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2 Sections

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January, 2017

No. 209

Lake Fork Year End Review and What is Ahead

By Don Hampton

Lake Fork didn't live up to her reputation in 2016 as to putting ShareLunkers in the program. This is not to say there will not be a showing in 2017. In the 2015/2016 TPWD Toyota ShareLunker Program there were only two additions of 13-pound or over entered into the program state wide. This includes all the lakes and private ponds in the state. One was caught on Sam Rayburn on November 2, 2015 that weighed 13.2-pounds and one that was caught on Alan Henry on April 13, 2016 that weighed

13.13-pounds. Both were released back into their lakes within a week after entry. This tells anglers quite a lot.

Lake Fork however was feast or famine in 2016 when it came to searching for the big bass. There were plenty of big ones caught ranging from 8 to 12+ pounds but none surpassing the 13 mark during the program. This did not stop all the excitement on this great reservoir.

The 8th Annual Mega Bass Tournament held in March drew 1,900 anglers from 30 states to fish. That tournament was won by Gary Brett Green from Glen-

wood, Arkansas with a 10.12-pound bass. In May at the 12th Annual Legend of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament 1,227 anglers representing 22 states came to participate. Landon Markum from Paradise, Texas won heaviest bass with one weighing 10.55-pounds. In June at the 23rd Annual Skeeter Owners Tournament 2,200 anglers from different states came to fish. Winning heaviest bass overall in that tournament was Eric Blane from Montgomery, Texas with a 9.04-pound bass. In September at the 30th

(See Lake Fork.....
Continued on Page 17-A)



Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork 2016 Top 6 (lt. to rt.) Kenny LaDuke, 1st Place, Chris Large, 2nd Place, Don Hampton, 3rd Place, Rodney Ellis, 4th Place, Danny Weems, 5th Place and Gary Smith, 6th Place, (not in photo). (See Story on Page 4-A)

"In Loving Memory." Gary Smith a resident of Lake Fork passed away losing his battle with cancer on December 5th. Gary was a great friend. He was a long time member of Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork, helped with all the Wood County Kid Fish, and was an assistant on many Wish To Fish trips for special needs children. He loved fishing and loved Lake Fork. If heaven has a lake, he will be 'ripped' a lip' there with my other buds that have gone before him. We miss you my friend!



"Bubba's New Year Just Has To Get Better!"

By Don Hampton

Well Bubba had just a great Christmas with his family coming to his homestead. He does love his kids and grandkids. What he says he really enjoys is spoiling his grandkids while they're at his house, giving them candy and cookies and then sending them home for his kids to go through what he had to go through raising them. He does have a sense of humor when it comes to that.

I do believe what he enjoyed the most was the eating and opening presents though. I'm not real sure just how much he loved picking up all the wrapping paper and the cleanup afterwards, but we all know he can put on a good show and how much he loves that crap!

It is a good thing he got some fishing stuff from Santa to play with because his New Year just isn't starting off with him in the best spirits. The way he has been acting you would think his dog ran away and he had a fish hook stuck in his back side. The main reason for his change of attitude is his boat is broke. It would seem just before the holidays he hit a stump (his lack of judgment I'm sure) and broke the driveshaft in his motor. Well with the holidays you can't get parts because everyone is celebrating with their families. According to Bubba this is all just wrong when it comes to his boat getting fixed!

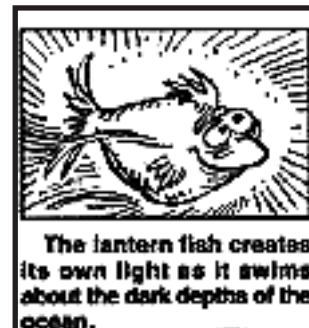
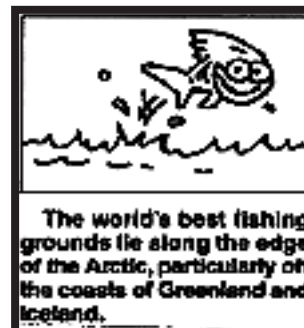
A bad part of the situation is he has good

insurance and they have already sent him the check to have it fixed. He will sit staring at the check in his hand and whining like his little great grandson when Bubbette won't give him candy or let him have his way. Whenever Bubba can't just get up and go fishing when he wants, you would think the world came to an end. To top it all off all his fishing buds are spending holidays with their families and won't take him fishing. To Bubba this ain't right either!!! He believes holidays, anniversaries, birthdays are great fishing times! Sunshine, rain, sleet or snow a fishing he will go!

To top it all off Bubbette isn't making matters any better. With Bubba around the house more she's putting him to good use. She has him run-ning errands, helping with house chores, going shopping with her, exchanging gift, visiting freinds. You know, all that crap Bubba really loves!

Bubbette is getting so tired of his moping around the house she's ready smother him with a pillow in his sleep, run away from home or buy him a boat to get him back to normal. Bubba would really like the last one, he doesn't care much for the others though. Especially the one with the pillow. She does believe he loves that boat way too much! At times she gets a little jealous of how much Bubba loves his boat and fishing but she knows there are a lot of worse habits a man could have.

The best thing is within the next week Bubba will be back in his boat and on the lake and doing what he loves with a passion! This will give his mechanic, his dealership, Mercury, his friends, his relatives and everyone involved and around Bubba a reprieve and make him and them happy once more!



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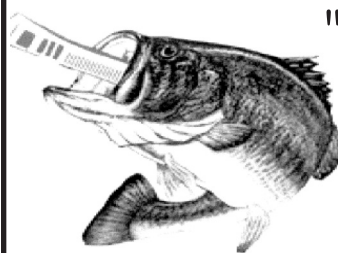
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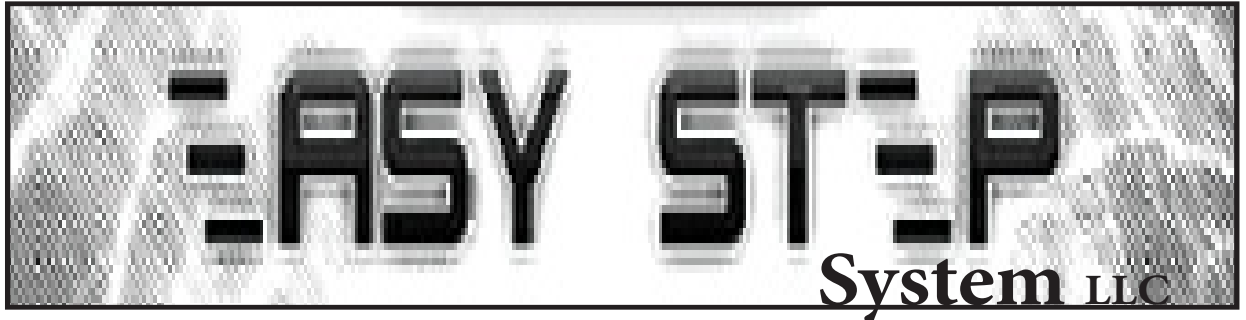
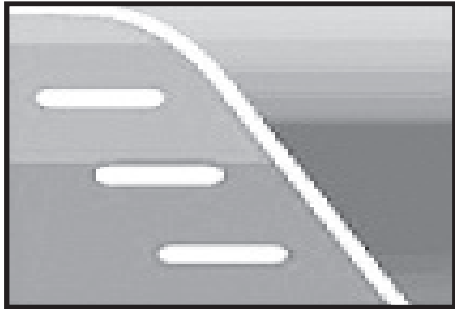
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Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

By Don Hampton

The Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork celebrated their 16th Annual Christmas Party and Annual Meeting on December 17th. The event was hosted by Bro's Patio on Hwy. 515.

The event began with the Annual Meeting. The pur-

pose of the meeting is to go over tournament rules and by-laws to decide if any regulations should be changed for the upcoming year. Upon completion of that part of the meeting new officers are elected for the up-coming year followed by a discussion period.

This past year Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork

had lost two of their long-time members, Lew Conder and most recently Gary Smith. This somewhat put a damper on the festivities.

Once the serious portion of the night was concluded it was time for fellowship and celebration among the members and their wives. All the members brought covered dishes and their own beverages. The cuisine ranged from cheese burger sliders, ribs, shrimp, gumbo and much more including Christmas candies and of course Kenny's famous banana pudding.

Each person also brings a \$20 gift for the White Elephant. As many times as some of the gifts were taken it is amazing they were not worn out before the conclusion. In the conclusion of another great year, fishing and the camaraderie of angling friends, everyone

had just an excellent time. We'd like to thank John and Joanne Heimgartner, Fisherman's One Stop and Bro's Patio for all the assistance they give our club.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork is a highly motivated progressive bass fishing club with ties to the Wish to Fish Foundation and weight masters at the Wood County Kid Fish. If you love bass fishing, like competition, wish to improve your skills, and make new friendships that could last a lifetime, you should come join our bass club.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork has 13 club tournaments per year with 2 drops in point category. A 2-day tournament is held in the month of November at the end of the year championship with accommodations provided by the club. All tournaments are held

within an hour drive from Lake Fork. This club also hosts 2 open tournaments per year on Lake Fork. One is held in the spring and the other in the fall.

The club meetings are held after each tournament and the next lake and date are voted on by the membership at that time. In this respect, it helps the members that may be fishing other tournaments, so the dates will not conflict. Also at each meeting after the tournament the Top 3 winners inform the rest of the club what they caught their fish on, the technique, and depth. In this aspect it helps the other anglers improve their skills and lets them know what they could have tried different.

Dues to join the club are a mere \$30 per year. Cost for each tournament is \$25 with a \$5 Big Bass Option.

There is also a progressive side pot that an optional \$5 for the first 7-pound or over bass.

Texas Trails Bassmaster is a boat owner club only, no non-boaters are accepted. Family members who join individually can fish in the same boat. This refers to husband and wife or parent and siblings. We do limit two anglers per boat. All boats, makes and models are welcome as long as they meet state regulations.

If this club sounds like one you'd like to set your hook in, give me a call, Don Hampton at 903-360-6994 or 903-383-7748 or Rodney Ellis, President at 903-714-6473. For more information go to www.texas trails bassmasters.com.

I hope to be fishing with you this year!



At Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork's 16th Annual Christmas Party and Annual Meeting there was plenty of good food and fellowship.



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TPWD Supports USFWS Proposal to Remove Black-capped Vireo from Endangered Species List

Citing a decline in threats, increased bird populations and improved habitat, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is taking public comment on its proposal to remove the black-capped vireo from the federal endangered species list. Much of the songbird's U.S. range is in Texas, so the Lone Star State is where much of the work to aid it has occurred.

"The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department applauds this proposal from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove the black-capped vireo from the endangered species list," said Carter Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department executive director. "When a species recovers after serious decline, it's a conservation success story, and this news is a testament to the exemplary stewardship of Texas' private landowners, research and work of the department, our non-profit partners and universities to responsibly manage and protect vireo habitat across the state."

When the black-capped vireo was listed in 1987 there were only 350 birds reported. Primary causes for the species' decline have included habitat loss and nest parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds who dupe the vireos into raising cowbird chicks at the cost of their own young.

After multi-year scientific reviews that began in 2007, the USFWS now reports there are more than 5,200 known birds and more than 14,000 estimated across their breeding range. Between 1987 and 2012, the bird's U.S. breeding range increased by 17 percent. Goats which browse on shrub foliage necessary for vireo nesting have posed a significant habitat threat, yet goat density in the U.S. breeding range of the vireo has declined by 47 percent. Also, the breeding range in Mexico was previously only known from the state of Coahuila, and in 2003 vireos were documented in two additional Mexican states. USFWS says these and other factors contributed to the proposal.

"According to the best available science and 20 years of repeated monitoring, the Service and our partners have reduced or adequately managed the primary threats to the black-capped vireo, populations are, healthy and stable, and the vireo has greatly expanded its range and population numbers since the 1980s," states a USFWS frequently asked questions file.

Partnerships involving the U.S. Army, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Texas A&M, and Environmental Defense Fund, among others,

have been key to black-capped vireo recovery. Conservation efforts have included active management such as prescribed fire, grazing management, cowbird control, a 37-county Safe Harbor Agreement in Texas, state and non-governmental organization cowbird control programs, private lands incentives (e.g., USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program), eight Habitat Conservation Plans, two permanently protected mitigation lands, several conservation easements, and public outreach.

At TPWD's Kerr Wildlife Management Area, prescribed fire, grazing management, and population control of wild and exotic ungulates have helped create and maintain habitat the vireo requires to nest, including clumps or mottes of mixed brush with limbs and leaves that go all the way to the ground. Here, agency wildlife biologists pioneered a holistic approach that focuses on healthy habitat that sustains all wildlife, including wild turkeys, quality white-tail deer populations, and black-capped vireos. The TPWD Wildlife Division adapted research and demonstration work from Kerr WMA and shared it across the region via TPWD's technical guidance program for private landowners and ranch managers.

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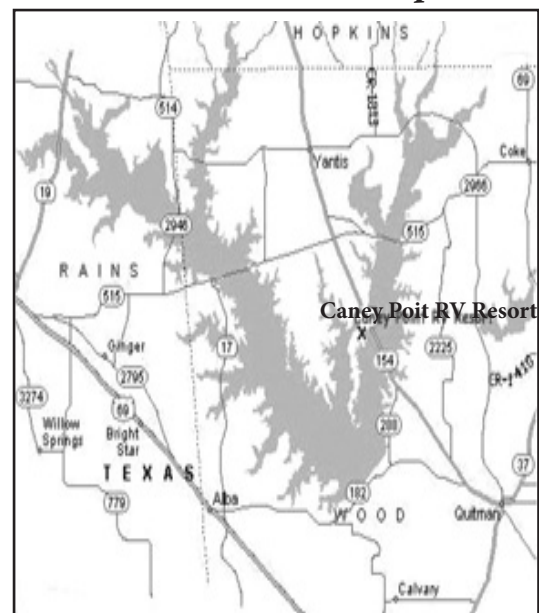
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The New Year Is Upon Us!

By David Ozio

"A new year is upon us and Lake Fork is setting up in January to be very much different than the past two years. Receding water levels will position the bass differently this year and should have a positive effect on the fishing over the next couple of months. The one caveat will be additional heavy rainfalls which may have us cancel all bets. As of this writing, big bass are starting to gang up on typical winter haunts which will now make them easier to catch provided you are willing to venture out on the not so lovely days.

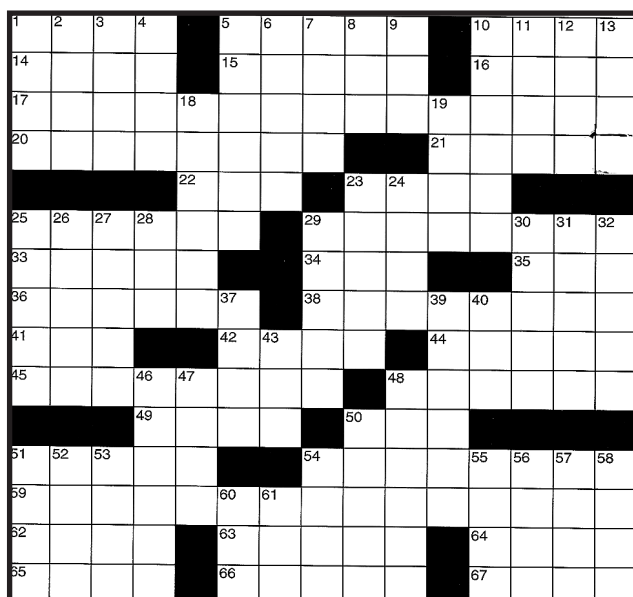
As it stands now, the lake is three feet low and the water temps are hovering around the low 50's which points to the fact that most bass have set up on their winter haunts out in deep water.

Their feeding habits are slowed down due to the cold water and one good meal could last them a while. The key is to target schools of shad and bar fish in the 20-30 foot range. Good electronics are the key and pay strict attention to the hooks that surround the school. The A-rig will be the go to set up to target these monster bass and rig it with any five inch swimbait on a 3/16 oz head. A flutter spoon or jigging spoon will also do the trick and my color choice will be gold. Focus your search on humps, roadbeds, long points and pond dams. If you notice the big arches laying on the bottom, switch to the Carolina rig or football jig in black/blue to attract the larger bites. Use a long leader on your C-rig with a 3/0 or 4/0 hook. Creature baits, large worms or giants lizards will be the baits of choice. I use blue fleck and chartreuse pepper on cloudy days and watermelon red or watermelon candy colors when the suns beaming down in full force. Drop shots will play a huge roll in the coming months especially if the lake stays at this level or slightly below. January is the time of the year when the ultra giants are moving around and it offers the extreme possibility to boat the trophy of your dreams.

An alternate pattern targets the skinny water. Fishing shallow on the bright sunny days is the place to be, especially between 2:00 and 5:00pm.



It is the warmest part of the day and the top layer of water offers comfort to the sluggish bass. Vegetation is the attraction for these bass and I would throw a rattletrap or chatterbait to draw a strike. Depending upon the water temp, a suspending jerkbait would be the ticket if the temps are lagging into the mid 40's. Red colors are the main choice for the moving baits and I would have a chrome version tied on as a back up. Gold has worked well on partly cloudy days and I always keep one handy on whatever lure I present. Don't be afraid to hurl them into the thick grass and rip it out as bass will hit it once it clears the outer edge. Experiment to see where the green fish might be positioned. Make some casts out to the deep edge



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Bop | 38. Annoyance |
| 5. Oppose | 41. Shock therapy |
| 10. Former Persian Empire capital | 42. Imitates with mockery |
| 14. Arm bone | 44. Poet |
| 15. Feel deep affection for | 45. Provencal verses |
| 16. Jai _____, sport | 48. Leporid mammals |
| 17. Rolling Stones, e.g. | 49. Rumanian city |
| 20. Strange | 50. UC Berkeley |
| 21. Nerds | 51. Rust fungi |
| 22. Indulgent | 54. Hitler was an infamous one |
| 23. Edible fat | 59. Urban dwelling |
| 25. Animal disease | 62. Former copper coin of Pakistan |
| 29. Protect | 63. Minerals |
| 33. Refers to end of small intestine | 64. Gains ground |
| 34. Brew | 65. Affiliated oneself with |
| 35. Latin) around time of | 66. Contents |
| 36. Preserved | 67. Irritation |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Belch | 30. Grape |
| 2. Herbaceous plant | 31. Aphrodite's mother |
| 3. Civil rights college organization | 32. Sea eagles |
| 4. Hawaiian wreath | 37. "Two Years Before the Mast" author |
| 5. Affective disorders | 39. _____ Hitler |
| 6. Antelope | 40. Avoirdupois unit |
| 7. Pressure unit | 43. Mass of soft or resilient material |
| 8. Oscilloscope | 46. Island |
| 9. World of the dead | 47. Asian nation |
| 10. Footgear | 48. Touch |
| 11. Mounted soldier | 50. Univalve |
| 12. Went down | 51. Overgarments |
| 13. Helps | 52. Sea eagle |
| 18. Hereditary genes | 53. Visual cell |
| 19. Monetary unit | 54. Foal |
| 23. Business | 55. Expresses delight |
| 24. Plant genus | 56. Desolation |
| 25. Usages | 57. _____ Spumante (Italian wine) |
| 26. _____ Walker, The Color Purple | 58. For fear that |
| 27. Grasses | 60. Engine additive |
| 28. 007's creator | 61. Thai |
| 29. Surfaces | |

Answers on Page 21-A

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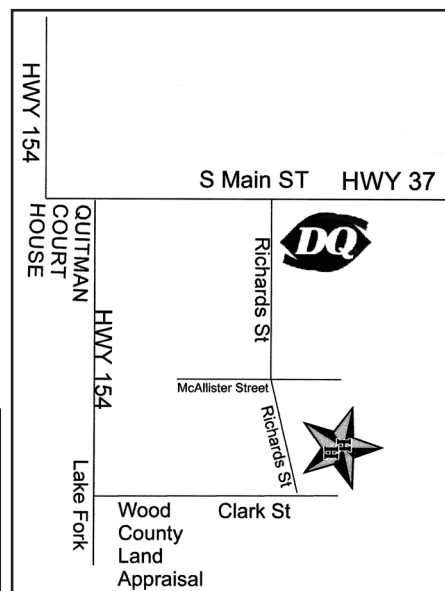
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(See The New Year...
Continued on Page 20-A)

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Runnels County Man Apprehended after Ramming Game Warden Vehicle

A 52-year-old Ballinger man is in custody facing numerous felony charges following a confrontation with law enforcement recently during which he allegedly rammed two patrol vehicles, including a Texas Game Warden's vehicle head on in an attempt to avoid apprehension.

The game warden was able to disable the vehicle by shooting out the tires. The suspect, John Lloyd Jonas, was ultimately placed into custody after resisting arrest. He was transported to the Runnels County Jail and booked on multiple charges, including: Criminal Trespass (Class B Misdemeanor), Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle (State Jail Felony) Evading Arrest (3rd Degree Felony), Resisting Arrest (3rd Degree Felony), and multiple counts of Aggravated Assault on a Peace Officer (1st Degree Felony).

The incident began at approximately 5 p.m. after a Runnels County game warden, the Runnels County Sheriff's Office and the Texas Department of Public Safety responded to a land-

owner complaint regarding a trespasser. The subject was alleged to be armed and information from the suspect vehicle showed that it had been reported stolen. Officers located the suspect on a nearby county road and upon approach, the suspect rammed two sheriff's patrol vehicles and then rammed the game warden's patrol vehicle head on.

The Runnels County Sheriff's Office and Texas Parks and Wildlife Criminal Investigations Unit are investigating the incident.

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Emory, Texas

"The Moon Report" January Crappie 2017

By Terri Moon

Happy New Year to All!

It's the anticipation of excitement of the upcoming "crappie season" in the year to come and also the reflection on this past year. 2016 started with extreme high water levels to deal with, resulting in massive water releasing. This in turn sure made fishing tough the first of the year. But, as things stabilized you could finally start to see a few tree lines appear with falling lake levels and reacquaint yourself with the areas you needed to fish.

I will be the first to admit, the lake sure looks different with a couple of extra feet over pool stage! Thank goodness for my Lowrance! There is no way I would have made it through those times without it! When you no longer have the marker trees visible, your GPS is priceless!

Our "Spring Spawn" this past year was actually pretty good. We enjoyed catching shallow fish till into June! Then our summer pattern was productive through September. But, the "Fall" has to be my favorite of all! The quality of the fall crappie this year was probably the nicest I've seen in a while but we did have to move around a



lot which made me appreciate even more my "Auto-Stow & Deploy" MinnKota Ulterra trolling motor!

The December fishing produced some really nice crappie off main lake points 25-35 ft. Water temps were still 48 – 53 degrees due to some unseasonable warm weather but the cold was coming. So when water temps dropped, the fish went deeper so we just kept looking for the baitfish. Now it might not hurt to check a few of those spots that are 18 to 24 ft on your way to the deeper water – there will be a few stragglers. The deeper these fish go it might not hurt to double rig – 2 – 1/2 oz. jigs about a foot apart. I use Lake Fork Tackle's "Live Baby Shad" w/paddletail blue/ pearl. Threadfin Shad or Electric Chicken has been producing. This is the time of year

I use a slow motion or NO motion presentation while vertical fishing.

The fishing line I'm using is Sufix Siege in Neon Tangerine 8 lb. test. I just got word that Oak Ridge Marina just got some in if you are looking for it around the lake. With the cold weather headed our way, it's a good time to get respooled so you'll be ready for the next fishable day!

Don't forget January is the start of the tackle shows. It's a good time to catch up on the newest products in the fishing industry. You can look up show dates on line. Lake Fork is usually represented at all of them.

I'm so excited for the upcoming Lake Fork crappie season of 2017 and many, many thanks for all the "blessings" of 2016!

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Public Fishing Access Areas Open Recently on Guadalupe River

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

Public fishing access is now available at Rio Guadalupe Resort (formerly Rio Raft and Resort), and Whitewater Sports from Friday, Dec. 2, through May 2, 2017. Additional access now available at Mountain Breeze Campground Dec. 2 through April 16 and at Camp Huaco Springs from Dec. 2 through March 12 (except the weekend of Feb. 25-26 when Camp Huaco Springs will be closed for a special event).

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

The leases provide anglers with free access to the Guadalupe River at the four properties from 30 minutes before daylight until 30 minutes after dusk. Anglers may use the properties for bank fishing and to launch non-motorized watercraft such as rafts, kayaks and canoes for the purpose of fishing. The leases were made possible with funding provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program.

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

--Mountain Breeze Campground <http://mountainbreezecamp.com/> 9250 River Road, New Braunfels, TX 78132, (830) 964-2484

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

--Whitewater Sports <http://www.floattheguadalupe.com/> 11860 Farm to Market 306, New Braunfels, TX 78132, (830) 964-3800

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

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

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Game Warden Field Notes

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

--Sounds like Poaching--A Titus County game warden responded to a call from a ranch bordering the White Oak Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The hunting manager for the ranch stated he could hear what sounded like multiple ATVs, dogs and a cornered wild hog coming from deep within the WMA. This area of the WMA does not have an authorized ATV trail and the season for hunting hogs with dogs was closed. After checking the entrances to the WMA and finding no vehicles, he discovered the subjects were gaining access from private property. A group of five were located and issued numerous citations for having no Annual Public Hunting permit, hunting hogs with dogs during closed season on a WMA, Illegal operation of an ATV on a WMA - Not Handicapped and operating an ATV off of designated trails.

--That's Not a Clay Pigeon--Prior to the South Zone dove season opener, game wardens responded to a call about hunters shooting doves in closed season. The wardens made their way to a field where the subjects were at and noticed seven freshly killed whitewinged and mourning dove behind one of the hunter's truck. As the war-

dens approached the subjects, one of them turned around and was holding a bird. Another quickly said the birds flew in front of the clay target skeet they were shooting at and that's how they got shot. After talking with the subjects, three of them admitted to shooting the doves intentionally and that they were sorry. Multiple cases and civil restitution pending.

--Breaking Every Rule-- While out checking fishermen ahead of the South Zone dove season, game wardens heard what sounded like shotgun blasts close by. As the wardens worked their way toward the sound of the blasts they noticed two individuals riding in the back of a truck while trying to shoot birds. The wardens quickly made contact with the pair and noticed a freshly killed mourning dove and a common nighthawk. The wardens educated the subjects on the rules and regulations of hunting migratory game birds in closed season, hunting a protected species, hunting with unplugged shotguns, no hunting licenses and shooting from a vehicle. Multiple citations and civil restitution pending.

--No Sale--A flier in a store window in Omaha that read 'Sulphur River Catfish for Sale' caught the attention of a game warden, who called the number on the ad and set up a time and place for a buy. The subject was asking \$5 per pound for the

catfish, which were filleted and frozen. Dressed in civilian clothes, the warden met with the seller and identified himself to the subject. The subject said that he was going to call back the number from the call earlier in the morning to see if it was a Texas Parks and Wildlife number, but never got around to it. The man did not have the required licenses to catch and sell catfish and was issued a citation.

--Must be Dove Season-- Texas game wardens saw plenty of activity during the opening weeks of dove hunting season, some good and some not so good. Here's a roundup:

Throwing the book ...Wharton County was full of hunters for opening weekend in the South Zone, however, the number of birds was down for the first time in over a decade. Wharton County game wardens welcomed the help of wardens in neighboring counties. Even with the birds scattered, 50 cases were filed for a variety of game law violations, including: no hunter education certification, hunting with unplugged shotguns (capacity is three shot-shells for migratory game birds), no state migratory game bird endorsement, shooting from public roadway, trespass by projectile (shooting onto private property) and harvesting

(See Game Warden Field Notes....

Continued on Page 15-A)



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TPWD Winter Stocking Effort Underway at over 100 Sites

These stockings will bring plenty of joy this winter to boys and girls of all ages. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) annual fish stockings of rainbow trout are currently underway on 18 designated Neighborhood Fishin' lakes across the state.

In the coming months, TPWD will stock nearly 300,000 hatchery-raised trout at lakes, ponds and river tailraces for fun winter fishing.

Neighborhood Fishin' lakes in 11 urban areas around Texas offer family fishing opportunities in clean, well-lit spots in city parks with picnic tables and restrooms and will be stocked frequently throughout the season.

For those who want to experience a true trout fishing destination adventure, the popular Guadalupe River fishery downstream of Canyon Lake between Austin and San Antonio received its first TPWD stocking Friday, Dec. 2. Temporary lease agreements with four privately-owned resorts provide free public fishing access to the river. More than 100 additional sites around the state will receive one or more stockings of trout.

TPWD has stocked rainbows each winter since the 1970s to provide Texans with additional fishing opportunity during the cold weather months.

"Most Texas waters get too warm for trout to survive in summer, so we stock them for a put-

and-take fishery during the winter months," said Carl Kittel, TPWD hatchery program director. "The hatchery-reared fish will bite almost immediately after stocking and typically will take a variety of baits, from whole kernel canned corn or commercial soft bait to artificial flies and even small spinnerbaits."

Fishing gear can be as basic as an inexpensive spincast rod and reel combo, a small plastic bobber, a fishing weight and a hook. It's also a good idea to carry along a pair of needle-nosed pliers to help remove hooks, and a five gallon bucket, small ice chest or fish stringer to keep your catch. Be sure to keep fresh trout cold on ice or refrigerated.

Rainbow and brown trout are subject to a five fish per day bag limit, with no minimum length limit. Special regulations are in effect on two sections of the Guadalupe River: starting 800 yards downstream of the Canyon Dam release and extending to the east bridge on Hwy 306, the length limit is a 12-18 inch slot. Trout 12 inches and less or 18 inches or greater in length may be retained, and only one of the five-fish daily bag can be 18 inches or longer. From the easternmost bridge on FM 306 downstream to the second bridge crossing on River Road, there is an 18-inch minimum length limit and a one trout

daily bag. Harvest of trout in these special zones is by artificial lures only.

Anglers age 17 and older must have a valid Texas freshwater fishing license, unless fishing within a Texas State Park where fishing licenses are not required.

A complete list of trout stocking dates and locations is available at www.tpwd.texas.gov/trout-stocking

For a list and map of Neighborhood Fishin' lakes, see www.neighborhoodfishin.org

For details on the Guadalupe River public access leases, see <http://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/management/stocking/guadalupe.phtml>

A video of rainbow trout stocking and fishing may be viewed at http://youtu.be/x_UEX_R_BRQ

We are having a garage sale at our storage shed on Lake Fork. We have chain link fence, Sears riding lawn mower and attachments, furniture, gas coin operated dryer, plumbing supplies, trolling motors. Our sale is at 8297 W. FM 515 Yantis, on January 28 & 29 at 9:00 am.

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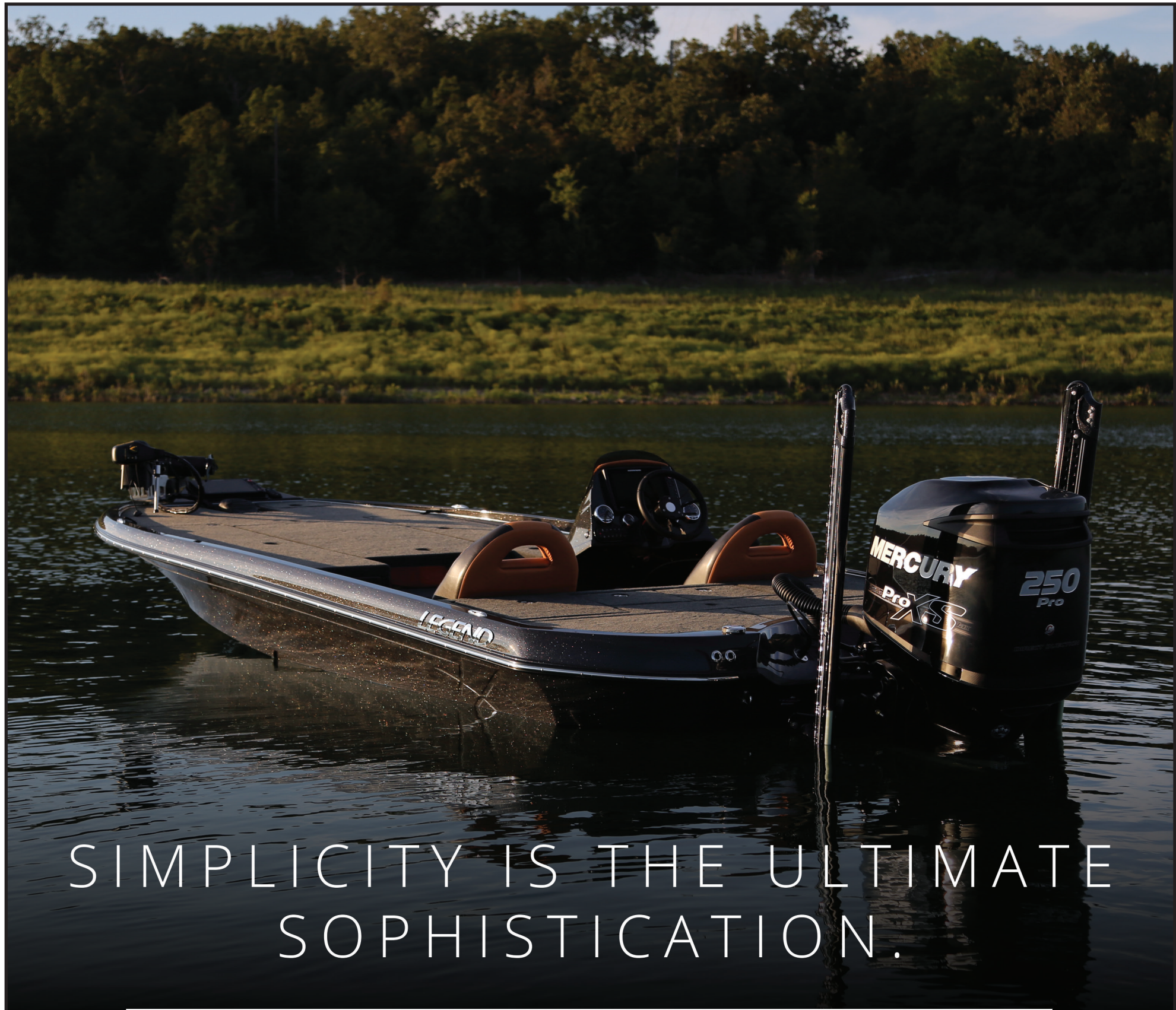
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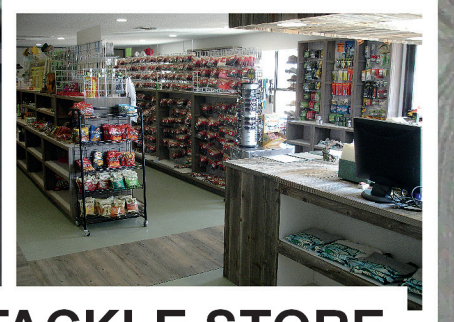
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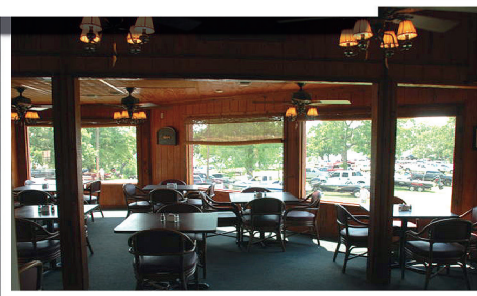
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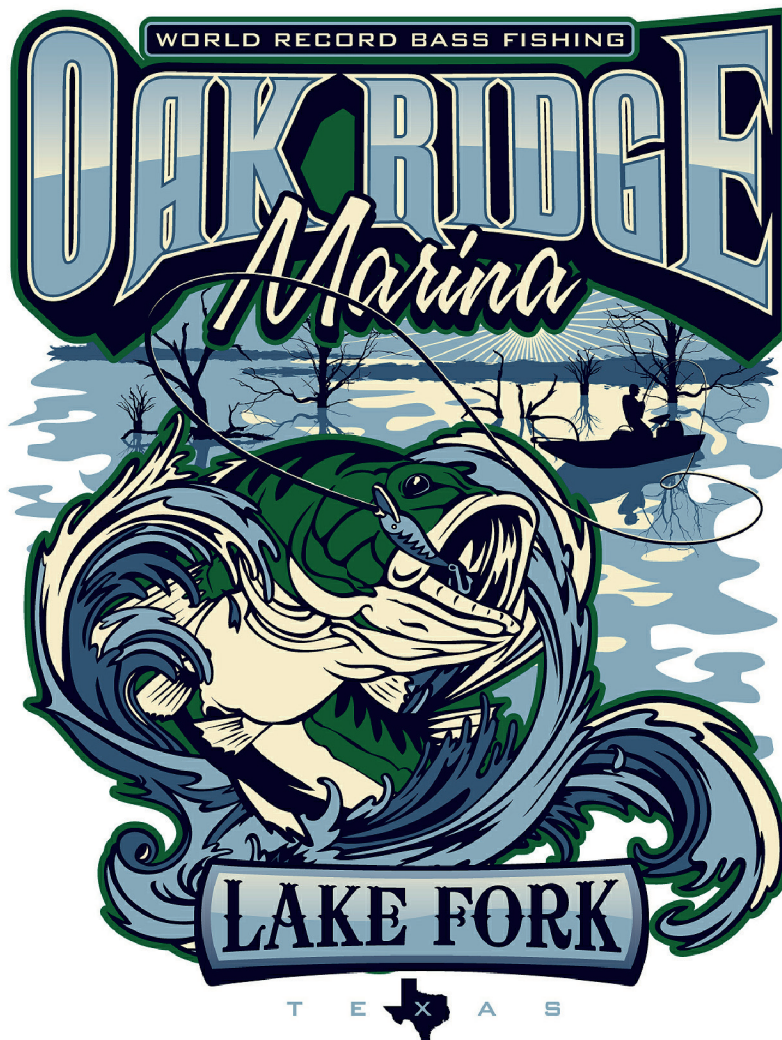
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Winners of the Youth Arts Contest Announced

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Arts in the Parks program has announced the winners of the Texas State Parks Youth Arts Contest, which ran from May 1 to Nov. 1. TPWD will showcase the winning art pieces in the 2017 calendar and on the Arts in the Parks webpage.

The contest is part of a larger national competition organized by the "Get to Know" organization, which encourages kids to get outside and create art. Youths were encouraged to share their outdoor experiences

using art, writing, photography, video and music. Submissions were entered in both the state and national Get to Know Contests.

Texas judges chose winners from three age categories: 14-19, 10-13 and under 10.

The grand prize winner is Grand Prairie native Kailee Mathison, 17, for her entry "Habitat." The artwork was inspired by the diverse landscape of Palo Duro Canyon State Park. This entry will be the cover image of the calendar.

Marlyss Brightwell, 15, from Mesquite won first prize in the age 14-19 category for her photograph titled "The Great Blue Sea." The photo shows a great blue heron standing on the beach at Galveston Island State Park. This image will be used as the January page in the calendar.

The winner of the 10-13 age group is Joy C., 13, from San Antonio for her photo titled "My blue-eyed brother." The photo shows a blue-eyed boy sitting above the waterfalls at Blanco State Park. This picture will be the featured image in the calendar for the month of May.

Pearland native Sophia Ma, 9, placed first in the age 10 or under category with her artwork titled "Heron by the Water." The entry was inspired by the wildlife at Brazos Bend State Park. Her art will be used as the feature image for the month of September.

The Arts in the Parks program, which started in 2013, provides a creative outlet for kids to showcase the beauty of Texas State Parks through art, photography, writing, videography and music. The program has grown steadily over the last four years and more parks statewide are hosting art workshops year-round.

For a PDF copy of this year's calendar, visit the Arts in the Parks page.

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

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

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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 10-A)

over the daily limit. All cases pending.

Know your limits... Atascosa County game wardens checked several dove hunters during the Special Whitewing season. Multiple cases were filed for no hunting license, exceeding the daily limit of mourning dove and other violations. A total of 39 mourning dove were seized from five hunters who did not adhere to the two mourning dove per person regulation.

Off to a good start... During the opening week in the Central Zone and the first two weekends of the Special Whitewing season, Bexar county wardens worked tirelessly to keep up with the crowds. All three of Texas' dove hunting zones cross through Bexar County, which creates new excitement and opportunity for each opening day. During the Labor Day holiday weekend, Bexar County game wardens contacted over 300 people in county fields. Several citations and warnings were issued, but by far, the public was in compliance and most importantly wardens reported zero hunting accidents over the Labor Day weekend, which turned out to be five days of dove hunting.

Trail of evidence ... Live Oak County game wardens were patrolling for dove hunters in the Special Whitewing Area when they located a recently hunted field. While walking the field, the wardens located three chairs, a hunting bucket and over 100 empty shot-gun shells. Next to the bucket,

wardens found two mourning dove and a white-winged dove that were obviously left from a prior evening hunt. The wardens made a visit to the hunting camp house on the property and although no hunters were present they did find two hunting vests containing dove and quail feathers and the carcasses of recently harvested birds in a trash bin at a cleaning station. After sorting through the carcasses and matching up wings, a total of 29 mourning dove, 3 whitewings and 3 bobwhite quail were counted. Several individuals were later interviewed and charges are pending for waste of game, no hunting license, exceeding the daily bag limit of mourning dove and hunting quail in closed season.

Big ticket item ... Game wardens teamed up in La Salle County for the opening weekend of dove season and discovered several baited fields that resulted 36 citations and 11 warnings, along with confiscation of 490 dove, 1 bobwhite quail, 1 killdeer and 1 snipe.

Do the math ... Texas game wardens were checking dove hunters in a field on the Concho and McCulloch County line when they came upon a gentleman standing behind a truck next to a pile of birds. The individual was in possession of 35 dove. The man informed wardens that only 12 were his and the rest belonged to the rest of the hunters in the field. Another man approached and claimed 15

of the birds. After contacting the other five hunters and learning that none of them had any birds on the tailgate of the truck, the warden returned to talk to the two men who did claim birds. The man that claimed the 15 birds admitted to taking the other eight dove. Charges for exceeding the daily bag limit were filed, resources were seized and donated to a needy family. Case and restitution is pending.

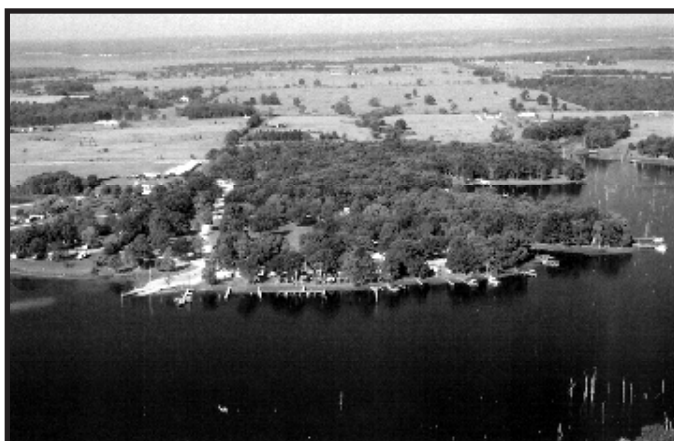
Do the math, again ... A Concho County game warden made contact with a dove hunter who had quit hunting 30 minutes before sunset and had killed 14 doves, one shy of a daily bag limit. Curious to why he had stopped at 14 the warden asked how many he had killed that morning. The man told him "three" and immediately realized the mistake he had made, admitting to harvesting 17 for the day. Charges were filed for exceeding the daily bag limit, two birds were seized and donated to a needy family. Case and restitution is pending.

Overtime and over limit ... A Coleman County game warden was patrolling for dove hunters when he heard a group shoot well after sunset, the end of the legal hunting day for migratory game birds. The warden was able to get within 10 yards of the hunters undetected and watched them continue to shoot after sunset. The warden also dis-

(See Game Warden Field Notes...

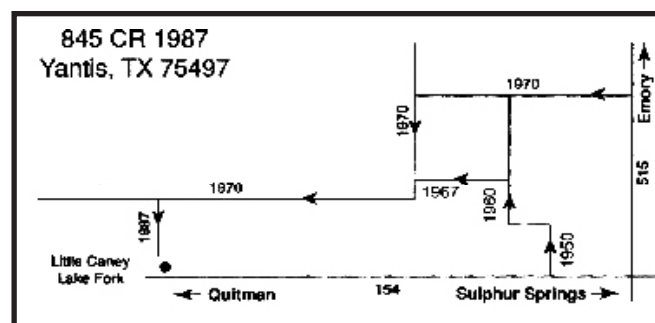
Continued on Page 19-A)

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Effort To Fight Arundo Ramps Up Along Hill Country Rivers

A coalition of government and nonprofit conservation groups is greatly expanding the war on Arundo (*Arundo donax*), an invasive plant that threatens to take over scenic Hill Country rivers. It's one aspect of a broader statewide effort made possible by a record \$6.3 million to control invasive aquatic species approved by the Texas Legislature for the 2016-2017 biennium, an increase from \$1.1 million in the previous two-year cycle. Like fire ants and feral hogs, Arundo does not belong in Texas, but it's threatening to take over, alter the shape and flow of streams and rivers, worsen erosion and flooding problems, and increase wildfire risk. Sometimes known as giant reed or Carrizo cane, this highly invasive plant is native to the Mediterranean area, but was introduced to the American Southwest in the 1800s as an ornamental plant. Growing in dense thickets up to 30 feet tall (or taller), Arundo chokes out deep-rooted native vegetation that naturally

anchors the riparian area, absorbing water, dissipating stormwater energy, and reducing erosion. Instead, Arundo-infested areas are prone to bank undercutting and erosion, leading to reduced water quality. Arundo is also a "big drinker," using up much more water than the diverse, native plant community it displaces--some estimates suggest that tall, dense thickets of Arundo can use 48 acre-feet of water per acre per year.

The Hill Country streams Arundo threatens are home to imperiled fishes, including the Texas state fish, the Guadalupe bass. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, with support from the National Fish Habitat Partnership, has been working to restore Guadalupe bass to these habitats, providing unique angling opportunities for fly fishing enthusiasts. However, Arundo threatens these efforts by degrading instream habitats the fish need to thrive.

To fight the problem, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and its partners are working with riverside landowners plagued by Arundo to bring a multi-faceted approach to large-scale habitat improvements in the Hill Country that includes targeted management of Arundo infestations. This 'Healthy Creeks Initia-

tive' includes landowners, TPWD, Hill Country Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, City of Fredericksburg, and TxDOT, with additional support from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership.

In the Upper Pedernales watershed around Fredericksburg, 65 landowners have voluntarily signed up to participate this year to help attack the infestation at its upstream source and more than 14 acres of Arundo has already been mapped and treated.

On the Blanco River, 67 landowners have signed on to participate this year to help prevent Arundo from getting a foothold in areas devastated by recent flooding, and approximately 8 acres of Arundo has already been mapped and treated.

Biological monitoring is also underway to study how Arundo management in the Hill Country impacts the shape of streams, streamside plant communities, aquatic life, and water quality and quantity. This study is a collaboration between TPWD Inland Fisheries' Aquatic Invasive Species and River Studies programs.

Hill Country riverside landowners or others who want more details on Arundo control options, including upcoming events or programs, may contact healthy.creeks@tpwd.texas.gov or call Ryan McGillicuddy (Blanco River) at 512-552-3713 or Monica McGarrity (Pedernales River and tributaries) at 512-552-3465.

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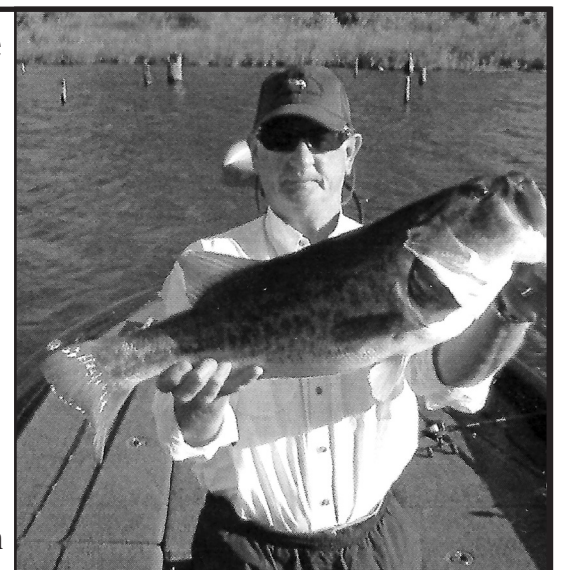
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Lake Fork Year End Review and What is Ahead (Continued from Page 1-A)

Annual Sealy Outdoors Big Bass Splash 2,700 anglers representing 28 states came to test the waters. Winning heaviest bass overall in that competition was Clifford Wyrick from Luling, Texas with a bass weighing 11.18-pounds. In October at the 11th Annual Berkley Big Bass Tournament 1,128 anglers representing 19 states came to Lake Fork. Heaviest bass in this competition was caught by Walter Thomas, Jr. from Alba, Texas and weighed 10.15-pounds. Any of the bass mentioned winning these tournaments would be

a trophy catch to any angler. There are many bass anglers that go their whole life without catching a double-digit bass. The question they should all be asking themselves is what better place to accomplish this than on Lake Fork. If you are a tournament fisherman, you don't have to look far to find a good tournament on this lake anytime of the year.

If you prefer catfish, the Lake Fork Sportsman Association host their Annual Catfish Classic every June. This is one fun filled tournament everyone likes. If you prefer

crappie, some of the very best crappie fishing in the state is here on this great reservoir.

In the upcoming year the fishing forecast looks to be great. We had a great spawn this

past year and the catch rate on smaller and slot fish was intense with the numbers. These fish will have put on some length and a lot of weight with the numbers of baitfish we

have.

If you are coming to Lake Fork, prepare to have a great adventure. There are plenty of great places to stay at the marinas and hotels

and if you're looking for a guide, you'll have no trouble in finding one to put you on the fish. Lake Fork looks great in 2017... hope to see all of you on the water.



The only two angels identified by name in the Bible are Michael and Gabriel, who appear in the Book of Daniel.

13th Annual Legend Of Lake Fork Big Bass Tournament May 19, 20, 21, 2017 \$320,000 Guaranteed In Cash & Prizes All Boats, Makes & Models Welcome!!



Entry Forms Soon Available At All Local Businesses or online:
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1st Place	\$1,040.00		There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry
2nd Place	\$780.00		Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)
3rd Place	\$520.00		
4th Place	\$260.00		
5th thru 10th Place	\$100.00		

1st Place	\$500.00
2nd Place	\$300.00
3rd Place	\$200.00

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00.
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Mar. 10, 2017.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Saturday, Mar. 18, 2017.
4. Check in time: Friday, Mar. 17, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Mar. 18, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. at Oakridge Marina.
5. To qualify, contestants must check in at tournament headquarters before fishing.
6. Fishing hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (official clock at sign-in station). NO FISHING from midnight till start time.
7. Fishing will be done on Lake Fork only (trailer fishing allowed).
8. Contestants must fish from a boat. No back fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
10. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
12. Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (for state law limits at the time of the tournament).
13. All fish must be caught on artificial bait by casting. (No trolling with gas engine). Pork trailer may be used.
14. Weigh-in starts at 3:00 p.m. (official clock at sign-in). You must be in the weigh-in line by 3:30 p.m.
15. All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags.
16. No food or frozen fish will be weighed. Ice may be added ONLY to aid in survival of fish.
17. Each contestant will be responsible for weighing his or her own fish. (No pooling of fish).
18. Dead fish at weigh-in will be penalized 1/2 (.5) pound. All fish weighed in become the property of Texas Trails Bassmasters and will be released (with the exception of trophy or dead fish).

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

Additional Information

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



www.texas trails bassmasters.com

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



Entry Application

Entry fee of \$40 must accompany mailed entry and must be postmarked on or before Mar. 10, 2017 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (optional). Print clearly.

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Having read and understood the tournament rules, by my signature I agree to accept all decisions of the judges as final. By my signature I waive, release and hold harmless all members, officials and sponsors of any and all alleged liabilities to me and/or my equipment.

Contestant Signature _____

Minor's release: Signed by _____ Parent/Guardian

TTB USE ONLY

Entry # _____

Entry Fee _____

Big Bass _____

Cash _____ Ck/ \$ _____

"Pack of Knowledge" "Fundamentals of Jig Fishing" Part 1

By Andrew Grills

Much could be written about swim jigs and football jigs, but the traditional "pitching" or "flipping" jig is the one to be throwing this time of year. In the winter and early spring, prespawn females feed heavily on crawfish. Crawfish are easy prey in the colder water and are one of the best sources of protein a bass can find. A pitching style jig is the perfect crawfish imitator and can also be presented in the heavy timber where big fish live this time of year on Lake Fork.

The first thing I look at when choosing a jig to fish in timber is the head design. This is the most impor-

tant aspect of a jig in my opinion. You want to find a head that comes through cover well, but more importantly you want one that hooks fish well. Many jig companies boast of the giant hooks they use, and that's because many anglers miss or lose a lot of bites on jigs. The hook is not at fault in most cases. Usually, the design of the head determines how and if a fish gets hooked.

Ideally, you want a jig head that hooks fish in the top of the mouth. Usually, the jig that comes through the wood cover best will have a narrow or pointed head design. The bulbous, rounded heads such as the traditional "arkie head" design get lodged in the roots and branches often and can be frustrating to fish. However, once a bass has that jig in its mouth and you set the hook, the first thing that makes contact with the fish's closed lips is the jig head. If it is a narrow jig head style, the jig will immediately turn on its side and you will end up missing the fish or "skin hooking" it. Once hooked, if the point isn't protruding from the outside of the fish's face, and is simply threaded sideways inside the fish's mouth, there's a good chance you're using a faulty head design. I have found that I would rather deal with the aggravation of getting snagged more often than miss or lose fish, therefore I try to use a head design that hooks fish the best.

There are several head designs that are very effec-

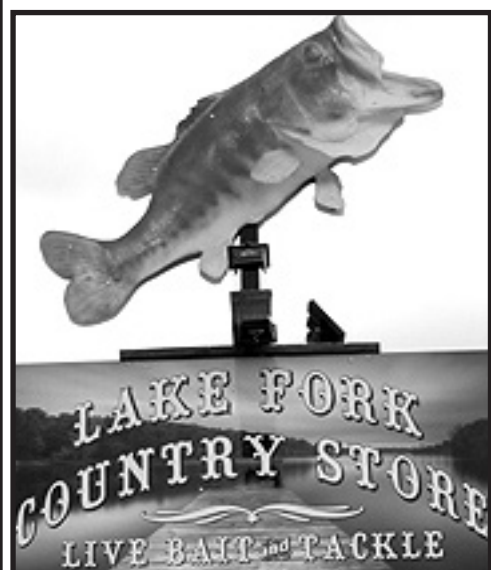
tive. My favorite is the traditional arkie head. This design gets hung up some, but keep in mind its the head (not the hook), so they can be easily retrieved as long as you don't get too impatient and bury the hook by yanking the rod. I like the arkie head because the fish are hooked through the roof of the mouth almost every time, and that means more fish in the boat for me and my customers. One of my favorites is the Santone M-Series jig. This jig has an arkie-style head design and a horizontal line tie. Almost every single fish will be pegged right through the top of their head. I hardly ever lose a fish on an M-Series jig.

Skirt color is another important factor. I think the most important thing is to find a couple colors you have confidence in. For me, two or three colors cover my jig fishing needs year round. I find I have more confidence using a dark colored jig in murky water, such as a black and blue, or black/brown/amber combination. In clear water, a predominantly green pumpkin or watermelon combination works well for me.

As for jig size, I prefer to go with a heavier jig, but still a compact profile. A 5/8 ounce jig is what I use 90% of the time regardless of water depth. Many fishermen seem to like a lightly weighted jig with

(See Pack of Knowledge....

Continued on Page 21-A)



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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 15-A)

covered the hunters were over the daily bag limit as well. Cases were filed for over the limit and shooting past sunset.

--Expired and Arrested-- A Morris County game warden observed a small flat bottom boat with three male occupants on Big Cypress Creek along Sand Crossing at the Morris County/Camp County Line. Using binoculars he could see that the boat had an expired registration decal. Upon making contact, the warden found several violations in addition to the expired registration. None of the occupants had fishing licenses and there was only one life jacket in the boat; the law requires a life jacket for each person onboard. Two of the men were issued citations, while the third received a ticket and a trip to the Morris County Jail after an identification check revealed he had a warrant for a parole violation for burglary.

--A Shocking Discovery-- As Bowie County game wardens arrived on the scene in response to a complaint about a truck and trailer blocking a boat ramp, they noticed a boat had just pulled in and was in the process of being loaded onto the trailer. While making contact with the operator, the wardens observed an illegal fish shocking device onboard with wires still connected. During a subsequent search of the vessel and the truck, wardens recovered and released back into the lake two flathead catfish. They also found numerous devices used for illegal fishing, including a four bar telephone, wires, dip nets, a drill, voltage meter and spotlight; all were seized as evidence. A meth pipe, narcotics and a pistol were also taken as evidence from the vehicle. The two subjects

were booked into the Bowie County jail for fishing violations and drug charges.

--That's why it's Called Teal Season-- On the last day of the September teal season Trinity County game wardens checked a group of hunters on the Trinity River and discovered a pair of wood ducks stashed behind their duck blind. After educating the group about proper waterfowl identification and hunting seasons, cases for hunting and possessing wood ducks in closed season were filed.

--Getting Squirrely-- A Harrison County game warden got a call about a suspicious man walking down the road with a shotgun. Once in the area, the warden noticed a truck parked in the woods with two men nearby. When asked, the pair said they weren't hunting, just enjoying the weather. A shotgun barrel sticking out of the pickup's door window hinted otherwise. As he approached the truck the warden noticed several dead squirrels in the bed of the truck. The warden also recovered a couple of freshly used meth pipes. Multiple charges filed.

--Working on Night Moves-- Van Zandt and Smith County wardens recently completed an investigation into an alleged road hunting incident stemming from an anonymous tip about a large buck that may have been poached at night. Wardens determined at least eight deer may have been killed over several nights of road hunting during the summer by several juveniles. None of the deer were retrieved except the one large buck, still in velvet. In all, 70 citations and warnings were issued and two rifles were seized. Cases pending.

--No Fishing License Least of their Problems--

A Johnson County game warden was patrolling Lake Pat Cleburne when he witnessed two men load fishing equipment into a small flat bottom boat. The men stated they were preparing to go fishing, but neither possessed a valid fishing license. The warden also observed the boat had none of the required water safety equipment. A check of the boat's registration showed it to be stolen out of Fort Worth. The stolen boat was seized and the individual who claimed ownership of the boat was placed under arrest and transported to the Johnson County Jail. Charges pending.



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The New Year (Continued from Page 6-A)

of the grass and slow roll the bait back to the boat. You might be surprised at the results.

January is also a great month to catch numbers on the power plant lakes. If cabin fever has set in, give me a call and we can wear them out where the water temps are summer like. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in January searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.

DAVID OZIO



409-782-4269

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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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Pack of Knowledge (Continued from Page 18-A)

a slow, enticing fall rate. However, I believe one of the qualities about jigs that appeal to big bass the most is the fact that it is a "reaction bait". I fish jigs slow most of the time, but when it rolls over a branch or root it still drops to the bottom quickly and kicks up some dust. When a jig happens to do this over a piece of cover a big bass is laying beneath, I think the fish will have a hard time not pouncing on it out of instinct.

I always trim the silicone skirts on my jigs. I usually cut the skirt a 1/4 inch below the bend of the hook. I like to cut a half moon type line from side to side, then I turn the jig and do it again. This way, the strands on the outer edges of the skirt are the shortest and the shorter strands flare out well in the water. This may just be a matter of preference but it seems to work. I also use

a compact, crawfish imitating trailer most of the time. I like to match the color of the trailer with the skirt colors.

In my next article I will discuss the how, where, and when of jig fishing. Hopefully you've found something useful here in spite of the fact that some of this is very basic information. As a

guide fishing with different anglers on a daily basis, I believe there are some misconceptions about jig fishing. Hopefully this gives you some ideas, and if nothing else the confidence to go throw a jig this month!

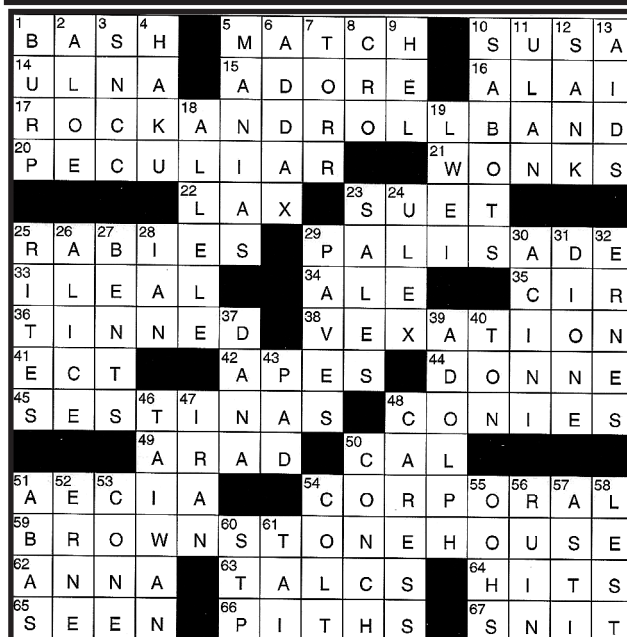
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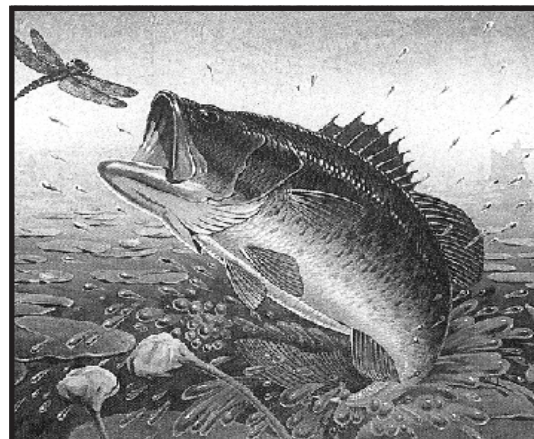
Insect Find

There are 12 insect names hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

BEETLE
SPIDER
LADYBUG
ROACH
ANT
TERMITE

BEE
WASP
MANTIS
PILL BUG
CRICKET
KATYDID

T E K C I R C B E P R E
P I C E N O M E L P C T
F O L D W R A E E I E I
E C O A N T R T S L N M
C O S P D R B L R L R R
U P O T E Y O E K B S E
E A E L N R B P C U N T
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Take your favorite kid on a fishing trip and help them bag seasonal sport fish for free during the 11th annual "Trails to Trout" fishing days in January at The Nature Center. The East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation (ETWWF) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) are stocking 2,000 rainbow trout at the pond for adult and child team fishing from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 7 and 14.

There is no registration required and no need to purchase a fishing license - all anglers need to bring is fishing equipment and bait. The ETWWF and TPWD will provide the rest, including staff on-hand to assist beginner fishing duos and limited fishing equipment for those who need it on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Anglers will have the choice of releasing their catch or keeping up to a limit of five [rainbow trout] per person to take home," said Spencer Dumont, East Texas Regional Fisheries Di-

rector. "We also have fish-cleaning facilities and ice available courtesy of the East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation."

In addition to the daily bag limit of five rainbow trout, anglers can also keep up to one channel catfish per day.

After a day of fishing at the pond head over to the nearby outdoor hiking trails to complete the great outdoors experience.

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

go southeast on University Blvd. (Spur 248). Take a right turn on F.M. 848 (Bascom Rd.). Go 0.2 miles and turn right at The Nature Center gate. Please park in designated areas in the main parking area and walk to the pond using the concrete trail near the kiosk.

A complete list of trout stocking dates and locations is available at www.tpwd.texas.gov/troutstocking

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