LAKE FORK "The Big Bass Capital Of Texas" Lines To Get Hooked O 1 Section

Vol. 20



Barry Prince from Lindale, TX. caught TPWD/ Toyota ShareLunker #579 weighing 13.73-lbs. fishing Lake Fork on 3/8/19. (Story on Page 22)



Rick Simons from Belton, TX., won the Mega Bass Tournament with this beauty weighing 11.93-lbs. He won \$15,000 hourly and a 2019 Skeeter ZX 200 powered by Yamaha. (See Full Story on Page 4)



Marty Venneman caught this monster of a hawg weighing 12.2-lbs. while he was out doing some fun fishing Lake Fork on 3/9/19. C.P.R.



this great bass weighing 12.24-lbs. C.P.R.



Nathan Hultquist was fishing Lake Fork with Dave Ausbury from Springfield, MO., was fishgreat bass weighing 12-lbs. C.P.R.



Tammy Stack from Scurry, TX., was fishing Lake guide Zach Hughes in March when he caught ing Lake Fork in March when he caught this Fork in March when she caught this great bass weighing 11.38-lbs. C.P.R.

"The Legend of Lake Fork" 15th Annual Big Bass Tournament" May 17, 18, 19, 2019

Entries Received Before April 30th Qualify In Drawing For 2019 Charger Bass Boat



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"Goodness Snakes Alive!"

By Don Hampton

When it comes right down to it Bubba is not the bravest man in the world, especially when it comes to snakes. Believing in the Bible and "The Good Lord" like he does he believes that those belly crawling, scaly, forked tongue critters are just evil. When it comes to a snake crossing Bubba's path, he would much rather choose a different direction or else go back the way he came at a very rapid pace. Bubba has probably choked more snakes with trail dust than he has killed with his shotgun. He hates snakes so much he has even passed up some of his favorite fishing holes because a snake was there and it takes a lot for him to do something like that.

Now that you have an idea how Bubba feels about snakes, you can multiply that by ten and come up with how afraid Bubbette is of snakes. She won't even watch a television show where snakes are involved. She sees one in a movie and she is grabbing for the remote control faster than Bubba could run away from one.

Men are funny creatures though, and Bubba will be the first to laugh at himself. When women are present, men are always brave. For one reason or another, a man can mask his fear with so much macho bravado that women think of them as their sole protector. Such was the recent case of the snake on the flagpole.

than five miles from the house when his mobile a hoe in the other. Bubba was smart enough on phone rang. Bubbette was on the other end of the line in a panic. He couldn't understand a word she was saying in the first part of the conversation so he pulled his truck over to try and calm her down before proceeding any further down the road. He knew Bubbette was going to mow the yard while he was gone and the only thing he could figure out was that something was wrong with the riding lawn mower or else the house was on fire. It turned out to be neither.

When Bubba calmed Bubbette down enough so she could speak... all she could say was, "Snake, flag pole, snake, big snake, flag pole!!!" Bubba knowing her like he does ciphered this out real well. He knew it was time for him to put on his macho brave hat and come to her rescue. Another thing that makes Bubba get brave when coming to Bubbette's rescue is he knows she will reward him with her delicious buttermilk battered fried chicken. Bubba will get real brave for some fried chicken.

Bubba got his courage up and told Bubbette he was coming back and would be right there to take care of the situation. He was not prepared for the sight he saw when he drove into his yard. All his fears of snakes were pushed aside by the comical scene he was greeted with.

There was Bubbette standing on the seat of the Bubba had just left for work and hadn't gone more lawnmower with his 410 shotgun in one hand and

this occasion not to laugh.

When Bubba asked where the snake was, Bubbette would point first with the hoe and then with the shotgun. Bubba was pretty quick to relieve her of the shotgun and in all of his bravado thinking how those belly crawling, scaly, forked tongue critters are just evil, tracked the snake down and shot it. I guess he probably shot it about twelve to fifteen times. Bubba likes to do things right and this way he figures he rid the world of a little evil.

Bubba walked back to Bubbette looking like the conquering hero returning from war with his gun on his shoulder. He probably would have been greeted as such if he hadn't said, "There ya go sug'dumplin... all taken care of! Oh yeah, what's for supper tonight and when you go to Wally World to pick up some chicken, will you get me some more shotgun shells?"

Well, she got him the shotgun shells in case any more snakes showed up, but I think he had bologna sandwiches that night!!



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11th Annual Mega Bass Tournament

By Don Hampton

starting out being 37 degrees and the waday of spring.

bass didn't bite until Brandon later in the day the from

Fork to fish the 11th tournament anglers places.

ter temperature be- hour Robert Brooks was taken with a ing 47 to 49 degrees, won \$15,000 with 2.56-pound I believe the bass his bass weighing caught by Robert were as confused as 2.79-pounds. In the Freese from Willow many anglers. It was 9 o'clock hour Chris Park, Texas. more like mid-win- Cook from Vernon,

anglers made a good Louisiana with a showing with the 2.63-pound bass; 11 Mother Nature bass under the 16" o'clock hour was the wasn't nice to the slot. With this tour- first over the slot 1600 plus anglers nament being the bass caught by Wilthat came to Lake highest paid one day liam Goodhue from Barling, Arkansas Annual Mega Bass gave it their best. with a bass weighing Tournament put on First place in each 7.98-pounds; the 12 by BassChamps on hour paid \$15,000 o'clock hour was March 16th. With and each hour of the won by Mark Spaeth temperature tournament paid 15 from Emory, Texas with an 8.56-pound In the 8 o'clock bass; 1 o'clock hour

In the 2 o'clock ter rather than four Texas took 1st place hour, the final weigh days before the first with a bass weigh- in hour of the day, a 2.53-pounds; few anglers had their Even though the big 10 o'clock hour was heart broke while Tingle another rejoiced Stonewall, (Continued on Next Page)



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over his win. Dur- feelings. For his visit with our nice ing this hour Mark catch he took home game wardens. Trull from Kennedy, not only a check for Alabama weighed in \$15,000 for winning changed, and the a 9.47-pound bass the hour but he won that would have the grand prize for won the tournament the heaviest bass If you want to catch overall but that was of the tournament. not to be the case. Added to his hourly He did win \$1,000 winning Rick took for 2nd place in the home a 2019 Skeeter hour.

Rick Simons from Yamaha. Belton, Texas won

ZX 200 powered by

As always Bassover 1,600 anglers Champs put on a when he brought great tournament. to the scales the gi- The big bass didn't ant bass of the day show up as expectand showing exact- ed but the weather ly what Lake Fork had everything to had swimming in do with that. A lot the lake. His bass of anglers did report he brought to the catching big bass scales in the fi- but they were in the nal hour weighed slot of 16" to 24". 11.93-pounds. The Then again there lake warming up in were a few anglers the sunshine didn't that mis-measured hurt his fishing or their fish and got to

The weather has big bass are on their spawning routine. some big ones, I'll see you on the lake.

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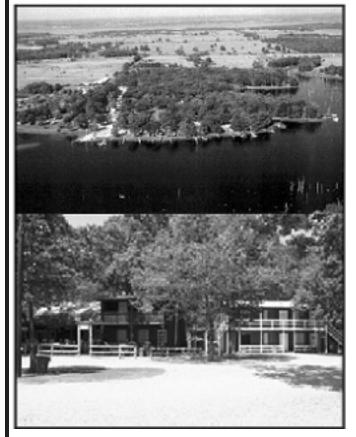
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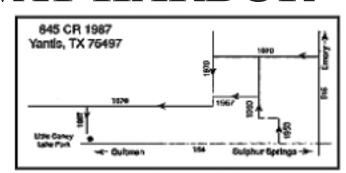
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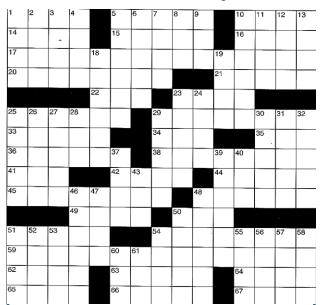
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Spring Fishing Time Is Here!

By David Ozio

Lake Fork is covered with boats!! It must be spring fishing time. Lunker fever has clamped down on would be fishermen in search of a green monsta of a lifetime. Nationwide, no one questions that Lake Fork is the place to do it. Over the past month several super giants have made their way to certified scales solidifying that Fork is here to stay. Weather always plays a part during this time of the year and we just have to work around it and get creative.

The recent Mega Bass Tournament gave an early peak as to the possibilities for April. A giant 11.93 took top honors with three other overs making it to the scales.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Musical instrument
- 5. Baboon genus 10. In bed
- 14. Medicinal plant15. Central Florida city
- 16. Knockout (slang) 17. NBA teams
- 20. Skeletal muscles 21. Circuit
- 22. Foot (Latin) 23. Mend
- 25. Digressions
- 29. Capital of Chile
 33. Country in northwest Africa (French)
- Winslow, Pulitzer Prize winner 35. Engineering company

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Physical assistance
- Away from wind
 Weight unit
- 4. Persistently annoying person 5. Shetland and Welsh
- 6. Sours
 7. Political action committees
- 8. Type or kind 9. United States, Latin America

- Stem
- 12. Norse goddess of old age 13. Type of remains 18. Russian monetary unit
- 19. Homer's son
- 23. Valleys
- 24. Belonging to the American Newspaper Association 25. Maidservants

- 26. Bush 27. Extremely angry
- and Canada belong to this group (abbr.)

 10. Graduates 47. Insect feeler 48. Antenna 50. Saint 51. Strikebreaker Seaweed, for example 53. Manner or carriage
 54. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
 55. Growl

36. Nome state

42. School groups

Railway cars 48 Diviner

50. Gentle wind

54. Type of chord

62. Changes, in a way 63. Crystal

65. Affliction 66. Way to deal a blow to 67. Hindu deity

29. Soul and calypso songs

30. Belongs to sun god

39. Admirer 40. Informal, in a way

43. Denotes three

46. Way to go on

59. NBA teams

64. Brews

28. Runs PCs

31. Annoy

32. Capitalist37. Copycat

38. Type of delivery
41. Protects from weather

44. "The Divine Comedy" poet

51. Language of Sulu Archipelago

- 56. Sicilian city57. Isolated fact
- 58. Mythological mountain 60. Type of RAM 61. Radioactivity unit
- Answers on Page 21

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 slounches 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

(See Spring Fishing..... Continued on Page 20)

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caught this hawg weighing 10.9-lbs. C.P.R.



Mark Cooper was doing some March Lake Fork Eddie Howard was fishing Lake Fork in March fishing with guide Brian Duplechain when he when he caught this hawg weighing 11.66-lbs. C.P.R.



Peggy Simmons was out on Lake Fork fishing with guide Randy Oldfield when she caught this nice bass. Weight not provided. C.P.R.

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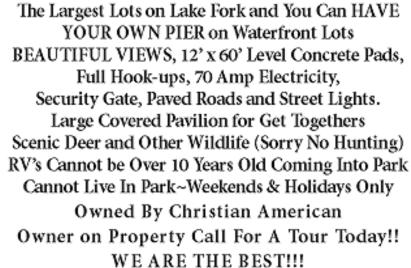


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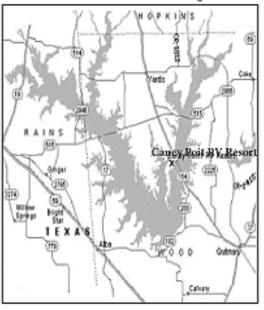
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"The Moon Report" Fork's Spring Spawn Is On

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 20th - 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 crankbaits 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 it's overcast 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" down-

load 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 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 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 im-

> (See Fork's Spring.... Continued on Page 9)

Fork's Spring Spawn Is On (Continued from Page 8)

pressed!

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" 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 feel-

ing better and definitely If you're new to Lake 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 face book 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 family in Missouri!



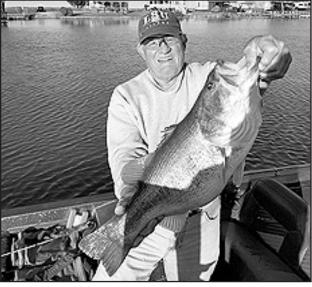
The word "taboo" comes from the Polynesian "tapu." meaning something sacred, special, dangerous or unclean.

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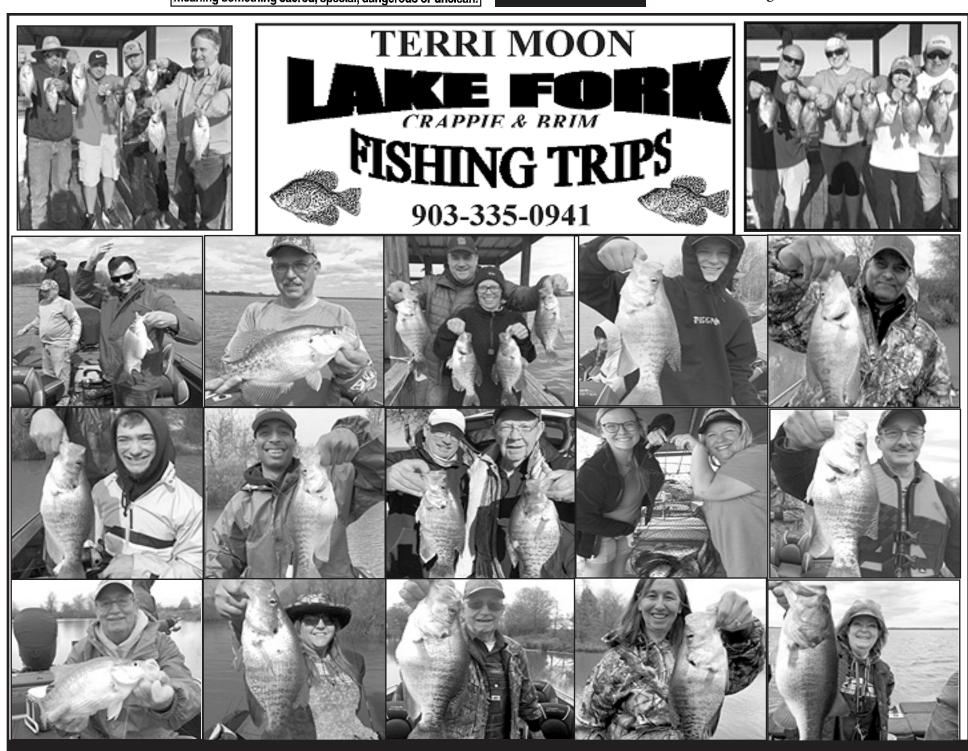
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Errold Seiler from Dallas caught this 8-pound 13- ounce bass on ultra light tackle, a 1/32 ounce white road runner, and 4 # test P line. The bass was 24.25" in length. C.P.R.



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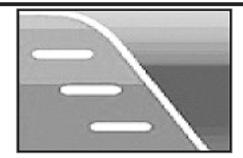












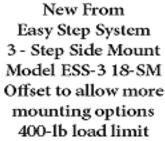


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Fifteen places will be paid in cash each hour from \$5,000 down to \$500 of each tournament day beginning with the 7-8 AM hour and continuing through the 1-2 PM hour for the fifteen single heaviest bass weighed in. Hourly updates will be broadcasted live on KICKS 105.1 FM.

Contestant(s) weighing in the first 3.00/4.00/5.00 exact weight bass each day of the tournament will win \$10,000. In addition, all contestants are eligible to win a 2019 Triton 189 TrX Bass Boat in the famous "Elimination Drawing".

"You Can't Win if You Don't Play" Optional Bonus Games such as the Bonus Card "AKA" Insurance Card & Bonus Shirt Hours can win you additional cash.

Online Registration is open now on our website, www.sealyoutdoors.com. Onsite Registration will be at Umphrey Family Pavilion on Wednesday, April 24 from 10am-6pm & Thursday April 25 from 10am-8pm. Registration will continue each morning from 5am-6am on days of the tournament. Tournament Entry Fees are \$185 for One Day, \$235 for Two Days, \$285 for Three Days: The Little Anglers Division entry fee is \$10 per Day. For full list of Registration sites, visit us at www. sealyoutdoors.com.

All participants and spectators ages 18 years of age and up can get in on the action. Come out to the tournament site, enjoy the festivities and get your free ticket for the Open Drawing of an Odes UTV valued at \$15,995 beginning at 12 Noon Sunday, April 28.

In addition to the Big Bass Splash, the 35-year celebration will consist of the Lake Jam presented by Sealy Outdoors. Lake Jam will begin on Wednesday, April 24 and conclude on Sunday, April 28. It

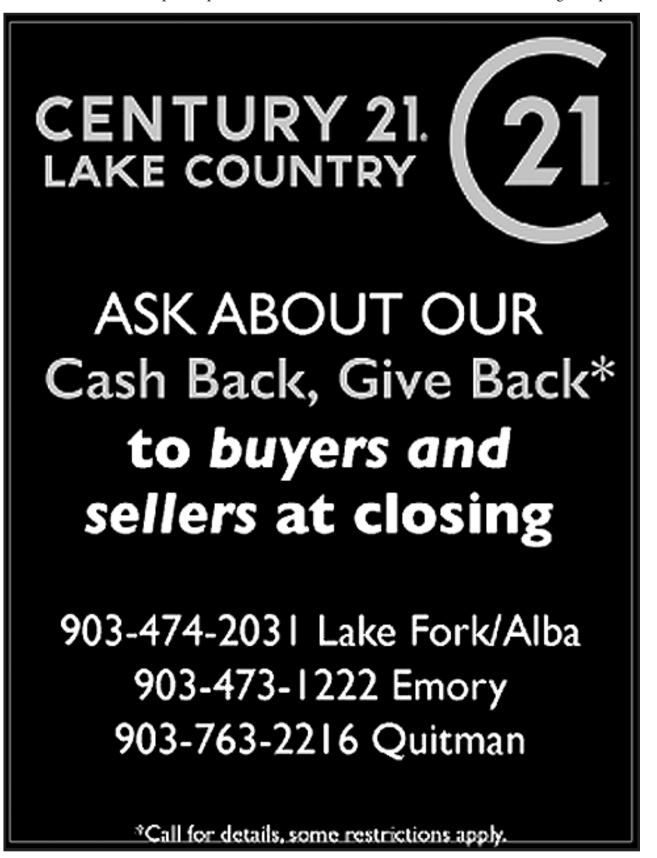
the whole family.

Some of the many festivities will include: Boat & Tackle Outdoor Expo, Demo Boat Rides, Seminars, Music Entertainment with recording artist Neal McCoy performing Saturday afternoon along with various local entertainment throughout the weekend.

The Big Bass Splash is the World's Largest Amateur Big Bass Fishing Tournament as featured on National Geographic and Benefitting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Sponsors includes

Lake Sam Rayburn- Jasper, Texas - April 24-28, is open to the public and provides lots of fun for Triton Boats, Mercury Marine, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Minn Kota, Lowrance, Power Pole, Navionics, River2Sea, T-H Marine, Shimano, Odes Industries, Luck-E-Strike, Bio Bait, RAM-Weaver Motors of Kirbyville, TX, Texas Fish & Game, Jasper-Lake Sam Rayburn Area Chamber of Commerce and Jasper County Development

> For more information go to www.sealyoutdoors. com, call 888.698.2591 or stop by your local Academy Sports & Outdoors store for an official entry form. Follow us on facebook.com/BigBassSplash.



Lake Fork Sportsman's Association "Preserving the Legend That is Lake Fork"

LFSA -WORKING TOWARD THE MISSION By Carolyn West President LFSA

Jake Norman, Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist, was a guest at Lake Fork Sportsman's Association's March membership meeting. The two organizations discussed the growing list of projects planned, specifically the current efforts to build "fish cities" and to replenish the vanishing vegetation/grasses that were once so prevalent in Lake Fork.

LFSA and TPWD joined efforts on March 18 and

19 to place more than 120 T-habs or fish structures in several locations of Lake Fork. Fifteen volunteers loaded the new T-habs on pontoons and carried them to their launch sites. The structures were assembled by the Yantis shop students. The design was provided by TPWD, materials purchased by LFSA and the students drilled holes and inserted the tubing to complete the assembly. All materials were approved as environmentally safe for the lake. Coordinates for the multiple locations will be posted on TPWD's website with a link for LFSA's, as well.

The second deployment will be in early April with

19 to place more than 120 T-habs or fish structures plans to include the high school shop students in several locations of Lake Fork. Fifteen volunteers loaded the new T-habs on pontoons and T-habs will be part of the deployment.

carried them to their launch sites. The structures were assembled by the Yantis shop students. The design was provided by TPWD, materials purchased by LFSA and the students drilled holes and inserted the tubing to complete the assembly. All materials were approved as environmentally safe.

The first deployment from Axton's Marina, North Shore RV Park and Highway 515 East Public Ramp drew a lot of interest from fishermen. Unanimous positivity was expressed and many remarks were made to (1) publish the design and (2) sell the structures to individuals.

LFSA's mission is to Preserve the Legend of Lake Fork. Structure deployment is a giant step to live our legend.







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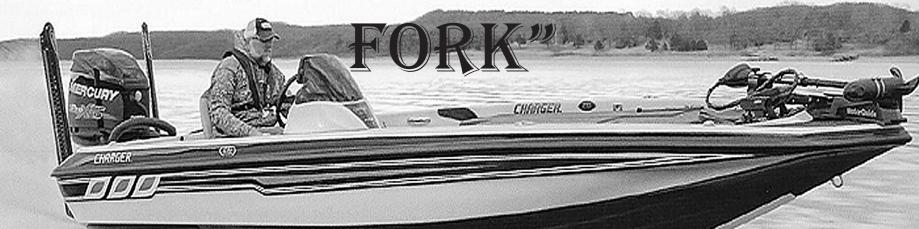
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We are an authorized Lowrance Electronics service center. We also sell Lowrance Electronics products, such as Fishfinders, transducers, and accessories. Advantage Program Available Lowrance products are protected by a one- or two-year limited warranty (depending on the product), and supported for an additional three years by the Lowrance 5-Year Advantage Program, which allows customers to upgrade to the latest technology, at a discounted price, in the unlikely event that a product fails or needs repair.

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'Knowing What To Look For!"_

By Michael McFarland

The month of April brings many options to the table for catching big bass on Lake Fork. There are spawning fish on the beds, prestage fish offshore that are still gorging on points and shell beds before they go to spawn, staging females near or next to the spawning flats and even a few post spawn fish as well. Big swimbaits fished over the shallow shell bed reefs and points have most definitely become one of my most favorite bites. This style of fishing can be hero or zero. In order to be the hero you must stay with it. I make a daily milk run specifically hitting every wind blown point or shell

bed location. Wind is your friend and one of the most important parts of this equation. The bigger the wind the better they bite. South winds are best but any wind is better than none.

Don't stay long if the bass are there you will know it. There is no need to grind on a location with this technique. Many times the most important key is the timing so once you have figured the timing out it becomes much easier and more frequently successful. With all the stumps, trees and wood in the water I prefer to use a weedless version like the Smashtech convict or weedless poacher in the colors pearl, light hitch or dark hitch. I use a heavy 8' rod with a medium action tip made by

Reeltime Rods, Diawa Tatula 200 HD baitcasting reel spooled with 20lb fluorocarbon line. Make long casts across a point or shell bed and reel as slow as you can. Often you will feel the bass bumping the tail of the the swimbait. Do not react just keep reeling eventually one will eat it. The bite usually is very vial and aggressive so hang on to your

rod or you might lose it. Many big 30lb + sacks are caught during April using this technique. So grab you a few big swimbaits and get out there and give it a try. I promise that once you find some success, its like having great food you will keep coming back for more. Thank you and I wish you all great fishing.



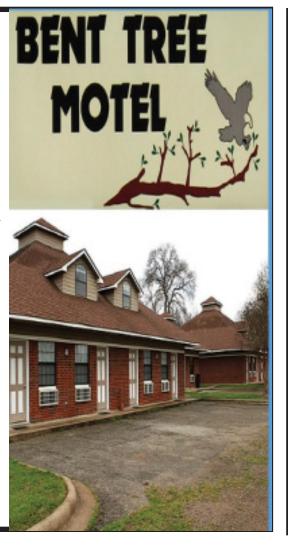
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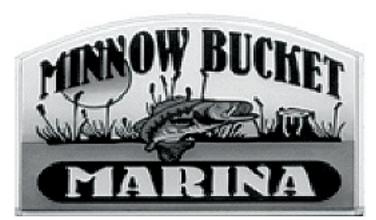
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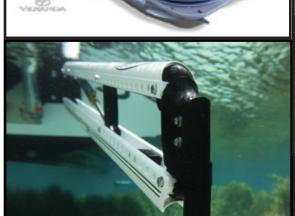






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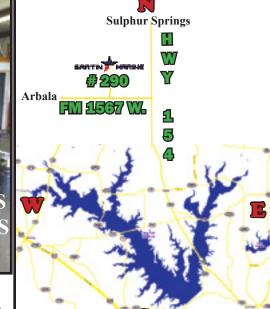
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Tips For Targeting Bigger Bass

By Andrew Grills

April

We live on an incredible fishery. I moved here all the way from Eastern Kentucky just to be close to this lake and have an opportunity to fish it on a regular basis. It's amazing that Lake Fork has continued to produce big bass with the odds stacked against it. However, this is still one of the best lakes in the United States for a chance at a double-digit bass.

Bass over 10 pounds are rare. Even south of the



www.LakeForkGuideAndrewGrills.com

border, they still aren't common place. For many, it is the fish of a lifetime. I've been very fortunate to see quite a few happy customers land fish over 10 pounds, and I have caught a few as well. I always try to keep my boat in a position where a double digit is possible. That means doing the right thing, in the right place, at the right time.

Of course, there are times when a customer just wants a bite because it's been a tough day. However, I remind folks, that wherever they came from, there's probably a pond where they can catch all the two pounders they want. If you travel all the way to fish Lake Fork, put yourself in a position to catch one of the fish this lake is famous for.

Targeting bigger bass doesn't always mean throwing big lures. It's more about location and approach in my opinion. Turning the sonar off when you don't need it in shallow water, fishing areas with deep water close by, fishing slow, being mindful of trolling motor noise, paying attention to boat positioning... The little things that others might overlook can mean everything.

I also rely on history a great deal. If there was a big bass there before, it was there for a reason. There is likely to be another, maybe even bigger, using that same area. Year after year some of the same little spots continue to produce giant fish, and it's not by accident.

It's important to remember that big bass are a structure oriented fish. People often confuse "structure" with "cover". Cover is what we have in the form of stumps, flooded bushes, aquatic vegetation, etc. Structure is bottom contour. Big bass relate to elevation changes more than anything, in my opinion. Points, ridges, drop off's, humps... these are what interest big fish more than cover. Of course a big bass loves a stump as an ambush point, however that fish is using that stump because of the bottom contour around it. I try to keep that in mind. Instead of fishing stretches of cover, I pay more attention to smaller areas with the right structure. Cover is just a bonus.

Page 19

Another thing is staying positive. I remember hearing Rick Clunn talk about this. He referred back to his guiding days, when he would see how a negative attitude affected his customer's results. Now that I've been guiding a little while, I have definitely seen it in myself and others. When a customer gets frustrated or loses confidence, it's over. I've never seen a customer who wasn't having a good time or believing in what he was doing catch a big bass. Not once. Sometimes, I'll get frustrated with various things on the water. I have to remind myself about this often, take a deep breath and believe.

Lastly, I try to pay attention to those who have (See Tips For Targeting....Continued on Page 21)

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Spring Fishing Time Is Here! (Continued from Page 6)

your way. Next is "where"? You can never go wrong with 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.

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

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."



Lake Fork Guide David Ozio



Cliff Pim with David Ozio



Paul McGrew with David Ozio



Tony Little with David Ozio



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ries. I listen to what they

have to say. I ask ques-

tions. Questions like:

"What was the weather

like when you caught

her?" "How deep was

the fish?" "What type

of structure was she re-

lating to?" The older

generations offer a gold-

mine of information

I also read all the books

or articles I can find that

were written by docu-

mented trophy hunters.

As a teenager, I read "In Pursuit of Giant Bass"

by Bill Murphy. That

and experience.

Tips For Targeting Bigger Bass (Continued from Page 19)

been successful. When I ods mentioned may be came here I was in awe of some of the veteran guides, and the multiple giant bass they had on record. Whenever I have an opportunity, I ask to ods mentioned may be outdated, the ideas are as relevant as ever.

People go out and catch big fish all the time on Lake Fork without planning on it, but to do it

"For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand,

consistently is some-

thing special.

e saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Isaiah 41:13

As always, if I can be of any assistance on your upcoming trip to Lake Fork, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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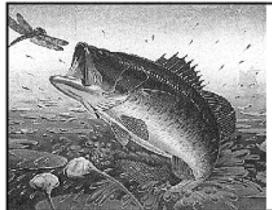
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Government Find

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

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book totally changed the way I looked at bass fishing. Some of the best books on the subject were written decades ago. Although the meth-

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ShareLunker #579 Caught on Lake Fork March 8th

"Legacy Class" Toyota ShareLunker entries are up to four for the selective breeding program's 2019 donation season ending March 31.

Angler Barry Prince of Lindale caught 13.73 pound ShareLunker 579 from Lake Fork the evening of March 8 on a shallow diving crankbait in 4.5 feet of water. Prince said this is the first double digit bass he's ever caught in more than 30 years of fishing.

"T've been chasing that fish for years," Prince said. "Once I realized how big this fish was I looked at my partner and said 'get the net, it's a good one!' It's still such a surreal feeling, some people fish all their lives and never get to catch a double-digit bass before they die."

Just two weeks before catching his ShareLunker, Prince said he had a conversation with a friend and local guide and discussed the once in a lifetime question "If you ever caught a 13 pound bass would you donate it to the Share-Lunker program?" "He said "absolutely so,"

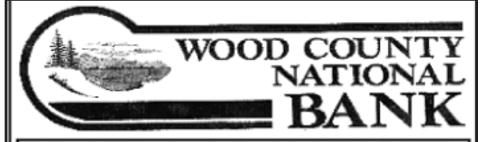
Prince said. I'm a big be-

liever in the ShareLunker program and I think it's great for Texas and the fisheries all over the state." ShareLunker 578 a 13.79 pound bass caught by pro angler Gary Klein from a private TPWD research lake Feb. 8 was accepted as a donation for the selective breeding program but is not eligible for any prizes because it is a pri-

In return for loaning their 13 pound or larger fish

vate water entry.

to the selective breeding program, any angler who loans a "Legacy Class" bass to the Toyota Share-Lunker program during the spawning period Jan. 1 to March 31, will receive a Toyota Share-Lunker Catch Kit containing branded merchandise and fishing tackle items, a 13lb+ Legacy decal, VIP access to awards programming at the Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest, a replica of their fish, and an entry into the yearend ShareLunker Prize Drawing to win a \$5,000 shopping spree and an annual fishing license. These anglers will also be entered into the Legacy Class Prize Drawing for a \$5,000 shopping spree and an annual fishing license at the end of the spawning period March 31.



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TPW Commission Approves Changes to Freshwater Fishing Regulations for 2019-20

On March 20, The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted a suite of changes to this year's freshwater fishing regulations that includes modifications to the length limits and harvest regulations for Reservoir), and Liberty largemouth bass, Alabama bass and alligator gar in certain areas. The proposed changes to alligator gar regulations also include a nighttime prohibition on bow fishing on the Trinity River, mandatory harvest reporting statewide except for Falcon Lake, and the creation of a drawing for harvest opportunities on the Trinitv River.

adopted the following Alabama bass of any changes to the 2019-20 Statewide Recreational and Commercial Fishing Proclamations, the details of which will be incorporated into this year's Texas Parks and I-30 Bridge in Dallas Wildlife Outdoor Annual:

--Lake Implement an 18-inch East Fork of the Trinity minimum length limit and three-fish daily bag for largemouth bass.

--Mill Creek Lake: Change from a 14- to 21-inch slot length limit and five 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 for bass 24 inches or greater for possible submission to ShareLunker program. --Southeast Texas: Ex-

pand the area in Southeast Texas currently covered by the 12-inch minimum length limit for largemouth bass to include Hardin County, Newton County (excluding Toledo Bend County south of U.S. Highway 90.

--Alan Henry Reservoir: Modify the harvest regulations for largemouth and Alabama bass by removing Alabama bass from the current regulation (fivefish daily bag of which only two bass less than 18 inches may be harvested). The combined daily bag limit would remain at five fish, but The TPW Commission anglers may harvest length.

--Trinity River:

--Enact a 48-inch maximum length limit for alligator gar on the Trinity River from the Department downstream to the I-10 Bridge in Chambers Lakewood: County, including the River upstream to the dam at Lake Ray Hubbard.

> --A drawing will be implemented to allow selected anglers to harvest one alligator gar over 48 inches in length per year from the Trinity River. The draw system would allow non-transferable harvest authorization for a to-be-determined number of alligator gar. Authorizations would be selected and distributed through a random draw

of interested applicants. Purchase of a fishing license would be required. This authorization could be used day or night, and alligator gar could be taken by any legal means.

--Between one halfhour after sunset and one half-hour before sunrise, no person may take or possess an alligator gar by means of lawful archery equipment or crossbow on the Trinity River unless they have received a harvest authorization through the drawing system.

Statewide: All persons who take an alligator gar from the public fresh waters of the state other than Falcon International Reservoir would be required to report the harvest via the department's website or by mobile app within 24 hours of take.

The commission did not move forward with proposals that would ban bow fishing for alligator gar at night statewide or to change current regulations on Lake Conroe for largemouth bass from a 16inch minimum length limit and 5-fish daily bag limit to a 14-inch minimum length limit and 5-fish daily bag

The changes to the 2019-20 Statewide Recreational and Commercial Fishing regulations take effect on Sept. 1, 2019.

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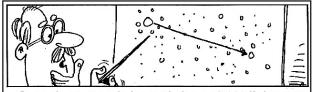
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At the JC Outdoors Solo Division held on Lake Fork on March 17th, Verlon Croney won 1st Place and Big Bass with this nice bass weighing 10.97-lbs.



Our solar system is located about 30,000 light-years from the center of the galaxy.



Top 3 in the JC Outdoors Division were from (lt to rt) Verlon Croney, 10.97-lbs.; Stephen Sennikoff with 5 fish weighing 9.79-lbs.; and Bobby DuBose with 5 fish weighing 9.09-lbs.



The grunt is a fish named for the grunting sounds it makes when removed from



lced tea is the most popular form of the beverage in the United States.



The Top 11 in JC Outdoors that took a check home were Verlon Croney, Stephen Sennikoff, Bobby DuBose, Togma Taj Chauvi, Mike Mason, Jason Smith, Chuck Turner, Reid Goff, Tim Weaver, James Renfro, and Bruce Tucker.



The Romans wrote all numbers using some combination of only seven symbols: I for 1, V for 5, X for 10, L for 50, C for 100, D for 500 and M for 1,000.

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Warden Field Notes

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

-- A Crappie Thing to Do-- Game wardens were patrolling for duck hunters on Lake O' the Pines opening weekend when they noticed a large group of bank fishermen nearby. When the wardens pulled up, they witnessed one of the subjects kick a fish back into the water. Further investigation resulted in several undersized crappie in their possession as well as crappie hidden in the woods behind the fishermen. Several charges are pending including no fishing license, possession of undersized crappie and failure to allow inspection.

--Got Brass, In Pocket-- Trinity County game wardens responded to a tip about possible deer hunting violations in the Davey Crockett National Forest. While scouting, a hunter heard two shots close to his area, and located the carcass of a buck that didn't meet the 13-inch minimum antler spread requirements. The deer had been shot twice, once in the back and again in the neck. The hunter also found a spent .308 cartridge casing nearby. Wardens arrived on the scene and determined the initial shot likely incapacitated the deer, and a second shot to the neck dispatched the animal. The wardens were able to locate a brushed

blind and multiple fresh boot tracks nearby along the Neches River bank, as well as boat skid marks. The wardens knew several hunters using boats to check of the camps. During a casual conversation, a hunter at one of the camps told the wardens he had seen an 8-point buck earlier in the day that was illegal and shortly thereafter heard two shots Remington Core-Lokt ammo. One investigator was curious what Core-Lokt ammo looked like, so the hunter brought out a box and, lo and behold, it matched the spent cartridge recovered near the dead deer. After a brief interview, the warden advised the hunter of the evidence they had found, including the .308 brass, boot track pictures, and boat marks on the river, not to mention the fact he was in the area that morning. The subject then admitted to shooting the illegal buck. Multiple cases are pending for illegal buck less than 13-inch inside spread, untagged deer, waste of game/failure to keep in edible condition and multiple warnings. Restitution has been filed.

--Running a Head-- During the Thanksgiving holiday, wardens in Jasper County responded to a call about trespassing where the landowner was able to capture an image of the suspect with his cell

phone. The wardens recognized the individual as a Jasper resident and went to the violator's house to confront him about the trespass claim. When hunt this area, and decided to conduct a routine they pulled into the driveway, the wardens noticed several men at the corner of the property. When the men noticed the wardens, two guys took off into the woods with the head of a buck. A brief pursuit ensued and both individuals were placed close by. He also told them he shoots a .308 with into custody. It was confirmed they had just taken the white-tailed buck, which also did not meet the 13-inch minimum antler width restrictions, without landowner permission. The cases are pending. --Should've Passed the Buck-- Game wardens responded to a call about a possible case on a subject exceeding his annual bag limit on buck white-tailed deer. For the season in Brazos County, hunters are allowed only one buck with an inside antler spread of 13 inches or greater. The wardens went to the subject's residence and during the interview discovered he had harvested an 8-point buck earlier in the week, and a big 10-point buck that evening. Citation was issued for exceeding the bag limit on white-tailed deer and multiple tagging warnings were given. Civil restitution is pending.

-- Have We Met Before? -- A Montgomery County

(See Game Warden....Continued on Page 26)



Lake Fork, Texas Lake Fork Marina Saturday May 25, 2019 $6:00 \text{ AM} \sim 2 \text{ PM}$

RODS, REELS AND FLIES MUST BE EXCLUSIVELY FOR FLY FISHING. THIS IS A CATCH-PHOTO-RELEASE TOURNAMENT.

TWO DIVISIONS
BOATERS: 1-2 PERSON TEAM, 5-FISH PHOTOS, TOTAL LENGTH; BIG BASS. <u>KAYAK</u> (kayak, float tube, pontoon, or bank fishermen. No power.): INDIVIDUAL, 5-FISH PHOTOS, TOTAL LENGTH; BIG BASS

COST: \$70/PERSON, includes \$5 big bass pot. PAYOUT: 1-\$1200, 2nd-\$800, 3-\$500, 4-\$300, 5-\$200, 6-10 \$100. Big Bass - \$300, \$200. (100 entries) **CLUB TROPHY**: 3 big fish, total length for Club.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

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3:00pm- WINNERS PAYOUT, DOOR PRIZES, KAYAK DRAWING

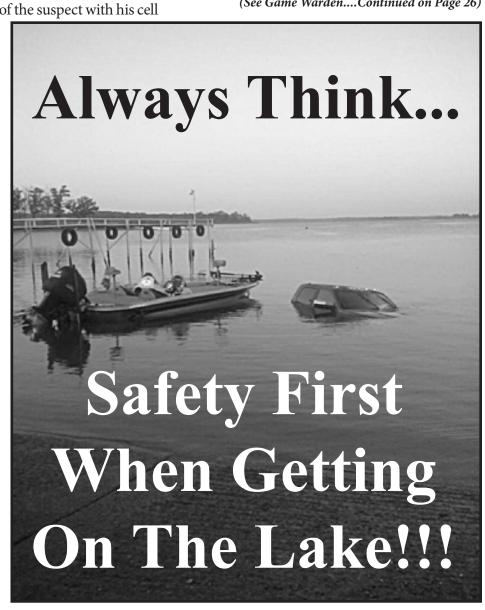
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 25)

game warden checked a man on Lake Conroe who was fishing without a fishing license. While issuing the citation, the warden discovered that the man also had two active TPWD arrest warrants. He was arrested and transported to the Montgomery County Jail.

--Prison Property Poachers Pinched-- It seems no property is off-limits to poachers, including prison grounds belonging to the Luther Unit of the Texas Department of Corrections. Game wardens acting on reports of night hunting by trespassers received earlier in the week initiated a stakeout and soon observed a vehicle shining a spotlight out of the passenger's window. The wardens watched the vehicle for about 15 minutes and then initiated a stop. Five individuals were in the vehicle, along with two loaded rifles and two spotlights. The guns and the spotlights were seized and the driver and passenger were placed under arrest for hunting without landowner consent. The other three passengers were released without incident. The cases are pending.

--Not Going Down that Rabbit Trail-- On Nov. 14, a Duval County game warden received a call from the Freer Police Department stating someone had reported a man shooting at deer off the road. He arrived with two Freer PD officers and discovered a man with the hood of his vehicle up and trunk popped open. The warden interviewed the individual while the of-

ficers searched the vehicle. A .22 caliber rifle with a discharged casing in the chamber and a .223 rifle, along with marijuana and suspected narcotics were discovered. As the warden was talking with the man, he noticed movement coming from the brush directly across from where the man's car was parked. A wounded white-tailed buck was discovered thrashing in the brush. The man denied any knowledge of this, and stated he just had car trouble and pulled over. The man claimed he had been hunting rabbits on a ranch in Freer earlier that day, which was corroborated later by the landowner, and must have forgotten to eject the round after his last shot from the .22. Because the vehicle didn't match the description given for the suspected shooter, the man was arrested only on possession of controlled substance charges and transported to the Duval County Jail. Suspecting miscommunication between the witness and dispatcher, the warden interviewed the witness, who confirmed that was the right vehicle and the arrested driver was responsible for shooting the deer. She stated she was watching deer with her son when she saw that vehicle pull over and shoot at the deer, and then flee. She stated the same vehicle returned shortly. A second witness, who pursued the vehicle after the driver shot and fled, corroborated the first witness' statement in a separate interview. The warden interviewed the suspect a second time in the

jail and he admitted to shooting the buck from his vehicle, on the public roadway, with a rimfire rifle and without a hunting license. Class A and Class C misdemeanor charges along with civil restitution are pending. The buck was donated to a needy family in Freer. --You Can Run, but You Cannot Hide-- In addition to enforcing game and fish laws, wardens are certified state police and routinely assist other law enforcement. A Frio County game warden was patrolling the county in search of illegal road hunting activity when a call came through about a high speed chase involving a DPS state trooper. The trooper advised dispatch that the suspect was headed south on I-35 from Medina County into Frio County, and the trooper was unable to catch up to the evading vehicle. Coincidentally, the game warden was working on the northern end of the county about four miles east of I-35, responded and headed in that direction. The warden soon came upon an abandoned BMW sports car, and called it in. As other law enforcement arrived on the scene, the warden began searching the area and soon discovered an extremely intoxicated individual hiding near the fence line in a brushy area. The subject was placed under ar-

---Don't Make Me Chase You--On Nov. 22, a game (See Game Warden....Continued on Page 28)

rest for felony evading arrest.

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Celebrate Spring With Delicious Brunch

By Sue Hampton

Delicious and satisfying, Tomato-Bacon Quiche is perfect for a springtime brunch. Better yet, it's fast and easy to make. The frozen pie crust is ready to bake in its own pan and the ingredients take only a few minutes to assemble.

Tomato-Bacon Quiche

1 Pillsbury Pet-Ritz frozen deep-dish pie crust 6 slices bacon, cooked, crumbled



Try this delicious springtime brunch and top it off with an all-time favorite dessert "Brownie Cupcakes"!

4 medium green onions, sliced

3 medium plum tomatoes, seeded, chopped

 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt $\sim \frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper

1 cup half-and-half

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour ~ 2 eggs

½ cup shredded Swiss cheese (2 oz.)

½ cup shredded Cheddar cheese (2 oz.)

Place cookie sheet on oven rack. Heat oven to 375 degrees F. Remove crust from freezer; let stand 1 minute. Prick crust with fork. Bake on cookie sheet 9 to 11 minutes or until very light golden brown.

Sprinkle bacon, green onions, tomatoes, salt and pepper in crust. In medium bowl, stir together halfand-half, flour and eggs. Stir in cheeses. Pour over tomato mixture.

Bake on cookie sheet 25 to 30 minutes longer or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Makes 6 servings.

As far as dessert goes there's nothing better than a cupcake! The recipe comes together quickly in a single pot on the stovetop. Top the cupcakes with a sprinkling of powdered sugar or a drizzle of glaze. For the full cupcake effect, traditional buttercream frosting dresses up the brownie cupcakes.

Brownie Cupcakes

3 oz. (3 squares) unsweetened chocolate $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter $\sim 1-1/2$ cups sugar

 $3 \text{ eggs} \sim 1-1/2 \text{ teaspoons vanilla}$

1 cup all-purpose flour ~1 cup chopped walnuts

1 cup Sun-Maid Natural Raisins

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease or line 12 (2-3/4-in) muffin cups with paper baking cups.

In large saucepan, over very low heat, combine chocolate and butter; heat just until melted, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Stir in sugar; blend

Blend in eggs and vanilla. Stir in flour, walnuts and raisins. Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups, filling almost full.

Bake at 350 degrees F. for 30 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Sprinkle with powdered sugar or frost as desired.

Buttercream Frosting

1 stick (8-oz.) butter, softened

1 box (16-oz.) powdered sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Dash of salt ~ 2 to 3 tablespoons milk

Frosting

In small mixing bowl, combine first four ingredients and 2 tablespoons of milk. With electric mixer, combine on low until blended. Continue to beat on high until fluffy, adding additional milk as needed for spreading consistency.



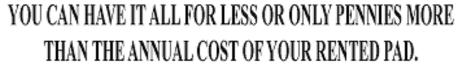
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Game Warden Field Notes (Continued from Page 26)

warden received a tip that a man, or men, had just shot a mule deer buck from a Crosby County property and the caller knew no one had permission to hunt there. Armed with the license plate of the suspect vehicle and the names of two possible culprits, the warden located a cell phone number for one of the men and called him. The warden had heard enough information to tell the man not to make him search for him in Crosby County, but suggested that he and his friend drive to Lubbock to meet with him and to bring the rifle used and the mule deer buck with them. The men later arrived in Lubbock and gave confessions as to having hunted the deer without landowner consent. The deer and rifle were both seized. The charges are pending.

--Dropping a Dime on a Buck-- On Thanksgiving, game wardens met with a man who had been reported as having killed a large white-tailed buck under suspicious circumstances earlier in the week. Although the man had told a local law enforcement officer that the deer had been killed lawfully, the warden was able to gain a confession from the man that he had trespassed and shot the buck from the roadway. The warden seized the

man's rifle, deer head and antlers, and the carcass. While gaining that confession, the man mentioned a mule deer buck his friend had shot on the previous Sunday and had also been killed on the same unauthorized property. The warden then met with that friend and questioned him as to the legality of his deer. The man confessed that he had shot from a public roadway and into the same property illegally, killing a large mule deer buck. The warden also seized that man's rifle, mule deer head with antlers attached, and alreadyprocessed deer meat. The charges and civil restitution are pending.



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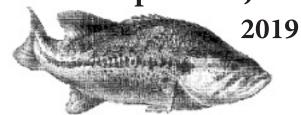
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April

Apr. 13 ~ Media Teams
Minnow Bucket
Apr. 13 ~ Lake Fork Classic
Axton's Bass City
Apr. 14 ~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket
Apr. 24 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket

The Legend Of Lake Fork
15th Annual Big Bass Tournament
May 17,18, 19, 2019
Early Enties Before Apr. 30th



May



May 2-6 ~ Bassmaster Elite SRA Park May 4~ JC Outdoors Teams Minnow Bucket May 11 ~ Media Teams Minnow Bucket May 17,18,19,~Legend of Lake Fork Lake Fork Marina May 26~ JC Outdoors Solo Minnow Bucket



June



June 1 ~ Wood Cty Kidfish
SRA Park
June 1 ~ JC Outdoors Teams
Minnow Bucket
June 6-9 ~Skeeter Owners
Lake Fork Marina
June 15 ~ Media Teams
Minnow Bucket
June 23~ JC Outdoors Solo
Minnow Bucket



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LOCATED IN EMORY INDUS-TRIAL PARK Formerly a doctor's office building, this custom build building features metal and stone building features metal and stone construction. Interior has a nice lobby or reception area, multiple rooms for offices, full kitchen and 2 bathrooms with a stall shower AND living quarters upstairs. Building has a garage with receiving area and roll-up door. Call JR for detailed information.

LARGE VACANT LOT IN DOWNTOWN WINNSBORO This 1.117 acres lot is located in downtown Winnsboro right on Main St. Busy road frontage gives serious exposure for most any business. frontage gives serious exposure for most any business. \$350,000 Call JR for full details! VACANT LOT IN DOWNTOWN QUITMAN

\$37,900 Located in downtown Quitman by the Wood County Court House and Peoples Telephone on Hwy 154. This .1857 acre lot will give great exposure for



Alba \$99,900

1900+ sqft metal building has recently had a complete new metal exerior, septic, AC and 3 phase electrical. Building is insulated and has two roll up doors. New custom iron gates recently installed. Located on FM 17, just South of Lake Fork Marina. This vould be a great place to start your business, or maybe store your toys! No zoning or known restrictions.



Winnsboro \$250,000 JR for full detail showing today!

FENCED COMMERCIAL PROP ERTY Located in Winnsboro Highway 11/Broadway Street. A tot-al of 4.285 acres is ready for your business! Property is fenced with security gate and has several usable metal buildings. Any business would get massive exposure here! Motivated seller is ready for your best offer! Call JR for full details and to schedule your



Alba \$229,000

LAKE FORK WATERFRONT BUSI-NESS OPPORTUNITY! This 4000+ sqft building is set up as a restaurant and is waterfront on Lake Fork with its own private boat ramp, pier, storage build-ing and plenty of parking. Located on the busy, high traffic side of Lake Fork. The seller states property is unrestricted This would be perfect place for a marina, bait and tackle shop or your dream busiss. All Restaurant equinment is included! Call JR for full details



Yantis \$899,900

TOTAL SECLUSION AND PRIVACY Custom waterfront home sitting on almost 33 acres, hidden in the woods! Property is under wildlife exemption. Home features 3/2/2 carport spaces, office/game room or 4th bedroom, beamed ceilings, limestone gas fireplace, huge windows overlooking the cove and natural wildlife. 30x60 metal shop building, 34x60 metal shop building, 1 room guest cabin could use a little work, storage shed, 2 ponds with 7+ acres of leaseback on Lake Fork

LAKE FORK WATERFRONT LOTS & OFF WATER LOTS FROM \$25,000 TO \$84,900

LAKE FORK AREA ACREAGE FROM \$59,900 TO \$405,000

> CALL JR FOR FULL **DETAILS**



\$2,400,000

7.000+ SOFT LIVING AREA, 11.000+ UNDER ROOF, 40+ ACRES. 10,000 SOFT IN SHOP BLDGS, knotty alder cabinets, hand scraped wood and tile floors, cathedral ceilings, full security & surveilance system, gas fireplaces everywhere, indoor endless pool w/treadmill & hot tub, in-home gym, indoor shooting range, cowboy & skeet shooting range, fireproof safe room, saloon room, outdoor kitchen, media room, guest suite over garage. Call JR for full details.

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LAKE SAM RAYBURN, TX

UMPHREY FAMILY PAVILION; JASPER, TX APRIL 26-27-28, 2019



Guaranteed in Cash & Prizes

TOP 5 OVERALL

PRIZE PACKAGE AWARDS

1ST PLACE . . . \$300,000 2ND PLACE . . . \$100,000 3RD PLACE . . . \$ 75,000 4TH PLACE . . . \$ 50,000

5TH PLACE... \$ 25,000



\$376,950 IN HOURLY PAYOUTS

15 Places will be paid each hour of each tournament daybeginning with the 7-8AM hour and continuing through the 1-2PM hour for the 15 single heaviest bass weighed in.

HEAVIEST BASS ... \$5,00





















