano	9.37	Minor Peace	2.21	David Hurbrough	2.27	Landon Markum	10.55
Randy Griffin	2.22	Kyle Hall	2.34	Chris Edwards	2.63	Coleman Swango	2.20	Monte Martin	2.23	Colton Ross	2.39
Robert Hebert	2.17	Mike Sanders	2.31	Shane Smith	2.53	Harry Vissering	2.16	Dale Gore	2.15	David Dearick	2.30
Troy Thomas	2.15	John Goss	2.20	Ronald Davenport	2.28	Michael Harp	2.14	John Vest	2.08	John Jones	2.16
Phillip Huffmaster	2.13	Monty Damron	2.18	Danny Raines	2.24	Royce Farmer	2.13	James McGallion	2.04	Aaron Broderick	2.13
Brian Sanders	2.08	Danny Kraatz	2.15	Monty Damron	2.18	Keith Hall	2.13	Randall Kirkes	2.01	James Holmes	2.13
Joseph Rials	2.07	Mark Searer	2.11	Jeff Blanton	2.07	Colton Carpenter	2.13	Jerry Veselka	2.01	Justin Blissett	2.10

2016 Legend Boat Winners: Over Slot ~ Landon Markum w/10.55-lbs. Greg Cano w/9.37-lbs. Under Slot ~ Mark Williams w/3.08-lbs. Draw Boat ~ Ricky D. Tompkins

13th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament May 19, 20, 21, 2017

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"Electronics in June are the key to success!"

"June has finally rolled around and it is truly my favorite time of the year to fish Lake Fork. This is an incredible body of water loaded with huge bass and the post spawn largemouths will start to gather on deep structure feeding up as the water warms into the depths. The most critical piece of equipment at this time of the year is your electronics and regardless of the brand, knowledge of how to read the data correctly is paramount to your bass catching success. I take an ample amount of clients out each year who want to learn the in's and outs of what they are looking at on the bottom and turning it into a fish catching skill.

Let's cut to the chase and establish that everyone already has the ability to read the high tech electronics. The next skill would be to determine where to look and how to recognize the bass that

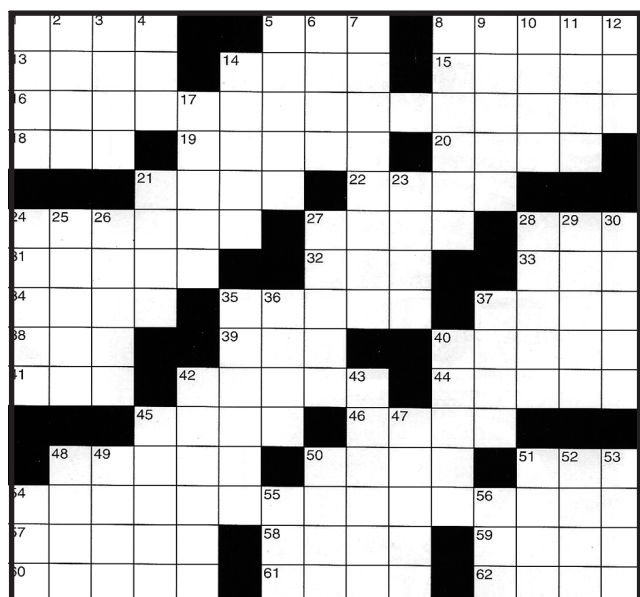
will start to gang up on certain types of structure. You can start with long tapering points. The next chore will be to ascertain what depth range where the green critters will set up shop. Start your scan in 35ft and graph your way into the 10ft range and then reverse course and head back to the starting point using a different track. Repeat this process until you have covered the entire point from front to back. If you see a group of arches on the screen during any one pass, set a waypoint on that location and put out a marker bouy on that spot once you have combed the entire area. During this time of the year, most fish will be on the bottom so you can focus your fish catching strategies on the Carolina rig, drop shot, Texas rig, jigs or crankbait. Flukes, brush hogs or any straight or curl tail worm will work using standard colors such as watermelon candy, redbug, plum or watermelon red. As for cranking, shad colored crankbaits along with chartreuse blue back also works well.

The next stop will be offshore humps or ridges. Graph these locations back and forth until you spot the likely targets. Drop a waypoint on the fishy looking spot and fish each technique until you determine what presentation they favor. If your after a lunker of a lifetime, the jig with matching trailer will be your "go to" bait. To round out your search, target roadbeds and submerged structures



such as brush piles or laydown timber. If the arches show up on your graph, pitch out a marker bouy and go to work. It's not rocket science, it's just locating where the fish are positioned. If all of this is somewhat confusing, your best bet will be to hire a full time Lake Fork guide and spend the day covering the aforementioned areas and have him point out what you need to be fishing. Bass move from day to day and they may be set up in one spot today and a hundred yards away tomorrow. Water temps, current from waves and sun angle all come into play when dealing with these wary creatures. Try not to over complicate it, fish what you see and let the results be your guide.

(See Electronics in June....
Continued on Page 20-A)



CLUES ACROSS

1. Biu-Mandara
5. Dip lightly into water
8. Saucy
13. Highly excited
14. Long, single-edged machete
15. Related on the mother's side
16. Bush-Gore contest
18. Arabian, for one
19. Edward ____, playwright
20. Approves food (abbr.)
21. Competently
22. ____, Grant, actor
24. Big D
27. Cut-rate event
28. Pat
31. Saint
32. School organization (abbr.)
33. Building extension
34. Cubic content unit
35. Take off
37. Islam
38. Holds
39. Skeletal muscle
40. Abu ____, United Arab Emirates capital
41. Collection of anecdotes about a person or place
42. Cubes
44. Fanatical
45. Having a pleasant appearance
46. Vividly colored fish
48. Grapes
50. Smallest merganser
51. New location (abbr.)
54. Concern of Bush-Gore contest
57. Reconnaissance (slang)
58. Develops, in a way
59. Fall down
60. Anesthetic
61. Plucked
62. Dried leaves of the hemp plant

CLUES DOWN

1. Decagrams (abbr.)
2. James ____, American writer
3. ____, fide (Latin)
4. Deteriorate
5. Stereo sound
6. Away from wind
7. Skunks
8. Assure payment of
9. Fidgety (slang)
10. Arab king
11. Greek portico
12. Japanese monetary unit
14. Wraps around
17. Capital of Morocco
21. ____, Ladd, actor
23. Wings
24. Russian country house
25. Scottish resort island
26. Capital of Tibet
27. Good deal
28. Place that treats addiction
29. Defense
30. Cloth having a crisscross design
35. Call forth
36. Contest of speed
37. Ruler of Iran
40. Slow speech pattern with prolonged vowels
42. Type of party
43. Austere
45. Daughter of your sibling
47. Green vegetable (archaic)
48. Assist in some wrongdoing
49. Hyperbolic cosecant (abbr.)
50. Edible lily bulb
51. Nat or Natalie
52. Native American people
53. Vipers
54. 100 square meters
55. Take in solid food
56. Records that play for about 20 minutes a side (abbr.)

Answers on Page 21-A



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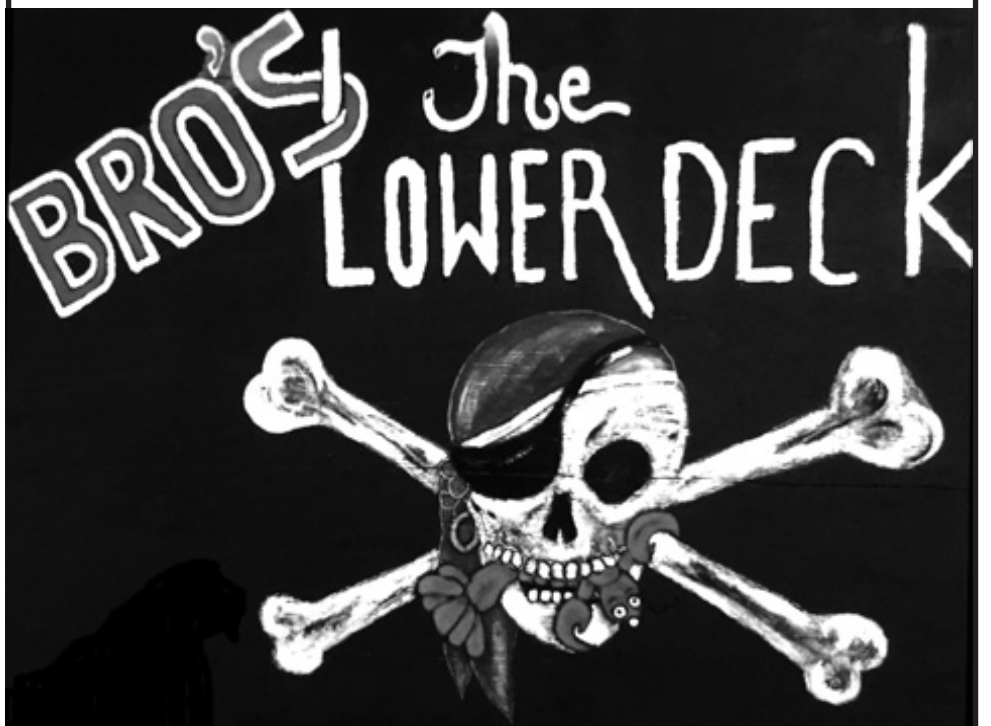
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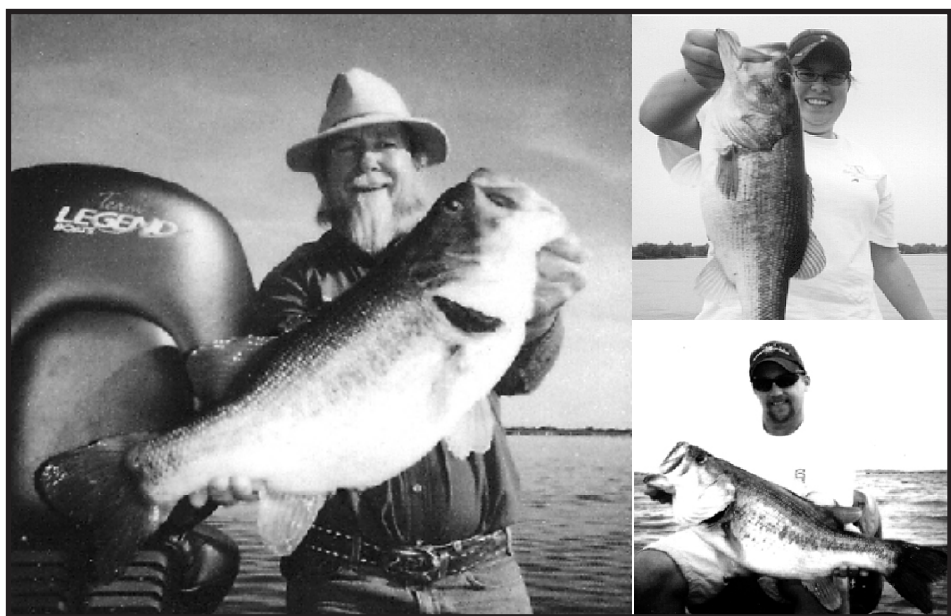


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"The Moon Report"

Fork's June Crappie

By Terri Moon

Looks like the crappie have finally finished up their spawning during the last full moon. The crazy weather has just started to warm consistently so we are still having to move around a lot.

The crappie are just starting to "bunch up." The fresh brush I've put out has helped tremendously! We seem to be catching mostly post spawn females in 16 to 24 ft. of water – but, how deep they are will change daily so keep a close eye on that graph so you know how deep you need to be fishing. We are targeting mid-range stump beds, brushpiles, and other submerged structure like grass beds or creek channels and the bridges are producing a few.

I'm so amazed at the detail of my Lowrance HDS units since Slade Dougharty worked his "magic" on them because when fishing structure in open water, your electronics are your number one tool in a successful day of fishing. So, if you're serious about your fishing, do yourself a favor and book an appointment with Slade. (It would make a great fa-



ther's day gift!) He also works on Humminbird and Garmin. This is the best crash course on the water you can get!

Now that my depth finders are tuned up and I've figured out how much I appreciate my MinnKota Ulterra Trolling Motor, life is pretty darn good on the water!!

The crappie have been hitting Lake Fork Tackle's Live Baby Shad in chartreuse and pearl – blue and pearl – and red shad.

The bream are starting to move in and the next full moon should be exciting! If you are not catching them in 1 – 5 ft., then back off to that 5 – 10 ft. around the edges of the grass or shallow water structure. Night crawlers or crickets on

slip bobbers or tightlined will work. There is nothing more fun!

I hope you all get out and enjoy Fork before those 100 degree days set in because June has always been a great month for ALL species!

If you are out around Lake Fork, be sure and stop in Lake Fork Marina and check out all the big changes at the Marina store. They are expanding to accommodate even more of the fisherman's needs. It's pretty awesome!

"Happy Fathers Day" to you all and especially to my dad Bobby Carleton of Leesville, MO. Wishing you all the best and a speedy recovery in your upcoming surgery. Love to all!

TERRI MOON

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12th Annual Legend of Lake Fork *(Continued from Page 4-A)*

Caleb Noble and weighed 8.03-pounds. During the 1 to 2 o'clock hour Spencer Barnett brought a 7.12 to the scales but the most excitement was during the 2 to 3 o'clock hour. Landon Markum, from Paradise, Texas in the last 20 minutes of the tournament brought a whopping hawg weighing 10.55-pounds to the scales.



Connie Steele and Sue (Bubbette) Hampton did an excellent job during the tournament keeping the winning anglers in their perspective chairs.

His bass not only won him \$500 for 1st place in the hour but was also the heaviest bass over the slot. For his catch he took home a 2016 Legend 211-Alpha, powered by Mercury, Motorguide, and Lowrance Electronics. Landon's catch pushed Greg Cano's bass to 2nd heaviest over the slot during the tournament, but it didn't hurt Greg's feelings too much. He took home his 1st place hourly check plus a 2016 Legend 199-Alpha, powered by Mercury, Motorguide, and Lowrance Electronics.

One of the rules of the tournament is though it is state law a bass on Lake Fork can touch 16", the tourna-

ment rules bass cannot touch 16". The reasoning is simple. We give away a 2016 Legend 191, powered by Mercury, Motorguide, and Lowrance Electronics for the heaviest bass under 16". The angler taking home this boat was Mark Williams who weighed in a bass weighing 3.08-pounds during the 11 to 12 (See 12th Annual.....Continued on Page 14-A)



Terri Moon with nice bass

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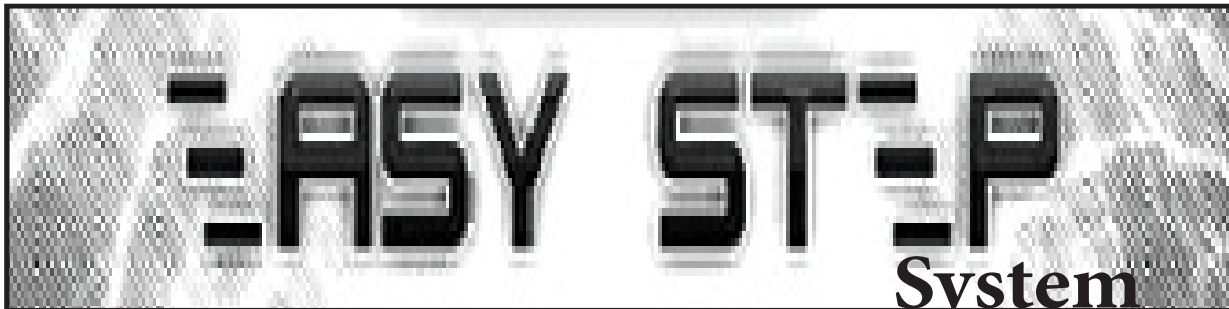
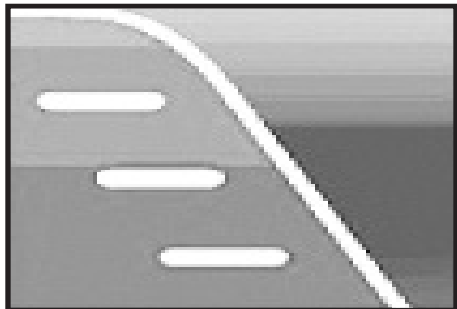
Garrett Nair
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Marty
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Boaters Urged to "Clean, Drain and Dry" to Protect Texas Lakes from Invasive Zebra Mussels

Bolstered by record funding from the Texas Legislature, a multi-partner coalition of river authorities, cities and nonprofits is stepping up the war against invasive species, including one of the worst noxious aquatic pests--zebra mussels.

With the busy summer boating season getting underway, a major public awareness campaign is calling for boaters to help stop the spread of this destructive invader that can clog water pipes, foul shorelines, damage boats, harm aquatic life and cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

"This is a significant economic as well as environmental issue

for all of us," said Janet Rummel with the North Texas Municipal Water District, a campaign partner. "Water rates for our customers have increased due in part to the \$300 million Lake Texoma pipeline that had to be built to keep zebra mussels from spreading. We all need to do our part to keep this invasive species in check."

The campaign urges boaters to "Clean, Drain and Dry" their boats, trailers, and gear before traveling from one lake or river to another. Boats are the primary way invasive species like zebra mussels are spread. Although the emphasis is on encouraging people to do the right thing voluntarily, it is illegal to possess or trans-

port any exotic aquatic plant or animal listed as harmful or potentially harmful, with possible fines of \$25-\$500.

About \$375,000 is being invested in the zebra mussel awareness campaign, which runs from May to the end of August to reach boaters as they're out on

the water this summer. It includes online and radio ads, billboards, advertising at gas stations, and targeted outreach and advertising to marinas around infested lakes. Additional dollars have also been allocated to hire aquatic invasive species technicians who will con-

duct outreach efforts, including courtesy boat inspections at different locations throughout the summer, and monitor Texas lakes for early detection of new zebra mussel invasions.

The zebra mussel campaign is part of

(See Boaters Urged.....
Continued on Page 17-A)

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12th Annual Legend of Lake Fork (Continued from Page 9-A)

o'clock hour on Saturday.

Those weren't the only winners taking home a new Legend Bass Boat. Each tournament we put on we pick one lucky winner from the early entries received before April 30th. Kolbi Redden, 12 years old, from Burleson, Texas, was my assistant in all the drawings and drew the name of Ricky D. Tompkins from Nacoma, Texas. Just for getting his entry in early he hitched his truck to a 2016 Legend 195, powered by Mercury, MotorGuide, and Lowrance Electronics.

Alba Golden Fishing Team did an excellent job on running the fish on Saturday and Sunday of the tournament. Between their expedience and the care of Lake Fork Sportsman Association personnel on the Live Release Boat, all of the fish caught in the tournament were released in good condition back in the lake to be caught another day.

Anglers have come to expect the 'Bait Toss' at the end of each tournament and this is a tradition we began and will keep doing! We would like to thank Lake

Fork Trophy Lures, Gene Larew, V&M Cyclone, Luck E Strike, and Larry the Lizard Baits for making this possible for the anglers.

A special thank you goes to Legend Boats. They bring their crew from Mountain Home, Arkansas each year for tournament support. They not only work on Legend boats, but help all anglers in the tournament with any problems, any type of boat that are in the tournament to get them back on the water and fishing.

I would not be able to put this tournament on without the cooperation of Lake Fork Businesses who donate the \$100 gift certificates to go to the first angler to get knocked out of 7th place in the hours. This makes the tournament that much more fun for the anglers. A special thank you to all of you!

We would also like to thank The Wood County Industrial Commission, Rains County Tourism Distribution Board, City of Emory Tourism, Sartin Marine, Mercury, MotorGuide, Lowrance, Pflueger, PowerPole, MinnKota, Easy Step Systems, EZ Loader Trailers, Carts To Go, Temple Fork Outfitters, and Vicious Fishing.

With each year the tournament continues to grow. We look forward to once again seeing all of our friends at the 13th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament to be held on May 19, 20, 21, 2017. Until then keep your hooks sharp and fish friendly.

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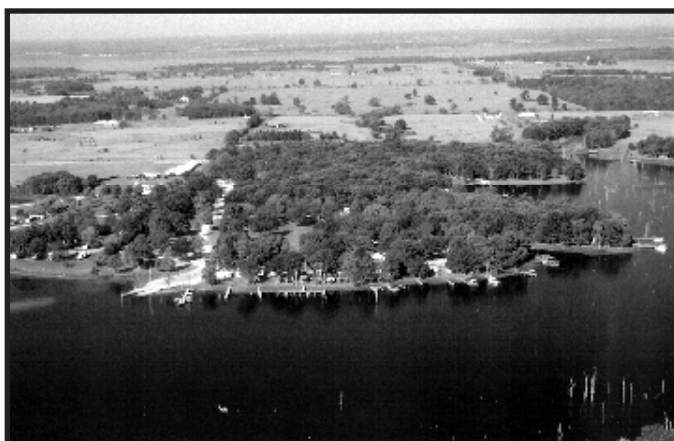
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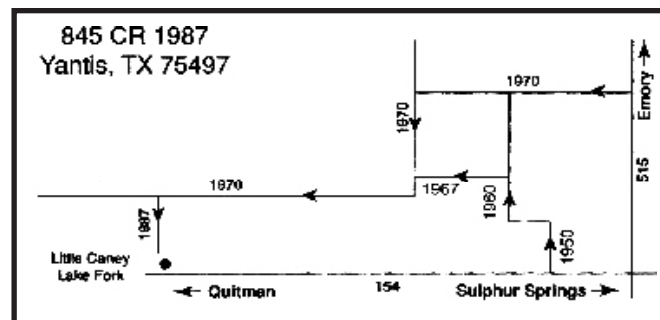
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Texas Nature Challenge Encourages Kids to Explore the Outdoors

Take your family on a journey this spring and summer to some of the coolest outdoor sites in Texas, including 14 state parks across the state. By participating in this year's Texas Nature Challenge, families or teams visit certain sites throughout the state and record what they see, do or make.

Texas A&M Forest Service and other outdoor agencies, including Texas Children in Nature, organized TNC to help families discover amazing nature spaces within their communities. Children today spend an average of seven hours a day indoors and only minutes playing in nature, but research shows children are healthier, happier and smarter when they learn and play

outdoors.

"Many people consider nature to be a faraway place and don't see it as something they have a daily connection with already," said Jennifer Bristol, director of Texas Children in Nature. "TNC gives families a reason to get outdoors and learn what nature exists in their own community."

Each challenge introduces families to a park, nature center or outdoor space in their community. By the end of the challenge, which lasts about three months in each region, families have a chance to see some of the coolest places in Texas.

Challenges range from discovering a secret location at a park and recording it with a photo to becoming a junior ranger at a state park. Other challenge

activities include fishing events, learning how to geocache, fossil hunting, learning how to make paper or taking a walk in the wild.

This year, TNC has added digital badges for teams to earn from each region. If a team is really feeling adventurous, they can now participate in challenges outside of their home region.

To start completing challenges, visit the Texas Nature Challenge website to check out the challenges in your region. Then, register your team and start recording each adventure through a digital or handmade journal. Teams can win prizes for completing challenges at the closing ceremonies in each region.



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Boaters Urged to Clean, Drain and Dry to Protect from Invasive Zebra Mussels *(Continued from Page 11-A)*

a broader, statewide effort targeting multiple aquatic invasive threats. Recognizing what's at stake, the Texas Legislative appropriated \$6.6 million to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the 2016-2017 biennium to address statewide management of aquatic invasive species, an increase from \$1.1 million in the pre-

vious two-year funding cycle.

Since zebra mussels were first found in Texas in 2009, six Texas lakes in three river basins are now fully infested, meaning they have an established, reproducing population and boats could transfer them from these lakes to new areas. Zebra mussels have been found on isolated occasions in

five other Texas lakes.

See the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department zebra mussel Web page for a map and details on affected water bodies. People who find zebra mussels on their boat or have stored their boat in an infested lake can call 800-792-4263 before moving it.

Originally from Eurasia, zebra mussels reproduce rapidly, pos-

ing serious economic and recreational threats. They can clog public-water intake pipes, harm boats and motors, clog water-cooling systems, annoy boat-dock owners by completely covering anything left under water, and make water recreation hazardous because of their sharp

edges.

From an ecological perspective, zebra mussels are filter feeders which compete with baitfish such as shad for available forage.

Any impact on baitfish can in turn affect their predators -- game fish such as bass and catfish. Zebra mussels can also

harm beneficial yet often imperiled native mussel populations by attaching onto their shells and suffocating them.

The public can learn more about zebra mussels at <http://texasinvasives.org/zebramussels/>.

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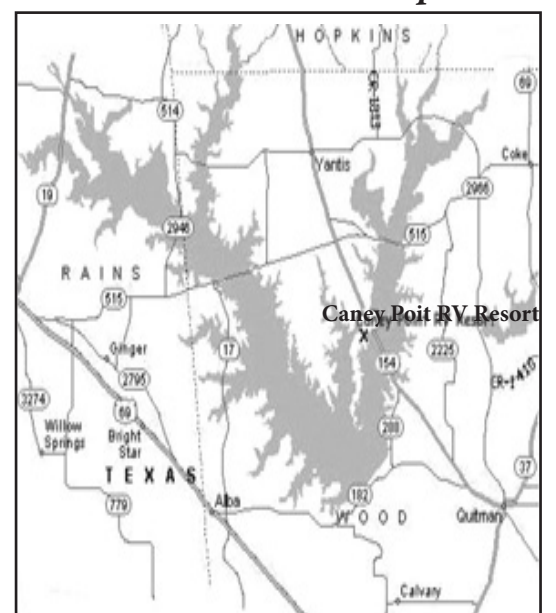
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"Pack of Knowledge" "Football Season on Lake Fork"

By Andrew Grills

In the heat of the summer here in East Texas, trophy bass can be hard to come by with any measure of consistency. However, one technique comes to mind that has produced numerous double-digit sized bass for us during the summer months, and that is the football jig. While other techniques might put more fish in the boat, its hard to beat a football jig for quality fish.

Football jigs are popular across the country. Most of the various brands of football jigs are designed for lakes with less cover and smaller fish than what we're used to here

in East Texas. Many come with a light weedguard and a light wire hook. While these characteristics are great for the hookup ratio in deeper water, they're not ideal for the size fish and cover here. That is why I choose to fish football jigs made with our bodies of water in mind.

My favorite jig is the M-Pack Lures jig. M-Pack Lures offers a fantastic flipping jig, but their football jig is the one I use most this time of year. One of the most frustrating things about jig fishing is getting hung up. The M-Pack Lures football jig has the structure guard weedguard which is very convenient when fishing heavy cover because it doesn't hang up nearly as often as other jigs.

The first thing I look at when choosing a football jig is the hook. I like a big, sharp, beefy hook because we're dealing with big fish here on Lake Fork. The last thing you want is to lose a giant bass because the gap wasn't big enough or the hook straightened out. The M-Pack Lures jig features a 5/0 Gamakatsu hook which is more than enough to handle the biggest fish our lakes have to offer.

Choosing the right equipment is very important as well. I use 20lb test fluorocarbon line and a long, heavy action rod. The fluorocarbon line is a bit more sensitive than monofilament line. You'll need all the added sensitivity you can get when you get a light bite in deep water. As for the rod, I prefer a long rod so I can quickly take up slack on the hookset. When fishing the bottom in 25-30' of water, there's going to be a significant bow in the line. A longer rod will help make up for this. The rod I'm us-

ing now is 7'9", and I feel like it is just right.

My color selection is pretty simple. I feel like many of us put too much emphasis on subtle color variations. During the summer, I like to stay with natural colors. Shades of green pumpkin, watermelon, and brown are great choices. M-Pack Lures offers a wide variety of great summertime colors. If I had to choose only one, it would probably be "mean green".

I use two types of retrieves with a football jig. If the fish are on or near the bottom I simply drag the jig back slowly. I feel like the rocks and roots along the bottom impart plenty of action, so I rarely do much with my rod other than a slow, steady crawl. The other retrieve I use is a "stroking" retrieve. Stroking a jig is ideal when fish are suspended a few feet off the bottom, or when its necessary to trigger a reaction bite. When stroking a jig, I snap the rod upwards on semi-slack line. I repeat this all the way back to the boat. The structure guard on the M-Pack Lures jig comes in handy here because it allows you to fish the jig much more aggressively through cover without burying the hook in timber. I'll usually try both retrieves when fishing an area.

There are some days when you can load the boat with good numbers of quality fish on a football jig. However, to me its a tool for bigger fish. There's always at least one rigged up on my deck during the summer months. Hopefully this will give you some ideas that will help you put a few more big bass in the boat this summer.



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Herren holds off 38-man field to win Toyota Texas Bass Classic

Matt Herren, a Bassmaster Elite Series pro from Alabama, won the 10th annual Toyota Texas Bass Classic, which was an integral part of the Toyota Texas Fest (TTF) presented by JBL, held May 20-22 in Frisco with fishing on Lake Ray Roberts north of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

With the victory, Herren (who had a three-day total of 51 pounds, 12 ounces,) claimed a \$100,000 cash prize, a Nitro Z20 boat with dual Power-Poles, and bragging rights in one of the most prestigious tournaments in the sport of bass fishing. It was his first professional level win in nine years.

"Man, it's incredible," Herren said, after weighing a 17-4 limit on Sunday in front of an eager crowd at Toyota Stadium. "A lot of hard work goes into this, and there are a lot of people who pay a big price to let me do what I do. They all know who they are."

The top 15 anglers in the 2015 Bassmaster Elites Series and FLW Tour angler of the year standings were eligible to fish on Lake Ray Roberts in the TTBC, which is a benefit tournament for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Eight additional top-flight anglers were granted exemptions to fish, including defending champion Brent Ehrler, making it a 38-man field.

In order, the remainder of the "Tundra 10" competitors who fished Sunday were: Bryan Thrift, 51-4; Luke Clausen, 47-8; Andy Morgan, 47-0; Dave Lefebre, 46-12; Aaron Martens, 46-8; Cody Meyer, 45-8; Kevin VanDam,

44-12; Chris Zaldain, 41-12; and Greg Hackney, 41-0.

Zaldain, an Elite Series pro from California and the leader after Day 1, caught a bass weighing 7-12 on Friday that was the heaviest of the tournament. It won him the Tundra Big Bass Award and a 2016 Toyota Tundra truck.

Morgan won the LEER Heavy Weight Award for the 22-0 pound bag he caught on Saturday. That was the highest single-day total caught by any of the pros in the three-day tournament, and it earned the FLW Tour stalwart a new LEER truck cap.

The Toyota Texas Fest presented by JBL (and the TTBC, which is part of that event,) is a significant fundraiser for the TPWD. This year the check given to TPWD was

\$250,000, making donations in the 10 years of the Toyota Texas Fest climb to \$2.5 million.

The funds go to support youth fishing and urban outreach programs across Texas. The TPWD stocks 18 bodies of water in 11 metro areas that have drawn 100,000 anglers, 50,000 of them new or lapsed anglers.

Music acts again were a big draw, with Eric

Paslay opening for Big & Rich on Friday, Roger Creager and Lee Brice performing Saturday, and Chase Bryan and Kip Moore closing the concert series on Sunday.

A new feature of the TTF was the Central Market Lone Star Food Fest hosted by Dean Fearing. Taking place on Saturday and Sunday, the event featured the best food, drinks and res-

taurants that Texas has to offer. Eateries like Fearing's, Ruth's Chris Steak House, The Capital Grille, and NOLA Grill, among others, offered samples of their fares. Ticket holders also had opportunity to taste beer and wine samples from brands like Texas' own Becker Vineyards, Goose Island, Not Your Father's Root Beer and more.



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"Electronics in June!" (Continued from Page 6-A)

The shallow bite is also an option and don't rule out top water and frog action especially around flooded willow trees. Once the sun makes it's way up, shift gears and pitch a creature bait as far back in those willow trees as possible. A 3/8 ounce weight will do the trick and use at least 20lb line. Your favorite colors will work fine, just keep it simple. The most important factor in this process will be the accuracy of the pitch. Pick the bush apart until you key on where the bass are positioned. Once that is established, follow that pat-

tern across the lake. It will pay off in spades. If simple action is what you seek especially if kids are involved, I would chase the sand bass. You can use a 1/2 ounce Hopkins spoon or a 1/2 ounce jig head with a fluke jr. attached. This is wicked fun on light line. We can spend a day on the water if you like and I can teach you the ropes how to catch a ton of these entertainment fish.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in June searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I still have a few dates open in June and some in July. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LakeForkGuideDavidOzio>. I run a Skeeter FXi with a Yamaha 250SHO and would like to thank Skeeter for making my office on the lake the best in the country. I would also like to thank G-Loomis, Shimano and Talon Lures for making my job the blast that it is. A special shout out to Nautical Mile Marine in Tyler for all their help in keeping me on the water seven days a week, no issues. I hope to see a lot of you on the water. Romans 10:13. "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". I wish all of you a blessed day."

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2 ~ 1 Bedroom
With Jacuzzi &
Bathroom
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New Record at the 2016 World Championship Bass on The Fly Fishing Tournament

The highlight of the 2016 World Championship Bass on The Fly Fishing Tournament was the record participation of 70 fly fishers from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Colorado! The event was again held at Lake Fork Marina on Saturday, May 7th. The weather was great but as the wind got up it made fly fishing was more difficult, especially for the kayakers.

There was a record 22 teams (44 people) entered in the boater division and 26 kayakers in the non-boater division. The windy conditions resulted in only 24 teams having fish photos to submit at check in. (This is a catch-photo-release tournament so even the "slot fish" can be counted.) The winning stringer consisted of 5 fish with a total length of 60.5" and the big bass was 21.5".

The winners consistently reported they caught fish on poppers and streamers, some of which were home-made.

In the optional Friday afternoon Blue Gill tournament \$140 was won by Mark Ledyard, Lone Star Fly Fishers.

The accuracy casting contest was won by Eric Dilts and the distance casting contest was won by Cody Bell. They each received the TFO NXT Combo that was used for the respective contest.

Everyone received a Skeeter or TFO hat, a Skeeter or Ranger tee

shirt or an Umpqua polo shirt, and a Gypsy Jack lure. This year Gypsy Jack (www.gypsyjack.net) produced some new smaller lures which are excellent and easy to cast. Early entries also received a free Brothers bass fly.

The early entry Sage

Bass II rod with a matching Sage reel was donated by Sage & Tailwaters Fly Shop and was won by Carmen Nims one of our great lady fly fishers.

The coveted TEAM trophy was reclaimed by the Dallas Fly Fish-

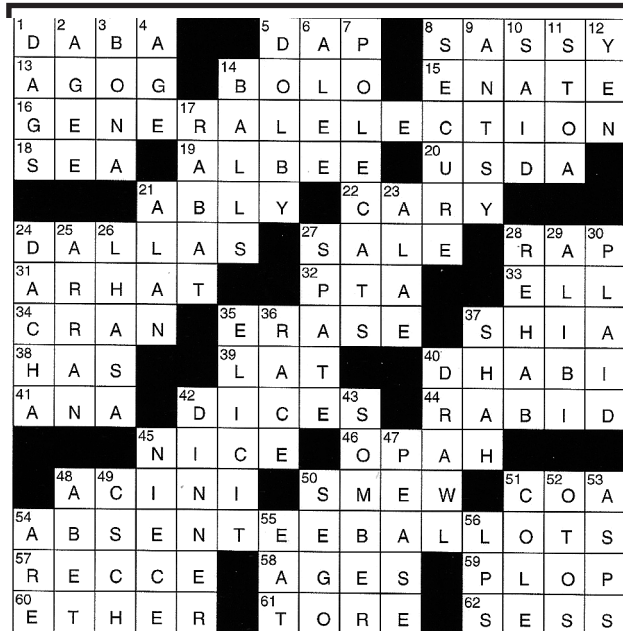
(See Fly Fishing....
Continued on Page 22-A)

Just The Right Answers

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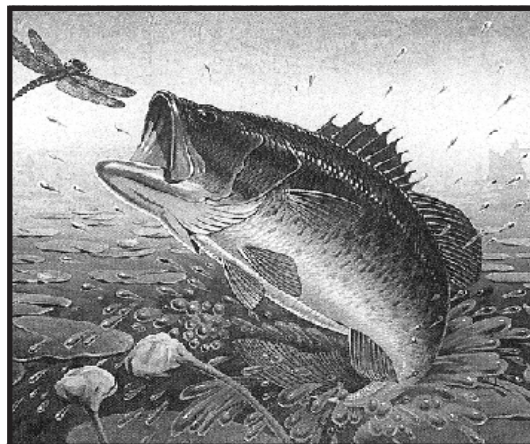


Beach Find

Find the words dealing with a day at the beach hidden throughout the puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle.

BEACH	LIFE JACKET	SEAWEED
CHAIRS	LIFEGUARD	SURF BOARD
BEACHPATROL	RADIO	SWIM
BLANKETS	SAND CASTLE	TRUNKS
CHILDREN	SANDALS	TIDE
COOLER	SEA GULLS	
DOGS	SEA SHELLS	

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



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Fly Fishing Tournament *(Continued from Page 21-A)*

ers by a slim 2" margin. The Red River Fly Fishers designated the tournament as their May outing and had 7 members participating.

The tournament donated \$600 to Reel Recovery (retreats for men with cancer) and \$440 to the Texas Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers.

Our great sponsors provided door prizes which included rods, rod & reel combos, backpacks, sling packs, hip packs, a sportsman's clock, flies & fly boxes, discount coupons, gift cards, buffs, jackets, belts, billfolds, hats, and a guided fishing trip.

Sponsors included Sage Rods, Skeeter Boats, Umpqua, Tailwaters Fly Shop, Redington, Mariner-Sails, Buffs headgear, TFO Rods, Bass Pro Shop-Garland, Brothers Flies, Sun Mountain, Simms, Orvis-Plano, Ranger Boats, Gypsy Jack Lures, and Lone Star Fly Fishers. Thank you all for making this a fun tournament!

The 8th World Championship Bass on The Fly Fishing Tournament will be held in May 2017 (final date to be determined.) Check the website, www.bassonthefly.org, for the latest information.

The 2016 winners were:

Boater Division

1. Robert & Jason Gilbert, \$630
2. Alex Guthrie & Lance Rogers, \$410
3. Rex White & Eric Dilts, \$220
4. Don & Kimberly Penick, \$120
5. Benson & BC Fowler, \$90

Big Bass - Don Penick, \$210

Big Bluegill - David Poole, \$145

Non-Boater (Kayak) Division

1. Jerald Lewis, \$320
2. Joshua Kenney, \$250
3. Michael Kenney, \$170
4. Cody Bell, \$100

Big Bass - Jerald Lewis, \$130

Big Bluegill -Michael Kenney, \$65

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