

# 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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Free

Vol. 18

February, 2017

No. 210



On January 1st of each year to Kick Off the New Year, John and JoAnne Heimgartner owners Fisherman's One Stop and Bro's Patio host their Annual Benefit Buffet benefitting Link's At Lands End Volunteer Fire Department. With the abundance of food ranging from the traditional blackeyed peas, & cabbage, there was also available hams, fried fish, beans, potato salad, desserts, and much more! The lunch was free. The only request was for donations for the fire department. Also present at the function above were from BASS Pros (lt to rt) Jason Christie, Bradley Hallman, John Heimgartner (owner), Bobby Lane, and Tommy Biffle.



Even the children had encounters with Daryl Sprout Snake Encounters at the Annual Eagle Fest. (See Story on Page 4-A)



Lake Fork guide Justin Priest caught this hawg fishing Lake Fork in January weighing 12-lbs. 13-ozs. Just 3-ounces short of a TPWD Share-Lunker entry. C.P.R.





## Bubba's Love Poem To Bubbette

By Bubba B. Tuff

Collards is green,  
My dogs name is  
Blue,

And I'm so Lucky  
To have a sweet  
thang like you.

Yore hair is like  
Cornsilk,  
A-Flapping in the  
breeze,  
Softer than Blue's,  
And without all  
them fleas.

You move like the  
bass,  
Which excite me in  
May.  
You ain't got scales,  
But I luv you any-  
way.

Yo're as satisfy'n as  
okra,

Jist a-fry'n in the  
pan  
Yo're fragrant as  
snuff,  
Right out of the can.

You have some'a  
Yore teeth,  
For which I am  
proud,  
I hold my head high,  
When we're in a  
crowd.

On special occa-  
sions,  
When you shave  
under yore arms,  
Well, I'm in hog  
heaven,  
And awed by yore  
charms.

Still them fellars at  
work,  
They all want to  
know,

What I did to de-  
serve  
Such a purdy, young  
doe.

Like a good roll of  
duct tape,  
Yo're there fer yore  
man,  
To patch up lifes  
troubles  
And fix what you  
can.

Yo're as cute as a  
junebug,  
A-buzzing over-  
head.  
You ain't mean like  
those far ants,  
I found in my bed.

Cut from the best  
cloth  
Like a plaid flannel  
shirt,

You build up my with stank.  
life,  
More than a fresh  
load of dirt.

When you hold me  
real tight,  
Like a padded gun-  
rack,  
My life is complete,  
Ain't nuttin' I lack.

Yore complexion is  
perfection,  
Like new vinyl si-  
din'.  
Despite all the years,  
Yore age, it keeps  
hidin'.

Me' n' you's like a  
moon pie,  
With a RC cold  
drank,  
We go together,  
Like a skunk goes

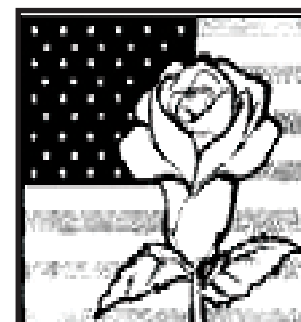
Some men, they buy  
chocolate,  
For Valentines day,  
They git it at Wal-  
Mart,  
They seem to think  
it's romantic that  
way.

Some men git roses,  
On that special day,  
From the cooler at  
Brookshires  
That might be im-  
pressive, I'd haf to  
say.

Some men buy fine  
diamonds,  
From a flea market  
booth  
Diamonds are for-  
ever,  
They explain, suave  
and couth.

But for this man,  
honey,  
These won't do.  
Cause yo're too spe-  
cial,  
You sweet thang  
you.

I got you a gift,  
Without taste nor  
odor,  
More useful than  
diamonds.....  
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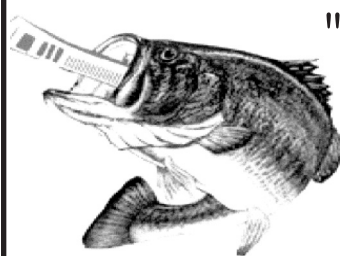
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## "Release the Kraken!"

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Artificial Reef Program sank a 371-ft cargo vessel, named The Kraken, on Jan. 20, 2017. Dubbed the Kraken after the mythical, squid-like sea monster immortalized on film and in literature, the vessel was sunk 67 miles off the coast of Galveston to create a new artificial reef.

The Kraken began its journey in May 2016 when it was towed from Trinidad to Brownsville, Texas to be repurposed for its new life as an artificial reef 140 feet below the surface. Contractors with Cahaba Disaster Recovery LLC worked with our Artificial Reef Program to remove all fuel, oil and hazardous materials from the vessel in order to comply with the Environmental

Protection Agency's best management practices.

Over time, this sunken ship will become an artificial reef that attracts fish, coral and other invertebrates as well as divers and anglers. The Kraken's proximity to the Flower Gardens Marine Sanctuary also makes it a premiere dive location in the Gulf of Mexico.

"The entire marine ecosystem benefits from artificial reef projects like the Kraken," said TPWD Artificial Reef Program Leader J. Dale Shively. "The Gulf of Mexico has only a few naturally occurring reefs so whenever we are able to add a new structure like this, the whole area benefits from the added habitat and species diversity."

As an Artificial Reef Program Ships-to-Reefs project, the sinking of the

Kraken was made possible by donations and Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill natural resource damage settlement funds jointly provided by natural resource trustee agencies in Texas which include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Texas General Land Office.

For more information about the Texas Artificial Reef Program, see the artificial reefs website, and its companion interactive mapping application.

For video of the sinking, visit the TPWD YouTube page.

Images of the sinking are also found on the TPWD news images page.

**Help Keep Our Lake Clean**

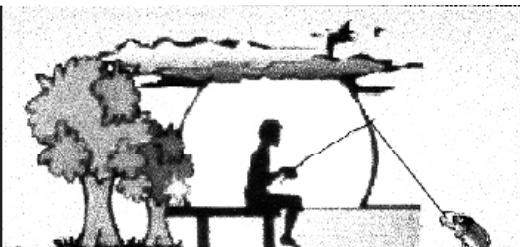


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## Eagle Fest 2017 In Emory

By Don Hampton

The 2017 Eagle Fest in Emory held on January 28th and 29th was not only entertaining but also educational for all the visitors that attended. The festival kicked off with a photography contest, art walk and VIP dinner at the Emory City Centre on Friday January 27th.

Rains County was officially proclaimed as the "Eagle Capital of Texas" on June 16, 1995 in recognition of the region's importance as nesting and feeding grounds for the bald eagles. The resolution was adopted as an effort to protect and preserve the American Bald Eagle by the 74th Legislature of Texas on May 29, 1995. It was then signed into effect by the Honorable George W. Bush, Governor at that time on June 16th, 1995.

During the course of the event on Saturday visi-



**Over 100 children stopped by Ann Ayres' booth to test their sculpting skills.**

tors could be transported to Oak Ridge Marina for boat tours of Lake Fork to view the eagles. Also while there they could enjoy a good meal, view the extensive tackle shop, and watch Burt Fleming, Chainsaw Sculptor, produce beautiful art from a stump of wood.

The event was hosted in the Emory High School gymnasium so no guests or visitors were exposed to the elements of the weather.

On the main stage entertaining was the Mitotiliztli Yaoyollohtli Aztec dance company. With authentic and stunning regalia, they dance with ceremonial dedication to this traditional art form, and deliver a stunning and energetic performance.

The 'Critterman', David Klevin, "Best Children's Entertainer" in 2011 was present with his live wildlife educational program.

Also on the main stage was Blackland Raptor

Center. There is no better way to learn about the birds of prey in North Texas than to meet them in person. For many years they have introduced to children and adults to the world of raptors. Their hawks, owls and falcons are well trained, and with the assistance of BPRC education specialists, show what makes them an important part of our environment. Present also was Teaming With Wildlife True To Texas, a unified voice for wildlife conservation and Last Chance Forever by Master Falconer and Veterinary Technician John Karger. This organization is dedicated to the rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned birds of prey. Present also was K.C. Rudy and Eric Brittingham, with Wildlife on the Move. They are a

*(Continued on next page)*



**TPWD Wall of Shame Operation Game Theft was present for the entertainment of all.**



**Famous for her bronze works and sculpturing Ann Ayres showed her work and gave instructions to the youth and those interested.**



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For the not so weak of heart on the main stage was Daryl Sprout with Snake Encounters. His approach of providing education on the subject of snakes is humorous and entertaining. Many of the reptiles in his show can not only be seen but touched and interacted with at the end of the show. The children were especially enthralled with his presentation.

For entertainment between the main stage presentations there were plenty of booths to capture

everyone's attention. Represented among these was the 11th Battalion Bass Brigade. Each year on Lake Fork in July this group puts on a Bass Camp to educate and get youth involved with bass fishing. National known and famous sculptor Ann Ayres was present exhibiting her bronze works and working on a sculpture of Mrs. Yamamoto's father who was a Japanese/American soldier in World War II.

In all, the "Eagle Fest" can only be judged as a tremendous success. If you missed out on this year's festival, you truly missed a great event and should plan to attend in 2018.



Tourists and visitors were entertained at Oak Ridge Marina by the talents of Burt Fleming, Chainsaw Sculptor, a true artist with a chainsaw.



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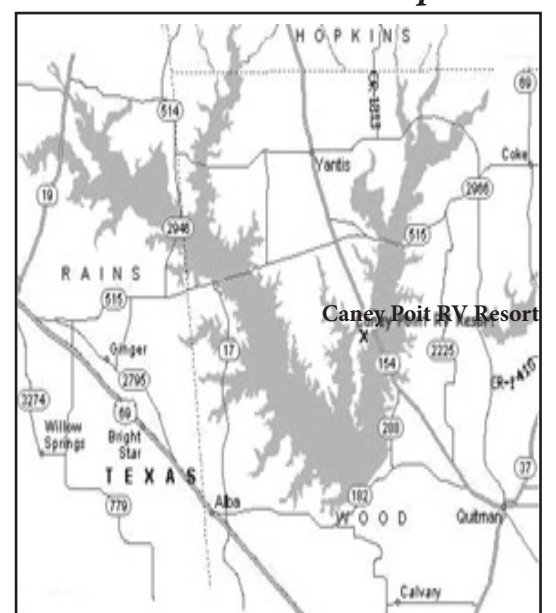
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# February on Lake Fork!

By David Ozia

"What a difference a year makes when it comes to the inferences that weather has on a body of water. This winter has been mild by standards, generally speaking, and the bass are way more active this year than in past seasons. Surface temps on the main lake alone are five to eight degrees higher which could set the stage this year for an earlier spawn. Time will tell and no one has a handle on mother nature but we can let the good times roll while we have the chance.

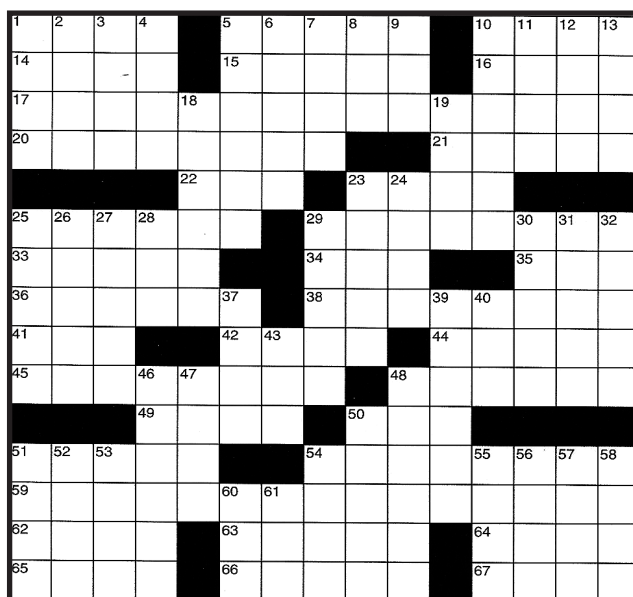
Each waking day delivers us a different possibility on how to attack the wary green fish. If the sun pops out for the day, you need to head to the backs of the creeks and pursue the shallow bite particularly in the afternoon. Shallow water will absorb the sun's rays more quickly causing the bass to move up for the warmth. By the same

token, this same water cools more quickly when a major front slides through. Bass will move back out until the high pressure dissipates. While this transition in taking place the deep bite will be in vogue. Staging bass will hold on points and areas just outside of their spawning grounds. The key depth range should be focused in the 12-15ft area. Big bass will stage at key junctures at the mouths of pockets also and play a waiting game with the water temps that suit their liking. This is when you bring out the big guns to usher in the trophy bass. The A-rig will be the go to strategy and it's set up is all important to the trophy success. Everyone has their favorite way to rig these umbrella monstrosities but common sense will lead you down the right path based upon the "where" you will be throwing it. Naturally, if you are in open water with no timber, the best rig would be to use a 3/16 ounce swim-bait head and cover them with any five inch swimbait. As for colors, start with white and adjust from there. I found last year that dark colored baits worked better on a day to day basis. Arkansas Shiner, Dirty Sanchez and Houdini all performed well when using the Reaction Innovation Skinny Dippers. I will go as far to say that we had some great days using the Little Dippers instead of the five inch versions. It all comes down to what the fish want. Option two is to rig the A-rig with weedless swim-baits using belly weighted hooks. This will keep you out of trouble when casting into timber. Once rigged, I use 25lb P-line on a 5:1 gear ratio reel all loaded on a 7'11"



TFO rod. This is a great launching pad for this heavy rig and it allows you to hurl it quite a ways. Once you make the cast, let it sink to the bottom, then retrieve it slowly back to the boat. A large bass will literally knock the rod out of your hands. It's a must do pattern in February.

Big swimbaits will also play a huge roll this month, especially the expensive jointed baits. Swim or twitch them slowing in shallow water during the afternoons and hold on to your business. Strikes can be vicious. Other options to target bass would include using jigs, black/blue, in the creek bends towards the back of most all major creek arms. They are all lined with timber and will harbor toad stature green fish. The final option as mentioned above deals with the shallow water bite. Take time to locate sub-



## CLUES ACROSS

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Cape near Lisbon                 | 38. Milled wheat product used in pasta |
| 5. Cloth                            | 41. Salesperson (informal)             |
| 10. Ring                            | 42. Used to have (Scottish)            |
| 14. Meet, in a way                  | 44. Rajah's wife (var.)                |
| 15. Louse                           | 45. Military installations             |
| 16. _____ Blyton, children's author | 48. Features                           |
| 17. Leave _____ (make every effort) | 49. Fair                               |
| 20. Supporters, in a way            | 50. Bodily cavity                      |
| 21. Fills up                        | 51. Legal right                        |
| 22. Belonging to a thing            | 54. Endeavors                          |
| 23. Founder of Manichacism          | 59. Western vacation site              |
| 25. Dining-room attendant           | 62. Celery (Spanish)                   |
| 29. Underground passage             | 63. Type genus of the Phocidae         |
| 33. Purgatives                      | 64. Advise                             |
| 34. Word element meaning "nitrogen" | 65. Gorilla                            |
| 35. Golf score                      | 66. Valuable pelts                     |
| 36. Armored, in a way               | 67. Deceive (slang)                    |

## CLUES DOWN

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Monetary unit of South Africa | 30. State clearly                 |
| 2. Double-reed instrument        | 31. Edouard _____; French painter |
| 3. Point                         | 32. Hillsides                     |
| 4. Tip of Aleutian Islands       | 37. Tropical woody herb           |
| 5. Mental health                 | 39. Prophet                       |
| 6. Fencing swords                | 40. Sealing wax                   |
| 7. Sumac genus                   | 43. Brew                          |
| 8. John Barleycorn               | 46. Concluding speech             |
| 9. Sunup in New York (abbr.)     | 47. European defense organization |
| 10. Courageous                   | 48. Creatures, in general         |
| 11. "The King and I" heroine     | 50. Protective garment            |
| 12. Fibbed                       | 51. Borneo people                 |
| 13. _____ and ends               | 52. Take back (informal)          |
| 18. Serving no useful purpose    | 53. City in Iowa                  |
| 19. Arm bone                     | 54. British school                |
| 23. Stupefied                    | 55. Constellation                 |
| 24. Carbon or hydrogen           | 56. Small lake                    |
| 25. Iraqi seaport                | 57. Therefore                     |
| 26. Lesion                       | 58. Kitty-cornered                |
| 27. Cleanses                     | 60. Words per minute              |
| 28. Sound unit                   | 61. _____ite, Muslim              |
| 29. Containers                   |                                   |

Answers on Page 21-A

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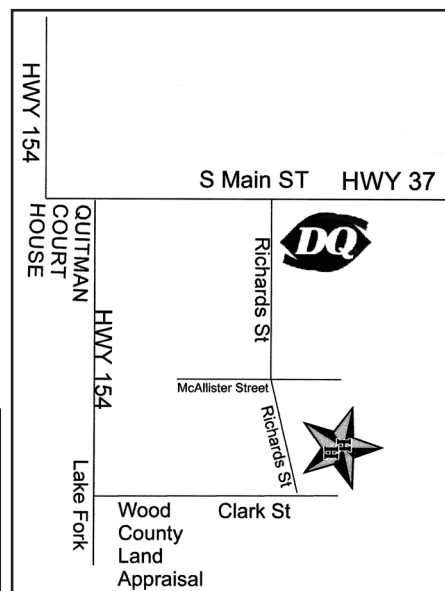
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(See February on.....  
Continued on Page 20-A)

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## Texas Game Warden Heath Bragg Named SEAFWA Officer of the Year

Texas game warden Heath Bragg was recognized as the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Officer of the Year award recipient at a recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting. This is the 47th year that this award has been presented to a Texas game warden.

Game warden Bragg has been with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for 17 years and his stations in East Texas through his career include Tyler, Angelina and Nacogdoches counties.

Bragg's knowledge of fish and wildlife enforcement and understanding of how types of fish and wildlife crimes are committed has been a huge contribution to his career, evident by his apprehension of more than 15 different groups of illegal netters and more than two dozen boating while intoxicated arrests.

During his tenure as a game warden, Bragg was awarded the 2005 National Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year, is a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCLOE) and Firearms instructor, and a

law enforcement officer water survival instructor.

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

By Terri Moon

So hard to believe that while I'm writing this – the forecast for today is 72 degrees! If that doesn't get your "fishing fever" going – there is something wrong!

Thinking back on past Februarys – I've realized some of our largest crappie have been caught during this month. Generally, I've found the biggest crappie are the first to transition – mid February on can be quite exciting (weather permitting). The water temperature will be the key factor to when these transitions take place. Meanwhile, keep checking the deep water humps, creek channels and main lake points till water temps start to rise between 55 – 60 degrees then start checking secondary points. Also keep a close eye on that graph – 25 to 35 ft. depths have been producing.

Now that I have Lowrance's HDS-12's on the dash and the front of the boat, it sure makes my job easier searching for fish and baitfish. Then to top it off with the MinnKota "Ulterra" trolling mo-



tor to hold me in place when I find the fish – is "PRICELESS"!!

Bait colors to try are Lake Fork Tackle's "Live Baby Shad" in sunperch or watermelon red pearl, or chartreuse and pearl. If the color you are using isn't working, don't hesitate to change it up because light conditions and water clarity play a big factor and it's subject to change daily. (Also it doesn't hurt to have a jar of Berkley "crappie nibbles" on board!)

Presentation can make a difference too – usually the deeper I fish, the slower I will fish. Unless I'm trying to catch some yellow or white bass – then I will hop the bait in a faster presentation. They generally will hit it on the fall.

Don't forget the crappie 10 inch minimum law is not in effect till March 1st. I know it's wishful thinking that the weather will stay this nice through February, but we can only hope! I'm sure looking forward to the upcoming season!

I want to send out a BIG thank you to Chuck, Perry and Greg at Service Marine for rebuilding my Yamaha and getting me back on the water! You guys are AWESOME and an even bigger thanks to my "ARKANSAS ANGELS" who made it all possible! You ALL are so much appreciated!

Also, Happy 84th Birthday to my dad Bobby Carleton of Leesville, MO. Love and hugs to all!!

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Lake Fork guide Danny Holder caught this nice hawg weighing 9.5-lbs. while doing some January fishing on Lake Fork. C.P.R.



Local fisherman Robert Denton proudly shows one of several large Lake Fork Crappie he caught. He didn't keep a single fish! C.P.R.



Lake Fork guide Randy Oldfield was doing some January fishing on Lake Fork when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R.



Randy Stewart  
McKinney, TX.,

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## First Case of CWD Detected in Free-Ranging Texas Whitetail

Chronic wasting disease has been detected in a hunter harvested 1 1/2 -year-old white-tailed buck submitted for sampling within Surveillance Zone 3 in Medina County. This marks the first confirmed case of CWD in a free-ranging Texas whitetail.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) are taking steps to deploy an early detection and containment strategy designed to limit the spread of CWD from the affected area and better understand the distribution and prevalence of the disease.

"Although the disease has been discovered in a free ranging whitetail in this area, we cannot draw any conclusions at this time based on one detection," said Dr. Bob Dittmar, TPWD's Wildlife Veterinarian. "The proactive measures we are taking as part of our epidemiological investigation into this case are in line with the state's strategies to prevent this disease from spreading any further. The more effective we are at containing this disease within a limited geographic area, the better it will be for our wildlife resources and all those who enjoy them."

Effective immediately under an executive order issued by TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith, Surveillance Zone 3 (SZ3), which extends across portions of Bandera, Medina and Uvalde counties, is now a CWD Containment Zone and all associated rules for that designation are in effect. Those rules in-

clude restrictions on the movements of carcass parts as well as live deer possessed under the authority of a permit. The department is also implementing mandatory CWD testing of hunter harvested deer within this containment zone.

"This emergency action allows us to contain the threat of this disease spreading any further while we collect more information and gather more data," said T. Dan Friedkin, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Chairman. "Not only are these temporary emergency measures necessary and consistent with the state's planned strategies for CWD management, they are essential for ensuring the protection of the state's whitetail deer herd and the integrity of our hunting heritage."

"It is my intent for the Commission to address this issue through our regular rulemaking process, which provides opportunities for public comment and input from stakeholders, and that process will begin soon," Friedkin added.

"With the confirmation of CWD in a free-ranging buck in Medina County, the TAHC is working with TPWD to determine the disease risk in the area," said Dr. Susan Rollo, TAHC State Epidemiologist. "TAHC understands and appreciates TPWD's immediate response and temporary measures to prevent the inadvertent spread of CWD to other parts of Texas."

This most recent detection of CWD resulted from

enhanced voluntary testing of hunter harvested deer in SZ3. TPWD's sampling goal for SZ3 for the 2016-17 hunting season is 1,749 samples. As of today, the department has received about 720 samples from hunter harvests and roadkills within the zone and anticipates receiving about 200 additional samples from deer breeding facilities and associated release sites in SZ3.

"TPWD is very appreciative of the effort and cooperation that has been put forth by landowners, hunters and local officials in the area," said Carter Smith, TPWD Executive Director. "Our ability to control this disease is directly related to the cooperation offered by the citizens of Medina, Bandera and Uvalde counties, and we pledge to continue to work with everyone to minimize the impacts of this disease as well as these challenging but necessary measures designed to control the spread of CWD."

While the general deer hunting season is over, TPWD will continue to collect samples from MLDP (Managed Lands Deer Program) properties in the new Containment Zone as well as roadkills. The department is seeking as many additional samples for testing as it can obtain in order to get a better handle on the geographic extent and prevalence of the disease in this area.

Additional information about CWD can be found online at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/diseases/cwd/>.



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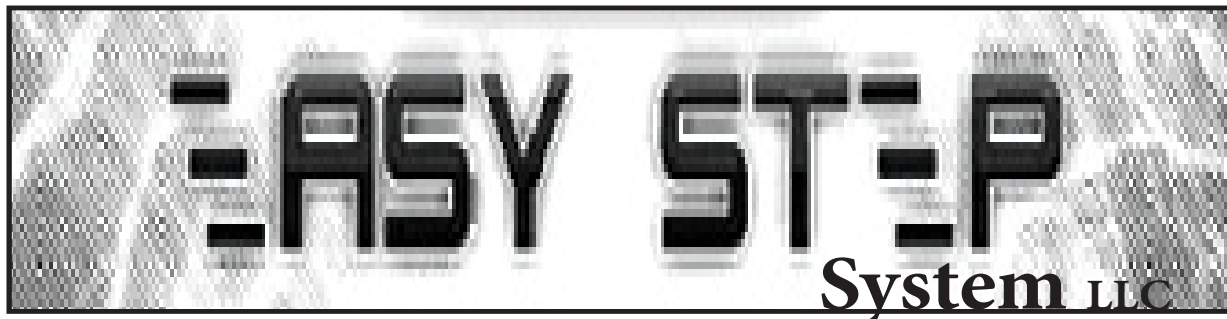
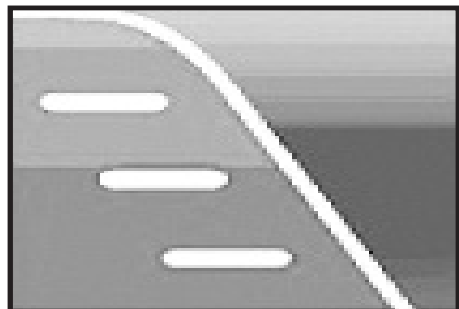
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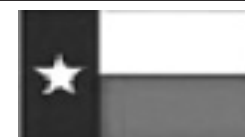
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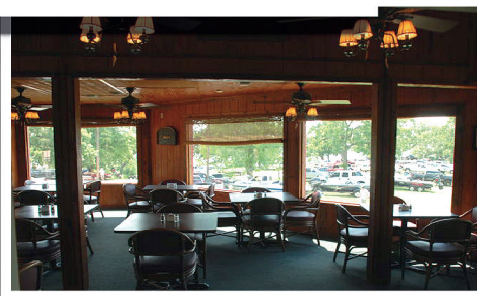




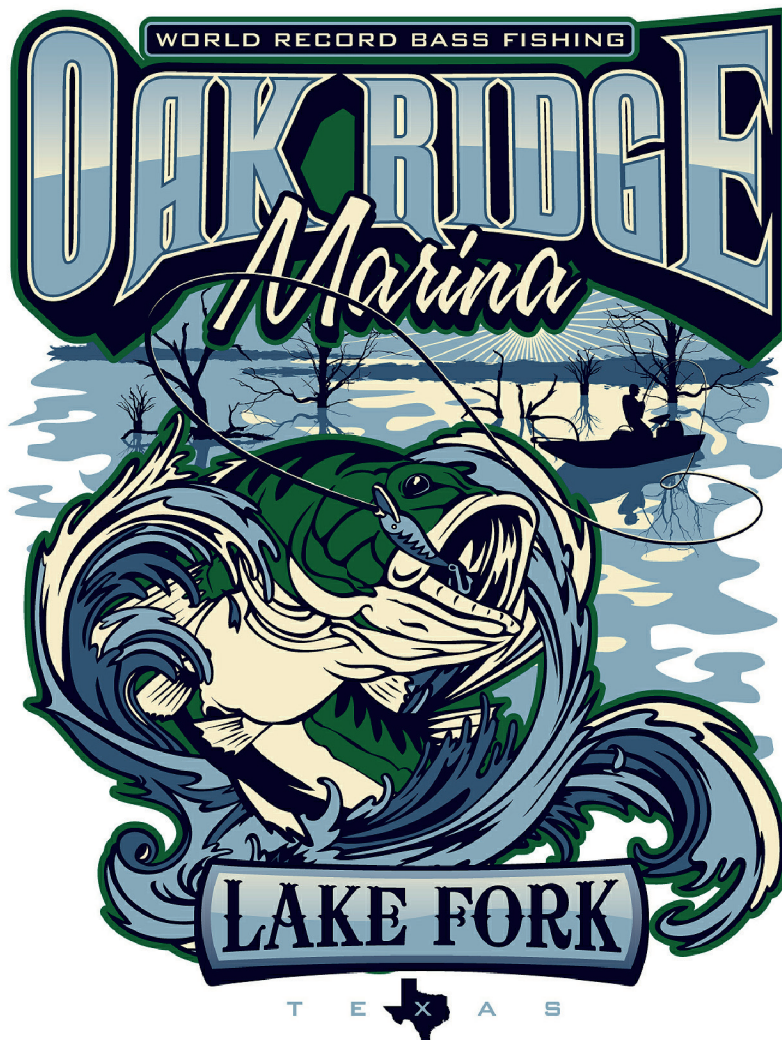
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## Record Breaking Attendance at Texas State Parks' Annual First Day Hikes

This past New Year's Day, nearly 4,000 park visitors statewide walked, biked, swam and paddled their way into 2017 as part of Texas State Parks' annual First Day Hikes events. First Day Hikes events are a national initiative to get park visitors to start their year on the right foot and enjoy the natural, historical, cultural and recreational opportunities at state parks.

Nationwide, more than 1,300 First Day Hikes were offered in all 50 states from Alaska to Flori-

da with 61,800 participants covering over 111,850 miles. In Texas, 3,783 park visitors trekked more than 7,600 miles this year.

"We have seen the First Day Hikes initiative grow every year," said Ky Harkey, director of interpretation for Texas State Parks. "These events are a wonderful way for families to strap on a pair of comfortable walking shoes, traverse the trails together and enjoy Texas' state parks."

This year, 76 parks participated by hosting 123

events throughout the day, growing in attendance and total mileage from last year's 3,000 visitors trekking 6,500 miles.

Mother Neff State Park, located just outside of Waco, had the highest number of participants with 549 hikers attending its events. In the Panhandle, Palo Duro Canyon State Park had 310 visitors attend the guided hikes through the park.

Other parks with high turnout that day include Pedernales Falls State Park with 135 total participants, McKinney Falls State Park with 131 hikers, and Brazos Bend State Park with 130 visitors attending events.

Mother Neff State Park also had the largest single hike attendance for the state with 280 participants during a 3-mile afternoon walk, closely surpassing the park's morning 3-mile hike attended by 237 people.

At Palo Duro Canyon State Park, 157 hikers attended a 1.25-mile hike and 153 people attended a 1.5-mile midnight trek.

In Pedernales Falls State Park, 135 people joined the adoptable pups on the 1.5-mile afternoon "Fido Hike."

To continue hiking, biking and swimming your way through 2017, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department calendar page or the Texas State Parks website.

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## TPWD Releases Freshwater Fishing Regulation Proposals for 2017-18

Changes to harvest regulations for bass in the Devil's River highlight this year's list of proposed freshwater fishing regulation changes.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff have also proposed regulation changes for lakes in Abilene and Dallas/Fort Worth and an update to reflect a recent species name change.

TPWD will be taking public comment on the following proposed changes to the 2017-18 State-wide Recreational Fishing Proclamation, with input to be considered before any action by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commis-

sion at its March 23 public hearing:

--Create a catch-and-release only fishing (no harvest) zone for smallmouth and largemouth bass in the Devil's River from State Highway 163 bridge (Baker's Crossing) downstream to the confluence of Big Satan Creek Canyon.

--Prohibit use of juglines, throwlines and trotlines in Kirby Lake (Taylor County).

--Establish a catch-and-release only regulation for largemouth bass and sunfish on Bedford Boys Ranch Lake (Tarrant County).

--Add Alabama bass (previously considered a subspecies of

spotted bass) to the list of game fishes and update bass regulations for Alan Henry Reservoir (Garza County), which is the only location in Texas that contains this species.

Additional details on these proposals will be published in the Texas Register by Feb. 18, and after that date, also available for review as well as in narrated presentations on TPWD's website.

Comments on the proposals for freshwater fishing may be submitted to Ken Kurzawski at (512) 389-4591, email: [ken.kurzawski@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:ken.kurzawski@tpwd.texas.gov), 4200 Smith School

Road, Austin, Texas 78744; or via the department's website after February 18.

Public hearings are being scheduled for Del Rio and Abilene (time and date TBA) to provide opportunities for public comment on the Devil's River

and Kirby Reservoir Proposals.

A live online public hearing via webinar will also be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21. Details

and instructions for participation in the online public hearing webinar will be made available on the TPWD website.

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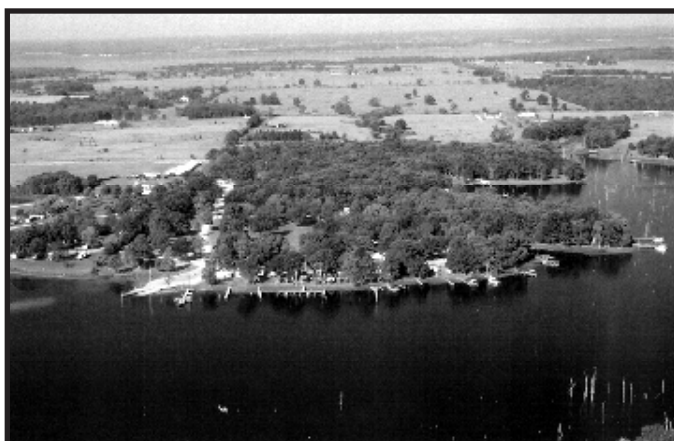
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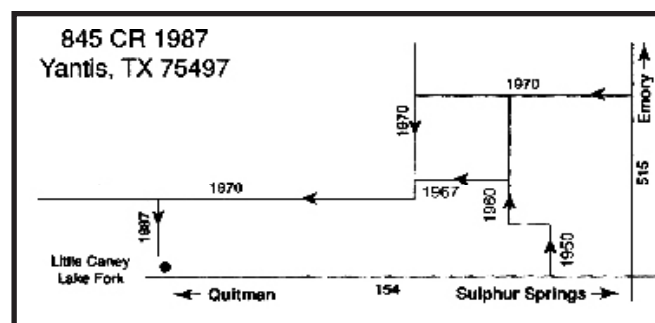
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## TPWD Unveils Hunting Season Regulation Proposals for 2017-18

Increased dove hunting opportunities across South Texas and expanded landowner-managed pronghorn permitting in the Panhandle highlight this year's slate of proposed regulation changes for the 2017-18 Texas hunting seasons.

TPWD will be taking public comment on the following proposed changes to the 2017-18 State-wide Hunting Proclamation, with input to be considered prior to any action by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at its March 23 public hearing:

--Increasing dove hunting opportunity by expanding the early September 4-day Special White-winged Dove Area hunting season to the entire South Zone boundary.

--Modify the age for the youth-waterfowl participants for 15 to 16 years of age.

--Extend the landowner-managed pronghorn buck experimental permit system for four more years and expand the option into three new pronghorn management areas in the northern Panhandle.

--Frameworks for the 2017-18 migratory game bird hunting seasons.

Additional details on these proposals will be published in the Texas Register and available for review in February, as well as in narrated presentations to be archived on TPWD's website.

Comments on the proposed rules may be submitted by phone or e-mail to Robert Macdonald at 512-389-4775, robert.macdonald@tpwd.texas.gov, or in writing to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, attn. Wildlife Public Comment, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. Comments may also be submitted through the department's Internet web site [www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov) once the proposals have been published in the Texas Register.

Public hearings are being scheduled for Dalhart and Pampa (time and date TBA) to provide a forum for input on the proposed extension and expansion of the experimental pronghorn permit project. For more information about the project

contact Shawn Gray, TPWD mule deer and pronghorn program leader, at 432-832-2051 or [shawn.gray@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:shawn.gray@tpwd.texas.gov).

A live online public hearing via webinar will also be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21. Details and instructions for participation in the online public hearing webinar will be made available on the TPWD website.

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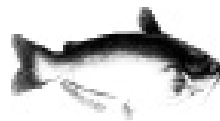
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# TPW Commission Approves Shad Collection and Sale Rules

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at its Jan. 26th, public hearing approved changes to the regulations on the possession and sale of gizzard and threadfin shad collected from public waters.

The change will require persons who use containers exceeding 82 quarts in volume for collection and possession of shad from public fresh waters to obtain a \$60 Permit to Sell Nongame Fish Taken from Public Fresh Waters. Persons collecting shad for use as bait or prey in private lakes would need a permit if their container volume exceeds 82 quarts.

No permit is required if the shad are used only as bait on the lake where they are collected, or if a licensed fishing guide possesses and furnishes the shad as bait to customers as part of the guide's services. A permit will continue to be required if the shad collected are sold or exchanged for anything of value regardless of the container size used.

According to TPWD Inland Fisheries Director of Information and Regulations Ken Kurzawski, this change allows the department to better monitor shad harvesting to ensure their sustainability in Texas fisheries and addresses concerns about the spread of invasive species.

"Zebra mussels are the primary threat," Kurzawski said. "Before this change, no permit was required if the shad were not sold, so there was less

opportunity to inform those users of the risks of the zebra mussel transfer... so these regulations give us an avenue to do that."

Kurzawski added that most of the public comment made on the proposed changes were in agreement with the rules. He said there was concern about the change impacting fishing guides, but that they've

crafted the rule in a way that guides can continue to operate as they do in adherence with existing regulations.

Information on obtaining a Permit to Sell Non-game Fish Taken from Public Fresh Waters can be found at <http://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/fish-boat/forms/> or by calling 512-389-4742.

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<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>\$780.00</b>		<b>Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)</b>	
<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>\$520.00</b>		<b>1st Place</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>4th Place</b>	<b>\$260.00</b>		<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
<b>5th thru 10th Place</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>		<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>

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 bank fishing or leaving the boat to land a fish.
9. Life jackets must be worn any time their outboard motor is running.
10. All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed or contestant and fish may be disqualified. No slot fish may be brought to weigh-in.
11. No one may have more than five (5) fish in their possession at any time. Only one (1) may be 24" or greater.
12. Largemouth bass 12" to 16" or 24" or greater in length may be weighed. No fish under 12" or between 16" and 24" will be weighed (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](http://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.

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Contestant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Entry Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Big Bass \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Ck/ \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## "Pack of Knowledge" "Fundamentals of Jig Fishing" Part 2

By Andrew Grills

Last month I discussed the jig design. Head shape, colors and sizes are important decisions before hitting the water. So be sure to take a look at that last month's article if you would like more information about selecting the right jig. This month I will discuss the when, where and how to fish a jig.

As with any lure, you need to know when to fish it, where to fish it, and how to fish it. These factors are extraordinarily important when jig fishing, especially on Lake Fork. The vast amount of standing timber can make it seem like searching for a needle in a haystack.

There are also times to put the jig down and opt for a different approach. My goal is to help you narrow it down and simplify what many find to be a difficult technique to learn.

In my opinion, fish seem to bite jigs best during the colder months leading up to the prespawn period. A football jig is a major player here throughout the summer, however we are focusing on a traditional pitching jig for now. I usually check the jig bite in late October, but it doesn't seem to become a viable pattern until mid-November. The early jig season is usually very productive because the fish aren't seeing jigs go by on a daily basis and don't seem as conditioned to the technique.

I continue to fish a jig regularly throughout most of March, but when the water warms and fish are comfortable venturing from ledges towards spawning areas the effectiveness of the technique seems to wane. An increase in fishing pressure may have something to do with it or it could be a transition in their primary forage base. I have had customers catch some really big fish later in the spring on jigs, however the numbers of bites are much lower and there seems to be better ways to catch them.

As for determining where to fish a jig, I try to imagine the lake has zero standing timber and look for structure bass should be relating to in the winter and early spring. The stumps are just a bonus as cover. Fish use areas such as points, secondary points, and creek channels as they stage on their way to bedding areas. They then use

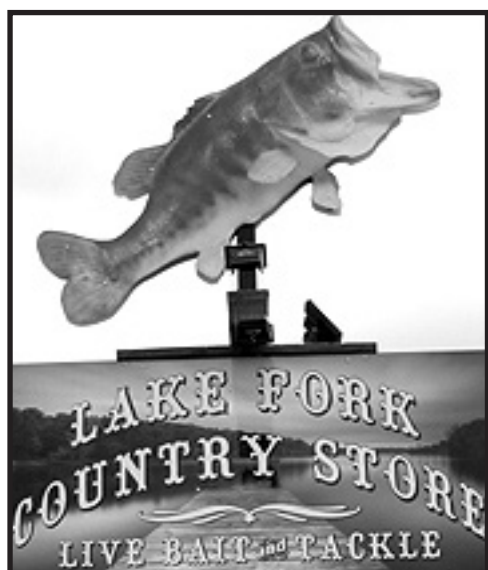
the stumps as cover for safety and ambush of prey, but keep in mind they are there because of bottom contour, not cover.

I find that sharp breaks are most productive throughout the cold periods. Bass seem to want to be close to deeper water as cold fronts are passing through on a regular basis during the winter. You will find this on the edges of points and secondary points, but most importantly along the creek channels. Creek channels are highways for the bass and baitfish as they travel to their springtime haunts, and they provide deep water access as well. Ditches and drains are just as important to pay attention to. Any area with a low spot where water would run to the original channel prior to impoundment is likely to hold some fish.

Often, the hardest channels to read are the best. We can usually look at the standing timber and get a good idea where the creek channel is. The gap in heavily timbered areas, leaning stumps (as leaning stumps often lean over the creek), and the presence of live oak stumps can help you identify the original creek channel. Live oaks are often the biggest stumps in a given area and grow near a water source. Built in maps or map chips on your depth finder can sometimes point you in the right direction, however they are rarely accurate as to the exact location of the channel. I also pay attention to where the trot lines and jug lines are set if I am in an un-

(See Pack of Knowledge....

Continued on Page 21-A)



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## New Texas State Parks Centennial Plan Lays Blueprint for Brighter Future

While many Texans are making plans to prepare for the New Year, Texas State Parks have prepared a plan for a new century.

The Texas State Parks Centennial Plan details actions needed to create a well-maintained, modernized park system able to serve a more diverse, urban and growing population by the year 2023, when Texas state parks will mark 100 years of recreation and conservation service. The plan builds on the foundation provided when the Texas Legislature dedicated 94 percent of state sporting goods sales tax revenue to parks in 2015. It identifies six areas of investment and action for state parks.

"For generations, state parks have brought families together on the land and around the water, helping Texans experience the natural and cultural history of our great state," said Carter Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department executive director. "This plan projects those values into the 21st century, fulfilling a commitment to elected leaders and parks supporters that we will craft a long-term strategy to use dedicated state dollars for parks thoughtfully, creatively and efficiently."

Improvements to park facilities and infrastructure are a key focus of the plan, with nearly two-thirds of state park sites slated to receive upgrades and improvements in coming years.

In addition, the plan calls for developing five new state parks at sites where land is already in the park system but money is needed for planning and construction. This would serve

surging public demand, which has gone from just under 7.5 million state park visits per year in 2009 to almost 9 million visits per year now. The five new state parks planned are Palo Pinto Mountains near Dallas-Fort Worth, Albert and Bessie Kronkosky near Austin-San Antonio, Powderhorn on the coastal bend, Chinati Mountains in far West Texas, and Davis Hill near Houston.

"Ten years ago, the park system was struggling to survive after decades of inadequate resources. Now with reliable, dedicated funding Texas can have a park system that serves the needs of park visitors and reflects the incredible history and natural diversity of our state," said Brian Trusty, chair of the Texas State Parks Advisory Committee, which provided input for the plan, representing diverse supporters such as businesses, local communities, university experts and others.

The centennial plan builds on landmark legislation passed in 2015, which dedicated 94 percent of sporting goods sales tax revenue to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This invests a portion of the existing state sales tax attributed to sporting goods sales, as calculated by the state comptroller.

In addition to facility improvements, the plan recommends a major emphasis on increasing awareness of park recreation and learning opportunities among all Texans. This includes developing and maintaining effective communication and outreach efforts that are culturally relevant to broad audiences across the

state, and identifying barriers to park use by underserved or nontraditional customers.

"The State Park centennial will mark one hundred years of creating memories for generations of Texans, protecting and managing healthy habitats for wildlife and people, and creating experiences in a park system that engenders pride in our heritage and responsible use of our natural resources," said Brent Leisure, Texas State Parks director. "This plan provides a blueprint for excellence in a second century of Texas state parks."

The Texas State Parks Centennial Plan, plus a detailed list of current and planned facility repair and improvement projects, are available online at [www.texasstateparks.org/brighterfuture](http://www.texasstateparks.org/brighterfuture).



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## The New Year *(Continued from Page 6-A)*

merged vegetation and this will be the key to success in the late afternoons. As the water warms, dig out a rattle-trap and cover some water around this vegetation. Chatterbaits will also work in these same areas and traps need to be red or gold with the chatterbait dressed in white.

February is also a great month to catch numbers on the power plant lakes. As of this writing, we have been destroying them on the hot water impoundments catching 30-50 fish per day up to the eight pound mark. If cabin fever has set in, give me a call and we can wear them out where the water temps are summer like. If you are headed out to Lake Fork in February searching for the trophy of

a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LakeForkGuideDavidOzio>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I run a Skeeter FX21 with a Yamaha 250SHO and would like to thank Skeeter for making my office on the lake the best in the country. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing, Lake Fork Lures 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."

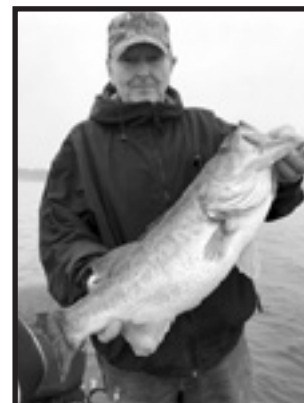
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## Pack of Knowledge (Continued from Page 18-A)

familiar area, as they can sometimes help lead you to the channel. Learning how a particular channel runs takes time and patience, but it is worth the effort.

Being near the creek channel, drain, or ditch isn't enough. I have found that boat positioning is a critical factor in success. I like to keep my boat in the deeper channel and cast to the top of the ledge and bring the jig back as it rolls over the tree roots descending down into the channel. If the low spot or channel is too narrow I will position the boat outside of the channel and cast across it, making sure to work down the outside bends. The outside bends often have the steepest ledge due to the original current flow prior to impoundment. I always get excited when fishing the outside of hard channel bends, as these seem to be prime big fish hangouts.

Creek channel fish can be in a wide range of depths. In any given creek, I believe there will be small wolf-packs of prespawn females staging in various areas along the way. Some may feel comfortable where the channel is 8' deep and the top side of the ledge is 4-6', and others may be in areas where the channel is as deep as 25' closer to the mouth of the creek. The key is the ledge.

I feel that the presentation is a matter of confidence. Most anglers I have guided or fished with tend to fish a jig much faster and with more of a hopping motion than I do. I find that an extremely slow crawl works best for me. Even though I'm creeping the jig along, I still

feel the bite is a reaction bite, in that most of my strikes come as the jig rolls over a root or branch. With the slow approach, it gives you the opportunity to sneak the jig up to the bass without it feeling or hearing it coming. Often, if I work through an area slowly garnering a few bites, I will go back through it with a more ag-

gressive "stroking" type retrieve to see if I can pick up a few more reaction bites.

Hopefully this information helps give you some confidence in jig fishing. Right now is a great time to catch a giant bass on a jig.

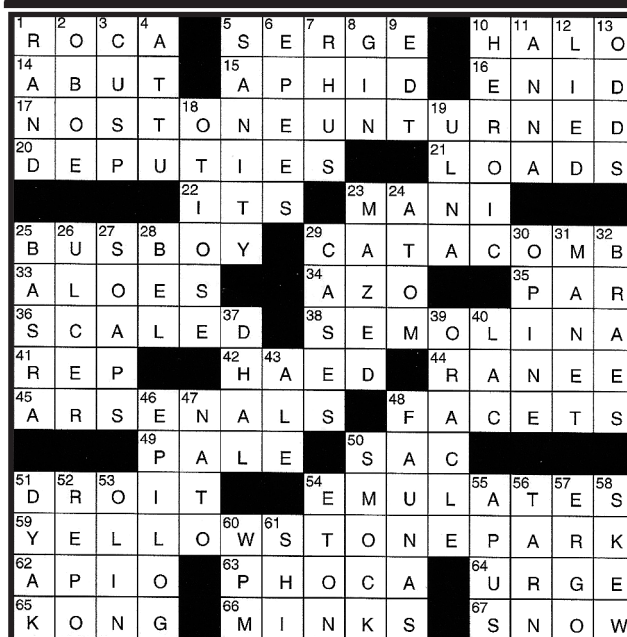
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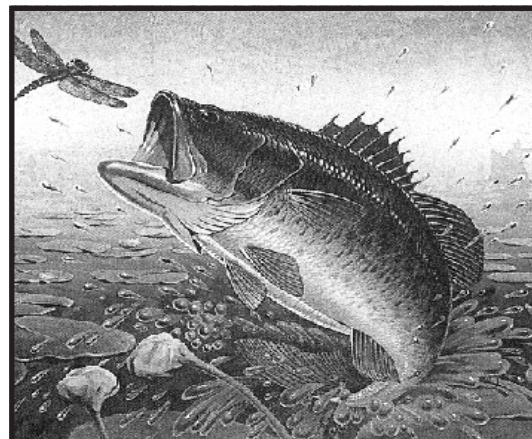
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## Game Warden Field Notes

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

**—Gone Fishing—**A Lubbock County landowner called the game warden after witnessing several individuals trespassing on his property. The warden responded and located three men, two of which were convicted felons, fishing well within the fenced and posted property. The warden placed all three men under arrest for criminal trespass and booked them into the Lubbock County Detention Center. One of the three men was also booked under a pending arrest warrant.

**—We Were Just Feeding the Decoys—** While on patrol in Jim Wells County and checking on dove hunters, a game warden noticed a group had placed a feeder in the center of their decoy spread. As the warden was preparing to issue citations for hunting migratory game birds over a baited area, he discovered one of the hunters did not have a hunting license and was a felon in possession of a firearm. That individual was arrested. Gear and 40 dove were seized. (Cases pending)

**—More than Junk in the Trunk—**A 911 call to the Pecos County Sheriff's Office the night of Nov. 3 claimed someone had discharged a fire-arm from a car stopped in the road. Deputies on patrol located the suspect vehicle with two occupants inside. The deputies discovered a 12 gauge shotgun in the backseat and a dead mule deer buck stuffed into the trunk. State game wardens were called to the scene. The driver did have a valid hunting license and hunter safety certification, while his buddy had no identification at all. Both men were cited for hunting at night and hunting from the road, along with possession of a mule deer in a closed season and booked into the Pecos County jail.

**—Captured on Camera—**A Red River County game warden received information from a landowner about possible theft and trespassing. The landowner noticed he was missing two game cameras, but a third game camera that was still in place had captured an image of an individual on his property holding what appeared to be the other game cameras. The warden recognized the individual in the photo and, based on the evidence and the number of people who

came forward during the investigation identifying the subject in the photo, was able to obtain a warrant for the subject's arrest for theft and criminal trespassing. Cases pending.

**—Tracking the Decoy—** Working in cooperation with the Texas Department of Public Safety, a Red River County game warden set up a GPS-monitored ATV and trailer in an area where there had recently been several calls relating to property theft. During the night of Nov. 3, the warden received information via the GPS tracking system that the ATV had been moved to a residence in Lamar County. With assistance from other law enforcement agencies, wardens executed a search warrant for the property and found three adults. The stolen ATV was recovered along with narcotics and drug paraphernalia discovered at the scene. All three were taken into custody and transported to the Lamar County jail. Multiple cases pending for felony theft, possession of stolen property, engaging in organized crime, child endangerment and criminal trespassing.

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