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**2 Sections**

**Vol. 18**

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**No. 215**



The Annual Skeeter Owner's Tournament drew a record number of anglers from various states with 2,342 anglers coming to participate.

## 24th Annual Skeeter Owner's Tournament

By Don Hampton

The 24th Annual Skeeter Owner's Tournament held on Lake Fork and put

on by Skeeter Bass-Champs once again set a historical marker for attendance. Over 2300 anglers came from all over the na-

tion to enjoy this great tournament. Barnum and Bailey couldn't put on  
(See Skeeter Owner's....  
Continued on Page 3-A)



On June 12 the Wish To Fish Foundation granted a wish for Jadon McCoy (ctr) and his family. Pictured from left to right are Paula Spaust(grandma), Brandon McCoy (dad), Bart Martin, (Dir.), Mandy Evans (mom), Rodney Ellis, (Dir.), Aunt Brittny & Brooklyn McCoy and Sue Hampton, (Dir.).  
(See Story on Page 4-A)



David Laine (lt) from Horseshoe Bay, TX., won the Annual Skeeter Owner's Tournament with a 9.36-lb. bass. For his catch he won \$700 in hourly and a 2017 Skeeter FX 20 with a 250 Yamaha SHO, Lowrance Electronics and PowerPole presented to him by Jeff Stone, General Manager/Senior Vice President of Skeeter Products, Inc.



"Hats Off" to another successful Annual Kid Fish on Lake Fork at SRA Headquarters that was held on June 3rd. Children and their parents from all over the area attended to enjoy a morning of fishing, hotdogs, drinks, and prizes put on by TPW Game Wardens Association, Wood County Sheriff's Department, and Sabine River Authority. (See Story on Page 5-A)



## "If it ain't big, it ain't Lake Fork!"

By: Don Hampton

Everything is big on Lake Fork. That could be the reason one of Bubba's New Year's Resolutions was to lose some weight. He was not too excited about that one though. He likes his fried fish, chicken fried steaks, mashed potatoes and gravy. Bubba is also kind of proud of his size. He says, "People can see I'm healthy and with my longer arms I can make longer casts!" Well, that's Bubba for you... always looking for the positive in a situation. He even wants to get a bumper sticker for his truck that says, "Made In Texas By Texans". His truck was built in Detroit so we know he's not referring to that! Big is the reason Bubba chose to live on Lake Fork. For the big bass and I do believe for the big stories and the number of restaurants that have "All You Can Eat", while you tell these exaggerations!

Bubba has a tendency to tell a few tall-tales himself. With him when he is exaggerating a story he does it in full jest. Fishing is just too much fun to fib about it. Bubba's stories range from the bass he caught that was so big, that when he pulled it out of the water the lake level dropped two feet or the one that was so big it struck at his boat thinking it was a topwater lure. My very favorite one he told me was about the one he hooked under the 154 bridge. This hawg was so big and strong it pulled him from the bridge to the dam. It was so strong and fast he was passing other boats that were on plane. When the fish got him in deeper water he had to cut his line because he was afraid the fish was going

to pull his boat under like a bobber on a cane pole.

One of Bubba's favorite past times is sitting around making up exaggerated funny fishing stories. It is like some of the jokes he makes up. He'll practice them on Bubbette until she gets so tired of them she runs off to WalMart and then he rehearses them to himself. When he gets to a point where he laughs at them, then look out world here they come!

With his stories a person knows they are all in jest and only for the fun of telling. You know right away his stories are literally, "unbelievably funny".

With some anglers and their fish stories you can just watch and listen to Bubba to determine if he believes them. If you or someone else is telling Bubba a fish story that he just isn't quite buying, you can tell right off. If his only comment during the story is "Right" or "Really", he isn't going for it! If he finds the story just too unbelievable, "Right" and "Really", will be long and drawn out with too many syllables in the pronunciation. So much so he sounds like he is doing an impression of Dr. Evil in the Austin Powers movie.

A perfect example of one of these stories is when an angler, (we won't say his profession), told Bubba he caught a double-digit bass everyday for 28 days in a row fishing Lake Fork. All Bubba said was "Riiiggghht!"

What Bubba really wanted for his 22nd Anniversary he didn't get! But, he had already figured out that Bubbette wouldn't be able to find it, so he wasn't too disappointed. He wanted one of those fancy reels that some of these anglers must have in their possession. The kind of reel

that has the built-in scale and measuring tape. He has some nice reels that Bubbette has bought him on special occasions but none that tell him how long or heavy the fish was that broke off.

Bubba knows these reels must exist, if only for the most elite fishermen, because otherwise how could they tell these stories with such preciseness. One angler told Bubba, "I hooked an 11.4 pound bass over 24" but never got it to the surface before it wrapped me on a stump and broke my line!" Bubba's reply, "Riiiggghht!" Another angler told Bubba just after a tournament, "I almost had you beat! I had an 8-pound 10-ounce bass all the way up to the boat before it broke my line!" Bubba's reply, "Riiiggghht! You want to see my check?"

Bubba has decided these anglers must have one of those fancy reels that tells exactly how much a fish weighs upon hook-up! He's weighed a lot of fish in his time but he couldn't tell you exactly what a fish weighed on the end of his line while its still in the water.

After much thought and pondering on Bubba's part he came to a conclusion. "These big fish tales are like big people getting their pictures taken. Each one will have you convinced that a photograph adds 10 pounds to their weight!"

But truth or not, Bubba finds this all very entertaining! He told me the most entertaining are when some of the guys tell him about a big fish they caught. Then they forgot they told him about that catch and tell him again later. Well, by then the fish has gained another 2-pounds. All Bubba can say is "Reeeaaaallllly!"

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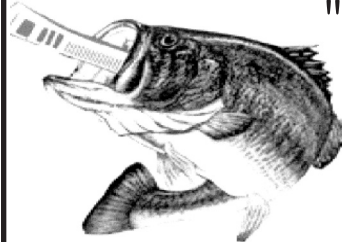
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## Skeeter Owner's Tournament *(Continued from Page 1-A)*

a more entertaining show than Skeeter does to show their appreciation to all of their owners. From the free barbecue meal for all the participants to all the booths, educational, and recreational furnished for the fishermen and their families it is a great show. During the course of the tournament Fish Fishburne definitely kept the spectators entertained.

Skeeter Owner's Tournament paid 10 places per hour. First in each hour paid \$700 with tenth paying \$100. The heaviest bass caught in the tournament took home a 2017 FX 20 Skeeter with a 250 Yamaha SHO, equipped with Lowrance Electron-

ics and PowerPole. This was won by David Laine from Horsehoe Bay, Texas with a 9.36-pound bass. For the heaviest bass 16" or less the angler took home a Yamaha Viking Side-By-Side. This was won by Marty Thomas from Millsap, Texas with a 2.80-pound bass.

During the course of the tournament there were 19 bass over the slot brought to the scales. David Laine's 9.36-pound; Michael McKinney from Minnekan, Oklahoma with a 9.35-pound; Landon Markum from Emory, Texas with an 8.92-pound; Clifton McKay from Vicksburg, Mississippi with an 8.89-pound; Sam Byrd IV from Brooks-

ville, Mississippi with an 8.76-pound; Roger Sargent Jr. from Wetumpka, Alabama with an 8.63-pound; Keith Jones from White Oak, Texas with an 8.42-pound; Chris Kellum from Royse City, Texas with an 8.25-pound; Anthony Maldonado from Jacksonville, Texas with a 7.80-pound; Jamie Moore from Wagoner, Oklahoma with a 7.37-pound; Scott Essermann from Townsend, Wisconsin with a 6.93-pound; Daryl Clifton from McAlester, Oklahoma with an 8.78-pound; Shawn Lemen from Montgomery, Texas with an 8.56-pound; Jamie Moore from

*(See Skeeter Owner's....  
Continued on Page 23-A)*

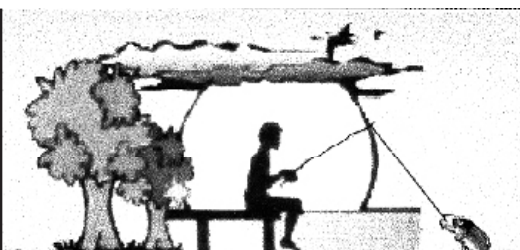
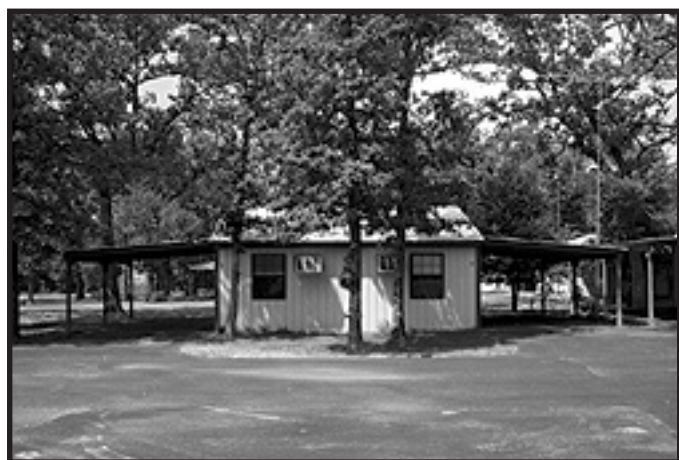


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# Wish to Fish Foundation Welcomes Jadon McCoy to Lake Fork

By Sue Hampton

On the morning of June 12th, Jadon McCoy had been told by his parents that they were going to take him out to pick up trash so the fish, birds, etc. wouldn't get sick. Needless to say he was pretty surprised when he arrived at Oak Ridge Marina here on Lake Fork and was introduced to our Wish To Fish crew. His mom, Mandy Evans and dad Brandon McCoy had other plans for him...a 12th

surprise birthday party on a big pontoon boat. He was going fishing!! Others invited to his party included his grandma, Paula Spaut, his Aunt Brittny & little 18 month old cousin, Brooklyn McCoy. Our crew consisted of myself taking pictures, our captain, Rodney Ellis (owner of Quarter Horse RV & Boat Storage) and Bart Martin, (owner of Martin's Fisherman's Inn) and Don (Bubba) Hampton manned the 911 chase boat. Once again, one of our great sponsors, John Heimgartner, (owner

(See Wish to Fish Trip....Continued on Page 14-A)



Jadon caught the first fish of the trip, while being schooled by Bart Martin, on his new rod n' reel given to him by Wish to Fish.



After Jadon had caught his first fish, he had to know all about it and Rodney Ellis answered all of his questions.



Jadon took his first ride in a Legend V21 bass boat to the dam and scenic cruise by Don Bubba Hampton, CEO/Founder, "Wish to Fish Foundation".



Jadon got his "Wish to Fish Trip" but I'm sure he had another wish when he blew out his candles on his catfish birthday cake at Oak Ridge.



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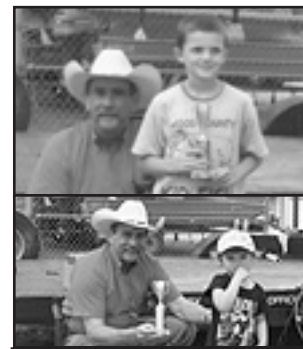
## 2017 Kidfish on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

There were plenty of smiles to be seen at SRA Headquarters on June 3rd, not only by the children catching fish, but also by the parents seeing their children experience the joy of fishing.

At the 2017 Wood County Kidfish held at Lake Fork on June 3rd there were children and parents and grandparents from all over the area that

(See 2017 Kidfish....Continued on Page 7-A)



### Tournament Winners In The 2017 Wood County Kidfish

AGES	BASS	CATFISH	BREAM	CRAPPIE	OTHER
4 & UNDER	Gavin Marshak 3.77-lbs.	Nolan Allred 6.04-lbs.	Gabbee Houston .46-lbs.	Rider Bosring .85-lbs.	Karsen Tipton (Drum) 1.74-lbs.
5-8 YR. OLD	Noah Allen 1.13-lbs.	Addison Allred 4.07-lbs.	Chloey Powell .58-lbs.	Rayanna Harrell 1.36-lbs.	Kacie Jones (Turtle) 4.61-lbs.
9-12 YR OLD	Rowdy Bowring 4.25-lbs.	Alizia Blasingame 2.75-lbs.	Landon Powell .62-lbs.	Rowdy Bowring .86-lbs.	Corban Mize (Turtle) 4.14-lbs.
13-16 YR OLD	Parker Davis 3.80-lbs.	Michael Blasingame 2.85-lbs.	Dathan Blasingame .38-lbs.	Braelyn Bridenstin 1.14-lbs.	McKenzie Smith (Turtle) 14.35-lbs.

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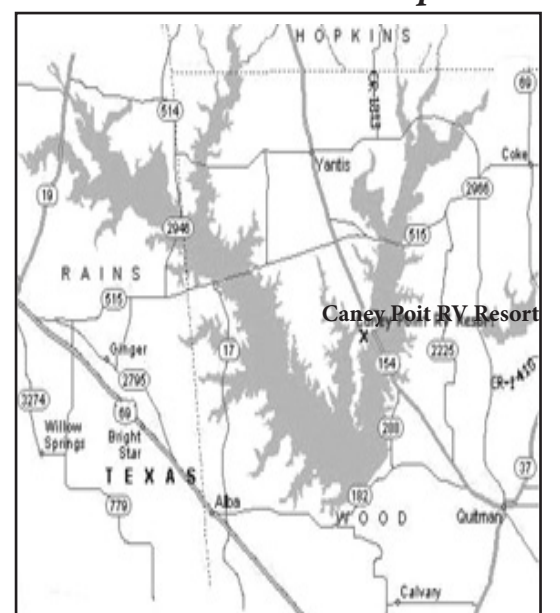
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# July on the Fork

By David Ozio

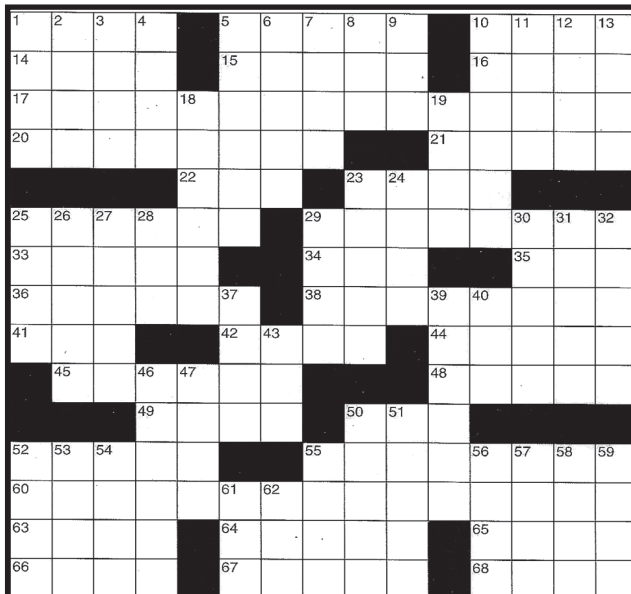
"According to current temps right now it certainly doesn't seem like July. The water temps for this time of the year are way behind the curve and that is due to a substantial amount of rain and a series of cold fronts that are weighing heavy on the dynamics of Lake Fork. The bass should be ganged up on offshore structures at the moment and I still feel like they are scattered and waiting for the right moment to move out and party. Nonetheless, this is starting to change as of this writing and overnight the serious fun could begin. Once this lake gets in the rock-n-roll mode it's time to schedule a trip with your favorite guide and bag some huge green monsters.

There has been plenty of rain this year and the lake is in awesome shape. The high water has produced great spawns over the past two seasons and the future for Fork couldn't be brighter. There are tons of small bass rambling the lake and these will grow to the next generations ShareLunker. July is a great month to target all sizes of bass using top water, crankbaits and drop shots. It's all about locating the fish and then it's game on. Electronics play a huge roll in finding these huge schools of bass and the more time you spend graphing the key locations, the greater the chance to have a monumental day. Main lake points, ridges, road beds and pond dams should be your locations of focus and pay close attention to the 18-24ft range. Even if you only see a group of ten fish at a given depth, pitch out a marker buoy and spend fifteen minutes to see if you can get the bass to commit. If nothing rattles your cage, move on to the next location. Let's say you see a ton of good arc's at the next spot. My first choice is the drop shot rigged with a Talon Carolina Worm or a Roboworm. Use any color you want as long as it is red. Drop straight down to them and barely jiggle the rod tip. Active fish will load the rod and you may think your hung up. Set the hook and figure out the rest latter. If the drop shot is not your game, throw a Carolina rig



or a football jig to the area where you first spotted the bass. A 3/4 ounce stand up head is also a great choice. On the C-rig, you might try a fluke, brush hog or a Zoom magnum trick worm. Under bright sun, I will use redbug or plum colors and when it's cloudy, any version of green pumpkin will suffice. As for the jig, PB&J, Mexican Heather or black/brown/amber will do the trick. Match a craw trailer to the jig and your in business. For the stand up head, any big straight tail worm will suffice.

The topwater bite is good early and late on main lake points and a Zara Spook is the ticket. Yellow Magic's will catch their share of fish but the spook bags the big one's. This bite only



## CLUES ACROSS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Stated firmly, in a way                       | 41. O.J. trial evidence                |
| 5. Former Turkish silver coin                    | 42. Database management system (abbr.) |
| 10. Foolish or stupid                            | 44. Meaning of a word or expression    |
| 14. Socks  | 45. _____ Gibson, tennis champ         |
| 15. Light brown                                  | 48. Falcon                             |
| 16. Capital of Norway                            | 49. Broadway musical in the 1990s      |
| 17. Margaret Cho, for one                        | 50. Monetary unit of Romania           |
| 20. Medical practitioners                        | 52. Monetary unit of Iraq              |
| 21. Saturates                                    | 55. Aromatic potherb                   |
| 22. Diamond or ruby                              | 60. Words said with a sigh             |
| 23. Feel antipathy toward                        | 63. _____ Frank's diary                |
| 25. Girdles                                      | 64. Hippolyte _____, French historian  |
| 29. Abeyances                                    | 65. Equivalent                         |
| 33. Songs  | 66. Decagrams                          |
| 34. Valuable mineral                             | 67. Lambs (British)                    |
| 35. Malaysian isthmus                            | 68. Thick piece                        |
| 36. Distant in space, time or nature             |  |
| 38. Process of exposing to air (so as to purify) |  |

## CLUES DOWN

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Stress disorder (abbr.)                  | 29. Wander  |
| 2. Immediately past, used of people         | 30. Smooth, shiny lizard                                      |
| 3. Abba _____, Israeli politician           | 31. Uneven, as if gnawed away                                 |
| 4. Force                                    | 32. More lucid  |
| 5. Maltreatments                            | 37. Paradise  |
| 6. Ninth month (abbr.)                      | 39. Calm down, in a way                                       |
| 7. Photographs (slang)                      | 40. Green or black _____                                      |
| 8. Your consciousness of your own identity  | 43. Cricket or baseball _____                                 |
| 9. Radioactivity unit                       | 46. Outlines  |
| 10. Extinct birds                           | 47. Queen of the gods   |
| 11. Continent                               | 50. R.D. _____, psychologist                                  |
| 12. Intense criticism (informal)            | 51. Sea eagles  |
| 13. Mass                                    | 52. Pair  |
| 18. Convert food into absorbable substances | 53. Private school in New York                                |
| 19. This (Spanish)                          | 54. Tai   |
| 23. Not theres                              | 55. Branchlet   |
| 24. Shrub genus                             | 56. Current units   |
| 25. Calcedony                               | 57. Celt  |
| 26. Where sports events take place          | 58. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily, one-seeded fruits |
| 27. East Indian silk cotton tree            | 59. Mediation council (abbr.)                                 |
| 28. Vietnamese monetary unit                | 61. Last in an infinite series                                |
|   | 62. Religion  |

Answers on Page 21-A

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**DOUBLE H**

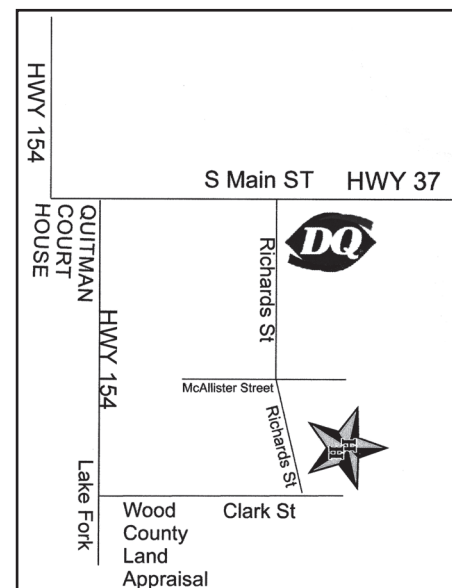
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(See July on the Fork...  
Continued on Page 20-A)

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## 2017 Kidfish on Lake Fork *(Continued from Page 5-A)*

showed the rain didn't bother them when it came to fishing! For some of the children this would be considered their first tournament of many more to come in their lifetime. The love of fishing for these children could be accredited to Kidfish. "Our slogan for this year is Off the Streets and on the Creeks," said Wood County Sheriff Tom Castloo.

Wood County Kidfish celebrated its 23rd Anniversary of introducing children to the sport of fishing. The first Saturday of June is the designated time for this event celebrating the first of June being National Kidfish Week.

During this event no one participating in the event is required to have a fishing license. This gives parents that do not usually fish an opportunity to spend this time with their children and perhaps introduce the love of fishing to the whole family.

Each year this event is hosted by the Wood County Sheriff's Department, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Sabine River Authority, and Game Warden Peace Officer's Association and is held at Sabine River Authority Headquarters on Lake Fork. All are to be commended for their diligent hard work and the many hours

they put in to make this event such a success for our children.

The event is free to all children and their parents. If the children do not have their own fishing equipment, rod n' reels are furnished along with all bait and tackle. Cold drinks, refreshments, hot dogs and chips are provided for the parents and children. This year serving the children, parents, and guests were the Mineola and Holly Lake Kiwanis Clubs.

The format of this event is a mock tournament, and divided into age group divisions. These divisions

*(See 2017 Kidfish... Continued on Page 22-A)*

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**Emory, Texas**

## "The Moon Report" "Spot-Locking" For Crappie !"

By Terri Moon

Thank you thank you thank you MinnKota!!! It's unbelievable the technology you've incorporated in your trolling motors- their Double GPS Spot-Lock has truly been "life-changing" for me! - My crappie numbers have gone off the charts since the day Bryan Sartin @ Sartin Marine installed the New Terrova on my boat! I've tested it in some unbelievable wind and it's been truly amazing how it will hold you in place! There is no more drifting or the back of the boat swinging around, which is so important when you're trying to hold on a brush pile. But as great as this is I still can't wait till the Ultrex is no longer on back order! These things are so awesome everyone wants one! It has the same great double GPS spot-lock but it also has the cable driven footpedal which I dearly miss. The electric foot pedal is great for open water but when I'm fishing the bridges I'm much more comfortable with the cable drive, it's what I grew up with (except now it has power steering !) I've been telling my customers if they want one of these Ultrex's they better get on a list because the demand for these has just skyrocketed! (did I mention that when your spot-locked and you want to move 5 feet right or left or forward or back you can do it with the push of a button!)



unbelievable and price-less when fishing around a brush pile! I can't wait to see what they come up with next and can't thank MinnKota enough for making my job so much easier!

Now as far as the crappie catching. Most of our fish are now coming in 18 to 28 foot of water and depending on how bright it is out they could be anywhere from 12 to 24 feet down. I keep monitoring my Lowrance HDS 12 to watch for any changes in depth of the fish and target that depth. We are finding them in the tree lines, brush piles, edges of the creeks, and the bridges. The baits working for us have been Bubba Baits in pink with the white tail or chartreuse with a blue tail and then Lake Fork Tackles live baby shad in white pearl or chartreuse and blue. We are using a very slow presentation with just a twitch but when they are actively feeding they are hitting on the fall. It doesn't get any more fun than that! Unless you're fishing for bream ! I have to admit I had them for dinner three times last week! I

found some shallow and I found some in 24 foot of water in the brush piles. They are even eating my Crappie jigs but nightcrawlers or crickets will do the trick and they will be up shallow again around the new moon and full moon of July.

It has been a very blessed month and many thanks to all of you who took the time to bring their kids and grandkids fishing, making memories they will remember for a lifetime! Also I'd like to send a big thank you to my customers that agreed to release the giant crappie that we've caught that were over 15 inches-this month we took photos-and released 11 - ( when you already have a live well full there is really no need to kill the Giants just my opinion) then maybe one day we'll have a new lake record! That would be sweet!

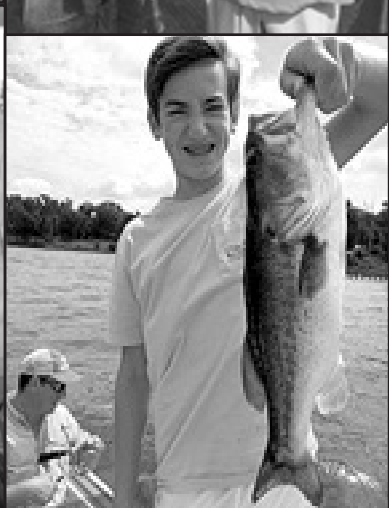
I have to send a big shout out to Lake Fork Marina who once again hosted the Skeeter boat owners tournament - An amazing job by all !

Wishing everyone a fun but safe summer !





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Zane Scott was fishing with son and guide Andrew Grills on Lake Fork when they caught this 9-pound bass. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Andrew Grills Guide Service)



Adam from Tulsa, Oklahoma was Bassin' With Bubba Lake Fork style on June 5th when he caught this nice bass. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Bassin' With Bubba Guide Service)



James Nugent, Hayden Nugent, (from Weatherford, TX), Ben Hall, Laura Hall, and Joel Hall (from Alexandria, Louisiana) had their best day while fishing Lake Fork on Father's Day. (Courtesy Photo)



The sparrow-sized elf owl is only 5 to 6 inches long. Found in America's southwestern deserts, it is the smallest owl in the world.



Human beings normally have 26 chromosomes; a goldfish, on the other hand, has 34.



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

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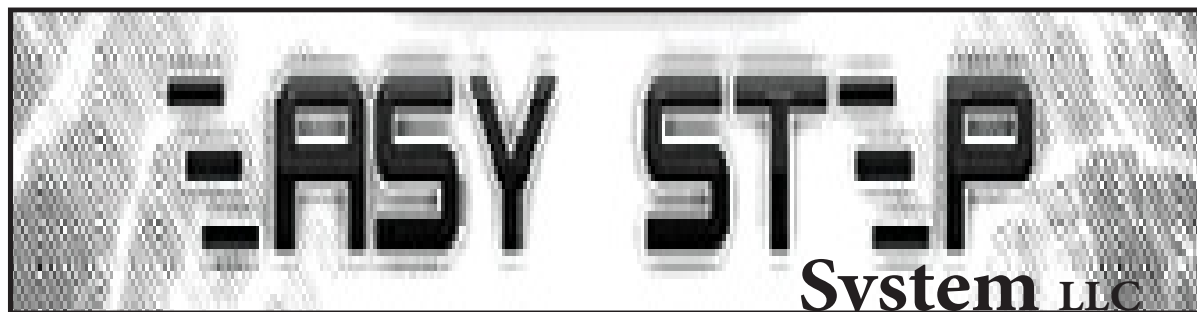
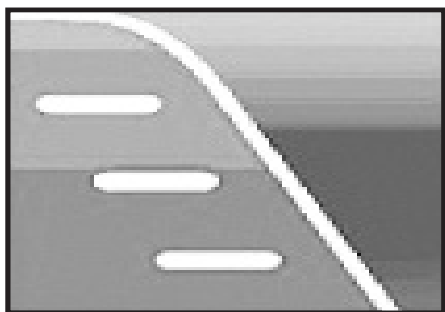
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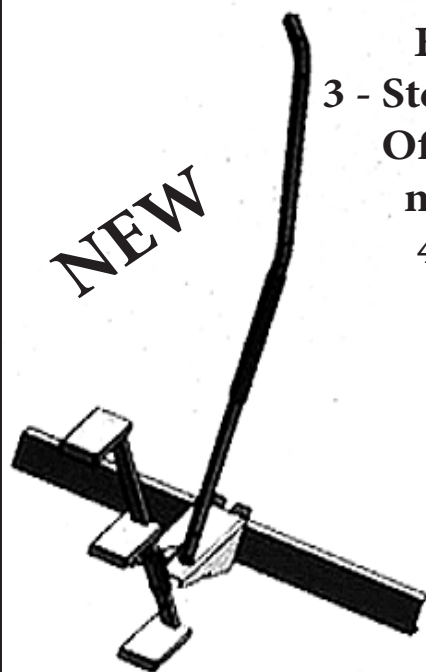
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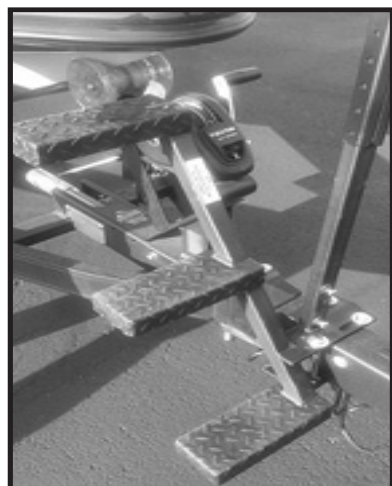
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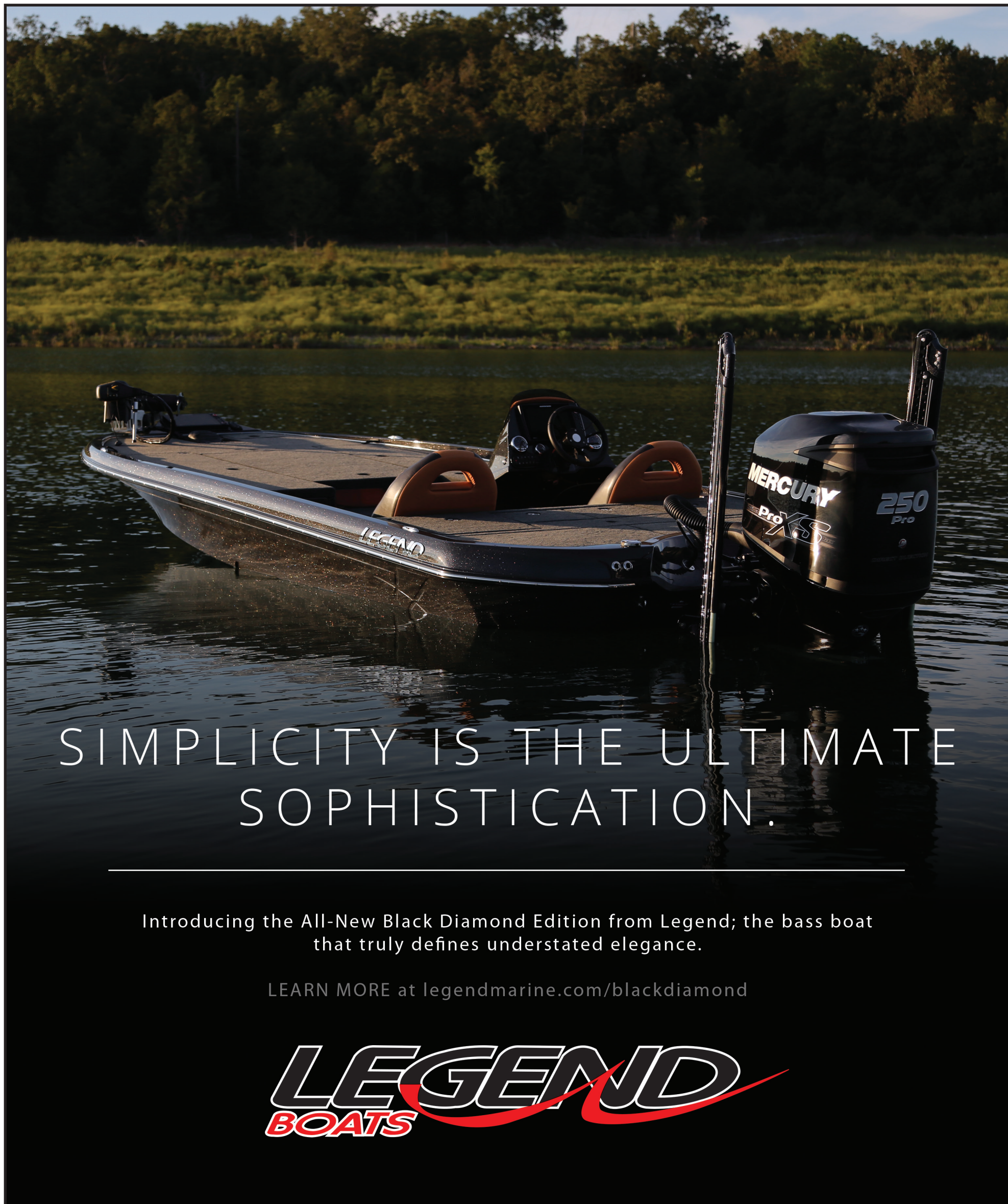


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## Wish to Fish Trip on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 4-A)

of Fishermans One Stop) provided minnows.

We presented Jadon with his very own rod and reel, a Wish To Fish t-shirt and a Fisherman's Guide News cap as we do with all our WTF children. With his new rod and reel, he caught the first fish of the trip which was a nice crappie. You can only imagine how excited he was!

Jadon was born May 28, 2005 following a complicated frank breech birth. He was developing

physically as most children do but began to miss crucial milestones. By the age of 2-1/2 years old he was barely speaking, hyper sensitive to lights and sounds with obvious developmental struggles. He was diagnosed with autism at 3. His parents followed up with more testing which revealed ADHD-CT which manifested as primarily a mental issue at the time. They later saw the typical physical aspects of ADHD-CT as well.

Jadon's parents asked themselves "Now, how do we educate and help him?" He started speech and occupational therapy which helped tremendously. He began in an early public education program for disabled children. Jadon functions below average in varying degrees depending on the subject. The biggest challenge has always been the ability to communicate effectively and gather his thoughts. Jadon now has a supportive homeschool family so they can meet all his education and emotional needs.

His family is learning new ways everyday to help him navigate this thing called life. He's very affectionate and incredibly honest to a fault. They have had ups and downs along this journey in their sweet boy's life. He's taught them unconditional love, acceptance and patience. Mandy went on to say, "In the end, he's our teacher! We would like to thank Wish to Fish for making our sons wish come true for his birthday! We were unsure of how Jadon would react...we were pleasantly surprised he showed absolutely no anxiety during the whole experience and he caught a fish! We also would like to acknowledge Vargas Cakes for making an amazing catfish cake!"

We closed the day with a great lunch at Oak Ridge Restaurant and Jadon's parents presented him with his very special "catfish birthday cake" while we all sang "Happy Birthday" to him.

Another blessed day on Lake Fork with a very special family!

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Bart Martin, Director, did an excellent job on schooling Jadon on how to fish, the different kinds of fish being caught and how to handle the fish.





## AMATEUR BASS ANGLERS COMPETE FOR \$475,000 GUARANTEED CASH & PRIZES

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Fifteen places will be paid in cash each hour of each tournament day beginning with the 7-8 AM hour and continuing through the 1-2 PM hour for the fifteen single heaviest bass weighed in. Heaviest Bass each hour will win \$1,500! Hourly updates will be broadcasted live on KMOO 99.9 FM.

Contestant(s) weighing in the first 2.50 exact weight bass each day of the tournament will win \$5,000. The contestant who weighs in the heaviest bass under the slot during the 3-day tournament will win \$5,000. In addition, all contestants are eligible to win a 2017 Triton 189 TRX Powered by Mercury, equipped with MinnKota and Lowrance in the famous "Elimination Drawing". "You Can't Win if You Don't Play" Optional Bonus Games such as the Bonus Card "AKA" Insurance Card & Bonus Shirt Hours can win you additional cash.

Children ages five to twelve may participate in the Little Anglers Division and win Academy gift cards and trophies/medals for their winning catches of bass, catfish, crappie or perch. Registration is now open online for the Big Bass Splash Presented by Sealy Outdoors benefitting

St. Jude Children Research Hospital. To enter, visit [www.sealyoutdoors.com](http://www.sealyoutdoors.com). Early Bird Registration deadline is Friday, September 1. Onsite registration will be at Lake Fork Marina from 10 AM – 8 PM on Thursday, September 14. Registration will continue each morning from 5 AM until 6 AM on days of the tournament. Tournament Entry Fees are \$160 for One Day, and \$210 for Two Days, \$260 for Three Days: The Little Anglers Division entry fee is \$10 per Day.

All participants and spectators ages 18 years of age and up can get in on the action. Come out to the tournament site, enjoy the festivities and get your free ticket for the Open Drawing Sunday, September 17.

The Big Bass Splash events are considered to be the world's largest grassroots amateur big bass fishing tournament of its kind. The Big Bass Splash attracts thousands of amateur anglers to these weekend events. It's what we call "Fishing, Family and Fun" for everyone. A portion of the proceeds from

registration fees will go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Sponsors includes Triton Boats, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports & Outdoors, MinnKota, Lowrance, Okuma, Power Pole, Navionics, River2Sea, Texas Fish & Game, TH Marine, RAM-Weaver Motors of Kirbyville, TX, GP8 Oxygen Water,

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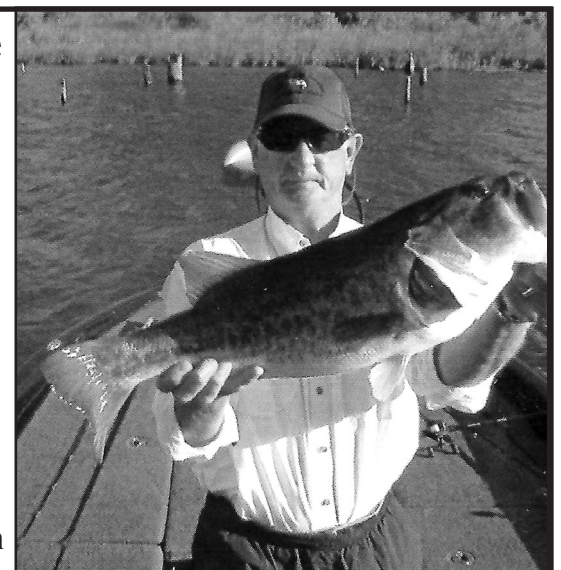
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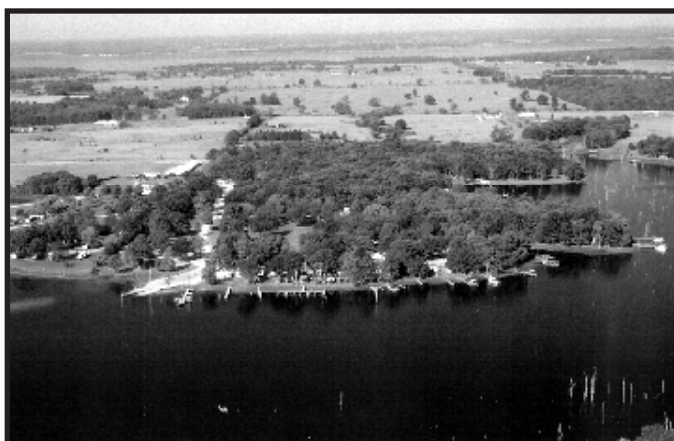
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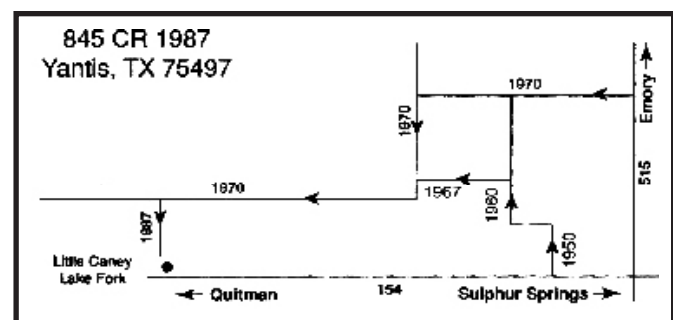
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## Zebra Mussels Discovered in Canyon Lake

Invasive zebra mussels have now been positively identified in the Guadalupe River Basin in what is now the state's southernmost affected lake.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) fisheries biologists and game wardens confirmed the presence of zebra mussels at Canyon Lake June 8. Employees at Canyon Lake Marina noticed the zebra mussels while working on a boat that had been stored in a slip at Crane's Mill Marina and contacted TPWD to report the discovery and to get verification.

"This is the first positive documentation of zebra mussels in Canyon Lake

and in the Guadalupe River Basin," said Brian Van Zee, Inland Fisheries regional director for TPWD. "Although marina staff have intercepted several incoming boats over the years that had invasive mussels attached, it is essential that boats stored on infested lakes be decontaminated before they're moved as they are a key pathway for spreading this invasive species."

The rapidly reproducing zebra mussels, originally from Eurasia, can have serious economic, environmental and recreational impacts on Texas reservoirs and rivers. Zebra mussels can cover shoreline rocks

and litter beaches with treacherously sharp shells, clog public-water intakes, and damage boats and motors left in infested waters.

"It's very unfortunate not only for the reservoir but also for downstream resources - including the Guadalupe River and the reservoirs downstream from Canyon Dam," said Van Zee.

Canyon Lake is an 8,230-acre U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reservoir on the Guadalupe River, located 30 miles north of San Antonio and 40 miles southwest of Austin. The Guadalupe River and all of the reser-

*(See Zebra Mussels...*

*Continued on Page 17-A)*

## Tickets on Sale Now For Seventh Annual Texas State Bison Music Festival

Strap on some boots and head to the panhandle for the seventh annual Texas State Bison Music Festival benefiting the Texas State Bison Herd at Caprock Canyons State Park. Advance tickets are on sale now for the festival, held 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 23 on Main Street in Quitaque, Texas.

The annual event helps raise funds to be used toward the restoration of the Texas State Bison Herd to its historic range at Caprock Canyons State Park. The event also gives visitors the chance to celebrate the cultural and natural history of the panhandle. Activities include arts and crafts vendors, food vendors and a concert featuring five of Texas' greatest Americana and country music artists.

The lineup for the

music festival includes Kevin Deal, Sarah Hobbs, Zac Wilkerson, Mark Powell and the Randy Rogers Band. Gates will open at 2 p.m. so attendees can find a place to set up their chairs for the first concert at 3 p.m.

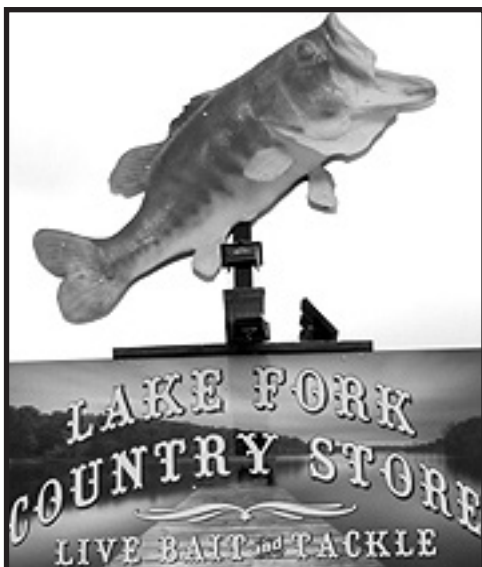
Caprock Canyons State Park is a 14,000 acre site with a diverse population of plant and animal communities. It is also the home to the official bison herd of the state of Texas, the last remaining example of the

Great Southern herd.

To buy tickets to the event, visit the Bison Fest website. General admission tickets are \$30 if purchased in advance, \$35 at the gate. Tickets for the VIP area are \$125.

Coolers are allowed this year for a \$10 per cooler charge. Canopies are allowed in designated areas.

For more information about Caprock Canyons State Parks, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website.



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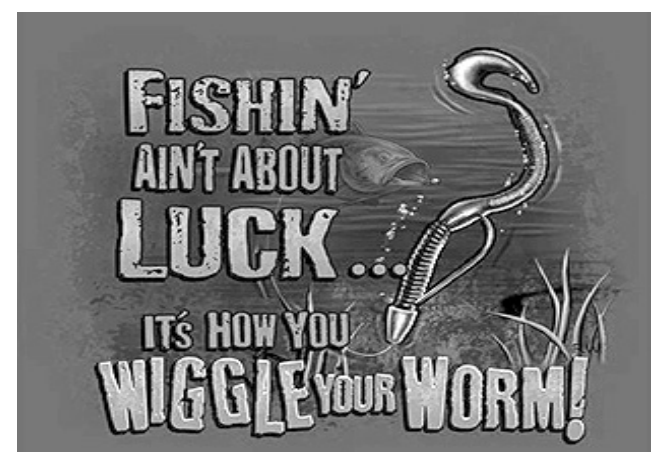
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Jana Caffrey from Nashville, Tn., caught this nice crappie fishing Lake Fork with guide Don Bubba Hampton.



Dallas Caffrey from Nashville, Tn., caught this nice catfish while fishing Lake Fork with guide Don Bubba Hampton.



Christine Caffrey from Nashville, Tn., caught this nice crappie fishing Lake Fork with guide Don Bubba Hampton.

## Zebra Mussels Discovered in Canyon Lake *(Continued from 16-A)*

voirs downstream of Canyon Lake are now at risk of invasion as zebra mussel larvae disperse downstream, including Lake Dunlap, Lake McQueeney, Lake Placid, Meadow Lake, Lake Gonzales (H-4), and Lake Wood (H-5).

Additionally, three state-listed threatened freshwater mussels found in the Guadalupe River basin could now be negatively impacted, including the Texas Pimpleback, the Golden Orb and the Texas Fatmucket.

"What's been documented in other parts of the country is that zebra mussels can colonize on the shells of native mussels, and reach a density where they essentially smother and suffocate the native mussels," Van Zee said.

Since zebra mussels were first found in Texas in 2009, 10 lakes in four river basins are now classified as infested, meaning they have an established, reproducing population - Belton, Bridgeport, Dean Gilbert (a 45-acre Community

Fishing Lake in Sherman), Eagle Mountain, Lewisville, Randell, Ray Roberts, Stillhouse Hollow, Texoma and now Canyon.

Van Zee said that the lake's popularity as a boating destination for Texans around the state

combined with its deep water and suitable habitat made it vulnerable to the spread of zebra mussels.

"Unfortunately, I think this is a textbook scenario of a zebra mussel infestation."

*(See Zebra Mussels... Continued on Page 19-A)*

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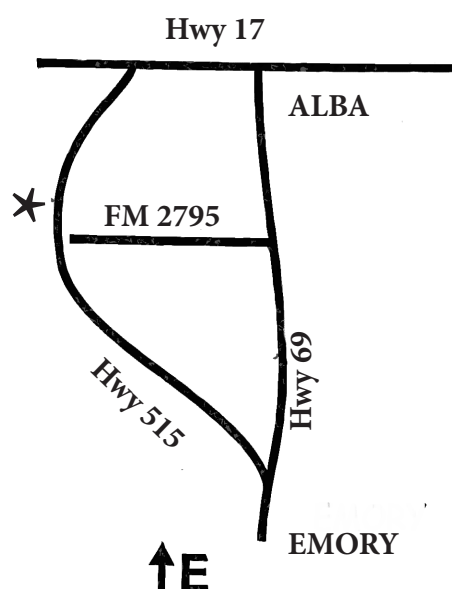
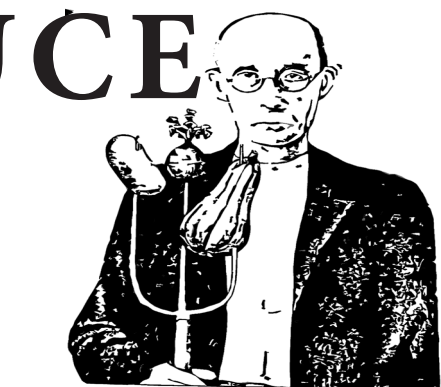
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# "Pack of Knowledge" The Carolina Connection

By Andrew Grills

If you were able to add up every bass that was caught on Lake Fork in a year's time, and what technique was responsible for the most catches, I would bet that the Carolina rig would claim more sore jaws than anything. Possibly, the old C-rig would beat all other techniques combined. It's not only caught more fish in my boat than any other technique, it leads the pack with my biggest client fish, a fish just one ounce shy of 12lbs.

It's not my favorite technique, I'll admit. It can be a little boring to some, and when you

have to break one off it takes a while to re-rig from scratch. However, it flat out gets bit, and if you're gonna catch bass consistently, you better get used to fishing the Carolina rig.

A Carolina rig consists of a heavy sinker sliding freely on the main line. Then, a glass bead below the sinker. From there, a swivel is attached with a leader that connects to the hook. There are a host of soft plastic lures that work well on the end.

First off, you'll want to start with the right set up. I like the G. Loomis 894 for this technique. This rod is a little longer than most rods on my deck, at 7'4". This helps when casting the rig. This rod has the right amount of back bone for fighting big fish through standing timber as well. Any reel will do just fine, but I prefer a high speed reel with a good amount of line capacity. We make long casts with the rig, and it's also important to be able to take up slack quickly when you detect a bite. The Shimano Curado 200iHG works perfect for me.

I always use fluorocarbon for my mainline. 20-lb. Seaguar Invizx is my choice. For leader line, I honestly don't know if there is any benefit in using monofilament or fluorocarbon. I know the theories for why one or the other is a better choice, but I have yet to notice whether one out performs the other. I just grab whatever is closest when rigging up a leader. I prefer the leader to slightly lower in pound-test than the

mainline. Therefore, I usually use a 15lb leader of either Big Game mono or Seaguar fluorocarbon. 30" is a good length for the leader.


I always use the cheap, lead egg-sinkers. 1 ounce is the size I use almost all the time. Brass may work better, but I've caught a gazillion bass with the lead egg on a C-rig. They're good enough for me and they're cheap. I like to add a glass bead. Does it protect the knot? Does the clacking noise of the sinker smacking the bead attract fish? Who knows. I use a bead because I always have. They're cheap, and I know it doesn't hurt.

I make sure to use a quality swivel and hook. I use Spro 90-lb. Power Swivels. I've seen cheap swivels fail more than once, so I stick with the good ones. Gamakatsu superline EWG hooks in 3/0 size work for almost everything I use on the back of a C-rig. I like them because they don't bend out when you're catching quality fish.

I normally use Zoom Super Flukes or Baby Brush Hogs as my soft plastic on the C-rig. Both work very well for me, but the possibilities are endless. The best day I ever had fishing the C-rig, we were using Strike King Smokin' Roosters. Sometimes it's a good idea to show them something they haven't seen. My retrieve with a C-rig is slow. I'm talking painfully slow. I try to count the rocks and roots

(See Pack of Knowledge.....Continued on Page 21-A)





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## Zebra Mussels Discovered in Canyon Lake (Continued from Page 17-A)

tion that is the result of a contaminated boat being launched in the lake," Van Zee said. "It really hits home how important it is for boaters to take ownership of the problem and to take the appropriate steps before moving a boat with zebra mussels attached as well as to clean, drain and dry their boats every time they leave a lake. We know that Texans love their lakes and rivers and by taking these three simple steps they do a lot of good toward helping prevent further spread of in-

vasive species in our state."

In Texas, it is unlawful to possess or transport zebra mussels, dead or alive. Boaters are required to drain all water from their boat and onboard receptacles before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water in order to prevent the transfer of zebra mussels that might be inside. Zebra mussel larvae are microscopic and both adults and larvae can survive for days in or on boats transported from a lake. The requirement to drain

applies to all types and sizes of boats whether powered or not: personal watercraft, sailboats, kayaks/canoes or any other vessel used on public waters.

In addition to the adults and juveniles found in the lake, plankton samples collected from Canyon Lake also found zebra mussel larvae at multiple sites, meaning the lake has a fully established infestation. TPWD is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as well as the Guadalupe Blanco River

Authority to continue to assess the extent of the infestation on Canyon Lake.

Boater awareness and education is very impor-

tant when it comes to the issue of invasive species and TPWD will continue working with its partners across the state to spread the word to boaters.

More information about zebra mussels can be found online at [tpwd.texas.gov/ZebraMussels](http://tpwd.texas.gov/ZebraMussels).

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## July on the Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

lasts about an hour but it is well worth being on the water early as daylight has it's own majesty. Once this bite stops, move the boat out to about 15ft and throw a C-rig, squarebill or jig up to the 5-7ft range and work it back slowly. This will account for extra bites to fulfill the morning. A Texas rig blue fleck power worm fished with a 3/8 ounce tungsten weight in that same depth range will also deliver some rod bending results.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in July 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/davidoziolakeforkguide>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I run a Skeeter FX21 with a Yamaha 250SHO and it is gased up and ready to go. I would also like to thank Okuma Fishing and Talon Custom Lures for making my job the blast that it is. 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 on Knowledge (Continued from Page 18-A)

and whatever else that sinker comes across. The bite can be difficult to detect. I try to set the hook immediately when I feel anything that resembles a bite. Fish swallow the hook often, so you want to set the hook before that happens.

The great thing about a Carolina rig is that

you can fish it at any depth. I do very well on it in shallow water and I do even better with it on deep, offshore structure. It can be fished on clean, rocky bottoms, or finessed through heavy timber. It works every month of the year here in east Texas.

I know the Carolina rig isn't the most excit-

ing subject, but catching bass is exciting, and it catches bass better than anything sometimes. If you haven't thrown one, I'm sure it won't take long to realize its' effectiveness.

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Practice Good  
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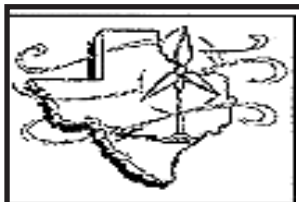


Many fishermen throw back the first fish they catch so as to appease unseen spirits

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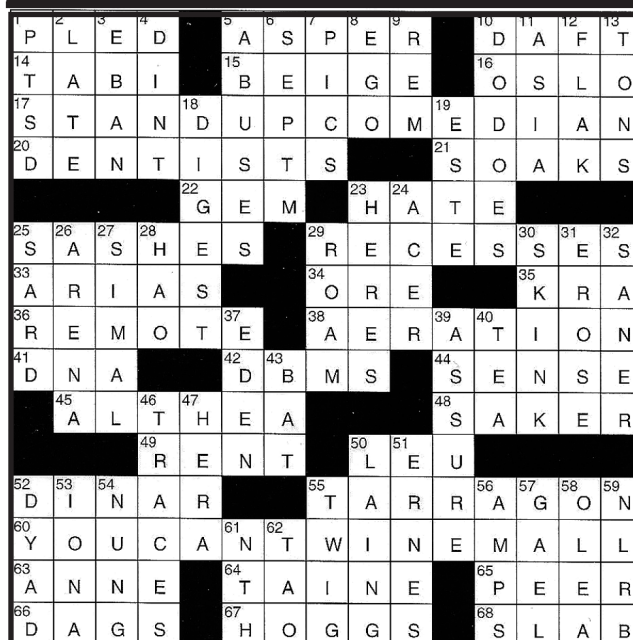
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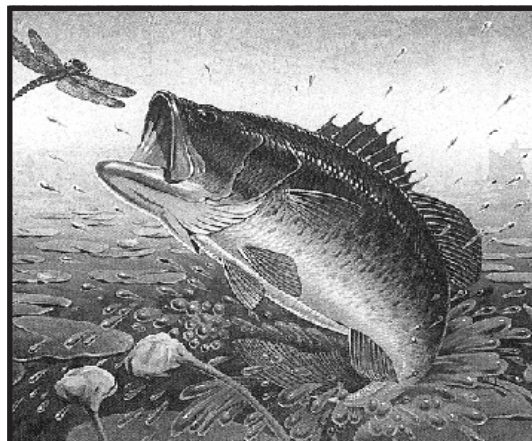
The names of 14 countries are hidden throughout the scrambled puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle. The words go horizontally and vertically, backward and forward.

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POLAND  
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SPAIN

UNITED STATES

B E L G I U M E Y L A T  
E U A L R N E X L G I U  
G S N G E I X I A T E O  
U T D E L A G U T R O P  
M E N I A P S T I T C O  
R F R A N O P A N A I L  
I R L N D L A C H I N A  
A L G E R M A N Y S E N  
I A N I C N N E A U X D  
R N E C N A R F S A I T  
T D G A L Y E O P L C A  
S U A N O A L C A G A N  
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## 2017 Kidfish on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 7-A)

included 4 years old and under, 5 to 8 year old, 9 to 12 year old, and 13 to 16 year old. Each child weighing in the heaviest fish of the tournament wins a trophy and a year's worth of bragging rights. Wood County Sheriff, Tom Castloo was present to congratulate the winners in each age category and present them with their trophy. Weight Masters for Kidfish are all members of the Lake Fork Texas Trails Bassmasters.

This year's winner of the 'Traveling Trophy' was Nolan Allred with his 6.04-pound catfish. This award goes to the child that caught the heaviest fish in the tournament. For his catch he received an extra award and his name will be engraved on the

trophy kept on display at the Wood County Sheriff's Department.

No child leaves the event without a prize furnished by the many sponsors. This year's prizes ranged from bicycles, fishing equipment, and many other items for each child's

enjoyment. All of the children and parents always have an excellent time at the event.

A special thanks goes out to all of the great sponsors that made this event possible, after all, our children are the future.





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## Skeeter Owner's Tournament (Continued from Page 3-A)

Wagoner Oklahoma with an 8.21-pound; Bill Goodling from Choudrant, Louisiana with a 7.83-pound; Ty Humphries from Stonewall, Louisiana with a 7.64-pound; Donnie Roberts from Pineville, Louisiana with a 7.54-pound; Jason Letterman from McKinney, Texas with a 6.78-pound; and Ricky Broadway from Marthaville, Louisiana with a 6.65-pound.

In the Ladies Division Tonya Johnson from Hot Springs, Arkansas won 1st Place with a 2.52-pound; 2nd Place was Brandi Fairchild from Kingwood, Texas with a 2.51-pound; and 3rd Place was Lisa Lopez from Clifton, Texas

with a 2.45-pound. In the Juniors Division Bryce Everett from Arp, Texas won 1st Place with a 2.19-pound; 2nd Place was Matthew Glasgow from Kaufman, Texas with a 1.90-pound; 3rd Place was Matthew Maffei from Lake Wales, Florida with a 1.89-pound;

and 4th Place was Nathan Brown from Yantis, Texas with a 1.81-pound.

In all it was a very entertaining and good fishing for everyone. If you own a Skeeter Bass Boat and wish to attend next year's event, you should start making plans.



Marty Thomas from Millsap, Texas won a Yamaha Viking Side-By-Side for the heaviest bass under the slot.

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