



Springs off Hwy. 154

866-920-8331

## Strollin' With Stroman \_



#### **By Dean Stroman**

April is the time to plan as many fishing trips your work schedule will allow. It is also the best time to take a youngster or first time bass fisherman. Most bass will be shallow and have longer feeding periods and will be biting a wide variety of lures.

On the lower or south end of Lake Fork most bass will be in the spawning stage. In the upper or north end most bass will be in the post-spawn stage.

When fishing the north end, one good pattern to fish is creek channels with crank baits. To successfully fish creek channels stay on or near channel breaklines and work your lure through these breaklines. The areas to check out are channels that run close to banks, points and through shallow flats. Garrett, Lake Fork and Birch Creek are some top producing areas.

On lower or southern end, bass will be spawning in some creeks and spawned out in others so it pays to be mobile. Move from area to area until you find some active bass. Location and timing is the key to success. Areas may be hot one day and fishless the next. Don't overlook the main lake areas. Not all bass go to major creeks to spawn. Spawning action can occur anywhere there is shallow water; from one to eight feet.

Most bass do spawn in protective areas away from prevailing winds, but there is a lot of spawning action off major points. Little protective pockets off main lake areas or coves will hold some really big bass.

When you are covering a lot of water to locate active bass, chatter baits, lipless cranks in <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> ounce size, and umbrella rigs will also produce big. Once you locate active bass slow down and fish the area thoroughly with soft plastics. Texas-rigged and Carolina-rigged lizards or split-shot will all produce their share of bass. Lizards are top producing plastics in April with soft jerk bait's a close second.

For those of you who sight fish, April is the best time. Weather and wind permitting, April can be an awesome month for fishing. If you are planning a trip to Fork, want up-to-date fishing information or pointers, give me a call. I'll be glad to help.

I'll be happy to help make your fishing trip a successful one. Just give me a call at 903-383-7214 (landline), 903-850-5083 (mobile) or email me at dstroman@peoplescom.net plus I still have openings for April and springtime.

Good luck and good fishing!

Dean is a professional guide on Lake Fork and is sponsored by Legend Boats, Mercury Marine, Century 21 Lake Country, Gene Larew, V&M the Ultimate Bass Bait, Mossy Oak and Easy Step Systems.







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# **Game Warden Field Notes**

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

--No Luck Pulling Stuck Trucks-- A Van Zandt County game warden got a call from a landowner who said his ranch truck was stolen from his hunting camp. The warden was en route to the landowner's location when the landowner called him back to say he had found his truck stuck on an easement by the Sabine River, close to another deer camp. When the warden arrived on scene, he found three individuals with two trucks stuck on the easement. After interviewing each person, the warden determined not only had the individuals stolen the landowner's truck to pull out their own stuck truck, they had also shot a small whitetail buck the night before on the neighboring ranch, on which they did not have consent to hunt. The individuals confessed they shot the deer at night. --Two-Timing Suspect-- When two Bowie County game wardens got a call about a shoplifter, one warden recognized the name of the suspect from an aggravated assault case the day before. The suspect left the shoplifting scene on foot, leaving his friends and vehicle behind. When the wardens arrived on scene, they found the suspect walking down a nearby road. He appeared highly intoxicated and had marijuana in his possession. The wardens turned the suspect over

--Even Off Duty Game Wardens Never Ouit--While a Titus County game warden was vacationing with his family at a ranch in Morris County, a vehicle drove onto the ranch. The two men in the vehicle asked for permission to retrieve their hog dogs from the property, as well as the hog the dogs had cornered. The warden recognized the driver as a local poacher, but the driver didn't recognize the warden without his uniform. The warden identified himself and asked to see their hunting licenses, which the hunters provided. The warden informed the men trespassing or hunting were not allowed on the ranch and requested they leave immediately. About 15 minutes later, as the warden and his family were leaving the ranch, he drove up on the hunters' vehicle, which was blocking the ranch's private roadway. No one was in the vehicle, but the two hunters came out of the nearby woods about 10 minutes later. Before instructing them to leave the property or face arrest, the warden informed both men he was going to file charges on them for criminal trespass, advising them he would contact them later. The hunters left the ranch, parking about a quarter mile away. The warden found three hog dogs, one of which was bleeding from a puncture wound possibly caused by a wild hog. The warden led the dogs off the ranch to the hunters. When the warden asked the driver if he

had all his dogs, the driver turned his back to the warden without answering, got in his truck and drove off. After conducting a computer check, the warden found the driver had been convicted three times for driving with an invalid license. Charges for criminal trespass and driving while license invalid are pending.

--Eighth Time's the Charm-- A Smith County man accepted a plea deal of 45 years in confinement as a result of a traffic stop conducted by a Smith County game warden in June 2015. During the stop, the man showed signs of impairment. The warden called a DPS Trooper to assist with the investigation, which revealed the man had a blood alcohol level over the legal limit. This conviction is the man's eighth for driving while intoxicated.

--Case Closed Recently-- A rice farmer pled guilty before a U.S. Magistrate Judge to illegally killing 65 brown-headed cowbirds and four redtailed hawks. After finding large numbers of dead and dying birds on or near his property, two Brazoria County game wardens and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife special agent opened an investigation into the farmer's activities, which led to charges against him. They discovered the farmer had spread a restricted use pesticide and rice mixture in his fields with the intent to kill birds. Upon entering a guilty plea, the judge ordered the man to

(See Game Warden .... Continued on Page 6-B)



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

## 'Steak'-out the All-American Dinner

#### By Sue Hampton

"Steak and potatoes" is about as American as dinner gets, just as a slice of homemade pecan pie is the quintessential all-American dessert. London broil, Porterhouse, flank, pick a cut – you'll find customers lining up for hours at their favorite steakhouses nation-wide for a bit of their favorite cuts of juicy, tender steak.

One of the most popular and easiest cuts of steak to prepare is the T-bone. Try your hand at this easy recipe and top off the meal with another easy recipe for yummy "Baked Pecan Cream Pie" for dessert.



There's nothing better than a full meal deal 'All-American Style'!!

T-Bone Steak With Skillet Potatoes

3 pounds potatoes, unpeeled

2 tablespoons olive oil 1 onion, in <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch slices Pinch of sugar

3 strips thick smoky bacon 1 tablespoon bacon drippings

2 tablespoons butter

Pinch of salt, coarsely ground pepper, and sugar 2 tablespoons chopped garlic

2 tablespoons thinly sliced scallions

4 (25-30 ounce) T-bone steaks

Salt and black pepper

Cook the potatoes in boiling water. Drain then refrigerate the potatoes for about 2 hours or until cool. Peel and slice <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> to <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-inch thick. Heat the oil in a small skillet over medium heat and add the onions. Stir constantly as the onions sizzle and begin to brown. Add a pinch of salt, pepper and sugar and cook until brown and caramelized. Remove from the heat and set aside. In a cast-iron skillet, cook the bacon until crisp. Remove and drain on absorbent paper. When cool, crumble the bacon and set aside. Drain the bacon drippings from the pan except for 1 tablespoon. In the same pan, add the butter to the bacon drippings. Add the sliced potatoes, season with salt and pepper, and cook over medium heat until the bottom is crisp. Turn the potatoes over and season the other side with salt and pepper. Add the garlic, caramelized onions, scallions and crumbled bacon. Cook until they are tender then keep warm while cooking the steak.

Prepare a hot grill. Season the steaks with salt and pepper and cook for approximately 8 to 10 minutes per side for medium-rare, or as desired. Remove from the grill and top with a spoonful of parsley butter. Serve with skillet potatoes.

#### Baked Pecan Cream Pie (Makes two 9-inch pies)

This is rather like a thick chess pie with pecans, a fine state of affairs if you like chess pie and pecan pie. The filling for this pie can be made three days in advance and refrigerated, though it may be necessary to whisk the mixture lightly to recombine before pouring into the shells.

#### Ingredients:

at room temperature

3 cups sugar

7 eggs, well beaten

1-1/2 cups milk 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice 1-1/2 cups very coarsely

chopped pecans 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour 3 tablespoons yellow cornmeal

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Roll out the pie crust on a lightly floured surface and line two pie pans, set aside. In a mixer bowl, whip the butter, then add the sugar gradually and cream thoroughly, about one minute. Add the eggs and milk gradually, then the vanilla and lemon juice, and combine, then fold in the nuts. In a small bowl, whisk together the flour and cornmeal, then gradually add to the nut mixture and blend. Pour the filling into the unbaked pie shells and bake for 55 to 60 minutes, or until the top of the pies are golden brown and appear to be set in the center. Cool the pies completely on wire racks before cutting and serving. Enjoy!!

Practice C.P.R.





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# Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 3-B)

#### pay a fine and serve two years' probation.

--Game, Set, Match-- After receiving a call from a landowner about night hunting activity and witnessing it themselves, three game wardens set out to catch the hunters in the act one night. The wardens set up a decoy whitetailed deer in the area and watched as the hunters drove around in a UTV, spotlighting the landowner's ranch and neighboring properties, on which none of the hunters had consent to hunt. After a couple hours, the wardens saw an excited commotion break out among the hunters as they spotted the decoy. One of the hunters hastily steadied himself atop the UTV and fired two shots at the decoy. The wardens quickly made themselves known to the hunters, who complied with their commands. The wardens detained six individuals while one hunter exclaimed they were only hunting hogs. The wardens then arrested two of the six individuals, including the hunter who shot the decoy. The cases are pending.

--Y'all Should Know Better-- A game warden got a call from a Floyd County landowner, who said a group of waterfowl hunters were hunting on his property without his consent. The warden responded and apprehended four subjects, all of whom were guides for a local waterfowl hunting outfitter. Charges were filed at the request of the landowner, and the cases are pending.

--Better Safe than Sorry-- As a Val Verde County

game warden ate a late lunch at a boat ramp on Lake Amistad, he was approached by two men wearing camouflage and waders. The hunters told the warden they had gone out that morning to hunt ducks on kayaks a few miles away. However, a cold front with 47-mile-an-hour winds blew over the lake in midmorning, making it impossible to navigate. The hunters sought shelter in a nearby cove before deciding to seek help. Fortunately, they found the game warden not long after starting their search for help. The warden launched his boat, made his way across the whitecapping lake and, with the help of the two hunters, found the abandoned kayaks and gear.

--Accident on I-10-- A Hudspeth County game warden assisted in a failure-to-yield incident at the Border Patrol checkpoint on Interstate 10. The warden identified the car that failed to yield as stolen. As the vehicle's two occupants tried to avoid apprehension by driving against traffic, the driver struck an 18-wheeler head on, blocking all lanes of westbound traffic for six hours. In the accident, the passenger was ejected from the vehicle and later pronounced dead on the scene. The driver was airlifted to the nearest hospital for multiple injuries. While searching the vehicle, the warden found a softball-sized amount of crystal meth, about 50 unidentified pills and a scale. Cases and charges are pending.



Land for Sale Southern Hopkins **County Minutes** From Lake Fork 2 Acres to 13 Acres (Restricted to New Double Wide or New Construction) 34 acres 105 acres **Owner Financing** Available 903-348-1052





### April

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

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**F I S H E R M A N S DREAM FOR RENT:** 3 Bed 2 Bathroom, DWMH on Lake Winnsboro. New dishwasher, W& D connect, Deposit, credit check, ,references required. No pets, Non smoking. 903-422-5995 or 469-474-7252



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For Sale!!! 2009 Legend 211 Alpha ~ \$35,995 Fully Loaded, Ready To Fish! Mercury 250 Pro XS, Less than 350 Hours, MinnKota Trolling Motor, Solar Panel Charger, (2) Lowrance HDS-8, HDS-5, Tandem Axle Galvanized Trailer, Stainless Steel Fenders, Easy Step System, Immaculate Condition, Storage Garage Kept Contact Don Bubba Hampton 903-360-6994 or Sartin Marine~903-383-7726 or 866-920-8331

"Wish To Fish Foundation" 903-383-7748 Needs Your Help!!! If you know a family that has a child that meets our criteria, just have them call us. We'll take over from there!



"Every child deserves a chance to fish!" Children diagnosed or who have experienced a life-threatening illness or accident sometimes do not have that opportunity. Now through the "Wish to Fish Foundation" they can have that day in the sun with their family. Any family with a child between the ages 3 to 18 years of age that has been diagnosed or treated for a life-threatening illness or accident is invited to come fish Lake Fork for any species of fish at <u>NO COST!</u> Lodging, meals, and fishing are provided for. This allows the family to spend quality time together fishing without worries or expenses. The outing includes one night lodging, meals, refreshments, snacks, all on a 26' Tritoon Pontoon, (accompanied with a 9-1-1 chase boat for any emergency that may occur. All bait and fishing equipment provided. If you are, or know of a family that meets the above criteria, contact us! Help us spread the word, we are here for the children!

For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director visit our website: www.wishtofishfoundation.com

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LAKE FORK WATER FRONT & OFF-WATER LOTS FROM \$17,900 TO \$219,900 LAKE FORK AREA ACREAGE FROM \$59,000 TO \$129,900