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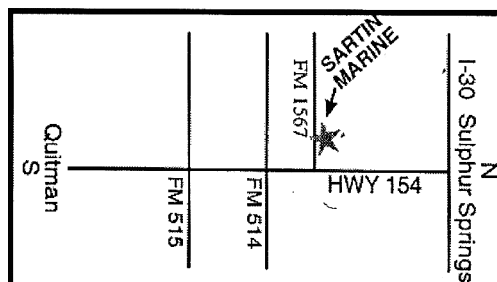
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## Bassin' With Bubba



By Don Bubba Hampton

Now is the deep water bassin' spring time. May is Fork's best bass catching month. After the stress of spawning, bass will be both in shallow and deep water hangouts, hungry and aggressive.

Post spawn bass will hit a wide variety of lures during feeding times. Spinner baits, topwater, crank baits, jerk baits and soft plastics will all produce. The topwater bite will be best at daybreak and again at dark. Start the day early. Topwater action will last about thirty minutes. When the sun pops up, the topwater bite is over and will not pick up again until dark, except for overcast days when the topwater bite will

be good all day.

Pop baits in shad and frog patterns and buzz baits in white or chartreuse will produce. Location is the key for really great topwater action. Main lake and secondary points are some of the best locations. When you find the grass, you will find the bass.

When the topwater bite is slow plastic worms, Texas-rigged and wacky-style, produce when fished around the same shallow areas. Red shad and blue fleck are the top Fork producing colors for Texas-rigged worms. If you are after a trophy (and who isn't), ten to twelve inch worms will produce, but six to seven inch ones will get more bites. When the bite is tough, the wacky-style worms can be deadly on non-aggressive bass. When fishing wacky worms, make sure to slow down and fish your area thoroughly. Watermelon with one end dipped in chartreuse worm dye is one of Fork's best producing colors.

When the shallow bite slows, switch to deepwater structure. Humps, ridges, road-beds, and long, extending main lake points in twenty to twenty-five foot depths will produce. Look for the schools of shad. When you find schools of bait on this type of structure, bass will not be far behind. Use Carolina rigged French fries and soft jerk baits. For French fries, watermelon and chartreuse are top producing colors. For soft jerk baits shad, white and albino are hard to beat.

When the topwater bite starts to slow down usually around the second week of June, start the morning fishing deep water structure like main lake points, the

mouths of major creeks, creek channels, humps and ridges. When you find the shad on these break lines, you are in business. Deep cranks in shad patterns, Carolina-rigged plastics, and tail kickers will all produce.

The night bite on Lake Fork during May and June is also some of the best night action of the year. Big black spinnerbaits and big plastic worms in the ten to thirteen inch variety in black/blue and red shad are top producers. Some of the best night fishing locations will be around the mouths of major creeks like Birch, Ray Branch, Little and Big Caney and Chaney Point.

With Lake Fork being at normal pool, it can be hazardous to old-timers as well as first time visitors because of the numerous stump fields from one end of the lake to the other. There are a lot of areas that look like they would be open and clear running, but are not. Remember to use cautions, especially if you are not in a well marked boat lane.

If you are planning a trip to Lake Fork and need a guide or just general fishing information or an updated fishing report to make your Fork fishing experience a good one, you can call me at 903-360-6994 (cell) or 903-383-7748 (land line). Don't expect a quick answer via email: [fishnews@lakefork.net](mailto:fishnews@lakefork.net).

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## Game Warden Field Notes

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

**—Back in the Spotlight—**A Tom Green County game warden responding to a call about someone spotlighting from the roadway arrived on the scene to find a state trooper in contact with a vehicle. The trooper advised that there was a spotlight and two rifles in the pickup. The driver was arrested for DWI and the passenger was released; both denied spotlighting. The next day, the landowner who called in the spotlighting complaint asked wardens if anyone was caught poaching because he heard two shots. Wardens returned to the area to look for evidence of illegal road hunting, located a doe that had been shot and recovered bullet fragments from the deer. The wardens made contact with the driver who had been arrested and he gave consent to search his truck. They found two shell casings in the front driver's side floorboard. When questioning both the driver and the passenger about the deer, both denied any wrongdoing and advised they would be seeking legal counsel. The wardens seized the rifle believed to have been used to kill the doe and let the two subjects know it would be sent off for testing. The following day, the driver contacted the warden and asked if they could meet up so he could confess about what happened that night. The two admitted to spotlighting and shooting the doe from their truck at night.

Charges and civil restitution are pending.

**—Where'd You Get That Deer?—**Although not uncommon to see a deer leg sticking out of a pickup bed, seeing one in the parking lot at the lake raises curiosity. A Titus County game warden on his way to Lake Monticello to check fishermen witnessed a pickup driving into the parking lot with a white-tailed deer foot sticking out of the top of the truck bed. The driver admitted that another individual had shot and given him the illegal deer. However, a check on the driver revealed that he had nine outstanding warrants in multiple counties and he was arrested. A subsequent investigation determined the doe was shot out of season with a crossbow in Franklin County. Citations were issued to the shooter for no hunting license, possession of an antlerless white-tailed deer without a permit, untagged white-tailed deer, and waste of game animal.

**—No Family Secrets Here—**While on patrol in Webb County, game wardens noticed the head of a freshly harvested buck white-tailed deer hanging from a tree at a nearby residence. After a brief interview, the homeowner admitted to shooting the deer and not having a valid hunting license. During a conversation with the subject's cousin, wardens learned the subject had not only taken this buck two days ago on an unknown individual's property, he had also shot a white-tailed buck from his vehicle on a public roadway about three

weeks earlier. While on the scene, wardens obtained consent to look inside of the vehicle that allegedly was used during the commission of the offense and located binoculars, rifle, ammunition, drug paraphernalia and a clear plastic bag containing a white powdery substance that tested positive as cocaine. Cases and civil restitution are pending.

**—More than Just Their Mojo Working—**A DeWitt County game warden on patrol observed some "mojo" dove decoys working in a field. Contact was made with two dove hunters. After checking licenses and birds, the warden walked the areas where the two hunters were sitting and on closer inspection milo was found around a tank dam and along a road. It is illegal to bait or hunt over bait for migratory game birds. Citations for placing bait and hunting over bait were issued and 23 dove were seized.

**—And a Partridge in a Pear Tree—**On Christmas Day, a Brooks County game warden responding to a call about some possible illegal dove hunters in Falfurrias noticed three individuals next to a pickup shooting into the air. After making contact with the shooters and their parents it was determined only one hunter possessed a hunting license and was letting the others hunt under his license. A search of the pickup revealed 12 woodpeckers, three loggerhead shrikes, a meadowlark and a lesser goldfinch had been shot. No doves

(See Game Warden .....Continued on Page 5-B)

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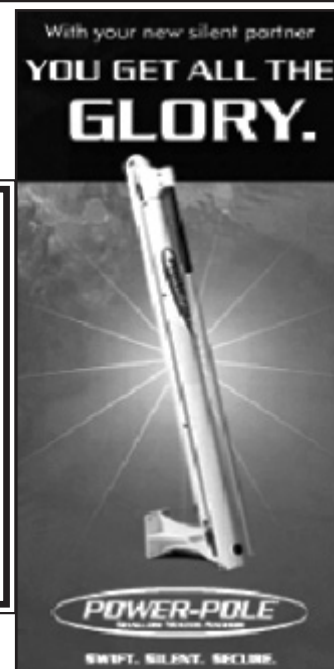


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## Smokey, Flavorful and Bold Barbecue

By Sue Hampton

Burgers rank highly as one of the favorite foods of all times – perhaps coming in second only to pizza. A common fast food item, burgers are perfect for lunches and dinners. It is hard to resist a juicy, mouth-watering burger.

On Memorial Day, many people celebrate the beginning of the summer season by firing up the barbecue or smoker for the first outdoor meal of the year. What better recipe to cook than smokey burgers.



Celebrate your Memorial Day holiday with these delicious "Smokey Burgers"!!

### "Smokey Burgers"

(This recipe uses a smoker to cook the burgers. If using a barbecue, estimate a new burger cooking time.)

#### Dry rub

1 teaspoon ground caraway seeds

1 teaspoon ground black pepper

1 teaspoon onion powder

½ teaspoon salt

2 pounds ground beef

1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon ground black pepper

**Filling**

1 tablespoon butter

¾ cup thin-sliced button mushrooms

2 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons commercial steak sauce

2/3 cups grated Swiss cheese

1 teaspoon prepared

horseradish

1 teaspoon ground caraway seeds

4 or 8 rye bread slices, toasted

Additional commercial steak sauce (optional)

About 45 minutes before you plan to smoke the burgers, combine the dry rub ingredients in a small bowl.

In a medium bowl, mix the meat with the Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper. Form the mixture into 8 thin patties at least 4 inches in diameter.

Make the filling. Warm the butter over medium heat in a small skillet, add the mushrooms and sauté until limp. Spoon the mushrooms and any accumulated juice into another medium bowl and mix in 2 tablespoons of the steak sauce and the remaining filling ingredients. Spoon equal

portions of the mixture over four of the ground-beef patties. Top a filling-covered burger with a plain patty. Press down firmly and seal the edges well. Repeat with the remaining burgers. Coat your fingers with the rest of the steak sauce and rub each patty with a thin film of sauce. Sprinkle dry rub evenly over both sides of the patties. Cover the patties with plastic and let them sit at room temperature.

Bring your smoker to its appropriate cooking temperature.

Transfer the patties to the smoker and smoke until cooked through, about one hour at a temperature of 225F to 250F. Remove the burgers from the smoker and place each on a slice of toasted rye bread, topping them with a second slice of toast, if you wish, for heartier sandwiches. Serve with additional steak sauce if desired.



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

had been harvested. All songbirds were seized and multiple charges filed. Cases are pending.

**—It May Be Small Game to You—**While on patrol, a Willacy County game warden noticed a group of hunters field dressing a white-tailed deer within the El Sauz Ranch. The warden made contact with the individuals and discovered that the hunter who had just harvested the white-tailed deer was a Louisiana resident and had only purchased a non-resident small game license. A general non-resident hunting license is required for hunting deer and other big game wildlife. The warden instructed the hunters to follow him back to camp where the ranch's cold storage facility was located. Upon inspecting the cold storage and the storage log book, the warden discovered two more white-tailed deer that were harvested without a valid hunting license by another hunter within the same group. Three white-tailed deer were seized and citations issued. Cases and restitution are pending.

**—Catch, Ticket and Release—**A Val Verde County game warden responded to a call from a landowner concerning trespassers that were fishing on his private pond. The individuals had been warned several times previously that the pond was private and that fishing there was prohibited. The warden cited the individuals for fishing without consent of landowner. All fish were released back into the water.

**—Shooting Off the Roost—**Game wardens in Trinity and Angelina counties investigated a tip about hunt-

ers roosting ducks after legal shooting hours along the Neches River, but by the time they arrived on the scene the shooting had stopped and they were unable to locate the suspects. Based on the tip, there were two groups hunting after hours; one on each side of the Neches River. Believing the suspects might attempt to repeat their actions the following evening, Trinity County game wardens set up surveillance on the Trinity County side of the Neches and an Angelina County game warden Wood set up on the Angelina County side of the river. Wardens waited and listened for shots and once the shooting began again well after legal hours wardens were able to pinpoint the suspects' location on the Trinity County side. All three wardens converged and made contact with four individuals. Cases for hunting waterfowl after legal hours, possession of lead shot, and no hunter's education were filed as well as civil restitution. It was determined that this was one of the groups hunting late the day before.

**—Registered Offender—**A Shelby County game warden received a call about duck hunters trespassing and hunting without landowner consent. Upon the warden's arrival, the hunters quickly fled the area but left behind decoys on the water and a small vessel. Further inspection of the scene revealed empty lead shotshells, which are illegal for hunting waterfowl. The warden also found corn scattered around the area, indicating illegal baiting of waterfowl. A quick call to dispatch returned a registered owner and address for

the vessel, which wasn't far from the scene. The warden was able to quickly locate and make contact with the subjects. Charges and restitution are pending for trespassing, hunting over bait, hunting waterfowl with unplugged shotguns, and illegal use of lead shot.

**—Lost and Found—**A Houston County game warden was contacted by the Houston County Sheriff's Office one evening in regards to a lost hunter. The hunter had been out all day and failed to return to his hunting camp in the Davy Crockett National Forest. Since the temperature was below freezing, a Department of Public Safety helicopter was called to assist in the search. The helicopter located the subject at 2 a.m. and kept a spotlight on the subject while the game warden and another first responder walked in to make contact. The hunter had injured his ankle and was very cold, but otherwise OK. Paramedics were called to the scene to assess the hunter.

**—Jet Ski to the Rescue—**A Denton County game warden was notified by the Denton County Sheriff's Office of a capsized kayaker on Lake Lewisville. The kayaker was about 300 yards offshore being pushed further away by wind and current. The Lewisville Fire Department and Little Elm Public Safety boats were called in to rescue the boater but the warden took immediate action and was able to use a Jet Ski to reach the victim. The victim was transported to Denton Regional Hospital for treatment of hypothermia.

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May 7 ~ JC Outdoors Solo  
Minnow Bucket

May 13 ~ Media Bass Teams  
Minnow Bucket

May 19, 20, 21  
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Big Bass Tournament

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May 27 ~ 9th Annual Lake Fork Open  
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**June**

June 3 ~ Kid Fish  
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June 3 ~ JC Outdoors Teams  
Minnow Bucket

June 4 ~ JC Outdoors Solo  
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June 9-11 ~ Skeeter Owners  
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June 17 ~ Media  
Minnow Bucket

**July**

July 1 ~ JC Outdoors Teams  
Minnow Bucket

July 15 ~ Media  
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	HERE IS YOUR PLACE AT THE LAKE Located in Tall Tree Subdivision and just stones throw away from Lake Cypress Springs. This recently remodeled home is in pristine condition with 2 bd rm, 1.5 bath, 2 car garage and carport, granite counters, hardwood floors, stained glass pendant lighting & knotty alder cabinets, doors and trim. Screened in porch overlooking fishing pier on pond. Boat ramp around corner.		LAKE FORK WATERFRONT HOME on 10+ acres in Dream Hills Subdivision with a voluntary HOA. Home features new carpet & paint with 5 bd rms, 3.5 baths, dining room, breakfast room, sun-room, 3 car garage, patio breezeway and an irrigation system. Plus an additional 3 car garage workshop, stocked pond with fishing pier and the large leaseback to Lake Fork is heavily wooded. Seller is ready for your best offer.		VACATION HOME ON PRIVATE LAKE, This 3 bd rm, 2 bath home has metal roofing, well insulated and was built for entertaining family and friends. Property features an outdoor shower, patio with stone wood burning fireplace, deck area with a waterfall pond, perimeter lighting & large double swings. Lake Elberta is a small, private, gated and restricted lake community. Call JR for detailed information.
<b>Mt Vernon \$187,000</b>		<b>Emory \$405,000</b>		<b>Sulphur Springs \$149,900</b>	
	UNFINISHED LOFT CABIN ON 3+ ACRES 12 X 24 unfinished one room cabin with two loft beds and a large covered back porch. Water and electric are all in place, there is no septic system. 3.82 Acres with nice size pond, 10 x 12 storage building, a two stall carport and a chain link fenced back yard. Located very close to World Famous Lake Fork. Call JR for more information today!		LOCATED IN EMORY INDUSTRIAL PARK Formerly a doctor's office building, this custom built building features metal and stone construction. Interior has a nice lobby or reception area, multiple rooms for offices, full kitchen and 2 bathrooms with a stall shower AND living quarters upstairs. Building has a garage with receiving area and roll-up door. Call JR for detailed information.		30x50 INSULATED METAL BUILDING completely heated and cooled. Workshop area with three nice offices and a half bathroom. Secured fenced in area out back and a new septic system. Located just outside Quitman City Limits. Motivated Seller Says "Bring Your Best Offer"
<b>Yantis \$59,900</b>		<b>Emory \$232,000</b>		<b>Quitman \$65,900</b>	

### 3,200 SQFT LAKE FORK RESTAURANT IN YANTIS \$183,900 OR LEASE FOR \$1,250

Established restaurant has Lake Fork leaseback available to make this property waterfront on Lake Fork. 2.7 acres of deeded property and a 3,200 sqft building with commercial septic system. Everything is included that you need to keep the restaurant going or build your own business here. Seller says there are no known deed restrictions on property. Also available for lease, call for details.

LAKE FORK WATER FRONT LOTS AND OFF-WATER LOTS FROM \$12,000 TO \$84,900 LAKE FORK AREA ACREAGE FROM \$59,000 TO \$225,000

### LAKE FORK WATERFRONT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY IN ALBA \$299,500

This 4000+ sqft buiding is set up as a restaurant and is waterfront on Lake Fork with its own private boat ramp, pier, storage building and plenty of parking. Located on the busy, high traffic side of the lake. Seller states property is unrestricted. This would be perfect place for a marina, bait and tackle shop or your dream business. All Restaurant equipment is included.