

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



By Don Bubba Hampton

The dog days of summer are upon us. One hundredplus degree days and no wind can make it tough to fish during daylight hours. If you cannot take the day-time heat, switch to the night shift. For nighttime bassing, planning is the key for successful night trips. Make a check list and go over it before you launch. Forgotten items can ruin your night trips. Be sure to bring flash-lights and sport lights. Make sure your running lights are in working order and don't forget your bug spray. Be sure to check the weather forecast. Even if you are familiar with Fork, everything looks different in the dark. Plan the areas you intend to fish. Go over them during day-light and plan your route to and from each area. This will make navigation from one area to another a lot easier.

Use big Texas-rigged worms, ten to thirteen inch variety in dark colors, and jigs w/craws in black and blue. Texas-rigged hog craws in black/blue and junebugs are top night producers. Black spinner baits and buzz baits are good back-ups. When you start hearing a lot of action on the surface it is time to start throwing spinner baits and buzz baits.

Your fishing equipment should be on the heavy side. Reels spooled with twenty to twenty-five pound test mono or fifty pound braided line is the norm. Use heavy action rods and reels. When you hook up with Mrs. Big you need the right equipment to put her in the boat. Some hot night time patterns will be grassy edges and near deep water, major lake points, bridges, and lighted marina areas and piers. Four to fifteen feet will be the best water depth for some good night action.

For those of you who don't like to or can't night fish, you are in luck because the day bite can be hot during summer. To prepare for the heat drink plenty of water, apply a good sunscreen, wear sunglasses and light colored clothes. Carolina-rigged drop shot Texas-rigged plastics are hard to beat for catching Fork's summer bass.

Good day patterns will be main lake points, humps, ridges, roadbeds and grassy areas near deep water. Look for twenty to thirty foot water depths for deep water hang outs. Don't give up on shallow water areas. Dense hydrilla fields near deep water will produce some big catches during day hours.

With 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 are clear running, but are not. Remember to use caution, 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.

Bubba is sponsored by Legend Boats, Mercury Marine, Sartin Marine, Lake Fork Trophy Lures, Gene Larew, Luck E Strike Lures, Bubbette and the Good Lord!







Game Warden Field Notes

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports.

--Game Cameras and Facebook; Part 1-- A Comanche County game warden received a call in December from a man who said he found signs that someone was poaching on his property. The warden suggested he put up a game camera and shortly thereafter, the game warden received an email from the landowner showing a clear image captured by the game camera of a man holding a rifle. The landowner posted the image on Facebook asking for information and within an hour had the suspect's name and address. That night the suspect called the warden and said that it was him in the picture. Case is pending for trespassing with a gun.

--Game Cameras and Facebook; Part 2--A Jim Wells County game warden received a call from a landowner who had seen an image on a Facebook post of his neighbor posing with a white-tailed buck. The photo showed a blood trail from the deer to a fence and two rifles leaning against that fence. The landowner expressed concern that the neighboring hunters had killed the deer on his property. He also stated that this was an ongoing problem. While interviewing the hunters, they admitted to shooting the deer and stated that the deer had jumped the fence

The following items are compiled from recent onto their property and taken a few steps before one of them shot it in the neck. They then stated that the buck turned around, jumped back over the fence and died immediately upon landing on the other side. Further investigation and trail camera footage showed that this was not the first time that the hunters had trespassed or harvested a deer on their neighbor's property. Cases and restitution are pending.

> --Keep the Beard--A Sutton County game warden was checking a deer camp during the special whitetailed deer late season when he discovered a Rio Grande turkey beard in the same cooler as an axis deer that had been killed. When asked the whereabouts of the rest of the turkey, one hunter said that it had been hit by a car on the county road and all they took was the beard. After asking if they could show the warden where the turkey was hit, the other hunter in camp said it was in the back pasture. The story quickly fell apart from there and one hunter finally admitted to shooting the turkey the previous day and taking only the beard when he realized the season had closed two weeks prior. The hunter showed the warden where he had shot and dumped the turkey carcass. Cases and civil restitution are pending.

> --Improvised Exit Strategy-- Lamar County game wardens responded to a vehicle accident where a truck jumped the guardrail on Hwy. 271 and plum

meted more than 50 feet into the Red River. The wardens were able to execute a successful water rescue by tying a rope to the vehicle door and pulling it open with their boat, freeing the motorist. Paris Fire Department and two citizens aided in the rescue. The victim was air lifted to Dallas with lower leg and back injuries plus hypothermia.

--OGT Tip Leads to Gator Snatcher--A Harris County game warden received an Operation Game Thief tip regarding a man catching and keeping a five foot alligator off the Surfside Jetty in Freeport. After tracking down the suspected gator snatcher and conducting several interviews, the warden recovered the carcass of a five foot alligator from a dumpster as well as a full confession from the fisherman. Charges have been filed and are pending in Brazoria County. --Swooping in for the Bust--An Operation Game Thief call in Harris County alerted game wardens of an individual selling a falcon on Craigslist. After several phone conversations, a warden arranged a meeting and purchased the Cooper's hawk for \$200 as another game warden swooped in for the bust. Charges have been filed for the illegal possession and sale of the hawk and a separate investigation of the suspect's quail raising operation is still underway.

Fish Friendly

Practice C.P.R.



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Keeping It Light_

By Sue Hampton

One of America's favorite warm weather activities is outdoor grilling. While hamburgers and hot dogs are standard fare, why not experiment with seasonal fresh produce? You can create some refreshing light and healthy meals with food that comes right from your garden or a farmer's market.

Try this light main dish recipe using shrimp and ripe produce.

Thai Shrimp with Watermelon Salsa



A trip to a farmer's market or your backyard can provide most of the ingredients for this recipe!

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Serves: 4

Prep time: 25 minutes Marinating time: 30 minutes Way to grill: direct high heat (450 to 550 degrees F)

Grilling time: 3 to 5 minutes

Special equipment: 8 bamboo skewers, soaked in water for at least 30 minutes

- Salsa:
- 2 tablespoons minced shallot
- 2 teaspoons rice vinegar 1 teaspoon granulated sugar

1-2 tablespoons minced jalapeno chili pepper 2 cups seedless watermelon, cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch cubes 1 – 3-inch section cucumber, halved lengthwise, seeded, and thinly sliced into half-moons

1 teaspoon minced fresh mint

¹/₄ teaspoon kosher salt **Marinade:**

¹/₂ cup lightly packed fresh cilantro leaves and tender stems

¹/₄ cup lightly packed fresh mint leaves

3 medium garlic cloves
2 tablespoons coarsely
chopped fresh ginger
2 tablespoons rice vinegar
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 teaspoons granulated
sugar

1 teaspoon Thai red curry paste

¹/₄ teaspoon kosher salt 1-1/4 pounds extra-large shrimp (16/20 count), peeled and deveined, tails left on

1. In a large bowl, mix the shallot, vinegar, sugar and jalapeno. Add the watermelon, cucumber, mint and salt, and toss gently to combine. To fully incorporate the flavors, let the salsa sit at room temperature for 30 to 60 minutes.

2. In a food processor combine the marinade in-

gredients. Process to create a coarse puree, occasionally scraping down the sides of the bowl to incorporate the ingredients evenly.

3. Transfer the marinade to a medium bowl, add the shrimp, and toss to coat them evenly. Cover the bowl and refrigerate for 30 minutes, turning the shrimp after 15 minutes. Prepare the grill for direct cooking over high heat.

4. Remove the shrimp from the bowl and discard the marinade. Thread the shrimp onto skewers. Brush the cooking grates clean. Grill the skewers over direct high heat, with the lid closed as much as possible, until the shrimp are firm to the touch, lightly charred and just turning opaque in the center, 3 to 5 minutes, turning once. Serve the shrimp warm or at room temperature with the salsa.

Try adding a refreshing

summer cocktail to your meal for a real winning combination. This sangria is a perfect choice to cool down those hot summer nights.

Bubbette's Sangria Mix (Yield: 1 gallon(ready to serve)

Ingredients:

 Granny Smith apple (med.diced)
 Red Delicious apple (med.diced)
 Bartlett pear (med.diced)
 orange (med.diced)
 limes (med.diced)
 cups sugar
 4 pint orange juice
 4 cup brandy
 4 cup triple sec
 Combine all ingredients and gently mix.

Place in a container and refrigerate.

Serve Sangria Mix with equal parts chilled red wine.



July

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

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

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lease, call for details.

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