

LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital of Texas"



"The Fisherman's Guide, News You Can Use" "Lines To Get Hooked On"

2 Sections

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Free

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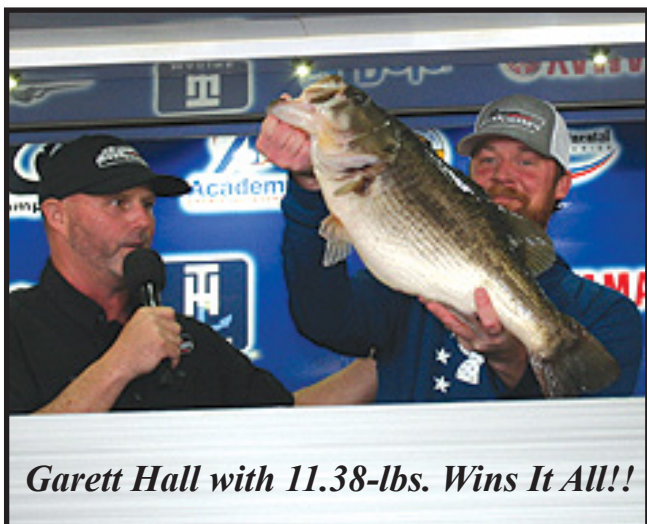
John LaBove from Longview, Texas caught this Lake Fork Legacy Class Bass weighing 15.48-lbs. on March 2nd fishing Lake Fork. It was caught on a Black/Blue Jig in 4' of water. His was Toyota ShareLunker #571.



Michael Terrebonne of Cut Off, Louisiana caught this 13-pound, 25-inch largemouth bass during an annual family trip to Lake Fork on March 8. His was a Legacy Class Bass and ShareLunker #572.



Alex Finch from North Richland Hills, Texas caught his Legacy Class Bass ShareLunker #573 weighing 13.06-pounds fishing Lake Fork on March 11. He was using a Finch Nasty Thumper Gizzard Shad he built. (See full Story on Page 3-A)



Garrett Hall with 11.38-lbs. Wins It All!!

Garrett Hall from Kilgore won the 10th Annual Mega Bass Tournament on Lake Fork presented by BassChamps with this beauty weighing 11.38-lbs. winning him \$15,000 in hourly pay and a 2018 Skeeter ZX 200 powered by Yamaha. (Fisherman's Guide News by Sue Hampton)



Owen Rowland with 11.34-lbs. Wins \$15,000 in Hourly!!

Owen Rowland from Bearden, Arkansas won \$15,000 in the 9 o'clock hour of the Mega Bass Tournament presented by BassChamps with this nice bass weighing 11.34-lbs. (Fisherman's Guide News by Sue Hampton)



Byran Toombs with 11.13-lbs. Wins \$15,000 in Hourly!!

Byran Toombs from Royse City, Texas won \$15,000 in the 2 o'clock hour of the Mega Bass Tournament presented by BassChamps with this nice bass weighing 11.13-lbs. (Fisherman's Guide News by Sue Hampton) See full Story on Page 4-A

Bubba Has Diagnosed Some Anglers With Having The "Bent Pole Virus"

By Don Hampton

Now, Bubba has been pretty hard on some anglers lately that think they own the fishing spots on the lake and asking about their mailboxes and such. If you are one of these anglers, don't expect an apology. He is more likely to just tell you to pull your panties up and quit being so sensitive. One thing he doesn't believe in is beating around the bush. He only beats around the bush when he is in the woods to scare the varmints and snakes away when he needs to squirt the dirt. When it comes to speaking his mind or voicing his opinion, there just isn't any gray area. This is because Bubba is what you might refer to as "Old School"! Heck most of the schools he went to have been torn down and new ones have been built.

Bubba believes fishing is to have fun and that everyone is on the lake to have fun and relax. Whether you are a guide, in a tournament, or fishing for the freezer, being on the lake trying to outwit the scaly critters is supposed to just be fun. Otherwise you are in the wrong place and with the wrong people. Just always keep in mind "Work is just something you have to do so you can go fishing!"

Some anglers have taken the "Mailbox" theory out of context though. Bubba claims these people are infected with the "Bent Pole Virus".

I really didn't know what this meant at first so I had to get Bubba to explain this one to me! When he explained it to me I thought "Shucks,

I know some of these infected 'Hookers'!"

Bubba simply stated, "Anglers infected with the Bent Pole Virus can be identified easily on the lake. When you catch a fish and your pole bends, just watch how fast you are surrounded and cut off. Sometimes I'm afraid to set the hook because I'm afraid I'll be surrounded like Davy Crockett at the Alamo! It is as if some anglers are playing 'Peek-a-boo, I see you.' Anglers with the 'Bent Pole Virus' are watching other anglers so they can jump in on them rather than watching their own electronics so they can improve their own fishing skills!"

Once I received a full understanding from Bubba on this wide spreading disease I just had to know if there was a cure for these hapless anglers. Bubba informed me the cure was in just two words, "Respect and Courtesy."

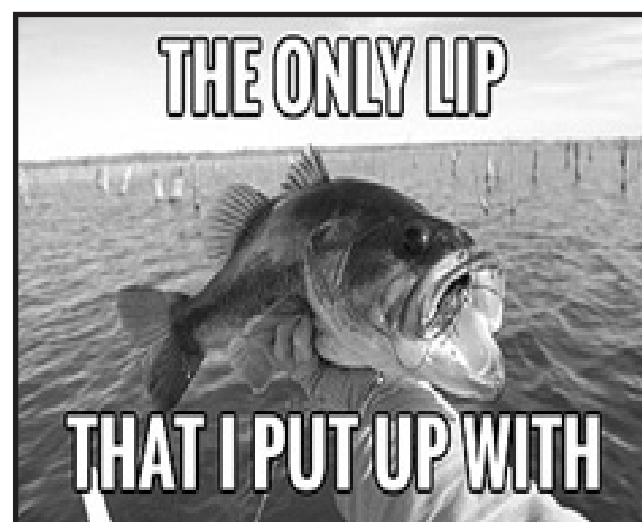
One thing I can say about Bubba is that in this case he is being very "Politically Correct." One of his best buds on the lake has another name for anglers with the 'Bent Pole Virus', he calls them 'Scavengers' because they feed off others. So, Bubba is really being nice in comparison!

In most tournaments there is a rule that states, "No fishing within 25 yards of another boat without permission." Truly this rule should read, "No fishing within 25 yards of another angler's cast." With new longer rods for swimbaits and jigs, most anglers can cast well over 25 yards. You wouldn't hunt that close to another hunter and a jig or a swimbait's velocity in a cast is

almost that of a bullet. Taking that into consideration, you anglers infected with the 'Bent Pole Virus' might wish to keep that in mind.

It is true that no one owns the public water. This applies to guides, homeowners with their docks and piers, tournament anglers, and freezer fishermen. If someone is sitting on your favorite spot or beat you to where you had plans to fish, find another spot until they move. Don't try to crowd them out or get on their fish! All of these lakes are large enough for everyone and the fish are not just in one place. Practice what Bubba said, "Respect and Courtesy."

If you do this, you will not have Bubba diagnose you with the 'Bent Pole Virus' or his buddy call you a 'Scavenger' or be dodging a 1-oz. jig coming at you like a speeding bullet!



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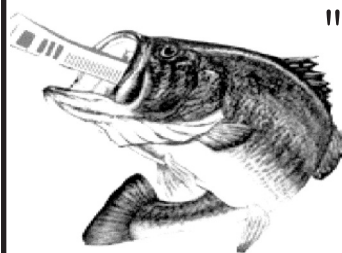
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Lake Fork Produces 3 ShareLunkers in 9 Days

By Don Hampton

It really surprises me when I hear anglers say Lake Fork is back. My question is "Where do you think it went?"

Lake Fork is known for 'Big Bass' and always will be. It isn't known as "The Big Bass Capital of Texas" for its looks. Though it does look great!

This past month Lake Fork showed exactly that it had not gone away and the giant trophy bass live here.

In the past there have been plenty of eight to twelve pound bass caught on a usual basis. Some anglers believe that a trophy bass has to be over 10-pounds. This is true but not all anglers have accomplished the goal as yet. Not catching that trophy bass on Lake Fork just means you are not fishing in the right place, at the right time,

with the right bait, because believe me they are here.

In March in nine days this great reservoir showed how majestic she really is!

It all started on March 2nd when John LaBove from Longview, Texas caught the Legacy Class ShareLunker #571 weighing 15.48-pounds. He was fishing in 4-feet of water using a black and blue jig. His bass was picked up at the Minnow Bucket where he weighed her by TPWD Staff and transported to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.

The second Legacy Class Sharelunker #572 was caught on March 8th by Michael Terrebonne from Cut Off, Louisiana and weighed 13-pounds. Michael and his family were visiting Lake Fork on an outing to do some good fishing. He caught his luncker on a black salty

purchased from the Country Store and weighed in at Oak Ridge Marina.

The third Lake Fork Legacy Class ShareLunker #573 was caught on March 11th by Alex Finch from North Richland Hills, Texas. Alex was fishing with a lure he made himself and calls it the "Finch Nasty Thumper Gizzard Shad". He may want to put that on the market after catching his 13.06-pound bass he weighed in at the Minnow Bucket.

"Loaning the fish to the ShareLunker program was an easy decision for me," said Alex. "My priorities were taking care of the fish and contributing to the future of bass fishing was the purpose of the donation. The Toyota ShareLunker program has really helped make Texas fishing better than any other state."



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10th Annual Mega Bass Tournament on Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

The 10th Annual Mega Bass Tournament presented by



Anthony Jones from Irving, Texas won \$15,000 in the 8 o'clock hour with a 8.40-lb. bass



Eric Worley from Ft. Worth, Texas won \$15,000 in the 12 o'clock hour with a 9.65-lb. bass

Sportsmans Auto Network and Bass Champs, is the highest paying one day tournament in the country. For this reason and Lake Fork being the extraordinary reservoir it is this brought over 1,900 anglers to try

their luck at landing that big bass. With 10 places paid per hour with 1st place paying \$15,000 and 10th paying \$200 with two extra T-shirt bonus places paying \$150 each hour, what tournament angler would



Fish Fishburne had to interview the overall winner Garrett Hall to see if he could learn how to catch a 'Big Bass'!

want to miss this event. Anglers could weigh in their fish at the top 30 minutes of each hour with the first being the 8 o'clock hour and

the last of the tournament being the 2 o'clock hour.

The first hour of the tournament got the anglers (Continued on Next Page)



Austin Williams from Kermit, TX. won \$1,000 in the 2 o'clock hour with a 10.51-lb. bass



Jonathon Carter from New Orleans, LA. won \$900 in the 2 o'clock hour with a 6.56-lb. bass



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heart beating for the big one when Anthony Jones won 1st place that hour with a bass weighing 8.4-pounds. During the 9 o'clock hour Owen Rowland from Bearden, Arkansas brought to the scales an 11.34-pound bass that took the wind of a few sails for the anglers, but this being Lake Fork, they knew there were bigger ones waiting to be caught. During that same hour Jason Bond from Shreveport, Louisiana brought in the exact weight bass of 2.5-pounds that won him the even weight cash of \$500 plus 2nd place cash of \$1,000.

The 10 o'clock hour was very exciting for angler Richard Michaels from Alba, Texas when his 2.5-pound bass won 1st place in the hour for a check of \$15,000. He didn't mind then at missing out on the first even weight 2.5-pound bass. Alan Swarts from Mt.

Vernon, Texas was very pleased with his 2.55-pound bass during the 11 o'clock hour when it won him 1st place and \$15,000.

At the 12 o'clock weigh in the crowd got excited when Eric Worley from Ft. Worth, Texas weighed in a 9.65-pound bass winning him 1st in the hour and \$15,000.

The excitement only intensified in the 1 o'clock hour when Garrett Hall from Kilgore, Texas brought to the scales a bass weighing 11.38-pounds winning him 1st place in the hour and putting him in the lead overall.

Garrett did tense up in the 2 o'clock hour when over the 24" slot bass started coming to the weigh in. Bryan Toombs from Royse City, Texas missed the heaviest weight of the tournament but was still pleased with his bass weighing 11.13-pounds winning him \$15,000 for 1st in the hour. Following him and winning

2nd and \$1,000 was Austin Williams from Kermit, Texas with a 10.51-pound bass. Winning 3rd place in that hour and \$900 was Jonathan Carter from New Orleans, Louisiana with a bass that weighed 6.56-pounds.

Through the entire course of the tournament the lightest bass to receive a check was 2.11-pounds and that was in the T-Shirt bonus.

Garrett Hall's bass weighing 11.38-pounds was the heaviest of the tournament not only winning him the \$15,000 for first place in the hour but making him the Champion overall. For this accomplishment he took home the grand prize of a 2018 Skeeter ZX 200 powered by Yamaha.

Anglers wishing to find out more about some great tournaments put on by Bass-Champs can go to their website www.basschamps.com.

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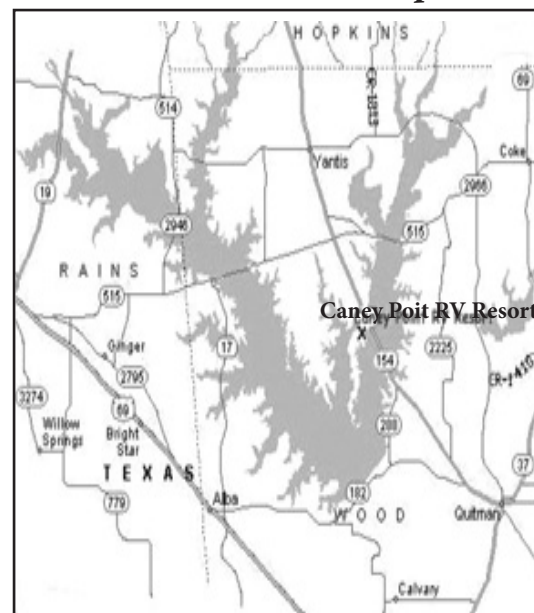
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April Is True Hawg Hunting on Lake Fork

By David Ozio

"It's that time of the year fishing enthusiasts. You've waited patiently and the time is upon us for "true hawg hunting" on Lake Fork. Trophy bass have been showing up at the scales recently as three candidates have made it into the Share-Lunker program capped off by a 15lb behemoth. Kinda gets your blood flowing huh! Recent rains have muddied the lake but that's not stopping the giant green fish from moving shallow.

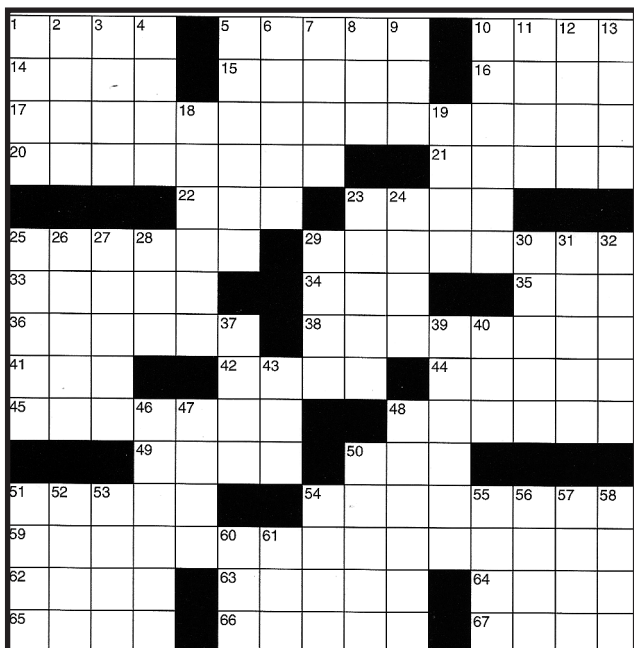
The recent Mega Bass Tournament gave an early peak as to the possibilities for April. Three bass over 11lbs made it to the Mega Bass scales with a monstrous 11.38 taking top honors. This month will set up to be the time frame that you need to cancel plans and get on the water as

much as possible. All it takes is one cast for the game changer of your fishing life. What's the best tactics you say? Let's ponder the strategies that may assist you to your angling success.

March was a very rainy month with the water clarity taking a severe beating. The first wave of spawners pulled into the shallows late in the month and the chatterbait took it's share of giants to the scales. The next wave in April will be the biggest by far as the main lake water temps are in the mid sixties currently and should warm to the upper sixties by the next full moon. This is when the giants will be caught off beds, if you can see them, but the bigger giants will be taken when the shad start to spawn. That will happen once the surface temps reach about seventy degrees and there won't be a swimbait left in sight for purchase. Fork is an excellent lake for swimbaits especially when the lake is on the clear side. Unfortunately, the pond is not as transparent as I would like to see but it will do in a rush. There are several large swimbaits being sold around the lake and you can choose the one that strikes your fancy. Huge glide baits have been the recent craze and be prepared to let loose of plenty of cash to wield one of these bad boys. Gizzard shad colors work best for the hard sided lunker catchers and always throw them on heavy mono or stout



braid. For the soft plastic versions, use brighter colors for the off colored water and more translucent baits for the clearer water. The next step is determining which hook to rig on these giant plastic bass offerings. I recommend a 10/0 hook for the full size baits and a 7/0 hook for the minnow size swimmers. From that point you will need to focus on the right depth where the slouches will be hiding and how much weight should be on the hook. Start with no weight and work your way down to a 10/0 weight weighted with 3/4 ounce. This tactic will cover the important levels in the water column and start you on your way. Next is "where"? You can never go wrong with



CLUES ACROSS

1. Featured dish
5. Oats
10. Herringlike food fish
14. Car
15. African river
16. Organized-crime head
17. Speculated
20. Followers
21. Jumpers
22. Crunches federal numbers
23. Greek portico
25. Abode of God and the angels
29. Vertical spar for supporting sails
33. Joe ____, British actor and playwright
34. Compass point
35. Characters in 1 inch of tape (computers)
36. Name of God
38. Pharaoh was one
41. Volcanic mountain in Japan
42. Hymenopterans
44. Sharp, narrow ridge found in rugged mountains
45. Affixed (biology)
48. Becomes
49. Unstressed-stressed
50. Chinese Muslim
51. Bosnian ethnic group
54. With embellishment
59. Living dangerously
62. Snake pose
63. Raccoonlike mammal of Central and South America
64. Remove the edges from
65. & &
66. Substance produced from pine
67. New England river

CLUES DOWN

1. Joseph ____, stage producer
2. Little ____, comic character
3. Essential oil obtained from flowers
4. Miniatures
5. About a South American mountain system
6. In ____, made in glass
7. Root of "out"
8. Born
9. Branch
10. Utter a cry
11. Maori war dance
12. Caricatured
13. Intersperses
18. ____, O'Neill, playwright
19. Medicinal plant
23. Birdcalls
24. Card having three spots
25. Georgetown team
26. Wipe out
27. Greek mountain
28. Swearing to the truth
29. 12 inches (plural)
30. True firs
31. Slew
32. Prongs
37. Pea stem (British)
39. Local church community
40. Denotes three
43. Long, projecting nose
46. Greek prophetesses
47. Romanian city
48. Bush's state capital
50. Country on Hispaniola
51. Prevents harm to creatures
52. ____, gate, lengthen
53. Foray
54. ____, the night before Christmas
55. Semiaquatic salamanders
56. Turkish monetary unit
57. ____, Clapton, musician
58. Showing
60. Company that rings receipts
61. Any thick, messy substance

Answers on Page 21-A

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(See April is True.....
Continued on Page 20-A)

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TPWD, Partners Launch Arundo Awareness Campaign

Arundo donax, an invasive, non-native plant, is devastating Texas waterways. It causes erosion, increases the risk of fire, worsens flooding and harms native aquatic life.

For several years, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and partners have been working to manage invasive Arundo on creeks and rivers in the Hill Country, offering treatment at no cost to landowners in priority areas, and expanding efforts to new areas. But help from key allies in roadside maintenance, fill material supply, road and bridge construction is needed to support these efforts and stop the spread of this aggressive invader into our waterways. The Texas Parks and Wild-

life Department is launching a new awareness and prevention campaign developed in partnership with the Nueces River Authority, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the Texas Department of Transportation. The campaign is calling on construction and road maintenance personnel to watch for Arundo and learn how to properly treat this invasive plant at the source to prevent its spread.

Arundo, sometimes known as giant reed, giant cane or carizo cane, is easy to spot when it's full grown - it looks a lot like corn or bamboo, but has thick stalks that can reach up to 30 feet tall and forms large, dense colonies that are often found along roadside rights of way. Its roots and frag-

ments, which can contaminate construction fill dirt and other aggregate material, are harder to identify. Keeping the invasive plant out of waterways depends on learning to recognize and treat Arundo so that mowing and construction activities don't introduce it and cause an infestation.

"We encourage everyone providing fill dirt or aggregate to familiarize themselves with Arundo, look for it growing on their facilities and learn how to properly treat it so that fragments don't find their way into supply loads," said Angela England, TPWD aquatic invasive species biologist. "Getting rid of Arundo at the source and taking care not

(See Arundo Awareness.....

Continued on Page 22-A)

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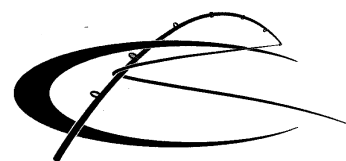
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"The Moon Report" "Fork's Spring Spawn Is On!"

By Terri Moon

The fun thing about this time of year is you never know what you might catch under a bobber! There is nothing better than hearing the words – "Bobber Down!" It could be a crappie – could be a bass – or catfish and still to come is when my favorite – the bream move in! We've just been waiting on water temperatures to get right. It would come so close, and then those mornings in the 30's would once again delay their progress. But those 60 degree nights really got them going again! They are finally "committing" to the shallows.

It has mainly been males until the last couple of days. The BIG girls are starting to move in! The full moon was March 31 – so, the first of April should kick off a lot of excitement. Some days they want just a hook and minnow – some days a jig and minnow – and some days just a jig – and it doesn't hurt to put a Berkley crappie Nibble on! So if you don't have access to minnows, try to keep a jar of these on hand. They will definitely improve your catch. Also, don't be afraid to throw tiny crank-baits or small spinnerbaits. Run them along grass lines and flats and around brush. This is a great way to help locate



crappie. Even the bass fishermen are catching some giant crappie on the larger versions of these baits.

We are now finding 62 – 68 degree water and that is the best temps for spawning to begin. We are targeting 1 to 3 ft. with Lake Fork Tackles blue & pearl and cajun cricket "Live Baby Shad". Also, Boneheads "Slim Stick" in bluegrass and black and chartreuse (these work good when its over-cast or murky water.) If you're shooting docks or bridge pylons, Bubba Baits in electric chicken and white/chartreuse are producing. We are catching mostly males shallow and the girls are staging in – so don't be afraid to check a little deeper for them. They can be holding in 6 to 12 ft. Keep an eye on that depth finder. It will show you how deep you need to target. For those of you that

have Lowrance units, you need to check out the new "fish reveal" download that's available. It's amazing the clarity and enhancement of the fish and structure. Thank you Clyde McAfee for downloading this to my Carbon and Gen 3 unit. It sure takes the guesswork out of what you're seeing!

It's been an exciting month getting accustomed to my new Skeeter Solera. It's truly been a "Joy" climbing into this beautiful boat everyday to go fishing! It's been a blessing beyond belief! The fish ability of this Solera is getting rave reviews from my customers. They love it as much as I do! It's amazing the thought that was put into to making this boat so comfortable and if you're wondering how it does in shallow water, I've been fishing in 1-2 ft. of water with

(Continued on Next Page)

no problem! I'm always in and out of Lake Fork Marina and if you would like to take a look at this Solera, I promise you'll be impressed!

If you're new to Lake Fork, be sure and stop by Lake Fork Marina to see their new tackle store. It's incredible and they will have all your crappie fishing needs. They've got it ALL! While you are there, I hope you get to meet "Sweet Buddy" the L.F.M. "Camp Dog". For those of you that know Buddy and his sad story, I want you to know he's gaining weight and feeling better and definitely feeling the love from all of you. Your kindness of donations to his care

has been greatly appreciated! I post regular updates on Buddy on my facebook page if you would like to keep up with his progress.

I'm looking forward to the great fishing that's ahead of us and wish you all the best!

Also sending love and prayers to my brother John who's going through serious health issues and severe pain. Love to All!

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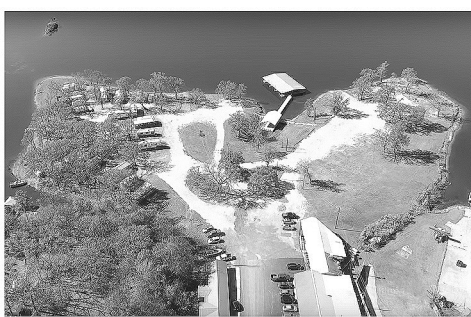
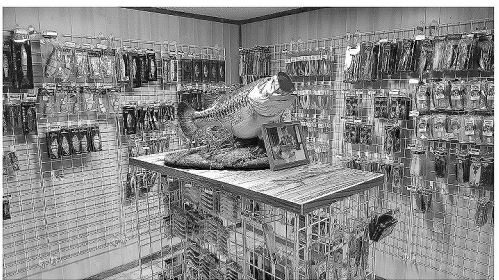
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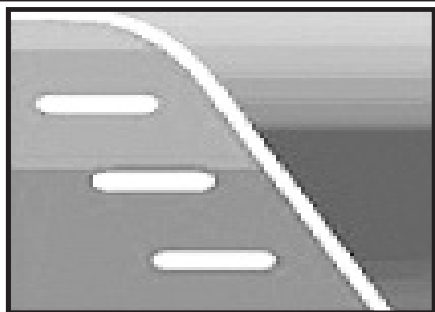
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"Knowing What To Look For!"

By Michael McFarland

Spring has sprung here in North East Texas and Lake Fork is on fire. We have seen several Share Lunkers this year so far including a bass over 15 pounds. In addition to this there have been many fish caught in the 10 pound range and the

guides are off to an awesome season. March and April are great months to understand how predator fish use shell beds. The big females use these locations more often this time of year for both prespawn and post spawn feeding. Shell beds act as a reef of life, exactly as

a coral reef is in the ocean. A high source of plankton in these areas is food for the clams, crawfish, threadfin shad, gizzard shad and all sorts of other small species of fish and bait. This highly active food source attracts predator fish of all species and more specifically big

fish that feed on small fish. When I say shell beds, I do not mean the dead shells you see blown up on the shoreline. Somewhere out in front of the dead shells there are live shells. By learning how to use your sonar you can locate these live shell bed areas and expect with

enough time the fish will come to feed. This image shows the double echo that your looking for on your sonar. A double echo suggest an extremely fast return which usually is a shell bed or an extremely hard surface like concrete or solid rock. A triple echo potentially

is a zebra or quaga mussel bed or even possibly an over sensitive setting on your sonar. I depend on my sonar this time of year to find secret locations that not everyone is fishing. If you would like to see this first hand, please look me up and book a trip. I wish you all great fishing.

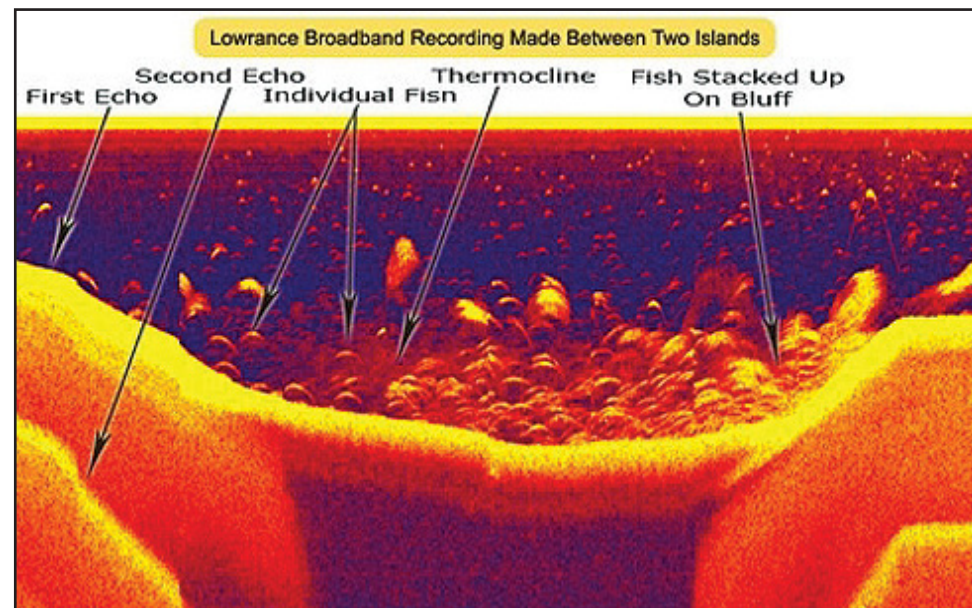


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Lake Fork Anglers "Tale of Two Co-Anglers"

By Bruce Allen

In the tournament held on March 8th out of the Minnow Bucket the weather was good for a change. Well it did start out cold at 6:30 AM. Around the mid-30's when the anglers headed out onto Lake Fork for the 5th tournament of the new year.

But when the sun peaked over the trees it warmed up pretty fast and so did the fishing. Most of the time when

you have paired parties in a boat the boater will dominate and the co-anglers get used to fishing behind or what is known as "used" water. On this particular Thursday two of the co-anglers put a whooping on their boaters and unbeknown to them they were using the same technique.

John Markos of Paris, Tx fishing behind Robert Gaylor of Lake Fork was throwing a chatterbait with a swim bait trailer. Fishing in Rogers Creek they immediately got on some good fish and really tore them for couple

of hours. When the catching waned, they moved over to Long Branch and John caught one more keeper. So, they went back to Rogers to find a couple of seniors (not from our club) sitting in the exact spot they had been catching them in. And they related that they had since caught a nine and a seven. John came in first for the co-angler side with 16.53 with a 5.08 LBunker. John's comment "Never leave fish to find fish". All of Robert's fish came on a green lizard on a c-rig.

And then there is John Berech of Garland, Tx. John generally fishes as a co-angler but has a boat and if the club is short on boaters will fill in as he was doing on the 8th. He also caught the majority of his 15.95 LB second place weight with a real nice 22 1/2" lunker that came in at 6.89 LB co-angler lunker for the day on a chatter bait rimmed with a small swim bait. The results for the tournament are as follows:

The Lake Fork Anglers Point Tournament Twice monthly results for March 8th were really good. The fish that were caught mainly came on drop shots, wacky rigs and bladed jigs. Lake Fork anglers format is a draw style paper tournament where slot fish count. All fish are measured, recorded and released on the spot year-round. Each boat has a boater and a co-angler that revolve each tournament. No permanent teams. Only the best five count. ~Boater Results:

1st place goes to Don Overstreet with 7 bass for 11.25 lb and a lunker of 3.95
2nd place goes to Galen Smith with 9 bass for 9.73 lb. with a 2.25 lunker.
3rd place went to Robert Gaylor with 7 bass for 9.15 lb with a 3.31 lunker.
4th place went to Randy Steele with 5 bass for 8.88 with a 3.46 lunker.
5th place went to Bill Ailes with 2 bass for 5.82 with a 3.46 lunker.

Co-Angler Results:

1st place goes to John Markos with 7 bass for 16.53 lb with a 5.08 lunker.
2nd place goes to John Berech with 5 bass for 15.95 lb. with THE co-angler lunker of 6.89.
3rd place went to Ken Kielbas with 5 bass for 8.86 lb with a 3.23 lunker.
4th place went to Gene Shoemaker with 3 bass for 6.44 lb with a 2.88 lunker.
5th place went to Charlie Arnold with 3 bass for 5.82 with a 3.46 lunker.

Spring is here kids and the fish are biting from 10' to the bank. A total of 70 bass were caught on a great day with the water temps right around 55. The LFA fishes every Thursday during the month on three different formats. Not all of our 50+ members fish every week or even all three formats on a regular basis. We are seniors and fish when we have the time. And because we are mostly seniors we are adamant in making sure there is always two anglers in a boat. Both for safety and for sharing, learning and making an enjoyable day of it. E-mail me at sjbasser@aol.com or call 903-440-2797 for info. Go to www.bassfin.com to see our rules etc. We only fish at Lake Fork.

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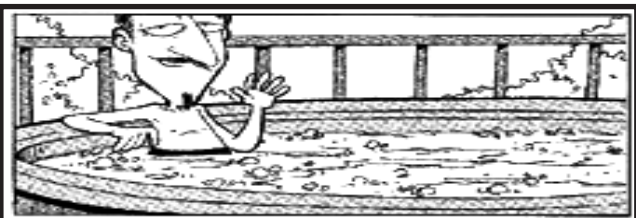
Bob Buechner from St. Louis, MO., was fishing with Lake Fork guide Whitt Smith when he caught this nice hawg on March 26, while fishing in 8 to 10' of water. Weight not provided. C.P.R.



"Just when you thought it was safe to go in the water!" This is a newly hatched group of baby alligators photo taken by Jason Smith on Sunday, March 25. I just wonder where Mom and Dad were!



Jesse from Kansas City was fishing with Lake Fork guide Andrew Grills when he caught this nice bass weighing 9-pounds 14-ounces. (Courtesy Photo Andrew Grills Guide Service)



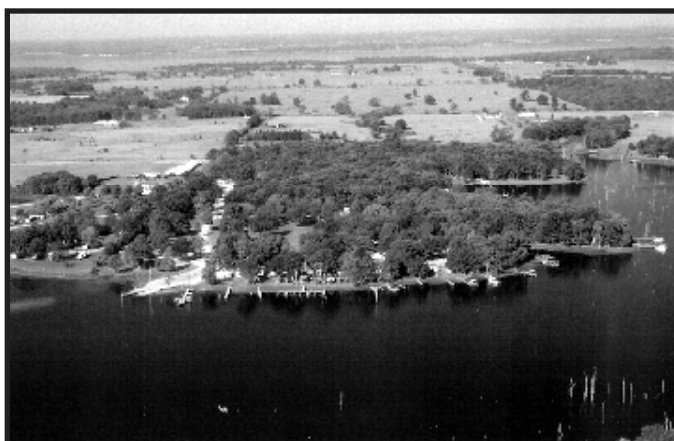
Roy Jacuzzi, who is credited with inventing and marketing the first integrated whirlpool bath in 1968, came from a family of inventors who are credited with inventions in both aviation and agriculture, including an agricultural pump.



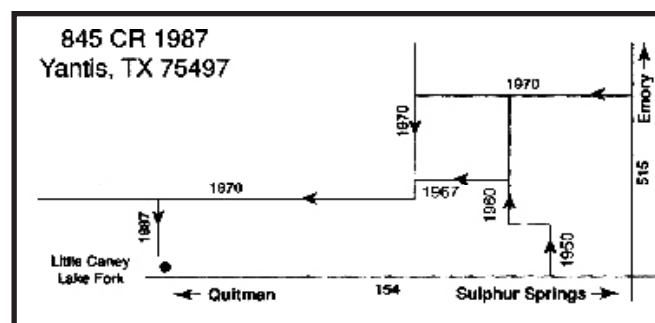
The sparrow-sized elf owl is only 5 to 6 inches long. Found in America's southwestern deserts, it is the smallest owl in the world.

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Pond King Inc. Donates Artificial Fish Habitats to Lake Fork

By Don Hampton

If you love Lake Fork and are concerned with the future of this great reservoir, the only question left is, "Why aren't you a member of the Lake Fork Sportsmans Association?" This is a great organization consisting of members that put Lake Fork forefront in preserving, promoting and protecting the Legend that is Lake Fork, from the raising of water lilies and button bushes in league with Yantis High School students to be distributed around the lake to enhance the habitat and also assisting TPWD in distributing fingerlings to key areas on the lake. It is no wonder they have been inducted in the Texas Fishing Hall of Fame.

On March 19th Pond King Inc. (www.pondking.com) donated \$6,000 of artificial fish habitats to be placed in Lake Fork.

The 'Honey Hole Shrub' is a fish habitat to increase and attract marine life, including all species and baitfish. Harlan Nichols, Senior Fisheries Biologist with Pond King Inc. delivered the artificial habitat and they were assembled by volunteers of the LFSA at Highway 17 boat ramp.

The Honey Hole fish habitats are constructed of poly dome with 84 polyethylene limbs 26" each. After placement in the lake, the Honey Hole shrubs furnish 32" in height by 6' width of cover. "This fish structure will never decay and never needs to be replaced," Harlan stated.

Upon the simple construction of the fish habitats they were placed on the volunteer's pon-

toon boat and the LFSA Live Release boat to be placed in two select areas. Kevin Story, TPWD District 38 Management Supervisor of the Inland Fisheries Division based in Tyler, marked with buoys the two areas for placement on each side of Hwy. 515 west bridge.

The GPS coordinates of the Honey Hole Shrubs are available for all anglers. The locations will be posted on the Lake Fork page of TPWD'S website <https://tpwd.texas.gov/>

For more information and the services that Pond King provides, go to www.pondking.com.

If you wish to become a member of the Lake Fork Sportsmans Association, their monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:45p.m. at Tiffany's Restaurant.



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Texas Game Wardens Crack Down on Illegal Wildlife Trade in Dallas/Fort Worth

No Sale! That was the message nearly two dozen willing online sellers of illegal wildlife resources received from Texas game wardens, along with citations, during a Wild Web crackdown conducted recently in the Metroplex.

Texas game wardens made multiple criminal cases against individuals attempting to make online sales of various threatened and protected wildlife species, as well as state and federally regulated natural resources. Navigating through internet forums and online marketplaces where trade in both live wildlife and wildlife parts are known to occur, wardens were able to negotiate undercover transactions with willing sellers to purchase things like a taxidermied great blue heron, raptor talons, American alligator heads and live box turtles. "The illegal sale and exploitation of wildlife resources is a global problem that has a direct negative effect on the State of Texas and could lead to the loss of Texas native species, either through the harvest of native species or introduction of non-indigenous invasive species," said Col. Grahame Jones, Law Enforcement Director with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "Wildlife

trafficking online is a major problem and we want to send a message loud and clear that it will not be tolerated."

During the operation, game wardens conducted 20 cases using online searches and mobile apps to uncover illegal items for sale. The investigations netted numerous seizures of wildlife resources, and resulted in issuance of 18 citations and 18 warnings. Citations included charges for sale and possession of threatened and or protected species, sale of migratory duck parts, sale of American alligator parts (no retail dealer permit), commercial (See Texas Game Wardens. Continued on Page 21-A)



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SATURDAY - 9am-NOON- FREE CASTING CLINICS HOURLY, KAYAK DEMOS 2:00 pm- PHOTO "WEIGH-IN"; 3:00pm-DOOR PRIZES. FFI-TEXAS COUNCIL KAYAK DRAWING

REGISTRATION: ONLINE at ianglertournament.com, You must have a smart phone to take and transmit photos. MAIL to Bass on the Fly, P.O.Box 173, Yantis, TX 75497. ON SITE Noon-9:00PM Friday or 5-6:00AM Saturday, cash only. Must be received by April 16 to be ELIGIBLE FOR DRAWING FOR A SAGE FLY ROD.

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Produced by Bass on The Fly, LLC

'Pack of Knowledge' "Carolina Rigging Shallow Water"

By Andrew Grills

The Carolina Rig is a top producer here on Lake Fork in the Summer and Fall when fish are stacked up on offshore structure. However, it's not often thought of as a shallow water technique. With some minor modifications, the Carolina Rig might just become one of your "go to" rigs for spring.

There are times when this rig will out fish anything you can throw at them. It covers water efficiently, catches fish of all sizes, and is very easy to fish. All of these benefits are great from the stand point of a fishing guide, entertaining customers of all

skill levels. I find the finesse Carolina rig is one of the most "customer friendly" techniques out there.

I will use this rig in several situations. It's a great rig for windblown points, humps, and pond dams. When fishing these structures during the prespawn period, this rig will enable you to maintain contact with the bottom and your lure. One of the best guide trips I have ever had, was using this rig with a young married couple who were both novice anglers. The wind was gusting over 30mph and I had no choice but to tie up to a stump near a shallow pond dam. They proceeded to catch 37 bass up to 9lbs in just a few hours!

The finesse Carolina rig can be rigged on casting or spinning gear. For customers who have trouble learning to use a baitcast reel, I can rig up a spinning reel with 20-30lb braid, and attach a 15lb fluorocarbon leader and they're in business. On casting equipment, I use 20lb fluorocarbon main line, and a 15lb fluorocarbon leader. 3/16oz is a good starting point for sinker weight, but around grass I may go as light as 1/8oz. If the wind is really blowing, you can go as heavy as needed to maintain contact with the rig. A seven foot, medium-heavy action rod, with a medium to high gear ratio reel is a good setup for this application.

I like to add a glass bead between the sinker and the swivel. This makes some clicking noises

that may attract some attention and it also helps protect the knot. I usually measure my leader length from my elbow to the tip of my finger, which is about 18 inches. Finesse worms, baby brush hogs, and flukes are great choices to complete the rig, the fluke being my favorite. A 3/0 Gamakatsu EWG hook is a perfect fit.

I think the key to success with this rig is employing a painstakingly slow retrieve. Often, my bites come while I'm holding my rod with one hand while talking to my customers. I try to count the rocks, roots, or shells my sinker is crawling over.

Hopefully this information will add to your success this spring. It's a simple rig that we've all probably used before, but may have forgotten about. If I can be of any assistance to you on your trip to Lake Fork, please don't hesitate to contact me.



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Bobby Woolly was fishing Lake Fork in March when he caught this nice bass weighing 10.25-pounds. C.P.R.



Craig Cain caught this nice bass fishing Lake Fork in March with guide Randy Oldfield. Weight not provided. C.P.R.



Clark Kelly was fishing Lake Fork with guide Danny Holder when he caught this nice bass tilting the scales at 9.1-pounds. C.P.R. (Courtesy Photo Danny Holder Guide Service)



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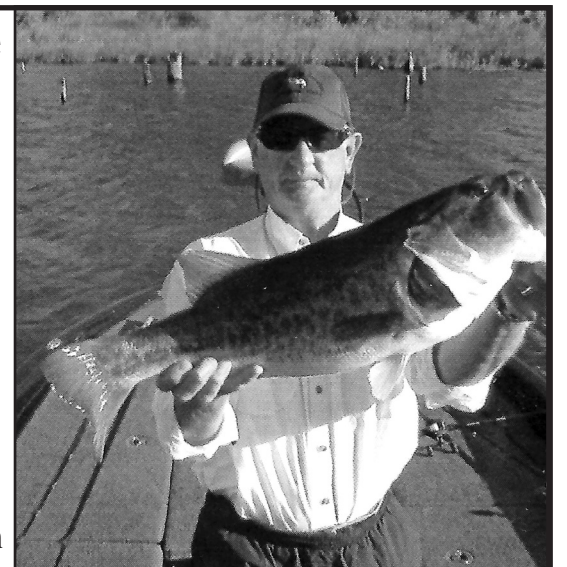
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April Is True Hawg Hunting on Lake Fork (Continued from Page 6-A)

main lake points or secondary points especially if they have a channel swing close by. Use a long rod and keep casting until something gives. It may be your arm but that's why they make Advil.

More than likely the lake will hover around pool level for the month so don't rule out the Carolina rig on main lake points especially following the days right after a cold front. The big bass have a habit of not chasing baits during high pressure so the C-rig will pick up the slack. Magnum lizards, creature baits and even small swimbaits should do

the heavy lifting. Choose dark colors for heavily stained water and translucent colors like watermelon red for clearer water on sunny days. Big jigs will also play a roll on these points with the same colors schemes as the C-rig. Graph the points before you make a cast and check for activity. If something shows up on the radar as my clients call it, drop a waypoint and start casting. Also, with cold fronts in mind, don't give up on the shallow fish entirely. You can back out to the first breakline and throw a Texas rig or a senko. Use the lightest line possible under the high skies to get the bites you are looking for. Once you get the bite, you can figure out how to get the beast in the boat.

If you are headed out to Lake Fork in April searching for the trophy of a lifetime, I would love to be a part of this trophy quest. I also have gift certificates available if you have friends or loved one's who have dreamt of landing a huge bass. You can contact me at 409 782-4269 or e-mail me at skeet21c@aol.com. You can follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/davidoziolakeforkguide>. I post my daily trip results on this page. I 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."

DAVID OZIO

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Texas Game Wardens Crack Down *(Continued from Page 17-A)*

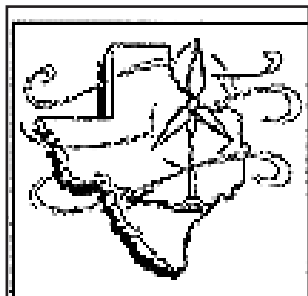
exotic snake permit violations, illegal sale of game fish, no fish dealer's license, and failure to possess a non-game dealer permit. All citations issued were class C misdemeanor violations punishable by fine from \$25 -- \$500.

Federal laws regulating the sale of wildlife include the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; the Endangered Species Act (which bans the interstate or international sell of listed species and most products made from them); and the Marine Mammal

Protection Act (which limits the sale of most marine mammal parts and products, other than those crafted by Native Alaskans).

Additional covert wild web operations have been conducted elsewhere around the state, with the most recent crackdown in Houston last May. The public is

urged to help augment game warden efforts by notifying Operation Game Thief at 800-792-GAME about possible illegal online wildlife trade activity or contact your local game warden office. A list of game warden offices can be found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department web site.



Texas is known for its oil, but the state is also a leading wind energy producer with wind projects generating over 1,200 megawatts.

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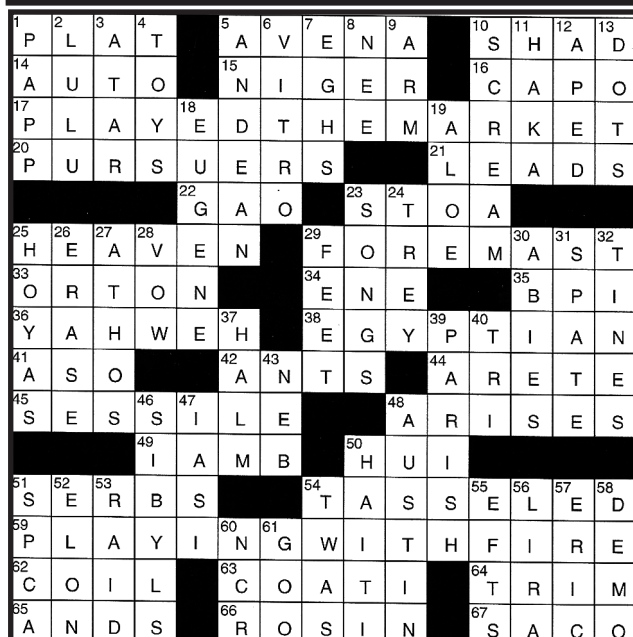
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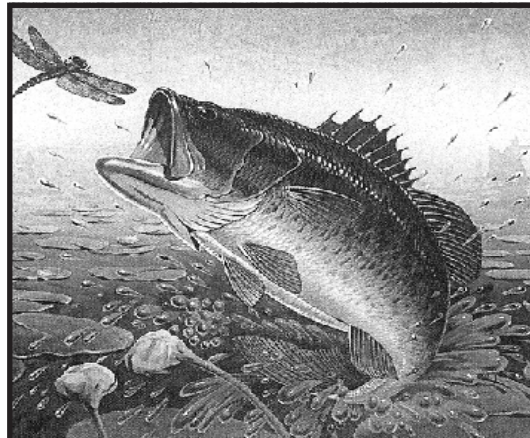
Health Search

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

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HEART
KIDNEY
KNEECAP

NOSE
PELVIS
SKIN
THROAT
TOENAIL
TONGUE
WRIST

A C E N K I N S R I A H
R W R I S T O E E N I A
I A H G E R E U G N O R
F Y E N D I K O N E M T
P E A L V S E B I O L E
E A R B O T L I F A I N
V E T O N E O M D B A D
L I R V E E C E S O N I
I M H E M R A T O M E K
S K T A O R H T E P O F
E S O K D U P G N A T I
N L N I B T E H O C H N
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Arundo Awareness Campaign *(Continued from Page 7-A)*

to spread it is much more doable than treating a full-blown infestation caused by these fragments. After Arundo is established - especially in a river or riparian area - it is very difficult and expensive to control."

While herbicides are the best way to treat mature Arundo plants at the source, if roots or fragments are spotted in fill dirt and aggregate materials, they should be removed and disposed in a landfill so they don't take root on-site. In addition to finding its way into fill dirt and aggregate materials, Arundo can spread at construction sites and along roadways by hitching a ride on earthmoving and mowing equipment.

"It's important to remember that Arundo should never be mowed, bulldozed or cut - that's what distributes the small pieces and frag-

ments that cause such big problems," England said.

This new, easy-to-use training program, called "Lessons from Arundo Control Man," provides essential information about Arundo identification, treatment and prevention. The program is designed to make it easy to train anyone working in construction, road or park maintenance, landscaping, ranchland management, or other fields who may encounter this plant. The training program consists of a brief video and a brochure (available free of charge upon request) featuring "Arundo Control Man," a graphic superhero intended to inspire everyone to kick Arundo out of Texas roadways and waterways.

Anyone can be an Arundo control hero by following these simple steps:

Know the enemy: Learn to recognize non-native Arundo - mature plants, roots and fragments. Sound the alarm: Spread the facts about Arundo and how to manage it. Speak up when you see Arundo being mismanaged. Be Aware: Take a good look at fill dirt and other aggregate materials, especially at the source or when fill is placed near a waterway. If Arundo pieces are found in material, reject the delivery or remove the pieces. Watch for Arundo when mowing and avoid it or treat it with herbicide.

For help in making an Arundo management plan, call (512) 389-4444 and ask for an aquatic invasive specialist, or email HealthyCreeks@tpwd.texas.gov.

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Target Range Development Grants Available through TPWD

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is currently accepting applications for target range development grants through April 28, 2018. The funds are available to qualifying applicants from both private and public sectors.

TPWD, with support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), administers the target range program to provide funding for qualifying applicants from both the private and public sectors that open their shooting facilities to the public and offer hunter education.

Construction or enhancements of public ranges are eligible for these competitive

grants, made available through funding from the USFWS. Nonprofit organizations, commercial target range operators, shooting clubs and local governmental agencies and municipalities are eligible to apply. Applicants must provide target range access to the general public for recreational shooting and hunter education classes and programs.

Criteria for rating the applications were revised in February 2018, to include a scoring rubric meant to support several possibilities in scoring potential from applicants.

"Our goal is to increase visibility within individual criteria so applicants can better

gauge their projects as they work through the application," said Renan Zambrano, TPWD target range coordinator. "We are eager to be able to assist applicants to better understand what information is critical to form the highest possible scores for their projects."

Applicants must provide 25 percent of the total project cost, and the federal grant funds the remaining 75 percent. The grants allow recipients to enhance their existing ranges or to build new facilities, including infrastructure, new ranges, storage units and hunter-education classrooms.

For more information, visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/hunter-education/shooting-sports-opportunities/targetrange grants>



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



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