

# LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



2 Sections

*"The Fisherman's Guide,  
News You Can Use"  
"Lines To Get Hooked On"*  
[www.fishguidenews.com](http://www.fishguidenews.com) Free

Vol. 19

March, 2018

No. 223



Lake Fork guide Brian Duplechain caught this nice bass weighing 10-pounds 10-ounces fishing Lake Fork in February. C.P.R.



Lake Fork crappie guide Terri Moon had a great time landing this nice bass on Shimano Ultra Lite tackle. C.P.R.

## 10th Annual Mega Bass Tournament on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

Anglers get ready for the highest paying one day amateur Big Bass Tournament. The 10th Annual Mega Bass Tournament put on by BassChamps and sponsored by Sportsman's Auto Network will be held on Lake Fork Saturday March 17th.

At this tournament there will be 10 places paid per hour with 1st in each hour winning \$15,000, 2nd place \$1,000, 3rd place \$900, 4th \$800, 5th \$700, 6th \$500, 7th \$350, 8th \$300, 9th 250, 10th \$200. There is also a T-shirt bonus. If you purchase a T-shirt for \$10

and you are in 11th or 12th place in an hour you will receive a check for \$150.

Also in the tournament there is an Even Weight incentive. If an angler brings in the first 2.50-pound, a 3.00-pound, 9-pound or a 10-pound even weight, that angler will receive a bonus check for \$500.

The angler that brings in the heaviest bass of the day will not only have \$15,000 in his pocket but will also be taking home a 2018 Skeeter ZX 200 powered by Yamaha.

Anglers can register on line at [www.basschamps.com](http://www.basschamps.com) or at tournament headquarters.



Lake Fork guide Randy Oldfield caught this nice bass fishing Lake Fork in February. This bass was caught on a Santone jig with a V&M bug trailer. C.P.R.

## Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork Open Tournament

By Don Hampton

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 38th Semi-Annual Open Bass Tournament on March 10th hosted out

of Oak Ridge Marina. Any of you anglers coming to fish the 10th Annual Mega Bass Tournament on March 17th this is a chance to (See Texas Trails.....

Continued on Page 5-A)



Chris Ford from Winnsboro, Texas and Billy Deaton from Burleson, Texas won the Bass-Champs North Region Team Tournament held on Lake Fork on February 25 for a total winning package of \$26,000. They topped 309 teams with their five fish limit weighing 16.88-pounds. They also won Big Bass of the tournament with a healthy bass weighing 11.17-pounds. During the course of the tournament there were four bass over the 24" slot brought to the weigh-in, a 10.02-pound, 9.56-pound, and a 9.40-pound bass.



# Spring Cleaning Has A Much Different Definition To Bubba Than Bubbette

By Don Hampton

Bubba and Bubbette's definition of "Spring Cleaning" is as different as night and day, black and white, and here and gone. This is because it is usually Bubba that was here but now he's gone!

To Bubbette "Spring Cleaning" is like baptizing everything in the house by immersion or sprinkling so everything to the sight and touch is heavenly clean and fresh. The problem with this is it usually comes with a list of about a thousand "Bubba Do's". This list consists of raking, pruning, burning, mowing, painting, trimming, and blah, blah, blah. That's what Bubba thinks about this list! Everything on the list is just too doggone time consuming to Bubba and that means taking time from his fishing endeavors.

Bubba's definition of "Spring Cleaning" is clean those catfish and crappie. Breathe that clean air out on the lake while catching those bass. Keeping the boat and reels clean for the next day's fishing trip is on his list. Also the never ending task of cleaning his truck so it looks as pretty as his matching boat at the ramp or when on the road to a tournament is on his list. One thing for sure is that you will not find any of these "Bubba Do's" on Bubbette's list.

The most recent "Bubba Do" that got the whole neighborhood fired up was when Bubbette told Bubba he had to do something with all the leaves on the property. She handed him a rake and told him to get with it! Well, he did alright! He was in

a big hurry because he knew where some big sows were moving into the shallows and he had planned on going fishing instead. The way he saw it he could perform one of his shortcuts and still make it to the fishing hole! He used the rake alright, but just to make a fire break, then he set everything on fire! He took care of the leaf problem alright, not only on his property but also on half of his neighbor's property. If he took notice of the wind when he was going to burn something, just half as much as he does when he goes fishing, he wouldn't have had to play firefighter all that afternoon instead of getting to go fishing. One thing about it the next time Bubbette tells Bubba to take care of the leaves she'll be keeping a closer eye on him!

The one chore Bubbette has for Bubba that he really doesn't mind so much because he has so much fun doing it, is painting. You know how Bubba loves his stuff! Well he really got some manly work stuff last year when he bought himself an air compressor and paint sprayer. Bubbette has learned too! She doesn't ask him to paint very much! Not so much because she doesn't want a new coat of paint on something, it is more because she doesn't want the cat and dog painted, birds flying by with a new coat of paint on them, not to mention all the different colors of flowers and grass Bubba creates.

Bubbette has also quit asking Bubba to mow the lawn. Whenever he would get on the riding lawnmower, you would think he was in his Legend bass boat in a tournament racing someone to

a secret fishing hole. Heck, he could mow the whole yard in 10 minutes. Bubbette decided the yard would look much better if she would just do it herself. Bubba being filled with compassion for his lady decided he would just let her, and to really show what kind of guy he is, he bought her a new riding lawnmower for Valentine's Day!

Come to think of it, I've seen Bubbette's "Bubba Do" list and fewer chores were on it this year than previous years and he seems to be on the lake a lot more for this time of year! I think Bubba may be a little smarter than we give him credit for!



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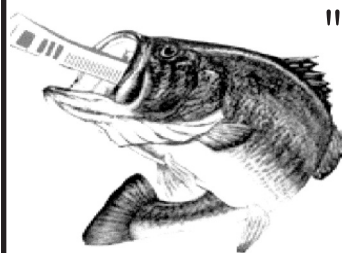
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## New Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Prosecutor of the Year Award Reflects Critical Role To Protect Woods, Waters, Wildlife

Texas Game Wardens can spend months investigating and building cases against lawbreakers who shoot endangered whooping cranes, poach white-tailed deer, or dump polluting chemicals in waterways, but it takes working partnerships with local prosecutors to bring violators to justice. A brand-new award created by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) aims to formally recognize a courtroom champion each year for exemplary efforts in prosecuting fish, wildlife, water safety, natural and cultural resource or other environmental crimes

in Texas. Nominees may include any prosecutor at the county, district, state or federal level whose action occurred during the previous two calendar years.

"As the Texas population continues to grow, pressure on our natural resources is also increasing," said Col. Grahame Jones, TPWD law enforcement division director. "In turn, our game wardens are working larger, more complex cases that involve everything from misdemeanors to felonies, from boating while intoxicated to wildlife trafficking rings. This award is a way to recognize efforts of the many dedicat-

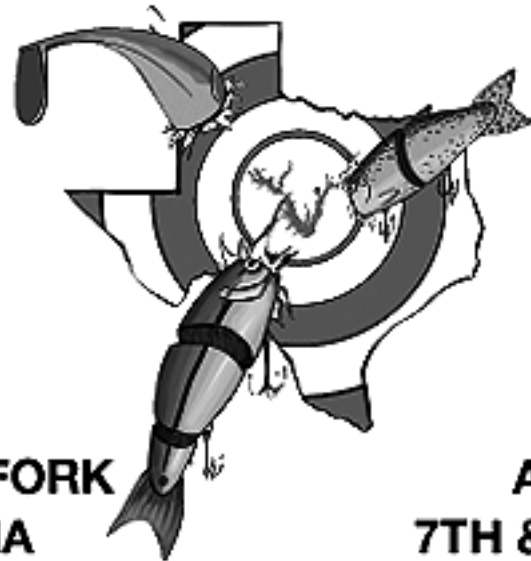
ed prosecutors across Texas who help us every day to protect natural resources. Enforcement is just part of the equation -- without successful prosecution, we won't get there."

Nominations are due May 15 each year, and award recipients will be announced at the August meeting of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. Nomination forms and instructions are on the TPWD website.

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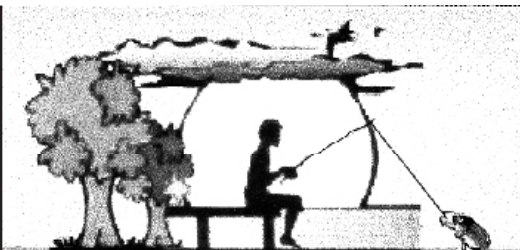
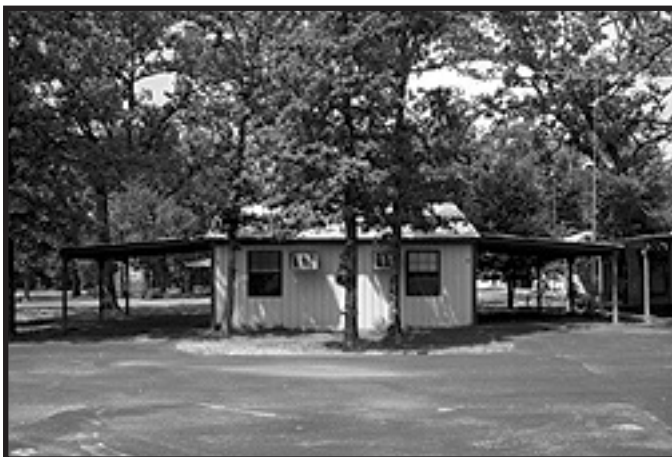
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## Invasive Giant Salvinia Found at Lake Athens

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) inland fisheries staff found in total, less than 1 acre of invasive giant salvinia in multiple locations near Lake Athens Marina boat ramp Feb. 19.

The day following the giant salvinia discovery at Lake Athens, the TPWD Brooke-

land aquatic habitat enhancement team (AHE) surveyed the impacted area and deployed a containment boom from just west of the boat ramp across the cove to the Athens Municipal Water Authority (AMWA) office.

According to Brookeland AHE team lead John Findeisen, the

boom will contain as much of the giant salvinia infestation as possible, assisting with the management of this aggressive, non-native plant.

"The containment boom is a critical component of our rapid response efforts to eradicate giant salvinia at Lake Athens," Fin-

eisen said. "Concentrating giant salvinia in an area helps prevent further spread and increases the efficiency and effectiveness of herbicide treatments, which is the next phase of our response at Lake Athens. Following that we should know fairly soon if eradication is a real possibility at the lake."

With the largemouth bass and crappie spawns around the corner, anglers can still access the enclosed area to fish by crossing the boom only in spots that are clear of giant salvinia. The AHE team recommends anglers idle over the boom until the outboard motor gets close, then kill and raise the motor and ease over the boom

with a trolling motor, paddle or push pole.

The proximity of the Lake Athens' infestation to the boat ramp leads biologists to believe giant salvinia was introduced by a boater or angler carrying the invasive species on their boat or equipment.

"It's not surprising giant salvinia found its way to Lake Athens, especially when you consider how close it is to several other affected lakes like Palestine, Fork and Caddo," Findeisen said.

In order to help combat further spread of aquatic invasive species across the state, TPWD will soon begin ramping up a spring outreach campaign urging Tex-

ans to help do their part to protect Texas waters by cleaning, draining and drying boats, trailers and gear every time they leave the water.

"Since there are several lakes in the surrounding area containing giant salvinia, it is imperative for boaters and anglers to clean, drain and dry their boats and equipment before launching at Lake Athens," Findeisen said. "It only takes a few minutes to remove any vegetation from boats and trailers, pull the livewell and drain plugs, and dry the boat with a towel. A few extra minutes spent doing this can eliminate giant salvinia (See Invasive....

*Continued on Page 22-A*

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## Texas Trails Open Tournament (Continued from Page 1-A)

do some pre-fishing and enjoy the great fishing Lake Fork has to offer.

Fishing hours for the tournament will be 6 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. It is a five fish limit, and an individual tournament. More than one person can fish in a boat but all have to be a paid entry. Bass in the tournament can touch 16" but not break the line. Bass over the slot must touch or exceed the 24" line. The Check-It-Stick will be the official measuring board. Bass under 12" cannot be brought to the weigh-in.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork pays back 80% of all entries. There is also a Big Bass Pot, optional to anglers. To get into the Big Bass Pot it is

an additional \$10 with 100% pay-back to the top three biggest bass. Texas Trails Bassmasters will be taking entries from 4 p.m. till 9 p.m. on Friday, March 9th, and again on Saturday, March 10th from 5 a.m. till 6 a.m.

If you can't come fish with us, everyone is welcome to come out, visit with us and even buy some raffle tickets for the many prizes to be given away.

Texas Trails Bassmasters is a highly motivated bass fishing club with ties to the Wish To Fish Foundation and weight masters at the Wood County Kid Fish. If you are thinking of joining a bass club, you can't go wrong with Texas Trails Bassmas-

ters of Lake Fork.

Dues to join the club are a mere \$30 per year. Cost for each tournament is \$25 with a \$5 Big Bass Option. There is also a progressive side pot that is an optional \$5 for the first 7-pound or over bass with the pot progressive.

For more information or to obtain an entry form for the tournament see ad on Page 17-A or go to [www.texas-trails-bassmasters.com](http://www.texas-trails-bassmasters.com) or give Rodney Ellis, President a call at 903-714-6473 or Don Hampton at 903-360-6994.

Fishing is going to be great! Come out and fish with us! Who knows, you may even catch a Share-Lunker for the season!



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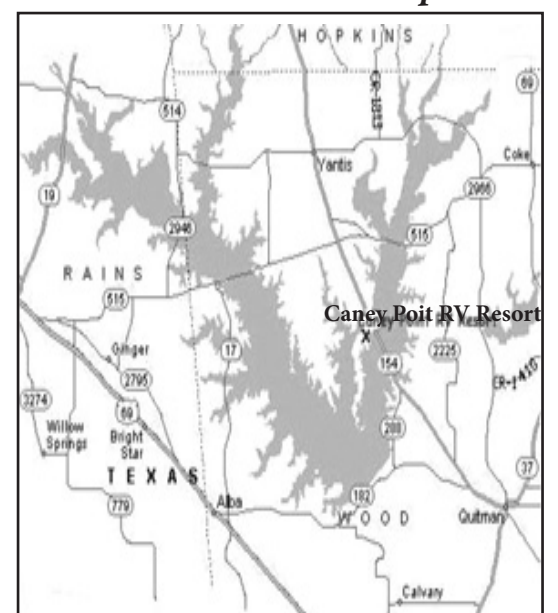
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# March on Fork Is Time To Put Lunkers In The Boat

By David Ozio

"We have all suffered through an adverse winter this year and now it's time to put some lunker green fish in the boat. March is upon us and it means huge pre-spawn bass will be moving shallow to do their business and this provides all anglers the opportunity to bag the bass of their dreams. Cold winter water temps are still present on Fork at the moment but that doesn't stop the green monsters from reacting to their biological clock and start moving into a staging position. Even with the chilly water temps in the backs of the creeks, I have still seen some double digits landed as of this writing.

The best areas to target these pre-spawn bass are on main lake and secondary points at the entrance

of major creeks, creek channel edges and bends, drains and ditches that are in close proximity to spawning flats. These staging fish will feed heavily through late February and early March while waiting for water temps to reach a consistent 58-62 degrees before advancing to the bedding areas. Water temp is the single most important factor during this time of year and a huge cold front can spell trouble for the advancing bass especially if it's near the March full moon.

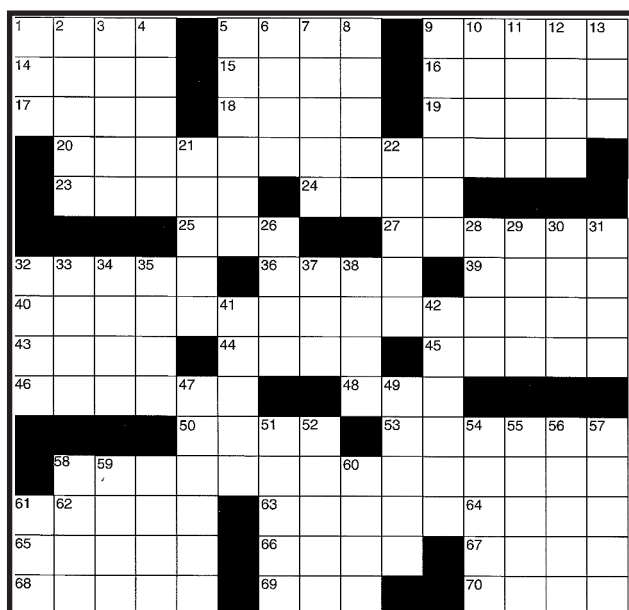
Provided all conditions are stable, start your search on the northwest side of the largest creeks and key on the current water temps in that area. The higher the thermometer reading, the better chance you have of seeing those giants cruising the shallows. Once the bass feel comfortable in an area, the ritual begins. Your job will be to target these big fish as they are setting up house. The all time best bait to capture your trophy of a lifetime will be on a big swimbait. There are several types on the market and you will need to find one that is weedless. Color choices can range from a bone color to light hitch or dark hitch. All will work under varied conditions. Throw these baits into very shallow water in the aforementioned areas of the lake and get ready for some heart stopping action. Don't be afraid



to chunk these baits into the thickest cover. They are designed to slide right out and keep on truckin.

During this time of the year, there are other patterns that will work equally as well. The Strike King 8.0 squarebill will deliver it's share of the pre-spawn giants. Shad colors work well and direct your efforts to the main lake and secondary points which are located in the near vicinity of the spawning areas. Shell beds also play a key role in how these fish will set up and spending time with a local guide can be the big bass education you've always needed. They will show you what to look for and how to cover the right wa-

(See March on Fork.....  
Continued on Page 20-A)



## CLUES ACROSS

1. Adventure story
5. Flightless birds
9. Pulsate
14. Selfs
15. Corrode
16. French river
17. Dabs
18. Laugh unrestrainedly and heartily
19. A former gold coin in US worth 10 dollars
20. 1962 Zanuck's WWII film
23. Consumer
24. Epic
25. Wood residue
27. Adorned
32. \_\_\_ Evert, tennis champ
36. Baseless
39. He fiddled
40. Conrad novel

## CLUES DOWN

1. Calendar month
2. A playing marble
3. E. German city
4. Valuable or useful possession
5. Mistakes
6. Lepton
7. Accepted practice
8. \_\_\_ throat, illness
9. Blood-sucking African fly
10. Projects away from the rest
11. Capital of Latvia
12. Sole
13. Bumble or queen
21. Fewest
22. Withdraw from drugs
26. Sound system, abbr.
28. \_\_\_ Frank's diary
29. Transfer property
30. Goidelic language of Ireland
31. Cheap lodging (slang)
32. European freshwater game fish

43. Forearm bone
44. Northeast China city
45. Yellow-fever mosquitos
46. White (Spanish)
48. Grand \_\_, vintage
50. Imitated
53. Removed
58. No win situation
61. Instruct
63. Monetary unit of Western Samoa
64. Square measures
65. Correspond
66. Controls size of aperture of the lens
67. Body language
68. Amphibians
69. Toffs
70. Jells

33. Any place of pain and turmoil
34. Frog genus
35. Asian country
37. Tooth caregiver
38. Worldly rather than spiritual
41. Similar to the giraffe but smaller
42. Dammar pine
47. Hoards
49. A space set back or indented
51. Coal tar product
52. Spanish River
54. Mounts
55. Sloping mass of rocks at the base of a cliff
56. Choose
57. Tables
58. Linear unit
59. Frosted
60. Latch a window
61. To create from raw material
62. Consciousness of your identity

Answers on Page 21-A

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## COUNTRY GOSPEL MUSIC AT WILD GAME DINNER

It's time once again for the annual FISH & WILD GAME DINNER at LAKE FORK BAPTIST CHURCH. It will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2018, 6:00-8:00pm in the Family Life Center at 9483 W. FM 515, Alba, TX.

This year the guest speaker will be ROGER HOOTEN from Emory, Texas. Roger has hunted for trophy class wild game around the world. He will entertain us with stories of his outdoor adventures and misadventures. And he will inspire us with the spiritual lessons he has learned from hunting and life in general.

Country gospel mu-

sic will be provided by the Cross Country Cowboy Church Band. These guys will make it a fun evening you don't want to miss.

Door prizes will include a certificate for a rifle or shotgun, guided fishing trips, rod & reel combos, cash, and numerous other merchandise and gift certificates from local merchants. Approximately 20 local fishing guides have donated fishing trips this year. You must be present to win.

The menu typically includes dishes made from venison, elk, wild hog, fish, ducks, pheasants, and anything else that is donated and edible.

Tickets are \$10 per person and may be obtained at the church office. Capacity is 400 and the event is always a sell out, so get your tickets NOW. You will have a fun evening that could change your life.

If you would like to purchase or reserve tickets or donate some fish or game, please contact the church office at 903-473-9523. (For more info contact Ted Warren, 903-850-7084.)

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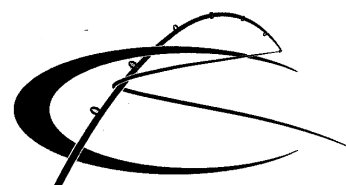


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## "The Moon Report" March Migration

By Terri Moon

Wow – I blinked and it's March! It's been a whirlwind! But, I'm excited to get this spring fishing started! This crazy weather has limited my trips lately so I'm hoping for clear skies and most of all hoping they'll close the flood gates soon!!!

Also I can't wait to hear the words – "Bobber Down!" – but in the meantime our first trips in the new Skeeter Solera ended up being a "Slugfest" for black and white bass! It's amazing what a 5 ft. Shimano Ultralite can do! It definitely was an exciting way to break in the new boat! Now I know why Skeeter calls it a "multi species" boat. It's just perfect for whatever you're fishing for! Plus they've even kicked it up a notch with all the extra amenities that make it a FUN and comfortable day! Now I'm just waiting for it to stop raining so I can get out and enjoy it some more!

The depths we're targeting are 12 to 24 ft. The bass are starting to move up so the crappie shouldn't be far behind. Water temperatures this week were anywhere from 46 to 54 degrees. The run-off from all the rain has cooled off the backs of the coves. Also with the higher lake levels, it should be a successful spawn. They'll have lots of new places to hide! Along with rising lake levels – a word of caution: Please be mindful of floating debris – (It doesn't hurt to carry some extra rope on board in case you need to tie a floater off to something in hopes of keeping someone else from hitting it.)

If you're new to Lake Fork, it might not hurt to get Lance Vick's boat lane



chip. You can get it for either Lowrance or Humminbird at Lake Fork Marina. Just because you don't see any trees doesn't mean they are not there! You can't be TOO CAREFUL on Lake Fork.

Keep an eye on that depthfinder – watch for schools of shad and target the depth of the most activity. I'm also loving the Lowrance Carbon Unit – what a picture! Thanks to Bryan Sartin for getting them enstalled for me and also thanks to Clyde McAfee for updating and setting up all my info. I truly appreciate your time!

As far as baits we're using right now, it's been a mixture of Lake Fork Tackle, Bonehead or Bubba Baits in white/chartreuse, black/chartreuse or red/chartreuse, 1/16 oz.! Don't forget to grab a jar of Berkley crappie nibbles. I heard a rumor they've come out with a new color – electric blue. I'm looking forward to trying them!

I do want to give a shout out to Lake Fork Marina for welcoming "Sweet Buddy" they named "the camp dog" to the marina family. Buddy has been a joy to everyone he meets. He needed love and a place to call home. Buddy has now survived a very serious surgery due to someone shooting him

during the holidays. It's truly a "miracle" he made it through this. Thanks to all the prayers and financial help from all the "Buddy" fans and friends he's made. He is "feeling the love" and your help toward Buddy's continued care is so much appreciated. Looks like he is doing well enough that the vet at Quitman Animal Clinic has scheduled Buddy to be neutered March 20th – poor guy. I hate it that he has to have more surgery but they feel it would be best for him and we know they love him as much as we do! We all want the best for Buddy! I'll try to keep you all updated with his progress on my face book page. I love the Buddy sightings – he's living the life! (Thanks again Scuba Steve for giving him a SAFE place to go and a warm bed!) Once again, thanks Lake Fork Marina for having a collection jar for anyone who wants to contribute to Buddy's care!

Looking forward to Bass Champs returning March 17th for the Mega Bass Tournament – don't miss the excitement. You might even get to see famous Buddy!

My best to you all and many blessings!



## Birds of Prey Come to Lake Livingston State Park

Lake Livingston State Park has partnered with EarthQuest to offer a one-of-a-kind Birds of Prey program March 24. An experienced falconer will give two presentations on these magnificent and amazing birds throughout the day. During each presentation, the falconer will showcase several different birds of prey and the adaptations that enable these birds to be masters of the sky. The birds may even take to the sky to show off their skills of flight and dem-

onstrate how they spot and catch their prey.

The first presentation begins at 10 a.m. and second will be at 2 p.m. Falconers and rangers will be on hand for photos, to answer questions and share information on the birds. EarthQuest is providing the park visitors this experience at no cost to the park and will be accepting donations to further their mission of education, and to provide for the rescue and care of birds of prey.

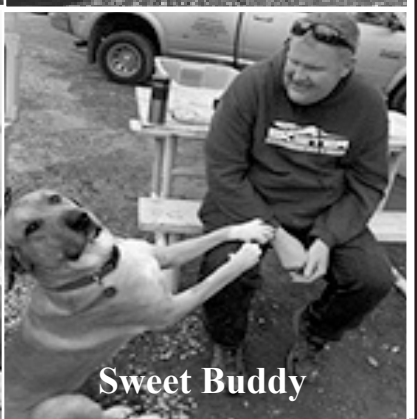
EarthQuest is a nonprofit environmental education organization, dedicated to the education of the public as to their impact on the natural world.

Regular park entrance fees of \$5 per adult will apply for admission into the park. Children 12 and under are always free.

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Sweet Buddy

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# Fisheries Staff Predict Prime White Bass Run in 2018

For Texas anglers and fisheries biologists alike, heavy rainfall early in the year signals the beginning of a very exciting event - the annual white bass spring spawning run upstream from reservoirs into rivers and creeks. With ample moisture currently falling across the state, anglers could see schools of the popular sport fish

concentrating in their local fishing holes very soon.

"We know anglers have been catching some male white bass since the beginning of February, but the spawn was delayed this year because the temperature and the water flows weren't ideal," said Richard Ott, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries District Supervi-

sor for Tyler South. "What we've been waiting for is a good warm Gulf rain to come up here and entice female white bass to make their way up stream. The rain we had recently is going to turn things on for sure."

White bass, also known as sand bass, are one of the top freshwater species preferred by Texas anglers both for sport fishing and for the dinner table. With recent rainfall boding well for white bass abundance across the state this spring, anglers should make plans to target this species in rivers and creeks above most reservoirs from now until early May. While most riverside property is privately owned, public access to high-quality white bass runs can be found at many Texas State Parks, Texas Paddling Trails, leased River Access and Conservation Area (RACA) sites and highway and bridge crossings. Here are a few locations to get started: Colorado River: Above Lake Buchanan, anglers can fish for white bass without a fishing license at Colorado Bend State Park. The park offers an unimproved boat ramp, bank access and wade fishing. San Gabriel River: Upstream of Granger Lake, anglers can find white bass fishing at a public access point called Dickerson's Bottom, a.k.a. "The Steps." This location can be found three-quarters of a mile east of SH 95 on County Road 347. Neches River: Above Lake Palestine, anglers can find public access at Chandler River Park. This RACA site - also supported by the East Texas Woods and Waters Foundation - offers nearly 6,000 feet of river frontage for bank fishing and includes a boat ramp and kayak launch. Sabine River: Above Toledo Bend Reservoir, anglers can find public access for white bass fishing at the Grand Bluff Boat Ramp, which offers 275 feet of river frontage and a single trailer boat ramp. This River Access and Conservation Area (RACA) site offers public fishing access through Aug. 31. Frio River: Above Choke Canyon Reservoir, public access points for white bass fishing can be found at county road and highway crossings, including the Highway 99 bridge. White bass action and public access points can also be found on the Guadalupe River above Canyon Lake; the San Gabriel River above Lake Georgetown; the Navasota River above Lake Limestone; the Llano and Colorado Rivers above Lake Lyndon B. Johnson; Yegua Creek above Lake Somerville; the Colorado and Peder-nales rivers above Lake Travis; the Bosque River above Lake Waco; and the Brazos River above Lake Whitney. Directions to public access sites at these waterbodies can be found online here: [https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd\\_br\\_t3200\\_0022e.pdf](https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_br_t3200_0022e.pdf).

A variety of artificial lures will work for anglers targeting white bass, and fisheries biologists recommend small jig fishing; small, medium-running crank baits, and even night fishing using lights. Anglers should pack a cooler if the fish are biting, as the limit for white bass is 25 per day with a 10-inch minimum length in most locations. More information on bag limits and fishing regulations can be found in the TPWD Outdoor Annual. For more information about white bass identification, fishing patterns and life history and biology, visit TPWD online.



## 5th Annual Crappiefest Tournament



2018

**Saturday, March 31, 2018**  
**Lake Fork**

Tournament Hours—7:00 AM—1:00 PM

Must be in Weigh-In line by 2:00 PM @ Lake Fork Trophy Lures, Emory, Texas

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\$7,500 "Norton Metals Monster Crappie" Bonus for 3 pound Crappie (if more than one 3 lb. crappie is caught the bonus money will be split)

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1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 1.75 and 2.00 lbs.

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**Are encouraged to participate (NO entry fee, Prizes only)**

There are five ways to register:

- At a C.A.T. monthly meeting prior to the date of the tournament
- Mail in completed Entry Form
- At LAKE FORK TROPHY LURES on March 30, 2018 between 5pm and 6pm and on the day of the tournament between 6am—7am
- ONLINE AT [www.crappieanglersoftexas.com](http://www.crappieanglersoftexas.com)



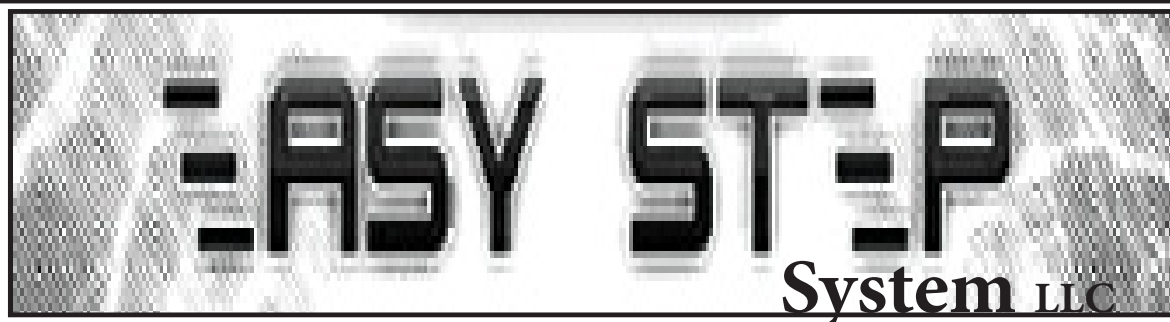
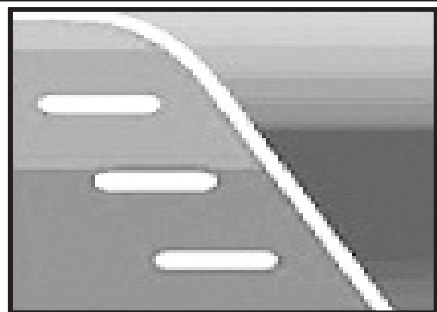
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*Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. ~ Matthew 4:19 ~*



## "Knowing What To Look For!"

Hello my fellow fishermen. Spring is in the air for sure and I don't know about you but I'm extra excited about this one! Spring 2018 will be the most productive fishing season Lake Fork has had in several years. The Lake is full pool prior to the very first spawn and also full of young 2,3 & 4 lb. fish from the last few successful spring seasons. I expect we will see more numbers of fish caught consistently this year as well as a higher percentage of giant double digit bass. In the next few weeks the shallows will fill up with males and cruising females looking for a place to spawn. First understand that the males

begin to scatter out and tend to stay in those areas once they get there. The females will cruise in and out visiting the spawning areas until their eggs are ready. During this cruising time the female is inspecting the area and choosing which male or males she will spawn with. Females can and do spread their eggs in more than one nest. Nature's way of survival and evolution. This time of year I first search for males in the spawning flats by throwing moving reaction baits like square bills and chatterbaits and always a wacky rigged trick worm. Once I find an area holding a good amount of healthy males I begin the

search for the females. At this point I can be sure that they are not very far away, usually the first deep water feature. Secondary points, creek breaks, trees and stumps. This is where your Navionics chip with contour break down detail comes in handy. By using your mapping screen you can get an idea where the closest deep water is to the area you have found and expedite your search. I find that by using side scan and mapping detail I can pin point very quickly the location of what we call the females final staging area. Once I believe I have found this location I can now obviously fish more specific for the bigger females. Remember she is coming and going so just like hunting a big buck patience is a virtue.

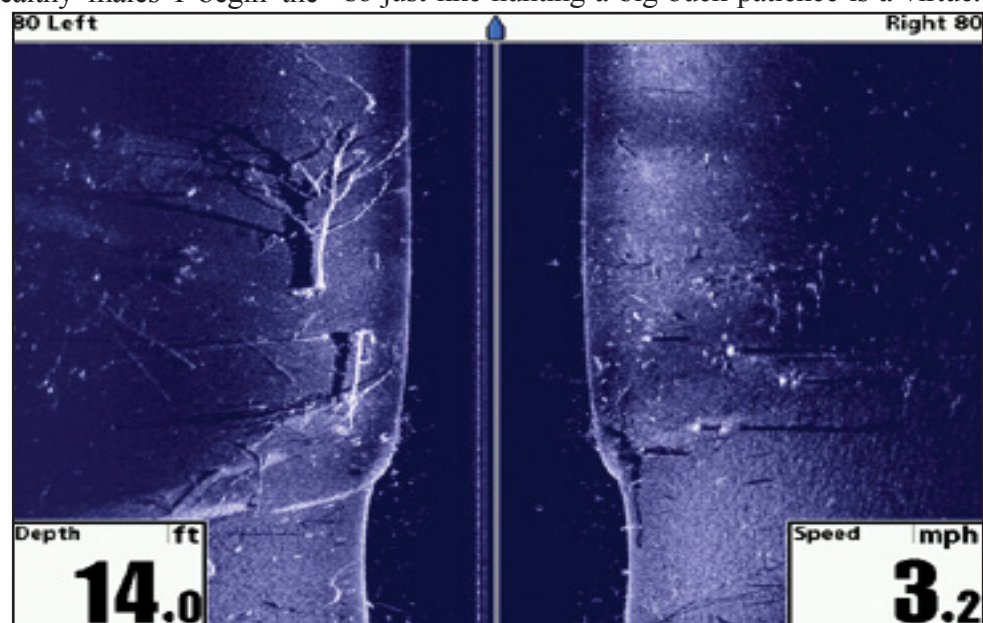


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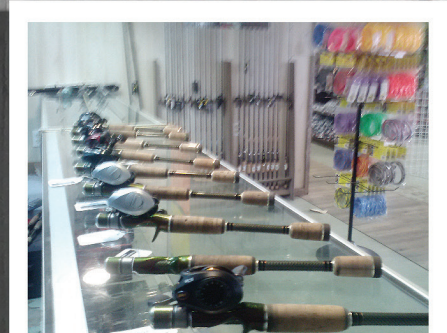
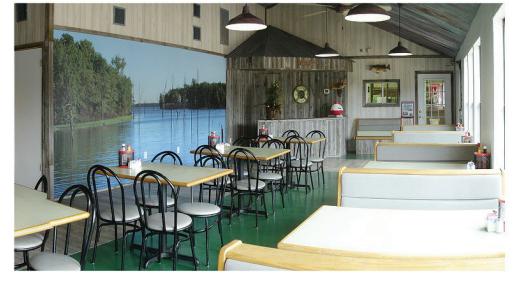
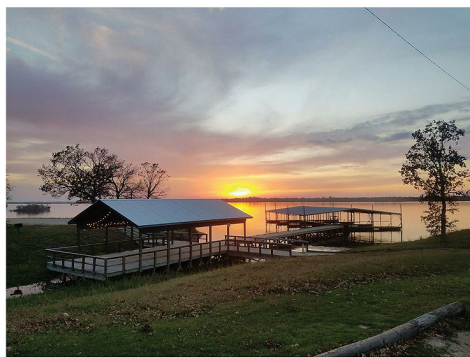
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# TPWD Releases Freshwater Fishing Regulation Proposals for 2018-19

Simplifying largemouth bass regulations at 12 public lakes highlight this year's list of proposed freshwater fishing regulation changes.

The potential changes are intended to increase recreational opportunity, make regulations less complex, promote enforcement, and provide for the sound biological management of fisheries resources. Twelve of the 20 lakes affected by the potential changes would revert to the statewide 14-inch minimum

length limit, which governs nearly 80 percent of water bodies in the state. The other eight lakes would see changes to more appropriate special regulations.

TPWD will be taking public comment on the following proposed changes to the 2018-19 Statewide Recreational Fishing Proclamation, with input to be considered before any action by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at its March 22 public hearing:

--Change from 16-inch minimum length limit to a 14-inch minimum length limit. Daily bag would remain at five fish at Lake Granbury (Hood County), Possum Kingdom Reservoir (Palo Pinto County) and Lake Ratcliff (Houston County).  
 --Change from 18-inch minimum length limit to a 14-inch minimum length limit. Daily bag would remain at five fish at Lake Bryan (Brazos County), Cooper Lake (Delta County) and Old Mount Pleasant City Lake (Titus County).  
 --Change from 14- to 18-inch slot length limit to a 14-inch minimum length limit. Daily bag would remain at five fish at Lake Bridgeport (Jack and Wise County), Burke-Crenshaw Lake (Harris County), Lake Georgetown (Williamson County), Lake Madisonville (Madison County), San Augustine City Lake (San Augustine County) and Sweetwater Reservoir (Nolan County).  
 --Change from 14- to 18-inch slot length limit and five fish daily bag limit to no minimum length limit and a bag limit of five fish (only two may be less than 18 inches) at Grapevine Lake (Tarrant County).  
 --Change from 14- to 24-inch slot length limit to a 16- to 24-inch slot length limit. Daily bag would remain at five fish (limit of only one bass 24 inches or larger) at Fayette County Reservoir (Fayette County), Gibbons Creek Reservoir (Grimes County) and Lake Monticello (Titus County).  
 --Change from catch and release with an exception allowing for possession and weighing of bass 24 inches or greater for possible submission to the Toyota ShareLunker program to a 16-inch maximum length limit and five fish daily bag with the Toyota ShareLunker weighing and possession exception for bass 24 inches or greater at Purvis Creek State Park Lake (Henderson County) and Lake Raven (Walker County).  
 --Change from an 18-inch minimum length limit and five fish daily bag for largemouth bass to a 16-inch maximum length limit and five fish daily bag with an exception allowing for possession and weighing of bass 24 inches or greater for possible submission to the Toyota ShareLunker program at Lake Bellwood (Smith County).  
 --Change from 14- to 18-inch slot length limit and fish daily bag limit for largemouth bass to a 16-inch maximum length limit and five fish daily bag with an exception allowing for possession and weighing of bass 24 inches or greater for possible submission to the Toyota ShareLunker program at Davy Crockett Lake (Fannin County).  
 Additional details on these proposals including a narrated presentation on the proposals and the opportunity to provide online comments can be found here.  
 Comments on the proposals for freshwater fishing also 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. Complete text of the proposed changes can be found in the Texas Register.

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A live online public hearing via webinar will also be held at 12 p.m. March 6. Details and instructions for participation in the online public hearing webinar will be made available on the TPWD website.



## Spring Break Reservations Filling Fast at Texas State Parks

With spring break less than a month away, Texans are finalizing their travel plans for the weeklong vacation from routine. Texas State Parks campsite reservations are filling fast, but many hidden gems still have sites available.

Well-known favorites such as Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, Garner State Park, and Inks Lake State Park are almost completely booked for the week of spring break.

With capacities at parks leading to gate closures, visitors are encouraged to venture to alternative sites near their favorite Texas State Parks. Many state parks around Texas still have multiple sites available over spring

break including campsites, screened shelters, limited-use cabins and full-service cabins.

Anyone planning to visit popular parks should expect lines to enter, and possibly even park closures. Updates to the status of the parks and park closures can be found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's park pages or on park social media pages.

On the coast, two parks still have campsites available for spring break adventures.

Goose Island State Park in Rockport has wooded sites available for reservation during spring break. Visitors will be able to launch their boat from the ramp and fish the bay, go birding from

a bird viewing platform, picnic and visit the centuries-old Big Tree that survived Hurricane Harvey generally unscathed.

About 30 minutes south of Port Arthur, Sea Rim State Park has 5.2 miles of Gulf shoreline and 4,000 acres of marshlands for families to enjoy. Sea Rim offers visitors a chance to swim, kayak and fish. Kayaks are available at the park for rental. Families can stroll along the Gambusia Nature Trail during their stay. This boardwalk trail leads through the marshes giving visitors a chance to see native wildlife.

Three parks within two hours of the DFW Metroplex have campsites still open for spring break.

Located about 20 minutes from central Dallas, Cedar Hill State Park has primitive or developed sites available for reservation during spring break. The park offers several trails for visitors to hike and bike. Families can also try geocach-

ing and nature watching. Along the shores of the 7,500-acre Joe Pool Lake, families can fish for largemouth black bass, crappie and catfish from one of two lighted fishing jetties.

Eisenhower State Park, situated about an hour away from Dal-

las, has sites still available the week of spring break for families to enjoy the shores of Lake Texoma. Bring a rod and reel, or borrow one from the park, and fish for striped bass, crappie and cat-

(See Spring Break....  
Continued on Page 21-A)



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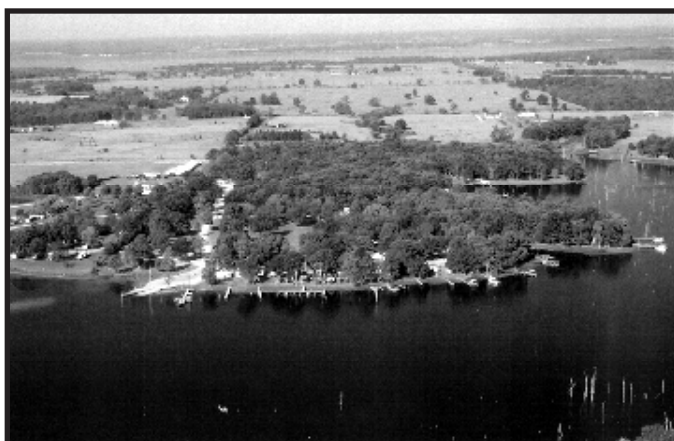
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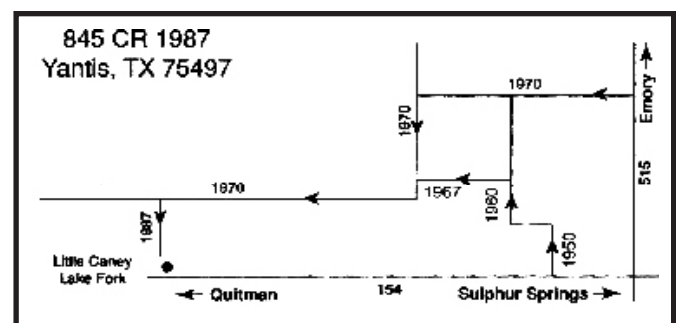
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## Texas Game Wardens Add Search and Rescue Drone to Arsenal

Texas game wardens are adding a new set of eyes in the sky -- an Unmanned Aircraft System or UAS -- they say will enhance their ability to quickly and safely survey hard to access areas during natural disasters and search and rescue operations.

The new drone, a DJI Inspire 2, was donated through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation's Gear Up for Game Wardens program, which has generated over \$100,000 in private donations thus far to fund purchases of specialized equipment for state game wardens. "It will definitely be deployed during disaster events and search operations," said Game Warden Pilot Lt. Brandon Rose. "We're limited from using our helicopter and airplane if weather is bad. With this drone we may be able to search for missing persons in situations where we can't use the manned aircraft. During those down times, this craft could be the difference maker in getting help and saving lives."

The new game warden UAS can attain a maximum speed of 58 mph and can go from 0 to 50 in 5 seconds with a range of about 4 miles. The unit's camera payload allows for real-time broadcast, which provides the same live HD video feed to a large HD TV screen or monitor.

This feature can give rescuers and command staff a live view enabling them to make immediate and appropriate decisions that save lives.

The craft has a distinctive custom paint job and vinyl wrap similar to that on the Texas game warden helicopter, and is easily identifiable by markings on the unit's arms that read: "Game Warden Search and Rescue."

"This much-anticipated piece of equipment comes in the wake of the Wimberly floods, and after wardens affected 12,000 rescues and evacuations during Hurricane Harvey," offered Waco-based Game Warden Capt. Jason Campbell. "Many of the rescues in both of these events were highly technical and presented an above average danger to the victims and wardens involved. The UAS will equip our warden first responders with the ability to identify dangers such as swift water, downed powerlines, and hazardous materials. Identifying these threats allows for greater safety of victims as well as wardens."

Campbell went on to add, "The UAS will enhance our ability to quickly locate and guide rescuers to victim locations, and we also see the potential of the UAS as a training tool, as well as helping with reconstructing boat accident scenes."

The UAS will be based out of Texas Game War-

den Region 7 in Temple, but available for deployment statewide. Wardens are hoping to obtain additional unmanned aircraft in the future armed with thermal imaging systems for deployment throughout their eight law enforcement regions.

Visit the Gear Up for Game Wardens website to find out more about the specialty equipment needs of all eight law enforcement regions across Texas and the statewide Special Operations Unit. Working closely with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's law enforcement team, the Foundation has compiled a list of the most pressing equipment needs, which are detailed on the website. Supporters can provide funds for the priority needs, make a general donation, or learn more about the program.

If you have news or photos on Lake Fork Contact Us!

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# Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork February Tournament

By Kenny LaDuke

Lake Bob Sandlin was the site of the Texas Trails Bassmasters 4th tournament of the 2018 season.

This time of year in Texas you don't know what the weather is going to do from minute to minute. Starting the morning with balmy foggy weather that quickly changed in a few hours to a strong cold front from the north, made the big



Leon Davis won the 7-pound over pot with a hawg weighing 9.43-lbs. and 1st Place with a total stringer weight of 22.77-lbs.



Chris Large won 2nd Place with a 5 fish stringer weighing 13.60-lbs.



Don Hampton tied for 3rd Place with Chris Lam both having 10.71-lbs. Don won Tournament Big Bass with this 7.04-lb.

girls want to eat with one at 7.04 lbs. and one at 9.43 lbs. brought to the weigh-in. Water temperature was hovering around 48 to 50 degrees Leon Davis sacked them up with an impressive 5 fish limit that weighed 22.77 lbs. for 1st place. Chris Large brought a 5 fish limit for 2nd place with 13.60 lbs. Chris Lam and Don Hampton brought in fish weighing 10.71 lbs. for a 3rd place tie. Don Hampton won Big Bass Pot of the tournament with his 7.04-pound bass. Leon Davis had the biggest bass winning the 7-pound over pot for the day weighing 9.43 lbs.

Texas Trails Bassmasters is a club around Lake Fork, Texas and they fish surrounding lakes with

one tournament a month (mostly on Sat.) and a two day club championship. If you are an angler that is looking for a great group of fellow outdoorsmen then please feel free to contact me, Kenny LaDuke at 972-400-1052, or Don Hampton at 903-360-6994 and join our club. We have had several new members join this year and you could be part of the fun.

Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork will be hosting their 38th Semi-Annual Open Bass Tournament on March 10th out of Oak Ridge Marina. That would be a great time to come fish, meet the members and maybe even join the club. See the advertisement below for fishing times, entry times and rules. Hope to see you there.

## Texas Trails Bassmasters of Lake Fork


### 38th Semi-Annual Open Tournament

### March 10, 2018 \* Lake Fork, Texas


### Oak Ridge Marina \* 2919 W. St. Hwy. 154

**Guaranteed Pay-Out Based on 100 Entries**


**Drawings will be held after weigh-in for door prizes** **903-878-2529**




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**80% Payback**



**100% Payback**



<p><b>1st Place \$1,040.00</b></p> <p><b>2nd Place \$780.00</b></p> <p><b>3rd Place \$520.00</b></p> <p><b>4th Place \$260.00</b></p> <p><b>5th thru 10th Place \$100.00</b></p>	<p><b>There will be a big bass pot ~ \$10 per person entry</b></p> <p><b>Big Bass will pay Three (3) places. (Based on 100 entries)</b></p> <p><b>1st Place \$500.00</b></p> <p><b>2nd Place \$300.00</b></p> <p><b>3rd Place \$200.00</b></p>	
--	--	--

1. Entry fee is \$40.00 - late entry is \$45.00.
2. Early entries must be postmarked by Mar. 3, 2018.
3. All entry fees must be paid before 6 a.m. Saturday, Mar. 10, 2018.
4. Check in time: Friday, Mar. 9, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Mar. 10, 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 (or 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 iced 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 fished 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.texastrailsbassmasters.com](http://www.texastrailsbassmasters.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. 3, 2018 to Texas Trails Bassmasters, 538 PR 5861, Yantis, TX 75497, or you may pay \$45 at tournament headquarters before starting time of tournament. \$10 extra for Big Bass (optional). Print clearly.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Minor's release: Signed by \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian

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Entry # \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_



## 'Pack of Knowledge' "Rising Water Tactics"

By Andrew Grills

Recently, our east Texas lakes have received some significant rainfall amounts. Most of the lakes in our area are at full pool, or very close to it. That means there is an abundant supply of flooded vegetation for the bass to hang out in.

While this scenario sounds good, it can be a challenge to figure out the fish after an abrupt change in water level. The fish often spread out, sometimes into the furthest reaches of the thick cover. Another challenge is the muddy runoff that comes with the

heavy rains. Here are some tips that have helped me narrow things down when the lake gets bigger.

The first thing I try to figure out is the location of the bass. A great place to look is in an area that was holding prespawn fish prior to the change in water level. These fish are more apt to actively feed and take advantage of the added cover. I pick creeks where I had been catching them, and look shallower from there.

Once I am confident that I am around the fish, I like to be prepared for a few techniques. Before the water gets way back into flooded grass or bushes, a moving bait like a spinner bait is a great tool to get a reaction from fish in stained water. If the water rises gradually and is fairly clear, a swim jig is a good bet. Covering water efficiently is critical with rising water conditions because you have the same amount of fish in more water.

If the water level has reached deep into the flooded cover where it is too thick for moving baits, its time to pull out the flipping stick. Pitching and flipping heavy cover is a favorite technique of many anglers and this is the perfect time to do it. I like to take a pegged Texas rigged plastic and pitch it into the thickest stuff I can find. Using the appropriate weight for the cover you're fishing is important, and that will vary. A good sized weight to start with is a 3/8oz., but you will have to determine what size is necessary for the cover you're fishing.

When flipping vegetation, I like to fish slow but fast. By that I mean I will make a lot of pitches in a short amount of time, but when my bait is in the water I'm barely moving it. This is a vertical presentation, so once my bait is on the bottom, I'm not dragging it back through the slop. A couple of twitches is sufficient. The goal is to drop the bait in front of a fish and get a reaction bite.

The best thing about high water in the spring is that it provides a great source of cover and protection for spawning fish and their fry. With so much flooded cover in our lakes this spring, we should reap the benefits of it over the next few years here in east Texas.

As always, feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance on your upcoming trip!





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# "Who's Who Review" Lake Fork Captain Jack's

By Don Hampton

Dru and Deb Davis are two individuals that have definitely followed their dream. Their dream was to live and have a restaurant on Lake Fork. They had visited Lake Fork for the past thirty years having family in Quitman and had come to love the area and the lake, with both being avid fishermen.

Having relocated here from Iowa where they ran a successful restaurant for

twenty five years they decided it was time to make their dream come true.

They will be opening their restaurant "Lake Fork Captain Jack's" in mid March. The restaurant is named in honor of Dru's father that passed away ten years ago. He loved fishing and the lakes. His favorite saying was, "Every person is the captain of their own ship!" This saying also includes following your dream.

Lake Fork Captain

Jack's will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 6 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Mornings they will be serving a full breakfast menu. For lunch they will be serving daily lunch specials and also will have a full menu. A couple of the specialties to look forward to among the many, is Deb's breaded or grilled pork tenderloin and my favorite of all time an open faced hot roast beef sandwich with mashed potatoes. If you are heading out on the lake or to work, call in orders to go are more than welcome. The dessert menu will include fresh homemade pies.

Captain Jack's will be a 'Mom and Pop' friendly, family ran establishment.

They are located where formerly EB's BBQ was on the corner of North FM 17 and County Road 1550. They have spared no expense in the remodeling and décor of the restaurant to make all customers fill most

comfortable while enjoying their dining pleasure.

They will be opening their doors to welcome

all customers in mid March. Watch for their opening date and treat yourself to some culinary

delight and welcome Dru, Deb and the family to Lake Fork. This is their dream come true.



Dru and Deb Davis are the owners and operators of Lake Fork Captain Jack's Restaurant and are very excited to be a part of Lake Fork.



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## March on Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

ter to locate the "always elusive" slouch's. Like I said before, cold fronts can be a game changer when pursuing trophy bass so pay close attention to the areas that you are fishing. Fish will pull back during these conditions and you will need to back out and target wood in the 6-14ft range to collect your trophy prize. A black/blue jig will gain the starring role and be sure to stay in contact with the jig to feel the bite. Big bass will often bite very softly so you will need to control the slack line to feel the jig as it scours the bottom.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in March 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 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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## Spring Break Reservations *(Continued from Page 15-A)*

fish from the lake. With more than 4 miles of trails, park goers can find places to swim, boulder, geocache and picnic along the shoreline. Wildflowers may be in bloom, as well.

Just south of the DFW Metroplex on IH-45, Fort Boggy State Park has sites available for reservation. Located just off the highway halfway between Dallas and Houston, Fort Boggy offers visitors hiking and mountain biking along park trails. The park's 15-acre lake is open to visitors to swim, fish and paddle. Fort Boggy has rods and reels available to borrow for anyone who wants to try fishing.

Several parks around San Antonio still have openings for spring break.

In Bandera, an hour and a half from downtown San Antonio, Hill Country State Natural Area offers visitors a chance to have a spring break closer to nature. As a state natural area, the site is less developed than a park, allowing for a unique vacation experience. With sites still available, Hill Country SNA has about 40 miles of multiuse trails for hikers, equestrians, backpackers and mountain bikers to explore.

Just north of Garner, Lost Maples State Natural Area has sites still available for spring break adventuring. With plenty to offer to the whole family, visitors can hike through the unique Uvalde bigtooth maples, view native wildlife, hunt

for geocaches hidden throughout the park, and stargaze. Sink a line in the Sabinal River or Can Creek and try to catch some fish during spring break.

Other parks around the state with openings for spring break include Big Bend Ranch State Park, Falcon State Park, Lake Casa Blanca International State

Park, Lake Colorado City State Park and San Angelo State Park, just to name a few.

To reserve a spring break adventure in a Texas State Park, make an online reservation on the TPWD reservation page or reserve by phone by calling 512-389-8900.

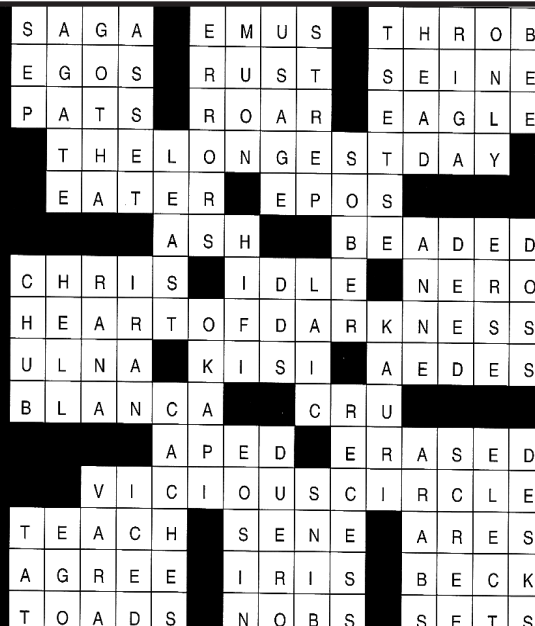
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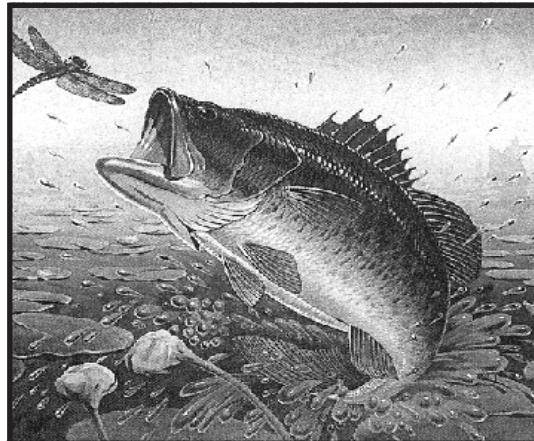
Find the former U.S. presidents hidden throughout the puzzle below. See how many you can find and circle.

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CLEVELAND  
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EISENHOWER  
FILLMORE

GARFIELD  
HAMILTON  
HARDING  
HARRISON  
HAYES  
JACKSON

JEFFERSON  
McKINLEY  
ROOSEVELT  
VAN BUREN  
WASHINGTON

H	A	R	D	I	N	G	D	T	T	J	T
A	R	O	O	S	E	V	E	L	T	E	S
Y	I	C	O	O	L	I	D	G	E	F	C
E	I	S	E	N	H	O	W	E	R	F	L
S	V	G	A	R	F	I	E	L	D	E	E
W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N	R	V
A	N	J	A	C	K	S	O	N	N	S	E
R	B	M	C	K	I	N	L	E	Y	O	L
T	U	H	A	R	R	I	S	O	N	N	A
H	R	R	A	B	U	C	H	A	N	A	N
U	E	T	F	I	L	L	M	O	R	E	D
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## Invasive Giant Salvinia Found at Lake Athens

(Continued from Page 4-A)

related issues for many years at Lake Athens."

Giant salvinia has been present in Texas for nearly 20 years. Giant salvinia was first discovered on Toledo Bend in 1998 and has since spread throughout East Texas. In addition to current infestations at Toledo Bend, Sam Rayburn and Caddo Lake, the invasive plant has been newly introduced or reintroduced at six Texas lakes since 2017: Lake Murvaul, Lake Palestine, Martin Creek Lake, Lake Fork, Lake Nacogdoches and now Lake Athens.

All boaters, anglers, duck hunters and lake-front property owners should learn to identify giant salvinia as well as other invasive species

that occur in Texas waters. Most importantly, boaters should remember to clean their boats and trailers before leaving the boat ramp. Transporting giant salvinia, along with other invasive species, is prohibited by law and punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per violation. Controlling aquatic invasive species to maintain recreational access to Texas' vast aquatic natural resources and to protect quality fish and wildlife habitat is costly. TPWD's efforts to stop giant salvinia at Lake Athens and many other Texas lakes wouldn't be possible without directed funding support from the Texas Legislature, which approved \$6.3 million to address

statewide management of aquatic invasive species in 2018-2019. This investment expands TPWD's ability to apply known control methods, fund research into new solutions, and support outreach and prevention in the state.

Anyone who spots this invasive plant should report additional infestations outside of the affected areas by calling (409) 698-9121 or emailing [aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov).

For more information on proper cleaning protocols for boats and equipment, and to learn more about giant salvinia and other invasive species, visit [tpwd.texas.gov/giantsalvinia](http://tpwd.texas.gov/giantsalvinia).

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## Invasive Giant Salvinia Found at Lake Nacogdoches

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) inland fisheries staff found a total of 30 acres of invasive giant salvinia in multiple locations at Lake Nacogdoches Feb. 5.

Within days of the discovery of a half-acre of giant salvinia at the Yellow Bank Creek cove, the TPWD Brookeland aquatic habitat enhancement team (AHE) deployed to the reservoir and found a larger infestation where Little Bayou Loco enters the reservoir. Those areas will be treated with a combination of giant salvinia weevils and careful application of contact herbicide on larger mats of the invasive plant.

"We will use weevils

in the areas where the giant salvinia is being contained by other vegetation and only treat mats of salvinia when they form," said Brookeland AHE team lead John Findeisen. "The containment vegetation - mainly consisting of cutgrass and torpedo grass - is crucial to the success of managing the giant salvinia at Lake Nacogdoches."

Findeisen said herbicidal treatment on the areas where giant salvinia is being contained by other vegetation can exacerbate the problem. The containment vegetation, which prevents the invasive plant from rapidly spreading throughout the lake, can also block the herbicide from landing on its in-

tended target. Eliminating the containment vegetation can also negatively impact fish and wildlife by removing available natural habitat. In these cases, giant salvinia weevils are the only option.

It's likely the giant salvinia traveled to Lake Nacogdoches by way of a visiting watercraft in the summer of 2017, Findeisen added. Similar to the most recent infestation at Lake Fork, staff believe there is enough giant salvinia scattered throughout the lake that eradication would be almost impossible at this point. "We will be treating the larger mats of giant salvinia to manage the infestation the best we can," Findeisen said.

"But we still need boaters, anglers and duck hunters to do their part and be diligent about cleaning, draining and drying their equipment when traveling from lake to lake - especially in East Texas where invasive species like giant salvinia thrive."



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\*\$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 36 months on purchases of select new Kubota Z100 Commander Series equipment from participating dealers. In-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A., subject to credit approval. Some exceptions apply. Example: 36 monthly payments of \$27.78 per \$1,000 financed. Offer expires 3/31/18. See us or go to KubotaUSA.com for more information. Optional equipment may be shown.



**Free Pick Up & Delivery On Scheduled  
Service In The Lake Fork Area**

**ARMADILLO  
ROD & REEL REPAIR**

REASONABLE RATES  
QUALITY SERVICE

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY  
DROP OFF & PICK UP  
REPAIR WORK AT  
LAKE FORK  
MARINA

COME IN & CHECK OUR LOW PRICES!  
I WILL BE TAKING SOLDIERS  
FISHING! ANY QUESTIONS CALL ME!  
903-850-7131

JOE ARMOLD

**(903) 850-7131**





10th Annual

# MEGA BASS

**\$20,000 CASH**  
**GUARANTEED - EVERY HOUR**

**12 Places per hour**  
**GUARANTEED**  
**regardless of entries**  
**EVERY HOUR**

1st place.....	\$15,000
2nd place.....	\$1,000
3rd place.....	\$900
4th place.....	\$800
5th place.....	\$700
6th place.....	\$500
7th place.....	\$350
8th place.....	\$300
9th place.....	\$250
10th place.....	\$200



**T-shirt bonus**  
**\$10.00**

11th ....\$150  
12th ....\$150

**Even Weight Bonus \$\$**  
2.50 lb - \$500 - 3.00 lb - \$500  
9.00 lb - \$500 - 10.00 lb - \$500  
first even weights weighed in

*Amateurs Only*

**Big Bass of the day**  
**WINS \$15,000 CASH**  
**and a SKEETER ZX 200**



**Lake Fork**  
**Saturday, March 17, 2018**

Lake Fork Marina

Entry Fee: \$160 per person  
(Includes \$10 cash/check discount)

Checks NOT accepted on site

**On site registration times:**

Fri. 3/16: 12-7 PM Sat. 3/17: 5 AM

**EARLY REGISTRAION DRAW PRIZES**

Entries received before March 10th are eligible to win prizes from: Chevron, Techron, Berkley, Abu Garcia Amphibia & More.

**For additional info. and rules go to [www.basschamps.com](http://www.basschamps.com) or call 817-439-3274**

Winners are responsible for taxes, titles, and license fees. Boat pictured may differ from actual prize.  
Over \$140,000 Cash, Skeeter boat & 15 places every hour are guaranteed regardless of entries.

**basschamps.com**